

The first European HIV Index calls for leadership and radical improvement Luxembourg is European champion

Brussels, 13th of October 2009

HIV infection keeps growing in Europe. In order to improve care and conditions for people living with HIV/AIDS but also to prevent further spread of the disease, there is urgent need of reviewing and radically improving disease management in HIV/AIDS. Such change should include legal aspects, HIV care and social conditions. This was advocated by the Euro HIV Index (EHIVI) 2009, which was presented today in Brussels. Luxembourg leads the ranking among European 29 countries in this first survey of HIV policy and best practice, with 857 points (out of 1,000), followed by Malta (791) and Switzerland (775).

The Euro HIV Index Director, Dr. Beatriz Cebolla, comments on the results: "While the number of People Living With HIV (PLWH) increases in every member state of the EU, budgets in several countries are reduced. Sexual risk behaviour is becoming more and more regular practice. Criminalization of HIV is a problem in many countries, and still HIV-specific legislation exists in some countries; people can get prosecuted also for unintentionally and unknowingly transmitting the virus. The access to care for marginalized groups such as undocumented migrants is not guaranteed almost anywhere in Europe. Discrimination and stigma against PLWH is frequent at work and in schools. Harm reduction strategies in prisons are still weakly implemented, especially in the Eastern European countries."

Johan Hjertqvist, President of Health Consumer Powerhouse, commented: "There is a general lack of leadership in HIV management. Alarmingly enough, no government seems to know the true number of HIV-infected inhabitants. The main conclusion of this very first HIV Index is that there is still a lot to do."

EURO HIV INDEX 2009 AT A GLANCE:					
Rank	Country	Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1	Luxembourg	11	Belgium	21	Lithuania
2	Malta	12	France	22	Portugal
3	Switzerland	13	Germany	23	Hungary
4	Finland	14	Denmark	24	Sweden
5	Netherlands	15	Spain	25	Bulgaria
6	Slovenia	16	Austria	26	Cyprus
7	Slovakia	17	Czech Republic	27	Italy
8	Norway	18	Estonia	28	Greece
9	UK	19	Latvia	29	Romania
10	Ireland	20	Poland		

Press Release



Index performance criteria

The EHIVI ranks the HIV situation across 28 indicators, covering 4 sub-disciplines that are key to HIV: Involvement and rights, Access, Prevention, and Outcomes. Each sub-discipline is weighted for importance in contribution to the overall Index score. The individual sub-discipline leaders were as follows:

- Involvement and rights: Luxembourg
- Access: Luxembourg
- Prevention: Switzerland
- Outcomes: Malta

About the Index

The EHIVI ranks the HIV situation across 28 indicators, covering 4 areas that are key to HIV: Involvement and rights, Access, Prevention, and Outcomes. The Euro HIV Index is compiled from a combination of public statistics, patient polls and independent research conducted by the founder, the Brussels-based think tank Health Consumer Powerhouse. The EHIVI 2009 takes a patient centred position. The Index is being held in association with the Swedish EU presidency of autumn 2009. It has received an unrestricted educational grant by Gilead Research.

You are invited to a Netviewer session of the presentation at 10 a.m. You can participate in the session by clicking this link:

<https://get.netviewer.com/meet/join.php?sinr=831594&sipw=nv64>

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