

The Czech Republic needs to improve conditions for HIV, says new EU Index

Brussels, October 13, 2009

The care and conditions for people living with HIV/AIDS in Czech Republic need to improve, said the Euro HIV Index (EHIVI) 2009 which was presented today in Brussels. This first survey of HIV policy and best practice ranked the Czech Republic 17th out of 29 countries, scoring 701 points from a potential 1,000. Luxembourg wins the ranking with 857 points followed by Malta (791) and Switzerland (775).

The Czech Republic is doing well when it comes to rights and involvement of people living with HIV. Access, prevention and outcomes give fewer reasons to be proud.

"The important reduction in the budget going into HIV/AIDS programs has affected especially the prevention ones. This has caused a shortage of personnel and the closing of some of the volunteer counseling and testing points; all this will definitely affect the number of new infections in the near future." states Dr. Beatriz Cebolla, the Euro HIV Index Director. "There is also a need for implementing harm reduction strategies in prisons."

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. There is a general lack of leadership in HIV management and no government seems to know the true number of HIV-infected inhabitants. The main conclusion of the HIV Index is that there is still a lot to do.

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.

Press Release



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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