

Box 4.4: Examples of projects within the European Health Programme focused on MSM

'The Future of European Prevention among MSM' (FEMP) conference in Stockholm in November 2011.

The European MSM Internet Survey (EMIS) was conducted among MSM across Europe and attracted over 180 000 respondents from 38 countries.

SIALON II focuses on building the capacity of NGOs and public health institutions to conduct local surveillance activities among MSM and to use the data gathered to develop appropriate HIV prevention activities for MSM.

The Civil Society Forum was reported to have been influential in strengthening the European MSM network, which in turn was considered to have made an impact on addressing the prevention needs of MSM communities across Europe. In addition, the CSF's agenda is based on the Communication and Action Plan and has therefore had a strong focus on most-affected populations, including MSM. Box 4.5 provides an example of the development of new NGO services in Portugal based on priorities expressed in the Communication.

Through the Global Fund, the Commission has financed the expansion of services for people who inject drugs (see Box 4.2). In addition, the European Health Programme has supported a number of projects focused on people who inject drugs, including TUBIDU and Imp.Ac.T (see Box 4.3). The Commission's Directorate General for Justice is also funding a number of projects through the European Health Programme and EAHC related to drugs and HIV. These include support for a project entitled 'Connections' launched in 2007 and coordinated by the European Institute of Social Services (EISS) of the University of Kent. The project aims to integrate responses to drugs and infections across the European criminal justice systems. It focuses on the potential for partnerships within the criminal justice systems of the EU Member States to develop responses to drugs and related-infections, particularly HIV/AIDS and hepatitis. The project will facilitate the introduction and promotion of more effective, comprehensive, evidence-based policies and services at national and European level to respond to drugs and infections in prisons and within the wider context of the criminal justice system.

Box 4.5: New and innovative services developed in Portugal reflecting the Communication's emphasis on key vulnerable populations, including MSM

'In light of the Communication's emphasis on key vulnerable populations and following similar initiatives in various European countries in 2010, GAT opened the first peer-to-peer VCT centre in Portugal (CheckpointLX), specifically targeting the MSM population in Lisbon. To implement this innovative approach in Portugal, advocacy was necessary to adopt changes to national law in order to allow for community-based HIV testing. Due to the success of the MSM initiative, similar VCT centres are now being programmed, directed specifically at IDUs, CSWs and migrants, according to the latest testing guidelines from ECDC, WHO Europe and EMCDDA.'

Through the Global Fund, the Commission has financed the expansion of HIV-related services in prisons (see Box 4.2). In addition, the European Health Programme is supporting a project (HPYP) to promote the health of young prisoners by sharing a health promotion toolkit across EU Member States. The toolkit covers issues relating to infectious diseases, sexual health, drug use and mental health. The Think Tank has had discussions related to HIV testing policy in prisons. The CSF's agenda has also had a strong focus on prisoners.

The European Health Programme is supporting a number of projects focused on the health of migrants and ethnic minorities. These include EU-HEP-SCREEN, coordinated by the Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam, which aims to assess, describe and communicate to public health professionals the tools and conditions necessary to implementing successful and cost effective screening programmes for hepatitis B and C among migrants in the European Union. Another project, SRAP, focuses on preventing addiction among Roma and Sinti communities. The Think Tank has also had discussions relating to the health of migrants in Europe.

ECDC has also done significant work in the area of migrant health including the production of a series of five reports covering the epidemiology of HIV and AIDS;³² access to HIV prevention, treatment and care³³ and HIV

³² Migrant health: Epidemiology of HIV and AIDS in migrant communities and ethnic minorities in EU/EEA countries. Technical report. March 2010. ECDC, Stockholm.

³³ Migrant health: Access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for migrant populations in EU/EEA countries. Technical report. July 2009. ECDC, Stockholm.