



International Cultural Youth Exchange, International Office

Final Report

TRAINING COURSE

ON YOUTH VOLUNTEERING IN HIV/AIDS PREVENTION PROJECTS IN EU AND CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

05.06 – 11. 06. 2004

Berlin, Heiligensee, Germany



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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction.....	page 4
2.	Background.....	page 5
2.	Chief goals of the training course.....	page 5
4.	Chronological Programme Overview.....	page 6
5.	5 th June 2004.....	page 9
	Arrival of participants	
6.	6 th June 2004.....	page 9
	Formal Welcome and Introductions	
	Presentation of participants' organisations	
	Introduction to the Multi-lateral EVS project on HIV/AIDS prevention	
	Assessment/follow-up of the pilot project	
	Expectations of the training course	
	Intercultural Evening	
7.	7 th - 8 th June 2004.....	page 14
	Open Space on Thematic Working Groups	
	1. Issues Arising	
	2. Setting the Agenda	
	3. Personal Scheduling	
	4. Work Sessions	
	5. Action Planning	
	Thematic Work Group 1: Fundraising	
	Thematic Work Group 2: Volunteer Programming in HIV/Aids Prevention	
	Thematic Work Group 3: The Contribution of EVS to HIV/AIDS Prevention & Peer Sexual Health Education Work in EU and CEE Countries.	
	Thematic Work Group 4: Gay and Lesbian Issues in Sex Health Education & the Differences in Communication Behaviour in the East and the West.	
	Thematic Work Group 5: Website and Mass Media	
	Flashlight – Mid-Term Evaluation	
	Lecture on “Media Campaigns Towards HIV/AIDS Prevention for IV Drug Users, A Comparison Between Different Countries”, at Humboldt University, Berlin	
8.	9 th June 2004.....	page 21
	Project Visits:	
	“Sub/Way”	
	“Hydra”	
	Dinner at the Migrant-led Cooking Project – “Die Weltküche”	
9.	10 th June 2004.....	page 22
	Evaluation of project visits	
	Concrete Project Ideas	

Development and Planning of Long-term Bi- and Multi-lateral EVS Project Initiatives in the HIV/AIDS Prevention Sector.

EVS Voluntary Work Placements

Further suggestions for a fruitful & enriching volunteering experience

Coordinating Committee

Final Evaluation

Barbecue Farewell Party

10. 11th June 2004:

Departure of Participants.....page
25

11. Annexes.....page
26

1. Report on male prostitution in Germany by Sergiu Grimalschi.....page
26
2. Final Evaluation: questionnaire and results.....page
35
3. List of Participants.....page
37

1. Introduction

This document is the final report of a training course aimed at both former volunteers and representatives of host organisations working in the area of sexual health promotion and prevention of HIV and Aids with a focus on youth volunteering. It was held from 05.06. to 11.06.2004 in Berlin, Heiligensee, Germany.

This training course was a follow-up to the ICYE Eastlinks multilateral EVS pilot project on HIV/AIDS prevention between European Union and Central and Eastern European countries that was completed in September 2003. It was initiated and implemented by the ICYE International Office in co-operation with some of the host organisations and volunteers involved in the multilateral EVS project.

This report is not only a documentation of the proceedings of the training course, but also contains information and materials which were used during the sessions. The work done aims at providing involved players with tools for an efficient implementation of youth volunteering projects in the field of HIV/Aids prevention. We hope that it can also be used as a source of inspiration or as a resource for similar projects in the future. The project report is structured according to the programme schedule. This report can also be downloaded from the ICYE website at www.icye.org under the link "Activities / Past" .

A warm thanks to the preparatory team, experts and projects who gave their time and imparted valuable information before and during the training course. A warm thank you also to all the participants for their contributions and their commitment in facilitating cross-sectoral partnerships, and thereby creating a wider understanding and cooperation within Europe.

For the ICYE International Office

Andreas Schwab

2. Background

The theme-related pilot project was the first of its kind and has generated multiple initiatives by returned volunteers, of whom 80% are still active in one way or the other in youth work dealing with HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual health promotion. Furthermore, the involved host organisations, youth and HIV/AIDS NGO's, have realized the high potential of East - West volunteer exchanges in peer education projects on sexual health promotion and HIV/AIDS prevention. Most of these NGO's would like to continue the established cooperation and new initiatives but some lack experience in the practical aspects of organising international youth volunteer exchange programmes.

Thus, this training course is aimed at fostering bi- and multilateral cooperation in European Union and Central and Eastern European Countries through capacity building, focusing on the practical aspects of developing and managing international volunteer exchange projects suited to the particularities of the HIV/AIDS prevention sector.

The training consisted of a transfer of know-how on how to develop and manage International Voluntary Service projects combined with HIV/AIDS prevention peer education campaigns, considering more in-depth the variety of prevention strategies related to the respective risk groups. Networking and Fundraising for programme opportunities in East – West volunteer exchanges was another focal point along with the development of innovative forms of cooperation among HIV/AIDS NGOs in EU and CEE countries considering the differences of HIV/AIDS prevention work in both parts of Europe.

3. Chief Goals of the Training Course

The main goals of this project were:

- To train youth workers and enable them to act as multipliers by involving like-minded projects in the countries of the youth worker. Thereby, also fostering a more bilateral exchange of volunteers among them.
- To empower HIV/AIDS NGOs in EU and CEE countries in order to network and engage in innovative partnerships and benefit from programme opportunities providing thus the basis for the development and the implementation of future bilateral voluntary exchange projects under EVS and other theme-related trans-national volunteering programmes.
- To contribute to HIV/AIDS prevention in EU, CEE countries by consolidating youth volunteering to enhance peer education in HIV/AIDS prevention / sexual health promotion.
- To build on the experiences acquired in the above-mentioned multilateral third country EVS project on HIV/AIDS prevention.

4. Programme Overview

Date	Time	Activity
05.06.04	Evening	<p>Arrival of participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal round of introductions • Welcome evening
06.06.04	<p>9.00–11.00</p> <p>11:30-13:00</p> <p>15.00-18:30</p> <p>19.00-20.00</p> <p>20:00</p>	<p>Opening and presentation of programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal Welcome by team • Team building game • Name, organisations and countries of participants – an introduction <p>Coffee Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Introduction: Getting to know the participants • Introduction of participants' organisations and his/her own place and work within the organisation's structure. <p>Lunch Break</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the multilateral EVS project on HIV/AIDS prevention • Assessment of the results of the pilot EVS project • Expectations of participants <p>Intercultural evening</p>
07.06.04	<p>9.00–11.00</p> <p>11:30-13:30</p>	<p>Introduction to the "Thematic Working Groups" methodology and its functioning.</p> <p>Self-reflection by participants on the themes of discussion related to HIV/AIDS prevention in Eastern and Western European societies.</p> <p>Coffee Break</p> <p>Participants' suggestions for thematic working groups (in plenary).</p> <p>Discussion on thematic priorities taking into consideration the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies of prevention work in Eastern and Western European countries • The value of long-term volunteer exchange programmes • Legislation / obstacles to prevention work • Availability of governmental or other support <p>Composition and organisation of participant-led work groups.</p>

	<p>13.30-15.00</p> <p>15.00-18.30</p> <p>Evening</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p> <p>Work in respective thematic groups:</p> <p>Thematic Work Group 1: Fundraising</p> <p>Thematic Work Group 2: Volunteer Programming in HIV/AIDS Prevention.</p> <p>THE EU YOUTH Programme – Opportunities for East-West cooperation and Volunteer Programming in HIV/Aids Prevention.</p> <p>Developing and Managing EU - CEE International Voluntary Service Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Responsibilities of project partners in EVS projects/volunteers/mentors/sending and host organisations - How to organise and carry out pre-depart, on-arrival and evaluation meetings/specific preparation of volunteers on theme HIV/AIDS - Project application, basic skills of describing projects/filling in forms <p>Management, monitoring, reporting and documentation</p> <p>Thematic Work Group 3: The Contribution of EVS to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Peer Sexual Health Education Work in EU and CEE Countries.</p> <p>Thematic Work Group 4: Gay and Lesbian Issues in Sex Health Education. Differences in Communication Behaviour in the East and the West.</p> <p>Thematic Work Group 5: Website and Mass Media</p> <p>Free</p>
08.06.04	<p>9.00– 11.00</p> <p>15.00</p> <p>18:00</p>	<p>Thematic Working Groups: continuations of discussions from the previous afternoon.</p> <p>Flash light – Mid-term Evaluation</p> <p>Lecture at Humboldt University, Berlin on “Mass Media Campaigns Towards HIV/Aids Prevention for IV Drug Users, A Comparison Between Different Countries.”</p>

09.06.04	<p>10.00 –12.30</p> <p>13.00-16.00</p> <p>16.30-18.30</p> <p>Evening</p>	<p>Visit to local HIV/AIDS prevention projects:</p> <p>Guided visit around Subway and a presentation of their work.</p> <p>Exploring the city centre of Berlin</p> <p>Guided visit around Hydra and a presentation of their work</p> <p>Dinner in the city, at the migrant-led cooking project – “Die Weltküche.”</p>
10.06.04	<p>9.00 – 12.30</p> <p>11:30-13:30</p> <p>13.30-15.00</p> <p>15.00-18.30</p> <p>Evening</p>	<p>In plenary: Evaluation of project visits. Discussions on the situation of HIV/AIDS prevention work in Germany. Comparison of the situation in EU countries to that of CEE countries. Concrete Project Ideas and plenary discussion on Programme Opportunities in the HIV/AIDS prevention sector.</p> <p>Coffee Break</p> <p>Programme Opportunities in the International Voluntary Service sector.</p> <p>Development and Planning of Long-term Bi- and Multilateral EU Youth Project Initiatives in the HIV/AIDS Prevention Sector.</p> <p>Agreements on further co-operation and follow-up activities and the development of a co-ordinated plan of action.</p> <p>Lunch Break</p> <p>Final Evaluation of the activity Detailed assessment of the outcomes of the thematic workshops and discussion on innovative forms of cooperation between HIV/AIDS prevention projects in Eastern and Western Europe utilizing the potential of international volunteerism (interventions by representatives of HIV/AIDS prevention and youth volunteering NGOs).</p> <p>Barbecue Farewell Party</p>
11.06.04	9.30–13.00	Departure of participants

5. 5th June 2004

Arrival of participants

Participants arrived at different hours through the day from their various destinations. In the evening, all gathered together for an informal round of introductions and the process of getting acquainted began, which continued through dinner and spilled into the late evening.

6. 6th June 2004

Formal Welcome and Introductions

The first day of the seminar began with a more formal welcome by team representatives. Thereafter, a team building game was played, subsequent to which participants introduced themselves, their country and the organisations they represented.

Following the coffee break, the group broke up into pairs for a one-on-one “getting to know each other” process. This was followed by each person presenting his/her partner to the rest of the group in plenary.

Presentation of participants’ organisations

Participants then introduced their own organisations with specific focus on his/her own place and role within the organisation’s structure. A brief description of each organisation presented in plenary is as follows:

1) **AIDS Prevention Centre, Tallinn, Estonia** (*Irina Moroz*) www.aids.ee

The Estonian AIDS Prevention Centre (APC) is a non-profit governmental agency that was established in May 1996 and united the existing AIDS related institutions. The mission of the APC is to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS and to minimise the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in Estonia.

2) **Alternative-V, Kiev, Ukraine** (*Anastasiya Shtaltovna and Ludmila Shulga*) www.alternative-v.com.ua

The association is active at the local level and is involved in a variety of social issues. Main program areas include work camps, long-term volunteering through EVS (since 1999), and Camp America – Ukrainians get a chance to spend the summer working in the US. Anastasiya Shtaltovna, in charge of the EVS voluntary exchange for HIV/AIDS Prevention, recognises that HIV/AIDS is a large-scale problem in the Ukraine and thereby also the need for multilateral co-operation in this area. Ludmila Shulga, herself a former volunteer, is currently working for an IRD “primary health care initiative” in Mariupol. This is the first project of its kind in the city with peer education as the main focus of its activities.

3) **CREES (Centre for Russian and East European Studies), Birmingham, UK** (*Dr. Erica Richardson*) www.crees.bham.ac.uk

CREES is the Centre for Russian and Eastern European Science of the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom. Established in 1963, CREES is a multi-disciplinary centre focusing on social science and history. In March 2003, the Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE) recognised a small number of departments nationally as having achieved consistent research

excellence by awarding them the so-called '6' status and allocating additional research funding. CREES is the *only* unit in its RAE subject area (European Studies) to be recognised as a 6 and is the only Russian and East European Studies outlet nationally to have achieved this status. CREES has extensive international links, including with partner institutions in Europe. Members of CREES are actively involved in the policy process, with long-established relations with the UK government, international organisations, the business community and the media.

4) Crusaid, London, UK (*Gavin Mair*) www.crusaid.org.uk

Crusaid, based in London, is the leading UK charity devoted to fundraising on behalf of people living with HIV/Aids. It was set up in 1987 by a small group of friends in response to the first appearance of the Aids tragedy in the 1980s. For the past fifteen years, it has been dedicated to improving the health of the victims, easing their financial hardship, attempting to stop the virus from spreading and searching for a vaccine and a cure. Crusaid has strong links with the gay and the African communities in London, the two communities that are most affected by HIV/Aids in the UK. The support provided to them by the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital has forged strong links with the West London community as well.

5) ESTYES, (MTÜ Noortevahetuse Ühing EstYes), Tallinn, Estonia (*Ege Kirik*) www.estyes.ee

An International Youth Association founded in 1991, EstYes is a non-profit, non-political, non-governmental organisation that promotes youth and cultural exchanges. Its activities encompass the organising of work camps in Estonia, sending Estonian volunteers abroad and hosting volunteers for long-term projects in Estonia. In addition, EstYes frequently organises training and topical seminars. In September 2001, it hosted the first conference of Voluntary Service Organisations in Central and Eastern Europe on HIV/AIDS prevention, a conference supported by UNESCO. EstYes being a prospective former host-organisation, Ege Kirik, the representative, was new to EVS and hoped for contacts and good ideas for their participation in a future EVS project related to HIV/AIDS prevention work.

6) Faith, Hope, Love, Odessa, Ukraine (*Eugen Fomin*)

Public Movement "Faith, Hope, Love" was founded on the initiative of specialists in health care, lawyers, militia officials, scientists and volunteers in 1996, carrying out HIV/Aids prevention work among intravenous drug users in Odessa based on the Harm Reduction Strategy. The goal of the Public Movement "Faith, Hope, Love" is to give aid and support to different target groups, to form tolerant attitudes towards the castaways of society, to promote healthy lifestyles and to implement new methods in negative social phenomena prevention. In present times, the movement associates with 120 individuals and 4 collective members. Eugen Fomin, in charge of voluntary exchange at Faith, Hope, Love, undertook a volunteer from Scotland in 2002–03, having in turn sent their own volunteer to work in London.

7) Freshwinds, Birmingham, UK (*Mohammed Al Rahim and Myles Tayler*) www.freshwinds.org.uk

Freshwinds is a charity registered in 1992 to provide care and support without charge to children and adults living with life-threatening and life-limiting illnesses, taking a holistic and integrated medical approach. It has a range of care and social support services assisting people in career, education, housing, and benefit issues e.g. their BRO-SIS service that assists the African-Caribbean community around issues of HIV, sexual health drugs and crimes in order to create an environment for better choices. Freshwinds also works in partnership with the Jamaican Ministry of Education, Youth & Culture, which hopes to further develop HIV/Aids activities in the Caribbean. Support and care for people living with HIV/Aids in Birmingham is also a focal point of their work. Mohammed Al-Rahim, the founder, President and CEO manages the youth exchange program and works in the field of HIV/AIDS issues in Birmingham and the West Midlands, working alongside the African Community Council for the Regions (ACCR), providing care and services to the African communities. Our international projects partnership between Freshwinds and ACCR are in the initial stages of working in both the Sudan and the Congo. Freshwinds 'Parental Support Services' supports parents of children living with life threatening health issues, physically, socially and economically, which would thereby have a positive result on the health and well-being of the child and the family.

8) ICYE (Federation of the International Cultural Youth Exchange, International Office), Berlin, Germany (*Andreas Schwab, Programme Coordinator*) www.icye.org

ICYE, an international non-governmental organisation founded in 1949 as a reconciliation program between the USA and Germany, is today a Federation of 35 National Committees in Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Europe. Its main focus is the long-term youth exchange program, which is founded on the principles of global education and intercultural learning. Through volunteer service and other non-formal educational opportunities, the program aims at addressing social and educational needs of today's youth, thereby also enhancing young people's sensitivity towards social and cultural differences and also their self-confidence and problem solving abilities. Andreas Schwab, programme officer at the ICYE International Office gave a short introduction to the activities of the Federation in Central and Eastern Europe and mentioned his role and functions as co-ordinator of a number of recent YOUTH programme Action 2 (EVS) and Action 5 (Support measures) projects among ICYE's member organisations in EU countries and partner organisations in CEEC, CIS and SEE countries.

9) ICYE United Kingdom, London, UK (*Nicolas Taylor*) www.icye.co.uk

ICYE UK is committed to promoting intercultural understanding through volunteering programs, offering long-term placements in the country. ICYE-UK is a member of the ICYE International Federation. The organisation runs long-term youth exchanges, involving voluntary services, both within Europe using European Youth funding, in particular through EVS and internationally through the wider ICYE network. ICYE-UK was established in July 1993 and was initially run purely by volunteers. It has grown steadily since then and is now run by three full-time staff members. It is nevertheless run by a committee democratically elected by ICYE-UK members, most of whom have volunteered abroad with ICYE. Nicolas Taylor has been a volunteer in Russia and is presently involved as member of the executive committee.

10) Kursiv e. V., Berlin, Germany (*Michael Krone*) www.schwulenberatungberlin.de

Kursiv. e.V. is the AIDS-project of the Gay Counselling Centre Berlin. It provides psychological counselling and support mainly to gay men with HIV/AIDS. One of the main targets is the support of people who are already infected, and it thereby works towards a person's stabilisation and empowerment, which naturally also has an effect on primary prevention. Michael Krone's main functions within the organisation consist of fundraising and coordination of two sub-projects: 'Supported living of people living with HIV and AIDS' and "Supported living of gay men with psychosocial disorders". Additionally, he works as a freelancer for Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe (DAH), mainly in 'Back-to-work'- Projects for PLWHA (People Living With HIV/AIDS).

11) Positive Aktion: MigrantInnen gegen Aids e. V., Berlin, Germany (*Pablo Fernandez*) www.positive-aktion.org

This non-governmental organisation works towards the empowerment of migrants living with HIV/AIDS in Berlin and the development of a work project, "Die Weltküche" (The World Kitchen), also for migrants living with HIV/AIDS. The idea of the World Kitchen is that migrants cook together specialities from the countries of their origin and therefore also come in contact with one another. The World Kitchen started out with a group of around 10 people, most of whom are still part of it. Pablo Fernandez runs and organises activities at "Die Weltküche", in addition to his involvement in the other activities of Positive Aktion.

12) PSI (Population Services International), Russia (*Mikhail Volik*) www.psi.org

Population Services International's mission is to empower improved health among low-income and other vulnerable people. A non-profit organisation, PSI conducts promotional and educational campaigns in 70 countries to motivate the informed use of services and products for HIV/STI prevention, reproductive health, and maternal and child health. In Russia, PSI has been active since 1995 under the name "Centre for Social Information and Development". The main component of the activities consists of HIV/AIDS prevention. PSI is a hosting and sending organisation and Mikhail Volik is in charge of youth exchange and work in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention.

13) SWALLOWS, Samara, Russia (*Tatjana Anzonger and Olga Redkozubova*) www.swallows.org.ru

Young members of the United Nations support group in Samara established Samara Regional Non-Governmental Youth Organisation „Swallows“ in 1997. Swallow's aim is to promote the idea of international volunteerism in Russia, by means of long-term volunteering and short-term projects. It also provides medical and psychological help and a social rehabilitation programme for young people addicted to alcohol and/or drugs and/or living with HIV/Aids. Olga Redkozubova, a former volunteer at Freshwinds, UK, in 2002-03 has since been working at PSI/Samara as an assistant to the voluntary co-ordinator in peer education work. Furthermore, she continues her voluntary work at Swallows and was mentor to a Swiss volunteer, as part of the ICYE – Eastlinks EVS project.

14) **ICF “International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine / Alternative V** (Maryna Braga)

www.aidsalliance.org, www.aidsalliance.kiev.ua

The International HIV/AIDS Alliance's programme in Ukraine, “NGO Support and Resource Development for HIV/AIDS Prevention”, has been active since December 2000. It was financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the EC-US Transatlantic Initiative. The programme is one of the most powerful responses to the HIV epidemic in Ukraine, where 52,993 people are officially registered with HIV (as of January 2003). The International HIV/AIDS Alliance is an international non-profit organisation, established in 1993 to assist community action in response to the HIV epidemic in developing and transition countries. The Alliance has supported over 1150 non-government and community-based organisations in 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America, carrying out projects in prevention, care, support and mitigation of the harmful effects of HIV. The Alliance's programme in the Ukraine exists to support community action against HIV/AIDS. They prioritise support to reduce HIV infection in the population groups most vulnerable to the virus, to develop community support for people with HIV and those close to them, to reduce the stigmatisation of, and improve services for people with HIV and those groups most vulnerable to HIV, and to identify, share and replicate best practices in effective community action. Maryna Braga is a former volunteer who worked at Crusaid in London, UK. As Programme Officer for the Prevention of ICF “International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine”, she is currently working on a project “Overcoming HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Ukraine” – a national programme which is supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and her main duty is to provide technical support to local HIV Service NGOs.

Introduction to the Multilateral EVS Project on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Assessment/Follow-up of the Pilot Project.

Following the lunch break, the training group was introduced to the multilateral EVS project on HIV/AIDS prevention. This was followed by an assessment of the results of the pilot EVS project coordinated by ICYE and Eastlinks. It was noted with pleasure that following the volunteering period, 80% of the earlier volunteers continue to be involved with the activities related to this theme. The development of the project and its phases was jointly presented by means of the “Railway track” method, whereby the team began the trail with information on the start of the EVS project on HIV/AIDS prevention, subsequent to which participants intervened to narrate their experience as his/her organisation jumped on to the bandwagon. Thereby, each of them had the opportunity to relate their role in the development of the project and had the feeling of being part of a track on the railway, each track doing its job of building the railway to a definite destination.

Expectations of the Training Course

Participants were encouraged to write down, as part of a questionnaire, their expectations for the training course, following which each one of them voiced the same in plenary. The expectations brought to the forefront the personal motivation of the participants to their work in this field as also their commitment to the continuation of the project in question.

Some of the topics of crucial importance to participants were as follows:

1. How to raise funds?
2. How to involve more youth in the fight against AIDS across frontiers?

3. A “critical” review of volunteering in the sphere of HIV/AIDS.
4. EU-CEE assessment, co-operation schemes and project models and the potential of youth as a funding source of the programme.
5. Defining co-operation schemes between youth NGOs and HIV/AIDS organisations.
6. Sharing of experiences with reference to volunteers and hosting projects.
7. The difference in sexual education in Eastern and Western European countries on HIV/AIDS prevention.
8. Data collection on the incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS and what its impact is on the health policy.
9. Harm reduction projects in Eastern and Western European countries, best experiences and problems.
10. More information on the practicalities of working in the HIV/AIDS sector in Ukraine and Estonia in comparison to Russia.
11. Creating a project – networking and setting up a database and a website.
12. Discussion the role of mass media in the HIV/AIDS Youth Education

Some quotes by the participants are as follows:

“I would be very interested to study the experience of foreign NGOs that work in the HIV/AIDS prevention field among youth and street children. Also, I’m interested in giving various kinds of social help to people living with HIV/AIDS and, as I am an editor of a youth newspaper on HIV/AIDS prevention, I would like to study the peculiarities of creating and spreading educational and informational materials on this theme.”

Eugen Fomin, former host organization Public Movement, “Faith Hope Love”, Odessa, Ukraine.

“I hope to understand better European HIV/AIDS prevention work and health promotion. Hopefully, I will be able to add to the UK point of view.”

Gavin Mair, former host organization, Crusaid, London, UK.

“Working at Freshwinds, I found a lot of new information on organisations giving care and support to PLWHA (People Living With HIV/AIDS). I got good experience of the particularities of the voluntary support work in the UK. Therefore, I think, future possibilities for exchanges are a great idea for young people. PSI/Samara has many young volunteers (age 15-25). They are possessed with knowledge and skills in peer education work in the HIV/AIDS field. PSI/Samara also has the opportunity to be a host organisation for a few foreign volunteers.”

Olga Redkozubova, former volunteer (from Russia at Freshwinds, Birmingham, UK), currently at PSI Samara.

Ü Intercultural Evening

The Intercultural evening consisted of people bringing and sharing “goodies” from their respective countries with the other participants. A closer, more personal exchange ensued, resulting in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

7. 7th - 8th June 2004

Thematic Working Groups

The day began with an explanation of the working group methodology, which is exemplified below:

Ü **Thematic Working Groups and their Functioning**

The thematic working groups of the training course were designed in an Open Space format that is a structured conferencing method that builds on maximum self-organisation of participants. This style of working allows a group-based agenda setting process, a number of simultaneous and successive discussion sessions, and an action-planning block to discuss future collaborations and follow up projects. The high level of personal involvement and collaborative skills of the participants guaranteed a dense and fruitful process.

1. Issues Arising

After a brief introduction to the method, participants were asked to individually collect theme-related issues, topics and questions, which they would like to discuss in the workshop. It was explained that proposing a theme for the agenda would entail the responsibility of convening and documenting a respective work session. The issues were briefly introduced to the group and collected on a pin board. 45 issues from a wide array of fields were identified and presented in this process.

2. Setting the Agenda

In a second step participants were asked to transfer their topics to the agenda – a bulletin board outlining seven time slots (1½ hr sessions, Monday 9, 11, 15, 17hrs, Tuesday 9, 11, 15hrs) with three (or more) parallel work sessions for each slot. The group was invited to negotiate joint sessions for closely related or complementary topics without limiting the focus of the sessions and the broadness of the theme-field too strongly. This effort led to the scheduling of thirteen different work sessions, with topics reaching from a strategy exchange on fundraising, over an East-West comparison on harm reduction projects, to the brainstorming on the creation of a worldwide agency for volunteer coordination in the HIV/AIDS field. The inner structure and order within this field of themes developed in the process of joint negotiation.

3. Personal Scheduling

Participants were then invited to write their names next to the sessions they would like to attend. Thus, each participant created his/her personal schedule for the seminar. Thereby, each person was able to participate in a number of workshops according to his/her thematic interest, priorities and country specific realities. This enabled each one to make his/her own contributions in his/her area of expertise as well as getting the opportunity to learn from other participants. In the evening evaluation, it became clear that this rotation of participants within the different working groups resulted in high motivation and commitment to the workshop agenda they had put together themselves.

4. Work Sessions

The work sessions were held and documented in varying styles. After each session the group protocol was posted on the bulletin board. Brief summaries of the protocols were presented in the mid day and evening plenary sessions. The Monday evening plenary was also used to generate and schedule further agenda items that came up during the day's sessions.

5. Action Planning

The Tuesday afternoon block was used for action planning. Participants were invited to write down and present project ideas for future collaboration within the group. When all projects were presented and posted throughout the seminar room, participants then had the opportunity to gather around individual proposals and discuss possible aims and first steps for the project. This process was designed as a preparation for the in-dept "project tuning" session on Thursday.

The above explanatory session was followed by self-reflection on the themes of discussions related to HIV/AIDS prevention in Eastern and Western European societies by the participants. Thereafter, participants presented in plenary their proposals for the working groups. The following were the various topics of interest that surfaced:

Situation and prevention strategies according to target groups: intravenous drug users, sex workers, men who have sex with men and general population on:

- Strategies of prevention work and peer health education in Eastern and Western European countries
- Volunteer Programming in HIV/AIDS prevention
- Availability of governmental or other support, fundraising
- Promotion of prevention work: website and mass media

Michael Krone and Dr. Erica Richardson made thematic interventions and suggestions during the discussions.

These thematic groups worked until the end of the day on 07.06 and well into 08.06 until they met in plenary for the presentation of their discussions and the final outcome, which is detailed below.

I. Thematic Work Group 1: *Fundraising*

Due to the requests of the participants, we discussed three areas under the main heading of fundraising – financing volunteers in the receiving country, how to start fundraising, creating a network for volunteer exchange in the field of HIV/AIDS.

Financing volunteers in hosting countries: There was a great deal of interest in finding alternative sources/means of funding volunteer placements in England. London, as in the rest of England, is very extremely expensive, particularly when it comes to accommodation. Where can you find more affordable accommodation in England? One suggestion was to house volunteers in local families. The advantages of this idea were that it can sometimes be cheaper and the volunteer has more possibilities of being immersed in the culture. The disadvantages, however, did seem to outweigh the benefits. Finding willing and suitable families is a big challenge compared to what can we offer them? Volunteers may also not want to live in families, particularly if they are older or have been living independently for some time. A further suggestion was the long-term renting of a big house/flat. This tends to be cheaper but problems may arise with inflexible landlords. It is also possible that this approach could be just as expensive.

How to start fundraising: The question on who to fundraise was raised by a number of participants and their colleagues at their organisations. It was discussed that mass letter writing to local and national sponsors and companies results in limited success. The representative of the Crusaid team was able to share his ideas and explain Crusaid's approach and activities. Ideas that came forth were to arrange events, which can be financially supported by the local government, etc., which could then be used as fundraisers – the old rattling the tin or shaking the bucket idea! It was also suggested that when contacting companies or donors, contact should be more personal, calling or arranging a personal meeting (when possible) rather than sending a letter. It was agreed that a need exists for more information sharing about funding, fundraising, and event ideas. Receiving information about proposal deadlines two days before the deadline has also proved problematic for those involved in fundraising. Sharing information is a serious need, something which could be posted on a group website.

Creating a network for HIV/AIDS volunteers: From the previous point the discussion moved towards finding funding for volunteer exchanges, which were not connected to the Youth EVS programme. It was considered whether Crusaid would be willing to take on a volunteer directly, rather than going through intermediary organisations. The Crusaid representative said there could be some interest in such an idea. Other possible collaborations are to join up with UNV, UNDP, Peace Corps, Americorps, and VSO to create exchange possibilities for volunteers interested in working in the

HIV/AIDS field. By making such a programme based more around the principal of vocational training, it would be possible to apply for funding through the Leonardo di Vinci programme. USAID is another possible donor. Cooperation with universities is another option.

II. Thematic Work Group 2: *Volunteer Programming in HIV/Aids Prevention*

This group commenced with an introduction to, “THE EU YOUTH Programme – Opportunities for East-West Co-operation”, its aims and objectives, priority regions and development strategies and actions. Furthermore, an integral part of the discussions involved the developing and managing of EU - CEE International Voluntary Service Projects in light of the responsibilities of project partners in EVS – projects, volunteers, mentors, sending and host organisations, how to organise and carry out pre-depart, on-arrival and evaluation meetings, specific preparation of volunteers on the theme of HIV/AIDS, project application, basic skills of describing projects, filling in forms and the management, monitoring, reporting and documentation of the project.

Critical Review:

Evaluation of previous volunteer placements: It was felt that the preparation of previous volunteer placements was too narrow. Organisations need to know who is coming to be able to obtain the most appropriate volunteer and to make provisions for every eventuality. They also felt that both the organisation and the volunteers themselves were contacted too late.

Freshwinds Experience: The Freshwinds representative felt that the experience had been a positive one even though they encountered a few teething problems. More information on volunteers and their arrival dates was a key issue. Too much time had also been spent on orientation of volunteers. A longer period of time would be needed for future volunteers. Freshwinds would have liked greater control of the volunteer placement especially due to issues arising, such as confidentiality. The use of a screening process, questionnaire, or subset plan for volunteers might be considered so as to reduce the chance of pressure and tension between the volunteer and the host organisation. It was felt that enough information was given to neither the volunteer nor the host organisation. This leads to the volunteer not really knowing what his/her role as a volunteer is to be.

AIDS Prevention Centre Volunteer Experience: It was felt that the AIDS Prevention Centre was not really ready for international volunteers just yet, as they do not have the necessary experience at this stage. They also found that they did not have enough time to spend with international volunteers and therefore found it difficult to structure their work. To solve this problem, the use of a volunteer manager was suggested. Due to prior experience, some participants were positive about volunteer placements as it made them more aware of all the issues that need to be addressed for future projects and volunteer needs. The suggestion of creating a ‘criteria list’ was brought up, e.g. language issues, familiarity with the workings of the host organisations work that volunteers would have to meet so as to reduce training time. They also recognised the need for an all-inclusive system as volunteering is supposed to help develop skills. The ultimate goal is to have more young people in the AIDS prevention field.

What everyone agreed to at the end of the critical review was that there should be a form for categorising of volunteer placements based for example on:

- 1) Experience (culture / language)
- 2) Motivation
- 3) Technical

What is Volunteering about, and new initiatives for volunteer placements:

The group felt that volunteering was about exposure to new ideas, concepts, cultures, experiences, training, and helping.

Issues were raised in the group concerning the differences in standards of volunteers going from East to West and those going from West to East (volunteers from the East seemed to have greater experience, qualifications, and training than their counterparts in the West), and lack of knowledge of the host organisation's activities. The group felt that these issues needed to be addressed. Solutions to these problems centred on a:

- 1) Application form: Completed by the potential volunteer for the host organisation, so that the volunteer's skills could be assessed according to the host organisation's needs.
- 2) Co-worker exchange programme: Organisations using volunteer placements would send a representative to shadow a worker from the other's organisation for a period of two weeks. This information could then be used to brief the potential volunteers on the organisation they might be sent to.

The group hoped that these measures would create greater contact, co-operation, experience etc., all of which will further develop the volunteer placement service.

The point that it is possible to work with a charity / NGO instead of doing military service in Germany was also raised. This could be used at a later date as a tool for volunteer recruitment. The German government could also be approached to fund this program. It was also felt that Poland, the Czech Republic, etc. should also be involved in the volunteer placement programme.

Concerning possible training, if no funds are available, the option of contacting health organisations was raised as a possible alternative. The use of a Web Cam was also suggested, whereby volunteers could meet their prospective host organisations. This would help break down a number of barriers and resolve any outstanding issue that both may have, before the placement begins.

Conclusion:

- More direct links between host organisations and volunteers.
- Greater bilateral and multilateral links.
- Advertise volunteer placements according to the organisations needs. Flexible timing so that the programme can be amended if necessary e.g. funding issues.
- Criteria established for different volunteer placement opportunities e.g. experience, motivation, or technical information.
- Database of volunteers to be set up by organisations wishing to host volunteer placements. This would include the profile of the volunteer, training possibilities, and the possibly length of the stay.
- Volunteer placements with host organisation should be longer, approximately one year, to allow for training and capacity building to be achieved within a realistic timeframe.
- Co-worker exchange.
- E-learning and use of Web Cam.
- Projects objectives / starting dates and times to be decided on 10/06/04.

III. Thematic Work Group 3: *The Contribution of EVS to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Peer Sexual Health Education Work in EU and Central and Eastern European Countries.*

The topic of conversation was "What people from the UK can do to help people in Eastern Europe?"

Summary of discussions:

It was noted that in Russian speaking countries there is a lack of English speaking people. The assistance of British colleagues in proofreading grant applications of Eastern European NGOs would be an asset.

It was also suggested that an Internet game providing information on Safe sex aimed at 16 – 17 years old under the name, “Supershagland.com” could be launched. It would be very useful if the information provided therein were also in the Russian language. Thus, using the Internet and the games methodology to share and spread information on HIV/AIDS would be very useful, particularly taking into account the teenage group targeted. The idea of creating a website where all this information could be made available was also put forth. It was felt that Russian, as another language on this web page would also be very useful.

Proofreading/translation of grant applications – specialised voluntary assistance by email would also be welcome. Due to a lack of English speakers in Russian speaking countries, the assistance of British colleagues in proofreading grant applications of Eastern European NGOs was also seen as a necessity.

The discussion on an efficient functioning of HIV/AIDS prevention work and effective ways of involving EVS volunteers resulted in the following:

- Support of ICYE volunteers – for example even going to an art gallery or a pub for a few hours can help volunteers’ orientation, widen their social network and improve language skills.
- Assistance with academic information – in many countries, public libraries are under-funded and resources depleted. In such cases and countries, volunteers can help with research.
- “Condomraising”, contacting condoms manufacturers for distribution of free condoms and other sponsorships (e.g. event sponsoring) rather than (or in addition to) receiving cash donations at events.
- Another contribution EVS volunteers could make is to be in regular contact with orphanages and treatment centres, assessing and communicating their needs to their host organisations or to organisations in their own countries for support.
- Providing information and establishing a database of donor organisations in the HIV/AIDS sector.
- If condoms and syringes are too expensive, manufacturers could be approached for franchises in Eastern Europe.

Another area of discussion was based on *the incidence and prevalence data of HIV/AIDS and its impact on health policies*. The discussion dealt with epidemiological facts in Russia, how data is collected and how it is represented. The following was established:

-There are no prospective studies to monitor the incidence of HIV/AIDS.

-There is a possibility that the data on transmission does not represent the actual day of transmission because the questions are not asked in an objective manner.

-Although data is not very good, it is far better now than compared to what was received four years ago.

Drug usage in Russian speaking countries was another area of discussion taken up. The discussions revolved around Ukraine and the fact that heroin is very expensive leads them to use “compote” (1 dosage in Russia costs €30). In Russia, in the places where poppy doesn’t grow, they use other drugs. In Berlin, “speedballs”, a mixture of heroin and cocaine is often in use. In the Ukraine, all users face the risk of contracting the virus when they purchase drugs as all syringes are put into the same bowl. In Samara, “ecstasy” is very popular.

Separate discussions focused on *harm reduction projects and strategies in the Ukraine, Russia, UK and Germany in the rural and urban setting*. The discussions dealt with the comparison of approaches to needle exchanges between the east and the west and stated that Russian politicians are closing down needle exchange initiatives.

Further discussions focused on the treatment of PLWHA (People Living With HIV/AIDS) with regard to the limited access to treatment in East European countries. In Ukraine, only about 130 people are getting the life prolonging treatment at present and in Estonia about 70 people. By the end of the year,

in Ukraine, 2000 people will get Anti-Retro Viral (ARV) therapies with the help of Global Fund subsidies. It was strongly felt that the treatment of PLWHA should be a responsibility of the government because when the funding period by international organisations comes to an end, no one else will be able to take over the costs involved as they are extremely high. There is a problem with treatment of drug users because substitution therapy does not work in East European countries. In Estonia, people don't have medical insurance, as it is quite expensive (it generally totals to 13% of the salary). However, most drug users don't have / cannot find jobs anyway.

IV. Thematic Work Group 4: *Gay and Lesbian Issues in Sex Health Education and the Differences in Communication Behaviour in the East and West.*

In Eastern Europe, people are more monogamous; marriages take place at a younger age. Thus, people are more traditional and many are said to have prejudices against homosexuals. On the other hand, in Western Europe, homosexuality is more common, and has thus contributed to the development of the HIV/AIDS movement. The above-mentioned situation leads to a lack of their involvement in activities related to sexual health education and they were thus perceived as a group to be targeted.

Furthermore, the importance of how testing is conducted in Eastern Europe as compared to Western Europe was noted and elaborated upon. In Germany, a doctor remains anonymous in the case of VCT. In Estonia, for example, a state institution (SVCT) administers the test, and in Russia, an epidemiologist conducts the test. Kirgistan is more open in this matter than Russia. There is less of a stigma attached to homosexuality and in turn, a better educational system is in place; gays even educate the police in Russia.

Due to the influence of the Orthodox Church, sex education in schools is still uncommon, and this leads to parents trying to find trusted persons to convey sex education to their children. Discussions also focused on pregnancies and abortions and the differences in Russia, the UK and Germany and also the negative influence of the mass media on the perception of homosexuals. The outcome of the discussion:

- Sex education through friends (this is the first source of information).
- Parents need information material on sex education.
- Gays and lesbians do not come out and talk about themselves in their own communities and/or with the locals as they fear people gossiping. On the other hand, they talk with foreigners, as they need to talk to someone.
- Private gay and lesbian circles are organised and share information among themselves.
- Gay and Lesbian communities use the Internet and chat rooms (for example, gayliferussia.com) for information on sexual health prevention.
- Women having sex with women (WSW) at the work place is also an issue, as basic sex education does not include them.
- Suggestion: It is necessary to set-up a meeting ground for gay groups in the East and the West. This could be complemented by an international website for Russian speakers on sexual health and gay issues. Furthermore, the Youth Programme could enable the mobilisation of young people in this area of activity.

V. Thematic Work Group 5: *Website and Mass Media*

During the training course there were a number of requests for a web page/site and it was therefore decided that a web address and web space should be created. Certain basic needs with reference to a web page were noted as indicated below:

PSI Samara needs a web page containing information specifically aimed at its volunteers. This would include a guest book/notice board-style function for volunteers to post new information. This page should be updated from time to time, and posted information added to the main part of the text.

There was a general feeling that it is difficult to search for information on projects in Eastern Europe. The group agreed on an overall web site that should appear as a directory of European services and should be selective rather than exhaustive. Where an organisation has its own site, only a link and brief description would be necessary. Where online content is not possible, as much information as possible would be provided. This format will allow West Europeans to find service organisations in the East, and allow East Europeans to find a list of Organisations 'recommended' by other course attendees.

The site is also expected to include information and testimonials from previous ICYE exchange workers, and information for prospective volunteers for both ICYE exchanges and general volunteering. It would also contain a small amount of AIDS and safe practice information, mainly for new visitors, and links to external sites for further information.

The site should ideally be both in Russian and English. The overall structure should be simple but flexible, such that updates can take place as and when information is available rather than waiting for the pages to be translated. New information should be posted by notice boards. After six months, the site should be examined and its content/structure updated as necessary.

Flash light – Mid-term Evaluation

On two occasions, towards the end of 07.06 and mid-day on 08.06, the group played the “Flash light” game. This consists of a round of free comments and suggestions that were made spontaneously by participants. They thus, had the opportunity to say something about the day, how it was to work in the thematic work groups, if he/she had any problems, difficulties with the concept, the team or the working style. Thus, all participants got a chance to voice their opinions, likes and dislikes, which in turn resulted in better cooperation and understanding between the groups and its players.

“Media Campaigns Towards HIV/AIDS Prevention for IV Drug Users, A Comparison Between Different Countries”. Lecture at Humboldt University.

On 08.06, participants attended the above-mentioned lecture at Humboldt University which was followed by a free evening in town.

8. 9th June 2004 – Project Visits

The day began with guided visits to local HIV/AIDS prevention projects, Sub/Way and Hydra, with presentations on the work of the organisations by their representatives and ended with dinner at the migrant-led food project, “Die Weltküche”.

“Sub/Way e. V.”

Representatives of 3 different organisations founded Sub/Way Berlin in 1992 - Berliner Aidshilfe, Gesundheitsamt Charlottenburg and Mann-O-Meter. The idea was to lend assistance to young boys, victims of violence and sexual exploitation. Respectively, specific assistance is offered to these boys. Sub/Way’s activities include social work for boys on the street (boys from different nationalities) and the provision of a protective room where they get food, can bathe, wash their clothes, play and have some peace and quiet. Furthermore, counselling is also offered to them and leisure activities are organised for them once a week.

A brief background and visit around the organisation was followed by a, “Report on male prostitution in Germany focusing on the specific situation of migrant sex workers in Berlin” by Sergiu Grimalschi, SUB/WAY Berlin. e.V. Sergiu Grimalschi presented some background information on the sex worker scene in Berlin, elaborated on the new prostitution law in place in Germany, the specific problems faced by migrants and in turn the specific service and support for migrant sex workers, features of migrants involved in prostitution, their formal status, their reasons for leaving the home country, how they are organised in Germany, etc.

“Hydra”

The prostitute’s project “HYDRA” has been in existence since 1980. The main aim of the project is to put an end to the social and legal discrimination of prostitutes and to get prostitution recognised as a profession. Hydra Project provides consultancy to Commercial Sex Workers (CSW), is doing outreach work and provides information on what’s going on in this field. At this moment 8,000 women work in the sex business in Berlin and the majority are from Central and Eastern Europe. On January 1, 2002 a new law on legalisation of prostitution appeared in Germany. The way of thinking has changed – the trend today is more towards the acceptance of prostitution as a profession; the police allows NGOs to work in the areas where CSW work. The future goal of the organisation is to lobby for the issuance of job permits for CSW. Thus, women will not depend on the “third part” and will become more independent. Women who are foreigners in the country and have to go to the deportation centre also receive help from Hydra. Councillors of the Hydra Project go to the deportation centre to inform these women about their rights. All services are anonymous, if the woman is a foreigner, she receives help from a “culture moderator” who knows the culture and the language of the woman and may help also as an interpreter. Consulting a lawyer helps women to solve legal problems, if necessary. There is a special refugee house for Eastern European and Asian women in Berlin where project staff go to provide consultancy to these women.

The organisation publishes information materials in 8 languages. The situation with migrant women changed when more C&E European countries became a part of the European Union. There are more women from the Baltic States, Bulgaria and Rumania now. There are still many women from Russia and Ukraine. Hydra also leads seminars for the Police staff.

Dinner at the Migrant-led Cooking Project – “Die Weltküche”

The participants had the unique experience of dining at the “World Kitchen”. The concept evolves around the idea of being a lot more than just cooking” (“Die Weltküche, Das ist viel mehr als Kochen”). About 4 year ago, the idea of having migrants cook specialities from their own countries at the Café PositHiv came to fruition. The café is open to all and serves low-budget, home-cooked meals from kitchens around the world. It also serves as a contact ground for migrants, sharing of information and experiences. Initially, the group consisted of 10 persons and at present comprises of 12 people from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. The participants of the training course enjoyed this simple yet

charming atmosphere at the PositHiv Café. “Die Weltküche”, located in multi-cultural Kreuzberg, enticed participants thereafter, to explore the alternative cafes and bars in the area.

9. 10th June 2004

The final day of the training course began with an evaluation of the project visits of the day before. This paved the way for a discussion on the situation of HIV/AIDS prevention work in Germany and a comparison of the situation of HIV/AIDS prevention work in the European Union Countries to that of the situation in Central and Eastern European Countries.

This in turn led to the presentation and discussion of the concrete projects ideas that came up and were developed during the thematic work groups. Innovative forms of cooperation between HIV/AIDS prevention projects in Eastern and Western Europe utilising the potential of international volunteerism and the programme opportunities provided by the Youth Programme were presented and discussed as follows:

Development and Planning of Long-term Bi- and Multilateral EVS Project Initiatives in the HIV/AIDS Prevention Sector.

The positive results of the pilot project and the constructive efforts during the training course led participants to agree and work out some concrete projects within the framework of the opportunities provided by the YOUTH programme of the EC with regard to youth volunteering in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention work.

One of the project proposals discussed in detail was the multi-lateral, centrally coordinated EVS project which would give special regard to the gay and lesbian community, as their potential has not yet been tapped into. Thereby, an exchange would enable the building of bridges between the East and the West. An “outsider view” was seen as very relevant to guide the progress of the project. The goal of this project would be positive and sustainable actions in host organisations and communities related to sexual health and peer education practices. In Eastern Europe, this is even more imperative as homosexuality is a closed issue and there is a lack of material and information, i.e. especially visible or vocal information is lacking.

With a view to the efficient implementation of future EVS projects and their smooth functioning, participants drew up agreements for further cooperation and follow-up activities, as given below:

EVS Voluntary Work Placements

The participants recalled the lessons learnt from the implementation of the pilot exchange program in 2002-2003. They indicated that communication during the preparatory process is of vital importance and the lack of the same had caused problems during the pilot phase. With specific regard to volunteers, the host organisations indicated that they would have liked to have a more detailed profile of the volunteers and his/her skills. More information would have also been welcome on funding and the administrative procedure that it involves.

It was suggested that the voluntary program should be extended to a 12-month period. This would contribute to the professional path for volunteers who would like to work in this field, which, in the case of the pilot project, comprised of the majority of the volunteers. Another positive outcome would be a more flexible work schedule and approach, leaving sufficient room for learning the language, fitting into the culture, making social contacts, etc. The host project would also benefit from the longer duration of the volunteer’s stay in that it would have enough time to guide the volunteer towards greater responsibility in his/her tasks.

It was felt that the long-term planning for a potential follow-up project could be divided into 3 phases and thereby a coordinated action plan was discussed and agreed up on:

Phase 1

Sept. 2004 to Nov. 2005

Bilateral Co-worker Exchange

Job Shadowing / Trans-national Networking

Phase 2

May 2005 to Sept. 2005

Host organisations' training course

Training manual / recruitment / E-learning / Content

Phase 3

Sept. 2005 onwards

Group volunteer exchange – Multilateral EVS EU-CIS Project on HIV/AIDS Prevention

Quality Control: basic measures to ensure a good training of volunteers and an efficient running of the project:

- a) The preparation of the volunteer involves face-to-face meetings, which could be complemented by E-learning, thereby ensuring that the volunteer also takes some initiative and researches on his/her own. This will ensure commitment and a bigger pool of people.
- b) Quality control of any training activity should be a priority.
- c) Examples of good practice as well as country specific information should be included in training activities.
- d) The tolerant behaviour of the volunteer and his/her perspective should be sought by means of a questionnaire.
- e) Peer education programme: topics such as sexuality, gender, prejudices and pregnancy should be part of a volunteer's preparation.
- f) Nordic Institute for women: Case studies should be used to enlighten potential volunteers; former volunteers should be involved, and the set up of a country should be explained, etc.
- g) Sound mind, sound body: All the challenges that make up the voluntary experience in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention work should be put forth to the volunteer. A one-on-one relationship should be developed with the volunteer.
- h) Arrange site visits by sending HIV/AIDS organisations as a preparation for volunteers.
- i) Volunteers should have put in at least 2 to 3 hours per week on reading and informing themselves on the subject of HIV/AIDS prevention work.

The expected outcome of the above is:

- Living bridges through young volunteers
- Better access and understanding of East European communities in the West
- Cultural sensitivity of project's staff
- Multilateral sustainable programmes
- Diversity Management
- Creation of new host organisations / preparations for new volunteers / placements
- Promoting volunteerism

Participants also reflected on the volunteer's requirements during his/her stay in the country. The following points were seen as significant for a smooth implementation of future EVS projects in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention work:

- Focus on language skills right from the beginning
- On-the-job training at the host project
- Making contact with people within the project as well as in the community
- Assisting the volunteer with preparing a project of his/her own interest
- Mid-term evaluation for all participants and host projects

The plenary discussion on programme opportunities also took into consideration the various other organisations in place, their work, structures and activities in the HIV/AIDS prevention sector. These include UN AIDS, UNICEF, Open Society Institute, other charity organisations, governmental institutions, etc. During the presentation of concrete project suggestions, it was also discussed which organisations could lend support and funding to the implementation and sustenance of potential projects. Apart from the EU Youth programme, other possibilities such as the Bosch Foundation in Germany, the West-East Co-operation, also in Germany and the German-Russian Exchange were brought into the talks.

Further suggestions for a fruitful and enriching volunteering experience:

New approaches to volunteer programming in HIV/AIDS prevention to be considered when developing a new multi-lateral or other youth volunteering projects:

1. The creation of a multi-organisational website was seen as imperative (see thematic working groups).
2. A discussion on alternative ways addressing the HIV/AIDS issue (i.e. through theatre, music, live performances, etc.) was seen as an effective means of generating awareness.
3. It was felt that HIV/AIDS summer camps could be organised and thereafter three members of the summer camp elected/selected to travel to other camps around Europe carrying the message of HIV/AIDS prevention work.
4. The necessity of actively bringing the HIV/AIDS message to "bigger networks and institutions" was highlighted upon.
5. The relevance of the transfer of information and experience, advice from one volunteer to another was seen as invaluable and thus once again the importance of a website was noted.

Coordinating Committee. How to go about coordinating our renewed efforts:

A *Coordinating Committee* was founded during the training course. It comprises of a representative from the East and one from the West. The function of this coordinating committee is to chart out the route for future bi- and multi-lateral youth volunteering projects in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention as well as to ensure their successful implementation. The committee would explore funding possibilities, set up email groups for easier communication, work on placements, assisting and informing beneficiaries of organisations working in the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Final Evaluation

The final activity of the training course was the final evaluation by the participants. After filling out the evaluation questionnaires, participants were encouraged to voice their dissatisfaction and/or appreciation in plenary, to the various aspects of the training course. A brief look at the results of the evaluation has been presented below. For a closer and more in-dept look at the analysis of the training course, please refer to Annex 2.

- o "Good atmosphere and group building"
- o "Commitment and interest of participants was very high"

- “Good learning experience thanks to the balanced methods”
- “The balance between plenary and group sessions was good”
- “The work group methodology was constructive but at times it was not completely clear who was doing what”
- “The youth hostel and its surrounding were good so as to have enough room with the group, while affording the possibility of having some private space as well.

Barbecue Farewell Party

The day came to a close with a barbecue out in the open, taking advantage of the wonderful weather, beautiful environment and good facilities provided by the hostel. To ease the farewells of the next day, the evening gave way to singing, dancing, fun and frolic on the warm, mid-summer night.

10. 11th June 2004

The preparatory team thanked the participants for their worthwhile contributions and wished them a good journey home. This signified the end of a successful training course and was followed by participants slowly making their way, to either the train station or airports for travel to their own countries.

11. Annexes

Annex 1:

“Report on male prostitution in Germany focusing on the specific situation of migrant sex workers in Berlin” by Sergiu Grimalschi SUB/WAY Berlin.”

1. Introduction

All over the world the request for the services of young male sex workers is still increasing. Mainly male customers whose social backgrounds differ a lot request their services. Still in modern society offering or using the service of male sex workers stays a taboo. Male sex workers face open discrimination and stigmatisation and are forced to work and live outside the boundaries of „normal“ society.

In Germany like in the rest of the world male prostitution takes place in an isolated hustler scene, which cannot be easily recognized or attended from the outside.

2. Hustler scene in Germany

The context in which prostitution takes place has problematic influences on the social and psychological situation of male sex workers. In some cases „Prevention before prostitution“ is required, i.e. avoiding that male sex workers under 16 years become a part of the hustler scene by giving them assistance to find orientation and „ways out“ of the scene.

Male sex workers, who have spent most of their life in the hustler scene and who want to get out, should get the required assistance and the help to lead a life without prostitution. Therefore educational and psychological assistance is needed to avoid homelessness. Public services should be used to get reintegrated in society.

Further aims of the projects are: health prevention, offer of advice and possibilities of therapy to drug addicts, give assistance and support in finding an apprenticeship, a job or a place in school and be a mediator for them, when it comes to arrangements with other projects or public institutions.

Places of male prostitution in big –not only German– cities are mainly the same: streets, main stations, sex-cinemas, local gay or sex worker pubs, clubs (nearly legal, tolerated brothels), apartments (illegal brothels), parks, public toilettes etc. In smaller cities prostitution also takes place in the „cruising areas“.

Most parts of male sex workers live on the street, without taking advantage of any public services. They either try to avoid discrimination by public institutions or – in case of migrant sex workers – they are not able or have no right to claim any services or benefits. Though male sex workers try to make their living by providing their services, their life on the street is influenced by financial and health problems or even by an existential life-crisis.

Their specific situation – if they are either Germans or immigrants – is characterized by social, financial, psychological and medical problems.

Apart from the prevention of HIV and STI, the development of services and strategies that improve the situation of male sex workers is absolutely necessary. This need cannot be fulfilled by outreach work only; there is a great demand for special services like drop-in-centres offering support, advice and assistance to male sex workers.

2.1. Outreach work with male prostitutes in Germany

In Germany the first project concentrating on the work with male adolescent sex workers was founded 1986 in Hamburg as „Basis“. It was followed 1990 by „Kiss“ in Frankfurt/Main and by further projects in the German speaking regions of Europe.

Today the members of the German Network For Male Prostitution (AKSD-Arbeitskreis Stricher in Deutschland) are:

- BASIS e. V., Hamburg
- KISS, Frankfurt/Main, project of AIDS-Hilfe Frankfurt e. V.
- SUB/WAY Berlin e. V., Berlin
- Marikas, Munich, part of Evangelisches Hilfswerk GmbH (Protestant helping network)
- Looks e. V, Cologne
- Hermann, Zürich, project of Verein Züricher Sozialprojekte (Foundation of Social Projects in Zürich)
- AMOC/DHV, Amsterdam (DHV: Deutscher Hilfsverein, an institution supporting Germans living in the Netherlands)
- Cafe Strich-Punkt, Stuttgart, project of AIDS-Hilfe Stuttgart e.V. and of Verein Förderung von Jugendlichen mit besonderen sozialen Schwierigkeiten e.V. (Foundation for the support of adolescents with special social difficulties)

In all the above-mentioned cities an explicit outreach work with focus on male adolescent sex workers takes place. All projects are part of the German network of male prostitution (AKSD).

Because of similar social conditions and the high rate of mobility among male sex workers in all European countries, the AKSD is now opened for the whole German speaking region and calls itself „Fachkreis für Stricherarbeit im deutschsprachigen Raum“ (Specialist circle and network for the work with male sex workers in German speaking regions).

The AKSD provides critical and fundamental reflection on the contents of educational work. It helps to support internal development within the different projects and offers support, advice and training courses to institutions, service providers and policy makers. By the initiative of AKSD and the joining projects several well founded scientifically studies on the topic of male prostitution could be elaborated.

2.2. New prostitution law in Germany

In Western Europe, prostitution has boomed since the fall of the Berlin Wall opened up routes from eastern European states to the West. The U.N.-supported Office for International Migrations estimates that some 120,000 Eastern Europeans slip into the European Union illegally every year to work as prostitutes, adding to a steady stream from Africa and Asia. The massive influx -- and the health and crime risks that come with it -- is forcing the government to reconsider their laissez-faire attitude. Germany has passed laws that regulate, though not formally legalize, the sex trade.

Since January 1st 2002 there is a new German law that gives prostitutes more rights in customer relationships and society, but still there is no equal treatment of prostitutes and other working groups. Because of the new political circumstances prostitutes and persons who run a brothel or club could pay their amount of health, care, pension and unemployment insurance. Even creating a more acceptable working atmosphere i.e. in a brothel is not illegal anymore or necessarily punishable. Also, to arrange sexual intercourse between a sex worker and a customer is not punished as „pimping“, as long as the personal and economic liberty of the acting persons is guaranteed.

But the push towards regulation won't completely solve the problems. In the male prostitution, the new law can be seen as an advantage only for the callboys among the group of sexual workers. They regard their work as „sexual service“ and take care for their own future. Most of the other male adolescent sexual workers do not have such a professional idea of their work. The new law is definitely a step into the right direction, but it only has its effects on the settled callboys and established sex workers („posh prostitutes“). It will not have a positive effect on more than half of all prostitutes in Germany, the migrants.

Only EU citizens or immigrants with work permits can work legally in German brothels or on the street - but they are the minority among sex workers. A Czech or a Romanian who works as a sex worker

on streets or in gay bars in Berlin or Frankfurt is forced to work illegal. At the same time he still prefers doing this because it means that he can stay independent and has no duty to pay any taxes.

If they have the wish to get out of the hustler scene, they are often not strong enough to work on that aim on their own. They would never even dream of the possibility to register as an official prostitute and pay taxes or use public services.

For migrant sexual workers who do not even have a permanent resident permit this possibility is out of reach. They could not get a work permit for any job, including prostitution, in Germany, because they are usually only registered as tourists or refugees.

It is not unusual that migrant sex workers were caught in the hustler scene by German police and sent back to their countries because they disregarded the laws of immigration. As a consequence of this they were banned for their whole life to never enter a state of the Schengen treaty again. German Immigration Law (§ 8 Paragraph 2 “Ausländergesetz” 09.07.1990 (BGBl. I S. 1354), Art.37 last changed on 23.12.2003 (BGBl. I S 2848, 2897), no foreigner or migrant who was sent back to his country is allowed to enter the borders of Germany again (blocked by law). This blocking is unlimited, but it can be reduced by a formal request at the immigration department, which has to be done in person or by a lawyer. In practice the block of immigration because of non tax paying illegal work – prostitution included- is limited to 5 years in the moment, as long as there were no other illegal or criminal activities, which is very seldom, because the visa of male migrant sex workers are often invalid, before any other crime could be committed. Before the block of migration is limited the person has to pay the costs for his arrest and his sending home (§82 Abs. 1 Ausländergesetz). Furthermore reasons for the limitation are not given if the person is a permanent danger for public security and order. Normally the authorities of a person’s home country try to make sure that there is no new attempt of immigration. This is done on behalf of the EU/BRD. Furthermore the person is registered in the SIS (Schengen Information System), which is available to all authorities. An example is Romania, a Romanian sex worker who stays only one day longer in Germany than his 90-day-tourist visa would allow him, is punished with an immigration block of three years, which will be registered in every state belonging to the Schengen treaty. Countries like Italy and Spain are not that strict about non-tax paying illegal workers. This is why a lot of east European migrants prefer to live there.

3. Specific problems of the migrants

The list of problems migrants have to deal with is long: no regular income, no resident permit, no working permit, no apartment and no health insurance. In the situation of the migrant sex workers all of these problems do affect them. This is the main difference between them and the domestic sex workers. Their situation often gets better after solving the first one of the long list of their problems.

For male migrant sex workers in such a situation services like the drop-in-centres are absolutely necessary. They can use them for their basic human needs like eating, sleeping, washing and social interaction with others in the same situation. Only on a newly built fundament consisting of social work, advice, support and the regaining of health they will be able to find new perspectives for their lives.

On the other hand the amount of help and support a German social worker can give to these migrants is very low. Most of the times it is only the service of a health check or medical treatment and the possibility of relaxation and basic recreation in the drop-in-centres. The first purpose therefore is primary prevention, followed by the possibility to talk and exchange feelings about the experiences on the street and in the hustler scene, to avoid further damages for body, mind and soul.

Another urgent topic is homelessness among migrant prostitutes: a network of apartment finding agencies that can even adopt their help to the special needs of migrants is necessary.

A good example how to increase the contacts with the migrant sex workers is the work of SUB/WAY in Berlin. The „Mobile Doctors“, who are to be found in a camper van at significant places of the scene and who provide free medical service at regular times every week, have a high popularity in the scene of male sex workers in Berlin. Even adolescent male prostitute who avoid any contact with health or social institutions, like boys from Turkey, Ex-Yugoslavia, Arabian Countries, get to know about the

service of SUB/WAY through this work. A lot of them even use the mobile doctors to get a medical check or a free hepatitis A and B vaccination.

The homepage of SUB/WAY exists since 1999 and is used very frequently by the migrant sex workers, especially since the page is in Polish and in Romanian, furthermore other languages are planned already. In cooperation with other male sex workers projects in Germany we are working on a virtual brochure giving advice and assistance to male sex workers. It will be available in different languages.

3.1. Specific service and support for migrant sex workers

On the base of the resources SUB/WAY can use, the service especially for migrant prostitutes was adapted to the real needs of the migrant sex workers. Prevention of STI, general and specific advice in immigration laws, assistance in personal crisis situations, free medical care, assistance in finding an apartment, job or apprenticeship to get off the street and out of the hustler scene, advice and support in questions of their own sexual definition, like coming-out or trans-sexuality, support to find a therapy in case of drug addiction and accompanying boys back home.

The part of the work that is concentrated on advice and support in all questions of law is requested a lot. SUB/WAY gives advice, support and help in all questions on residence permits, new immigration laws, cases of lost passports, requests of political asylum, information on world wide visa regulations, working permits, marriages (homosexual relationships), possibilities of studies and apprenticeships, legal jobs, visits in cases of arrest and possibilities to go back home, even with financial help.

Because of the changing visa policy inside the countries of the Schengen treaty, less male prostitutes from Romania, Bulgaria and Baltic States were arrested or deported home. If there are still any cases of arrest including the possibility of being deported home, SUB/WAY gives the needed support to these boys (regular visits, assistance in finding a lawyer).

By regarding all these services to stabilize the situation of the migrant sex workers in the western world and even help them find a way out of prostitution; one should not forget that they are no structural immigrants and seldom refugees requesting political asylum. They build the lowest classes in their home countries and the only decision they have is if to become a day-labourer or a sex worker. This fact explains that the part of the Gypsies in the group of migrant sex workers from Eastern Europe in Germany is very high. In their home countries they build 5-11% of the whole population, but the unemployment rate among them is about 80%.

3.2. Features of migrants involved in prostitution

The different scenes of prostitution in German cities are characterized by a majority of migrant male and female sex workers. In case of male prostitution the origins of the migrants vary. It depends on the geographical setting, local specialties, like existent migrant structures (i.e. there are more Czech migrants in Munich and more Polish migrants in Berlin) and on the language abilities of social workers and their possibilities to interact with the migrants.

60% of the male prostitutes getting in contact with SUB/WAY in Berlin are migrants. At Zoo Station 19% of all sex workers were migrants, in Pubs in Schöneberg 65%, in clubs and apartments 90%. These figures can be used for all big German cities. (-/+ 15%) The number of male prostitutes from the former Soviet-countries, the Cosovo and Albania is increasing. Lots of them used to be raised in Germany by their refugee parents and after they were sent home, they decided to stay on their own.

A lot of work in particular cases was done with Polish sex workers. Some of them could free themselves from their exploitation and dependence structures and try to live their life on their own. For some Polish prostitutes German language courses could be arranged, which helped their integration into society. They found friends even partners and sometimes made their way out of prostitution by finding a new job. But still these developments were accompanied by crisis and difficulties.

Bigger problems are male sex workers from Kurdistan, who decided to work as prostitutes. Their different mentality causes problems that can lead into a crisis.

Generally there is an increase in professionalism to be stated among male adolescent migrant sex workers, if the way into the prostitution was kind of their own decision and not an interim solution based on pressure from their own group, like in the case of male Roma from Romania and Bulgaria. Bulgarians for example failed to copy economic and criminal structures they were using successfully in their time in Poland, so they had to find themselves another „job“. Romanian Roma had to find a substitution for the unsuccessful beggar business of their wives. It was hard to make these two groups familiar with prevention of STIs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases), because safer sex was not known at all. The confidence of these migrant sex workers was gained, thereafter medical care and prevention was provided through the mobile doctors. A younger generation of Roma will definitely follow these first male sex workers.

3.3. The formal status of migrant prostitutes:

Compared to the years before, when they were mainly illegal, most male adolescent sex workers from Eastern Europe have the status of a tourist in Germany, i.e. they can stay up to 90 days of 6 month in a country of the Schengen treaty. This is possible for all inhabitants of the countries, who join the EU 2004 and 2007: since 1991 for Polish, Czech, Slovakian and Hungarian citizens, since 2000 for Slovenian, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian citizens and since 2002 for Romanian and Bulgarians.

Still most of the male prostitutes do not have a valid visa or passport. Some even do not have any passport, after living in Germany for so long, or they are requesting asylum or fled the civil war in their countries (Ex-Yugoslavians).

Nearly no one of the migrant adolescent sex workers has a health insurance, apart from migrants who have a family living in Germany or are official refugees. Most of them are homeless.

3.4. Reasons for leaving the home country

Bad economic and individual situations in some repressive countries with strict norms of sexuality or civil wars etc. forced them to leave their countries (not only for Germany). Arriving here they have no possibility to find work on a legal way, because of the law resident or working permit is not granted. Prostitution sometimes is the only way to survive. But the money they earn is not only for them to fulfil their needs or wishes; it sometimes is the only source of income their families at home can rely on. The more their home countries are away from the EU-Borders, the more dependent their families are on the money the migrants send them. With the few money they earn they try to live from day to day, some are financing their drug abuse or their short trips home, where they have to prove their success in the foreign country to relatives and friends by buying expensive presents.

Male sex worker, like most prostitute migrants, leave their countries because of economic reasons. The work as a male sex worker is no social decrease for them, at home they could only choose between begging or street cleaning. Becoming a sex worker in a foreign country therefore is preferred.

3.4.1. Bridgehead effect

Bridgehead effect means that a small and successful group of migrant male sex workers from one origin established their own infrastructure (apartments, transport, customers), which is used by the people who follow them from their home countries and gives them a support when entering the hustler scene. The support inside the group is big, helps with the lack of language knowledge or if a sex worker gets ill and needs money because of missing work. This leads to a paradoxical situation. In one given west European city at one time all male migrant sex workers come from one part of their home country, know each other, have same ethnic and social backgrounds and deal with the same problems.

3.5. Countries of Origin

The nationalities of the migrants differ in different regions, but as a trend for whole Germany the increase of male sex workers from Middle and Eastern Europe who make their first appearance in the hustler scene can be stated. In all German cities, there are an increasing number of Romanians, Bulgarians, migrants from the Baltic (who have more freedom in travelling), Moldavians, Ukrainians and Russians (who are confronted with an increasing poverty in their country). Polish migrants are more to be found in northern Germany, whereas migrants from the Czech Republic and from Slovakia are to be found in the south of Germany. Adolescent male sex workers with Turkish background are decreasing; this is affected by the stabilization of this minority. In the same time adolescent sex workers with their origins in Ex-Yugoslavia are increasing, like boys from Bosnia, Cosovo and Serbia, most of their families were sent back to their countries after war was over while their children wanted to remain in Germany.

Sex workers from countries which are not European choose cities which are bridgeheads to their homes, like Northern Africans, who are situated in Cologne, other Africans in Hamburg and boys with Latin-American backgrounds prefer Frankfurt/Main.

For years the biggest and still increasing group in Germany are adolescent male sex workers from Romania and Bulgaria.

To get more details about these boys and boys from other East European countries, who build the majority of migrant adolescent male sex workers in Germany, a more detailed look and a comparison of their origin countries is necessary.

3.5.1. Overview of the countries of origin

Romania:

22.4 million inhabitants, GDP per capita - 6000 Euro, 27% of the EU average. Average monthly income is small - 160 Euro. Farm workers or workers without any training get less, but trained persons in the private economy earn up to 1000 Euro. Since 2001 homosexuality is no official crime anymore, but still discriminated or ignored by the majority, though gay and lesbian communities in big cities are very active. 3 million Roma live in Romania (12% of entire population), which is more than in all other East European countries together. The unemployment rate among them is high (80%), much higher than in the rest of the country (8,1%). Most male sexual workers in all EU nations are Romanians, they used to live in regions in the North East and the South of the country where no industry is remained and unemployment rates are high. Some of them even returned to Germany after spending their childhood there, where they even worked as prostitutes or were already abused.

Some try to live like partners with ex-customers, to get out of prostitution, but this only provokes new kinds of dependences.

In Middle and Western Europe (apart from Ireland where they build the largest immigration group beside Chinese migrants) the image of Romanians is contradictory. They are the majority of working immigrants in Turkey, Israel and Spain. Since April 1st 2002 they do not need a visa to travel any more and the focus of their migration are the Southern European Countries, which can be explained by the language similarity between Roman nations. Spanish and Southern Italian farmers are in need of Romanian workers, Malta and Cyprus are granting Romanians up to 6 month stay per year without visa. Some of the larger cities in Italy and Spain are nearly „ruled“ by Romanians, like Berlin between 1991-1994.

Bulgaria:

8.2 millions inhabitants, the poorest of the future EU joining countries, 5400 Euro per capita, 24% of EU average. Monthly income is 135 Euro, but like in Romania the differences between the working classes are very high. The free market economy is not working yet, 18% of the population are

unemployed, and corruption is an increasing problem. 10% of the population (800 000) are Roma, most of them are Turkish speaking and their national identity is not defined, because they are accepted neither by Bulgarian nor Turks. Most of them immigrated in the 1990ties especially to Poland (so called „Varna-Connection“), where they lived –mainly illegal– for years. These young people build the majority of Bulgarian male sex workers in Germany. They were socialized in Poland, worked as prostitutes there as well and used the possibility to travel from Poland to Germany after a visa was not needed any more for a stay of 90 days in 6 month after January 1st 2002.

In the statistics of the BKA (Federal Criminal Agency) Bulgarians are on number 3, as victims and as offenders, and are often involved in trafficking in human beings.

Most Bulgarians had their coming-out in Poland and did work in prostitution either there or even before in Bulgaria. A big part of them is feminine and involved in the transsexual or transvestite scene. In the last year, a lot of Bulgarian started relationships with Germans without giving up prostitution. Some were abused by (Eastern) German paedophiles in their childhood.

Both countries will join the EU in January 1st 2007.

Poland:

With 38.6 million inhabitants, Poland is the future EU joining country with the biggest population. GDP per capita 8700 Euro, 37% of the EU average. Average monthly income is relatively high, ca. 620 Euro. Poland can rely on a working market economy and his unemployment rate is 18,4 % high. After intensifying the reform of the country, the increasing pressure of competition should be no problem for the domestic market. The immigration from Poland into Germany will increase, although Polish have to cope with a lot prejudices and discrimination in Germany. Most of the Polish migrants who work in Berlin will be commuters. Beside the Turkish migrants Polish build the largest group of migrants moving into Berlin at the moment. A lot of young Polish homosexuals are enjoying their coming-out and a free sex life in Berlin; the majority earns money through sexual work. For years civil society in Poland tries to cut back the strong influence of the church in the regard of homosexuality. This only has it effects in the bigger cities. There is no existing group of own Gypsies in Poland, but lots of illegal Bulgarian Roma, who communicate in Turkish or Romansh with each other.

Hungary:

10 million inhabitants, 11700 Euro, GDP per Capita, 52 % of EU average. Average monthly income is 490 Euro. Working market economy should have no problems to fulfil EU laws and most of the political criteria. Germans like Hungarians and as a reason Hungarians feel accepted here. The myth about the Hungarians spread by the German media in the 1950ies, gives them (the Hungarians) an easy start and lot of success in porn and prostitution business. An increasing part of Hungarian male prostitutes works highly professional, an advantage is the ability to speak German; another, that they already made their experiences in prostitution at home. In Zurich/Switzerland Hungarians build the largest group of male sex workers.

Corruption is still a big problem in Hungary. The minority of Roma (450 000, 4,5% of the population) is discriminated and only represented in the music, sex and entertainment business.

Czech Republic:

10,3 million inhabitants, 21 chapters closed. GDP 13500Euro per Capita, 60% of EU average. Average monthly income 420,- Euro. Biggest problems: corruption and business delinquency. The minority of Roma (4% = 300 000) is in need of protection. There are no economic arguments against the joining of the EU. The Czech market economy is strong and working. In opposition to other countries of Middle Eastern Europe Czech people have a very good image in Germany and Austria. Because of the geographic neighbourhood and cultural similarities both countries are a focus for Czech people searching work or a start in the prostitution business. Especially Czech sexual workers from Prague bring a lot of experiences in prostitution with them.

Slovakia:

5.4 million inhabitants. GDP 10 800 Euro, 48% of EU average. Average monthly income is 330 Euro. Free market economy is successfully established, unemployment rate is 19,4 %. Corruption and increasing number of Roma being abused by the police are the biggest problems. 600 000 Roma live

in Slovakia, which is 12,5 % of the population. A lot of the Slovakian male sex workers in Germany are Roma.

Estonia:

1.4 million inhabitants, the smallest of the Baltic countries. GDP 8500 Euro per capita, 38 % of the EU average. An Estonian earns average 406 Euro per month. Unemployment rate is increasing, at the moment it is at 12,4 %. Free market economy is working, problems in the field of law. Most Estonian immigrants are not interested in coming to Germany because of the neighbourhood and relatives in Finland. Just some older male sexual workers are to be found in Germany.

Lithuania:

3.7 million inhabitants, GDP 6600 Euro per capita, 29% of EU average, average monthly income 322 Euro. Because of the successfully established free market economy (Economic Growth 2003: 9%, which is No. 1 in the world!), the unemployment rate is rising (16,5%). Anti-corruption initiatives of the parliament should be realized soon. Lithuanians work a lot in the prostitution business, also in trade in human beings. In German police statistics they are on number 2 as offenders (Nr. 1: Germans) and as victims (Nr. 1 Russians). Male sex workers from Lithuania are gay and are reporting of a non-discriminating behaviour towards homosexuality in their country.

Latvia:

2.4 million inhabitants, GDP per capita 6600 Euro, average monthly income still low (295 Euro), unemployment rate at 13,1 %. There should be no economic problems when joining the EU; improvements must be made in law and fighting of corruption. Despite EU conditions Latvians with Russian origins are still discriminated against, most of them left the country or are married to a Latvian now. Latvians prefer Germany to the Baltic countries; Latvians are popular in Germany and work professional.

4. Evolutions in the male prostitution

4. Help for the victims of Human Trafficking – a new task?

Since October 1st 2003 the EU borders moved unnoticed to the east. This brings a lot of difficulties for Ukrainians, Belarussians and Moldavians etc., because from this date on, they are not allowed to enter one of the 10 EU joining countries without visa. These immigration laws will only be changed step by step in the future.

These new developments will have its effects on the prostitution business. Trafficking in human being from countries outside the new EU borders will increase, like the number of male adolescent sex workers from these countries. But, on the other hand, forcing people into prostitution who are citizens of the EU joining countries will not be that easy anymore. Currently trade in human being is increasing. Especially from Russian speaking countries a lot of young boys, not only girls, are brought into Western countries. Most of them were forced into prostitution or to do porn movies, they were deprived of their liberty and abused. It is not easy to get in contact with these boys, to offer them consultations, so they can talk about their experiences. Most of them are still followed by the organized crime, which they fear. Even the investigations of the police cannot do a lot about it.

In the year 2003 a lot of these cases became known in Berlin. Most of them were adolescent under aged boys with a Russian background. Like female prostitutes (trafficking of women), they were also brought to Germany, Austria and Belgium and were promised profitable work or a free journey. Instead they became victims of organized crime. To take care of these victims of sexual violence and human trafficking is a new challenge for SUB/WAY, who started this work in 2003. In all cases the victims stay in Germany as long as the investigation took place. The victims could stay in a secure surrounding. In one case it was even possible that SUB/WAY took care of a under aged boy during the whole investigation, i.e. we took over the guardianship.

4.1. Acceptance of sex work and workers is increasing – new openness

Due to fundamental social changes in most Eastern European countries, (homo)-sexuality is no taboo any more. This makes it a lot easier to inform about the health risks people who work in prostitution

have. The state of psychological health of foreign and Eastern European male sex workers is improving, crime offending and violence are decreasing as well. Regarding the physical health of male prostitutes the number and intensity of diseases –especially STI- is increasing. On the one hand this might be a result of increasing medical checks; on the other hand it could be the more widely spread sexual practice of penetration. The lack of a health insurance can be substituted by an offer of health care that can rely on a network of medical care centres. Also in the case of drug addiction problems, therapy and drug counselling.

The differences between Eastern and Western European male sex workers are decreasing. The worldviews are nearly the same, but in self-esteem and aims for their future they still differ. The problem of drug abuse and addiction compared with prostitution to afford the drugs is nearly the same in both groups.

4.2. The confrontation with the experience of childhood abuse in paedophilic circles

This is an experienced subject in our daily work in Germany. A lot of boys from Romania and Bulgaria reported on their time they spent with German paedophiles at the age of 7 to 14 years. German sex workers made the same experiences. As a result of these experiences, SUB/WAY initiated a scientific study, in cooperation with the Free University, focusing on the prevention of paedophile abuse.

In this field, SUB/WAY is using intensive individual care that is more focused on the present, than on the analysis of the past. For a psychic treatment of the boys, there is more than one obstacle in the way. Firstly, most of the boys do not have a health insurance, second, the treatment of these abuses is hard work and needs professional treatment, which is very hard to find, and third, most boys do not even want to analyse their childhood abuse. They focus more on their stay in Germany and on securing a lifestyle and its material foundation rather than going into a hardcore psychic treatment. If they continue to work as sex workers in the hustler scene, they are highly professional workers and are at a great distance from the scene.

5. Perspectives and prognosis of the male prostitution

There still is a big discrepancy between future perspectives, aims and realities in the work with male adolescent sex workers. But the possibilities in Germany did increase since the 1990ties. Most important is to know the needs and aims of the boys and how to give them help and assistance.

Compared to the 90ties a complete change of generations took place among migrant sex workers, even more than among German sex workers. The new generation is already coping much better with their special situation. The social work has to adapt to the needs mentioned above.

Though some people may think different about it, which is naturally caused by fear, there will not be a high increase of migrants from Eastern Europe in the near future. But the fluctuation within the male adolescent sex workers scene will definitely increase. This makes intensive and regular outreach work even more important. Only social workers that are able to speak their languages can get in contact with different migrant groups inside the hustler scene, who normally would avoid any contact with teams of health prevention etc.

As a cause of the fluctuation inside the migrant sex worker milieu is mainly based on own decisions and the high mobility of the boys.

As a perspective for the future the admission of migrant sex workers will not decrease in the prostitution scene of Berlin. But there neither will be a dramatic increase of immigrants from Eastern Europe, as feared by a lot of people. The fluctuation inside the scene will be increasing. Regarding the dramatic rate of HIV/STI-infections in most Eastern European countries, new dimensions in prevention strategies and practice will follow.

Annex 2:

Final Evaluation: questionnaire and results

EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Please identify your 5 (maximum) most important learning points of the Training Course:

- Information about HIV- AIDS in other countries
- Different points of view - Eastern European perspectives
- Methods of working
- Open space method
- Projects in Berlin (Subway/ Hydra)
- The opportunity to organize gay EVS

2. Has the Training Course dealt with some of your difficulties or weaknesses in youth volunteering / HIV Aids prevention projects?

- Yes, 11x
- It makes some things more clear
- In some aspects
- No, 2x

3. Using the 5 statements below, how do you rate your present feelings about participating in future multilateral projects related to Youth volunteering in HVI/AIDS prevention projects? (Please tick a box)

I feel well prepared			I feel overwhelmed		
1	2	3	4	5	6
	2,5				

<i>I feel supported</i>			<i>I feel alone</i>		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1,5					

<i>I have the skills</i>			<i>I am inexperienced</i>		
1	2	3	4	5	6
	2,2				

<i>I feel confident to go ahead</i>			<i>I am unsure what to do</i>		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1,7					

<i>I am committed to developing projects</i>			<i>I feel sceptical</i>		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1,3					

4. How did you like the facilitation and input provided – any suggestions for future Training Courses?

- For this kind of seminar open space was perfect.

- Good environment, camp atmosphere was good.
- More countries from East-Central-Europe should be involved (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, etc.).
- The talking sessions took more time than necessary.
- Some participants didn't understand English.
- To be in the nature is very good for mental work.
- Interest and motivation of participants was there although some of them were new.
- It was sometimes not clear who was doing what.
- Presentations should have been better prepared.

5. Were the project visits interesting and useful for you?

<i>Very interesting</i>			<i>Not useful</i>		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1,2					

6. How did you like the logistical arrangements for this workshop (accommodation, organization, food, etc.)?

- Food was disappointing compared with Arizona
- The setting was perfect
- Accommodation and organization were perfect

7. Is there anything else you would like to add?

- Erica is one of the best elements of this meetings
- Thanks to the IO, the preparation team and the support to all participants
- I learnt and benefited a lot.
- A great thank you to all in the team who organised the course

Annex 3

List of Participants

First Name	Family Name	Home Country	Organisation	E- mail	Website
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