

Vulnerability assessment of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Lithuania



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HIV and Viral Hepatitis: Challenges of Timely Testing and Care

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Association of PLWHIV of Lithuania
“Poziyvus gyvenimas” (Positive life)

Background

The main purpose of the assessment was to reveal existing barriers that impede full social integration of people living with HIV (PLWH). The research had a particular focus on documenting PLWH's strategies to getting quality medical services, education and employment services. This research is the first and so far the only attempt to understand PLWH vulnerability in Lithuania, and its results are particularly valuable.

Methods

Assessment covered four towns of Lithuania: Vilnius, Klaipeda, Siauliai and Alytus. Target groups: 20 PLWH, including 4 women and 16 men. Average age: of women was 32, of men 36.5. Three other target groups: medical personnel, private sector representatives, education system specialists. Activities: 20 in-depth individual interviews, 3 focus group discussions, and a roundtable with representatives of private sector, medical and educational establishments, and civil society.

Results

During the assessment, the following findings were made:

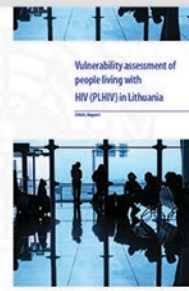
- Lack of a system to provide the full range of services required by PLWH, in appropriate quality;
- Insufficient awareness raising in medical and educational systems and in the private sector
- Lack of government support to PLWH organizations to implement activities on peer counseling, adherence to treatment, and HIV prevention.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of the assessment, research team concludes that:

- A multi-sectoral approach is missing, and therefore should be undertaken in ensuring universal access;
- Professional level of specialists, who work with PLWH, should be raised, including in terms of HIV literacy
- Full involvement of PLWH in decision-making and programming on HIV/AIDS
- Particular attention and resources should be drawn to fighting stigma and discrimination using such approaches as “Tolerance Festivals”, which are more socially acceptable and create a feeling of compassion and unity. In order to reach, and to teach, young people about HIV and sexually communicable diseases, more stars and celebrities should be involved.

These and other Information materials for downloads from our website: www.stophiv.lt



ULAC* Information about the situation in Lithuania until 1 April 2014

Population - about 2.8 million
HIV positive - 2267 people (about 60% IDU's)
ARV treatment - 407 patient

*Center For Communicable Diseases And AIDS

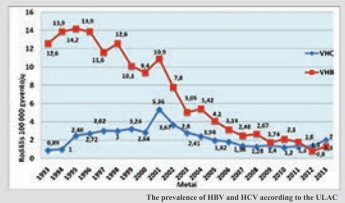
What services are available:

- Specialized Psychological support for PLWH - **NO**
- Specialized social-psychological services for patients with HCV and HIV in clinics - **NO**
- Peer to peer consultation in clinics - **NO**
- Positive prevention of HIV and HCV - **NO**
- Free testing of HIV/HCV for citizens population - **NO**
- Programs of HIV/HCV prevention for MSM - **NO**
- Programs of HIV/HCV prevention for sex workers - **NO**

The prevalence of HBV and HCV in Lithuania

In Lithuania 2013 years fixed 59 acute and 56 chronic viral hepatitis C cases. Men's incidence of acute hepatitis C in 2013 was higher than that of women - incidence rate among men - 2.6/100 thousand. pop., women - 1.5/100 thousand. pop.). The highest incidence of acute viral hepatitis C ratio (5.3/100 thousand. Population) among men recorded 25-34 m. age group (3.4/100 thousand. population) among women - 35 - 44 years. age group.

*ULAC information - www.ula.lt



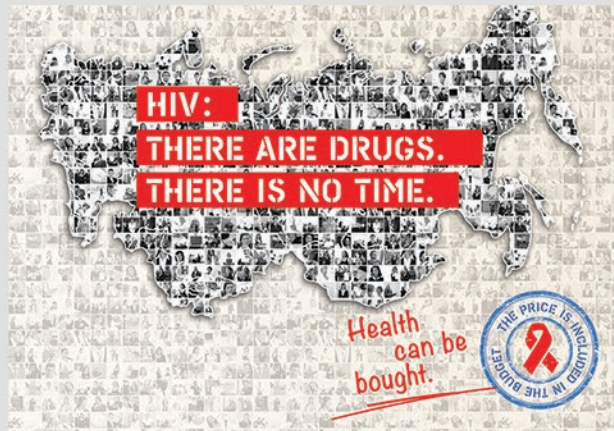
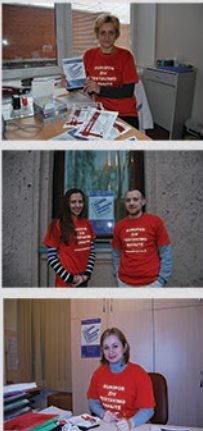
Booklets about living with HIV/AIDS



Event planning "Europe HIV testing week"



2013 events of "Europe HIV testing Week"



Association "Poziyvus gyvenimas" in action: "Celebration of Tolerance" Mobile rapid testing Memorial AIDS day World AIDS day



Partners and support:

