

Slovakia – reflection on universal access to HIV prevention, treatment and care

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Slovakia

- ▶ 5.4 mil inhabitants
- ▶ Neighboring countries: Poland, Ukraine, Hungary, Austria, Czech republic



HIV situation in Slovakia

- ▶ Cumulative (1985– 30.9.2009) number of PLWH:
 - 309 Slovaks (258 males, 51 women), out of them:
 - 55 AIDS, 35 died of AIDS,
 - 61% MSM, 25% hetero, 10% unknown, 3% IDUs
 - 110 foreigners
- ▶ National program for HIV/AIDS prevention in Slovak republic 2009 – 2012, no budget
- ▶ Eurobarometer survey – **55%** of correct responses on HIV transmission, 2006
- ▶ Euro HIV Index 2009, **7th** in best HIV care

Knowledge on HIV and AIDS

Study done by Odysseus, funded by Ministry of education, 2009, preliminary data:

- ▶ 1.051 young people 14–30 age, at recreational setting
- ▶ experience: vaginal sex 90%, oral 86%, anal 37%
- ▶ The top sources of information about safer sex and STIs – **Internet 67%**, then friends 44% and TV 36%, porn 15%+ erotic magazines and broadcasts 16%, school 30%, family 22%
- ▶ Knowledge on proper use of condoms **23%**
- ▶ Proper knowledge on HIV transmission **7%**
- ▶ Ever done HIV test **15%**

Prevention

- ▶ **General population:**
 - no country-wide campaign
 - sexual education
 - mostly local N/Gos
- ▶ **VTC:** 14 places around country
- ▶ **Specific population:**
 - MSM
 - IDUs – 6 org. run NEPs, coverage?
 - SWs – 4 org. run programs, coverage?
 - Prisons (condoms if they are, no other HR)



Treatment

- ▶ Currently available to all in need
- ▶ In 4 ambulances across the country
- ▶ Experience in one case – need for advocating at the insurance company, done by NGO
- ▶ Challenges:
 - More people in need in future – bigger financial burden?
 - People without health insurance?
 - HIV Literacy of PLWH

Care

- ▶ Problems:
 - Dental care
 - Gynecological care
 - Stigma within the health sector
 - PLWH are obliged to disclose their status within health care
- ▶ Support group



don't know,
don't care.

Questions:

Have you held annual dialogue sessions with the government or Ministry officials to review the national data submitted on UNGASS Commitments, in particular around universal access? **NO**

"Know Your Epidemic": Does your national program place **resources** towards those most impacted? (key populations and communities)
NO

Does your country's Development Assistance Program (ODA) include support to HIV and AIDS? **Yes, via Slovak Aid**

What are the trends or emerging issues Civil Society identifies for the next 2–5 years? **Other than survival? Taking HIV seriously: Involvement of PLWH, Proper nationwide strategies not only on a paper, financial support, multidisciplinary approach, scaling up the services.**

Bit of hope for future

- ▶ PLWH
- ▶ www.hivaidssk.sk
- ▶ Current situation will gain attention of political leaders
- ▶ Updating of the current “Expert guidelines to ensure the prevention and treatment of HIV in the Slovak Republic No. 5650/99/A”, dated 1/12/1999.

Thank you for attention

