



OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE Public Health Program

Access to Essential Medicines

Seminar

Access to Essential Medicines in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

General Info and Program

Vilnius, Lithuania

September 8 – 11, 2010.

Seminar Overview

Name	Access to Essential Medicines in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Goals	<p>Gain better knowledge and skills for developing and running national campaigns for access to essential medicines (including lower drug prices and raising public funds nationally) in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia; and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share experiences and best practices of current initiatives for access to medicines and hepatitis C treatment; 2. Make recommendations on grant financing and technical assistance for 2011 as part of the initiative “Assess to Essential Medicines” and other OSI programs.
Expected outcome	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The main participant group will be educated on price reduction strategies and policies on essential (crucial) medications, as well as learn of the role civil activists play in this process; 2. Using the new knowledge acquired during the seminar, at least four countries or project teams will prepare good quality advocacy plans for 2011, integrate them into their grant applications and receive support from the OSI; 3. Needs for technical assistance and regional cooperation will be determined in order to promote the drive for better access to medicines in the region; 4. The seminar’s final report and materials will be distributed to primary mailing lists as well as by seminar participants among members of their respective organizations.
Participants	40 participants from among grantors of OSI's “Access to Medicines” initiative; human rights, harm reduction, HIV prevention, etc. activists working nationally or regionally and personnel of the Public Health Program and other programs of the national fund network of the Soros Foundation. All of them are involved with or interested in the issues of hepatitis C, HIV and/or transparency of the essential medicines list, purchasing and supply of medications or ways to take advantage of flexible provisions in intellectual property law for improving access to medications. Most widely represented countries will include Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Ukraine.
Methodology	Methodology of the participants’ proactive position at plenary sessions and group meetings; most events will be based on the work experience and achievements of the participants themselves, with illustrations from daily goings-on of the region’s countries.
Documents to be prepared for the meeting	<p>Please review documents from different countries and inquire of your colleagues’ practices on such issues as: national lists of new essential (crucial) medicines, strategies for and examples of achieving lower prices for medicines and costs of hepatitis C medications.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution of the World Health Association on viral hepatitis (WHA63.18) 2. How and why to include hepatitis C in the application to the Global Fund. 3. Medications: Essential List, Information Bulletin of the WHO, No. 325 4. Learning about intellectual property, trade and access to medicines (from the book APN+) 5. Terms and abbreviations related to access to medicines and intellectual property law 6. Sample advocacy action plan for access to ART medications in Latvia (HIV.LV Association)
Venue	Holiday Inn Vilnius, address: Seimyniskiu 1, Vilnius, Lithuania; Telephon.. +370 (5) 210 3000, www.holidayinnvilnius.lt
Duration	4 days
Daily schedule	9:00 am – 5:30 pm

Agenda

Time	Day 1, September 8	Day 2, September 9	Day 3, September 10	Day 4, September 11
9:00 am – 9:40 am	Opening comments and introductions. (Raminta, Shona, Konstantin) Introductions (Roxana)	Agenda for the day [Raminta]	Agenda for the day [Shona]	Clinics, and meetings with OSI staff
9.40 am - 10.30 am	1. Access to medicines and this seminar [Raminta] What is access to medicines: <i>Raminta, PPT</i> Program and expected outcome	6. Why Medicines are So Expensive [Konstantin] Arguments and myths. ART price dynamics worldwide: <i>Shona, PPT</i> ART prices in Ukraine: <i>Константин, PPT</i> Q&A, reactions	10. The Role of Civil Society – Procuring ART Medications With and Without Help from the Global Fund [Shona] Country discussions. Plenary session results. Latvian experience. <i>Alexandris, PPT</i>	
10.30 am- 11.15 am	2. National Advocacy Strategies for Access to Treatment of Hepatitis C [Raminta] Kyrgyzstan: <i>Aibar, PPT</i> Georgia: <i>Ketevan and Nino, PPT</i> Ukraine: <i>Tanya, PPT.</i>	7. Legal Venues for Overcoming Patent Protection and Ensuring Affordability of Medicines [Boyan + Konstantin] Overview: <i>Boyan, PPT</i> Settlement and opportunities in Kyrgyzstan: <i>Ulan, PPT</i>	11. Developing an Advocacy Action Plan. [Shona] Presenting the objective. Working in break out groups (4 country groups and one regional group on EECAAC and communication)	
11.15 am- 11.45 am	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
11.45 am – 1:00 pm	3. Regional and Global Advocacy Strategies for Combating Hepatitis C [Raminta] ECCB: <i>Asta, PPT</i> Global: <i>Raminta, PPT</i> Results of sessions 2+3, general discussion	Session 7 continued An example from Ukraine: access to medicines and IP group: <i>Victoria, PPT</i>	Session 11 continued [Shona] Break out groups	Clinics, and meetings with OSI staff
1:00 pm -2:00 pm	Lunch, Hotel Restaurant (1 st floor)	Lunch, Hotel Restaurant	Lunch, Hotel Restaurant	Lunch, Hotel Restaurant
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	4. How National Funding is Allocated for Purchasing Medications: Essential Medicine Lists (EML), etc. [Shona and Raminta] EML principles: <i>Nata, PPT</i> Formulary in Kazakhstan: <i>Alexander, PPT</i> Reimbursement system in Latvia: <i>Alexandris, PPT</i> General discussion	Session 7 continued Situation in Kazakhstan: <i>AseI, PPT</i>	Session 11 continued [Шона] Presenting results of discussions in break out groups. Sharing recommendations by colleagues from different countries	12. Summarizing results from the clinics [Raminta]
		8. Other Strategies for Price Reduction: Government Controls, Joint Purchasing, Parallel Import, Negotiations [Konstantin] Panel Discussion		13. Main components to improve access. Mobilizing communities. [Shona and Konstantin] Panel discussion.
3.30 pm - 4.00 pm	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
4.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Session 4 continued	9. How the Issues of Funding and Price Reduction are Connected [Konstantin] Discussion.	Concluding comments and presentations from clinics [Shona]	14. Evaluation, next steps [Raminta] Needs assessment, technical agencies and donors. Assistance and training. Resolution. Следующие шаги и помощь ИОО: <i>Roxana</i> Evaluation and certificates.
4.30 pm -5.25 pm	5. Hepatitis C Medications in EMLs and Reimbursable Drug Lists [Shona and Raminta] Basic facts about treatment: <i>Konstantin, PPT</i> General Discussion	10. The Role of Civil Society Transparency: <i>Rakhima, PPT</i> Discussion of the issues of community and access to generic medicines advocacy	Clinics and meetings with OSI staff 1. IP: <i>Boyan</i> 2. Regional efforts: <i>Shona and Sergey</i> 3. Conflict of interests: <i>Aida and Nata</i> 4. Advocacy and technical assistance: <i>IKonstantin</i> Scheduling meetings with OSI staff, to be continued	
5.25 pm -5.30 pm	Concluding comments [Raminta]	Concluding comments [Konstantin]		