

The partners of Eurosupport 6

- > Belgium: Institute of Tropical Medicine & Sensoa
- > Germany: Ludwig Maximilians University
- > France: AIDES
- > Italy: Fondazione Centro San Raffaele del Monte Tabor
- > The Netherlands: University of Maastricht
- > Portugal: Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- > Spain: Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- > United Kingdom: Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust
- > Poland: University of Zielona Gora
- > Slovak Republic: Slovak Medical University
- > Luxemburg: European Commission / EAHC

In addition, the ES6 network will include collaborative partners and other stakeholders from the entire European Union. Currently, the Eurosupport database includes 360 entries of HIV/SRH experts and field organisations and this data-base will be expanded throughout the project.

website: www.sensoa.be/eurosupport



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Eurosupport 6

Developing a Training and Resource Package to Improve the Sexual and Reproductive Health of People Living with HIV



SENSOA
PRAAT OVER SEKS



An estimated 2.3 million people are currently living with HIV in Europe. Thanks to combination therapies, HIV has turned into a manageable chronic disease. Today, quality of life issues have become the focus of comprehensive HIV care, of which sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is an important part (e.g. the desire for children, family planning and sexual risk reduction needs). Because most of new HIV infections in Europe occur through unprotected sexual contacts, meeting the SRH-related service needs of people living with HIV is a health priority. Service providers must be equipped with sound tools that help them to address SRH issues effectively.

What does Eurosupport do?

Eurosupport is a long-standing European health promotion initiative, addressing psychosocial issues in HIV-care. With the support of the European Commission, an expert network has been set up to carry out empirical research on the needs of PLHA.

More information on previous Eurosupport projects: www.sensoa.be/eurosupport

The Eurosupport 6 project

Eurosupport 6 (2009-2011) will develop an evidence-based training and resource package (TRP), focusing on sexual risk reduction and fertility-related issues. The project builds on the evidence accumulated during the previous project Eurosupport V, which collected evidence on SRH needs of PLHA, as well as on existing gaps in actual service provision. Eurosupport 6 uses this and other current evidence on sexual risk taking to develop and evaluate brief counselling interventions for clinical and community-based HIV care settings. The TRP will support service providers in their daily work to address SRH and positive prevention with HIV positive service users.

The TRP will be developed by a group of experts (HIV-treatment centres, research and patient organisations in 10 European countries) using rigorous scientific methods, e.g.: the intervention mapping model.

Innovative elements such as computer-assisted interventions and e-learning tools for service providers will be incorporated and tested for effectiveness using an experimental research design.

Meaningful participation of service providers and people living with HIV throughout the whole development process ensures that the final product will meet the needs of both providers and service users.

Eurosupport 6 has three objectives:

- 1. Developing evidence-based and theory-guided target group specific interventions to improve SRH of PLHA (for men who have sex with men (MSM) and migrants).**
- 2. Developing a training and resource package for service providers in an integrated field of HIV/AIDS and SRH (including organisational policies to support implementation in service delivery).**
- 3. Maintaining a network of HIV and SRH experts and field organisations in Europe.**

By achieving these objectives, Eurosupport 6 contributes to improving the quality of life of PLHA and to reducing new HIV infections.

