



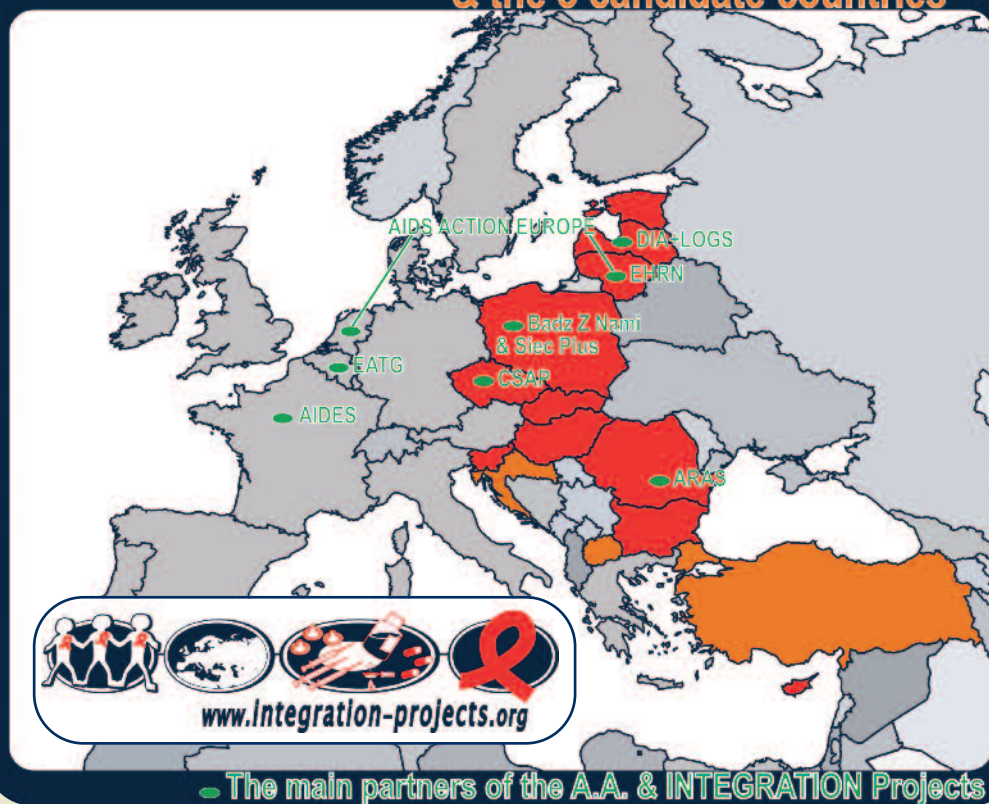
Welcome to the European Union!

INTEGRATION projects 2005-2008

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The 12 new member states of the European Union & the 3 candidate countries



The main partners of the A.A. & INTEGRATION Projects

A civil-society review of HIV-related challenges in the new member-states of the European Union. www.integration-projects.org

Was it a good idea to join the European Union?

In the 12 countries that joined the European Union (EU) between 2004 and 2007, many local NGOs are facing challenges in sustaining essential health services for HIV and hepatitis due to a vast reduction of the support provided by international funders. This worrisome situation clearly contradicts EU commitments to confront HIV/AIDS and to reduce risks related to drug-use in its member states and neighboring countries.

Capacity-building via inter-NGO exchanges and dialogue

From 2005 to 2008, the INTEGRATION projects involved NGOs from across the EU and three European-based networks to identify and promote best practices in relation to HIV and hepatitis especially in the new and future member states of the EU. Topics addressed in our European seminars included: the specific situation of women, quality health services for most vulnerable groups, hepatitis C among injecting drug users, NGO management and leadership, the quality of life of PLWH, treatment advocacy, employment and social issues for PLWH, access to treatment for drug users, and youth mobilization.

Lessons learned

This joint work enabled (1) concrete capacity building for the participants (2) focused advocacy work at both national and European levels and (3) a greater involvement of local NGOs from the new EU member states in established European networks.

Getting our governments to keep their promises!

Ongoing challenges in the new EU member states include: (1) To ensure the sustainability of prevention, support and advocacy services that address the human and health rights of PLWHA, drug users, men who have sex with men and other vulnerable populations. (2) To address newly emerging challenges such as guaranteeing access to prevention and healthcare for migrants and implementing improved responses to hepatitis.

We encourage the new EU member-state governments to vastly increase cooperation with their own local civil society, in line with European and international commitments to ensure universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

Thanks

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