



Eurasian Coalition
on Male Health



Sign up now and get ready for —

European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week **17 - 24 November 2017**

Safe, voluntary testing for key and most affected populations

**A joint statement from key population networks,
regional networks, HIV and Hepatitis organisations**

We applaud European HIV–Hepatitis Testing Week’s (ETW) continuing efforts to:

1. Ensure effective, comprehensive, rights-based, safe, anonymous and voluntary HIV-Hepatitis testing is available and accessible for everyone, and
2. Promote early diagnosis and linkage to care, and increase awareness of the barriers faced by key and most affected populations seeking/accessing HIV and hepatitis testing and treatment.

We recognise that ETW 2017 marks a significant step up in advocacy and action to challenge existing barriers to safe voluntary testing, both real and perceived, and to truly ensure nobody is left behind.

Building on this unique opportunity, we are pleased to stand in solidarity with others representing or working with our peer-led country or regional networks, and with HIV/Hepatitis organisations to promote this vital testing campaign.

During European HIV-Hepatitis Week, we ask you, our constituents, to join with organisations, clinics, health care providers and policy makers across Europe and Central Asia to:

- **Challenge existing laws and policies that criminalise HIV and/or hepatitis transmission, exposure and non-disclosure and all forms of criminalisation or other legal oppression of key and most affected populations such as criminalization of drug use, same sex consensual practices and sex work. We strongly oppose such laws and policies.**

**17-24
NOVEMBER
EUROPEAN
HIV-HEPATITIS
TESTING
WEEK
2017
TEST.TREAT.PREVENT.
www.testingweek.eu**

Furthermore we ask you to join with us all to:

- Challenge non-rights based testing practices, including mandatory and coercive testing, forced registration, non-confidential testing, and other forms of testing that raise privacy concerns or put key populations at risk of prosecution or persecution
- Prioritise the inclusion of key and most affected populations in testing campaigns
- Remove restrictions on testing which prohibit community-based testing and self testing
- Encourage and invest in low threshold testing options such as peer to peer testing, harm reduction programmes, rapid testing in community-based settings and self-testing
- Improve access to affordable rapid and self- test kits
- Address those data protection and privacy concerns that create barriers to testing
- Facilitate swift, barrier-free linkage to care upon diagnosis with access to treatment in line with WHO and EACS guidelines
- Address chronic under-funding of key population-led programmes and networks

We encourage all efforts that address or promote all or any aspect of these strategic goals.

See ETW fact sheets #9 and #10 for further guidance to encourage cooperation and engagement by ensuring best practice, rights-based principles are adhered to.

Key populations include:

- Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM)
- People who inject drugs (PWID)
- Sex workers
- Trans people
- Migrants, refugees and mobile populations
- People in prisons and closed settings
- ChemSex and other amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) users/injectors

Additional key populations for hepatitis include:

- People on long-term haemodialysis
- People who have received blood transfusions
- People who use non injecting drugs paraphernalia (such as straws for sniffing, pipes for smoking etc.)

Most affected populations include:

- Most affected populations can vary by locale and region but often include sex partners of key population individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, women, girls and youth, especially migrant youth.

Next steps for you?

- Review the [ETW website](#) and [ETW Fact Sheets #9 and #10](#)
- [Sign on now](#) and prepare for ETW, 17-24 November 2017
- Share this information with your colleagues and encourage them to participate in ETW
- Network with others in your locale who have already [signed on](#) to ETW
- Explore joint work to encourage more safe and voluntary testing among key and most affected populations
- Let signatories know what you're planning so we can share your news to encourage others through the [ETW website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.
- **For more information on ETW, contact the coordinating centre at hie.rigshospitalet@regionh.dk**

ETW and the signatories will work with you to develop local translations and social media banners, as possible.