

**Cross –Country Analysis of Barriers to Accessing Testing, Care, and Treatment
in Estonia, Moldova, Poland, Turkey, and Ukraine
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**Workshop on People Living with HIV Stigma Index
May 26th, 2011. 14.00 - 18.00.
Nokia Concert Hall, Yellow room**



**HIV IN EUROPEAN REGION-
UNITY AND DIVERSITY
MAY 25-27**

HIV-related Stigma:

A cross analysis of findings
from the People Living
with HIV Stigma Index in
Estonia, Moldova, Poland,
Turkey, and Ukraine

Late Testing,
Late Treatment



Всеукраїнська Мережа ЛЖВ
All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH



Лига ЛЖВ Република Молдова
League of People living with HIV
Republic of Moldova

Speakers Notes :

I am going to give you a quick snapshot of the results from a report published just yesterday. This report examines the answers to 5 questions that were added onto the PLHIV Stigma Index in these five countries to try to understand the barriers that people face in accessing HIV testing and, upon receiving a positive HIV diagnosis, in accessing medical care for their HIV infection. The research was funded by HIV in Europe, to whom we are most grateful, and was carried out by the five national networks of people living with HIV, the representatives of which have just spoken to you.

You have seen some of this information in the individual country reports. I want to show you some results across the countries.



SIEĆ PLUS



EHPV
Eesti HIV-positiivsete võrgustik
Estonian Network of PLWH

Information about the Country Surveys



About the Country Samples

Table 1: Country sample sizes and characteristics

Country	Number	% Female	Ages	% Urban	% Key Population*
Estonia	87**	44%	15 to 50+	83%	87% 79% IDU, 59% Prisoner, 12% Sex worker, 6% MSM/G/L
Moldova	403	51%	15 to 50+	59%	56% 37% IDU, 24% Prisoner, 17% Migrant worker
Poland	504	39%	15 to 50+	72%	66% 43% IDU, 20% MSM/G/L, 8% Prisoner
Turkey	100	21%	21-50	89%	64% 36% MSM/G/L, 7% Sex worker, 6% Prisoner, 6% Indigenous, 5% Transgender
Ukraine	1500	45%	15 to 50+	68%	76% 65% IDU, 25% Prisoner, 6% MSM/G/L, 5% Sex worker

* Respondents could identify with multiple key populations so the percentages for each group add up to more than 100%. In addition to the main groups listed here, each country sample also included smaller numbers of other key populations.

** Though the sample size for the purposes of this study was 87 – the full PLHIV Stigma Index study for Estonia has a sample size of over 300.

Speakers notes: The country samples attempted to include 3% of the population of PLHIV in each country or area studied. Here you can see the number of respondents, the percentage that were female, the ages, the percentage of respondents who lived in urban areas, and the percentage who came from key population groups. Members of key populations comprised more than half of each sample, with differences between countries in the proportions of respondents from different key population groups.

Testing Delays

Country	Tested within 6 months	Tested between 7 months and 2 years	Tested after more than 2 years	Total
Estonia	58%	32%	10%	100%
Moldova	92%	5%	4%	100%
Poland	67%	20%	13%	100%
Turkey	95%	3%	2%	100%
Ukraine	72%	15%	13%	100%

Numbers may not equal 100% because of rounding

Anticipated Stigma

Those who reported getting tested within 6 months and how they answered the question
Did fears about how other people would respond if you tested positive make you hesitate to get tested?

	Estonia	Moldova	Poland	Turkey	Ukraine
Yes	38%	81%	60%	79%	68%
No	86%	97%	71%	100%	77%
Difference	-47%	-16%	-11%	-21%	-8%

Key : (yes minus no)

(impact of fear on getting tested within 6 months)

>0% (fear for what others will react causes early testing)

<0% (people decide to test early irrelevant of their fears of others' reactions)

Differences are statistically significant at the $p < .003$ level for every country

Speakers Notes : We asked respondents directly; “Did fears about how other people would respond if you tested positive make you hesitate to get tested?” In this table, I have included answers from ONLY the respondents who told us that they tested within 6 months of first thinking that they needed to get an HIV test. Here you can see the percentage of those who answered Yes and No to this question. Those who answered “No” – meaning that they did not hesitate because of fear of being stigmatized were much more likely to get an HIV test within 6 months than those who said that they did hesitate because of this fear. For example, in Estonia, 86% of those who said “No” they did not hesitate, tested within 6 months. Only 38% of those who expressed this fear of social stigma tested within 6 months. The difference in testing between those who reported that the anticipation of social stigma made them hesitate and those who said it did not was 47% in Estonia:

This suggests a strong relationship between anticipated stigma and hesitation to have an HIV test done.

Fears about HIV Testing--Women



Women's Top 3 testing fears by Country

	Estonia	Moldova	Poland	Turkey	Ukraine
1	I would be shunned by family or friends	I would be shunned by family or friends	I would be shunned by family or friends	I would be shunned by family or friends	I would be shunned by family or friends
2	My husband/wife/partner would leave me and I would not be able to get married (equally indicated)	People might think that I am promiscuous, a man who has sex with men, a sex worker, or an IV drug user	My children would be treated badly by our family, our community, or their school	My husband/wife/partner would leave me	I would not be able to get married
3	My husband/wife/partner would leave me and I would not be able to get married (equally indicated)	My children would be treated badly by our family, our community, or their school	People might think that I am promiscuous, a man who has sex with men, a sex worker, or an IV drug user	I would lose my job or be removed from my school program	My children would be treated badly by our family, our community, or their school

Fears about HIV Testing--Men



Men's Top 3 testing fears by Country					
	Estonia	Moldova	Poland	Turkey	Ukraine
1	I would be shunned by family or friends	I would be shunned by family or friends	I would be shunned by family or friends	I would be shunned by family or friends	I would be shunned by family or friends
2	People might think that I am promiscuous, a man who has sex with men, a sex worker, or an IV drug user	My children would be treated badly by our family, our community, or their school	People might think that I am promiscuous, a man who has sex with men, a sex worker, or an IV drug user	My husband/wife/partner would leave me	I would not be able to get married
3	I would lose my job or be removed from my school program	People might think that I am promiscuous, a man who has sex with men, a sex worker, or an IV drug user	My husband/wife/partner would leave me	People might think that I am promiscuous, a man who has sex with men, a sex worker, or an IV drug user	My husband/wife/partner would leave me

HIV Care Delays

	Estonia	Moldova	Poland	Turkey	Ukraine
care within 6 months	51%	31%	58%	90%	44%
care between 7 months and 2 years	34%	9%	15%	4%	16%
care after more than 2 years	14%	24%	23%	4%	25%
Not yet in care	1%	36%	4%	2%	15%

Numbers may not equal 100% because of rounding

Reasons for Care Delays -Men

Men's Top three reasons for delaying care by country					
	Estonia	Moldova	Poland	Turkey	Ukraine
1	I was not ready to deal with my HIV infection	I was not ready to deal with my HIV infection	I was not ready to deal with my HIV infection	I could not afford health care	I was not ready to deal with my HIV infection
2	I was afraid that someone I knew would see me there	I was afraid that the health care workers would disclose my status without my consent	I did not receive a referral or did not know where to go to get HIV care	I was not ready to deal with my HIV infection	I was incarcerated and not able to access HIV care
3	I was afraid that I would be seen as promiscuous, a sex worker, a drug user, or a man who has sex with men	I did not receive a referral or did not know where to go to get HIV care	I was afraid that I would be seen as promiscuous, a sex worker, a drug user, or a man who has sex with men and I was incarcerated and not able to access HIV care were equally recorded as reasons	I was afraid that the health care workers would disclose my status without my consent and I was afraid that someone I knew would see me there and I was afraid that I would be seen as promiscuous, a sex worker, a drug user, or a man who has sex with men were equally recorded as reasons	I was afraid that someone I knew would see me there

Reasons for Care Delays -Women

Women's Top three reasons for delaying care by country					
	Estonia	Moldova	Poland	Turkey	Ukraine
1	I was not ready to deal with my HIV infection	I was afraid that someone I knew would see me there	I was not ready to deal with my HIV infection	I was afraid that the health workers (doctors, nurses, staff) would treat me badly	I was not ready to deal with my HIV infection
2	I was afraid that someone I knew would see me there	I was not ready to deal with my HIV infection and I did not receive a referral or did not know where to go to get HIV care were equally recorded as reasons	I did not receive a referral or did not know where to go to get HIV care	I was afraid that the health care workers would disclose my status without my consent	I was afraid that someone I knew would see me there
3	I was afraid that the health care workers would disclose my status without my consent		I was afraid that the health care workers would disclose my status without my consent	I was afraid that someone I knew would see me there	I was afraid that the health care workers would disclose my status without my consent

HIV Test Counselling and Delays in Accessing Care

Cross Analysis: Time elapsed between pre and post test HIV Counselling and accessing care.

		0-6 months	7-12 months	1-2 years	2 years or more	Not in care
Estonia	Both pre and post test counselling	65%	10%	20%	5%	0%
	Only pre test counselling	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Only post test counselling	45.2%	12.9%	16.1%	22.6%	3.25%
	No Counselling	45.5%	24.2%	18.2%	12.1%	0%
Moldova**	Both pre and post test counselling	33.8%	8.8%	5%	17.5%	35%
	Only pre test counselling	15.83%	5.3%	5.3%	31.6%	42.1%
	Only post test counselling	44.7%	2.7%	5.3%	18%	29.3%
	No Counselling	18.1%	1.3%	6%	33.6%	40.9%
Poland**	Both pre and post test counselling	74.4%	5.8%	6.4%	9.6%	3.8%
	Only pre test counselling	62.5%	0%	25.0%	12.5%	0%
	Only post test counselling	60.8%	10.3%	4.1%	23.7%	1%
	No Counselling	44.3%	6.5%	10.4%	32.8%	6%
Turkey**	Both pre and post test counselling	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Only pre test counselling	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Only post test counselling	90.56%	4.8%	4.8%	0%	0%
	No Counselling	89.6%	2.6%	0%	5.2%	2.6%
Ukraine**	Both pre and post test counselling	50.7%	10%	8.4%	14.7%	16.26%
	Only pre test counselling	40.5%	7.1%	7.1%	23.8%	21.4%
	Only post test counselling	45.0%	4.3%	11.2%	28%	11.5%
	No Counselling	35.3%	3.6%	10.3%	35.7%	15.1%

*The number of respondents reporting that that had received pre test counselling only is very small (n=2) in Estonia and Poland(n=8). No respondents selected this answer in Turkey.

** Differences between groups are statistically significant at the p=.000 level

Summary

- **PLHIV Stigma Index results**
 - Demonstrate how to turn anecdotes into evidence
 - Allow us to validate existing research about us
- **Late Testing, Late Treatment report shows**
 - Value of cross-country and regional analysis
 - How to include additional questions to complement PLHIV Stigma Index



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This is an initiative of four founding partners
More information can be accessed at: www.stigmaindex.org



Thank you

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