Fast-track the end of AIDS in the EU practical evidence-based interventions

Session 3: Scaling up HIV Testing and Linkage to Care

“Community-based testing: The Ath Checkpoint Initiative”
Outline

1. Background – Epidemiological data
2. The Ath Checkpoint initiative and evolution
3. Linkage to care experience
4. Community-based testing challenges in Greece
5. Concluding remarks
HIV diagnoses, by mode of transmission, 2005-2014, EU/EEA

- **Injecting drug use**: -28%
- **Heterosexual contact (men)**: -19%
- **Heterosexual contact (women)**: -33%
- **Sex between men**: +44%

HIV diagnoses, 2014
MSM (EU/EEA)

Cases per 100,000 population

- < 1
- 1 to < 3
- 3 to < 5
- > 5

Not included or not reporting

42% of new HIV diagnoses in 2014
16 EU/EEA countries report > 5% HIV prevalence among MSM

Non-visible countries
- Liechtenstein
- Luxembourg
- Malta

EU/EEA VS Greek HIV diagnosis trends 1985 - 2015

HIV test - Greece

Never tested for HIV: 936 (1 out of 3)
Tested at least once for HIV: 1605 (2 out of 3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Never received an HIV test result</th>
<th>Received an HIV test result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N (%)</td>
<td>N (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>359 (27.5)</td>
<td>946 (72.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thessaloniki</td>
<td>148 (38.4)</td>
<td>237 (61.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of Greece</td>
<td>429 (50.4)</td>
<td>422 (49.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Free HIV test

Can you personally get free HIV testing in the country you live in?
- No
- Yes
- I don't know

- 37.16%
- 10.39%
- 52.46%
Proportion of HIV cases diagnosed with CD4<350 cells/mm³, 2014, EU/EEA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proportion</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30% to &lt;40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% to 50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EU/EEA: 47%
Greece: 51%
CD4<350 at diagnosis

Non-visible countries:
- Liechtenstein
- Luxembourg
- Malta

• Economic crisis: 2010 onwards...
• HIV testing severely disrupted
  • Testing facilities reduction
    • Fee introduction
    • Diagnostics stock-outs
November 2012  Thess: March 2014

PositiveVoice
people+HIV
Partnerships - Collaborations

: Aids Healthcare Foundation, Los Angeles, California

: Greek CDC: Training, evaluation and supervision

: Greek Liver Patients Association

: Municipality of Athens
OBJECTIVES:

1) HIV testing
2) Facilitation of early diagnosis and optimal access to treatment
3) Normalization of HIV testing
4) Using pre and post test counseling to promote a modern safer sex message through a confidential, candid, non-judgmental way
5) Battling stigma and discrimination in the MSM community by informing people of the beneficial impact of early treatment and of the transmission reduction benefit of antiretroviral treatment

TARGETS:

1) Reduce the undiagnosed fraction
2) Reduce the number of MSM who have never been tested before
1. Monday to Saturday, 12 – 8 pm
2. After working hours
3. Central, easily-accessible location
4. In-premises services but also outreach awareness-raising & testing activities
5. Recognizable brand name & logo
6. Contemporary diagnostics
Outreach..
Campaigns - Communication
### Facts & Figures

#### Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>2.568</td>
<td>4.199</td>
<td>4.713</td>
<td>11.948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>2.718</td>
<td>8.831</td>
<td>13.245</td>
<td>15.300</td>
<td>40.346</td>
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</table>

#### Sexual Orientation

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>MSM</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>1.996</td>
<td>3.711</td>
<td>4.948</td>
<td>5.981</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>2.518</td>
<td>4.064</td>
<td>4.520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Bisexual</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>2.413</td>
<td>3.950</td>
<td>4.417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lesbian</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>Heterosexual</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Have you visited us before?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>2.312</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1.645</td>
<td>7.186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3.420</td>
<td>9.825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5.163</td>
<td>10.137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10.634</td>
<td>29.712</td>
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</table>

#### Have you been tested for HIV before?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>I don't know / I don't remember</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>7.268</td>
<td>22.181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>167</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### HIV Result

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reactive</th>
<th>Non Reactive</th>
<th>NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>2.629</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>8.608</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>12.866</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>15.125</td>
<td>0</td>
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#### HCV Result

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reactive</th>
<th>Non Reactive</th>
<th>NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>2.935</td>
<td>5.818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>3.283</td>
<td>9.718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>2.630</td>
<td>12.435</td>
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#### HBsAg Result

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reactive</th>
<th>Non Reactive</th>
<th>NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2.335</td>
<td>6.480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>3.341</td>
<td>9.857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>2.560</td>
<td>12.668</td>
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</table>

#### Anti-Syphilis Result

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>NA</th>
<th>Non Reactive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>12.776</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>13.456</td>
<td>1.740</td>
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</table>
## Up to December 2016 testing course.

### Ath & Thess Checkpoint

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>+</th>
<th>% General</th>
<th>% MSM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIV</strong></td>
<td>40.322</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HBV</strong></td>
<td>8.074</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HCV</strong></td>
<td>9.406</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Syph</strong></td>
<td>2.313</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
July 2015: The WHO referred to the Ath and Thess Checkpoint as best practice regarding a holistic HIV prevention methodology, in the framework of the updated guidelines for HIV testing services.

- 40,322 HIV tests
- Approximately 30,000 unique beneficiaries

19% of the total Greek HIV cases reported to the HCDCP for 2014 was recorded at the Checkpoint.

31% of the total Greek HIV cases reported to the HCDCP for 2015 was recorded at the Checkpoint.

33% of the total Greek HIV cases reported to the HCDCP for 2016 was recorded at the Checkpoint.
1. **Flash ! PrEP Online Survey**: Knowledge, attitudes towards, willingness to take and actual (informal and less official) use of PrEP to inform sexual health policy making across Europe

2. **EURO HIV EDAT Program**: Operational knowledge to improve HIV early diagnosis and treatment among vulnerable groups in Europe

   a) **WP5**: Follow up and longitudinal analysis of clients attending MSM Checkpoints (Coordinated by CEEISCAT, Spain)

   b) **WP6**: Data collection and pilot study on Point of Care and linkage to health services for HIV/STI in MSM Checkpoints (Coordinated by AIDS Fondet, Denmark)

   c) **WP7**: Development of a Toolkit for implementation and evaluation of MSM Checkpoints (Coordinated by AIDS-Hilfe, Germany)

   d) **WP9**: KAP/B survey and pilot intervention on innovative strategies and interventions (Coordinated by The Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium (ITM), Belgium)
3. Cost and effectiveness of HIV testing for Men who have Sex with Men in community-based organizations. Results from six European cities


6. Asklepius: HIV epidemiology in Men who have Sex with Men Sex Workers (MSM SW) (Nikolopoulos, G., Chanos, S., Tsioptsias, E., Dedes, N., Paraskeva, D.)

7. SOPHOCLES – P4G (PrEP for Greece) – Interventional Implementation Study (Medical School University of Chicago – Medical School University of Athens - Checkpoint)
Data Collection & Research..

- Knowledge and attitudes on PrEP
- Improvement of early diagnosis and treatment
- Cost-effectiveness
- Prevalence
- Incidence
- Male Sex Workers
- PrEP demonstration study

Checkpoint: Data source for the Dublin Declaration of the HCDCP
Linkage to care
WHO & ECDC Definition

• **WHO 2015**: the duration of time starting with HIV diagnosis and ending with enrolment in HIV care or treatment

• **ECDC 2015**: the proportion of patients seen for HIV care (measured by first CD4 count and/or viral load and/or attendance date and/or treatment start date), with prompt linkage defined as linkage within 3 months of diagnosis

• Where is Greece according to the above?
Diagnosis & Linkage to care in Greece, 2013

- **PLHIV**: 14200
- **DIAGNOSED**: 11096 (90%) 78.1%
- **ON TREATMENT**: 7488 (90%) 67.5%
- **VIRAL SUPPRESSION**: 5499 (90%) 73.4%

**Monitoring viral suppression**

**Monitoring quality of care**

**Linkage to care**

**Retention on ART**

* People living with HIV excludes people with HIV who have died
** Ever treated
Linkage procedure in case of a reactively-tested beneficiary at the Checkpoint:

Population Groups: **MSM, PWID**

- **Offer the beneficiary the option of accompanied linkage**
  - "**YES**" 92%
  - "**NO**" 8%
- **Oral agreement**
  - **Contact HIV clinic**
  - We suggest where they can get an HIV test
- **Appointment for WB**
- **Accompany in HIV clinic 90%**
- **Information about HIV clinics 2%**

Community-based linkage to care experience
92% of the reactively tested beneficiaries was successfully linked to care

Dispensing of > than 3.000.000 free condoms and 200.000 informative material

Approached > 30.000 people during our outreach activities

Mobile Unit acquisition (& HIV testing in the Roma community around Greece)

During WAD 2015, MoH Mr. Ksanthos Andreas visited the Checkpoint and greeted our HIV prevention activities

MoP, Dr. Sprenger (ECDC) with colleagues, 2 last Chairs of HCDCP
Next Steps...
Community-based testing challenges

1. Operation (grey zone) – legal framework
2. De-medicalization of rapid testing
3. More Checkpoints
4. On-site testing
5. Notion of routine testing
6. Second generation surveillance instruments (we need new tools i.e. avidity tests, a way to check incidence in a community so that we are sure about our effectiveness and M&E our activities)
7. Discrimination & HIV-related stigma issues
8. Further research to measure knowledge, perceptions and attitudes in MSM (participation in EMIS 2)
Concluding remarks

1. CBT had a huge impact to Greece

2. Even though we have scaled up testing and the fact that high risk MSM trust us, the reduction of new diagnoses in the Checkpoint framework, most likely reflects a reduction in new infections as well. This is corroborated by the fact that the national report of new infections had a considerable decline in 2016.

3. So, the Checkpoint has contributed to the reduction of new cases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HCDCP</th>
<th>Checkpoint</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>691</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First 10 months 2016</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. The Checkpoint has managed to change the landscape of the attitudes, perceptions and knowledge in the MSM community
Acknowledgements

Ath Checkpoint Team
Acknowledgements

Thess Checkpoint Team
Acknowledgements

Athens, Thessaloniki and rest of Greek regions’ volunteers
Thank you very much

Sophocles Chanos
Checkpoint Head

schanos@athcheckpoint.gr