Quality Action
Improving HIV Prevention in Europe

**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 We do not publish this information unless you agree.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).*

National Insitute for Infectious Diseases "Lazzaro Spallanzani" - IRCCS [Scientific Reasearch and Assistance Institute] – Rome, Italy

## 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).*

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## 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..).*

Project Team
Giuseppe Ippolito, Enrico Girardi, Paola Scognamiglio, Giacomina Chiaradia (National Institute for Infectious Diseases "Lazzaro Spallanzani", Rome Italy)
Partners:
Antonella Camposeragna and Maria Stagnitta (Coordinamento Nazionale Comunità di Accoglienza - CNCA, Rome)
Daniela Lorenzetti (Associazione Nazionale Lotta contro l'AIDS - ANLAIDS, Rome)
Massimo Oldrini (Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l'Aids - LILA, Milano)
Laura Rancilio (Caritas Ambrosiana, Milano)
Emidio Albertini (Omphalos Arcigay Arcilesbica, Perugia)
Massimo Farinella (Circolo di Cultura Omosessuale Mario Mieli, Rome )

## 4. Project/Programme and key population/target group addressed

*(Please describe the project/programme to which you applied the tool and the key population/target group addressed).*

We utilized QIP during the first phase of the project "Evaluation of the offer of rapid HIV tests in areas frequented by vulnerable populations at high risk of infection". The project aims to assess the feasibility and acceptability of HIV tests on oral fluid samples in contexts where it is possible to reach vulnerable population groups at high risk of infection. The project's target populations are key affected groups and/or groups that find it difficult to access HIV screening, including MSM sex workers in saunas and cruising areas, drug users, sex workers and their customers in other locations. The settings identified for the study are: a) gay saunas; b) indoor or outdoor cruising areas; c) "red light" districts; d) areas in which recreational and psychoactive drugs are sold/used. All adults aged >18 who go in the selected settings during the study period will be offered rapid HIV tests on oral fluid samples, as well as pre-post test counselling. The decision of testing is a voluntary choice. During post-test counselling, people receiving a reactive test result will be invited to access a hospital for a confirmatory blood test. A support person will assist people with a reactive test to access health services.

## 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 objective that led us to apply QIP to the project was to have an external review and feedback on its strengths and weaknesses. The project was still in the implementation phase and it would have been possible to receive useful tips for its continuation.

## 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 motivation for the use of QIP is to be found in the versatility of the instrument (which can be used both to evaluate the project in the final phase as well as during its implementation) but also in the need to meet the request linked to the QIP training workshop in Ljubljana. The added value of this tool is given by the external feedback of three independent reviewers who are experts in prevention projects in the field of HIV. Such expert feedback would have allowed for improvements during the later stages of the project.
The steps for the application of the instrument were as follows: after the project managers had approved the application of QIP, the project team leaders were involved in contacting via e-mail all relevant associations that had been working with the target groups and in motivating them to answer the questions in the QIP questionnaire. They were requested to to give information concerning: 3. Target groups (beneficiaries, Intermediaries); 5. Planning, preparing and adapting the project; 6. Participating Personnel and Stakeholders; 7. Addressing target groups: Communication and prevention methods; 8. Process design of the project; 9. Measuring success; 10. Participation; 11. Ongoing service, program and organisational Development. They could undertake this task by themselves or with other colleagues/members involved in delivering testing services to the same target groups. In fact, in one case a Skype conference call was organized among those involved in offering rapid tests to MSM.
The project management team completed the following information in the QIP form: 1. General information about the project; 2. Situation analysis and needs assessment; 4. Objectives of the project; in addition, they monitored and supervised the entire process.
In total, 7 questionnaires were completed (2 by the project managers and 5 by the project team). They were combined into a single questionnaire which, after a final review, was sent to the external reviewers through the online platform.

## 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 feedback sent by the external reviewers has been very helpful in understanding what the strengths and weaknesses of the project are. The project has met with substantial approval in the structure and logic in the process of situation analysis.
The tips have been helpful and are sure to contribute to design and develop future quality projects on the offer of rapid tests in non-conventional settings.

## 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).*

The application of the QIP instrument reached the desired outcome with respect to the need for an analysis of the project performed by external reviewers The difficulties encountered concern the impossibility of physically gathering all the stakeholders involved in the project. We missed the chance of having a joint and enriching discussion on the occasion of the compilation of the questionnaire, which could have benefited from a more participatory process in order to become the result of real consensus.

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