

Press Release

Conference: “PrEP in Cyprus”

Saturday, May 11th, 2019, At 09:00-15:00

Lyssarides Foundation, Agion Omologiton #58, 1080, Agioi Omologites, Nicosia.

The AIDS Solidarity Movement, Cy Checkpoint and Accept-LGBTI Cyprus are co-organising the “PrEP in Cyprus” Conference, at the Conference Room of Lyssarides Foundation, on Saturday, May 11th, 2019, between 09:00-15:00. (Map: <http://www.lyssaridesfoundation.com/contact/>).

At the Conference, we will be presenting the data we have collected from three Surveys, regarding knowledge, attitudes, intention of use and current situation regarding PrEP* in Cyprus. It's important to state that PrEP is not officially available in Cyprus yet. **Georgios Nikolopoulos**, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, at the Medical School of the University of Cyprus, has the scientific overview of all the data analysis.

The Surveys are the following:

1. Internet Survey «PrEP in Cyprus»

(Based on “Flash! PrEP in Europe” online survey, 2016’)

Conducted between July-September, 2018

Partners: Accept-LGBTI Cyprus, AIDS Solidarity Movement, Cy Checkpoint

Funded by ILGA Europe.

2. “EMIS 2017” Pan-European Internet Survey

(European Men who have Sex with Men Internet Survey, ESTICOM)

Conducted between October 2017 - January 2018

Conducted by: Sigma Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), in cooperation with the “Robert Koch Institute (RKI)”, Berlin, funded by the European Commission (CHAFEA).

Cyprus Partners: AIDS Solidarity Movement.

3. Community Testing Data by the Cy Checkpoint, the Prevention & Testing Centre for HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections

Conducted in 2017.

Partners: Cy Checkpoint (AIDS Solidarity Movement).

We are honoured to have the following experts from abroad, participating in the Conference:

- **Dr. Ioannis Hodges - Mameletzis, MPH/DPhil**, Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR), World Health Organization.
- **Sophocles Channos**, Head of Ath & Thess Checkpoint, Positive Voice, the Association of People Living with HIV in Greece.

An open discussion panel will follow the presentations, with the participation of all keynote speakers, together with **Dr. Ioannis Demetriades**, the Head of Grigorios Clinic, the HIV Reference Clinic at Larnaca General Hospital, Cyprus.

Andreas Giortsios, journalist, will be coordinating the open discussion.

The Conference is sponsored by the Cyprus Ministry of Health, it will be open to the general public in an effort to raise awareness around HIV prevention, and is part of the «Cyprus Pride 2019».

The Conference will be held in the greek language.

Organisers



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Program	
09:00 - 09:30	Registrations
09:30 - 09:40	Opening Speech by a representative of the Cyprus Ministry of Health
09:40 - 10:00	“Cyprus Epidemiological Data” Dr. Linos Hadjihannas, Scientific Coordinator of the HIV/AIDS Program, Ministry of Health.
10:00 - 11:00	“World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidelines, and PrEP Best Practices” Dr. Ioannis Hodges - Mameletzis, MPH/DPhil, Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR), World Health Organization.
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 - 11:45	“The PrEP Pilot Program experience in Athens” Sophocles Channos, Head of Ath & Thess Checkpoint, Positive Voice Greece.
11:45 - 12:30	Presentation of research findings - Cyprus: Georgios Nikolopoulos, Assistance Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, Medical School, University of Cyprus
12:30 - 13:00	Lunch Break
13:00 - 13:30	“The Role of the Community in designing access to PrEP” Christos Krasidis, Secretary, AIDS Solidarity Movement, Constantinos Laccotripes, Secretary, Accept LGBTI Cyprus.
13:30 - 15:00	Open Discussion Coordination by Andreas Giortsios, journalist.

* **What is PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)**

PrEP is a prevention strategy that combines the use of antiretroviral treatment (ART), medical monitoring and routine testing as prevention, which can effectively prevent HIV transmission. It is intended solely for HIV-negative people, and is an extremely important tool in addressing the HIV epidemic. For more information, visit the PrEPinCyprus.com webpage (in Greek).

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