

Scientific Programme

MEETING

8-9 October 2026
Budapest, Hungary



Standard of Care Meeting for HIV & Co-infections in Europe

Standard of Care: in the Full Continuum

Semmelweis University
Budapest, 8-9 October 2026

Welcome Message

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Budapest for the seventh EACS Standard of Care for HIV and Co-infections in Europe meeting.

This year’s theme is “Standard of Care: in the Full Continuum”. Co-organised by Hungary and Albania, two countries that play an important role in the Central and Eastern European HIV response, this meeting brings together regions that continue to face significant disparities in HIV prevention, testing, treatment and long-term care. Their shared commitment to strengthening health systems, reducing inequalities, and advancing people-centred HIV care provides a strong foundation for this year's discussions.

The partnership between Hungary and Albania in hosting this meeting creates a valuable platform for healthcare professionals, public health, community representatives and policymakers from across Europe to exchange experiences, identify solutions to shared challenges, foster collaboration and advance the implementation of high-quality standards of HIV care throughout the region.

The overarching objectives of the meeting are:

- To strengthen the HIV care continuum in Central and Eastern Europe, with a specific focus on host countries Hungary and Albania, by addressing gaps in diagnosis, retention, and viral suppression, and by promoting implementation and auditing of ECDC/EACS Standards of Care.
- To highlight and reduce regional disparities in HIV burden and access to prevention, (integrated) testing, treatment, and support services through harmonised approaches and strengthened collaboration.
- To advance equity for vulnerable and marginalised populations, including (pregnant) women, Roma communities, migrants, refugees, and homeless individuals, by expanding access to inclusive and novel HIV services and combating stigma.
- To provide participants with a clear understanding of the publishes modules of the ECDC/ EACS Standards of HIV Care, and to enable them to develop locally adaptable guidance and a sustainability plan that supports effective implementation, auditing, and long-term maintenance of these Standards across European healthcare settings.
- To enhance professional development and knowledge exchange among healthcare providers through training, interactive workshops, and multidisciplinary collaboration, integrating psychosocial support into care standards.
- To promote supportive political and policy environments by raising awareness of systemic barriers, engaging policymakers in dialogue, and developing recommendations for inclusive, adequately funded HIV strategies.

We believe these two days will be inspiring and provide a unique opportunity to monitor progress and pitfalls in care for people living with HIV throughout Europe.

We are confident that this meeting will make an important contribution towards standards of care for HIV and co-infections in Europe and look forward to a stimulating and productive discussion to contribute to its success.

Botond Lakatos
Local Co-Chair, Hungary

Chris Cziria
Local Community Co-Chair, Hungary

Arjan Harxhi
Local Co-Chair, Albania

Éva Laczkó
Local Community Co-Chair, Hungary

Cristiana Oprea
EACS Co-Chair

Ann Sullivan
EACS Co-Chair



Organising Committee

CHAIRS

Cristiana Oprea, EACS Co-Chair (Romania)
Ann Sullivan, EACS Co-Chair (United Kingdom)

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Botond Lakatos (Hungary)
Arjan Harxhi (Albania)
Chris Cziria (Community, Hungary)
Éva Laczkó (Community, Hungary)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Karoline Aebi-Popp (Switzerland)
Kerstin Aimla (Estonia)
Natalia Bolokadze (Georgia)
María José Fuster (SEISIDA)
Deniz Gökengin (Türkiye)
Ole Kirk (Denmark)
Mojca Matičič (Slovenia)
Cristina Mussini (Italy)
Teymur Noori (ECDC)
Miłosz Parczewski (Poland)
Konstantinos Protopapas (Greece)
Nicoletta Policek (Community)
Jürgen Rockstroh (Germany)
Stela Bivol (WHO Europe)
Šime Zekan (Croatia)

EACS SECRETARIAT

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Alissa Grenet
Apostolos Kalogiannis
Gonçalo Lobo
Charlotte Peters
Véronique Van Hal
Stephanie Uys - Van Meenen



Faculty

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Snjezana Zidovec Lepej (Croatia)

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Dominique Van Beckhoven (Belgium)
Orsolya Varga (Hungary)
Dániel Waliduda (Hungary)
Nina Weis (Denmark)
Annemarie Wensing (The Netherlands)
Šime Zekan (Croatia)



Day 1 | 8 October 2026

- 08:15-09:00

Registration
- 09:00-09:10

Welcome by EACS
Miłosz Parczewski (EACS president)
- 09:10-09:20

Welcome by Semmelweis University
Béla Merkely (Rector of Semmelweis University)
- 09:20-09:30

Welcome video
Oliver Várhelyi (European Commissioner)

Opening address

- Chair: Cristiana Oprea (Romania)

Objective: To strengthen the HIV care continuum in Central and Eastern Europe, with a specific focus on host countries Hungary and Albania, by addressing gaps in diagnosis, retention, and viral suppression (using local context data).
- 09:30-10:00

Standard of care: in the Full Continuum; the local HIV care context
Botond Lakatos (Hungary), Arjan Harxhi (Albania)

Session 1 – Reducing regional disparities and improving access to prevention and HIV care

- Chair: Cristiana Oprea (Romania)

Objective:To highlight and reduce regional disparities in HIV burden and access to prevention, (integrated) testing, treatment, and support services through harmonised approaches and strengthened collaboration.
- 10:00-10:20

Regional HIV Epidemiology
Teymur Noori (ECDC)
- 10:20-10:55

Break
- 10:55-11:20

Living with HIV in Albania and Hungary; Perspectives of the community
Chris Cziria (Hungary), Olimbi Hoxhaj (Albania)
- 11:20-12:00

Public health perspectives of Albania and Hungary
Roland Bani (Albania), Orsolya Varga (Hungary)
- 12:00-12:20

Group discussion
Moderator: Cristiana Oprea (Romania)



Session 2 – ECDC/EACS standards of HIV care in Europe workshop

- Chair: Nina Weis (Denmark)

Objective: To provide participants with a clear understanding of the publishes modules of the ECDC/EACS Standards of HIV Care, and to enable them to develop locally adaptable guidance and a sustainability plan that supports effective implementation, auditing, and long term maintenance of these Standards across European healthcare settings.
- 12:20-12:30

European standards of HIV care - brief introduction
Jürgen Rockstroh (Germany)

Standards of care modules and audits

- 12:30-12:45

Overview of the published standards
Teymur Noori (ECDC)
- 12:45-13:00

Antenatal screening and Engagement module
Charlotte Peters (EACS), Dominique Van Beckhoven (Belgium)
- 13:00-14:00

Lunch
- 14:00-14:20

HIV Testing and PrEP audits
Francesca Roper (Denmark)
- 14:20-14:45

Perspectives and audit experiences by clinical audit leads
Karolina Akinosoglou (Greece), Natalia Bolokadze (Georgia), Dagny Krankowska (Poland)
- 14:45-15:15

Group discussion on audit implications and the future
Moderator: Nina Weis (Denmark)
- 15:15-15:45

Break
- 15:45-16:00

EACS strategy proposal for modules, auditing and sustainability of Standards of HIV Care
Miłosz Parczewski (Poland)
- 16:00-16:45

Discussion in breakout groups
Moderators: Teymur Noori (ECDC), Dorthe Raben (Denmark), Jürgen Rockstroh (Germany)

- 16:45-17:15

Report from the breakout groups

Moderator: Jürgen Rockstroh (Germany)
- 17:15-17:30

Wrap up day 1 and next steps

Cristiana Oprea (Romania), Arjan Harxhi (Albania)
- 19:30-22:30

EACS Dinner

Spoon the Boat, Vigadó square, Port 3, 1052 Budapest

Day 2 | 9 October 2026

- 08:30-08:35

Welcome to Day 2

Meeting chairs

Session 3 – Fighting stigma and advancing equity

Chair: Miłosz Parczewski (Poland)
Objective: To advance equity for vulnerable and marginalised populations, including women, Roma communities, migrants, refugees, and homeless individuals, by expanding access to inclusive and novel HIV services and combating stigma.

- 08:35-08:55

HUG-EACS Global survey on measuring HIV knowledge and attitudes in healthcare settings

Katie Darling (Switzerland)
- 08:55-09:25

Joint action SHIELD work package on stigma

Daniela Rojas (Spain)
- 09:25-09:45

Enabling policies and actions

Rageshri Dhairyan (United Kingdom)
- 09:45-10:10

Break
- 10:10-10:25

Community perspectives on stigma

Olimbi Hoxhaj (Albania), Dániel Waliduda (Hungary)
- 10:25-10:45

Group discussion on required policies and interventions to address stigma in healthcare settings

Moderator: Miłosz Parczewski (Poland)

Session 4 – Advancing Standards of HIV Care and Prevention: Policy Impact, Political Commitment and European Leadership

Chair: Gonçalo Lobo (EACS)
Objective: To strengthen political and policy commitment to advancing Standards of HIV Care and Prevention by showcasing their impact on national policy and practice, addressing systemic barriers, and promoting meaningful community engagement and sustainable, equitable HIV responses.

- 10:45-11:15

Opening remarks; Setting the European Agenda for Excellence in HIV Care

Stela Bivol (WHO Europe), András Kulja (Hungary)
- 11:15-11:25

Q&A and discussion

Moderator: Gonçalo Lobo (EACS)
- 11:25-11:45

Catalysing change; How Standards of Care influence policy and country actions

Konstantinos Protopapas (Greece), Deniz Gökengin (Türkiye)
- 11:45-11:55

From standards to reality; The role of communities in advancing equitable, person-centred HIV care

Daniela Rojas (EATG)
- 11:55-12:10

Q&A and discussion

Moderator: Gonçalo Lobo (EACS)
- 12:10-12:15

Closing remarks; Summary and ways forward

Gonçalo Lobo (EACS)

Session 5 – HIV prevention and treatment access

Chair: Šime Zekan (Croatia)
Round table on HIV prevention and treatment access
Clinicians: Deniz Gökengin (Türkiye), Cristina Mussini (Italy);
Public health: Jessika Deblonde (Belgium), Snjezana Zidovec Lepej (Croatia);
Community and harm reduction representatives: Magda Ankiersztejn-Bartczak (Poland), Robert Hjerzak (Czech Republic), Laura Tóth (Hungary)

Session 6 – In the Full Continuum

Chair: Cristiana Oprea (Romania) and Botond Lakatos (Hungary)

12:45-12:55	Summary of the Standards of Care meeting Ole Kirk (Denmark)
12:55-13:00	Closing remarks Miłosz Parczewski (EACS president) Cristiana Oprea (Romania) and Botond Lakatos (Hungary)
13:00	Lunch and departure

The co-chairs and the organising committee wish to thank the following institutions and organisations for their endorsement of the EACS Standard of Care for HIV and Co-infections in Europe 2026 meeting:

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Hungarian Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology
University of Medicine, Tirana
WHO Regional Office for Europe

Semmelweis University for hosting the meeting

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MEETING VENUE

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