

Success stories profile

Bosnia and Herzegovina

HIV prevalence in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a population of 3.8 million people and the exact prevalence of HIV is unknown. However, it is thought to be **less than 0.1% in the adult population**.¹



Testing week 2014

In November 2014, Association PROI (an organisation addressing poverty in Bosnia and Herzegovina) took part in European HIV Testing Week (ETW). Both in the run up to ETW, and throughout the week itself, PROI successfully partnered up with the Clinical Centre University of Sarajevo and the Public Institution of 'Sarajevo Pharmacies'.



With the assistance of Clinical Centre University of Sarajevo, testing of key risk groups was organised at drop-in centres. In the two days that this was running, 39 high risk individuals (either sex workers (SWs), or people who inject drugs (PWIDs)) were tested.

Throughout the week, HIV testing was made available at pharmacies in Sarajevo for the general population, again working alongside doctors and counsellors from the university. This was promoted by PROI members on the streets, as well as on the PROI website and Facebook page. Facebook advertisement of all the activities in ETW, in particular, led to many young people enquiring about how to get tested.

PROI also aimed to reduce stigma felt by high risk groups by raising awareness through posters in drop-in centres, the institute for alcoholism and other places where PWIDs might gather. They aimed to present them in a positive light, as well as promoting the main theme of ETW; 'Talk HIV, Test HIV'.

Looking ahead

In the future PROI will aim to promote testing throughout the year, as well as during testing week itself. They will also shift their efforts away from the general population and focus on at risk populations as there were no positive results from members of the general population.

PROI will continue to work in close cooperation with other institutions to continue to reach more and more people with the campaign. They will also take inspiration from the success stories of other participating countries in the future.

References

1. www.indexmundi.com/bosnia_and_herzegovina/hiv_aids_adult_prevalence_rate.html