

World AIDS Day, 1 December 2021, 10:00-12:00 CET | High-level conference

## **HIV 40 years on: Time to focus now on Health-Related Quality of Life!**

**2021 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the first cases of AIDS were reported. HIV is no longer necessarily a death sentence and substantial progress has been made since 1981. However, people living with HIV still do not enjoy the same health-related quality of life (HRQoL) as the rest of the population.**

To date, the HIV pandemic has resulted in an estimated 75 million adults, adolescents and children acquiring HIV and has claimed the lives of over 32 million people worldwide. Today, with access to the right interventions, HIV infection can be suppressed, making it a manageable long-term condition rather than a fatal disease.

However, even with effective viral suppression people living with HIV experience poorer HRQoL than the rest of the population. Far from the WHO definition of health being a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, people living with HIV still find themselves facing stigma and discrimination along with the challenge of dealing with comorbidities and healthy ageing.

This event will explore the policy actions needed to enable greater emphasis on HRQoL to deliver tangible value to those living with HIV.

### **Agenda** Moderated by Jacki Davis

10:00-10:10	<p><b>Welcome remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>MEP Frédérique Ries</b>, Renew Europe Vice-President, Belgium</li> </ul>
10:10-10:15	<p><b>Raising the bar – how can health systems better be prepared to address HRQoL of people living with long-term conditions?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Stella Kyriakides</b>, EU Health Commissioner</li> </ul>
10:15-10:45	<p><b>Reflections – learning from four decades of HIV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Prof Jane Anderson</b>, HIV Outcomes Co-Chair &amp; Consultant Physician Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>▪ <b>Prof Jeffrey Lazarus</b>, HIV Outcomes Co-Chair &amp; Head of Health Systems Research Group ISGlobal, Hospital Clinic, University of Barcelona</li> <li>▪ <b>Stéphan Vernhes</b>, HIV Outcomes Steering Group Member &amp; AIDES Europe Platform Coordinator of Coalition PLUS</li> </ul>
10:45 – 11:20 panel discussion	<p><b>Policy vehicles that could be used to improve health-related quality of life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Vinay Saldanha</b>, UNAIDS Director, Regional Support Team for Eastern Europe and Central Asia</li> <li>▪ <b>MEP Cyrus Engerer</b>, S&amp;D, Malta</li> <li>▪ <b>Mario Cascio</b>, HIV Outcomes Steering Group Member &amp; EATG Quality of Life Programme Chair</li> </ul>

11:20 –  
11:55  
panel  
discussion

**Policy implementation to successfully deliver national action plans to improve health-related quality of life for people living with HIV**

- **Damiano Coleta**, City Major of Latina, representing Fast-Track Cities Europe, Italy
- **Nikos Dedes**, HIV Outcomes Co-Chair & President Positive Voice
- **Jens Ahrens**, Head of Prevention & Health Promotion Adviser, Berliner AIDS-Hilfe

11:55 –  
12:00

**Closing remarks**

- **MEP Frances Fitzgerald**, EPP, Ireland

INITIATIVE PARTNERS

OBSERVER MEMBERS



- European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS)
- European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- Fast-Track Cities
- UNAIDS
- UNITE

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