

HIV in Europe Newsletter

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CROI 2016

From 22-25 February 2015 the Conference of Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) took place in Boston, USA. Lots of interesting symposium and plenary lectures, workshops, themed discussions, and oral presentations took place. If you did not attend and want to catch up you can check out the **conference bulletins produced by aidsmap** which can be found [here](#). Lots of tweeting also took place during CROI and we have captured some of our favorites which you can access in our **Storify** [here](#).



Evaluation of the ECDC HIV testing guidance

During the fall 2015 and beginning 2016 HIV in Europe has been in the process of **evaluating the [ECDC 2010 HIV testing guidance](#)**. The aim was to evaluate its overall impact and whether there is a need for updated guidance from ECDC. An ECDC organized expert meeting was held in Stockholm on 28-29 January during which the results from the evaluation were presented and discussed. Lots of helpful comments and recommendations from the meeting are now being included in the final draft of the report which will be released later this spring.

[OptTEST by HiE](#)

OptTEST is half way through its three years and is in the process of planning the **second annual meeting** which will take place in Madrid, Spain in May. Partners from the EU co-financed project [Euro HIV EDAT](#) are invited to parts of the annual meeting to discuss possible synergies between the two projects, plan shared dissemination activities and a possible joint final conference in 2017.

The four OptTEST core work packages that are working from different angles of improving HIV testing and care are progressing well with data collection and development of tools and databases.

HepHIV 2017 Malta Conference

The second HepHIV 2017 Conference will take place on **Malta from 31 January - 2 February 2017**. The HIV in Europe Secretariat is in the process of identifying a venue for the conference and setting up the conference organizing committee.

More details and information on registration, programme and venue will be available later in 2016, but for now **please mark your calendars**.

You can also follow news and updates on Twitter by following the conference hashtag [#HepHIV2017](#).

What's next for HIV in Europe?

- A TOR will soon be distributed to develop a status document on the monitoring and evaluation of HIV testing efforts in Europe.

- A resource centre is under development which will contain all relevant hiv testing articles and will be updated regularly - an exciting project, more information and link to access the resource centre will be circulated as soon as it is finalised.

- The **European Testing Week** will also take place in 2016! The HIV in Europe SC has approved

During fall 2015 OptTEST was subjected to an **external mid-term evaluation**. All partners, some Advisory Board members and representatives from Chafea were interviewed by the external consultants. The evaluation report has been discussed among the partners and the recommendations are being addressed.



the proposal. Stay tuned for more information and for the evaluation of 2015, which will be available soon.

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