



HIV in Europe Newsletter

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European HIV Testing Week 2014

21 to 28 November 2014 was the week whereby more than 700 Participating Partners from 52 of the 53 countries of the WHO European region came together with the unified aim of helping individuals become aware of the HIV status.

The [new testing week website](#) was furnished with updated Logos, Banner Ads and materials, all freely available to [download](#).

New to 2014 was the testing week [Facebook Group](#), which provided an open forum for Participators to share their testing week activities with the world. Two new Toolkits were also added this year: **Toolkit 6** was targeted at healthcare professionals and included a [poster](#) for patient waiting areas; **Toolkit 7** provided Participators with the essentials to perform their own media monitoring, to see the extent of reach their activities had locally, nationally and regionally.

As was the case last year, an on-line questionnaire sent out to all Participants will provide the basis for the formal evaluation of European HIV testing week 2014. A full evaluation report will be made available in early 2015.



HepHIV 2014 Barcelona Conference: *HIV and Viral Hepatitis: Challenges of Timely Testing and Care*

HepHIV2014 was the first European conference to bring together the fields of HIV and viral hepatitis. It was attended by over 250 people, with around 100 abstract submissions forming the basis of six parallel sessions.

The product of all three conference days drove the panel debate during the closing session, which in turn led to the formalisation and eventual press release of the [Call to Action](#) document. This is also available in [Russian](#), [German](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#). The full proceedings of the HepHIV2014 Barcelona conference are available [here](#).



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

The project has now reached the 6-month mark and milestones reached include the launch of the official [OptTEST website](#), and the publication of a promotional leaflet, available in [English](#), [Russian](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

A baseline data collection form has been created for the core Work Packages 4, 5 and 7 and will be distributed this month. WP 5 is setting up pilot sites in the UK, France, Spain, Estonia, Poland, Greece and Czech Republic.

Partners from Spain, France and Estonia are to meet in February 2015 to discuss data collection for Work Package 6, and the first cost-effectiveness analyses should be started by mid-2015.

In Work Package 7, baseline stigma data collection is nearing completion, with the criminalisation scan (regarding HIV exposure, transmission and disclosure) being up to date, as of June 2014.

OptTEST Shell Project

In line with the remit of the HIV in Europe initiative to maintain and extend projects in Eastern Europe, the Steering Committee has approved the OptTEST Shell

HepHIV2014 Conference Evaluation

Conference attendees were asked to respond to a survey from which the event could be evaluated. The overall evaluation of the three-day event was very positive, with 84% of respondents evaluating the conference as excellent/good. This was supported by 88% of respondents scoring that the conference met or exceeded their expectations. The full HepHIV evaluation report is available [here](#).

Wishing you all a festive holiday and a prosperous New Year

project proposal. This effectively means that the EU OptTEST project's aims and objectives derived from Work Plans 4, 5 & 7 can now also be extended to Ukraine, Georgia and Belarus, by working with clinics and PLWHIV networks in these countries.

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