



# Belgian HIV Plan

**2014 - 2019**



30 November 2018 - BREACH symposium - Monitoring Committee

# Outline of the presentation

- Task Forces on PrEP and Testing
- Primary prevention
- Treatment and Care
- Quality of life
- Positive Council
- Working on the next HIV Plan

## Results PrEP Task Force

”to support the process of making PrEP available in Belgium”

- Successful entry 2000 PrEPers in ARCs
- PrEP convention in the making
- Aggregated data collection per ARC (from January 2019 onwards)
- In development: individual database (cohort of PrEP users)
- Ongoing discussions:
  - Impact generics in Belgium
  - Discussing “PrEP delivery outside ARC”
  - Absence of SAM urges for action
  - Messaging on PrEP: stigma vs health promotion



outes les infos  
la PrEP en



**PrEP werkt!**

Bij correct gebruik bescherm je jezelf tegen hiv.

# Task Force *Testing Strategy* (1)

- Technical Working Group ‘Sexual Health’ established in the context of the **Protocol agreement on prevention** (21 March 2016)
- The Interkabinetten Wergroep/Group de travail Intercabinets holds the development of a national STI/HIV testing strategy as a priority and shares work with the KCE.
- Based on a mapping of all HIV testing activities in Belgium, the IKW working group concluded that offering a diversity of testing services requires coordination of policies (federal vs regional). Therefore, there should be an improved intergovernmental consultation to ensure
  - Common vision on test offer
  - Exchange of training modules
  - Harmonized data collection of community-based testing

# Task Force *Testing Strategy* (2)

- 3 screening centers and NGOs involved in harmonized data collection for community based testing (medicalised and demedicalised); Expression of interest to become member of COBATEST (European Network of Community Based Testing):
  - Common data collection to monitor activity of CBVCTs\*, promote HIV testing, early diagnosis and linkage to care;
  - Sharing of best practices;
  - Providing input for the national HIV surveillance.
- KCE is developing an evidence-based screening instrument for 3 STIs, for primary care providers by March 2019. Questions as who should be tested, for which STI, and when should be tested, will be answered.

\*CBVCT=Community Based Voluntary Counseling and Testing

# Results 2018

## Testing: *Demedicalised Testing*

- Favourable advice 9224 SHC on **demedicalised and decentralised** testing calling for a legal frame for testing and non-medical professionals
- KB/AR published July 2018 *“Non-health care professionals can perform HIV orienting tests under certain conditions”*
  - Training and content organized by ARC and NGOs
  - Attestation delivered by ARC
  - Demand for demedicalised testing currently mainly in Brussels and Wallonia
  - First trainings in Brussels (December 2018) and Liège (February 2019)
  - Financing of projects *remains regional competence*
  - Discussion anonymous registration test-results ongoing

# Results 2018 Testing

Some highlights:

- HERMETIC project: finding undiagnosed in primary care based on profile and indicator diseases
- [www.partneralert.be](http://www.partneralert.be) adopted by Flemish government
- Swab2know: ongoing initiative with online testing (MSM) and community-based implementation (on location) in Flanders for SAM

# Primary Prevention



- Current **information** was actively distributed and priority groups were targeted;
- **Distribution** of condoms and lubricant, test offer, *needle exchange* promoted towards priority groups
- **Professionals** participated in information sessions, conference cycles, roundtable debates and contributed to collective projects;
- Paradigm shift to **combination prevention** proceeds successfully with PrEP being most bio-medicalized game-changer, favourable epidemiological effect expected



# Pending questions “Primary Prevention”

- **HPV vaccination of boys**

- Favourable advice SHC October 2016;
- Industry entered demand to enlarge reimbursement criteria RIZIV/INAMI and negotiated with regional governments to enlarge current policy;
- KCE cost-effectiveness study on vaccinating boys against HPV produced favourable outcome;
- Wallonia will vaccinate, Flanders debate ongoing.

- MC supports EACS guidelines to be applied uniformly across ARCs

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)	Shared risk with HIV of contracting infection. Higher rate of cervical and anal cancer	Vaccinate with 3 doses for all HIV-positive persons up to age 26 / age 40 if MSM (health insurance coverage differs by country according to age, sex, sexual orientation). Use 9-valent vaccine if available. If HPV infection is established, efficacy of vaccine is questionable
-----------------------------	--	---

- Update demanded advice 8902 SHC on condomless sex in serodiscordant couples

# Treatment and Care: Results 2018

- Sustaining favourable effect of TasP measures on epidemiology
- RIZIV/INAMI reimburses treatment syphilis (Penadur) since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018
- EBM PracticeNet develops guidelines for HIV care for primary care (due 2019)
- Health Policy Note Chamber: extra ARC Limburg, intensified collaboration patient organisations and ARC

[http://www.dekamer.be/kvvcvcr/showpage.cfm?section=/pri/budget&language=nl&rightmenu=right\\_pri&story=2019-notes.xml](http://www.dekamer.be/kvvcvcr/showpage.cfm?section=/pri/budget&language=nl&rightmenu=right_pri&story=2019-notes.xml)



UNDETECTABLE = UNTRANSMITTABLE

...wde conventies met de HIV-  
...g treden. Er wordt bijzondere  
...a noden van de long-term-sur-  
...heid van patiëntenorganisaties.  
...verwacht dat ze de kwaliteit van  
...erlening meten aan de hand van  
...ted outcome measures) en PREM  
...perience measures).

...nd HIV-referentiecentrum zal gecon-  
...orden in Limburg. In die provincie was er  
...tijd geen HIV-referentiecentrum dat een  
...et het RIZIV had verkregen.

En 2019, les nouvelles conventions avec les centres de référence VIH entreront en vigueur. Une attention particulière y est accordée aux besoins des survivants à long terme et à l'implication des organisations de patients. Il est attendu des centres qu'ils mesurent la qualité de leur prestation de soins et de services sur la base de PROM (*patient related outcome measures*) et de PREM (*patient related experience measures*).

Un centre de référence VIH supplémentaire sera conventionné dans le Limbourg. Jusqu'il y a peu, cette province ne comptait aucun centre de référence VIH ayant obtenu une convention avec l'INAMI.

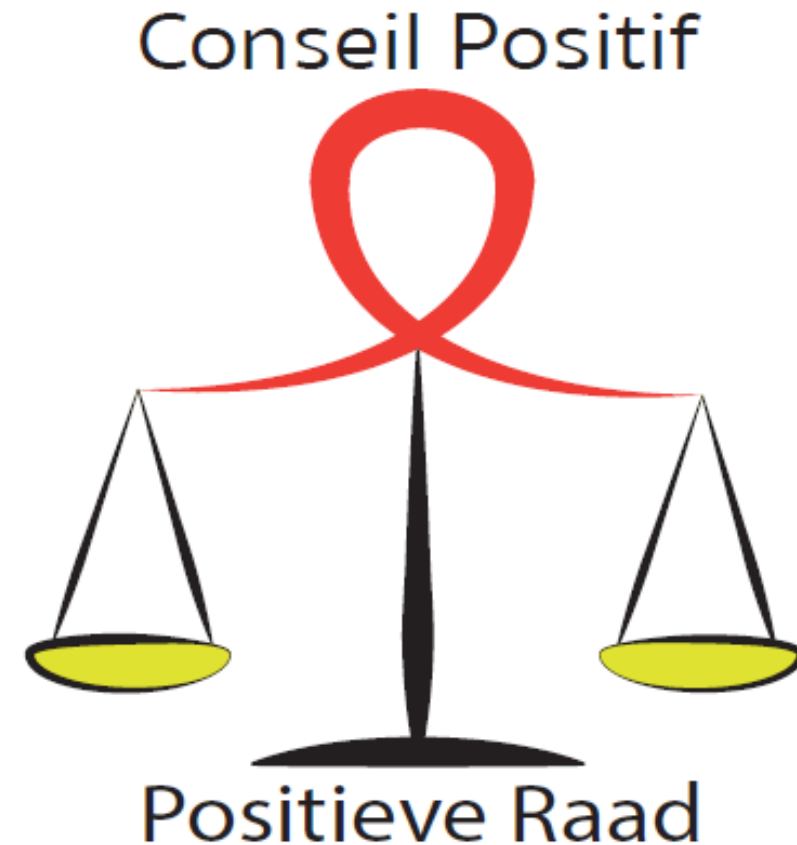
# Quality of Life PLwH

- Awareness raising campaigns on anti-discrimination of PLwH
- Improving empowerment and self-management of PLwH
  - Comorbidities, UVL, social rights and housing, Positief Contact, peer support weekends, workshops for priority populations on disclosure and sex, emotional well being, mental health...
- Pleading for access to care, treatment, social welfare for most vulnerable PLWH
- Participatory approach in development of information materials, workshops, empowering materials for patient-doctor communication
  - Training for psycho-social and health professionals to increase knowledge and decrease discrimination.
- Needs assessment PLWH ongoing 2018-2019 in Flanders
- Needs assessment PLWH 50+ (UTOPIA) [www.positivehealthhiv.be](http://www.positivehealthhiv.be)
- MyLife (ITM) linking QoL needs direct to counselling
- Sciensano will develop QoL measurement tool (RIZIV/INAMI)



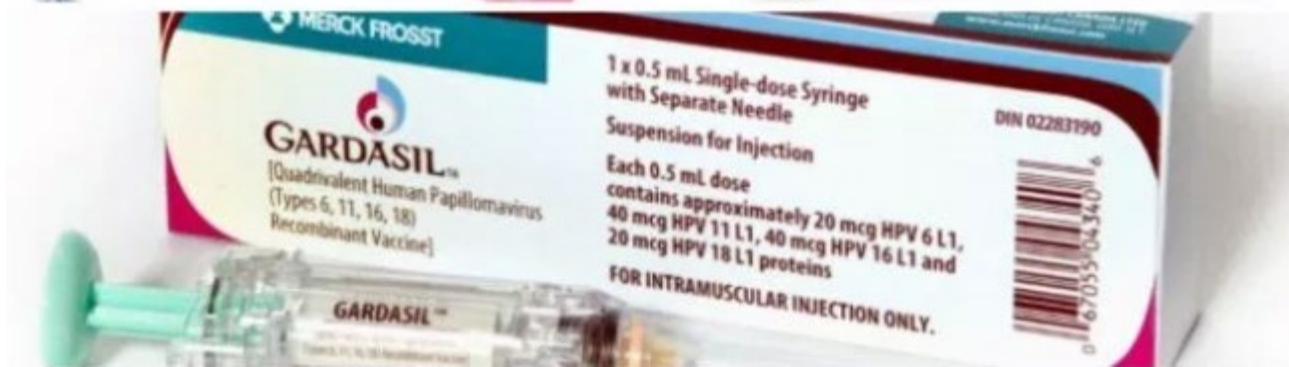
# Positive Council: improving quality of care and quality of care of PLWH

- **Individualised Quality of Life assessment of PLWH** : holistic approach
- **HIV & ageing** : "geriatric approach" with attention for polypharmacy and function weakening (frailty) are recommended.
- **Individualized Education of PLWH** in a multidisciplinary holistic approach, needs more interaction between ARC and patient organisations (peer to peer)
- **ARC uniform quality** : the alignment and quality should be identical and equivalent.





**HPV** vaccination of PLWH (immuno-depressed): Stimulate alignment and request to follow SHC and recent EACS guidelines (October 2017).



# To conclude

## Preparing for 2019 and beyond

---

### Priorities for remaining period

Full operationalization of demedicalized testing;

Investigate PrEP delivery for migrants and (parts of) PrEP delivery through GPs;

Migrants: 9ter bis improve access to care and continuum of care.

Emerging topics: criminalization

---

### Preparing for 2019 and beyond

Negotiate one year extension 2019

Consultation on priorities per pillar 2020-2024

---