

Advancing equitable, person-centred HIV prevention and care in Europe – a World Health Summit side event

Date: Sunday, 11 October 2026

Time: 11:00 – 12:30 CEST

Programme

Topic	Speaker
Opening remarks	Birgit Poniatowski , IAS, Switzerland
The state of PrEP in Europe: AIDS Action Europe Report 2026	Nina Tumanyan , AIDS Action Europe, Germany
HIV prevention and PrEP implementation strategies in the Republic of Serbia	Maja Stošić , Institute of Public Health of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut", Republic of Serbia
Community partnerships delivering on equitable, person-centred HIV prevention in the Republic of Serbia	Miloš Perić , PRIMUS, Republic of Serbia
Enabling supportive policy environments through strategic financing – The Global Fund's approach in Europe	Olga Avdeeva , The Global Fund, Switzerland
Sustaining HIV care and support in Ukraine: A model of integrated, state-coordinated community-based services	Liudmyla Legkostup , Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Ukraine
European policy reform priorities and community-led initiatives to support migrant populations	To be confirmed
Discussion	Moderated by Birgit Poniatowski
Key takeaways and next steps	Marlène Bras , IAS, Switzerland

Speaker bios



Birgit Poniatowski is the Executive Director of IAS – the International AIDS Society – and was appointed in November 2020. This followed more than five years at the organization, leading an expanding team responsible for resource mobilization, sustainable partnerships across diverse sectors and key strategic initiatives. She has more than 20 years of public health and international development experience. Before joining the IAS, Birgit was the Director for Investment and Partnerships at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. Earlier, she managed partnerships and supported the

alliance's multi-stakeholder governance processes at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Birgit was educated at Bonn and Heidelberg Universities in Germany and International Christian University in Tokyo, Japan. She holds a PhD from Heidelberg University.



Liudmyla Legkostup is the National Coordinator for HIV Prevention, Care and Support Programmes at the State Institution "Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine". Her work focuses on shaping national HIV policies and service delivery systems, providing strategic coordination of programmes for key populations and people living with HIV. She contributes to developing legislation, clinical guidelines and service standards, aligning healthcare and community providers across the HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care continuum. She has contributed to integrating HIV prevention, care

and support into government-funded national programmes and developing mechanisms for financing and delivering these services through non-governmental organizations. She holds Master's degrees in biology and healthcare management and completed a Fogarty International Fellowship at the University at the Albany School of Public Health. She has authored and co-authored publications on HIV and public health.



Maja Stošić is a physician, epidemiologist and public health expert with over 20 years of experience in infectious disease epidemiology, public health programme development and health systems strengthening. She is affiliated with the Institute of Public Health of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanović Batut" and currently serves as Manager of the Global Fund HIV Grant in Serbia, leading the implementation of the national programme, "Maintaining Low HIV Prevalence in Serbia". Her professional expertise encompasses tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS, vaccine-preventable diseases, epidemiological surveillance, antimicrobial resistance, monitoring and

evaluation, and evidence-informed public health policy. She has extensive experience working with the World Health Organization, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the Global Fund and other international partners, serving as a national coordinator, technical expert and consultant on complex health programmes. She is an author and co-author of numerous scientific publications and actively contributes to strengthening evidence-based public health practice, policy and international collaboration.



Marlène Bras is the Director, HIV Programmes and Advocacy of IAS – the International AIDS Society – and the Executive Editor of the *Journal of the International AIDS Society* (JIAS). She has more than 12 years of experience in public health, research and management in the HIV field. A basic scientist by training, Marlène has worked across HIV disciplines from basic and clinical sciences to behavioural, epidemiology and implementation sciences. Marlène joined the IAS in 2014, where she assumed roles of increasing responsibility. Under her leadership, JIAS tripled its submission rate

and established itself as the second-highest ranked of all HIV-specific journals since 2017. Marlène has been in a senior leadership position at the IAS since 2019 and has overseen the implementation science portfolio of the HIV Programmes and Advocacy department since 2021. She has created and facilitated more than 20 workshops on scientific writing and ethics in publishing in professional fora, both in-country (Australia, Canada, France, Ghana, Mexico, the Netherlands, Rwanda and South Africa) and virtually. She was trained at the Pasteur Institute (France) and holds a PhD in cellular biology from the Pierre and Marie Curie University (Paris VI, France).



Miloš Perić is a Program Coordinator at PRIMUS – Center for the Development of Preventive Intersectoral Services – and Co-Founder of CheckPoint Belgrade. He has been involved in the HIV response, health and human rights for more than 15 years, with experience in HIV prevention, community-based services, counselling, advocacy, training and project management. Miloš is a certified voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) counsellor, chemsex counsellor and trainer of trainers. At CheckPoint Belgrade, he provides person-centred HIV prevention, testing, counselling and support, focusing on

making services more accessible and responsive to people's individual needs. He has coordinated more than 10 projects, including at the European level, and served as a team leader in national HIV prevalence research among key populations in Serbia in 2010, 2013 and 2021. His recent work, supported by the International AIDS Society, has focused on improving access to PrEP beyond CheckPoint Belgrade through strengthening VCT counsellors' capacity and promoting person-centred PrEP services.



Nina Tumanyan is a Project Manager at AIDS Action Europe, a network of more than 170 community-led HIV service organizations across Europe. She works on policy and advocacy, including access to PrEP, coordinates the European HIV Legal Forum, and leads capacity building across the network on chemsex and harm reduction. She holds a Master's in human rights from the University of Vienna and a Master of Public Health from the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences.



Olga Avdeeva is a Fund Portfolio Manager at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, where she leads country portfolios and strategic investments in eastern Europe and central Asia. She works with governments and partners to improve HIV, tuberculosis and malaria outcomes, strengthen health systems and advance sustainable national responses. Since joining the Global Fund in 2009, her work has spanned portfolio leadership, strategic investment, performance and impact and sustainability and transition. She worked with the World Health Organization and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies on health systems policy and reform and managed health sector projects at the World Bank. She has also advised UNAIDS and governments on priority setting and the effective use of health resources. A health economist and public health specialist, her interests centre on how countries translate health investments into better outcomes and sustain those gains as they assume greater financial and institutional responsibility for their national responses



The Person-Centred Care programme of IAS – the International AIDS Society – is implemented with financial support from, and in collaboration with, Gilead Sciences. The IAS has full control over all the activities and decisions relating to, and forming part of, the Person-Centred Care programme.