

OptTEST Newsletter

Issue No 6 - February 2016



OptTEST at the International AIDS Conference in Durban

The [International AIDS Conference](#) held 18-22 July in Durban, South Africa is an important gathering for those working in the field of HIV. OptTEST will participate to disseminate results and promote visibility on two platforms:

- To the scientific community (poster presentations based on abstract submission);
- To other stakeholders in the so-called 'Networking Zone' where e.g. WP5 Tools, WP7 database on Stigma and other relevant outcomes will be presented at interactive screens or via oral presentations.

Core Work Packages

OptTEST is now half way through the three year project period and the work is progressing well.

Work package 4: Linkage to and retention in HIV care after diagnosis organised and facilitated a session addressing European monitoring of linkage to and retention in care, at the expert meeting held by ECDC 8-9 September 2015 in Stockholm. Participants included surveillance, public health and research experts, HIV cohort leads and representatives from EU-funded projects, international agencies and civil society. Participants expressed support for using a four point continuum (number living with HIV, number diagnosed, on ART, virally suppressed), ideally with standard definitions, for national (and regional) level monitoring and using separate quality indicators at clinic and patient level. It was acknowledged that it will be difficult to establish rigid common definitions for linked to care and retained in care, and that continuum definitions and quality indicators e.g. cut off points or thresholds and optimal time periods from x to y, need to be based on evidence. For more information consult the [meeting report](#).



Work package 5: Development and implementation of tools and strategies for indicator condition-guided HIV testing

Indicator condition-guided HIV testing is implemented at 11 pilot sites in 5 countries. More than 300 patients have been tested, and so far 7 HIV positive patients have been identified. The work with the tools is continuing: Tool 1 is a slide-set where users can remove slides or add slides that they wish to use depending on the purpose of their talk, this is undergoing final

Annual Meeting 2016

Planning of the annual meeting on 17-18 May, 2016 is ongoing. It will be hosted by OptTEST Partner [Instituto de Salud Carlos III](#) in Madrid, Spain.

Partners from the EU co-financed project [Euro HIV EDAT](#) are invited to part of the annual meeting to discuss possible synergies between the two projects, plan shared dissemination activities and a possible joint final conference in 2017.

External Midterm Evaluation

In the fall of 2015 OptTEST by HiE 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.

Social media

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

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



Presenting OptTEST at EATG Stakeholder meeting 1 February 2016 in Bruxelles

revisions and almost ready; Tool 2: is a web-based interactive tool which will help the user to generate a testing pathway for implementation of IC-guided HIV testing in their own clinics.

Work package 6: The cost-effectiveness of HIV testing strategies in priority groups and regions

The first rounds of modelling have started with data from the three pilot countries Estonia, France and Spain. Preliminary results on cost-effectiveness of testing strategies are expected to be ready for presentation in May at the 2nd Annual Meeting of OptTEST. Among the partners there are currently discussions on how best to present results to decision makers in the pilot countries. Work is also undertaken to try to use the same data in different models in order to compare the outcomes.

Work package 7: Stigma and legal barriers to the provision of HIV testing services

Compilation of Stigma Index data into a searchable database is now completed. The online MySQL databases has been developed – and data for all of the Stigma Index countries is on it. Currently data is available for Belarus, Estonia, Portugal, Turkey (provided as a comparator) and Ukraine. Data for Germany has also been uploaded but is not yet available, and data for Greece is being uploaded as the index is being rolled out in this country. If you wish to access the database, please contact Julian Hovs at GNP+ to obtain a password.

OptTEST Main Partner and coordinating team: CHIP, 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:

opttest.rigshospitalet@regionh.dk

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

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

