




A factsheet on

Schiff

A program-level, quality improvement tool

This new tool is developed and piloted as part of Quality Action.



Quality Action
Improving **HIV** Prevention in Europe



This work is part of the Joint Action on Improving Quality in HIV Prevention (Quality Action), which has received funding from the European Union within the framework of the Health Programme.



Preventing new infections by helping people make good choices and responsible decisions about risks and behaviours is the cornerstone of an effective national response to HIV. However, as the HIV epidemic continues to evolve, it has proven to be a challenge for countries to design, implement and sustain national prevention programs that reach the populations at the greatest risk of infection.

One of the key objectives of the EU-funded Quality Action on Improving HIV Prevention in Europe was to develop a tool to help countries assess the quality of their national HIV prevention programs and identify opportunities to improve them. In this context, a national program is defined as the collection of different projects that jointly constitute the prevention response in a country. It is an aggregate of the prevention services delivered over the long term by various stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels. (In countries with a federal structure, where states, districts, counties, cities, etc. have some or all of the responsibility for HIV prevention, **Schiff** can be used to assess these integrated programs as well.)

Schiff was developed as a 'program tool' to help countries improve their national prevention programs by assessing critical program-level issues, including goals, plans, priority populations, key stakeholders, resources, monitoring and evaluation. The tool makes extensive use of data already collected by countries, including data reported to ECDC and UNAIDS.

Implementing **Schiff** is a three-stage process. The first stage hinges on collecting essential background information on the current HIV situation and prevention program. This stage can take 4-8 weeks depending on the availability of the data. This preparatory work is the basis for the second stage: a two- to three-day, highly interactive workshop where key stakeholders from government and civil society work with an external facilitator to assess inputs and set priorities. During the third stage, a report documenting the decisions made during the workshop is produced and shared with key decision-makers.

Schiff is an efficient tool for identifying and understanding the issues at the core of an effective national HIV prevention program. The findings from the application of the tool can also be used to streamline the development of a national HIV strategy and/or program.

