

## **Euregio-Project „EurSafety Health net“: Workpackage 4.6. - Network of Public Health services**

GGD-ÖGD meeting in the Euregio Rhein-Waal on STD

cf: [www.eursafety.eu](http://www.eursafety.eu)

### **Time and place:**

Wednesday, 21.04.2010, 2 – 4 o'clock p.m.

Office of the Euregio Rhein-Waal

Emmericher Straße 24,

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### **STD-prevention and therapy in the Euregio Rhine-Waal: cross-border problems and future perspectives?**

#### **Participants:**

Public Health services

- EurSafety-Cooperation partner: Dr. Rüdiger Rau (Kreis Wesel, ÖGD)
- GGD Nijmegen: Pushpa Hoppener, Dr. René Koene
- District of Wesel: Dana Altwasser, Dr. Helmut Waggeling
- City of Duisburg: Iris Sperg (STD-HIV-prevention), Petra Kurek (AIDS-Hilfe Duisburg / Kreis Wesel e.V.)

Federal institute for health and work in NRW- LIGA: Dr. Susanne Kuttner-May (STD/HIV-prevention)

#### **Apologies for absence were received from:**

EurSafety-Project partner (EurCoo): Andrea Eikelenboom, Prof. Andreas Voss - (Nimwegen, Canisius- Wilhelminus-hospital)

Federal institute for health and work in NRW- LIGA: Dr. Inka Daniels-Haardt (Dpt. Health protection and reporting, EurSafety WP-leader 4.6.), Dr. Katja Peters (Academy of Public Health in Düsseldorf, WP 4.6.)

District of Kleve: Dr. Martina Scherbaum (ÖGD)

City of Duisburg: Dr. W. Büchel (ÖGD)

## Agenda

### 1. Getting to know each other: short presentation of participants

#### GGD (Gemeentelijke gezondheidsdienst)

##### *Nijmegen*

Pushpa Hoppener is a Public Health nurse (sociaal verpleegkundige) taking care of prostitutes and clients. Topically she is involved in an innovative project aiming at sexual education of teenagers and twens (< 25 years) => [www.sense.info](http://www.sense.info)

René Koene is medical doctor and mainly responsible for the prevention and control of infectious diseases, and involved in the prevention and control of STD in the Nijmegen region. He encouraged the Dutch-German “STD-meeting” since he observes more and more STI in Dutch men, who visited “red light locations/clubs” in the German part of the Euregio Rhine-Waal.

#### ÖGD (Öffentlicher Gesundheitsdienst)

##### *Duisburg*

Iris Sperg is a social worker with the Public Health service of the city of Duisburg (Gesundheitsamt). She is informing and advising prostitutes with respect to disease prevention, both visiting and receiving help seeking women.

##### *Duisburg/Kreis Wesel*

Petra Kurek is working with the “AIDS-Hilfe Duisburg/Kreis Wesel”, institute for sexual health promotion. She is mainly accompanying and advising street walking women (Straßenstrich).

##### *Kreis Wesel*

Dr. Helmut Waggeling is medical doctor with the department “infectious disease control” of the Public Health service in the district of Wesel (Fachbereich Gesundheitswesen). He is mainly responsible for STD and HIV prevention, health care and community information.

Dana Altwasser is assisting Dr. Waggeling by, for instance, contacting clubs and brothels (G.: Bordelle) in order to advise and inform women working there.

Dr. Rüdiger Rau is medical doctor, specialized in Public Health, and he is responsible for the district health conference (analysis, planning, project management) and health reporting.

##### *LIGA NRW (Federal Institute for Health and Work)*

Susanne Kuttner-May is microbiologist and responsible for the department HIV/STD with the LIGA in Northrhine-Westfalia (NRW). LIGA assists all 54 communal Public Health services in NRW by p. e. epidemiologic data, coordination and information.

##### *Office of the Euregio Rhine-Waal*

Thea Remers oversees all health-related projects and initiatives in the Euregio RW and she offers advice and assistance to this work group in case of future common projects.

## **2. GGD: organization and tasks in General and with respect to STD**

René Koene presents figures on STD-epidemiology, working structure of the GGD and main problems in the Nijmegen region (details see ppt-presentation in the attachment).

From his point of view, the main problems (that might be tackled in future Dutch-German collaboration) are:

- Men having sex with men (MSM),
- Swinger clubs
- Addressing target groups effectively
- Cross border problems (arising, for instance, from the fact, that there are German clubs or brothels, which advertise services without any protection, i. e. condoms.)

Pushpa Hoppener outlines her work and explains, that she goes to clubs and offers medical tests and advice on site.

## **3. ÖGD in NRW: organization and tasks in General and with respect to STD**

Rüdiger Rau presents the German health system shortly. One major difference between the Dutch and the German health care system is the number of hospitals: while in the Netherlands there are about 40-50 (?) hospitals for 16,5 million inhabitants, NRW has about 450 hospitals for about 17.9 million people.

Susanne Kuttner May explains the organization and tasks of the ÖGD with respect to STD in NRW and describes the epidemiology of STD (see ppt-file in the attachment). She addresses 3 main problems from her point of view:

- large differences in structures and performance between municipalities and districts in NRW, diagnosis of STDs is in general not free of charge
- notification is anonymous, thus there is no way of any direct intervention or contact tracing,
- networking, and collaboration concerning STD between ÖGD, hospitals, and outpatient sector is not consistently satisfying in all regions

Iris SpERG describes her work in general and the situation of prostitution in Duisburg (see attachment). During the last few years there has been a “boom” in prostitution: along the so called “Vulkanstrasse”, for example, the number of rooms rose from 120 in 1994 to 439 in the year 2010!

Petra Kurek presents her work and tasks with the AIDS-Hilfe; among other things, she explains that the AIDS-Hilfe also offers projects of health education at schools.

Dana Altwasser and Helmut Waggeling outline the work and problems in the Wesel district. One problem is to address prostitutes in clubs adequately. It is underlined, that advice and testing (Hepatitis B and C, HIV...) is being offered on a voluntary and anonymous basis only.

#### **4. Discussion**

In summary, all participants of the GGD/ÖGD-meeting see a need for and clear benefit in working together across the border in the field of STD-prevention and health care.

It is generally agreed, that the first step should be to write a Dutch-German health report on "STD in the Euregio RW" for both medical staff and decision makers in health policy. For this purpose data, facts and figures, which already exist, should be compiled and commented. Secondly, trends and common challenges should be described and thirdly, recommendations for intervention might be formulated.

Common challenges are:

- ⇒ How to address target groups effectively (p. e. "MSM", swinger clubs)?
- ⇒ Surveillance of sex workers?!