

**From mathematical modelling estimates to innovative HIV testing interventions:
Experiences from the HERMETIC* project**

16th October 2018, Hôpital La Pitié Salpêtrière, Paris, France

PROGRAM

10:00-10:15am – Welcome coffee

10:15-10:35am – Welcome and Opening Remarks – François Dabis (appointed Director of ANRS, France), Marc Dixneuf (CEO AIDES, France), Dominique Costagliola (INSERM, France)

10:35-10:45am - Introduction and meeting overview - Christiana Nöstlinger (ITM, Belgium) & Virginie Supervie (INSERM, France)

Session on France - Chair: France Lert (ANRS, France)

10:45-11:15am - Lise Marty (INSERM, France) - **Mapping the HIV epidemic to improve prevention and care: the case of France**

11:15-11:45am - David Michels (AIDES, France) - **Feasibility, acceptability and results of door-to-door HIV testing pilot study among SSA migrants living in a Suburb of Paris**

Session on Belgium - Chair: Sandra Van den Eynde (Sensoa, Belgium)

11:45-12:10pm - Lise Marty (INSERM, France) - **Unraveling the geographic and population heterogeneity of the HIV epidemic in Belgium**

12:10-12:40pm - Dominique Van Beckhoven (Sciensano, Belgium) - **A triangulation of estimates of the undiagnosed HIV population to strengthen confidence in the results and to guide public health decisions in Belgium**

Lunch break 12:40-1:30pm

Session on Belgium - Chair: Sandra Van den Eynde (Sensoa, Belgium)

1:30-1:55pm - Jessika Deblonde (Sciensano, Belgium) - **HIV testing within general practices in Europe: a mixed research synthesis**

1:55-2:25pm - Christiana Nöstlinger (ITM, Belgium) - **From modeling the hidden HIV epidemic in Belgium to tailored HIV testing interventions for primary care**

Session on Latvia and Estonia - Chair: Anita Villerusa (RSU, Latvia)

2:25-2:50pm - Lise Marty (INSERM, France) - **The HIV epidemic in two Baltic States: A tale of two stories?**

2:50-3:05pm - Coffee break

Session on Latvia - Chair: Anita Villerusa (RSU, Latvia)

3:05-3:35pm - Inga Upmace (Baltic HIV Association, Latvia), Ruta Kaupe (DIA+LOGS, Latvia) - **Bridging the gap for risk groups (MSM & IDUs) for undiagnosed parts - 2 pilot studies in Latvia**

3:35-4:00pm - Anda Ķīvīte (RSU, Latvia) - **Diagnostic accuracy, feasibility and acceptability of HIV oral fluid rapid tests among hard-to-reach key populations in Latvia**

Final Session

4:00-4:30pm - Christiana Nöstlinger (ITM, Belgium) & Virginie Supervie (INSERM, France) - **Guiding Framework & Conclusions**

* HIV European Research on Mathematical modelling and Experimentation of HIV Testing In hidden Communities

Context and general aim of the HERMETIC project: In most settings affected by HIV, despite decades of treatment efforts, late initiation of antiretroviral treatment (ART) remains common. Current major obstacles to early access to ART are undiagnosed and late-diagnosed HIV infections. Undiagnosed and late-diagnosed individuals are at risk of HIV/AIDS-related morbidity and mortality, and transmitting HIV because of delayed ART initiation.

Ensuring early access to ART will hence require shrinking the time interval from infection to HIV diagnosis, by raising awareness about the risk of undiagnosed and late-diagnosed HIV infections among populations at increased risk for HIV acquisition and implementing relevant and innovative testing programs through civil society and public organizations. This will increase uptake of HIV testing among people who may have undiagnosed HIV and/or be at risk of being diagnosed late. This requires a comprehensive understanding of the populations affected by undiagnosed and late diagnosed HIV infections and of the local context in which HIV acquisition occurs. Targeted HIV testing services should be provided to areas and groups that require them the most, taking their risk profiles into consideration (e.g., mobility, low HIV risk perception, low prevention demand and limited access to health and prevention services). In the European project HERMETIC (2015-2018), we combined statistical modelling and surveillance data to estimate HIV incidence, the distribution of time from HIV infection to diagnosis and the number of individuals living with undiagnosed HIV at the national and sub-national levels in four European countries (France, Belgium, Estonia and Latvia). Results of the modelling were triangulated with all other relevant evidence available to support the modelling analysis. The triangulated findings were used to inform the development and implementation of innovative pilot studies offering HIV testing services in areas and groups that require them the most. Eight teams, including research teams and NGOs, from four European countries, have been involved in this collaborative interdisciplinary project.

At this one-day conference we will present the studies conducted throughout the HERMETIC project and share and disseminate our results with other scientists, national health authorities and surveillance, institutions and community-based organizations.

Registration to the conference: The Conference is open to everybody. Conference participation is free of charge but registration is required. To register to the conference, please fill out this google form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeolpVdzNtgkawkKMLkptOLRRL1Y8Z39wiLgZy9OXrNdott3A/viewform?c=0&w=1>

The organizers of the conference: Hanne Apers (ITM, Belgium), Jessika Deblonde (Sciensano, Belgium), Ruta Kaupe (DIA+LOGS, Latvia), Anda Ķīvīte (RSU, Latvia), Liis Lemsalu (National Institute for Health Development, Estonia), Jasna Loos (ITM, Belgium), Lise Marty (INSERM U1136, France), David Michels (AIDES, France), Christiana Nöstlinger (ITM, Belgium), Daniela Rojas Castro (Coalition Plus, France), Kristi Rüütel (National Institute for Health Development, Estonia), Virginie Supervie (INSERM U1136, France), Dominique Van Beckhoven (Sciensano, Belgium), Inga Upmace (Baltic HIV Association, Latvia).

Project information and funding agencies: The HERMETIC project has been funded for three years by the HIVERA and EC FP7 Health, and will end at the end of October 2018. The French teams were funded by ANRS, the Belgium teams by VLAIO, the Latvian teams by LAS, and the Estonian teams by the National Institute for Health Development. ANRS, VLAIO, LAS and the National Institute for Health Development also support this one-day conference where the final project results are presented.

