

OptTEST Newsletter



Issue No 10 - January 2017

OptTEST at the HepHIV 2017 Conference

The biennial HIV in Europe organized [HepHIV 2017 Conference](#) *HIV and Viral Hepatitis: Challenges of Timely Testing and Care* is held this year in Malta, during the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU. The presidency is hosting a technical meeting, Fast-track the end of AIDS in the EU: practical evidence-based interventions, from the 30th to the 31st January, 2017, in collaboration with the ECDC, for Member States and other key actors. It is expected that important synergies will arise between the presidency meeting and the HepHIV 2017 Conference.

The HepHIV Conference spans over three days and will hopefully generate lively discussions, innovative thinking and a renewed commitment of political action. OptTEST partners will be presenting results in different sessions during the conference, and the last day is a symposium sponsored by OptTEST with special focus on optimization of testing and linkage to care.



OptTEST presentations and posters at the HepHIV 2017 Conference

Plenary session presentations:

- Test and link to care: How do we measure our success? By Valerie Delpech (PHE)
- Indicator Condition Guided HIV testing – progress and challenges. By Ann Sullivan (SSAT)
- Cost-effectiveness of HIV testing: frequency and target groups. By Yazdan Yazdanpanah (INSERM)
- Factors for Delayed Linkage to Care Following HIV Diagnosis in the WHO European Region. By Sara Croxford (PHE) et al.
- Monitoring HIV-indicator Condition Based HIV Testing in Estonia. By Kristi Rütel & Liis Lemsalu (NIHD)
- Barring the Way to Health: How Legal and Regulatory Barriers Hinder Modernising HIV Testing across Europe. By Lisa Power et al.

Upcoming events

HepHIV 2017 Conference

You can find the scientific programme [here](#).

Joint Euro HIV EDAT-OptTEST Final Conference, September 2017

As both projects are coming to an end in September 2017, there will be arranged a joint final conference to present results to a broader audience of stakeholders.

New information on OptTEST.eu

OptTEST's webpage has been updated and new information added on the countries covered by OptTEST's work and some of the developed tools have been uploaded.

Please visit the [OptTEST.eu](#) webpage to read more news.

Round table discussion:

- The role of stigma and criminalisation barriers in discouraging testing. Panel members: Julian Hows (GNP+) and Lisa Power among others.

Posters:

- HIV Testing Improvement in Primary Care through Opt-TEST's Indicator Condition Guided Testing: The Tool-1 and Plan-Do-Study-Act Experience in Catalonia, 2016. By Rossie Lugo et al

EU Health Projects' Symposium

The open EU Health Projects' Symposium – co-organized between OptTEST, Euro HIV EDAT and Chafea – takes place prior to the conference. The aim of the Symposium is to foster dialogue, discussion and collaboration among EU co-financed projects and actions within the field of HIV, Hepatitis and TB.

The Symposium is co-chaired by Wolfgang Philipp from DG SANTE and Olivia Castillo Soria, Head of Area of HIV Prevention, from the Ministry of Health, Spain, and she will also give a presentation on HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis in Spain. The other presentations and speakers include:

- New prevention efforts. Michael Krone, Executive Coordinator, Germany (AIDS Action Europe)
- Collecting data on prevention needs by a Europe-wide MSM online survey. Ulrich Marcus, Robert Koch Institute, Germany (ESTICOM)
- Improving practice in health care settings. Ann Sullivan, SSAT, UK (OptTEST)
- Monitoring and evaluation of CBVCT: data to improve practice. Jordi Casabona, CEEISCAT, Spain (Euro HIV EDAT)
- Advocacy to raise awareness about TB. Anete Cook, Results, UK (TB Europe Coalition)
- Hepatitis infection among MSM. Massimo Mirandola, Verona University Hospital, Italy (SIALON II)
- Preventing HIV and co-infections in Europe through strengthened harm reduction. Outi Karvonen, Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland & Jeffrey Lazarus, CHIP, Denmark (HA-REACT)
- Outreach for early TB diagnosis. Alistair Story, UCL, UK (E-DETECT TB)
- Integration of Testing and Linkage to Care for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STIs & TB in Europe. Dorthe Raben, CHIP, DK (Link2Care)
- How to reach the risk groups. Jack Lambert, UCD, Ireland (HEPCARE Europe)

Social media

Remember to follow OptTEST on FB ([OptTEST by HiE](#)) and Twitter ([@OptTESTbyHiE](#)).



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OptTEST is co-funded by the 2nd Health Programme of the European Union

