

EATG Stakeholders Meeting Regarding Diagnostics

HepHIV 2021 conference side-meeting

Time: 5 May 2021, 9:30-11:00 CET

Participants: Diagnostics companies, EuroTEST, ECDC, WHO, community and civil society organizations providing screening services.

Meeting background

The WHO and ECDC have recommended that early detection and treatment of HIV and viral hepatitis among key populations in Europe could be enhanced by implementing self-testing/sampling options and permissions for lay providers to administer tests in community settings. The burden of COVID-19 on health systems has further challenged key population access to HIV, TB, viral hepatitis, and STI testing services and counselling. In response to the pandemic, there is evidence of individual community-based organisations (CBO) initiating diversified testing service delivery options such as self-testing/sampling. While impressive, such interventions are siloed, unfeasible, and unsustainable for many regions.

There is a need for diagnostics developers/manufacturers and community-level organizations to collaboratively initiate sustainable testing interventions and adapt strategic approaches to reach the undiagnosed within key populations.

In continued collaboration with EuroTEST, the EATG will host an initial multi-level stakeholder meeting regarding HIV, TB, viral hepatitis and other STIs diagnostics at HepHIV 2021.

Meeting Objectives

- i. Provide a community-level perspective on self-testing/sampling diagnostic tools and testing service delivery
- ii. Examine diagnostic companies' plans/commitment to community; specifically, in regards to cost of diagnostics and regulatory/legal barriers
- iii. Provide a platform for dialogue between CBOs and Diagnostic developers, and potentially identify collaborative opportunities.

Expected outcomes

Findings from this meeting will be summarized and shared to the main HepHIV 2021 conference attendees. This meeting will contribute to bilateral dialogue on the use of testing technologies to support key population empowerment, early detection, linkage to care, and facilitate HIV management. Dialogue between industry and community will open opportunities for product co-design and implementation, and establish new partnerships.

Agenda

- 9:30-9:40** Welcome and meeting objectives, *Magdalena Ankiersztej-Bartczak, CEO Foundation for Social Education*
- 9:40-9:55** Community organisations perspectives: experiences with self-test diagnostics
Christos Krasidis, Cyprus Checkpoint
Mihai Lixandru, ARAS - Asociatia Romana Anti-SIDA
Robert Hejzák, Czech AIDS Assistance

9:55-10:15 Diagnostics companies plans and commitment to community level

Orasure

Owen Mumford

10:30-10:50 Moderated discussion of opportunities to collaborate

10:50-11:00 Follow-up points & meeting wrap-up, *Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak, CEO Foundation for Social Education*