

A photograph of a crowded indoor event, likely a health fair or community gathering. A long table is covered with numerous colorful brochures and pamphlets. People are standing around the table, looking at the materials. The background shows large windows and more people. The text "CAHIV'S ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 2015" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

CAHIV'S ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 2015



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CAHIV'S ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 2015

1. World AIDS Day activities

CAHIV organized the campaign and a number of activities from the beginning of November to the end of December 2015 to mark the World AIDS Day and European HIV and hepatitis testing week.

Numerous CAHIV's activities were carried out in cooperation with health institutions, civil society organizations and numerous experts. We held a number of preventive and educational activities to inform the public and raise awareness of the public health importance of HIV / AIDS, risks, protective measures and the importance of prevention, timely diagnosis and treatment, showing solidarity to the patients, reducing stigma and discrimination and the protection of sexual and reproductive health.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3wB3xrie7c>

1.1. Public health education campaign "Love and be healthy - Knowledge wins" was conducted by posters and leaflets advertising in the vehicles of public transport, pharmacies, health centers, universities and student dormitories and broadcast videos on digital media and in public cinemas across Croatia, organized by CAHIV, Croatian Institute for Public Health and a number of partners under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, the City of Zagreb and the US Embassy. Also, educational materials were distributed in the partnership with the Croatian Pharmaceutical Society and the Croatian Chamber of Pharmacists through which pharmacists are involved in advising and conveying prevention messages to the citizens in the community. CAHIV distributed informative and educational flyers, brochures, posters and condoms to a



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number of civil society organizations all over Croatia and other Croatian organizations, institutions and educational institutions that participated in the marking of World AIDS Day, awareness raising and organization of education for young people and the general population (Red Cross City Society Vukovar, Students dorm Maksimir, High School of Nursing Mlinarska, I.Elementary School Bjelovar, High School Pakrac, Pharmacy and Medical Biochemistry Students Association, NGO Hepatos Rijeka, NGO Ne-ovisnost Osijek, NGO Institut Pula, NGO Help Split, NGO Terra Rijeka, CroMSIC Zagreb, Croatian Red Cross Zagreb, Prison Hospital Zagreb, Croatian Institutes for Public Health, pharmacies throughout Croatia and so on). In total, over 60,000 various kinds of educational materials has been distributed during CAHIV's and partner's activities, which allowed direct reach of the target population of young people at the national level.





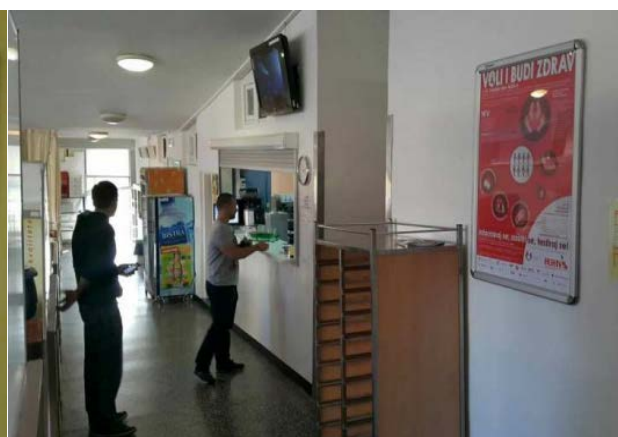
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<http://huhiv.hr/svjetski-dan-aids-a-voli-i-budi-zdrav-3/>

1.2. During November and December, and particularly during the European Testing Week from 20th to 27th November of 2015, rapid testing was organized in CheckPoint centre



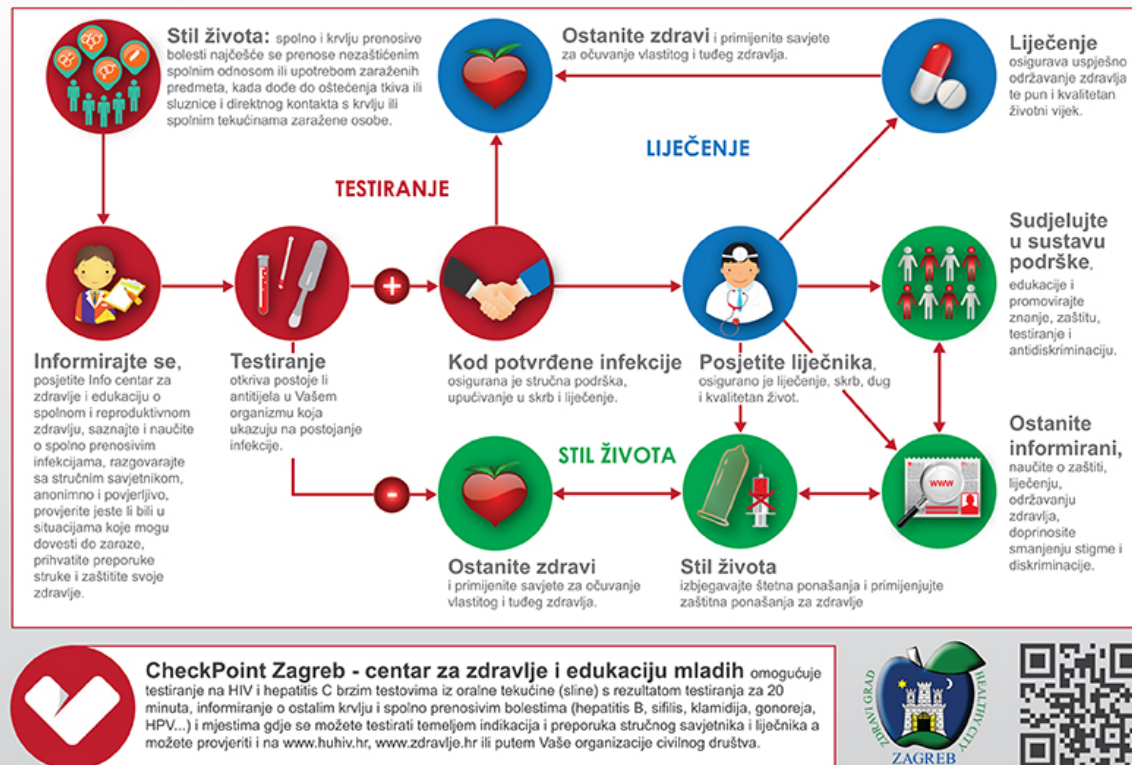
Zagreb managed by CAHIV in cooperation with the Clinic for Infectious Diseases "Dr Fran Mihaljević", the Ministry of Health, the City of Zagreb and the Croatian Red Cross, along with regular testing services using rapid tests for HIV and hepatitis C. During November and December 331 counseling, 194 HIV and 150 tests for HCV have been carried out. In that period, we have discovered 4 anti-HIV positive and 1 anti-HCV

positive (all persons with newly diagnosed HIV/HCV positive status have been referred to the Clinic for Infectious Diseases for further treatment and care). During European Testing Week we have also been offering a voucher for the Institute for Public Health "Dr Andrija Štampar" for hepatitis B testing and vaccination service (three doses) for those who are at higher risk for infection, and have not been included in the vaccination program.

<http://huhiv.hr/diljem-svijeta-obilježava-se-svjetski-dan-aids-a-1-prosinca-2015/>

<http://huhiv.hr/europski-tjedan-testiranja-na-hiv-i-hepatitis-20-27-11-2015/>

ZNANJE, TESTIRANJE I ZAŠTITA ZDRAVLJA



http://huhiv.hr/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/HUHIV_WAD_2015_brosura.pdf

1.3. World AIDS Day was marked on December the 1st at the Petar Preradović Square in Zagreb with setting of thematic tent and an informal gathering with the citizens, especially young people, organized by CAHIV. The Ministry of Health, City of Zagreb and US Embassy sponsored this event which included Croatian Red Cross, Croatian Institute for Public Health, medical students of the International Association of Medical Students CroMSIC and pharmacology students as participants. Free educational and informational leaflets and brochures on HIV / AIDS and sexual health were distributed in the tent, and interested citizens have been informed and consulted on the issue of HIV / AIDS and STDs with experts.

About 300 students, seven groups of students of third and fourth grade secondary medical schools and students of I. Gymnasium, have been educated about HIV / AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, sexually responsible behavior and preserving sexual and reproductive health. The training has been conducted by peer educators, medical students from the association CroMSIC, Croatian Red Cross volunteers and employees of the Croatian Institute for Public Health. Each group filled a quiz before education – a test of knowledge containing 10 questions about HIV / AIDS, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and responsible sexual behavior and after the lecture students from each group who answered all the questions in the quiz have been awarded.



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<http://huhiv.hr/huhiv-obilježavanje-svjetskog-dana-aids-a/>





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The event at the Petar Preradović square was supported by the Minister of Health Siniša Varga, Director of the Croatian Institute for Public Health Ranko Stevanović, a delegation from the City of Zagreb's Department of Health, experts from the Clinic for Infectious Diseases "Dr Fran Mihaljević" and the US Embassy, also accompanied by numerous media.

1.4. The 11th edition of educational and informational Positive concert was held on 27th and 28th of November and brought together 13,000 young people. During this event to mark World AIDS day young people have been educated for two days through music, entertainment, sharing educational materials and condoms, through educational messages on a video wall during the concert about responsible sexually behavior, protection and testing in order to increase awareness and consciousness about the issue of HIV / AIDS and the importance of preserving sexual and reproductive health.



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQHK02NMwdY>



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<http://huhiv.hr/spektakularan-prvi-dan-pozitivca-uz-pipse-urbana-kawasaki-3p-i-puncke/>
<http://huhiv.hr/spektakularna-druga-vecer-pozitivca-uz-high5-quasarr-djecake-i-s-a-r-s/>

1.5. At the expert symposium on the occasion of World AIDS day on November 27th 2015 in the Clinic for Infectious Diseases "Dr Fran Mihaljević" in Zagreb the results of *CheckPoint Zagreb study – insight into sexual and risky behaviour in the community* have been presented. The study was conducted on a sample of 2,779 users who have visited CheckPoint Zagreb - Center for health and education of young people in the period from the opening in May 2013 to December 2014.

<http://huhiv.hr/checkpoint-zagreb-studija-uvod-u-seksualna-i-rizicna-ponasanja-u-zajednici/>



1.6. The City Government of Zagreb held a press conference that was attended by the Mayor of Zagreb, a representative of the Department for Health and CAHIV representatives, presenting the results of the CheckPoint center Zagreb and CAHIV activities to mark the World AIDS Day. On this occasion, the Mayor received CAHIV “Thank you” Certificate for the financial, program and professional support in the implementation and enforcement of the project CheckPoint Zagreb - Centre for voluntary, anonymous, free and reliable testing for HIV and hepatitis C with rapid oral fluid tests with results in just 20 minutes.

<http://huhiv.hr/ususret-svjetskom-danu-aids-a-konferencija-za-novinare/>



1.7. CAHIV and CheckPoint together with the City of Zagreb at the University of Zagreb Fair. University of Zagreb Fair has been organized traditionally by the University of Zagreb with the aim that final year high school students, students and all those interested could be informed about the study programs and the admission requirements, student life and accommodation conditions during studying in Zagreb, equipment of individual faculties and about numerous other details that are important to young people when making an important decision about choosing a faculty.



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As a sponsor of the University of Zagreb Fair, the City of Zagreb actively participated in the program and presented the activities, initiatives and issues related to the protection and promotion of health and psycho-social care of young people. A guide for young people has been presented and distributed for free to the visitors of the Fair, an informative guide about the free services of health facilities for young people in Zagreb which also includes information about CheckPoint center of Zagreb.



This informational guide about free health care services in the City of Zagreb intended for young people *Zagreb for the health of young people* was presented and CheckPoint center Zagreb, the community based center for anonymous and free testing for HIV and hepatitis C has been included, so CAHIV representatives also participated on the City of Zagreb's booth during the Fair. CheckPoint's services have been conducted in CAHIV's premises and this project is intended primarily for young people with financial and expert support from the City of Zagreb and the City Department of Health. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend such screening testing / screening, and the latest developments indicate precisely on the usefulness of education, counseling and testing in health care settings in the organization of the community.

<http://huhiv.hr/huhiv-i-checkpoint-zajedno-s-gradom-zagrebom-na-smotri-sveucilista-u-zagrebu-2015/>



1.8. 14/12/2015. The fourth course, 'Chronic infectious diseases - HIV and hepatitis viruses' was held in Slavonski Brod, this time in cooperation with the Croatian Association for the Fight



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against HIV and viral hepatitis (CAHIV), the Croatian Chamber of Social Workers (CCSW) and the Institute of Public Health Brod - Posavina. The main objective of this course is to increase the level of knowledge and sensibility amongst professionals of different professions on the issue of blood-borne diseases (HIV and viral hepatitis) in order to protect the human rights of people who live with those diseases, and reduce discrimination and stigmatization. The course was attended by 57 professionals, primarily social workers.

The course covered following content: prof. Ph. D.. Adriana Vince, 'Viral hepatitis - public health problem of our time'; prof. Ph. D.. Josip Begovac, 'HIV'; Ph.D. Sunčana Roksandic Vidlička, 'Protecting confidentiality'; Anita Gavranović, bacc. med. tech. 'The standard measures of protection (HIV and viral hepatitis) and care for HIV-positive patients'; Kristina Duvančić, dipl.soc. work., 'Psychosocial work with people affected by chronic infectious diseases.'

With these courses CAHIV continues education of health professionals and employees in the social care system over Croatia.

<http://huhiv.hr/tecaj-kronicne-zarazne-bolesti-hiv-i-virusni-hepatitisi-2/>



2. CheckPoint Zagreb is a center for health and education of young people as part of the Association CAHIV. This is an extremely successful project that would not be possible without the cooperation of the City of Zagreb, City Office of Health, Infectious Diseases Clinic, the Croatian Red Cross and a number of medical experts and partners. The project is implemented according to the highest health standards and under constant expert supervision of the Department for serologic diagnostics of hepatitis and HIV at the Institute of Clinical Microbiology Department of Virology at the University Hospital for Infectious Diseases 'Dr Fran Mihaljević'.

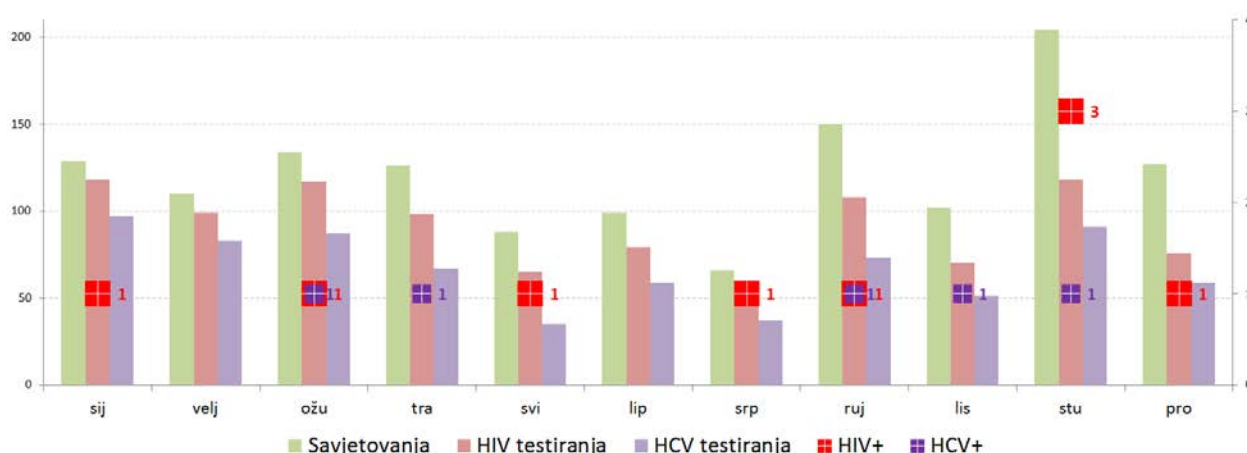
The basic characteristics of CheckPoint Zagreb is providing non-institutional services open and accessible to the community, and primarily aimed at young people, students and the population at increased risk of infection from sexually transmitted and blood-borne diseases, according to the world trends of control and prevention, and in the scope of managing the continuing and permanent concern for the health of the citizens of Zagreb, Croatian and wider region. In this way demographic and behavioral data about sexual and risk behavior in the community have been obtained.

Results for 2015:

CheckPoint centar Zagreb izvještaj - Prosinac 2015

	EDUKACIJA		TESTIRANJE	anti-HIV TESTIRANJE			anti-HCV TESTIRANJE		
	UKUPAN BROJ PRED-SAVJETOVANJA**	UKUPAN BROJ POST-SAVJETOVANJA***	UKUPAN BROJ TESTIRANIH OSOBA	UKUPAN BROJ TESTIRANIH OSOBA NA HIV	HIV POZITIVNI (+)	HIV POZITIVNI (+) udio	UKUPAN BROJ TESTIRANIH OSOBA NA HCV	HCV POZITIVNI (+)	HCV POZITIVNI (+) udio
2013	1319	1277	1277	1215	13	1,07%	1002	6	0,60%
2014	1461	1382	1382	1339	9	0,67%	1230	14	1,14%
*2015	1338	1043	1043	998	9	0,90%	738	5	0,68%
****TOTAL	4118	3702	3702	3552	31	0,87%	2970	25	0,84%

*kumulativno 2015; ****335 radnih dana / 1340 radnih sati



We emphasize the number of consultations as individual educations in which counsellors and doctors personally devote to each user with the aim of education about sexual and reproductive health and the preservation of health, which is the best prevention of risky behavior and new infections.

Significant is the high response of citizens and young people to testing as a result of synergy of the institutional health system and the community, which is a very successful upgrade to health care system modeled on developed countries of Europe and recommended by the WHO and ECDC.

We underline the high percentage of persons tested for the first time in their lives, especially those who are at high risk of infection, regardless of the positive or negative test results.

We emphasize a high percentage (over 50%) of HIV and HCV reactive people who learned their status by testing for the first time in their life, which shows this is a very successful project of identifying new infections in people who did not know that they are infected and has significant impact on the prevention of new infections due to knowing their own health status and treatment



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options. All reactive persons were referred for further care and treatment in the Clinic for Infectious Diseases.

We also emphasize a high percentage (almost 20%) of sexually transmitted diseases in the society (based on a sample of CheckPoint users), the infection with HPV was most often, then Chlamydia, HSV, ureaplasma and gonorrhea; HSV and chlamydia were the most common pathogens in HIV reactive person.

Summary of CheckPoint's key results is as follows:

- target population is effectively recruited: the total number of HIV tested users proves this is a successful complementary upgrade the health care system - the Clinic for Infectious Diseases and well established existing institutional network of 10 centers within Institutions for public health.
- population is effectively motivated to testing: the high percentage of CheckPoint users tested for the first time.
- population in real danger of becoming infected with HIV and HCV is effectively recruited: on average one of hundred tested positive for HIV and HCV.
- management of preliminary positive people is effective: all persons with positive test results are referred to and received in the Reference Center for confirmation of diagnosis and for further treatment and medical care after providing psychosocial support in Checkpoint Zagreb.

3. Activities to mark World Hepatitis Day



For the twelfth year World Hepatitis Day has been marked with the aim of informing the public about viral hepatitis and raising awareness about importance of early detection and prevention of these often neglected infectious diseases. The slogan is „Prevent Hepatitis: it's up to you“

This year association CAHIV joined the marking of the World Hepatitis Day with numerous activities that were available to citizens during July.

3.1. PUBLIC CAMPAIGN “PREVENT HEPATITIS: IT'S UP TO YOU”

During July, we have conducted a public campaign 'Prevent Hepatitis: It's up to you.' The campaign aims to raise awareness of viral hepatitis among Croatian citizens, risks and ways of transmission and the possibility of a free, anonymous, reliable and rapid testing.

3.2. Conducted activities:

- Implementation of a public health program in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, in vehicles of public transport during July
- Posters in medical centers throughout Croatian
- Open Days from 20th to 24th July 2015 with the aim of informing and educating citizens about viral hepatitis
- A week of free, anonymous, reliable and rapid hepatitis C testing from saliva during Open Days



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3.3. Symposium to mark World Hepatitis Day



On July 28th, 2015, the symposium to mark World Hepatitis Day was held in the large lecture hall of the Clinic for Infectious Diseases 'Dr Fran Mihaljevic' in Zagreb, Mirogojska 8. CAHIV participated in the symposium with the lecture, 'The continuity of care: key for controlling viral hepatitis infection' and with the traditional distribution of professional and educational materials and providing great support to the efforts of the successful suppression of the outbreak, the promotion of innovative technology and excellence in the early detection of infection, use of quality guidelines for treatment and fighting against stigma and discrimination.

Symposium was organized, under the auspices of the City of Zagreb, Reference Center for diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis, the Croatian Ministry of Health, Department of Infectious Diseases 'Dr. Fran Mihaljevic', Zagreb, Croatian

Medical Association - Croatian Society for Infectious Diseases Section of Viral Hepatitis HDIB, Croatian National Institute of Public Health (CIPH), the European Liver Patients Association (ELPA) and the Croatian Association for HIV and viral hepatitis (CAHIV).

SPRIJEČI HEPATITIS: SAZNAJ ČINJENICE

400 milijuna
zaraženih ljudi
dijelom svijeta¹
4.000 smrti svaki dan²



Hepatitis **80%**
uzrokuje smrti od raka jetre³
600.000 smrti godišnje³

Hepatitis C virus je

10x

zarazniji od HIV-a⁴
Većina ljudi nema
prepoznatljive simptome⁵

**HEPATITIS
MOŽE UTJECATI
NA SVAKOGA**

25%
oboljelih
osjećalo je
da ne može
reći svojoj
obitelji i
prijateljima⁶

SPRIJEČI HEPATITIS: NA TEBI JE

Ako znaš kako se hepatitis prenosi,
možeš smanjiti rizike:



Spolnim putem
- nezaštićenim spolnim
kontaktom sa zaraženom
osobom



Krvlju - upotrebom predmeta
koji su kontaminirani zaraženom
krvi (korištenje nesterilnog pribora
prilikom injektiranja droga,
tetoviranja ili piercinga)

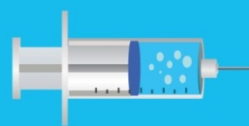


Sa zaražene majke na dijete
tijekom trudnoće, porođaja
ili dojenja



Dijeljenjem britavica,
četkica za zube i drugog
pribora za osobnu higijenu

CIJEPI SE
Hepatitis B se
može spriječiti
cijepjenjem⁷



TESTIRAJ SE
Testiranje je brzo,
jednostavno i
bezbolno⁸



LIJEČI SE
Liječenje kroničnog
virusnog hepatitisa
B i C provodi se
antivirusnim
lijekovima (visok
postotak izlječenja
hepatitisa C)⁹



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9. Izvor prilagođene verzije: World Hepatitis Alliance i WHO - <http://www.worldhepatitisday.org/>



28. SRPNJA



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4. The seventh regional HIV / AIDS conference in Sarajevo

In the period of May 28th – 29th, 2015 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 7th regional HIV / AIDS conference was organized by the Association Partnership for Health in collaboration with partners.

This year's conference was held by the name 'Expanding HIV response', with a focus on increasing cooperation between countries in order to respond to HIV / AIDS, achieving new Millennium Goals of the UN (90; 90; 90), and strengthening NGOs in the region after the departure of the Global Fund.

Association CAHIV presented its work at this conference through Social Hub, together with 22 other organizations from around the region. The results of CheckPoint center Zagreb's work were also presented as a good example of joint cooperation including the local community, experts and non-governmental sector, ie. an excellent synergy between health and non-institutional system of providing public health services to citizens.

Project Checkpoint Zagreb has been voted one of the most important projects in the region at the conference and an example of good cooperation in achieving the goals of education, counseling and testing for HIV and HCV to reduce the number of undiagnosed and improve early detection in order to provide successful treatment and prevention in the community.



<http://huhiv.hr/sedma-regionalna-hivaid-konferencija-u-sarajevu/>

5. CheckPoint Zagreb - Regional Centre of Excellence

In June 2015 CAHIV completed an international project CheckPoint Zagreb - The regional center of excellence within GOSHAPE program (Gilead Online Supporting Health Action for Patient Empowerment). The project consisted of 3 modules and lasted until mid-2015. The project included six non-governmental organizations in the field of care and prevention of HIV and viral hepatitis from three countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina (XY Association, Apoha), Montenegro (NVO4Life, Montenegrin HIV Foundation) and Macedonia (Stronger Together, Hepar Center Bitola). Also, with the guidance of CAHIV, experts from the Clinic for Infectious Diseases 'Dr. Fran Mihaljevic' in Zagreb and the Croatian Red Cross were also included.

The main objective of the project is development of community approach to prevention and fighting against HIV / HCV infection in the region.

As part of these activities, we provided complete training and 'know-how' to help the realization of prerequisites and partnerships which are needed in the target area in order to plan for and implement a non-institutional approach to education and testing of target population.

Within this project a comprehensive professional study has also been created based on data collected in CheckPoint center Zagreb. The study covers the epidemiological aspects on an over 2500 people sample, including sexual behavior, associated risk behaviors and habits related to sexual and reproductive health, to determine the actual incidence and prevalence in Croatia.



<http://huhiv.hr/checkpoint-zagreb-regionalni-centar-izvrsnosti/>

6. The 64th thematic session of the Parliamentary Committee on Health and Social Policy

On the June the 10th, 2015, the Croatian Parliament held the 64th thematic session of the Committee on Health and Social Policy entitled 'Viral hepatitis in Croatia - problems and suggestions to resolve them.' The work of this thematic group included representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Croatian Institute for Public Health, the Croatian Institute for Health Insurance, the Croatian Association of treated and ill with hepatitis - Hepatos, Croatian Association for HIV and viral hepatitis, the Coalition of NGOs in Health and other experts in the field of viral hepatitis.



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The conclusions of the Parliamentary Committee are: making of the National and Action Plan for fighting against viral hepatitis; reduction of HBV and HCV transmission (education of populations at risk, education about 'health-related' risks); screening populations at risk (education on awareness of the risks, the availability of testing and counseling in at-risk populations); register of patients; availability of treatment, contemporary clinical guidelines for diagnosis and treatment; improving the quality of life, psychosocial support to patients, reintegration into the work environment; evaluation and follow-up done in the given time.

Association CAHIV continues its contribution to health of the citizens by offering counseling services and psychosocial support for people being treated for viral hepatitis at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases in Zagreb and public health service of individual counseling, education and free testing for hepatitis C within the program CheckPoint center of Zagreb as an institutional synergy between the health system and the community, investing in the health of the citizens.

7. CAHIV Annual Report for 2014

For the 15th year in a row CAHIV proudly released the new edition of the Yearbook for 2014.

CAHIV Yearbook has been traditionally intended for health professionals and brings a rich overview of professional articles, news and events in the areas of HIV, hepatitis, other sexually transmitted diseases and the quality of life, an overview of events, projects, and activities of organization CAHIV and interesting news from the region and the world in 2014.

CAHIV yearbook is distributed to more than 190 addresses of clinical institutions and medical professionals throughout Croatia and the all important seminars that bring together health professionals and workers in the social welfare system. CAHIV yearbook has been a part of renowned medical literature for a long time and can be downloaded in electronic form or given by the Association CAHIV per copy (for health workers).



http://huhiv.hr/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2014-GODISNJAK_HUHIV.pdf

8. The draft of the National Programme for HIV / AIDS 2016-2020



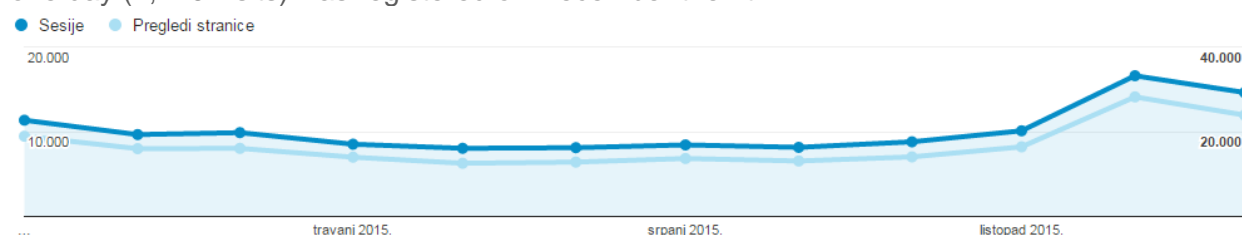
CAHIV and its members have traditionally been part of the National Council of drafting and adoption of the new National Programme for HIV / AIDS for the period 2016th-2020th. During 2015, according to the legal framework and the key documents of the Republic of Croatia and international documents, CAHIV has,











together with other participants under the management of the Ministry of Health issued new guidelines and strategies for strengthening prevention activities in the coming period.

9. CAHIV web portal, info phone, on-line support and social networks

In this year CAHIV maintained a high interest when compared to the same period last year, in the interests of citizens and young people about health, information on HIV, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted diseases, education, counseling and testing through a very necessary and high-quality projects intended for health of the citizens.

In 2015, there were 122,271 visits to the web site (approximately 10,000 visits per month) and 199,676 pages viewed, which is 20% more visits than last year. The greatest number of visits in one day (2,410 visits) was registered on December the 1th.



Stranica		Pregledi stranice	% Pregledi stranice
1. /kako-izgleda-tijek-hiv-infekcije-i-koji-su-simptomi-prisutni/		38.584	19,32%
2. /testiranje-na-spolno-prenosive-bolesti-spb/		17.877	8,95%
3. /checkpoint/		14.114	7,07%
4. /		8.898	4,46%
5. /preporuke-za-prehranu-kod-bolesti-jetre/		7.425	3,72%
6. /gdje-se-testirati-u-hr/		6.275	3,14%
7. /mogu-li-dobiti-hiv-oralnim-seksom/		5.739	2,87%
8. /sto-je-hepatitis-b/		4.883	2,45%
9. /rak-jetre/		4.575	2,29%
10. /sto-je-hepatitis-c/		4.148	2,08%

10. Self-support groups

For the ninth year in a row CAHIV organizes self-support groups designed to help people living with HIV and/or viral hepatitis and their family members, where they can help each other by sharing experiences, helping in accepting the disease more easily and improving the quality of life.

11. NGOs Open days 2015

Association CAHIV has been traditionally included in the NGOs Open Days from 28th to 30th May 2015, and presented its content and services to the citizens.

In 2015, that was marked throughout Europe as the European Year of Development, NGOs



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Open days made further strengthening of solidarity and confidence in the local communities possible and reminded of the important role that NGOs play in connecting people to solve problems and create networks of mutual support.

The activities that CAHIV presented were primarily health care, protection of health and promoting a quality lifestyle: all information about activities and projects of the Association, tips and education about HIV, hepatitis and sexually transmitted diseases, risks and protection of reproductive health, numerous training materials and free HIV and hepatitis C testing from oral fluid with results in 20 minutes.

12. CAHIV & dm (drogerie markt) campaign „Protect yourself and help others“

For the eleventh year in a row, the campaign with the primary goal of combating HIV / AIDS in Croatia has been conducted. To mark the World AIDS Day dm in November traditionally allocates 2 kn from the sale of any condoms packaging for donation to the Croatian Association for the Fight against HIV and viral hepatitis (CAHIV) that deals with prevention, education and assistance to people affected by HIV and viral hepatitis.

13. Work of CAHIV counseling centre at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases in Zagreb

The work of the counseling centre is closely related with the patients at the hospital and we provide counseling services, psychosocial support and assistance to those suffering from HIV and viral hepatitis and their family members. In 2015, the counseling services for HIV and viral hepatitis have had a total of 302 users and 458 counseling sessions (116 in personal, 168 by mail and 174 by phone).

Counseling centre has been officially operating since 2011 with the aim of ensuring a comprehensive approach to the treatment of patients. The counseling services of psychologists and social workers are available to users. They, together with the staff from the Clinic for Infectious Diseases achieve providing interdisciplinary approach which is a standard today. Counseling centre also acts as a link between the Clinic and users of Association CAHIV and CheckPoint center of Zagreb services of non-institutional education and testing for HIV and hepatitis C.

10. Successful synergy of CAHIV and health care system results

Over the past fifteen years, the association CAHIV as well as numerous other civil society organizations in the world that work in the field of HIV and AIDS prevention, have built a sophisticated model of HIV / AIDS prevention in society and care for persons living with HIV infection as a chronic disease - one of the most complicated with which the health system is facing today.

We still don't have a cure, but thanks to improving therapies that more efficiently suppress the virus with fewer side effects, life expectancy after HIV diagnosis has become almost equal to the lifetime of healthy persons.

However, all medicines of this world will not help without organized and implemented social support in order to ensure better results continuity of health care and welfare. In a number of civil society organizations such as CAHIV, many of our users have expressed concerns and needs to be recognized and to respond, which are not standardly available in health institutions.



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We talk to hundreds and thousands of people, helping them with their fears and uncertainties, individually pay attention to each of them, we educate and advise them, provide them with professional psychosocial support, organize support groups, we direct them to the existing system of health care interventions and care for their own health, organize relationship with doctors and care system, we assist them in re-socialization, in reducing drug use and addiction, in reducing risk behaviors and increasing awareness of risk and the use of protection.

We keep them away from the urgent and expensive services as we can, so that we keep them in the care programs, caring for their own health and efforts to maintain health and that people living with HIV are concerned about the regularity of treatment so the disease would not progress. Also, we organize public events and health campaigns in order to influence the awareness and contribution of the community, we organize the trainings for health professionals, education of future health professionals and a give significant contribution to the reduction of stigma and discrimination in our society.

In this process of upgrading the health system by working directly in the community, we really save significant amounts to the health care system. Number of newly infected with HIV is almost a hundred people a year, who are treated and knowing their health status do not contribute to the further unconscious spread of infection in the society.

If there wasn't proactive working with vulnerable groups in the community, the awareness of their own health status and the need for testing and treatment in case of infection could not be influenced, people would not be tested sufficiently and there would probably be more infected people. Many, including their partners and family, are spared of great suffering. This also slowly but surely leads to considerable savings in the health care system. Therefore, it would be crazy to manage the aspects that literally prevent people from becoming infected with HIV and help people living with HIV to stay healthy and productive in the wrong way. No rational person can not argue against creating a stronger integrated health care system in our country as part of the developed countries of Europe and the world.

Therefore, health concerns, reducing the number of undiagnosed, increasing awareness, education and keeping the infection under control are not only the results of the health care system. Without the necessary and useful services and support from civil society organizations in the community, many people living with HIV or any other chronic illness, would not have been aware of their status even today, many would not be aware of the risks for infecting themselves and others, many would have caused serious difficulties for themselves, their families and the health care system in the advanced phase of disease, many just wouldn't go to the doctor if they were seriously ill and were not aware of it.

Fighting against HIV and AIDS in our country is not only a medical solution, it also requires community response and joint efforts from all of us to fight to the end. Key decision-makers need to take long-term investment in strategies that work and deliver results just as the companies measure their results by investment return. Business leaders invest in those areas that provide the most back payments. Strategy of expanded access to health care in combination with meaningful prevention services and community support proved it's cost effectiveness.

We believe that our future is continuing doing what we do good which will, in the end, contribute to stopping HIV/AIDS in our country and this kind of prevention and care model could be in use also for persons with the rest of STDs and other chronic conditions.



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