



Fast-track the end of AIDS in the EU practical evidence-based interventions

Malta Presidency of the Council Of European Union

Dr Charmaine Gauci MD, MSc, PhD, FRSPH,FFPH
Superintendent of Public Health, Malta




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Current Situation



- Reduction in number of AIDS diagnoses during the last decade
- Burden of HIV infection remains unacceptably high in Europe.
- Each year about 30,000 people are newly diagnosed with HIV in the EU/EEA
- Another 110,000 people are known to be infected in the broader European Region.
- The decline in reported HIV cases among heterosexuals and people who inject drugs
- Significant increase in reported cases among men who have sex with men.



Good evidence on what works to effectively prevent and control HIV

- **HIV prevention**, both in terms of **coverage** and **uptake**, especially those targeting men who have sex with men, migrants and people who inject drugs
- **HIV testing**, to reduce the **undiagnosed fraction** and ensure **early linkage to care** for people living with HIV
- **HIV treatment**, to ensure that the **proportion of PLHIV with an undetectable viral load is increased**, both for their personal benefit as well as to reduce future HIV transmission.

Technical meeting

30-31st January 2017



Aims and objectives

- Bring together **leading experts** on HIV prevention and control from across the EU
- To discuss **how Europe can improve** its response to HIV and achieve
 - targets outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals
 - actions agreed at the UN High-Level meeting on HIV/AIDS
 - actions adopted in the action plan for the Health Sector response to HIV in the WHO European Region.
 - EC. Action Plan on HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries: 2014-2016
- To discuss **practical evidence-based interventions and strategies**
- **Share** achievements and examples of good practices
- **Identify solutions** to common challenges.

Conclusion and Call for Action

- The priority areas where the **EU Member States agree** they should scale-up their efforts were discussed
- The proceedings of the meeting were documented in the form of a **technical declaration.**
- Technical declaration was presented to the **Informal Health Ministers meeting** in March in Malta.



Malta Technical Declaration on HIV Actions by MS

- Adopt, update and in particular implement national HIV strategies and targets based on sound local and national HIV strategic information, including surveillance and epidemiological data, and guided by evidence based actions which have shown to have a positive impact over time;
- sharing of good practices from Member States and all of civil society and extending this approach to concomitantly tackling other sexually transmitted infections where relevant.



Malta Technical Declaration on HIV Actions by MS

- Implement the commitments made internationally under the UN and WHO.
- Ensure a comprehensive public health approach to targeting HIV through good governance, partnerships, intersectoral action and involvement of people living with HIV and all key affected populations in the national response.

Malta Technical Declaration on HIV

Actions by MS

- Ensure high-impact, evidence-based and cost-effective combination prevention measures targeting priority groups including condom use, effective, comprehensive and accessible harm reduction services for people who use drugs and their sexual partners, elimination of vertical transmission and focused prevention programmes for key populations at higher risk.
- These measures should be augmented by advocacy for more effective comprehensive sexuality and relationships education in schools in accordance with the international technical guidance and national curricula, better use of social media and other current communication channels and approaches that address the specific sexual health related needs of young people.
- Reinforce a positive global approach to sexual and reproductive health.



Malta Technical Declaration on HIV Actions by MS

- Increase the uptake and effectiveness of testing services in various settings, including community and self-testing based approaches, as an effort to scale up testing, early linkage to care and adoption of a “treat all” approach.

Malta Technical Declaration on HIV Actions by MS

- Ensure the implementation of effective patient centered and accessible programmes to focus on early linkage to care, retention and adherence to HIV treatment, including action to avert drug resistance and management of co-infections (notably tuberculosis, hepatitis and STIs) , also in community based settings for all key populations including undocumented migrants.



Malta Technical Declaration on HIV Actions by MS

- Strive to develop strategies for cooperation in order to make treatment for prevention and for care more affordable.



Malta Technical Declaration on HIV Actions by MS

- Advocate for an enabling environment which supports:
- prevention initiatives, facilitates access to regular testing, early treatment, care and support;
- target social determinants;
- de-stigmatize the response to HIV and associated co-infections and co-morbidities
- removes other regulatory obstacles to universal access to health services.




Malta Technical Declaration on HIV Actions by MS

- Need to abolish discriminating policies, laws and practices and provide services without moral judgment. .
- Develop monitoring and evaluation programmes for indicators outlined in national HIV strategies and in line with global indicators.



European Commission is invited to consider

- The provision of continued political support to the Member States' national actions, by updating and expanding its activities on HIV/AIDS as well as Tuberculosis and Viral Hepatitis, in cooperation with national authorities and civil society, in the implementation of its recently reiterated commitment related to the Sustainable Development Goals.
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European Commission is invited to consider

- Utilizing the EU Health Programme as a vital instrument to help support public health measures required to be taken by Member States towards the achievement of the actions in this Declaration.



European Commission is invited to consider

- Maintaining high levels of research funding needed to help develop more effective tools for the prevention and control of HIV and other infections (notably hepatitis, tuberculosis and STIs) and other associated co-morbidities.



European Commission is invited to consider

- Further political support and financing the global and regional efforts to end AIDS by 2030.

In conclusion

We strongly believe that with the **ongoing scientific advances**, new tools for **prevention and testing**, lessons learnt leading to **best practices**, availability of more **effective and affordable treatment**, and a **strong commitment towards achieving** universal health coverage;

the European Union Member States are well positioned to **accelerate fast track actions on HIV**.

We believe that, provided that the right scale of resources is provided in line with internationally agreed objectives; together we can **reach our goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030** and other internationally agreed targets for HIV.



Caption of Image 1