



European African Treatment Advocates Network

EATAN Model of Improving Testing Access to HCV/HIV Treatment Among Key Populations In Europe

HVC seminar 3-4 November 2016, Paris, France

By Elijah Amooti (EATAN)

WHAT IS EATAN?

- A Europe-wide initiative founded in 2012 by a team of treatment advocates passionate about improving the health and social care outcomes of Africans living in Europe who are affected by HIV, viral Hepatitis and TB.
- We aim to enhance the quality of life migrants
- In particular patients of African background who are living with HIV, viral hepatitis or any other chronic conditions.

EATAN is:

- **An influential leader within a key population**



- **Working in collaboration during 2016 HCV/HIV European testing week**

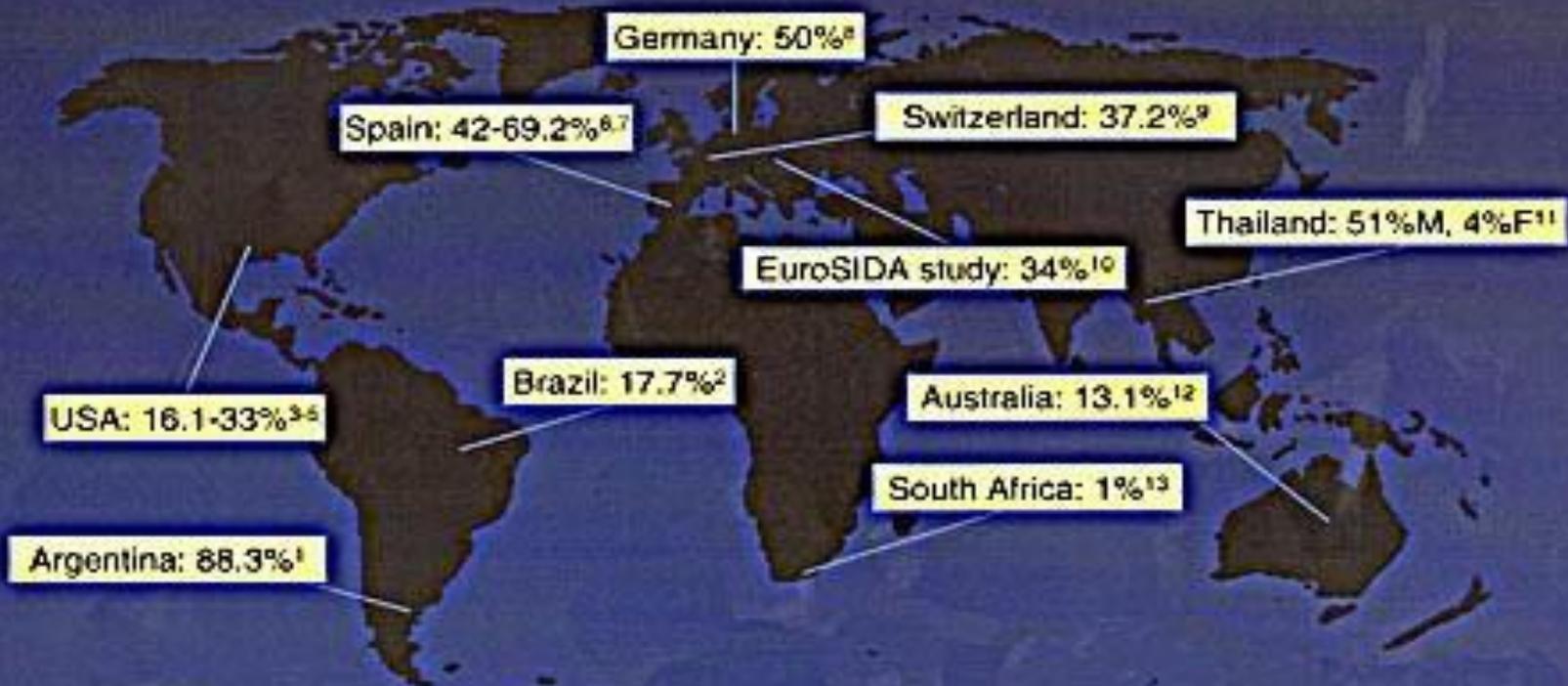


EATAN MEMBERSHIP

- With over 150 members based in western EU countries who work with influential leaders within a key population who can get educational/health messages across, perhaps better than a patient group can.
- e.g. Faith leaders in a migrant population who will be close to and trusted within the migrant community; LGBT celebrities or key influencers who can endorse HIV and hepatitis testing to MSMs and trans people communities

HCV/HIV Co-infection: Geographical Variation

Prevalence of HCV Among Populations of HIV-infected Patients



WHY THE NEED TO IMPROVE ACCESS

- 14% people living with HIV are co-infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- Increased overlapping challenges in co-infected people
- Many of the key challenges for scaling up access to HCV treatment have had to be confronted for HIV
- Increased need to access to medicines, developing simplified models of care, scaling up prevention alongside treatment, reaching marginalized populations, overcoming stigma and supporting civil society.

Why ensure affordable access to treatment?

- . After decades of poor treatment outcomes using drugs discovered over 40 years ago (ribavirin and interferon), a robust drug development pipeline has begun to deliver a number of safe and highly effective treatments; however, the cost of these drugs is currently too high to allow for widespread treatment scale-up, even in high-income settings
- Lack of access to treatment also contributes to the low levels of HCV diagnosis in many settings, a dynamic also seen in the early days of the HIV epidemic where patients and health providers were unmotivated to test for HIV in the absence of treatment.

Why ensure affordable access to treatment? continued.

- Because access to these new drugs will be a precondition for scaling-up HCV treatment globally.
- Comprehensive strategies that helped improve access to affordable HIV medicines and diagnostics included voluntary and compulsory licensing, patent-sharing arrangements and improved procurement mechanisms which can, in principle, be replicated for HCV.
- Pharmaceutical companies, international organizations, procurement and funding mechanisms, national governments and civil society all need to play a part in ensuring access to affordable treatment for HCV.

What EATAN does

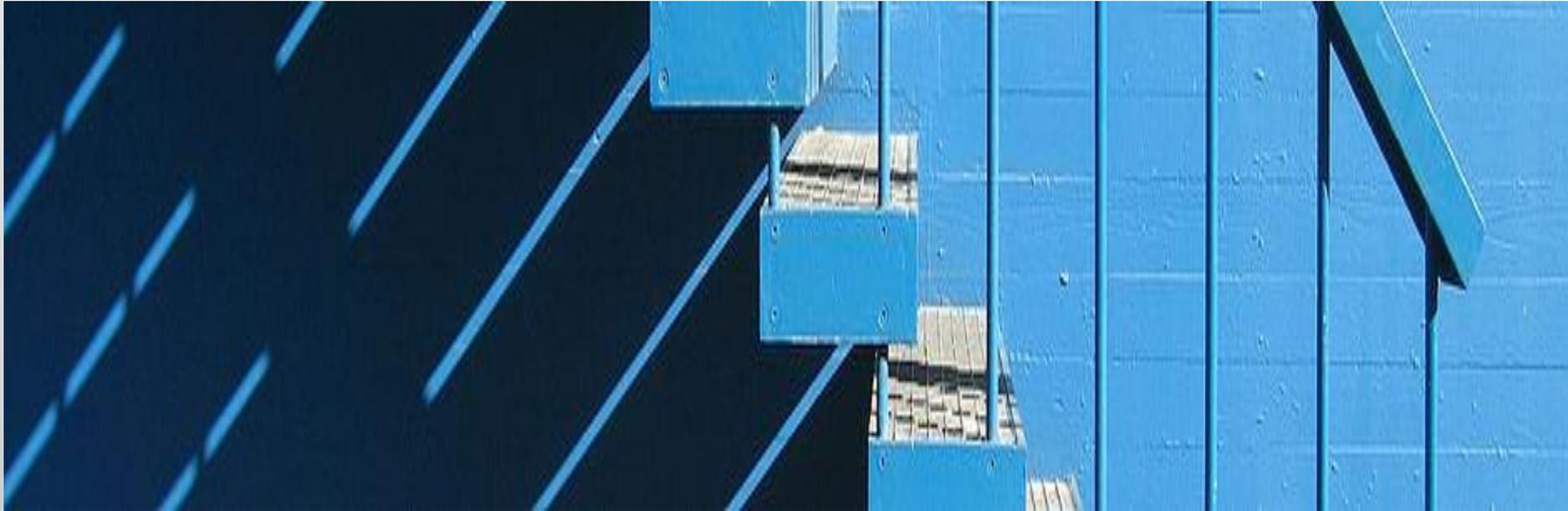
- EATAN works to address lack of voice and participation of African patients on key screening, treatment and care decisions
- EATAN works with key stakeholders :
 - a) to influence policy;
 - b) promote best practice
 - c) and empower patients with information; skills and resources to self manage and make informed choices about their care.

Why EATAN targets Africans as key populations?

- Key populations are defined groups who, due to specific behaviors, are at increased risk of HIV/Hepatitis C irrespective of the epidemic type or local context.
- Higher vulnerability of key populations to HIV and many other illnesses (e.g. hepatitis) results from social and structural factors, including criminalization, discrimination, stigma, violence, social and economic marginalization and/or exclusion they are often subjected to.
- Also, they often have legal and social issues related to their behaviors that increase their vulnerability to Hepatitis C/HIV.

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NEXT STEP



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NEW PARTNERSHIP FOCUSING ON AFRICAN MIGRANTS IN EUROPE

Thank you.
Many thanks to:
The EATAN Team and our Funders

