



**Hiv-Norden - Samarbetsorganet för de Nordiska
paraplyorganisationerna för hivpositiva**

HIV-Nordic - The co-operative body of the Nordic umbrella-organisations for
HIV-positive people

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Minutes Board Meeting, HIV-Nordic, 20th February 2021, Online, 8.30-12.00 UTC

Present:

Nonni Mäkikärki, HivFinland
Sini Pasanen, HivFinland
Emanuel Karlstrøm Hiv-Sverige
Simon Blom, Hiv-Sverige
Bente Bendiksen, HivNorge
Guri Fløttum, HivNorge
Einar Jonsson, HIV-Island attended at 11.45

Absent:

Helge Kvam, Hiv-Danmark
Michael Ovesen, Hiv-Danmark

1.21 Opening, election of meeting secretary and chair

Chair of meeting - Nonni Mäkikärki, HivFinland
Secretary of meeting - Bente Bendiksen, HivNorge
Opened and elected.

2.21 Approval of Agenda

Approved

3.21 Review and approval of the minutes from last Board Meeting

Approved. Updates from Sweden, Iceland and Denmark will be included, deadline
1. March.

Medlemsorganisationer/Member organisations:

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4.21 Orientation from the Nordic Countries

From all the countries, short, and also including the covid-19 situation. Deadline 1. March.

Update from HIV Iceland

- HIV Iceland annual meeting 2021 was held 23rd of February. One new board member.
- Annual candlelight Memorial Day 2020 was disposed due to Covid usually held in May.
- HIV Iceland Gay pride this year cancelled.
- World aids day. We had a little program online.
- The prevention program Year 2020 to 21, we try to have it online, not going well.
- HIV Iceland office have been closed more or less. We use Zoom meetings at the phone for meetings, counselling and educations.
- PrEP is in Iceland now free for those who are in need. Around 160 men on PrEP
- Statistics for 2020, 26 reported cases

Updates from Hiv-Sweden

- On World Aids Day we organized a webinar on the theme hiv and infectious disease in the world of narcotics.
- Together with Gilead we also published a report called “Sverige har sänkt garden mot hiv”. The report covers aging, comorbidities and takes an overarching health perspective on living a long life with hiv. The report has been distributed to member organizations and partners and was promoted with a video.
- Staffan Hildebrand has been awarded our Red Ribbon for 2020. Staffan is a well known film producer and his work in portraying the lives and stories of people living with hiv has brought awareness and a human touch to the aids-pandemic.
- During European Testing Week we printed postcards that got placed in restaurants and other public places around Stockholm, and campaigned online with generic content.
- We met with socialminister Lena Hallengren to discuss the Communicable Diseases Act and hiv, and the need to reform the law. We also discussed regional differences, the work with hiv overall and other topics.
- Our idea program has been revised, and we are working forward to create a new three-year plan.
- We have taken a seat in the steering group of InfCare Hiv (National Quality Registry for HIV)

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- During the fall we have started to highlight research, reports, surveys on our webpage and in social media, in a more concerted way to spread knowledge.
- 449 new hiv cases for the year of 2019 has been reported. Median age 38 years. 64 percent male. Over 80 percent of transmission abroad. The rising trend of MSM infected abroad continues.
- The staff were affected by illness which put a hamper on the workfor some time, but we have now pulled together and are up and running again. We are back working from the office since first week of february.

Updates from Hiv-Finland

- For World AIDS Day the Finnish WAD committee (Hiv-Finland, HivPoint, Pro-Tukipiste, Finnish Red Cross) produced learning material for teachers and school staff and a webinar on how to use the material. The subject matter consisted of facts and anti-stigma material. The material, which can be downloaded from the Red Cross material bank, was very much appreciated.
- The office has been closed since October because of a big water leakage in August. The renovation was finalized in January, but due to the covid-situation we are not organizing any group meetings at the time being.
- We have had virtual meetings with different themes ranging from positive psychology, presentation of the results of the Nordic Treatment Survey, HIV and I, the outcomes of the Chemsex project. For years we the Tuesday Café, with food and relaxed atmosphere, has been an important part of our low-threshold activities. We have tried arranging it virtually to offer members the chance to meet online, but the interest has been very faint, and we have decided not to organize the online cafés anymore. The thematic meetings seem to attract more participants. It seems like people are somewhat tired of online activities at this time of the pandemic, and so we decided also to postpone a webinar on resilience until later in the spring.
- For the next 4 months we have a trainee from the masters program in politics and communications at the University of Helsinki. We have a lot of material on criminalization etc that she can use to write articles and reports.
- Hiv-Finland has been collaborating with THL, the National Health Institute, in developing the HIV section of the Quality Register. Surveys show that PLHIV want the main focus to be on the disease and the treatment.
- We are waiting for the injectable HIV-treatment. From what we have heard it will not be prescribed to the patients that have difficulties with adherence, due to the reason that the effects of a missed injection are much more severe than the ones from skipping your pills. Ones the injectables are EU approved, they don't need separate approvals in the EU countries.

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Updates from HivNorway

- Directory of Health - evaluation on the funding of the HIV work.
- Advocacy for getting PrEP to primary health care. Funding HIV treatment was moved from the health care system (Helfo) to the hospital economy. HIV treatment, PrEP and PEP now must be prescribed by the HIV-doctors at the clinics for infectious diseases. As a result, we have long waiting lines on access to PrEP, and this is also an obstacle for getting urgent PEP. HivNorway advocate for getting this responsibility back to the primary health care.
- World Aids Day - successful digital conference. Looking ahead, on treatment, future needs of our target groups, and the Pluss Prize to Leif-Ove Hansen.
- Information evenings - on inheritance, wills and insurance, and HIV treatment and interactions.
- Research - contribution in developing the new register for HIV treatment and suggest subject for future research (e.x. on comorbidities)
- After “It’s a Sin” there has been several requests from the media on interviews, articles, documentaries on the history of HIV. And we are planning on making a documentary.
- Hearings
 - New routines on handling outbreaks on dangerous infectious diseases in prisons (HivNorway: need to define outbreak and dangerous infectious diseases, and also wait to see the experiences and learnings from Covid-19), and
 - Absolute requirements on personal identification to receive HIV treatment (HivNorway: people without valid identification papers, ex. refugees, asylum seekers, illegal migrants also have the right to access to HIV treatment)
- Information on HIV, HIV treatment, and Covid-19 in 9 languages on our website, also planning short information videos.
- Chemfriendly - invited to collaborate with the organization Sex and Society on counselling people who are active in chemsex.
- “Beslutningsform” - who approves treatment in Norway, are going to consider injectable HIV treatment as a new method of treatment for a small group of people.

5.21 Economics

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Sini will send us the economic update next week. We received from NVC 30 000 SEK for networking for 2021. In annual meeting we will decide the membership fee and we will send the membership fee invoices after annual meeting.

6.21 HIV Treatment Survey

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The report is to be finalized in a couple of weeks. The pharmaceutical companies Gilead, GSK and MSD are interested. Gilead will send a proposal on funding, and have suggested funding to advocacy documents, webinars and repeating the survey.

7.21 Application for project funding from NVC

Suggestions for projects:

Virtual youth conference

Survey repetition, including Covid-19

Repeat qualitative survey, with interviews.

The Board decided to apply NVC for funding to a Nordic virtual conference on HIV and Covid-19, to discuss qualitatively findings after the survey, including themes of covid-19. Discussion from focus groups will elaborate findings from the Nordic treatment study and discuss non-medical aspects we need to know more about, and documentation from these groups will make the foundation for further surveys on quality of life among PLWH in the Nordic countries. For this project we need project staff to analyze the study, develop questions for the focus group, collect the documentation and document the findings in a report.

The results will be presented in a webinar.

Sini, Emanuel and Simon will make a draft.

8.21 Other subjects

Emanuel will start developing the HIV-Nordic website.

9.21 Annual meeting

The Annual Meeting is scheduled to Sunday April 25. from 11. Norwegian/Swedish time. A formal notice will be sent 8 weeks prior to the meeting according to our statutes. Every member organization needs to consider a candidate for chair.

10.21 Unsolved queries, Q&A, next meeting

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