Minutes of the meeting of the Permanent Expert Review Group within the project implemented by International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine "Capacity Development for Quality Assured Gender Sensitive Harm Reduction Interventions in Ukraine" with financial support of the Expertise France 5% Initiative

Kyiv, 25 May 2015

The meeting was attended by:

1) Aleksandr Ostapov, Ukrainian Harm Reduction Association
2) Natalia Kitsenko, All-Ukrainian Public Health Association
3) Victoria Lintsova, Association of Substitution Treatment Advocates of Ukraine (ASTAU)
4) Alla Yaroshenko, Institute of Social Work and Management of the National Pedagogical Dragomanov University
5) Eleonora Gvozdeva, UNAIDS
6) Iryna Nerubaieva, AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)
7) Olga Korolenko, USAID RESPOND Project
8) Aleksey Yaremenko, USAID HIV Reform in Action Project (Deloitte)
9) Iryna Demchenko, Analytical Center "Socioconsulting"
10) Lilia Tarasiuk, Analytical Center "Socioconsulting"
11) Aleksey Ganyukov, Marketing Technologies Bureau
12) Liudmyla Shulga, International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine
13) Marina Varban, International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine
14) Victor Kolomiets, International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine
15) Nadiya Yanhol, International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine
16) Yana Sazonova, International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine

The following issues were raised and discussed during the meeting:

1. ***Presenting the project "Capacity Development for Quality Assured Gender Sensitive Harm Reduction Interventions in Ukraine" with financial support of the Expertise France 5% Initiative***

Liudmyla Shulga presented the project "Capacity Development for Quality Assured Gender Sensitive Harm Reduction Interventions in Ukraine", identifying key objectives of the project, its goal, timeframe and partners.

The following outputs are expected within the project:

- gender-sensitive approaches developed, piloted and implemented;
- coverage of female IDUs increased (expected coverage: 2,500);
- healthcare plan to deliver OST services to female IDUs;
- 60 doctors trained in gender-sensitive approach to deliver OST services;
- nation-wide training delivered to 120 social workers in gender-sensitive approaches in HIV prevention and treatment projects under the training program approved by the government authorities;
- online training delivered to 300 social workers;
- 3 documents drafted, describing the gender aspect in implementing HIV prevention and treatment programs.

Meeting participants were asked follow-up questions related to project indicators, peculiarities of the interventions and the pilot projects.

2. ***Goals and objectives of the Permanent Expert Review Group, Regulation on the Group and its Composition.***

Liudmyla Shulga presented the list of organizations which are offered to be included as permanent members of the Expert Review Group.

Aleksandr Ostapov and Victoria Lintsova suggested including a representative of the All-Ukrainian League "Legalife" into the Expert Review Group.

Resolution: approve the suggested list of organizations as the permanent composition of the Expert Review Group; not to approve personal membership of the group as representatives of the organizations may vary.

Liudmyla Shulga suggested participants of the meeting to familiarize with and discuss draft Regulation on the Permanent Expert Review Group.

Participants of the meeting made a suggestion to add the following clauses to the Regulation on the Permanent Expert Review Group:

Clause 1.1. – describe who is responsible for the project implementation;
Clause 1.3 – add government authorities;
Clause 1.7 – add the possibility to make decisions online and approve them with the simple majority of vote;
Clause 2.1 – clarify and describe in detail what the words "monitoring of project implementation" mean, define powers and authorities of the Group.

Resolution: Introduce relevant amendments into the Regulation.

3. ***Presenting the terms of reference for the formative research of gender-sensitive programs, projects, interventions, services in the area of harm reduction to be delivered within the Project.***

Marina Varban presented terms of reference for arranging and holding formative research of gender-sensitive programs to be held within the project, identifying its goal, objectives, phases of research, research issues, and sample.

Meeting participants asked follow-up questions on the objectives of research, sample, and key focus areas of the analysis. It was suggested to add the list, the description and the peculiarities of gender-sensitive services into the analysis.

Resolution: Introduce relevant changes into the terms of reference.

4. ***Selection of 5 regions to hold the research and implement the pilot project to introduce gender-sensitive interventions.***

Marina Varban presented the list of 8 regions which meet the criteria to select HIV-service organizations to take part in holding the research and piloting interventions.

Priority regions were defined in the course of discussion.

Resolution: Include into the research and pilot interventions such regions and NGOs: Kyiv (Convictus), Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk oblast (Public Health), Khmelnitsky (Victoria), Odesa (The Way Home), Kirovohrad (Coming Back to Life).

5. Further steps of the Permanent Expert Review Group.

Marina Varban informed the participants that meetings of the Group will be held once a quarter. The next meeting of the Permanent Expert Review Group will be held after the interim results of the research are received.

Resolution: Include all Group members into the listserv to distribute all the materials updated after meeting of the Group as well as working plan of the project and list of indicators.