

Hepatitis B

Annual Report
(January - December 2015)

2015

designing pathways
to reduce HIV infections



**EA
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European
AIDS Treatment
Group



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2015: designing pathways to reduce HIV infections



European
AIDS Treatment
Group



1

EACS
satellite event
organised on the
CURE of HIV

1

event on
prevention



6

trainings organized



1

event
on advocacy
for treatment
of hepatitis



2

projects completed



65

official
representations



**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT in HIV treatment,
PREVENTION AND CLINICAL RESEARCH**



European Community Advisory Board (ECAB) meetings on HIV

Giulio Maria Corbelli, ECAB Chair and coordinator of the Cure satellite workshop "STEPS"

- **20-22 March:** twenty-one ECAB members attended this first HIV ECAB of 2015 in Brussels to discuss pipeline and ongoing trials on innovative research for HIV treatment, cure and prevention with Gilead and Bristol-Myers Squibb. Kane Race, Associate Professor in Gender and Cultural Studies from the University of Sydney, offered training on the concept of effectiveness on PrEP, leading into a discussion on evidence and interdisciplinarity in HIV prevention and sexual moralism as cultural barrier to new prevention options. David Haerry, project leader of the EUPATI project, presented the latest updates of the project, our contribution within the project and the way the European Medicines Agency (EMA) interacts with patient organisations.
- **22-24 May:** 18 community delegates gathered in Budapest to discuss with Gilead and Bristol-Myers Squibb access to innovative HCV treatment and the pipeline of DAA development programs. David Ananiashvili, EATG member, presented about the HCV Elimination programme started in

Georgia. Bryony Simmons offered a presentation of the methodology of the research on access to DAA, a first account and profiling of the data that were gathered and a discussion regarding useful research hypotheses and the use of the results for advocacy and visibility. Angelika Widhalm was also invited to present her personal experience as patient and as hepatitis advocate at ELPA.

- **19-21 June:** 22 community delegates discussed treatment-related issues with ViiV and Janssen in Bucharest. Karen Wood was invited to deliver training on nutrition, physical exercise and wellbeing together with Tamás Bereczky and Silvia Petretti. The internal meeting was chaired by Bryan Teixeira who consulted the members on the long term strategy.
- **6-7 November:** ECAB HIV – Brussels, Belgium 22 community delegates were invited to meet in Brussels with Gilead and Mylan Generics new treatment and prevention strategies as well as the impact of generic ARVs in Europe. Koen Block (EATG Executive Director) presented on the ongoing projects in which EATG is involved.
- **5-6 December:** ECAB HCV – Brussels, Belgium 17 community delegates discussed with AbbVie and MSD updates on clinical trials and programmes for inclusion of HCV patients to best treatment options. Stephan Dressler, EATG member, updated

the participants on the latest scientific issues and challenges on hepatitis treatment and cure that were highlighted during the AASLD conference in 2015.

Protocol reviews

Seventeen EATG members participated to the review of 11 protocols of clinical trials for Janssen, ViiV Bionor, the French Research Agency ANRS, and package leaflet for medical products for the European Medicines Agency (EMA).



Cure & Vaccines

EATG has been asked to become a partner in a few projects focusing on HIV eradication or long-term remission from HIV infection. We are waiting for the outcomes of the applications.

A community initiative to design the pathway to a long-term remission of HIV infection

For the second consecutive year EATG, coordinated by Giulio Maria Corbelli, organised a community workshop on HIV cure research which took place in Barcelona on October 20th. Nenad Petkovic has developed a report of the meeting, which is available upon request.

EHVA - European HIV Vaccine Alliance



- an EU platform for the discovery and evaluation of novel prophylactic and therapeutic vaccine candidates

<http://www.ehva.eu>

EATG integrated a consortium led by the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale

(INSERM) applying for an EC Horizon 2020 grant to develop a multidisciplinary Vaccine Platform (MVP) in the fields of prophylactic and therapeutic HIV vaccines. The project was approved and the kick-off meeting will take place in January 2016. EATG is the community partner in this project ensuring community feedback to the scientific developments within the project and will be mainly involved in WP 9: Therapeutic Vaccine Trials and in WP 11: Dissemination and Exploitation.

New Developments in HIV Prevention

The EATG has been progressively expanding its work in the area of prevention since the outcome of the HPTN 052 trial, demonstrating that anti-retroviral treatment is highly effective as prevention.

Following three introductory webinars which took place in the second half of 2014, EATG and other community members were invited to participate in a three-day expert meeting on HIV prevention jointly hosted by EATG and AVAC (23-25 January 2015). The highly successful meeting brought together a number of pharmaceutical companies and leading scientists in the field of prevention research with over 30 European advocates from the HIV community for three days of information

exchange and debate. Participants described it as 'long overdue' and welcomed the range and depth of the topics covered. With the support of the BOD an EATG Prevention Portfolio was established to take forward key advocacy actions, managed by a steering committee of five EATG members and the support of the working group chairs and key EATG staff.

Rebekah Webb has developed a report of the meeting, which is available upon request. It can be downloaded from <http://eatgavacprevention.tumblr.com>.



CHAARM (Combined Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Microbicides)

www.chaarm.eu



Gus Cairns, steering committee member and project leader for EATG

CHAARM was a research network funded by the EC under FP7. EATG has been part of the working group for dissemination and advocacy activities and has a representative on the CHAARM Steering Committee.

The EATG's role was to help identify target groups for dissemination of CHAARM activities and also to facilitate the organisation of 4 dedicated workshops focusing on CHAARM's scientific activities and achievements starting from the second year of the project.

After postponing the original deadline by six months, the project which has been researching and developing possible new biomedical methods of preventing HIV project for the last five and a half years, ended on 18 June with a final consortium meeting in Brussels.

EUROCOORD

<http://www.eurocoord.net>



Alain Volny-Anne, liaison for EATG

EuroCoord is a Network of Excellence established by several of the biggest HIV cohorts and collaborations within Europe - **CASCADE**, **COHERE**, **EuroSIDA**, and **PENTA**. This large integrated network exploits the scientific strengths of collaboration to ensure that the best, most competitive HIV research is performed.

EuroCoord has access to data from over 250,000 HIV-infected children and adults across the European continent and beyond. The multidisciplinary research undertaken by the network addresses key areas aimed at improving the management and life of HIV-infected individuals, whilst allowing differences within subgroups to be explored.

On 8-9 November a Community workshop has been organized to engage with ECAB and other community members on discussion of the main outcomes produced by EuroCoord and on

future developments. As the project ended, a new proposal for future cohort work at European level has been submitted. Giulio Maria Corbelli developed a report of the meeting which is available upon request.

EUPATI

<http://www.patientsacademy.eu>

David Haerry, Project Leader for the EATG



EUPATI is an IMI-funded consortium project, led by the European Patients' Forum, to educate patients and the lay public about how medicines' R&D works. A consortium of 29 organisations is developing training courses, educational toolkits and a web-based library to provide objective and credible information about medicines R&D and how patients can get involved. EUPATI will cover seven languages in 12 countries.

EATG is involved in the project as co-leader of WP7, dealing with future topics and EUPATI sustainability, and partner of WP2, WP4 and WP6. With its partners, EATG is leading on the development of guidelines for patient's

interaction with different stakeholders, catalogues of public-private partnerships, plans to sustain the use of the EUPATI outcomes after the conclusion of the project, reports, training material, application packages, guidelines for applicants and selection criteria for future participants of the Academy. EATG's contribution is crucial to make sure that the patient's voice is heard and respected.

EUPATI provides a very high level compilation of state of the art knowledge on the latest concepts in biomedical research, clinical trial design, ethics, and, last but not least, advocacy. The second edition of the Patient Academy started at the end of 2015. A total of 65 trainees were selected and started the one-year long project on R&D.

In 2015 two key events were organised with the extensive contribution of EATG:

- **5 March:** 'how to enable meaningful contribution to ethic review'. The EATG coordinated the organization of the second webinar for the EUPATI network members in collaboration with the WP2 (network implementation) and WP7 (future topics and EUPATI sustainability). The webinar discussed the framework of interaction between patients and ethic committees and the way

how patients can contribute to the ethical review of trials and products. The outcomes of the discussion is expected be used to prepare the guidance on this specific framework of interaction.

- **15 April:** at the DIA Euroconference in Paris, four frameworks of interaction within the EUPATI project were presented and discussed in parallel during a meeting session entitled “Best practice guidance: patient engagement with industry, ethics committees, health technology assessment bodies and regulatory agencies in medicines R&D” organised by the EATG and chaired by David Haerry. The outcomes are expected to be integrated into a deliverable aimed at providing guidance on the interaction between patient organisations and the different stakeholders.

EmERGE

<http://www.emergeproject.eu/>



Brian West, Project Leader

On 1st May the EmERGE project (Evaluating mHealth technology in HIV to improve Empowerment and healthcare utilisation: Research and innovation to Generate Evidence for personalised care) officially started. EmERGE is a project funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Researcher and Innovation Programme under Grant agreement no: 643736. EmERGE will develop a mHealth platform to enable self-management of HIV in patients with stable disease. The platform will build upon and integrate the existing mHealth solutions operated by pioneering healthcare providers in the UK and Spain and apply a rigorous co-design approach to ensure patient and clinician input to the solution.

EATG is leader on WP 8 (dissemination). We developed the website and will be responsible for newsletters and other communication tools. We are the main community partner within the project and have local community

partners in 5 countries. A roadmap has been developed to identify the tasks of EATG in collaboration with the University of Sussex in collecting community feedback to facilitate the development of an IT tool to support medical follow up. Initial workshops are being planned to carry out early 2016 to identify community needs, expectations and concerns. Linked to the Barcelona conference a meeting took place with all community partners to prepare the community consultations in 2016.

Ageing with HIV: A Lifecycle Approach

www.ageingwithhiv.com

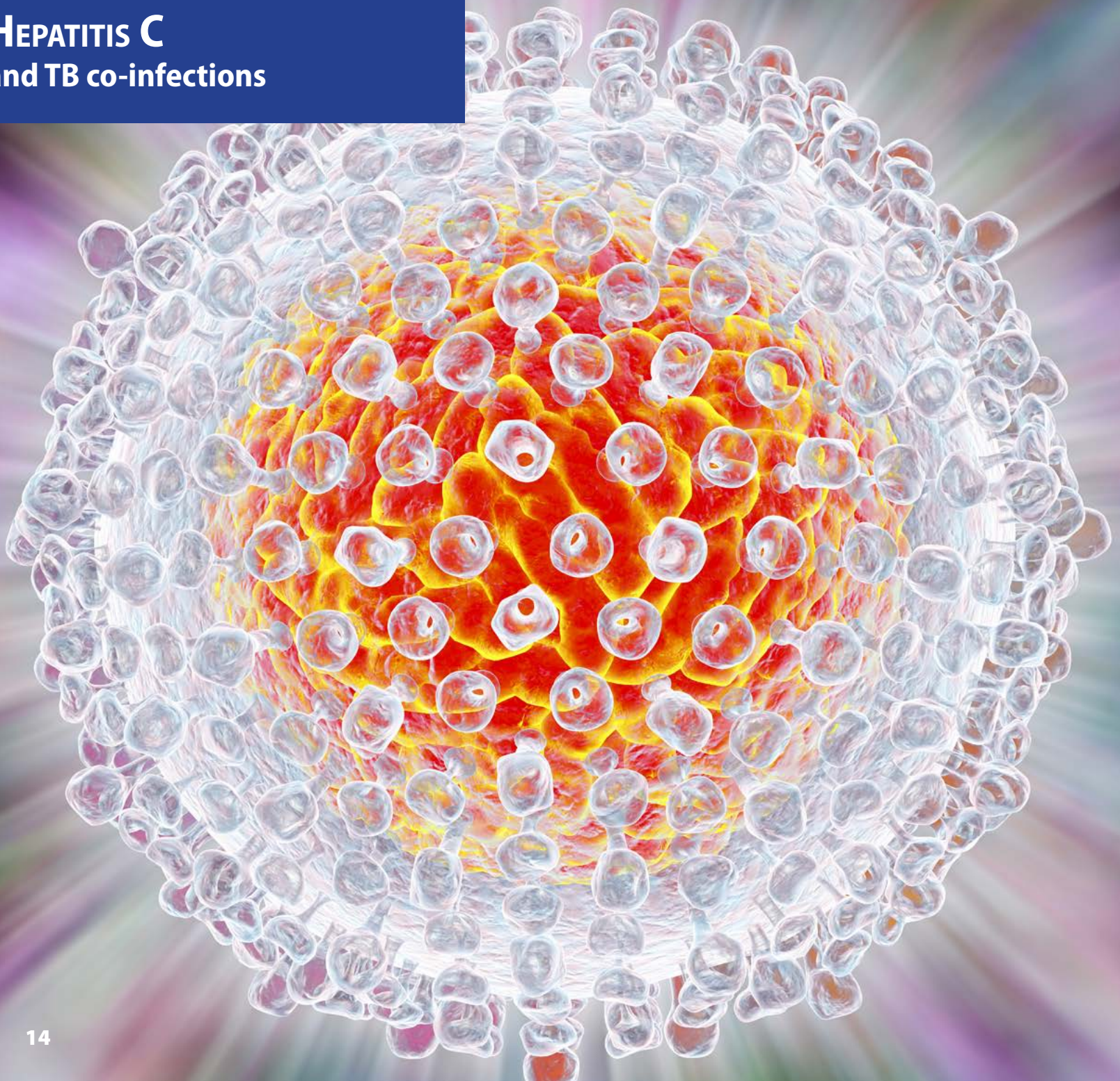


EATG initiated advocacy for research into clinical and social aspects of ageing with HIV. With the collaboration of all working groups EATG developed the project proposal “Ageing with HIV – a life cycle approach”. The strategic objective of this project is to enhance networking opportunities within community members, researchers, advocates and policy makers to address the emergent domain of “HIV and Ageing” in a collaborative framework. The

project kick-off meeting took place in Brussels on the 2nd and 3rd of December starting the first phase of the project which includes a series of webinars and a conference dedicated to the topic of “*New challenges and unmet needs of people living with HIV/AIDS aged 50+*”.



HEPATITIS C and TB co-infections



Increasing access to hepatitis C treatment

On February 2015, Svilen Konov was appointed as EATG Hepatitis Coordinator

EATG is implementing hepatitis C treatment advocacy on many levels: from direct constructive engagement with the pharmaceutical industry, to direct action when our voices must be heard by a larger audience.

In 2015 EATG decided to concentrate on the following priority areas:

1. Access to treatment, care and support, for both co- and mono-infected people. EATG continued the constructive dialogue with pharmaceutical companies through ECAB and the Sitges meeting. Discussions with governments and local (regional decision-makers) were also prioritised. EATG intends to also reach to payers and provide a community feedback into their programmatic framework. This part of our work will be done predominantly via common efforts between ECAB and the PWG.

2. Training, EATG continued to train grass-root activists on HCV via our regular training activities, now lead by the TCBWG. Additionally, EATG aimed to put HIV/HCV confection on the agenda of local HCV organisations in order to create more allies.

3. Scientific development. EATG continued its work on HCV drug development through ECAB meetings (see ECAB session). However, further enhancement is necessary in the relationships with academic institutions and research organisations as EATG intends to influence the research agenda in a direction that will better reflect the clinical needs of co-infected people.

4. Development of partnerships

Even though EATG has a certain presence in the HCV world, we think that we need to improve our relationship with key partners in the HCV treatment advocacy field.

Thematic ECAB meeting on hepatitis C

Two ECAB meetings were dedicated to the engagement of members in the discussion on best treatment options and care for people living with hepatitis C. See the previous session on ECAB for more details on HCV ECABs.



Sitges VIII

The eighth international workshop on viral hepatitis was held on 2-4 October 2015. This year's theme was: "Access to HCV treatment in Europe 53: All inclusive?" SITGES VIII gathered 33 people representing all different players in the HCV treatment: community, pharmaceutical industry, medical professionals, researchers, international organisations. They all will be acquainted with real life models of HCV treatment provision and other relevant information through presentations by experts with diverse background. Day 1 was dedicated to community development and strategizing, so that community can have a meaningful participation and impact on the decisions about HCV treatments that are taken locally. Day 2 was divided into 2 sections. Section one gathering all participants to listen to different experiences with provision of treatments-Georgia, Ukraine, and Spain-while Section 2 was carousel of individual discussions with each pharmaceutical company and the rest of the participants without the competitors being present.

The European HIV and Hepatitis Co-infection Conference

The EATG participated as a key community partner at the European HIV and Hepatitis Co-infection Conference held in London in December 2015.

TB Online

<http://www.tbonline.info>

Ana Balkandjieva – providing updates of contents to the website

TB Online is a website for activists, patients, health workers and researchers which disseminates knowledge and promotes advocacy to end the worldwide epidemic of tuberculosis. The site is run by the Global Tuberculosis Community Advisory Board (TB CAB) and is dedicated to increasing community involvement in TB research and to mobilizing political will to develop and make available TB diagnostics and treatments.

EATG continued its contribution to TB online with six other organisations: Community Media Trust, Treatment Action Group, Treatment Action Campaign, European AIDS Treatment Group, South Africa Development Fund and HIV i-Base.

TB portfolio

On July 2015 Laia Ruiz and Elena Martínez were appointed as project co-leaders to coordinate the EATG activity in HIV/TB treatment advocacy. They started developing a TB work plan and the preparation of a meeting on TB co-infection. One webinar was organised to update community members on clinical needs for the treatment of TB/HIV coinfection.

EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND TIMELY ACCESS TO TREATMENT OF KEY AFFECTED POPULATIONS



The members of the Policy Working Group (PWG) are supporting most of the work done by EATG on access, affordability, early diagnosis and key affected populations. The main projects are:

The HIV in Europe initiative



EATG continued to serve as Advocacy Secretariat of the HIV in Europe initiative: a pan-European initiative kicked off in Brussels in 2007 to ensure that HIV positive patients receive earlier diagnosis and enter earlier care in the course of their infection.

European HIV Testing Week

EATG was engaged in the preparation of the third European Testing Week from 20-27 November 2015. In 2015, the week formally expanded to include hepatitis and is now named European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week.

The week seeks to unite various stakeholders in increasing awareness of the benefits of HIV and viral hepatitis testing and campaign for access to treatment in order to prevent further transmissions throughout Europe – which is why the theme for 2015 was “TEST.TREAT.PREVENT”.

OptTEST project

<http://www.opttest.eu/Project>

Within the context of the OptTEST project (Optimising testing and linkage to care for HIV across Europe), whose overall objective is to reduce the number of undiagnosed people with HIV and newly diagnosed late presenters in the EU, and to foster timely treatment and care, EATG is focusing on work addressing legal and regulatory barriers to testing and linkage to care. The project started on 1 June 2014. The project addresses a) Linkage and retention to HIV care after diagnosis; b) Development of tools for indicator HIV guided testing; c) Cost-effectiveness of different testing strategies for key populations; d) Stigma and legal barriers to the provision and uptake of HIV testing services.

EATG is involved in work package (WP) 1 (coordination), 2 (dissemination) and 3 (evaluation). EATG members are reviewing tools to improve the clinical delivery of indicator condition guided HIV testing (WP5) and the advocacy/resources toolkit to remove legal and policy barriers to testing and linkage to care (WP 7) In March-April, EATG took part in the revision of WHO recommendations on testing and counselling and reviewed the drafts.

During Spring, EATG community consultation workshop with members in Portugal of service users' on the Acceptability of Early Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and Viral Load Monitoring use of antiretroviral drugs for treating and preventing HIV infection. EATG took part in the WHO 2015 ARV Guidelines Operational Guideline Development Group meeting taking place on 16 –19 June 2015 in Geneva.

Let's talk testing

Why should YOU test for HIV and hepatitis?

Join @ECDC_EU, @HIVheptestweek, @Hep_Alliance and @EATGx to discuss the benefits of testing.

When: Friday, 27 November 2015
11:00 - 12:00 CET

Send us your questions using the hashtag #time2test

EUROPEAN HIV-HEPATITIS TESTING WEEK
ecdc



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN TREATMENT ADVOCACY



ADVOCACY

Renewing political commitment to achieve universal access to prevention, treatment and care for HIV and co-infections in Europe

EATG advocacy for increased political attention to HIV and co-infections aimed at securing the adoption of a pan-European ministerial declaration setting targets with clear indicators and a European Commission (EC) policy framework and action plan to improve the European response to HIV/AIDS, as well as to tuberculosis, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections across the continent. Advocacy has also sought to ensure the inclusion of specific measures ensuring the human rights of key affected populations and to scale up of testing and timely access to treatment for key affected populations in policy documents and events. In September, EATG participated in an ad-hoc brainstorming organised by the European Commission on future activities in the field of HIV and co-infections. EATG has been collaborating with organisations working with communities affected by viral hepatitis and tuberculosis. In September, we jointly wrote to Commission President to urge the adoption of

an updated policy framework. In November, we jointly developed and published a briefing paper "Health Matters; EU political leadership needed to end the HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis C in Europe". The Commission replied that it was exploring all possible options but in 2016 no decision was taken in a context where health is a secondary priority for the current Commission leadership.

Meanwhile, EATG participated in WHO and UNAIDS regional consultations on their new long term strategies for 2016-2021 and WHO Bryan Teixeira is the EATG representative at the NGO delegation to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board. Peter Wiessner co-chair of the Policy Working Group until the 2015 General Assembly, participated in the UNAIDS consultation on 26-27 March.

See press release at <http://www.eatg.org/news/eatgnews/>.



The EU Civil Society Forums on HIV/ AIDS and on Drugs:

AIDS Action Europe (AAE) and EATG co-chaired and coordinated the work of the EU HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum, an informal advisory body to the European Commission to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations, including those representing people living with HIV/AIDS in policy development and implementation and in information-exchange activities. The CSF includes about 40 organizations from all over Europe and observers from European Commission (health, justice and external action service), UNAIDS, WHO Europe, ECDC, EMCDDA, UNODC. Until end of December the CSF on HIV/AIDS was co-chaired by Tamás Bereczky (EATG) and Lella Cosmaro (AAE). The day to day coordination tasks are carried out by AAE and EATG staff. In 2016, new chairs were appointed Luis Mendão (EATG) and Sini Pasanen (AAE).

In 2015, discussion included research and policy development topics related to PrEP; Prevention among MSM; Prevention among youth and adolescents; Update on harm reduction policies (UNGASS meeting); Quality Action project; Gender dimension and Women; self-testing; community based testing approaches and barriers; implications of new treatment

guidelines; EU joint procurement mechanism; access to hepatitis medicines and approaches to address the high price demands for new treatments.

EATG organised a task force with members from both the HIV Civil Society Forum and the Civil Society Forum in order to coordinate activities on the way towards the UNGASS meeting on drugs in April 2016 and to strengthen the European position on harm and risk reduction, Human rights and NPS (New Psychoactive Substances). In June, following a call for application, EATG was also selected as member of the Civil Society Forum on Drugs.

Access to affordable medicines

As part of the HIV Civil Society Forum (CSF) and its own capacity, EATG has been advocating for support from the European Commission to member states in accessing more affordable quality. EATG had specifically advocated for the inclusion of HIV, HCV and MDR TB medicines in the joint procurement tool that was created in the EU cross-border health threats decision. A session of the autumn CSF addressed access to direct acting agents for hepatitis C and civil society advocacy towards national authorities and industry.

EATG developed a project proposal for a larger project on affordability in line with the political and advocacy activities on access to affordable and optimal treatment through the Policy Working Group and the Civil Society Forum: *'Mobilizing patient voices towards affordability of HIV, TB and hepatitis C medicines and medical tools in Europe'*. This proposal was not accepted. Other ways of funding are still being investigated.



responsibility coach

Empowerment

ability accountability strategy

education potential guide

solution learning management

opportunity goal know

professional experience



STEP UP Training Academy:

Building on the success of its first year, the second edition of the STEP-UP program welcomed a new cohort of 20 participants from 18 different countries across Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia at the end of 2014.

The 5 module training program on treatment literacy and advocacy, delivered across a year-long period, aimed at providing participants – mainly PLHIV and community activists – with the knowledge and skills they need to motivate policy makers and government to ensure HIV remains high on the political agenda in their countries. During each module of the program, the training sessions have been delivered by four experienced trainers from Western and Eastern Europe.

Following the start of program in November 2014, modules 2-5 have been organized throughout the year. The focus of the programme's second module in Brussels centred on the transmission and treatment of TB, introducing participants to medical statistics, myths and stories about HIV/AIDS and alternative and complementary medicines. The third module in Warsaw looked at

transmission and treatment of hepatitis and STIs, HIV and pregnancy and provided an introduction to protocol review and informed consent in clinical trials. Module 4 in Sofia addressed topics such as PEP and PrEP, stakeholder mapping, and Research and Development. The last module of STEP-UP II brought the group to Barcelona, a few days before the start of the European AIDS Clinical Society Conference. Following the training, the trainees got the valuable opportunity of attending the conference.



Building on the final evaluations from Year 1 edition of the STEP-UP, the training methodology relied on a mix of presentations, case studies and plenary de-briefs. The joint sessions between the Russian and English speaking groups created an opportunity for the group to get a better understanding of the treatment discourse on the national levels across Europe and Central Asia as well as to further promote sharing of best practices of community engagement and empowerment. Several trainees attended joint VOICE/STEP-UP meetings (VOICE is a STEP-UP-like program for healthcare professionals from Europe working on infectious diseases).

At the end of the program, the participants were given the opportunity to apply for grants to implement follow-up projects to the training, thus putting their acquired knowledge into practice. By the end of 2015, EATG has received 13 applications for STEP-UP follow-up activities.

Training in St Petersburg 5-7 June

Together with the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ITPCru) EATG has organized a second training in St Petersburg in June 2015 within the framework of the project "Access, Services, Knowledge (ASK): Treatment of HIV and Related Co-infections among People who Inject Drugs". The training responded to the rapidly rising HIV, hepatitis C and Tuberculosis prevalence rates in the countries of the former USSR and focussed on treatment literacy and care for most marginalized and stigmatized people living with HIV/AIDS and related co-infections, especially for intravenous drug users (IDU) (responds 20 representatives from non-governmental organizations, social workers and healthcare providers from Ukraine, Russia, Tajikistan, Latvia and Uzbekistan attended the training. The three training days in St. Petersburg presented them with the unique opportunity to discuss and present regional problems and local best practices, skills and services on the integrated approaches to the treatment of HIV/AIDS and related co-infections for IDUs.

Within the scope of the two trainings of the ASK project, EATG has allocated five small grants for the implementation of follow-up activities by the participants in 2015.

AIM training in Kaliningrad 29 October – 1st November

The “Awareness, Improvement, Mobilization (AIM) – Enhancing treatment literacy on HIV/AIDS and related co-infections among people working with IDUs in East Europe” training took place in Kaliningrad, Russia, on 29 October – 1 November 2015. It was jointly organized by the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) and ITPCru.

Focusing on the most crucial information needs of people working with IDUs in Eastern Europe on the topics of HIV, TB and HCV treatment and their community health care providers, the goal of the training was to empower the communities of IDUs at large and enable them to play an active role in and contribute to the discourse on the treatment and care of HIV/AIDS and related co-infections in East Europe.

21 participants from Ukraine and Russia – among them people living with HIV, and/or with HCV/ TB, doctors, social workers, counsellors, and representatives from local NGOs working with IDUs have attended the training. The training sessions have been delivered by a team of four trainers from Russia, Germany and UK.



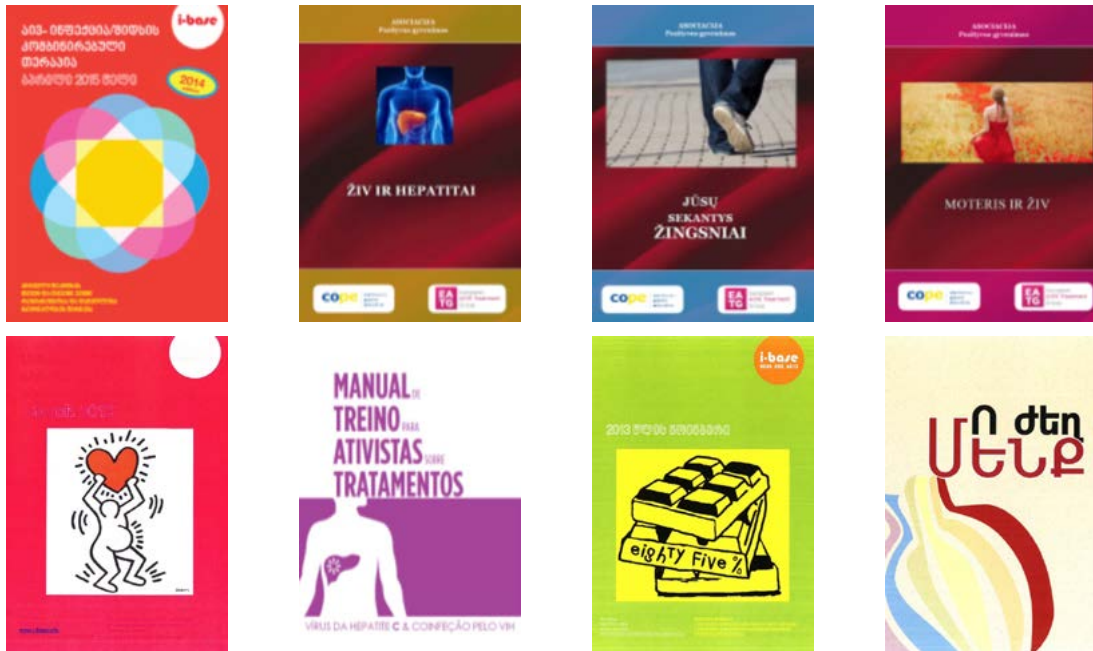
COPE

The overall long-term goal of the CONTINUOUS PATIENT EDUCATION (COPE) Project is to outreach to broad regional audience that needs scientifically-accurate, reliable, user-friendly and patient-oriented information on treatment, care, support, and prevention of HIV/AIDS. By funding the translation and adaptation of

patient education materials related to HIV/AIDS treatment, local people living with HIV and their advocates are empowered to dialogue with clinicians, health administrators and policy makers.

In 2015 EATG supported the translation of 12 publications in 6 different countries through the COPE project:

PUBLICATION	SOURCE	ORGANISATION/COUNTRY
"Your next steps"; "HIV & women"; "HIV & Hepatitis".	NAM Publications	Pozityvus gyvenimas - Lithuania
"training manual for treatment advocates hepatitis c virus and hiv coinfections"	TAG - Treatment Action Group	GAT - Portugal
"introduction to the combination therapy"; "guide to hepatitis c for people living with hiv."	hiv i-base	Union Georgian Plus Group - Georgia
"We are strong: Mobilisation and capacity building of communities vulnerable to HIV. Methodological Training Guideline"	International HIV/ AIDS Alliance Ukraine	We For Civil Equality NGO (WFCE) - Armenia
"HIV, pregnancy and women's health"	HIV-i-Base	Albanian Association of PLWHA - Albania
"Tratament HIV –SIDA"; Infectii oportuniste » ; «Nutritia si HIV-SIDA»; « Transmiterea HIV de la mamă la copil » ; « Dictionar HIV »	Terre des hommes	Romania



Conferences

The European AIDS Treatment Group regularly organises community feedback sessions on key findings and results of the most important HIV / co-infection conferences. The community feedback sessions allow treatment activists that are new or not familiar with conferences to better understand key messages from the conference that can be shared with their local colleagues.



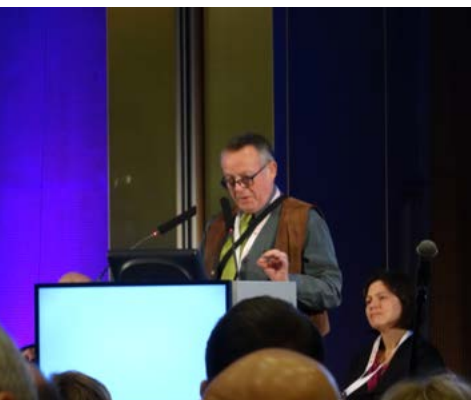
CROI 2015 Seattle

This year the CROI meeting was held in Seattle between 23-26 February. Following the data presented at the conference on the Proud and Ipergay study, EATG launched jointly with NAM a community consensus statement to urge the approval of the use of ARV drugs in preventing HIV transmission -PrEP. You can find the statement at the link below: <http://www.hivt4p.org/>

More reporting about the CROI meeting from the EATG delegates who attended the events can be found at the following Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/EATG-at-CROI-2015/1611382755751370?fref=ts>

EASL 2015

The EASL meeting was attended by the EATG Hepatitis Coordinator Svilen Konov.



IAS 2015 Vancouver

This year the IAS conference took place in Vancouver between July 10 and 22. EATG delegates reported on the meeting and relevant satellite events on the Facebook page "EATG at IAS" at the following links: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/EATG-at-IAS-2015/1626246590947594?fref=ts>

EACS 2015 Barcelona

EATG was widely represented at the EACS 2015 (Barcelona, October 21-24) where an EATG booth was in place during the whole meeting.

A number of EATG delegates presented in sessions covering different topics such PrEP, new strategies of prevention and affordability...

A satellite community workshop on new strategies for HIV long-term remission was organised by EATG (see details in the cure session) EATG delegates reported on the meeting and relevant satellite events on the Facebook page "EATG at EACS 2015".

HUMAN RIGHTS

AND KEY AFFECTED POPULATIONS



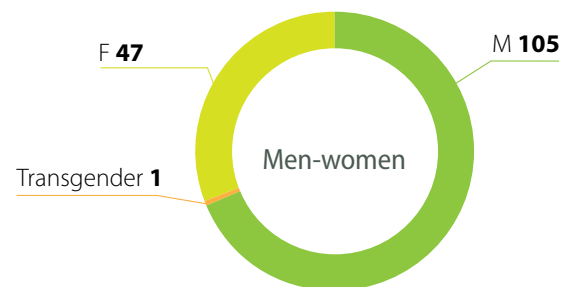
EATG and the Civil Society Forum on HIV sent a letter to the Minister of Health of the Czech Republic that expressed our concern over the fact that the Government of the Czech Republic was considering the introduction of mandatory HIV testing for certain at-risk populations. A letter was also sent to the European Commission Directorate General for Health and Food Safety Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis inviting him to support our objections and address these concerns not only to the Czech Minister but also to other Ministers of Health reiterating that active discrimination and the violation of Human Rights will not help either to curb or to control the epidemic. The proposal of the law has been withdrawn by the Czech Minister of Health.

January - December 2015

We had 141 members at the beginning of the year. In December 2015 we had a total of 153 members coming from 45 different countries (including Kosovo, US, South Africa and Canada). 20 members joined the organisation during the year; some members left.

Men-women

The gender balance has slightly improved compared to the beginning of this year, resulting in 105 male members (68.6% compared to 71.6% in January); 47 women (30.7% compared to 27.6%) and 1 transgender (0.6% compared to 0.7%).



Supporting-ordinary members

We currently have 99 ordinary members (members with voting rights) and 54 supporting members.



Year of joining

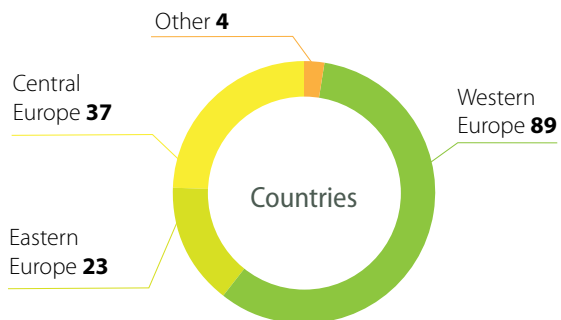
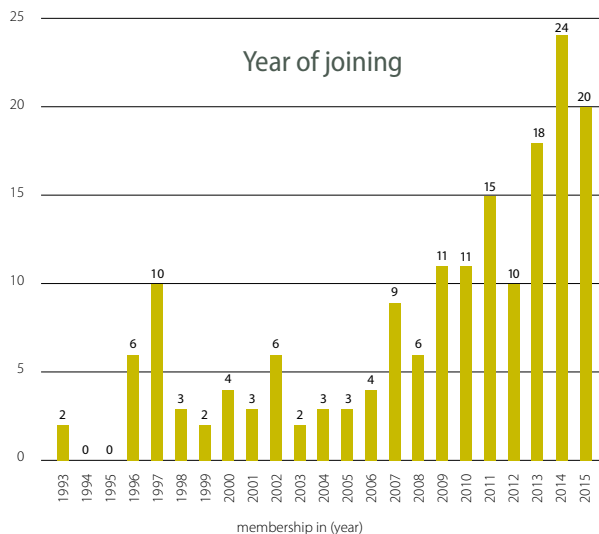
The majority of our members joined the organisation in 2014, followed by 2015, 2013 and 2011. The organisation still has some original founding members

Countries

The majority of our members come from Western Europe (as defined by WHO). 89 members come from this region. 37 members are from Central Europe and 23 members come from Eastern Europe. On percentage we mainly see a slight increase within Central Europe.

HIV status

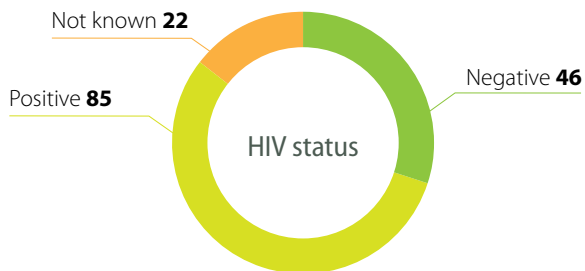
85 members are HIV-positive; 46 members identified themselves as HIV negative and the HIV status is not known for 22 members.



WHO definition of Western Europe (24 countries): Andorra, Austria*, Belgium*, Denmark*, Finland*, France*, Germany*, Greece*, Iceland, Ireland*, Israel, Italy*, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg*, Malta*, Monaco, Netherlands*, Norway, Portugal*, San Marino, Spain*, Sweden*, Switzerland, United Kingdom*;

Central Europe (15 countries): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria*, Croatia, Cyprus*, Czech Republic*, Hungary*, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland*, Romania*, Serbia, Slovakia*, Slovenia*, Turkey;

Eastern Europe (15 countries): Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia*, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia*, Lithuania*, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.



EATG Expenditure 2015

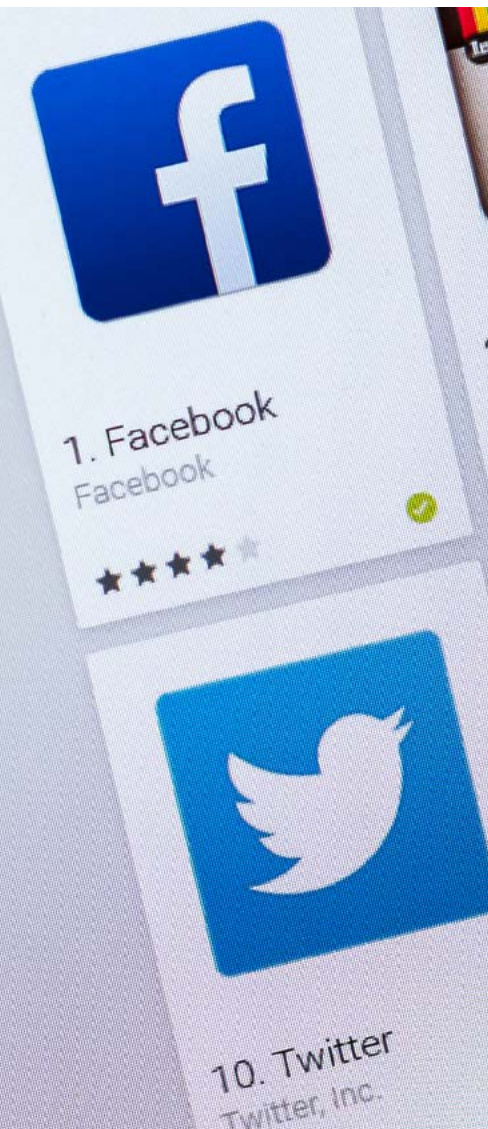
		Total 2015 Budget	Total 2015 Expenditure	% of budget
Scientific Research	ECAB meetings, Protocol, Prevention, Reviews & Representation	244,400 €	171,460 €	70%
	STEPS- A community initiative to design the pathway to a long-term remission of HIV infection	6,272 €	6,272 €	100%
	TB Portfolio	16,039 €	12,660 €	79%
	CHAARM Project	6,628 €	3,567 €	54%
	EUPATI Project	114,776 €	97,844 €	85%
	EHVA Project	1,975 €	0 €	0%
	Total	390,091 €	291,803 €	75%
Policy and Advocacy	Policy Working Group and external representation	69,551 €	71,654 €	103%
	OptTEST Project	36,789 €	14,437 €	39%
	aMASE Project	8,741 €	4,376 €	50%
	Civil Society Forum	11,800 €	8,400 €	71%
	HIV in Europe Project	24,823 €	8,749 €	35%
	WHO consultation	9,495 €	9,856 €	104%
	Total	161,199 €	117,472 €	73%
HCV	69,551 €	71,654 €	103%	69.6%
	Total	93,558 €	59,759 €	64%
Other projects	Eurocoord	5,444 €	5,188 €	95%
	Living Positively with HIV – A Lifecycle Approach	12,723 €	10,626 €	84%
	EMERGE project	32,888 €	28,240 €	86%
	UNAIDS consultation	12,800 €	9,466 €	74%
	Factsheet project	18,299 €	14,010 €	77%
	Total	5,444 €	5,188 €	95%
Capacity Building	Training & Capacity Building Working Group Meetings & other costs	28,388 €	20,883 €	74%
	"Project: Access, Services, Knowledge (ASK): Treatment of HIV/AIDS and related co-infections among people who inject drugs "	43,035 €	40,997 €	95%
	"Awareness, Improvement, Mobilization (AIM): Enhancing Treatment Literacy on HIV and Related Co-infections in East Europe"	33,934 €	36,746 €	108%
	Step Up Training Academy	10,000 €	6,404 €	64%
	Training Staff	4,968 €	1,736 €	35%
	Continuous Patient Education (COPE)	49,153 €	26,752 €	54%
	Conference Support for staff	22,710 €	35,338 €	156%
	Membership Development	14,194 €	3,416 €	24%
	BHIVA Conference participation	0 €	9,172 €	0%
	External Representation (& conference attendance)	22,710 €	29,370 €	129%
	Total	229,092 €	210,814 €	92%
Communication	Website content management, Communications Advisor, Publications, IT support, Website etc.	52,922 €	35,749 €	58%
	Total	52,922 €	35,749 €	68%
Governance	Ombudspersons	1,419 €	0 €	0%
	GA	80,909 €	79,280 €	98%
	BOD	70,973 €	66,692 €	94%
	DMAG	15,614 €	11,197 €	72%
	Internal Auditors	5,678 €	4,919 €	87%
	Governance Meeting	11,356 €	-493 €	-4%
	Long Term Strategy Development	33,291 €	25,129 €	75%
	Stakeholders Meeting	10,646 €	11,094 €	104%
	External Advisory Board	3,549 €	2,693 €	76%
	Fundraising	35,388 €	21,664 €	61%
	Total	268,822 €	222,175 €	83%
Administration	Staff Salaries, office and other operating costs	71,909 €	176,569 €	246%
	Recruitment Costs	8,516 €	10,474 €	123%
	Legal Advice	4,258 €	498 €	12%
	External Auditors	17,033 €	14,970 €	88%
	Total	101,716 €	202,510 €	199%
	Total 2015	1,379,553 €	1,207,812 €	88%

EATG Income 2015

		Total	Percentage of Total Income
Donations			
	BOEHRINGER-INGELHEIM	7,842 €	0.66%
	GILEAD	249,842 €	21.07%
	MSD/MERCK	103,921 €	8.76%
	BMS	48,797 €	4.12%
	ABBVIE	179,811 €	15.17%
	JANSSEN	159,926 €	13.49%
	ViiV	163,563 €	13.79%
	ROCHE	7,842 €	0.66%
	MYLAN	10,000 €	0.84%
	MEMBERS	2,076 €	0.18%
Projects			
	Awareness, Improvement, Mobilization (AIM)	23,168 €	1.95%
	CSF	8,400 €	1.95%
	OPTTEST	12,769 €	0.71%
	HIV IN EUROPE	8,734 €	0.74%
	CHAARM	9,630 €	0.81%
	EUPATI	94,062 €	7.93%
	AMASE	4,376 €	0.37%
	COPE	26,753 €	2.26%
	EMERGE	26,369 €	2.22%
	WHO CONSULTATION	9,040 €	0.76%
	PREP UNAIDS	9,244 €	0.78%
	OTHER	500 €	0.04%
	Total	1,166,667 €	98.40%
Membership fees		4,975 €	0.42%
Interest		1,327 €	0.11%
Recoverable costs		10,976 €	0.93%
Other		1,739 €	0.15%
Total income 2015		1,185,683 €	100.00%

EATG 2016 Budget

		Budget
Scientific Research	ECAB meetings, Protocol Reviews & Representation	240,300 €
	Prevention Portfolio	12,340 €
	TB Portfolio	11,452 €
	EUPATI Project	136,575 €
	EHVA Project	12,388 €
	Total	413,055 €
Policy and Advocacy	Policy Working Group meetings/external representation/other	65,124 €
	Affordability Portfolio	6,815 €
	Civil Society Forum	15,100 €
	OptTEST Project	47,337 €
	HIV in Europe Project	12,362 €
	Total	146,738 €
HCV	All Activities	69,402 €
	Total	69,402 €
Other projects	Eurocoord	1,363 €
	Living Positively with HIV – A Lifecycle Approach	125,647 €
	Women's project	6,815 €
	Factsheet project	16,025 €
	EMERGE project	95,125 €
	Total	8,516 €
Capacity Building	Training & Capacity Building Working Group Meetings & other costs	27,260 €
	Awareness, Improvement, Mobilization (AIM)	5,925 €
	Improved Treatment and Care Access (ITACA)	40,522 €
	HIV in Istanbul	12,812 €
	Mobilizing migrant communities via Capacity and Access resources	17,261 €
	Step Up Training Academy	320,663 €
	Training Staff	5,452 €
	Continuous Patient Education (COPE)	37,400 €
	Conference Support for staff	27,260 €
	Membership Development	13,630 €
	External Representation (& conference attendance)	27,260 €
	Total	535,445 €
Communication	Website content management/Publications/IT support/other	51,712 €
	Total	51,712 €
Governance	Ombudspersons	1,363 €
	General Assembly	81,780 €
	Board of Directors	61,335 €
	Development and Membership Advisory Group	14,993 €
	Internal Auditors	5,452 €
	Governance Meeting	13,630 €
	Stakeholders Meeting	10,223 €
	External Advisory Board	3,408 €
	Total	192,183 €
Administration	Staff Salaries and office cost	111,921 €
	Recruitment Costs	6,815 €
	Fundraising	83,308 €
	Legal Advice	4,089 €
	External Auditors	16,356 €
	Total	222,488 €
Total Budget 2015		1,875,998 €



Website, Digest news and Visual Identity

EATG continued offering the service of the daily 'Global HIV News' for everyone interested in the latest developments around HIV/AIDS. The news feeds are updated daily and cover not only recent European developments but also stories from around the world.

We also continued our collaboration within the TB online website.

Currently, a total of 759 people follow the general EATG Facebook page, up from 550 in January 2015, representing an increase of 38%. The chart below shows a steady development with a slightly steeper increase from May/June 2015.

Social media presence development of the EATG in 2015

The presence of the EATG in social media has grown significantly in the first three quarters of 2015. In addition to the general Facebook page, the EATG has also introduced the practice of reporting from different events, such as conferences, meetings, in social media to make sure that a wide audience is reached, and that the audience can selectively opt into reading reports from events. Social media presence not only offers a possibility to reach readers quickly and effectively with messages, but it is also an opportunity to create a repository, or archive, of reports, discussions and opinions that can be reached at the readers' convenience.

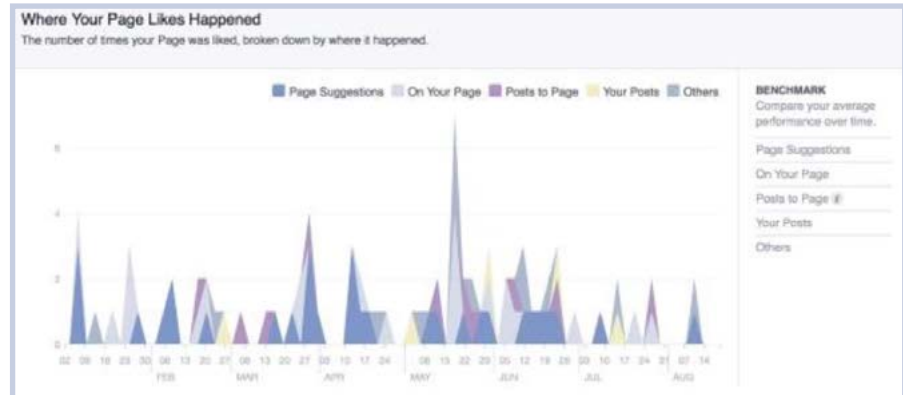


A closer analysis of the readership shows that consistent posting and management of the page reduces the number of readers who leave (“unlike”) the page. The low number of readers leaving the page suggests that the right content is being provided.

A comparison of the time points when “likes” happened against the content elements provided shows that a certain type of posts that attracts attention. Some of the best read posts are the ones that include controversial or sensational news, discussion topics. It appears that even heavier, more policy or science oriented content is more successful and get shared more widely if the style of writing is easy, straightforward and journalistic.

One very successful and well-read Facebook page is the **HIV Europe Policy** page created by merging the Civil Society Forum and the Policy Working Group pages. This is not exclusively for the EATG but an open, moderated group where you can publish and discuss various policy oriented topics regarding HIV and related conditions:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/339663701003/>



This closed group page currently caters to app. 410 members with a daily addition rate of app. 2 new members per day.

The following pages are related to **individual conferences** and topics. These are no longer updated but serve as a repository of information from the past. We shall continue with the system of setting up pages for conferences and events as it has proven to be quite successful. It is a powerful reporting tool, improves the involvement and accountability of members attending different functions, and has increased the visibility of the EATG greatly.

ECAB did hold a special training session on the role and importance of nutrition and exercise in the treatment and management of HIV in addition to medicines in Bucharest in June. This Facebook page is a preparation for this meeting with journal articles and discussion points:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/HIV-Nutrition-Exercise-Wellbeing/376158212593105>

The following pages are related to individual conferences where the EATG was present with a delegation of members. These are no longer updated, but you may find them interesting to browse for information:

EATG at CROI 2015 in Seattle

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/EATG-at-CROI-2015/1611382755751370>

EATG at IAS 2015 in Vancouver

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/EATG-at-IAS-2015/1626246590947594>

EATG at EACS 2015 in Barcelona

<https://www.facebook.com/EATG-at-EACS-15th-Conference-983942401665815/?fref=ts>

EATG at BHIVA 2015

<https://www.facebook.com/EATG-at-the-BHIVA-HIV-Hepatitis-Co-infection-Conference-851565564894280/?fref=ts>

ECAB and AVAC organised a very successful meeting on prevention, PrEP and TasP in January 2015. This blog provides a comprehensive collection of all presentations and talks from the meeting, and some more:

<http://eatgavacprevention.tumblr.com>

Twitter (@EATGx)

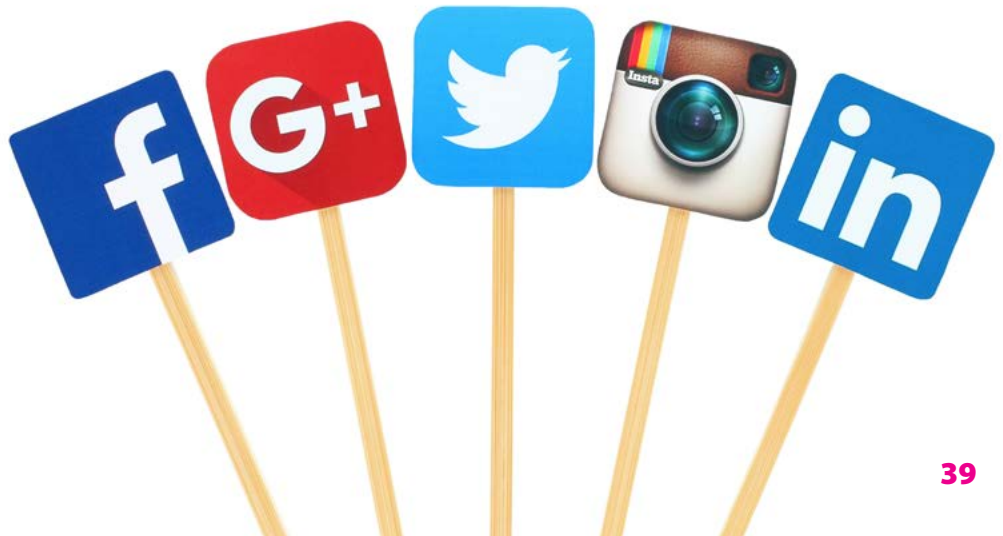
EATG has also intensified its Twitter presence in 2015. 120 new followers were added in Q1-3 2015, with a clear trend of steep increase from May when the number of tweets increased. Tweet impressions (reach of content pushed out on Twitter) grew from 45 in January to 1236 in August 2015.

Content shared by the EATG on Twitter is not only favoured by a good number of users but is also re-shared and commented on a regular basis, which shows that some of the content is relevant for the wider readership. With a total of 564 followers, EATG is also ranked on several Twitter lists as an opinion leader in the field of HIV/AIDS. It is difficult to estimate the requirements for the popularity of content, but experience shows that a reliable, steady presence and the consistency of information keep readers engaged. The necessary brevity of tweets requires concise messages.

Communication on Twitter is more intensive during conferences and other important events. This produces peaks in tweet impressions followed by less intensive periods. A more consistent and even presence is recommended and aimed for. The possibility of organising Twitter chats, and a closer monitoring of the newly emerging communication patterns of the pharmaceutical industry on Twitter (and other social media) are strongly recommended.

External Newsletter

EATG also continued publishing its digital External news.



ARV	Antiretroviral
BOD	Board of Directors
CHAARM	Combined Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Microbicides (FP 7 project)
COPE	COntinuous Patient Education
CSF	Civil Society Forum
EATAN	European African Treatment Advocates Network
ECAB	European Community Advisory Board
ECDC	European Centre for Disease prevention and Control
EMA	European Medicines Agency
EMCDDA	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
EUPATI	European Patients' Academy on Therapeutic Innovation (FP 7 project)
EUROCOORD	Network of Excellence by several of the biggest HIV cohorts and collaborations within Europe
IDU	Intravenous Drug User
ITPCru	International Treatment Preparedness Coalition Eastern Europe and Central Asia
MDR	Multi Drug Resistant
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
NeLP	Network of Low Prevalence countries
PLHIV	People Living With HIV/AIDS
PWG	Policy Working Group
R&D	Research & Development
TAG	Treatment Action Group
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WHO	World Health Organisation

GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors

The EATG General Assembly elects the Board of Directors (2 year term).

Brian West, UK – Chair (and TCWG liaison) – Luis Mendaõ, Portugal – vice-Chair (and ECAB liaison) - Tomislav Vurusic - Treasurer - Olimbi Hoxhaj, Albania – Director (and DMAG liaison)

In April 2015 Tamás Bereczky, Hungary – Secretary (and PWG liaison) stepped down from his position as BOD member. Sanja Belak Kovačević was co-opted by the board. She is acting secretary until the GA.

In september 2015 a new BoD was elected: Luis Mendaõ, Portugal - chair - Nikos Dedes, Greece - vice-chair - Tomislav Vurusic, Croatia - Treasurer - Sanja Belak Kovačević, Croatia - Secretary - Jackie Morton, UK - Director

The EATG External Advisory Board

Lella Cosmaro, Italy - Michel Kazatchkine, France - Jürgen Rockstroh, Germany - Matthew Weait, United Kingdom

The Development and Membership Advisory Group (DMAG)

The Development Membership Advisory Group DMAG is the internal group dealing with membership issues and internal working mechanisms.

DMAG chair: Memory Sachikonye

The Policy Working Group

Chairs

Peter Wiessner, Shona Schonning (January – September 2015)

Bryan Teixeira (September – December 2015)



Steering Committee members

Aisuluu Bolotbaeva, Andrej Senih, Bryan Teixeira, Frank Amort, Giulio Maria Corbelli, Peter Wiessner, Shona Schonning, Tamás Bereczky

ECAB

Chair

Giulio Maria Corbelli

Steering Committee members

Sanja Belak Kovacevic (January – September 2015), Ivana Benkovic (September -December 2015), Paul Clift (January – December 2015), Esther Dixon Williams (September -December 2015), Fatih Egelioglu (January – September 2015); Kiromiddin Gulov (September -December 2015), Memory Sachikonye (January – September 2015), Alain Volny-Anne (January – December 2015).

Hepatitis Coordinator

Svilen Konov

TB Project Leaders

Laia Ruiz and Elena Martínez
The Training and Capacity Building Working Group

Chair

Damian Kelly

Steering Committee members

Moritz Krehl, Jackie Morton, Nenad Petkovic, Brian West

The staff members

Koen Block, Executive Director; Marie McLeod, Financial Manager; Giorgio Barbareschi, Scientific Officer; Ann-Isabelle von Lingen, Policy Officer; Mariana Vicente, Project Coordinator; Ruben Alonso (until August 19; later replaced by Linn Hilbert and Jennifer Ogonna) ; Joris de Froidmont, Admin Support, Oleksandr Martynenko, Training Coordinator (until August 2015); Kristjan Jachnowitsch, Training Coordinator since November 2015, Tamás Bereczky, Communications Officer.

EATG permanent representations, member – and partnerships

AIDS Action Europe • AIDSMap.com • Collaboration of Observational HIV Epidemiological Research in Europe - COHERE • Correlation Network • Civil Society Forum on HIV • Civil Society Forum on Drugs • Drug interactions website • EACS guidelines • EATAN • EMA - Patient & Consumer Working Party • EMA – Paediatric Committee (PedCo) • EMA management board • ENCePP Steering Committee • EPF Board of Directors • EPHA Board of Directors • Epossi • EUPATI • EuroCoord – Collaboration of Observational HIV Epidemiological Research in Europe • European Harm Reduction Network • European HIV Resistance Network • European Workshop on HIV & Hepatitis Treatment Strategies & Antiviral Drug Resistance • Forum for Collaborative HIV Research • Glasgow HIV 2014 (HIV 12) • Global Fund • GNP+ • HAART Oversight Committee (D:A:D study) • HIVERA • HPYP (Health Promotion for Young Prisoners) • IQ-HIV • PARTNER Study executive committee • Paediatric European Network for Treatment of AIDS (PENTA) • IPPF Europe • PROTECT External Advisory Board (EMA) • Quality Action • STOP TB Partnership • TB Europe Coalition (TBEC) • UNAIDS PCB • WHO Europe • WHO Civil Society Reference Group on HIV

EATG funders

AbbVie • aMASE • AVAC • Bristol-Myers Squibb • European Commission • IMI • Janssen • Gilead • HIV in Europe • Merck Sharp & Dohme • Mylan • Positive Action • Sidaction • UNAIDS • ViiV Healthcare • WHO





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