

EN

E-000814/2022

Answer given by Ms Kyriakides  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(12.5.2022)

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) monitors HIV outbreaks and assesses risks<sup>1</sup>, ensures surveillance and monitoring<sup>2</sup>. According to the latest report<sup>3</sup>, 601 new HIV cases<sup>4</sup> were reported in Greece in 2020<sup>5</sup>. Transmission due to injecting drug use accounted for 17.6% of HIV diagnoses in Greece<sup>6</sup>. HIV Prevention and Control Programmes adapted to key risk groups remain important in EU/EEA countries. Harm-reduction programmes among people who inject drugs and their sexual partners are crucial and should be maintained and scaled up where service coverage is low, particularly when patterns of drug use change.

A strategic priority of the EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025<sup>7</sup> on risk and harm reduction interventions includes measures to prevent and treat blood-borne infectious diseases. The Action Plan<sup>8</sup> foresees actions to maintain or enhance risk and harm reduction measures and measures to reduce the prevalence of drug-related infectious diseases, such as HIV. The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction issued a guide offering practical advice to ensure the effectiveness of responses<sup>9</sup>.

Healthcare, including disease prevention, control and public information is primarily a national competence. The Commission supports the coordination of Member States' activities<sup>10</sup> and funds actions on HIV and co-infection prevention, early detection, linkage to care, harm reduction and outreach to risk groups under the Health<sup>11</sup> and EU4Health Programmes<sup>12</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/all-topics-z/hiv-infection-and-aids/threats-and-outbreaks-hiv-infection-and-aids>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/hiv-infection-and-aids> ; <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/guidance-brief-prevention-and-control-blood-borne-viruses-prison-settings> ; <https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/71/11/2905/5910027>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/hiv-aids-surveillance-europe-2021-2020-data>

<sup>4</sup> That is 5.6 cases per 100 000 population.

<sup>5</sup> The data in this report present new HIV diagnoses through to the end of 2020, the period of the global COVID-19 pandemic, which heavily affected all countries in the EU/EEA. The impact of the pandemic on human resources in laboratory, clinical and public health institutions has already been observed and is continuing in 2021-2022. In collaboration with EU/EEA Members States, ECDC, WHO's Regional Office for Europe, and clinical and community partners will look carefully at the impact on HIV surveillance and prevention response, with the aim of supporting the continued high standard of European HIV and AIDS data, guiding the response in the Region and understanding how the ongoing pandemic may affect HIV incidence, particularly in regions and groups most at-risk.

<sup>6</sup> Comparing to 3.8% of cases in EU/EEA.

<sup>7</sup> OJ C 102I, 24.3.2021, p. 1–14.

<sup>8</sup> OJ C 272, 8.7.2021, p. 2–28.

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/mini-guides/drug-related-infectious-diseases-health-and-social-responses\\_en](https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/mini-guides/drug-related-infectious-diseases-health-and-social-responses_en)

<sup>10</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32013D1082> and <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2016%3A739%3AFIN>

<sup>11</sup> For example: <https://www.hareact.eu> - <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/global-health/research/a-z/hepcare> - [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/chafea\\_pdb/health/projects/761319/](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/chafea_pdb/health/projects/761319/)

<sup>12</sup> E.g. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/eu4h-2021-pj-13>

ECDC provides country-specific support and evidence-based public health resources also to facilitate communication with the public<sup>13</sup>.

In a dedicated Steering Group<sup>14</sup> Member States can select actions from the EU best practice portal<sup>15</sup> for implementation.

---

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/infectious-diseases-public-health/hiv-infection-and-aids/communication>

<sup>14</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/non\\_communicable\\_diseases/steeringgroup\\_promotionprevention\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/non_communicable_diseases/steeringgroup_promotionprevention_en)

<sup>15</sup> <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dyna/bp-portal/>