IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT ACTION ON IMPROVING QUALITY IN HIV PREVENTION
HOW CAN WE CONTRIBUTE TO HIV PREVENTIVE PROGRAMS IN CROATIA?

Lessons learned from Croatia
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Succeed piloting

Dissemination activities in Croatia

Piloting the Succeed tool - points for improvement:

1. Increase testing coverage of key populations by targeted preventive activities.
2. Strengthen the collaboration of Public Health Institutes and NGOs.
3. Advocate for higher financing of educational-informational material, marketing material, condoms and human resources.
4. Increase the use of rapid testing (dependent on financing).
5. Strengthen capacities for implementing health education on HIV and STD within the education system.
6. Strengthen the activities of evaluating, obtaining feedback from final users of our services.
7. Improve in everyday collaboration of various services within CIPH and strengthen human resources.
8. Continue and improve the collaboration and networking of all key stakeholders and information sharing through all available communication channels. Make policy makers more aware of our work, gain more political support for HIV prevention in Croatia.
9. Provide more feedback to all stakeholders by publishing more reports, comparison of data of our research, reviews etc.
10. An area to improve is develop new segments of our program, turn more towards STI and sexual and reproductive health protection and broaden our scope of services, potentially enabling the provision of more counselling and testing services in one place.

SWOT ANALYSIS OF FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION QI

Strengths
- Tradition and continuity in surveillance, control and prevention
- Well-organized and functioning public health network
- Network of stakeholders and professional knowledge of participatory stakeholders
- Experience in project management and research implementation
- Collaboration of government institutions and NGOs
- Innovations, networking, motivation (enough motivated people)

Weaknesses
- Insufficient funding for prevention and quality improvement
- Insufficient feedback with stakeholders on results of surveillance and other activities
- Insufficient awareness about importance of QI in HIV prevention
- Lack of human resources

Opportunities
- Strengthening networking
- Better use of international synergy and collaboration
- Exchange of experience and good practices in the country and internationally
- Advocacy for QI
- Application for projects funded by the EU

Threats
- Limited human resources
- Limited finances
- Changes in the health system

What are the next steps?
- Intensify dissemination of information on the existence of QI tools (through various communication channels: HIV prevention and public health mailing lists, Internet, medical professional meetings and other meetings, publishing material in medical gazettes, scientific publications)
- Organize education (national workshop) in use of QI tools
- Educate more educators in using QI tools (national workshop)
- Include the concept of quality improvement into the National HIV/AIDS Prevention Program for the upcoming period
- When applying for ESF funding plan for QI education activities

Conclusions
Quality improvement is of key importance for public health prevention programs and will contribute to the successful control of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The implementation of Quality Action in Croatia has been a very useful both as project experience, since this was the first Joint Action/CIPH/has taken part in, but also for our professional development. Two persons in Croatia have received education in application of QI tools and have successfully piloted the tool on current projects. The piloting experience has resulted in heightened awareness of securing enough time and planning for quality improvement activities, and even more, for their continued implementation. We would like to thank the coordinator of Quality Action on a giving us a very positive project experience through excellent and coordination, administrative and professional support and prompt replies to our emails.