

INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

Yugoslav Youth Association against AIDS – Youth of JAZAS

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Reference number of the project: RD010A07

Name of the project: Participating of People With HIV in Serbian Society

Status of the document (approved by whom):

The document contains description of all the activities and programs performed during the period January 1 – June 30, 2008 and is approved by Executive Board of Youth of JAZAS.

**Reporting period:
January 01 – June 30, 2008**

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS 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 establish a National Association of PLHIV

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

2.3 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

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

PROJECT COORDINATION

After final announcement from HIVOS representatives that financing of the project has been approved in 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 Karlo Boras other two assistant coordinator and communication officer were chosen.

1. Project coordinator - Karlo Boras
2. Assistant coordinator for PLHIV empowerment – Nenad Petković
3. Assistant coordinator for work with Expert group and other law issues – Momčilo Janjić
4. Communication officer – Dragana Stojanović

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.

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.

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 I 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 took an active part during project implementation.

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

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

- 3 notebooks
- camcorder
- beamer

During this phase of project implementation we have printed different kind 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*
- *Video 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 establish a National Association of PLHIV

During March, April and May 2008, through our partners - PLHIV self-help organisation Q Club, 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.

Twelve cities have been chosen: Belgrade, Novi Sad, Subotica, Pančevo, Požarevac, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Zaječar, Niš, Vranje, Valjevo and Kruševac.

In every city members of project team held preparation meetings with these organisations:

Beograd – Q Club, IAN – International Aid Network, city government representatives, 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 Center, 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, Center for Social work

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

Požarevac - Youth of JAZAS Požarevac, Youth Council of Požarevac, representatives of local municipality, member 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, Timočki Youth Center Zaječar, 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 Sun, Timočki Youth Center Niš, 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 Center, Public Health Institute.

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

Kruševac - representatives of local municipality, Public Health Institute, Center 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 every meeting*
- *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, Pančevo, Požarevac, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Zaječar, Valjevo and Niš. This decision was result of grass root level situation analysis during field visits and final conclusion that in certain settings 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 subrecipients 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 subrecipients. Regional organisations of Youth of JAZAS in Novi Sad, Zajecar and Kragujevac will act as local subrecipients 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 subrecipients in mentioned cities (Subotica, Kraljevo, Nis)

3. With every subrecipient individual mutual cooperation 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 first phase of local PLHIV groups development (Belgrade, Novi Sad, Pančevo, 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)
- Pančevo, June 7, 2008, 2 members
- Požarevac, June 8, 2008, 1 member
- Kragujevac, May 31, 2008, 4 members
- Kraljevo, June 1, 2008, 3 members
- Zaječar, May 18, 2008, 4 members

During work on formation of local PLHIV groups Project team had difficulties while locating and mobilising local PLHIV representatives. Because of high levels 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, capitol and center of HIV epidemic in Serbia some activities were implemented in partnership with Q Club, but soon we have decided to spread this practise on other organisations and individuals that took part in planned project activities and named themselves – Belgrade HIV Group. Two PLHIV organisation 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.

Part 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 subrecipients. 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 a experience gained during formation of Q Club, project implemented in 2005 and 2006, financed by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Belgrade.

On July 10, 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.

During first six months through work of 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.

Supporting documents for this part of the report:

- *minutes from every meeting*
- *travel reports from assistant coordinators*
- *Photo archive*
- *Video 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*
2.3 *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 Rašić – Judge of Supreme Court of Republic of Serbia
Dr Goran Ilić – Head of Prosecutors office of Belgrade First Court and Head Society of Prosecutors of Serbia
Milka Kalaba – assistant minister of Ministry for work and social politics of Republic of Serbia
Zorica Pavlović – assistant minister, Ministry of Health of Republic of Serbia
Suzana Brener – counsellor in Ministry of Justice of Republic of Serbia
Dr Verica Lela Ilić – Head of National AIDS office
Bane Sekulić and office apprentice Vukašin Sekulić – Law office Sekulić
Mirjana Mitić and office apprentice Jovana Mitić – Law office Mitić
Dr Čedomir Radojičić , immunologist
Bojan Đurić - lawyer in Belgrade Center for Human Rights
Nataša Cvetković-Jović – psychologist in International Aid Network - IAN
Representative of PLHIV population
Karlo Boras – Youth of JAZAS
Momčilo Janjić – Youth of JAZAS

Establishing meeting of Expert group was organised on May 11, 2008, where present members were introduced with 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 next meeting of Expert Group will be organised at the end of June, after completion of preliminary research results.

Project team discovered that research about accessibility of different services to PLHIV population in Republic of Serbia, comparative analysis on legislative with recommendations for update and change was started by UNAIDS, Belgrade Center for Human Rights, supported by Implementation unit of Global Fund project in Serbia. In order to join efforts, it has been decided to organise mutual public presentation and round table about research with subject – HIV/AIDS Legislative analysis in Serbia on July 3, 2008. Having this in mind, Youth of JAZAS, Implementation unit and UNAIDS signed MoU. After the presentation and round table, second meeting of National AIDS Expert Group will be held at the same place. Presentation of preliminary researches and Round table took place on July 3, 2008. Unfortunately, final research results have been postponed by Belgrade Center and will be presented at the end of September.

Round table “Preliminary HIV/AIDS Legislative analysis”

Venue: Aero klub , Uzun Mirkova 4/II

Date: 03/07/08

Time: 11:00 – 12:30

Organizers:

Ministry of Health of Republic of Serbia, UN Theme Group for HIV/AIDS – UNTG Secretariat and nongovernmental organisation Yugoslav Youth Association against AIDS – Youth of JAZAS has organised Round table with the topic “HIV/AIDS Legislative analysis”.

The meeting agenda was:

11:00 – 11:30 Welcoming speech

Saša Jankovic – Ombudsperson - Protector of citizens of Republic of Serbia

Dr Ivana Mišić – Assistant Minister, Ministry of Health of Republic of Serbia
Ms. Maja Vuckovic Krcmar – European Commission Office in Serbia
Mr. Radomir Buric – UNDP

11:30 – 12:00 Presenting the activities:

Karlo Boras – Presenting the activities of Youth of JAZAS directed to improvement of legal position of Persons Living With HIV – PLHIV financially assisted by the European Commission and forming the Working Group of legal experts
Ana Maricic – United Nations Development Program – UNDP

Presenting the project “Analysis of domestic and international legislation in regards to HIV” – UNDP, UN Theme Group for HIV/AIDS

12:00 – 13:00 – Discussion and conclusions

13:00 – 14:00 Expert Working Group for improvement of legal position of PLHIV

Discussion facilitator was Ms. Antonela Riha journalist B92

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 integral part of this project.

Supporting documents for this part of the report:

- *minutes from Round table and second meeting of Expert group*
- *Press Clipping*
- *Photo archive*
- *Video archive*

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.

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 has been postponed for two months and will be 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 does the oversight of activities implemented from the Global Fund has been recognized as a body that can help a lot during project implementation.

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

CONCLUSIONS

In spite obvious objective difficulties during implementation of this project part, action plan has been reorganized and all delays will be compensated.

During first six months Project team and Youth of JAZAS in general has been recognized across PLHIV community as supportive organisation.