

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Yugoslav Youth Association against AIDS – Youth of JAZAS

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Coordinator: Karlo Boras

Title of the Action: Participating of People With HIV in Serbian Society

Contract number: RD010A07

PLHIV population in Serbia

Final beneficiaries & target groups about: 25.000 persons

The document contains description of all the activities and programs performed during the period

January 1 – December 31, 2008 and

Approved by Executive Board of Youth of JAZAS.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. Establishment of Self-Help Groups of PLHIV (including a National Association of PLHIV)**
 - 1.1 Mobilising of PLHIV
 - 1.2 Forming self-help groups of PLHIV in 10 provinces of Serbia and establishing a National Association of PLHIV
 - 1.3 Training PLWHA in organisational management and project development
- 2. Formation of a National AIDS Expert Group**
 - 2.1 Identifying and forming a National expert group on human rights and HIV/AIDS, comprising civil society groups, healthcare providers, the judiciary and PLHIV
 - 2.2 Organising nation-wide forums and debates on HIV/AIDS and human rights
 - 2.3 Sensitizing healthcare providers, social workers and the media about the plight of PLHIV and the need for support
 - 2.4 Advising policy makers on legislations and services for PLHIV
- 3. Formation of a Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS**
 - 3.1 Selecting parliamentarians from different political parties of the National Assembly
 - 3.2 Organising training on HIV/AIDS, human rights and public health Laws for Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS
 - 3.4 Organising an international seminar on the rights of PLHIV in Serbia
 - 3.5 Holding regular consultations with NGOs, civil society groups, Parliamentary Committee on Health, National Office for HIV/AIDS and proposing a legislation on the rights of PLHIV to National Assembly
- 4. Court cases**
- 5. Action plan**
- 6. Visibility**

Important dates:

Beginning of implementation	January 1, 2008
HIVOS visit	February 18-21, 2008
Contract signed	February 21, 2008
First instalment (148.582,00 EUR)	March 19, 2008
Second instalment (122.492,00 EUR)	December 17, 2008

PROJECT COORDINATION

After final announcement from HIVOS representatives that financing of the project has been approved on December 2007, during January 2008 project team has been formed and preparations for project implementation began. Because of importance of the project Executive Board of Youth of JAZAS decided to appoint Executive Director Karlo Boras as project coordinator. In consultation with Mr. Boras other two assistant coordinator and communication officer were chosen.

1. Project coordinator - Karlo Boras
2. Assistant coordinator for PLHIV empowerment – Nenad Petkovic
3. Assistant coordinator for work with Expert group and other law issues – Momcilo Janjic
4. Communication officer – Dragana Stojanovic

Starting from March 2008, Nenad Petkovic had to leave assistant coordinator position because his organisation Q Club developed and started with implementation of new project and suffered without his full presence there. In agreement with him and the rest of project team new colleague Jovana Majstorovic started to work instead of him. Not long after this had happened, in October of 2008, Ms Jovana Majstorovic had left the position of assistant coordinator and Mr Uros Radenkovic applied for it and was successful with his application.

Project coordinator also was directly responsible for coordination of all activities connected with formation of Parliamentary group for HIV/AIDS. For each member of project team ToR has been developed. It is agreed to have regular meetings of project team every Monday or when needed.

Within the course of implementation of the project, activities at the position of Communication officer, aside from Dragana Stojanovic has been taken by Ana Aresenijevic, Tanja Azanjac and Jelena Angelovska, based on the need.

Staff of Youth of JAZAS has been informed about start of project implementation, and some members of the staff have been notified that they will participate in some parts of implementation as backup crew.

Members of Project team visited the Delegation of European Commission in Belgrade, Mr. Pierre Dybman, Head of the Operations and Section of the EC Delegation and Dr Maja Vuckovic-Krcmar, Head of Health department. Members of Delegation received information about upcoming program and plans of Youth of JAZAS and later were present during the implementation of some project activities.

We emphasize that this is the first project funded by European Commission and no one from Youth of JAZAS staff has had any previous experience about implementation processes and procedures.

Technical equipment has been purchased for the purpose of better project implementation:

- 3 notebooks
- camcorder
- beamer
- other equipment

During the first year of project implementation we have printed different kinds of publications:

- PLHIV training material
- Newsletter
- Accessibility of ARV therapy
- PLHIV human rights brochure
- HIV/AIDS brochure
- Educational and promotional posters

Supporting documents for this part of the report:

- *ToR of every project team member*
- *Minutes from Executive Board of Youth of JAZAS meeting held on February 29, 2008.*
- *Minutes from project team meetings starting from March 3, 2008 onwards*
- *Minutes from meeting with representatives of EC Delegation in Belgrade*
- *Photo archive*
- *Printed material samples*

ESTABLISHMENT OF SELF-HELP GROUPS OF PLHIV (INCLUDING A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PLHIV)

1.1 Mobilising of PLHIV

1.2 Forming self-help groups of PLHIV in 10 provinces of Serbia and establishing a National Association of PLHIV

1.3 Training PLWHA in organisational management and project development

During March, April and May 2008, through our partners - PLHIV self-help organisation, other partner organisations dealing with HIV/AIDS issues and through regional Youth of JAZAS Serbia regional organisations, project team started with identification of cities where mobilisation of PLHIV population will start and where local PLHIV groups will be established.

Project team visited twelve cities: Belgrade, Novi Sad, Subotica, Pancevo, Pozarevac, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Zajecar, Nis, Vranje, Valjevo and Krusevac. In every city members of project team held preparation meetings with these organisations:

Beograd – city government representatives, Q Club, IAN – International Aid Network, Global Fund Implementation unit of Ministry of Health, UNAIDS, Belgrade Public Health Institute, Students polyclinic, National AIDS office, members of PLHIV community, Red Cross of Serbia.

Novi Sad – Youth of JAZAS Novi Sad, Red Line, city government representatives, NSHC – Novi Sad Humanitarian Centre, members of PLHIV community identified by project team or local partner organisations, Public Health Institute of Novi Sad

Subotica – representatives of local municipality, members of PLHIV community, Public Health Institute, Centre for Social work

Pancevo – Youth of JAZAS Pancevo, local Red Cross, PaO2, representatives of local municipality, members of PLHIV community identified by project team or local partner organisations

Pozarevac - Youth of JAZAS Pozarevac, Youth Council of Pozarevac, representatives of local municipality, members of PLHIV community identified by project team or local partner organisations, Public Health Institute.

Kragujevac - Youth of JAZAS Kragujevac, members of PLHIV community identified by project team or local partner organisations, representatives of local municipality, Public Health Institute.

Kraljevo - members of PLHIV community identified by project team or local partner organisations, representatives of local municipality.

Zaječar - Youth of JAZAS Zaječar, Timok Youth Centre Zajecar, Youth Council, members of PLHIV community identified by project team or local partner organisations, representatives of local municipality, Public Health Institute.

Niš – Youth of JAZAS Niš, NGO Sunce, Timocki Youth Centre Nis, members of PLHIV community identified by project team or local partner organisations, representatives of local municipality, Public Health Institute.

Vranje - Youth of JAZAS Vranje, ABC Centre, Public Health Institute.

Valjevo - Youth of JAZAS Valjevo, representatives of local municipality, Public Health Institute.

Kruševac - representatives of local municipality, Public Health Institute, Centre for Social work.

On every meeting Project team has presented basic ideas and major components of the project, emphasizing the role of European Commission as a donor and HIVOS as implementing partner. All institutions, organisations and persons were invited to take part in project implementation under certain conditions.

Supporting documents for this part of the report:

- *Minutes from meetings*
- *Travel reports from assistant coordinators*
- *Photo archive*
- *Video archive*

After preparation meetings and identification of local partner organisations and PLHIV representatives, Project team on the meeting held on May 12, 2008 decided:

1. To start with forming of local PLHIV groups and future NGOs in 10 cities: Belgrade, Novi Sad, Subotica, Pancevo, Pozarevac, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Zajecar, Valjevo and Nis. This decision was a result of grass root level situation analysis during field visits and final conclusion that in certain settings it was impossible to establish functional PLHIV group that will live and develop in upcoming period. Also, it has been concluded that selected cities are surroundings with favourable political and social climate.
2. Regional organisations of Youth of JAZAS in Novi Sad, Pancevo, Pozarevac, Kragujevac and Zajecar were selected to be sub recipients as they will represent financial and logistical support to forming of newly established local PLHIV groups until their full functional independence. This means that financial support for local office and

office material will flow through selected local sub recipients. Regional organisations of Youth of JAZAS in Novi Sad, Zajecar and Kragujevac will act as local sub recipients for two cities and two local PLHIV groups, as they have strong base in those settings, which is the reason why there is no need for extra sub recipients in mentioned cities (Subotica, Kraljevo, Nis)

3. Individual mutual cooperation with every sub recipient contract has been signed.
4. Other cities planned for establishment of local PLHIV groups will be selected in upcoming implementation period.
5. It was decided to organise 3-day seminars about organisational management and project development in some cities although they were planned for third quarter of project implementation. This was done because Project team concluded that good momentum would be lost, and also there is no need to have long breaks in the first phase of local PLHIV group's development (Belgrade, Novi Sad, Pancevo and Subotica).

We have established eight local PLHIV groups:

- Beograd, May 17, 2008, 7 members
- Novi Sad, May 24, 2008, 5 members
- Subotica, May 10, 2008, 6 members (partially independent)
- Pancevo, June 7, 2008, 2 members
- Pozarevac, June 8, 2008, 1 member
- Kragujevac, May 31, 2008, 4 members
- Kraljevo, June 1, 2008, 3 members
- Zajecar, May 18, 2008, 4 members

During work on the formation of local PLHIV groups Project team had difficulties while locating and mobilising local PLHIV representatives. Because of high level of stigma and discrimination those people had to make tough decisions about their active involvement in local PLHIV groups work, frightened from local settings reactions. This problem was most visible in Pozarevac where only one PLHIV representative decided to take active role in project implementation.

In Belgrade, capital and centre of HIV epidemic in Serbia some activities were implemented in partnership with Q Club, but soon we have decided to spread this practice on other organisations and individuals that took part in planned project activities and named themselves – Belgrade HIV Group. Two PLHIV organisations were directly involved in project implementation - Q Club and AID+, but the third one – Women+ was formed and in June formally established as a direct result of this above mentioned activities.

Parts of every establishing meeting were representatives of local partner NGOs, local municipalities and other local and regional institutions and organisations.

Each newly-formed local PLHIV group received initial technical support: PC, printer and needed office furniture. Financial support during this period goes through local sub recipients. Groups will slowly develop inner structure and become more and more independent, when they will start to receive logistical and financial support directly. This practice came as an experience gained during formation of Q Club, project implemented in 2005 and 2006, financed by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Belgrade.

On April 21, 2008 in Belgrade, Project team organised establishing meeting of National PLHIV network with representatives of local PLHIV groups from 8 cities in Serbia, members of other NGOs, representatives of governmental sector and UN agencies. Establishing meeting was a place where future work of network has been forged, and draft action plan developed. This was also great opportunity for participants to meet.

The second annual meeting of PLHIV network was held on October 3, 2008 in Belgrade. At the meeting the work of the newly formed network was discussed and activity plan for the forthcoming period was created for the year in advance, which at the same time presents the most important segment of the three year long work on the development of Serbian PLHIV network of organisations.

During the first year through work of the project team significant improvement of local and state empowerment and constitution of PLHIV population has been made. Other local PLHIV groups planned for establishment will be formed during third quarter.

During the third and fourth quarter we prepared and executed trainings for PLHIV population in the following cities. Participants in these seminars were PLHIV population activists. The yet insufficient numbers of PLHIV who are not ready to reveal in public, were present on seminars as well as other activists from the local NGO organizations from the local setting. The aim of these seminars were to train PLHIV and other activists how to organise they own working office, how to develop their own project and which are their individual rights in civil system - human rights.

Lecturers in these seminars were from Youth of JAZAS Belgrade on the topic “Project Development”, an Adviser of Minister of Youth and Sports who held lecture titled “Organisational Management” and lecturer from Youth of JAZAS Pancevo who held lecture about Civil rights and HIV/AIDS.

We have found through the informal conversation with majority of participants and anonymous evaluation papers that are collected after each seminar that participants were very well received knowledge from lecturers.

These seminars contribute to independence of PLHIV population and bring their knowledge to the one new level. After those Training seminars, we can say that we are closer to the aim to make PLHIV Groups fully independent.

We held trainings in seven local PLHIV groups:

- Kragujevac, December 24, 2008, 16 participants, 3 days
- Kraljevo, May 10, 2008, 7 participants, 3 days
- Zaječar, May 21, 2008, 7 participants, 3 days
- Nis, December 10, 2008 7 participants, 3 days
- Subotica, Jun 5, 2008, 11 participants, 3 days
- Pancevo, Jun 30, 2008, 6 participants, 3 days
- Novi Sad, May 27, 2008, 12 participants and member from Pozarevac PLHIV, 3 days

Supporting documents for this part of the report:

- *minutes from Training Seminars*
- *minutes from meetings*
- *Evaluations from each Training seminars*
- *travel reports from assistant coordinators*
- *Photo archive*

FORMATION OF A NATIONAL AIDS EXPERT GROUP

- 2.1 *Identifying and forming a national expert group on human rights and HIV/AIDS, comprising civil society groups, healthcare providers, the judiciary and PLHIV*
- 2.2 *Organising nation-wide forums and debates on HIV/AIDS and human rights*
- 2.3 *Sensitizing healthcare providers, social workers and the media about the plight of PLHIV and the need for support*
- 2.4 *Advising policy makers on legislations and services for PLHIV*

During March 2008, Project team has identified viable members of future Experts Group. A number of preparatory and invitation meetings have been arranged with each of planned members. Crucial facts about project and their role as individual members of Expert Group have been presented to all of them. Unforeseen and totally surprising to Project team, all invited accepted invitation and expressed their wish to give personal contribution to this cause, by becoming member of National AIDS Expert Group.

Members of National AIDS Expert Group are:

Name, Surname and Institution/Organisation
Slobodan Rasic – Judge of Supreme Court of Republic of Serbia
Dr Goran Ilic – public prosecutor - Head of Prosecutors office of Belgrade First Court and President of EB of Society of Prosecutors of Serbia
Milka Kalaba – Ministry for work and social politics of Republic of Serbia - adviser of minister
Zorica Pavlovic – Ministry of Health of Republic of Serbia - assistant minister
Suzana Brener – Ministry of Justice of Republic of Serbia - counsellor
Dr Verica Lela Ilic – Head of National AIDS office
Bane Sekulic and office apprentice Vacating Sekulic – Law office Sekulic
Mirjana Mitic and office apprentice Jovana Mitic – Law office Mitic
Dr Cedomir Radojicic , immunologist
Bojan Djuric - Belgrade Centre for Human Rights - lawyer
Natasa Cvetkovic - Jovic – International Aid Network – IAN - psychologist
Representative of PLHIV population
Karlo Boras – Youth of JAZAS
Momcilo Janjic – Youth of JAZAS

Establishing meeting of Expert group was organised on May 11, 2008, where present members were introduced with the work plan and regular meetings draft schedule. Members were introduced to each other, gave official comment about formation of Expert Group and future of this initiative of Youth of JAZAS. It has been agreed that the next meeting of Expert Group will be organised at the end of June, after completion of preliminary research results.

Project team decided that research about comparative analysis on legislative with recommendations for update and change should be jointly done with UNAIDS and Ministry of Health (PR of Global Fund project in Serbia). All three institutions decided to engage Belgrade Centre for Human Rights to conduct this research. Public presentation of the research results together with round table was jointly organized on July 3, 2008. Having this in mind, Youth of JAZAS, Implementation unit and UNAIDS signed MoU. After the presentation of preliminary research results and round table,

second meeting of National AIDS Expert Group has held at the same place. Representatives of European Commission Belgrade office were present at this event and actively participated at the Round Table.

Till now, members of Expert group participated in one court case directly linked with HIV/AIDS: Criminal act of premeditated attempt of HIV transmission - case led by Law office Sekulic. With assistance of Project team unique standpoint of Expert group has been set for this single case.

On May 19, 2008 project coordinator held a meeting with Bojan Andjelkovic, assistant minister of Ministry for work and social politics, where they agreed to actively involve this Ministry in project implementation. First step will be the creation of cooperation plan for 2009, during autumn 2008 by Youth of JAZAS, which will become part of work plan of this project.

Within the month of June Youth of JAZAS has hired an independent researcher who has worked on the topic of availability of services for PLHIV population in city centres of Serbia.

On October 14, Ministry of Health, Experts Group of Youth of JAZAS and UNAIDS in collaboration with Public Health Institute "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut", held a meeting and presented the document "Analysis of domestic legislation related to HIV – final results and recommendations". Conclusions from this meeting were that Serbian legislative solutions related to HIV should be articulated and addressed in new National AIDS Policy.

During August and September of 2008 Members of National Experts Group held several separate meetings. The aim of those meetings was to discuss particular topics brought by group members and National AIDS office.

On November 21, Youth of JAZAS Expert Group members participated the Round table and public debate organised by Ministry of Labour and Social Politics, Ministry for Civil Rights and Minorities, UNDP and Coalition against discrimination, which were creators of "The draft law on the abolishment of discrimination". Participants in this public debate were representatives of several discriminated groups in Serbia, numerous NGOs and Youth of JAZAS as one who represented PLHIV and their interests .

On October 6 in small mountain resort Mecavnik, Mokra Gora in Central Serbia, Youth of JAZAS held International Seminar on Human Rights of PLHIV. The seminar brought together a large number of activists from around the world. Program of the seminar consisted of lectures of foreign speakers and lecturers from Serbia and round tables. Participants at the seminar were activists from various countries of the European Union and SEE countries. At the debates held in the seminar, we could see the difference among activists in level of awareness of human rights from country to country.

On December 27, in Vrsac town in eastern Vojvodina, Members of Experts Group, members of Parliamentary Group together with prof. dr Viktorija Cucic, prof. dr Aleksandar Dujic and representative of PLHIV held a meeting. The topic of this meeting was to comment the proposal of the Ministry of Labour and Social Politics of Republic of Serbia, Ministry for Human Rights and Minorities of Republic of Serbia, UNDP and Coalition against discrimination, "The draft law of antidiscrimination law".

We found it reasonable to take part in creating constructive comments about aspect of the proposal in context of discrimination based on HIV/AIDS status. The debate also dealt with Artical 250 of Serbian Criminal law, that should also be the working subject of National AIDS Expert Group. This Artical 250 constitute responsibility of someone who is HIV possitive and deliberately transmits infection. Conclusions and minutes from this meeting should determine our directions on how to change legislative in the best interests of PLHIV.

Supporting documents for this part of the report:

- *minutes from Round tables*
- *minutes from work meeting in Health Institute "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut"*
- *minutes from International Seminar*
- *minutes from meetings in Office of Youth of JAZAS*
- *Press Clipping*
- *Photo archive*
- *Video archive*
- *Hand out*

FORMATION OF A PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON HIV/AIDS

- 3.1 *Selecting parliamentarians from different political parties of the National Assembly*
- 3.2 *Organising training on HIV/AIDS, human rights and public health Laws for Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS*
- 3.4 *Organising an international seminar on the rights of PLHIV in Serbia*
- 3.5 *Holding regular consultations with NGOs, civil society groups, Parliamentary Committee on Health, National Office for HIV/AIDS and proposing a legislation on the rights of PLHIV to National Assembly*

Having in mind familiar situation in the country (political and economical turbulence and instability, Kosovo independence) and state elections held on May 11, 2008, it was not possible to start working on this segment of the project before National Assembly and Government of Republic of Serbia meets and constitutes. On July 4, 2008 Government of Serbia has been formed, and till end of July also all Parliamentary Committees, important for project implementation.

As fighting against HIV and AIDS are above all political differences, our guideline was and is to “recruit” members from different and opposite political parties and unite them to fight with us together.

Title, Name, Surname and Assembly position/Political party
Judita Popovic, lawyer – Parliament Co-chair, LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
Prof. Dr. Nebojsa Randjelovic – Member of Parliament, LDP (Liberal Democratic Party)
Vlatko Ratkovic, lawyer – Member of Parliament, DC (Democratic Party)
Ms. Jelena Travar – Member of Parliament, G17 PLUS
Ms. Aleksandra Jerkov – Member of Parliament, LSV (Social Democratic League of Vojvodina)
Ms. Elvira Kovac – Member of Parliament, UVM (Alliance of Vojvodina’s Hungarians)
Mr. Dejan Radenkovic – Member of Parliament, SPS (Socialist Party of Serbia)

The project team has had in mind that five members of parliamentary group are supposed to participate but in the best interest of the project and being aware of the fact that duties of the parliamentarians will result in the group rarely to be complete, seven members of the parliament were engaged. This situation will not have any effect on the costs proposed for this part of the project, as all the members of the parliamentary group are aware of the limit of the project regarding the number of this group.

During July 2008 Project team had initial contacts with representatives of parliamentary parties. At the end of July we have started with implementation of this project segment. Training on HIV/AIDS, human rights and public health Laws for Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS and International seminar on the rights of PLHIV in Serbia had been postponed for two months and has been organized in third quarter of 2008.

During April and May 2008, project team had a series of meetings with representatives of civil society. All planned project activities in the next three years have been presented. NGO representatives have been invited to actively join the implementation of the project. Direct result of these activities is that Country Coordinating Mechanism – CCM that performs the oversight of activities implemented from the Global Fund has been recognized as a body that can assist a lot during project implementation.

On July 14, 2008, a meeting was held with representatives of National AIDS Office, where they suggested organising of national conference on HIV/AIDS, thus emphasising the need for emergency update and change of legislative connected with PLHIV. National AIDS office was reformed and gained the necessary experience when new director Dr Verica Lela Ilic came (she is a member of Expert group).

On Decembre 20, 2008, Project coordinator and project coordinator assistant held meeting in head couter of SNS (Serbian Advanced Party) with Aleksandar Vucic, Co Presient of party. This party is made by members who went from

SRS (Serbian Radical Party).The meeting went unespecetly well and this party would cooperate with us and support initiatives from our Parliamentary Group in National Assembly.

On September 27, 2008 the first meeting of the expert group and parliamentary group in Belgrade was held in which the members have formally introduced and prepared the frame action plan until the end of 2008. On October 18 in Belgrade, November 16 on mountain Kopaonik in Central Serbia and December 3 in Belgrade, three joint meetings of the expert group were held, as well as parliamentary group. These meetings were of working nature and have served for concurring on both of the groups activities as well as the activities of individual members.

Supporting documents for this part of the report:

- *minutes from meetings*
- *Press Clipping*
- *Photo archive*
- *Video archive*

COURT CASES

During the first year of Project, we hire Law Office Sekulic to represents the interests of one PLHIV from town Zrenjanin in Vojvodina. During the year court held four hearings and the process is in progress.

ACTION PLAN 2009

Year 1													
	Semester 1						Semester 2						
Activity	Month 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Implementing body
Activity 1 Establishment of Self-Help Groups of PLWHA (including a National Association of PLWHA)													
Preparation Activity 1.2 Forming self-help groups of PLWHA in 10 provinces of Serbia and establish a National Association of PLWHA													OJAZAS PLWHA
Execution Activity 1.2 Forming self-help groups of PLWHA in 10 provinces of Serbia and establish a National Association of PLWHA													OJAZAS PLWHA

Preparation Activity 1.4 Providing AIDS education and related services to PLWHA													OJAZAS PLWHA
Execution Activity 1.4 Providing AIDS education and related services to PLWHA													OJAZAS PLWHA
Preparation Activity 1.4.1 Participation of Serbian activists on International gatherings of PLHIV													Depending on events dates
Execution Activity 1.4.1 Participation of Serbian activists on International gatherings of PLHIV													Depending on events dates
Preparation Activity 1.4.2 Newsletter													OJAZAS
Execution Activity 1.4.2 Newsletter													OJAZAS
Preparation Activity 1.5 Organizing lobby and advocacy for improved rights of PLWHA and other excluded groups													OJAZAS PLWHA
Execution Activity 1.5 Organizing lobby and advocacy for improved rights of PLWHA and other excluded groups													OJAZAS PLWHA
Activity 2 Formation of a National AIDS Expert Group													
Preparation Activity 2.2 Organizing nation-wide forums and debates on HIV/AIDS and human rights													OJAZAS Expert Group MP Group (Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS) PLWHA

Execution Activity 2.2 Organizing nation-wide forums and debates on HIV/AIDS and human rights													OJAZAS Expert Group MP Group PLWHA
Preparation Activity 2.3 Sensitizing healthcare providers, social workers and the media about the plight of PLWHA and the need for support													OJAZAS PLWHA
Execution Activity 2.3 Sensitizing healthcare providers and the public about the plight of PLWHA and the need for support													OJAZAS Expert Group MP Group PLWHA
Preparation Activity 2.4 Advising policy makers on legislations and Services for PLWHA.													OJAZAS
Execution Activity 2.4 Advising policy makers on legislations and Services for PLWHA.													OJAZAS
Activity 3 Formation of a Parliamentary Group on HIV/AIDS													
Preparation Activity 3.2 Organizing training on HIV/AIDS, human rights and public health Laws for Parliamentary Group on HIV- AIDS													OJAZAS

Execution Activity 3.2 Organizing training on HIV/AIDS, human rights and public health Laws for Parliamentary Group on HIV- AIDS													OJAZAS Expert Group
Preparation Activity 3.3 Organizing visits by the Parliamentary Group to the European Commission, Inter European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, European Parliament and All party Group on AIDS of The Netherlands Parliament and British Parliament													Depending on events dates
Execution Activity 3.3 Organizing visits by the Parliamentary Group to the European Commission, Inter European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, European Parliament and All party Group on AIDS of The Netherlands Parliament and British Parliament													Depending on events dates

Preparation Activity 3.5 Holding regular consultations with NGOs, civil society groups, Parliamentary Committee on Health, National Office for HIV/AIDS and proposing a legislation on the rights of PLWHA to National Assembly													OJAZAS Expert Group MP Group PLWHA
Execution Activity 3.5 Holding regular consultations with NGOs, civil society groups, Parliamentary Committee on Health, National Office for HIV/AIDS and proposing a legislation on the rights of PLWHA to National Assembly													OJAZAS Expert Group MP Group PLWHA

Activity 1.2 Forming self-help groups of PLWHA in 10 provinces of Serbia and establish a National Association of PLWHA. We will organize two more PLWHA self-help groups and will organize them training seminars “Organization management and project development” in 2009.

Activity 1.4.1 Participation of Serbian activists on International gatherings of PLWHA, depending on events date.

Activity 2.3 Sensitizing healthcare providers, social workers and the media about the plight of PLWHA and the need for support, we will organize two seminars for media representatives, one predicted for 2008 and one from 2009.

Activity 3.2 Organizing training on HIV/AIDS, human rights and public health Laws for Parliamentary Group on HIV-AIDS, we will organize this seminar which is predicted for 2008 in 2009.

Activity 3.3 Organizing visits by the Parliamentary Group to the European Commission, Inter European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development, European Parliament and All party Group on AIDS of The Netherlands Parliament and British Parliament, depending on events date.

VISIBILITY

Visibility of European Union was ensured from the supporting materials and documents. On every brochure, flyer, handout, on every printing material, we hold to the EU Visibility Guidelines.

Supporting documents for this part of the report:

- *Press Clipping*
- *Newsletter*
- *Printing material*
- *Hand-outs*
- *Photo archive*
- *Video archive*

CONCLUSIONS & LESSOND LEARNED

I

Project team of Youth of JAZAS has in the past year partly met the goals set by the project aims regarding establishing local PLHIV groups as well as National PLHIV Network, aside from all present stigma and discrimination especially in local, minor environments and settings. 8 to 10 local PLHIV groups were formed, as supposed to and planned. This course of activities presents good grounds for further development of such groups as well as their positioning on local and regional level in the second and third year of this project implementation. By analysis of achieved results it has been noted that local initiative has encountered weak response in the west part of Serbia, which to some extent was unexpected and surprising. This is why we have decided that the other PLHIV groups should be formed exactly in the towns geographically belonging to western Serbia. As well, it was concluded that this type of result would not be achievable without assistance of logistic aid of Youth of JAZAS regional offices in seven of eight towns where PLHIV groups are formed. In first half of the first implementation year it is planned to additionally enhance and legally regulate these PLHIV groups in order for them to begin functional and legal independence. In two of eight towns (Pancevo ad Pozarevac) the number of PLHIV activists participating in the development of their groups for self-help is less than planned which is direct consequence of the still existing fear.

Aside from the planned difficulties with which local self help groups meet this has not influenced creating of national PLHIV network to which forming huge majority of invited members has answered. National PLHIV network joined with other bodies that are formed on this project will present significant factor in further achieving of set project goals.

II

Successful forming and functioning of expert group founded in May of 2008 presents by far the biggest success on this project. The group has 14 members among whom there is the Supreme Court of Republic of Serbia Judge, State prosecutor, assistant minister, two minister advisers, two lawyers offices and representatives of nongovernmental sector as well as PLHIV population. Aside from this, expert group has actively cooperated with large number of acknowledged institutions and organisations (UNAIDS, BG Centre for Human Rights, National Institute for Public Health...) This formation of an expert group guarantees active participation in creation of new and redesigning of existing legal solutions in the laws which in any was address PLHIV community in Serbia. Obvious example of such an activity can be seen in the work of expert group on creating new anti discriminatory law whose adoption will be on agenda in the first half of 2009. A special moment is an enthusiasm and devotion shown by the members of this group in the course of the work on the project and their wish to, aside for numerous obligations participate in this project, giving their maximum. Through the work of expert group we have seen that it is necessary to expand the group by other experts from other areas which are connected to PLHIV population in the purpose of seeing and solving the problem with as wide approach as possible. National AIDS Commission has asked a Expert Group of this project to serve as Working Group for Human Rights and Legislature in the process of drafting National AIDS Strategy 2010-2015. This presents a clear acknowledgement for recognized work of this group in the year 2008.

III

Third segment of the project – forming of non formal group for HIV/AIDS within the Parliament of Republic of Serbia is successfully initiated aside from objective circumstances which prevented the project team up to the second half of 2008 (parliamentary elections and parliament blockade by the opposition parties) By the end of September of 2008 parliamentary group was successfully formed with unexpectedly good response of the MPs from all the respective

parties. The project team had decided to expand the original group from five MPs to seven members in order to sustain wider support within the parliament itself. Parliamentary group has successfully met with the members of expert group which can best be seen based on results achieved on the last meeting, by the end of December of 2008, when by joined forces comments were given to the future antidiscrimination law of Republic of Serbia. By active work on mutual meetings with the group of experts, members of parliamentary group have for the first time since democratic changes in the year of 2000, overcome and put into second plan the differences in their political attitudes for the welfare of one of endangered population in our country.

Due to not knowing the actual budgetary lines supposed for design, creating of content and payment of photographic material solely two issues of the magazine were edited so with the planned four in 2009 there will be a special edition planned for December 1 with necessary revision of budgetary lines regarding the issuing of such magazine. Up till now, the performed activities in the year of 2008 present a satisfactory success for the project team and ground stone for the further work on the project where in the second and third year direct results are expected on improvement of everyday life of PLHIV individual anywhere in Serbia. Dosed feeling of fear project team of Youth of JAZAS had about initiated initiatives, not reaching well enough response among experts and parliamentarians were not founded in real situation and are overcome now.

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Serbia

Date report due: January 20, 2008.

Date report sent: February 3, 2008.