



Quality Action CASE STUDY

1. Name and country of the organisation

(Please state the name and the country of the organisation that implemented this practical application of a QA/QI tool as part of Quality Action. We do not publish this information unless you agree. You can remain anonymous by adjusting the settings at the end of this form.)

Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP), Thessaloniki Office, Greece.

2. Authors of the case study and contact details

(Please provide then name of the author(s) of this case study and any contact names, Email address or websites where readers can access more information about this practical application of a QA/QI tool.)

Fani Gkoma, Head of HCDCP Thessaloniki Office, Counselling Psychologist, email: keelpno.thess@keelpno.gr

Sofia Chalkidou, Health Psychologist, HCDCP, Thessaloniki Office, email: keelpno.thess@keelpno.gr

3. External support (facilitators/partners/technical assistance)

(Please list the names of other organisations and/or people who were involved in this practical application of a QA/QI tool, e.g. project partners, technical assistance, external stakeholders etc..)

Vasileia Konte, HCDCP, Athens.

Partners in tool application: HOMOPHONIA -Thessaloniki Pride, which is a local collective aiming to empower people from the LGBT community and help them to expression themselves freely.

4. Project/programme

(Please briefly describe the project/programme to which you applied the tool.)

The tool was applied in the preliminary phase as well as during the sessions of a psychoeducational group targeted to men who have sex with men, including HIV seropositive people.

The overall goal of the project is to empower individuals in order to help them deal with their life situation and the problems they face. In our case, the main goal is to empower them to negotiate safe sexual behaviour.

The planning phase included two meetings with six representatives from HOMOPHONIA -Thessaloniki Pride and people who attend the psychosocial services of HCDCP, Thessaloniki Office as well as the AIDS UNIT of AXEPA Hospital and other AIDS UNITS in Athens and Thessaloniki, Greece.

Each meeting had a duration of three hours with two facilitators/coordinators.

5. Goals/aims of applying the QA/QI tool

(Please list the goals you wanted to achieve with the practical application of the tool.)

The main goal of applying the tool was to involve the target population in the design and implementation of a psychoeducational group in order to:

1. Present the need for a psychoeducational group (this was something that had emerged from face to face sessions) to representatives of HOMOPHONIA -Thessaloniki Pride.
2. Design an effective advertisement for the psychoeducational group.
3. Initiate a psychoeducational group for people from the LGBT community.

6. Tool and methodology used

(Please indicate which of the five tools you used (Succeed, QIP, PQD, PIQA, Schiff) and briefly sketch out the steps and measures of how you applied it.)

The PQD tool was applied.

During the planning phase, the PQD methods used were the Focus Group and Open Space. During the two preliminary meetings, the focus groups had to discuss and find ways of approaching gay men and transgender people to become participants in the psychoeducational group.

During the meeting, at the venue used by HOMOPHONIA -Thessaloniki Pride, the method used was Open Space.

During the psychoeducational group sessions, the main method used was Focus Groups.

7. Results and benefits of applying the QA/QI tool

(Please describe what resulted from applying the tool and if and how your project/programme benefitted.)

The results were the following:

1. The decision to organise an open meeting, at the venue used by HOMOPHONIA -Thessaloniki Pride, with the following theme: "Everything you would like to know about HIV but you never asked " during which the psychoeducational group was going to be advertised.
2. The advertisement both of the meeting and the psychoeducational group on the Internet and on local radio stations.
3. The development of two posters promoting both the meeting and the psychoeducational group.
4. The meeting about HIV at the venue used by HOMOPHONIA -Thessaloniki Pride on 25th November 2014.
5. The initiation of the psychoeducational group sessions with 15 participants. Eleven (11) sessions had already been implemented by the end of March. A quality assessment has indicated positive responses from participants and recommended the continuation of the sessions.
6. Between April and 9th June, 11 additional sessions were conducted. Quantitative and qualitative assessment indicated positive responses from participants and their willingness to have group meetings monthly.
7. All of the meetings brought to the surface the issues that are of great concern for men who have sex with men, particularly their need to share their thoughts and concerns with people of the same sexual orientation.
8. People met and got acquainted with other people with the same needs and concerns.

8. Recommendations

(Please describe the lessons learnt from positive and negative experiences during the process of using the tool itself and about the quality of projects/programmes like yours.)

Lessons learnt during the process of using the tool itself:

PQD is a tool that requires the active involvement and participation of the target group along with other stakeholders during all the phases of a project.

It was very helpful in learning what had gone wrong and what had gone well, thus helping to make improvements and changes.

There was clear and good communication between the members of the group.

There was an increase in work satisfaction for the facilitators of the group.

There is a great interest from other NGO's to apply PQD.

Positive results from the project:

One third of the people who attend the psychoeducational group were actively involved in the process of its development from the beginning.

The group members decided to continue sessions on a monthly basis from September.

Some people had reservations about participating in a such group due to their fear of their confidentiality being breached in relation to HIV matters. However, many have changed their minds and a second group is going to start in September, including individuals from other NGO's and collectives.

It was a great opportunity for people to meet knew persons with similar needs, concerns and interests.

Please indicate how you want this case study to be published:

- ☒ *I want this case study to be published mentioning the names of countries, organisations, people and contact details/websites in the text above.*
- ☐ *I want this case study to be published anonymously, meaning that names of countries, organisations, people and contact details/websites in the text above will be removed by the editors before publishing.*
- ☐ *I want this case study to be published without mentioning people's names, meaning that names of people in the text above will be removed by the editors before publishing, but names of organisations and countries as well as website addresses will remain.*