



# HIV in Europe Newsletter

Issue No. 17 - April 2015

## The HIV in Europe Annual report

The HIV in Europe **2014 Annual Report** is now finalized and available on the [HiE website](#). In this report you can read about all the outcomes of the HIV in Europe Initiative in 2014.

Main projects and achievements in 2014 include the [HepHIV2014 Conference](#) in Barcelona with the theme *HIV and Viral Hepatitis: Challenges of Timely Testing and Care*. The conference was the first European conference to bring together the fields of HIV and viral hepatitis and it was attended by 250 people. The overall evaluation of the three-day event was very positive, with 84% of the 86 participants evaluating the conference as excellent/good. This is supported by 88% of respondents scoring that the conference met or exceeded their expectations ([Evaluation report](#)). Other ongoing HiE projects include [OptTEST](#), the [European HIV Testing Week](#) and [HIDES 2](#).

## The International Liver Congress 2015

At the upcoming [International Liver Congress 2015](#) (April 22-26, Vienna, Austria) HiE [Steering Committee](#) member [Jeffrey V. Lazarus](#) will present the results from a systematic review which documents a lack of information about hepatitis B and C testing in many European countries. The abstract, *A systematic Review of Hepatitis B and C Testing in the Countries of the WHO European Region*, will be presented in the EU and Public Health Session on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 12:45 in Hall C (Plenary) as well as at the ILC press conference, the morning of 25 April.

During the Conference there will also be a meeting on the "**Definition of late stage liver disease for public health purposes**". A draft definition was presented at the [HepHIV2014 Conference in Barcelona](#), October 2014 and since then, the project has been supported as an EASL consortium. During the meeting there will be further discussion of the draft definition, the organization of the consortium (Chair and Co-chair elect, Secretariat) and agreeing on next steps. We will keep you informed of the progress.



## European HIV Testing Week

From 21 to 28 November 2014 more than 700 participating partners across Europe came together during the European HIV Testing Week to help individuals become aware of their HIV status. As was done last year, an online evaluation survey was sent to all participants asking about their activities and experiences with the 2014 European HIV Testing Week. A **full evaluation report** with results from this evaluation survey is now finalized and [available online](#).

The [HiE Steering Committee](#) has approved the proposal for the **2015 European Testing Week** which this year will include **hepatitis**. Previous and future participants and partners will be consulted through a survey to uncover their opinions about how this can best be done.

The 2014 **Working Group** has luckily agreed to all take part in 2015 and in addition two more



### **Optimising testing and linkage to care for HIV across Europe (OptTEST)**

On **29 May 2015 the first annual meeting** for the OptTEST project will be held in **Tallinn, Estonia**. One year into the three year-project period this first annual meeting provides an opportunity for project partners to meet face to face. Advisory Board and collaborating partners are invited to participate via video conference.



Several important milestones have been reached one year into OptTEST. These include development of the [Stakeholder Analysis and Communications Strategy](#) and the [Evaluation Plan](#). Further, a [Publications Protocol](#) has been agreed upon and finalised by OptTEST Partners. All these documents are available on the [OptTEST website](#).

A cross Work Package baseline data collection form has been developed for the core Work Packages 4, 5 and 7. This was distributed in December 2014 via the online data capture system REDCap.

[WP4](#) is well on the way with the linkage to HIV care literature review with the EuroHIVEDat project. Collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) has resulted in obtaining possible measurements of baseline linkage to care data in the seven countries of WP4. [WP5](#) is in the process of setting up pilot sites in the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Estonia, Poland, Greece and Czech Republic to test indicator condition guided HIV testing. Partners in [WP6](#) from Spain, France and Estonia have started data collection and the first cost-effectiveness analyses have begun. Baseline stigma data collection is nearing completion for [WP7](#), with the criminalisation scan (regarding HIV exposure, transmission and disclosure) being up to date, as of June 2014.

### **OptTEST Shell Project**

Financed by the HIV in Europe initiative, the [OptTEST Shell project](#) complements the outcomes and deliverables of the EU co-funded OptTEST project by expanding project activities to Eastern

2015 and in addition two more members with a hepatitis background have joined the group. A Working Group Face to Face meeting is currently being planned and will take place in **London on June 10 2015**. To stay updated on news you can follow the European Testing Week on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

European non-EU member states. Core WPs are therefore including Eastern European non-EU member states in their activities.

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HIV in Europe Secretariat: CHIP (Centre for Health and Infectious Disease Research), Department of Infectious Diseases, Section 2100, Finsencentret, Blegdamsvej 9, DK- 2200 Copenhagen, Denmark, Tel: +45 35 45 57 57, Fax: +45 35 45 57 58.

E-mail: [hie.rigshospitalet@regionh.dk](mailto:hie.rigshospitalet@regionh.dk)

Website: <http://www.hiveurope.eu>