HIV and Hepatitis Prevention Programmes in Eastern Europe
Case Example: Georgia

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30-31 January 2019, Bucharest
• No conflicts of interest
**HIV in Georgia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Estimated Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-HIV+</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>10 500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Distribution of New Diagnoses by Transmission Categories**

- **IDU**
- **Hetero**
- **MSM**

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HCV in Georgia

2015 Population Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Estimated number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>anti-HCV+</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>208 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCV RNA+</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>150 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Risk Factors for HCV Infection

- IDU only; 33.6%
- IDU + Blood transfus.; 4.6%
- Blood transfus. only; 15.1%
- Undetermined; 46.7%

HCV/HIV Ratio: 19.8

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Timeline of HIV Response in Georgia

1984: HIV Lab
1994: Triple ART
1997: National programs on AIDS prevention and treatment
2001: PMTCT
2002: NSP
2004: OST
2005: Treat All
2015: PrEP
2017: Transition from GF to domestic funding by 2022: OST and ART already transitioned
2019: PrEP
Needles and Syringes Distributed, 2011-2017

- **Total needles/syringes distributed**
- **Needles/syringes distributed per PWID**

![Graph showing the distribution of needles/syringes from 2011 to 2017.](https://aidsreportingtool.unaids.org/)

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Needles/Syringes Distributed Per PWID Per Year in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)

- Tajikistan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Estonia
- Kazakhstan
- Uzbekistan
- Latvia
- Azerbaijan
- Ukraine
- Republic of Moldova
- Armenia
- Georgia
- Belarus
- Lithuania

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UNAIDS AIDSInfo [http://aidsinfo.unaids.org/]
OST Program in Georgia

• OST introduced in 2005 through the Global Fund Support
• Since 2017 the service is fully funded by the Government
• The service is free to all in need

OST Coverage

OST Coverage in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Georgia: 32%
Lithuania: 22%
Estonia: 14%
Latvia: 10%
Armenia: 5%
Kyrgyzstan: 5%
Belarus: 4%
Ukraine: 4%
Moldova: 3%
Tajikistan: 3%
Azerbaijan: 1%
Kazakhstan: 1%

Drug Policy

Barrier

- Harsh drug policy based on punishment rather than care

Progress

- Constitutional court decisions on:
  - Decriminalization of a) possession of dried marijuana <70 g (October 2015), b) cultivation of cannabis <151 g (Jul 2017), c) possession of desomorphine 0.00009 g (Jul 2017), d) recreational use of marijuana (Nov 2017); Legalization of recreational use of marijuana (Jul 2018)
  - Repressive law enforcement practices has been changing and imprisonment for drug related offences is decreasing

BioBehavioral Surveys: HIV Prevalence Key Populations

PWID  MSM
Prevention Services for MSM

- Education and counseling
- Condoms and lubricants
- STI management
- HIV testing
- Popular leader program
- Community mobilization
- Outreach
- Peer-driven intervention
- Internet-based intervention

Number of MSM Reached by Prevention Services and HIV Testing

- 2015: 3018 (Prevention services) 3018 (Tested for HIV)
- 2016: 3826 (Prevention services) 3826 (Tested for HIV)
- 2017: 3846 (Prevention services) 3846 (Tested for HIV)
- 2018: 5774 (Prevention services) 3317 (Tested for HIV)

Tsereteli N, et al. 2018
PrEP

- Started in September 2017 under the Global Fund Support, to be transitioned in July 2019
- High risk MSM and transgender people
- Sep 2017 – Oct 2018: capital city of Tbilisi; expanded to three regional sites in Nov 2018
- Services provided:
  - Daily TDF/FTC; Laboratory and clinical monitoring; Awareness rising; Risk reduction counseling; Adherence support
- Implemented in partnership with local CBO

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PrEP Program Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total enrolled</th>
<th>124</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median time on PrEP (IQR)</td>
<td>2.9 (1.0-6.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New HIV while on PrEP</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New syphilis while on PrEP</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Antiretroviral Therapy

ART criteria:

- CD4<200
- CD4<350
- CD4<500
- TREAT ALL

Number of new infections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>CD4&lt;200</th>
<th>CD4&lt;350</th>
<th>CD4&lt;500</th>
<th>TREAT ALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>1025</td>
<td>1047</td>
<td>970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1025</td>
<td>1047</td>
<td>1014</td>
<td>1025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1047</td>
<td>1014</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>1047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1014</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>1014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>921</td>
<td>992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>921</td>
<td>872</td>
<td>962</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% Diagnosed persons

- % Diagnosed on ART: 39%, 29%, 29%, 30%, 31%
- % Diagnosed suppressed: 81%, 71%

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AIDS Health Information System; Spectrum Estimates 2018
ART Coverage and Viral Suppression in EECA Countries

**ART Coverage**
- Georgia
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan
- Armenia
- Tajikistan
- Republic of Moldova
- Belarus
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Russian Federation
- Lithuania

**Viral Suppression**
- Georgia
- Armenia
- Republic of Moldova
- Lithuania
- Russian Federation
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Belarus
- Ukraine
- Kazakhstan
- Azerbaijan

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Treatment Cascade in EECA and Georgia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EECA</th>
<th>Georgia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosed</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On ART</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suppressed</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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UNAIDS Data 2018
Undiagnosed HIV

- 52% of PLHIV undiagnosed
- Low HIV testing coverage of KAPs
- Missed opportunities to test and diagnose in healthcare settings
- Self-testing for KAPs
- HIV testing in primary healthcare
- Integration of HCV and HIV testing
**National Hepatitis C Elimination Program**
**Launched in April 2015**

**Strategy:**
- Test and Treat
- Prevent HCV transmission
  - Blood safety
  - Infection control
  - Harm reduction
- Increase awareness
- Improve HCV surveillance

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HCV Cascade: October 31, 2018

>1 million adults screened for HCV

- HCV infected (estimated): 150,000
- Diagnosed: 64,232 (43%)
- Initiated treatment: 51,072 (34%)
- Assessed for SVR: 34,048 (23%)
- Cured: 33,452 (22%)

HCV Cascade:
- 100% HCV infected
- 43% Diagnosed
- 80% Initiated treatment
- 67% Assessed for SVR
- 98% Cured

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National Hepatitis C Elimination Treatment Database
Decentralization of HCV Service Delivery

• Integration of HCV testing and care in primary care
  – 8 primary care centers engaged as of Jan 2019 →
    increase to up to 70 sites

• Integration of HCV testing and care in harm reduction
  – 1 OST and 3 NSP sites engaged as of Jan 2019 →
    increase to 15 sites
Combination HIV and HCV Prevention

- Harm reduction
- Blood safety
- Infection control
- Integrated services
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