

# The Join In Circuit Goes Global

## New Methods of AIDS-Prevention



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Dr. Assia Brandrup-Lukanow  
Director, Division of Health, Education and  
Social Protection (GTZ)

Prevention works! Plus national AIDS prevention strategies can be supported effectively and efficiently by the Join In Circuit. This is the main experience which we, the Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung (BZgA) (Federal Centre for Health Education) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), can pass on from our joint model projects.

The AIDS pandemic has been spreading worldwide for over 20 years and is currently one of the biggest dangers in many areas of the world, particularly developing countries. The BZgA and the GTZ have been working closely together on AIDS prevention for three years. We have included five countries in a pilot phase of the model project, adapting the BZgA's Join In Circuit: Ethiopia, El Salvador, Mongolia, Mozambique and the Russian Federation. The countries differ greatly from one another in language, culture, religion, ethnic background and in their differing openness towards sexual awareness.

That's why we are proud of the result of our collaboration: The Join In Circuit works in all pilot countries - thanks to responsible adaption. By passing on the concept and the standards of quality of the original BZgA Join In Circuit, we are once more facing up to our responsibilities for a healthy world: Healthy children, healthy adults and healthy families are our aim!



Dr. Elisabeth Pott  
Director of the Federal Centre for Health  
Education (BZgA)

In the globalised world, with its open borders, Aids prevention can no longer be thought of for one country in isolation, but must be tackled by worldwide cooperation. There is a search for innovative and effective concepts. With the Join In Circuit we have an extraordinary tool with which we can justifiably claim: New methods of AIDS prevention - The Join In Circuit works all around the world!

The example shows how, with mutual effort, a proven project can be successful in other countries. This wouldn't be possible without the committed cooperation of many people locally, above all the partners. We thank everybody for that.

For those interested, there is now a service pack available (film, handbook, information brochure), as well as a network of experts who can advise on the development and adaptation of further Join In Circuit campaigns. We recommend the use of the model with all its quality standards to all those who are interested, to ensure the effectiveness of the Join In Circuit to develop fully.

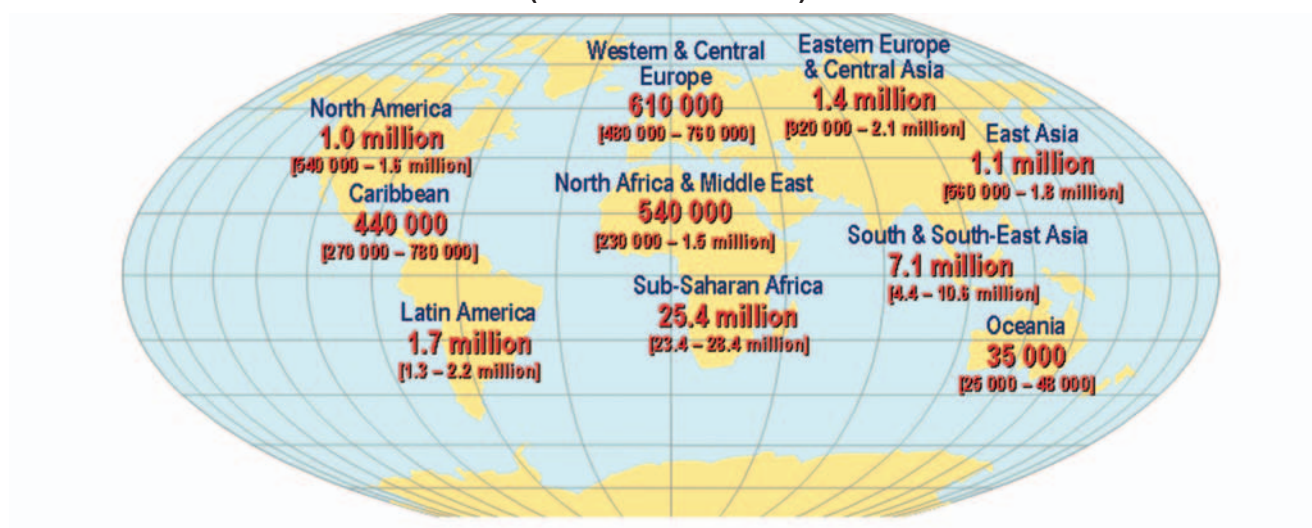
# 1. THE PROBLEM IS DRAMATIC

The number of HIV infections<sup>1</sup>, AIDS incidents<sup>2</sup> and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) has been rising dramatically worldwide for years. The epidemic has long since become a pandemic. Despite all medical breakthroughs, AIDS is still incurable and as a rule leads to death. Urgent action must be taken, not only on moral and humanitarian grounds. AIDS has already become one of the major constraints to development in many countries.

Up to now about 31 million people have died from HIV/AIDS. Many people have been affected by the epidemic through family and friends. The consequences of HIV/AIDS in those countries most affected are disastrous. Families become impoverished as the middle generation are those most likely to die of AIDS. Because of that HIV/AIDS also affects education and the economy.

The regions of sub-Saharan Africa as well as south and south east Asia are most severely affected. The number of infections in 2004 is particularly alarming. A nine-fold rise has been recorded in less than 10 years. In eastern Europe and central Asia the infection rates at the moment are not very high, but have been rising dramatically in the last few years. Due to this development and open borders, a rapid rise in infection rates is also predicted for western Europe before long.

**Adults and children with AIDS in 2004**  
(Estimate : UNAIDS)



**Total: 39,4 (35,9 - 44,3) million**

<sup>1</sup> Infection with human immunodeficiency virus

<sup>2</sup> The acronym AIDS stand for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrom, which results from HIV infection. AIDS does not generally break out until several years after the original infection.



# 1. THE PROBLEM IS DRAMATIC

## Young people: A chance for AIDS prevention<sup>3</sup>

Young people are not only the most important economic resource of a country, they also play a key role in changing conventions, including the change necessary to combat AIDS successfully. Above all young people are themselves in danger, due to their developing sexual behaviour and their mostly subordinate social status. They are just discovering love, sexuality and partnership, are open and keen to experiment. Furthermore, we now have the largest generation of young people in history, making up a quarter of the world's population and embodying an enormous demographic force. This makes adolescents and young adults the most important target group for AIDS prevention and health care - and they are also the main target group for the Join In Circuit.

Dr. Rodrigo Simán Siri, Head of the AIDS-Prevention-Programme in El Salvador states: *"At times we've feared that we can't win the war against HIV/AIDS, especially with our young people. With the Join In Circuit we have now found a method of reaching them at a young age. With this we are managing to act effectively against the spread of the epidemic. This year we are going to run the Join In Circuit event in all schools in the country. We are going to do this full force. We are sure that in the long run we will have success."*

For a young woman from the 3rd grade of Chelyabinsk College of Economics in the Russian Federation, the problem is very real and not merely abstract: *"It's clear to me that young people and students must talk about these problems and pass on information amongst themselves. HIV/AIDS is a very real and relevant matter for us. It worries everybody. Therefore it is absolutely necessary to talk about it. It is our problem, a genuine problem of our times."*



Protection station at the "Recorrido Participativo" in El Salvador

<sup>3</sup> When speaking about AIDS prevention, this means the prevention of both HIV infections and AIDS incidents.

## 2. TEN ARGUMENTS FOR THE JOIN IN CIRCUIT

### Why it is worth implementing the Join In Circuit for AIDS prevention!

- ☑ The Join In Circuit can be implemented successfully for many different target groups: for adolescents, for various occupational groups and also for members of the armed forces etc.
- ☑ Many people can be reached in a short time via the Join In Circuit. An appropriate basic Join In Circuit equipment package, well trained personnel and sufficient funding are required. Both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders can take part, whereby great synergy can be achieved.
- ☑ The concept of the Join In Circuit allows integration into existing national AIDS prevention strategies.
- ☑ The combination of activity-games, exhibition and information leads to active participation of the target groups. Active participation encourages a personal look at HIV and AIDS, leading to extensive and genuine understanding, and considerably reinforces learning processes.
- ☑ Via the dialogue-oriented, sympathetic facilitation and informal atmosphere at the Join In Circuit, taboo topics can also be discussed, e.g. being unfaithful, use of condoms, homosexuality, drug use etc. For AIDS prevention to be effective, it is necessary to talk with and inform people about such matters.
- ☑ The BZgA's Join In Circuit is quality assured. The Circuit has been scientifically accredited for years and is continually updated. A successfully, evaluated model is available for adaption.
- ☑ The concept of the Join In Circuit enables themes typical of their country of origin and connected with AIDS to be incorporated into the event. Examples are transmission channels, sexually transmitted Infections (STIs), values in love and sexuality, male/female roles, sexual health and female circumcision.
- ☑ The Join In Circuit events are a magnet to the press. Journalists from newspapers, radio and television like to report about the lively events and can take away moving pictures and original sounds, thus spreading the AIDS prevention messages still further.
- ☑ Through their support of the attractive Join In Circuit, decision makers can emphasize their involvement in the populations health, particularly that of adolescents and young adults.
- ☑ The Join In Circuit offers diverse and attractive promotional opportunities for all those taking part: for political and institutional decision makers, state and non-governmental partners and also for financial institutions.



### 3. THE JOIN IN CIRCUIT: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Can you imagine young people discussing AIDS, love and sexuality openly and concertedly for one and a half hours? Plus lots of fun but also being pretty serious? Can you imagine a lot of laughter along with that? But also where concern takes over when discussing the situation of those infected? And holding onto a wealth of knowledge at the end of it all? Can you imagine that teenagers have looked critically at their attitudes towards the danger of infection, towards love and sexuality, and that many of them have changed those attitudes? Well, that's what has happened in all the countries where the Join In Circuit has been staged - in Germany, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Mongolia, Mozambique and in the Russian Federation.

#### What goes on at the Join In Circuit?

Discussions, quizzes, role-playing, mime and puzzles are all elements of the Join In Circuit. The methodology mixes seriousness with fun, communication, emotion and action. The participants at a Join In event can expect a great variety of impressions, without too much in writing. Thus the Join In Circuit also works in countries where there is a low literacy level.



Lively discussion at the 'contraceptive station' of the BZgA Join In Circuit

### 3. THE JOIN IN CIRCUIT: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?



- the Ethiopian Join In Circuit

#### Imagine...

You come to a public place, somewhere in Ethiopia. You hear: a cheerful babble of young people's voices. You see: Tukuls, traditional Ethiopian houses, although these are copies made out of colorful cloth. Six of them stand in a circle. A banner flutters over the entrance to the 'village square'. You read 'move' and then you discover the red bow of solidarity. Do they belong together? Cheerful chatter - AIDS - danger - bright huts?

You go nearer and ask. The solution to the puzzle: the 'move' AIDS prevention Join In Circuit is in town. One day after another there is a steady stream of new pupils from classes over the age of 12. And 'move' really does move people. Even adults who come along look initially out of curiosity but then begin to discuss matters with one another.

'Move' has been touring through Addis Ababa for the past year and young people are thrilled to be able to speak their mind and be taken seriously by the adult facilitators at each of the five stations. The teachers accompanying their classes and looking on from the sidelines are also enthusiastic. They are already impressed by how relaxed the facilitators are with the teenagers - and yet enjoy absolute authority. So they try to 'take notes' from the facilitators.



"Move" in action with youth Addis Ababa

### 3. THE JOIN IN CIRCUIT: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

#### What is the Join In Circuit made up of?

At each Join In Circuit five groups of about ten to twelve young people pass through five stations, one after the other. The stations have names such as 'HIV Transmission Channels', 'Love, Sexuality and Protection from HIV', 'Contraception', 'Living with HIV' or 'Sexually Transmitted Infections'. The subject of AIDS prevention is therefore embedded within topics which really interest young people or which have a particular significance in certain countries. The Join In Circuit thus offers participants added value and the possibility for each country to incorporate special themes which have an important connection to AIDS prevention. Examples of such are the station 'Values and Love' in El Salvador, or 'Involving Men' in Mongolia about men's self awareness in sexual matters, about AIDS protection and unwanted pregnancies.

#### How long does an event last?

All five groups will have completed all the stations in 1 1/2 hours. In general this is just the amount of time people can work together attentively. Some countries have developed more than five stations and select those appropriate to the current target group.



Three of the five stations from the German "BZgA Join In Circuit on AIDS, Love and Sexuality"



### 3. THE JOIN IN CIRCUIT: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

#### The Join In Circuit in the Pilot Countries The Stations



'Protection station' at the 'Recorrido Participativo' in El Salvador



The 'Body Language' station in Mozambique at 'Faca Comigo o Percurso'



'Condom station' at the "move" Join In Circuit in Ethiopia



The 'HIV Transmission Channels' station in the Russian Federation



Overall view: The Mongolian Join In Circuit in a gym



The 'Living with HIV' station (Solidarity) in Mongolia at "Medlegiin Urtuu"

### Enthusiastic reception from participants

The GTZ and the BZgA can report on noticeably positive reactions to the Join In Circuit in Germany and the pilot countries, from both participants as well as experts. The evaluation result in Germany and the first intermediate result of accompanying research in the pilot countries show a great effect on participants - not only on adolescents, but also adults. Similarly, occupational groups such as medical personnel, police and emergency service personnel also benefit from participating in the Join In Circuit.

Dona Sisa from 'Mahlahle', Inhambane, a non-governmental organisation in Mozambique, knows how important information and open discussion are: *"Four of my brothers have already become infected with HIV/AIDS and three have already died. Our family now has to look after my brothers' orphans. AIDS has brought much sadness and pain into our lives. We simply have to know more. Above all we have to be able to talk openly about condoms and protection. There was and there certainly is a lot of shame and mistrust."*



A schoolgirl and a schoolboy from the 58th Secondary School in Ulan Bator (Mongolia) reported their experiences at the Join In Circuit: *"Super! We've never had a lesson like this before. I like it, because I've learned lots of new and interesting things."* And: *"It would be good if you organised the Join In Circuit in lots of places. In our school too."*



## 4. RESPONSE

### A new, valuable resource for specialists

Many government and non-government organisations work together with great commitment during the running of the Join In Circuit, circulating the event and AIDS prevention material in their respective countries. Workers from many organisations work commendably on a full-time, voluntary or expenses-only basis. New target groups are addressed via the Join In Circuit and successfully informed about protection against HIV and AIDS.

### Of interest to journalists

Ongoing public relation is an essential requirement for the Join In Circuit to become known amongst journalists, the general population, specialists, possible cooperation partners and donors. With all its lively activities, a visit to the Join In Circuit is of great interest to journalists. Newspaper reporters find interesting subjects for photographs, television crews can show lively pictures, and exciting soundtracks can be recorded for radio: Opening ceremonies (like this one in Ethiopia) are particularly suitable for coverage.





### Attractive to donors

International and national institutions implementing AIDS prevention are always on the lookout for successful and accepted methods of prevention. The Join In Circuit offers both. If decision makers experience the enthusiasm of participants for themselves, or see a film about the running of the Join In Circuit, they are quickly convinced that it is worth investing in further Join In Circuit projects.

### Convincing for political decision makers

Commitment to the Join In Circuit offers political decision makers the opportunity to support a most important cause which is recognised world-wide, offering a tool which has met with positive response from participants, specialists and journalists alike. Additionally, the Join In Circuit was conceived principally for young people, i.e. an attractive group in whom hope for the future lies.

Mehere-Selassie Menbere (MD), HIV/AIDS Project and Sector Office Coordinating Team Leader (AA HAPCO) speaks of a change via the Join In Circuit: *"At the point when 'move' appeared, we had already run a few HIV/AIDS programmes, which however, had brought about little effect. 'Move', on the other hand, is very effective, because it encourages young people to discuss sexually transmitted infection, HIV and the use of condoms without inhibitions. Therefore we opted for 'move' rather than many other possible methods and put this into action. At the moment we are working predominantly with young people in schools. We are planning to work with the police before long and also with young people who don't attend school. We are also going to send 'move' to more distant areas of the country."*






## 5. IMPACT

The Join In Circuit works in a variety of ways to combat AIDS. Its positive effect on direct participants is only one aspect. The whole effect, the base of the iceberg, is much broader. The concept and individual design of the Join In Circuit project in each country determines which priorities are set: Should the main priority be given to reaching a lot of people in a short period of time, or in strengthening the country's current preventive programmes?

### Effects on Participants

#### The messages

The main messages of the German BZgA Join In Circuit have been adopted in all countries.

	<b>Be informed!</b>
	<b>Protect yourself and others!</b>
	<b>Show solidarity with those who are HIV positive and with AIDS patients!</b>

The pilot countries have developed modified messages for individual stations, relevant to specific risk situations or behaviour, attitudes or taboos about sexuality or HIV typical of each country.

#### A great impact on many people

Join In Circuit projects can make a great impact on many people. Within ten years around 170,000 people had been reached by the German Join In Circuit campaign, and in the five adaptation countries 25,000 young people have already been made aware of the issue within the short period of two years. Far reaching effects are attained by appealing to both the hearts and the minds of the participants.

The result is a real understanding of contexts and very personal discussion of the danger of infection and possibilities for protection. This considerably increases the chances that people will actually protect themselves.

#### The Aims

Young people's personal capacity to protect themselves needs to be extended. The participants learn how they can protect themselves and their partner effectively against infection, and also how they can support those affected by HIV/AIDS: They increase their knowledge and ability to solve problems and can talk about love, sexuality and contraception without taboo or shame.

So, what does a participant experience at the Join In Circuit? Join army recruit Dory at two stations in the Mongolian Join In Circuit 'Metlegiin Urtoo'

### Imagine...

After visiting 'Metlegiin Urtoo' the young border soldier reported: "A week ago our commanding officer announced a training course. I heard the word 'awareness' and even my colleagues thought of an exercise in awareness of enemy movement in border areas. You see, that's also the name of a subject we're learning. Brightly coloured display stands had been put up in the events hall, which were decorated with signs and pictures. The officer accompanying us a bit nervous.

Then everything got off to a start. Along with nine colleagues I was sent to display stand three, where a woman doctor was waiting for us. At first that knocked the wind out of me - my colleagues too. There was a medium sized picture hanging there with a character which looked like a darn penis! The little penis man was wearing trousers, but it was still a penis. He was fiddling about with condoms... but it wasn't working out right. Each of us received one of the pictures and we had to stick the picture on the wall so that they were in the right order. I was embarrassed at first ... condom ... penis ... you just don't talk about that kind of thing, and you don't handle it, not as a picture and certainly not in front of a woman ... well, in front of one you don't have anything to do with.



But the doctor made a joke of it. She encouraged us to play around with the order of the pictures. Most of us hadn't used a condom yet ... That was quite obvious, although everybody is always bragging about how often they've picked up women at Sukhbaatar Square. I had already used condoms, as I once had a girlfriend who didn't want to do it without one. After a short while, I was the one who was telling the others what to do ... which was somewhat embarrassing for me. And then we had to put a condom on a wooden penis! Well, in for a penny, in for a pound! This station made me a few more friends amongst my colleagues!

At the first station there was a picture of a man and a woman who were looking lovingly into each other's eyes. There were half sentences stuck on white clouds hanging around the picture, which none of us really understood, e.g. "... you have 3 years security with this method." I didn't quite get it. Dr. Narmandak, the facilitator at this station, stopped us being embarrassed, telling us that men of our age don't normally know how contraceptives work. So then we wanted to learn about it together. I was astonished how much there actually is. It's certainly complex with women and their protection ... or rather our protection, because the man is really responsible for it too. That became clear to me. For the time being, I'll stick with condoms, as I know how they work and that they protect me from diseases and from trouble with women."

Two colleagues back up Dory's enthusiasm for the Join In Circuit. They stress somewhat more practical aspects. For them the pictures were particularly important: "Everything at the Join In Circuit was easy to understand, especially because of the pictures. Everything is clear to me now." And: "We received a lot of information without having to read or write. We got to know the details through the pictures."

## 5. IMPACT

### Excellent complement

These far reaching educational effects can only be achieved at the Join In Circuit by direct and personal contact. This form of intervention is also called person-to-person communication, meaning the Join In Circuit presents itself as an ideal complement to mass communication posters, brochures or radio and TV spots. When coordinated, the effect of person-to-person communication and mass communication complement each other. This principle is easily recognisable in the integrated and evaluated planning of the German 'Don't give AIDS a chance' campaign. The communicative measures of the three pillars are finely coordinated in timing and content.

It is to be noted that, as a rule, the Join In Circuit was added retrospectively to existing national campaigns in pilot countries and not developed as part of the overall national strategy. Nevertheless, central messages, logos etc. from pre-existing prevention efforts can be brought into the adaption of the Circuit content to advantageous effect and so strengthen the effects of other communicative measures.

### Target groups: Who does the Join In Circuit work on?

It's not only young people who benefit from the Join In Circuit, adults do too. This is shown by the experience gathered in the pilot countries; even with such diverse groups as police, prisoners, those attending social clubs, prostitutes and HIV infected people, all people of reproductive age, teachers, parent, and young girls from 10 years of age.

Umbrella campaign: "Gib AIDS keine Chance" (Don't give AIDS a Chance)

#### Objectives

- Prevent infection
- Change behaviour (protection)
- Create a climate of solidarity (no discrimination)

#### Mass communication

#### Telephone counselling

#### Person-to-person communication

#### Media

- Audiovisual (e.g. TV-, cinema-, radio spots)
- Brochure/printed media
- Posters
- Internet
- Events etc.

#### Activities

- Use of the Join In Circuit
- Distribution of material
- Multipliers
- Travelling exhibition "love life"

Evaluation of individual media/activities

Evaluation of the impact of the campaign as a whole



The importance of the target group of adolescents is emphasized by Natalya Ladnaya from the Federal AIDS Centre, Moscow, who carried out the evaluation of the Russian Join In Circuit 'Marschrút Besópastnosti': *"It is predominantly young people who are at risk. More than 70% of those infected with HIV in the Russian Federation are between 17 and 30 years old. Exactly those people are an important age group for the future development of the county. Until now drug users made up the largest group of those infected with HIV. In the last few years however, the number of young people, particularly young women, infected through heterosexual contacts has increased."*

Lyudmila Selyutina from the Chelyabinsk AIDS Centre adds: *"Targeted information for adolescents and young adults under the age of 30, who make up 75% of AIDS patients, is particularly important to us. We especially liked the youth approach of the Join In Circuit. Therefore we have supported its introduction."*



## 5. IMPACT

### Integration & Structural Effects

The Join In Circuit is not only easy to integrate into national AIDS prevention schemes. For its part, it has the potential to integrate people and organisations into working together with the Join In Circuit. Many governmental and non-governmental organisations cooperate with one another in Join In Circuit projects, because in this manner they can reinforce their own preventive activities.



"The Join In Circuit has contributed to strengthening co-operation between various international organisations in the field of fighting HIV/AIDS"

### Integrating different organisations

This particularly fascinates Fressia Cerna from the United Nations Family Planning Association (UNFPA) in El Salvador: *"The Join In Circuit has contributed to strengthening cooperation between various international organisations in the field of fighting HIV/AIDS; which is certainly what was always targeted and strived for, but the Join In Circuit is a good example of how this idea can actually be put into practice. - Also national governmental and non-governmental organisations have integrated into this process and we have finally developed a really good product, the Recorrido Participativo, our Salvadorian Join In Circuit."*

### Integrating various social groups

The Join In Circuit also brings many important social groups together, which then also actively take part in AIDS prevention. Ato Teshale Kero, Head of Aid & Social Development, High Council for Ethiopian Islamic Affairs: *"AIDS endangers the population, regardless of religion, race and sex. Therefore the High Council has set AIDS prevention as a target. With 'move' (the Ethiopian Join In Circuit) we are achieving active involvement. Religious scholars meet people in administrative offices, market places and mosques during prayer times and can inform and instruct them. Referring to the Koran and Hadis we convince people and create an awareness, particularly in young people, or how they can protect themselves from this catastrophe."*



## Structural Effects

Comprehensive structural effects in quite differing cultural context can also be achieved via this cooperation:

- According to experience, the joint work in the Join In Circuit reinforces cooperation between those involved.
- The enthusiastic response of the participants and the positive cooperation among all those involved generally creates a demand for further preventive activities with state and non-governmental partners.
- Via training, supervision and event experience, innovative know-how is passed on to cooperating partners. Facilitation and project management ability, including quality control can be used by the partner organisations, not only for future activities in AIDS prevention, but also in other areas of work.

These structural effects can advance AIDS prevention as well as the learning effects on the participants. If merely the participant effects were exploited, this would mean that the potential of the Join In Circuit was far from being exhausted, in fact it would be like giving a major part away!

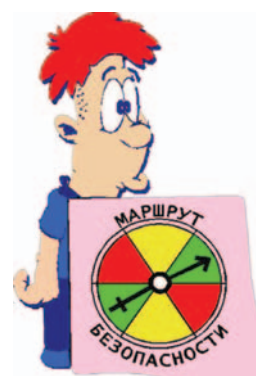
## Synergy

The Join In Circuit backs up national AIDS prevention. If the implementation of the Join In Circuit complements other measures in content and organisation, valuable synergy effects can be achieved. These can far exceed the effects of individual measures on their own. In this respect the Join In Circuit points out new methods in AIDS prevention. It follows the same concept in every country but is also as different as countries themselves. This is already shown by the logos of the five Join In Circuits.

## The Logos of the Join In Circuit Countries



"move" in Ethiopia



"Marschút Besópasnosti" in the Russian Federation



"Faca Comigo o Percurso" in Mozambique



"Medlegiin Urtuu" in der Mongolei



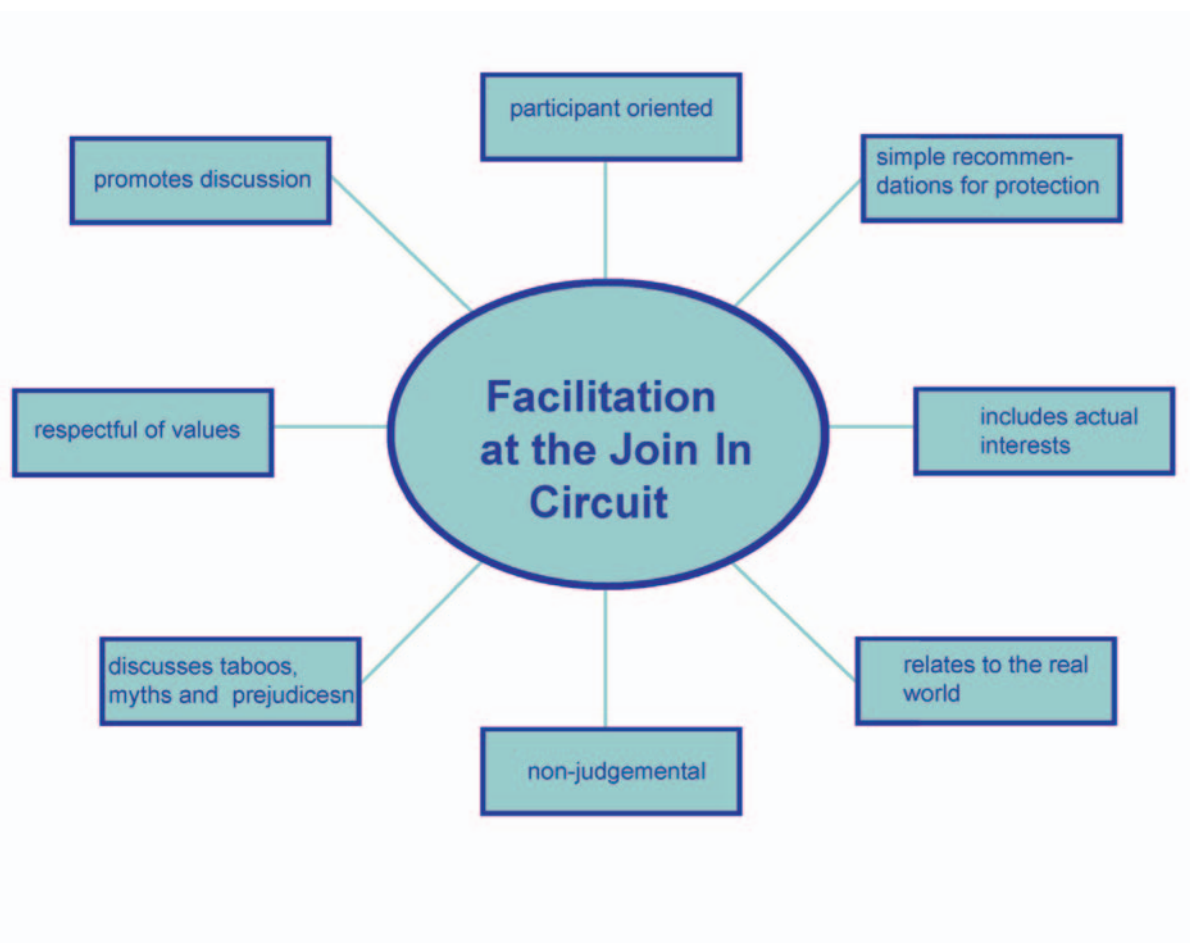
"Recorrido Participativo" in El Salvador

## 6. HOW DOES THE JOIN IN CIRCUIT WORKS?

As imaginative and exciting the materials of the Join In Circuit are, they do not work alone. Desired results cannot be achieved without the specialised and innovative methodology of participant and dialogue oriented facilitation, which is both respectful of values and tolerant. This specialised form of facilitation sensitively takes into account the level of knowledge, attitudes and openness of each respective group taking part in the Join In Circuit. The full effects of the learning process are only achieved by involving and actively engaging the participants from the beginning.

### **Participant-oriented facilitation: An opportunity to make an impact**

The facilitation of the Join In Circuit offers a unique opportunity to address difficult subjects, such as unfaithfulness, condom use, homosexuality and sexual violence. These subjects are important, because they are of key significance in the spread of infection. AIDS prevention cannot be effective without open discussion of such issues.



## 6. HOW DOES THE JOIN IN CIRCUIT WORKS?

### Intensive Training

This form of participant and dialogue oriented facilitation is often new and perhaps unfamiliar in the context of some partner countries. The forms of facilitation used in most schools and education centres tend, more or less, to be one-sided communication. Therefore learning requires intensive training with a lot of hands-on practice. An initial training course of about one week has to be followed by further regular courses and the events must be backed up by supervision.

### Supervision

To fulfil all criteria of dialogue oriented facilitation is not simple and demands a longer learning process. Regular feedback about their presentations and communications skills gives facilitators the opportunity to continually improve their performance. Only via good facilitation can successive good quality Join In Circuit events be guaranteed and preventive targets be fully achieved.



Training of multipliers and facilitators in El Salvador

## 6. HOW DOES THE JOIN IN CIRCUIT WORKS?

### Continuity of personnel and finance

The most important target is the high and consistent quality of the Join In Circuit events. For that purpose it is important to have continuity of personnel. The number of responsible people required depends on the extend of the project. They accompany the whole project and are available throughout. This means that they should dedicate at least 80% of their working hours to the Join In Circuit project. If this wasn't achieved in the pilot countries for the whole term of a project, it led from varying marked disruptions to the definitive freezing of a project.

### Personnel Requirements

The number of project staff depends fundamentally on the main targets to be achieved. Is the priority to reach as many people as possible? Or should promotional and structural effects be mostly targeted? How many Join In Circuits are there? How often are they run? The personnel stucture presented in the table below stood the test of ten years of the Join In Circuit in Germany. It takes into consideration that in Germany, the primary aim is to support prevention organisations working regionally and give their workers further training and qualifications. It is not the primary aim to reach lots of participants. Therefore, the BZgA has only one example of the Join In Circuit, which is run nationwide about 50 times per year.

Project Structure in Germany	
People	Tasks
<b>3 Project managers</b>	-Steering the project as a whole -Training -Supervision (also unannounced)
<b>Core Team 6 full time members</b>	-Facilitation -Opening & closing events Welcome and farewell -Public relations work -Documentation -Training -Team and evaluation discussions
<b>Project staff ca. 12 free-lance project staff members</b>	-Facilitation -Coordination during the Join In Circuit -Documentation

In most pilot countries, as well as a core team, there is a permanent project team for the three to seven Join In Circuit sets travelling around the country. If larger regions are to be dealt with, there is an extra coordinator, as in the Russian Federation. This coordinator takes care of the events, quality assurance and supervision at the events.

## 7. WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR A JOIN IN CRICUIT?

### Support

The BZgA developed the concept of the Join In Circuit and has gained 10 years of experience running it. The GTZ is making available the experience it has gained of adapting the Circuit in five very diverse countries. Working together, they have produced a service package with the title “The Join In Circuit Goes Global - New Methods of AIDS Prevention”. This has been developed for all those interested in effective AIDS prevention worldwide and wishing to put it into action.

- The film gives an impressive and lively picture of the original, German Join In Circuit, and guides you through all the pilot countries. You immediately notice the similarities and differences.
- The handbook offers support to those developing their own Join In Circuit and wishing to adapt it to their own requirements. The handbook includes detailed information about the concept and the stations of the original BZgA Join In Circuit, the Join In Circuit in the pilot countries, as well as a comprehensive chapter with recommendations for the adaptation process.
- The information process is intended for all those who wish to be informed about the Join In Circuit, its value for AIDS prevention as well as its effectiveness. The brochure aims to motivate involvement in the development of new Join In Circuits, whether as a specialist, personnel or financial support basis.



Information materials, here used at the ‘Faca Comigo o Percurso’ in Mozambique inform about goals and content of the Join In Circuit.



## 8. TEN STEPS TO YOUR OWN JOIN IN CIRCUIT

- 1 Introduce and explain the Join In Circuit to the relevant (specialist) institutions in your country, in order to achieve wide spread approval of the project.
- 2 Include all relevant state and non-governmental authorities actively in decision making and secure medium-term funding.
- 3 Find a responsible organisation for the project management as well as people with sufficient time allowance for the Join In Circuit.
- 4 Find cooperation partners for the adaptation process and subsequent running of events.
- 5 Develop a draft for the national Join In Circuit and determine its aims: Targets and target groups of the national campaign, participant numbers aimed for; intervention areas, step-by-step plan for the integration of cooperation partners and, if necessary, transfer of responsibility - depending on budget available.
- 6 Develop, test out and, if necessary, revise an adaptation of the Join In Circuit suitable for your country: Adapt concepts and stations to the situations of the country, as well as the desired target groups; develop didactic material and have the Circuit or Circuit sets built.
- 7 Train core teams and facilitators.
- 8 Develop documentation and evaluation plans: Reach agreement with cooperation partners. Regularly evaluate and respond to results.
- 9 Implement regular supervision and follow-up training.
- 10 Gradually expand the implementation area: If necessary, train further teams; build extra sets of the Circuit, if needed develop the Circuit further or adjust it for new target groups; extend quality assurance measures over the whole implementation area.

### **If you want to use and adapt the Join In Circuit yourself:**

You can contact the BZgA or GTZ direct, where you can also receive the handbook and film. There is also a network of experts available, who can advise you on the development and adaptation of the Join In Circuit.

For further information please contact:

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