

Charter for Quality in HIV Prevention

While there has been some progress made in recent years, HIV prevention continues to play a crucial role in combating the HIV epidemic. To reinforce the effectiveness of HIV prevention within the European Region, Quality Improvement is essential.

Quality improvement consists of systematic and continuous actions that lead to measurable improvements. Quality Action, the EU co-funded Joint Action on Improving Quality in HIV Prevention, promotes evidence and knowledge based quality improvement tools for HIV prevention.

This Charter states the principles and criteria for quality in HIV prevention and calls on stakeholders to support and apply quality improvement. Not only must approaches, interventions and methods for HIV prevention be appropriate to the situation they address, they must be carried out at a high level of quality to maximise effectiveness.

High quality and successful HIV prevention strategies and interventions require substantial and adequate funding and resources.

In the framework of this Charter we affirm our commitment to the following principles:

Self-reflection We reflect on our own work as a prerequisite for learning. As learning organisations we encourage professional growth and continuous improvement.	Participation and Collaboration We foster strong partnerships and collaborations with all our stakeholders, especially priority populations, to achieve positive and lasting change.
Transparency We act with integrity, honesty and accountability to build trust.	Innovation We promote new ideas, evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence within our projects, organisations and amongst our stakeholders.
Passion and commitment We are passionate about quality and will use our enthusiasm to inspire change, innovation, learning and improvement.	Supportive environments We promote supportive environments, where self-directed quality improvement can be conducted without fear of consequences and where mistakes are seen as opportunities for learning.

Through testing, adapting and implementing practical tools for quality improvement, Quality Action has generated added value for organisations and prevention settings across the diverse economic and political contexts in which HIV prevention takes place.

The project has successfully trained a range of prevention stakeholders resulting in increased knowledge and confidence to apply quality improvement in practice. The following quality criteria for HIV prevention emerge from a review of tools and literature as well as qualitative and quantitative evaluation of practical applications of quality improvement tools carried out by project partners.



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.

We acknowledge these key quality criteria for all phases of prevention work:



Based on the above principles and criteria, we aim to increasingly integrate the following actions into our work:

At the project/programme level, we will select suitable quality improvement tools, apply tools regularly to all phases of the project cycle and involve stakeholders - especially key populations – as well as document, share and act on the results.

At the organisational level, we will further integrate quality improvement into organisational structures and processes by allocating time and resources to regular quality improvement, training staff, providing access to expert networks, reviewing learning from quality improvement at the organisational level and creating a supportive environment for reflection and learning.

At the policy level, we will further integrate quality improvement into policies, strategies and action plans. We will promote quality improvement activities as standard practice and support networks by providing opportunities and resources for regular capacity building and exchange of results and learning in quality improvement.

This Charter was created by the representatives of Quality Action. You can support it by becoming a signatory as an organisation or as an individual at www.qualityaction.eu.