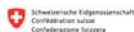


OUR PARTNERS



Quality Action

Improving HIV Prevention in Europe

Improving
Quality
in HIV
Prevention

www.qualityaction.eu



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.

www.qualityaction.eu



WHAT IS QUALITY ACTION?



Countries highlighted in green are participating in Quality Action

Quality Action is the EU co-funded Joint Action on 'Improving Quality in HIV Prevention'. Quality Action is coordinated by the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA) and brings together 25 associated and 17 collaborating partners from 25 Member States. The project started in March 2013 and will run for three years. **Quality Action** aims to increase the effectiveness of HIV prevention in Europe through the use of practical Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Improvement (QI) tools.

Quality Assurance monitors the quality of services and activities against certain standards. It usually includes review, problem identification and corrective action.

Quality Improvement identifies, implements, and evaluates strategies to increase the capacity to fulfil and exceed quality standards.

Quality Action builds a network of organisations, trainers and facilitators who can support programs and projects to improve quality.

The project trains at least 60 trainers/facilitators across the EU to use practical QA/QI tools adapted to HIV prevention, and to provide technical assistance to others using the QA/QI tools. Quality Action supports at least 80 HIV prevention programs and projects to apply QA/QI tools. Regional training workshops and coordination meetings facilitate the exchange of learning, experiences and knowledge between organisations and networks from across Europe.

Quality Action collects data and feedback from trainers and the organisations applying the QA/QI tools. Their input will be used to produce a **package of core materials** (available in different languages) to support quality improvement in HIV prevention, which will include:

- Five practical QA/QI tools, adapted to HIV prevention
- A guide on how to select the right tool for an intervention
- Training modules for each tool and an e-learning package
- Case Studies of HIV prevention projects and programs that have applied QA/QI tools

Quality Action will draft and disseminate a **Charter for Quality in HIV prevention** listing quality principles and criteria for HIV prevention and agreed to by key stakeholders.

A **Policy Kit** will provide information and resources for policy makers and strategic planners. It will include recommended policy statements and strategic actions to support quality improvement in HIV prevention.

The **Quality Action website** describes the approach, methodologies and tools for QA/QI in HIV prevention. It includes project updates and contact details for getting involved.

Quality Action contributes to the implementation of the Communication of the European Commission : 'Combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries (2009 -2013)'.



WHY QUALITY IN HIV PREVENTION?

We have not yet succeeded in eliminating HIV transmission. Rates of HIV diagnoses remain high among key populations and vary in different regions of the EU.

Overall, the number of diagnoses among MSM has increased, whereas the number of cases among people who inject drugs has decreased, although outbreaks continue to occur. The number of HIV diagnoses due to heterosexual transmission has decreased but remains significant among people from countries with generalised epidemics in some Member States (ECDC/WHO 2012).

Many factors influence the effectiveness of HIV prevention. Widely accepted interventions include: promoting accessible testing and treatment; providing access to sufficient quantities of condoms and sterile injecting equipment for harm reduction; promoting and maintaining safe sex and safe injecting practices; and addressing social determinants by ensuring human rights and reducing stigma, discrimination, poverty and criminalisation.

Currently, only a limited number of HIV prevention programs and projects include QA/QI activities, and these have not yet been consistently integrated into policies and strategic frameworks. There is, however, an increasing interest in practical tools to ensure and improve the quality of the implementation of HIV prevention across Europe.

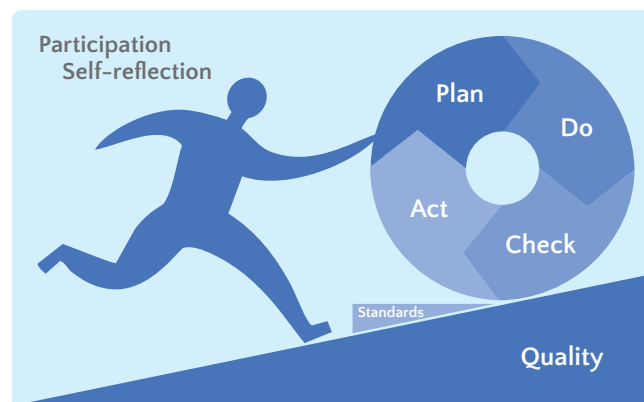
Improving quality will increase effectiveness and not only contribute to preventing new HIV infections, but also to reducing discrimination and social exclusion.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Quality Action is based on the principles of participation and self-reflection. Participation means involving as many relevant stakeholders as possible. It increases the chances of identifying improvements because no single point of view can give a complete and accurate picture of quality. Including the views and ideas of the target group is especially important.

Self-reflection is the ability to step back and examine our own work. An team environment free of blame and humiliation makes it possible to analyse and learn from failures as well as from successes.

Quality Action's practical QA/QI tools encourage and guide self-reflection and offer ways to increase stakeholder participation.



Quality can be thought of as an incline. QA/QI applies to the whole project cycle of planning, doing, checking and acting on our findings. Self-reflection and participation enable us to move up the quality scale. Although HIV prevention interventions are diverse and context-dependent, some common quality standards will emerge. These can be documented and used more widely, preventing quality from slipping when activities are interrupted, transferred or scaled up.



STRUCTURE OF QUALITY ACTION

The work of Quality Action is divided into eight work packages: three horizontal and five core strands.

→ 3 HORIZONTAL WORK PACKAGES:

Work Package 1: Coordination

WP Leader: Federal Centre for Health Education, BZgA (Germany)

BZgA is responsible for the overall management of Quality Action: coordination, financial management, problem solving and reporting to the EAHC. BZgA also convenes the Steering Group and the Advisory Group.

Work Package 2: Dissemination

WP Leader: EuroHealthNet

EuroHealthNet coordinates the dissemination activities of Quality Action. This includes the development of a visual identity, website and dissemination materials. It also entails the organisation of the Quality Action conference.

Work Package 3: Evaluation

WP Leader: Institute of Tropical Medicine (Belgium)

ITM evaluates Quality Action. It reports on the project's objectives using qualitative and quantitative methods for both process and outcome evaluation, and assesses the future potential of QA/QI for HIV prevention across Europe.

→ 5 CORE WORK PACKAGES:

Work Package 4: Tools

WP Leader: Swedish Institute for Communicable Disease Control (Sweden)

This WP develops and adapts evidence-based QA/QI tools for HIV prevention, which are tested during Quality Action. WP 4 also develops training materials for the tools as well as a user guide and translation guidelines.

Work Package 5: Capacity Building

WP Leader: Sexual Health Centre Limited (Ireland)

WP5 is responsible for developing a core QA/QI training module to complement the training on the individual tools. WP5 also coordinates the regional training workshops and develops an e-learning package.

Work Package 6: Practical Application

WP Leader: Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe (Germany)

The work of WP6 includes developing a 'participation guide', supporting projects during the application phase and collecting case studies to document lessons learnt.

Work Package 7: Quality Principles & Criteria

WP Leader: Fed. Centre for Health Education, BZgA (Germany)

WP7 develops quality principles and criteria from the results of applying QA/QI tools and produces a 'Charter for Quality in HIV Prevention'. This WP also maintains links to other EU activities and convenes a Scientific Reference Panel.

Work Package 8: Policy Development

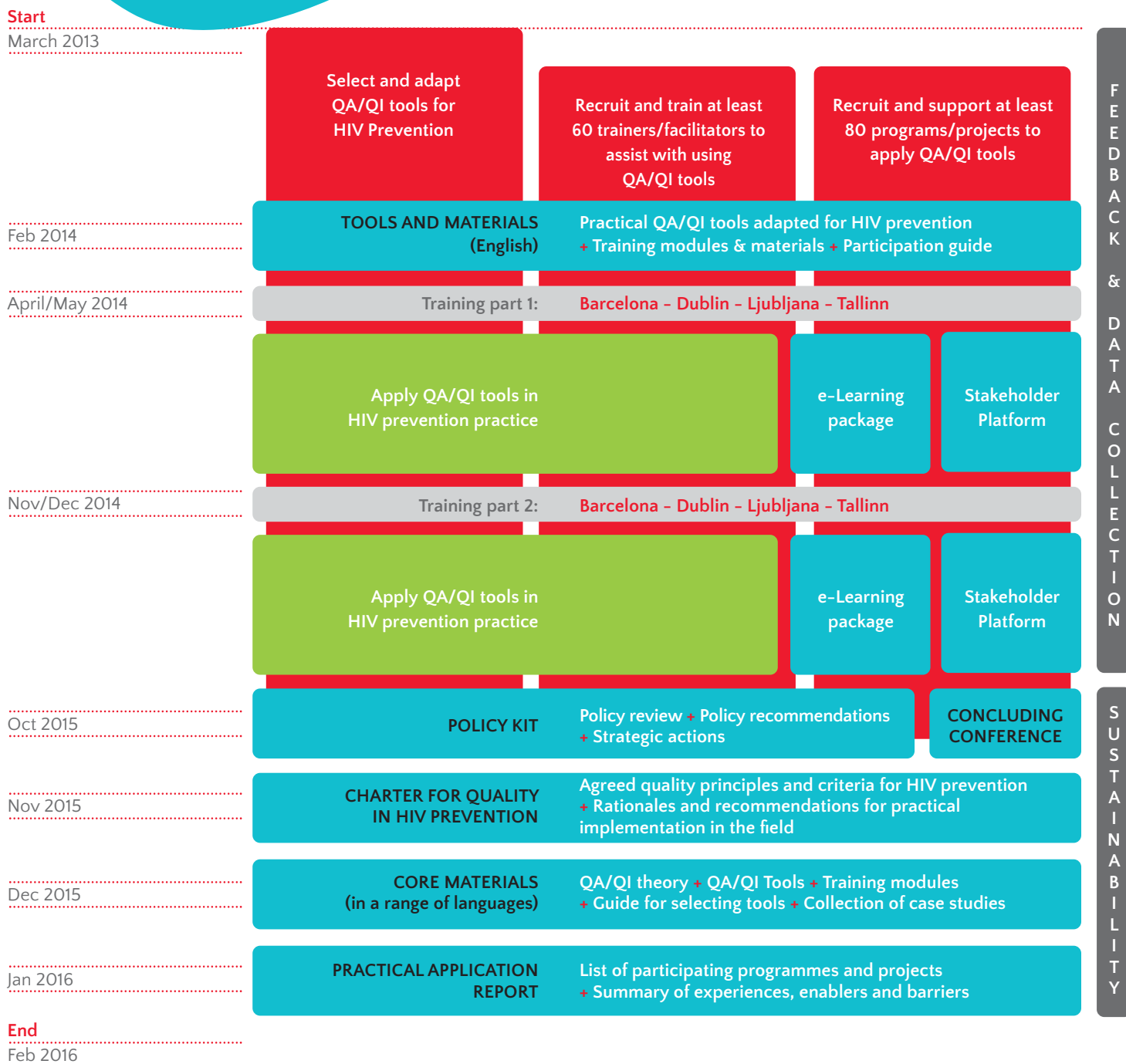
WP Leader: Public Health England (UK)

This WP coordinates advocacy activities by Quality Action partners on the topic of quality in HIV prevention and produces a 'Policy Kit' containing a set of recommended policy statements and strategic actions.



TIMELINE

The project started on 1 March 2013 and will run for three years.



FEEDBACK & DATA COLLECTION

SUSTAINABILITY

GET INVOLVED

Are you interested in applying a QA/QI tool to one of your HIV prevention programs or projects?

if so:

→ **Contact us**

carolin.vierneisel@dah.aidshilfe.de



→ **Follow us on Twitter**

twitter.com/EUQualityAction



→ **Follow us on Facebook**

facebook.com/EUQualityAction



→ **Subscribe to our Newsletter**

www.qualityaction.eu/getinvolved



For more information about Quality Action, please contact Matthias Wentzlaff-Eggebert (matthias.wentzlaff-eggebert@bzga.de) or Caren Wiegand (caren.wiegand@bzga.de)

→ 9 REASONS TO GET INVOLVED IN QUALITY ACTION

1. **Become aware** of what you are already doing well
2. **Learn about when, how and why** you are already successful (and sometimes fail)
3. **Get new ideas** on how to improve what you are doing
4. **Increase participation** and benefit from stakeholder input
5. Provide yourself with space and time to **reflect on your work** and build your team and internal communication
6. Enhance your co-workers'/employees' **work satisfaction**
7. **Build different types of evidence** that supports your HIV prevention interventions
8. **Simplify and enhance** the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of your projects and programs
9. Network with other European organisations **to make HIV prevention more effective**

