

Preserving the Heritage

Migrants are Leaders in HIV-Prevention

Information in French and Spanish



Foto: Ira Thorsting

“If equal health opportunities are to be guaranteed for all, health promotion strategies must include solutions specifically geared for migrants and they must be implemented in collaboration with them.” (Ramazan Salman)

AIDS & Mobility finds new home in Hannover, Germany

In 1992, after a WHO study on Migrants, Travellers and HIV, the European Commission decided to support a project to investigate HIV and migration in four countries, and AIDS & Mobility was born. For over 15 years, A&M was coordinated by the Netherlands Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NIGZ).

In the early years of the project, NIGZ led A&M in building partnerships across Europe to work together on HIV and migration. The project built a strong network of professional organisations, developed a database of research material and hosted meetings that for the first time brought together experts on HIV and migration with migrants themselves. In 1999, the National Focal Point network of 15 European member states was established and in 2004, the project expanded to include ten new European member states.

At the beginning of 2007, NIGZ retired as project coordinators, and a decision was taken to hand over the A&M project to an organization working with migrants for migrants.

The Ethno-Medical Center (Ethno-Medizinisches Zentrum, EMZ) in Hannover, Germany, is a charitable organisation supporting the interests of integration and promoting the health of migrants since 1989. It is funded by the Lower-Saxon Ministry of Social Affairs, Women, Family and Health as well as the state capital Hannover.

EMZ provides the following services:

- prevention and health promotion With Migrants for Migrants
- health education events in more than 40 languages
- interpreter services for the social welfare and health system
- vocational and professional training, courses, conferences
- applied health services research
- advice and services for hospitals and public health services
- multilingual brochures, media, documentation
- socio-psychiatric and psychosomatic care

The work of the Ethno-Medical Centre has been honoured with numerous awards.

- The „MOM-Project“ regarding intercultural oral prophylaxis was awarded the „Wrigley Prophylaxepreis“ (Wrigley Prophylaxis Award) of the „Deutsche Gesellschaft für Zahnerhaltung“ (German Society for Tooth Preservation) in 2001.
- The cooperation project with the public health department in the city of Stade for the improvement of vaccine protection in migrant children was awarded the „Prix d'ÖGD“ and the „Qualitätspreis der Akademie für öffentliches Gesundheitswesen“ (Quality Award of the Academy for the Public Health Service) in 2004.
- The „With Migrants for Migrants – Intercultural Health in Germany“ (MiMi) programme was awarded the Janssen-Cilag Zukunftspreis in 2006.
- Also in 2006 „With Migrants for Migrants – Intercultural Health in Germany“ (MiMi) programme was awarded the „Gesundheitspreis Nordrhein-Westfalen“ (Health Award North Rhine-Westphalia).
- The Executive Managing Director of the Ethno-Medical Centre, Ramazan Salman, was appointed social entrepreneur of the year in 2006 und 2008.

Preserving the heritage of AIDS & Mobility Europe

In 15 years of active service A&M has coordinated, built and expanded a network of more than



Georg Broering and Kathelijne de Groot (the outgoing co-ordinators of A&M) meet with Ramazan Salman (the new project leader)

1,000 individuals. A&M also produced reports and materials on the

situation of migrants in Europe. The last major publications included two books analysing the policies and the situation of people living with HIV in 25 European countries:

A united Europe, a shared concern - HIV and population mobility in an enlarged European Union, 2006, 152 pp.

Community needs, community responses—Trend reports on migration and HIV/AIDS in Europe, 2008, 176 pp.

The documentation centre also includes an archive of more than 500 scientific and project publications related to HIV-prevention for migrants.

Positive Action supported the transfer of the documentation centre from Woerden (Netherlands) to Hannover. Today, key documents continue to be available for reference and research. AIDS & Mobility will contribute key documents to AIDS-Action Europe's HIV-Clearinghouse project.

Migrants are Leaders in HIV-Prevention

A leading expert in health care in Germany, Ramazan Salman has been changing society's approach towards immigration and the integration of migrants. By creatively involving the German public, his projects create encounters that cause people to overcome deeply rooted prejudice.

In 1992 Ramazan Salman founded the Migrants-AIDS-Project (MAP) at the Ethno-Medical Centre (EMZ). The project aims to develop and deliver HIV-prevention for migrants with migrants. No ethnic or national group was singled out to be the „risk group“. Instead people of more than 40 nationalities work together to bring education and to speak openly about the positive aspects of overcoming stigma and discrimination.

„We are training the best of migrants to bring across messages in their mother-tongue. The transcultural mediators know, where specific help and advice can be found“, explains Ramazan Salman.



Foto: Ira Thorsting

Ramazan Salman and Mechthild Ross-Luttmann, Lower-Saxony Minister of Social

Since 1993 MAP has trained over 200 migrants as AIDS-mediators. Today, AIDS-mediators can be found in key positions in social service organisations.

In 2003 the mediator approach of the Migrant-AIDS-Project became the basis for MiMi© - a key model for health and integration.



Foto: Ira Thorsting

Paulo Jorge Vieira with Ramazan Salman

Paulo Jorge Vieira

Paulo Jorge Vieira, natural from Lisbon, is a son of Capeverdean migrants. He lives in Amadora (Lisbon), a major destination for those coming to Portugal, especially from the Portuguese former colonies.

Paulo lived all his life in Amadora, knowing directly the (sometimes) shocking reality of those living in underprivileged neighborhoods, where access to health or education were not recognized as a fundamental right.

Activities

At the age of 17, Paulo started his collaboration with AJPAS, Associação de Jovens Promotores da Amadora Saudável (Amadora's Youth Association on Health Promotion) on a survey, doing a door-to-door health mapping.

In AJPAS, as a volunteer, board member and project coordinator, Paulo carried out a diverse range of community trainings and activities, schools interventions and actions to provide support to those living or affected by HIV/AIDS.

Over the past years Paulo actively worked with different interventionist groups on HIV/AIDS and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, engaging in networks and partnership projects.

Young Social Entrepreneur 2009

Paulo implemented sessions for youth groups on in Portugal, in the Netherlands and in Cyprus, addressing the definition of stigma and discrimination, sharing examples of projects and strategies to address and overcome stigma and self-stigma. The sessions include a special focus on „How to promote change and break the taboos in our communities and in the groups where we belong?“. Paulo Vieira also coordinated the “European Partnership between Health Actors and African Communities for HIV/AIDS prevention”.

On February 10th 2009 Paulo Jorge Vieira was honoured as the first Young Social Entrepreneur of AIDS & Mobility. „The award goes to an outstanding individual, who took it upon himself to change reality for the better - he is an example for other migrants“, explained Ramazan Salman.

Information in French and Spanish

Access to health information is essentially relevant to patients and to concerned individuals. For migrants and travellers access to information about the health system they live in (or need to access) is of importance throughout the process of integration into their host societies, cultures and idioms. Information requirements, while some of them are specific to (1) legal status and (2) health traditions, are concerning (3) standards of treatment and (4) rights of access to socialised health care or private health insurance. In the HIV/AIDS-field information should also be made accessible including (5) appropriate preventive behaviours and (6) legal information concerning HIV/AIDS-related specifics in the context of emigration and remigration.

In order to improve access to information and counselling for migrants from Africa and Southern America the AIDS & Mobility project initiated research to identify the appropriate services across Europe. In a first step services provided in French and Spanish were identified and are being made available in print and online.

Information pour migrants

Notre brochure s'adresse aux migrants francophones en Europe. En tenant compte de la direction géographique de la migration du sud vers l'Europe nous appelons les résultats de nos recherches contenus dans cette brochure "Southerly Winds" (Vents du sud). Nous espérons que le contenu contribuera à une première orientation des francophones lorsqu'ils recherchent des informations sur le VIH/SIDA et les services disponibles en français.

Nous avons tout d'abord recherché des services dans les pays européens. En dehors de ces organisations il existe des organisa-



Foto: Ira Thorsting

"AIDS & Mobility is very welcome in Lower Saxony
- public and private sector support this network together." (Gesine Meißner, MEP)

tions spécialement conçues pour des migrants sub-sahariens francophones. Vous devez les appeler ou prendre contact par courrier électronique – et vous n'avez pas à donner votre vrai nom. La consultation est faite de façon anonyme si vous le désirez.

La recherche a été dirigée par le Ethno-Medizinisches Zentrum e.V. et financée par Positive Action. La liste sera aussi disponible en ligne sous www.aids-migration.org où elle sera actualisée par intervalles.

Informacion para migrantes

Este folleto está destinado a inmigrantes de habla española en Europa. Haciendo referencia a la dirección geográfica de las corrientes migratorias en Europa, provenientes del sur, hemos bautizado como "Southerly Winds" a los resultados de nuestra investigación, recogidos en este folleto. Esperamos que los contenidos aquí expuestos ofrezcan una orientación inicial a todas las personas

hispanohablantes que buscan información sobre HIV/SIDA y los servicios disponibles en español.

En primer lugar, hemos buscado qué servicios hay disponibles en español. Además de en España, en otros lugares de Europa hay también disponibles servicios destinados a hispanohablantes. Igual que en el caso anterior, es posible establecer contacto telefónico o por e-mail, pudiendo mantener el anonimato. Si se desea, también se puede recibir el asesoramiento de forma anónima.

Las investigaciones fueron realizadas por el Ethno-Medizinisches Zentrum e.V., con la financiación de Positive Action. El listado de organizaciones estará disponible en internet bajo la dirección www.aids-migration.org, y se actualizará periódicamente.

Imprint

AIDS & Mobility Europe
c/o Ethno-Medizinisches Zentrum e.V.
Königstr. 6
D-30175 Hannover

Email: info@aidsmobility.org

+49-511-1684-1020 (Switchboard)
+49-511-1693-184 (AIDS & Mobility Europe)
Fax: +49-511-457215