

# IUSTI Europe News

September 2023

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## Introduction

by **Claudia Heller-Vitouch, Regional Director of IUSTI-Europe**

Dear Members of IUSTI-Europe,

It is my pleasure to report that within the past months IUSTI-Europe stayed as active as before with representation at the **Euroguidelines in Central and Eastern Europe (ECEE) group** in June 2023 in Warsaw and an IUSTI-Europe delegation attending the STI Network meeting organised by **ECDC** in Stockholm.

A very successful **IUSTI-Europe STI-Advanced Course** on the occasion of 100 years IUSTI was also held at the STI & HIV World congress in Chicago in July 2023. The next advanced **STI-Course "Syphilis from Alpha to Omega"** again organized by **Angelika Stary** and **Marco Cusini** with excellent international speakers and an outstanding programme will take place on **Thursday, October 26, 2023** during the 36<sup>th</sup> IUSTI-Europe Congress in **Malta** (October 26 – 28, 2023). A discount will apply if Course and congress are booked together. IUSTI-members pay a reduced fee.

The Congress itself '*Reaching Out to the Hard to Reach*' organised so wonderfully by **Valeska Padovese** has an outstanding scientific [programme](#) led by Scientific Chair **Henry de Vries** and we look forward to meeting many IUSTI Europe members there. All details are [here](#)

IUSTI Europe was well represented at the **IUSTI World Executive Committee (ExCo)** meeting in Chicago and a report follows in the newsletter.

Another series of excellent **webinars** has taken place which can be watched [online](#). Our webinars will continue in Autumn 2023.

The [guidelines](#) group is busy with new projects in the pipeline to improve our process.

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Congress president **Mihael Skerlev** and **Suzana Ljubojevic Hadzavdic** and scientific chair **Marco Cusini** have already started preparations for the **37<sup>th</sup> IUSTI-Europe congress in Zagreb, Croatia September 12-14, 2024**. A site visit by Derek Freedman, Marco Cusini and myself has taken place recently where important issues were discussed and we could assure ourselves once again of the great professionalism of the organizing team as well as the warm hospitality of our Croatian friends. We are looking even further ahead to the **38<sup>th</sup> IUSTI-Europe congress in Rhodes, Greece expected 9 -11 October 2025** led by **Electra Nicolaidu**.

We were sad to hear of the recent death of Prof. Bozena Chodynicka, a former IUSTI Europe country representative for Poland, and our thoughts are with her family, friends and colleagues.

Please stay tuned on our website [www.iusti-europe.eu](http://www.iusti-europe.eu), where you will find every relevant information about our activities. We look forward to meeting you soon, maybe in beautiful Malta!

With warm wishes,

**Dr. Claudia Heller-Vitouch**

Regional Director of IUSTI-Europe



*Derek Freedman (IUSTI Europe Council Scientific Policy), Suzana Ljubojevic Hadzavdic & Mihael Skerlev (Congress Presidents), Claudia Heller-Vitouch (IUSTI Europe Regional Director) and Marco Cusini (Scientific Chair) in Zagreb planning the 2024 Congress*

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## IUSTI Europe and IUSTI World

by Andrew Winter, Elected Executive Committee Member



*IUSTI World ExCo members, Chicago, July 2023*

The IUSTI World Executive Committee met twice during the Chicago meeting. European members make significant contributions to the running of IUSTI World: Jackie Sherrard (UK) took over as Secretary General, Usha Hartgill (Norway) was co-opted as Assistant Secretary, Andrew Winter (UK) joins Henry de Vries (Netherlands) and Jørgen Jensen (Denmark) as elected ExCo members, while Jonathan Ross (UK) remains Treasurer. Stephen Lautenschlager (Switzerland) has completed his term of service on ExCo.

Key issues discussed included:

- Liaison with WHO, including input to guidelines, laboratory manuals and the Global Health Summit.
- Regional reports from around the world covering local activities, efforts to reduce stigma, scholarships, educational efforts and professional development.
- The formal scientific World Congress programme including Chicago 2023, Sydney 2024, Montreal 2025, Prague 2026 and selection of New Delhi for the 2027 meeting.

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- IUSTI Centenary celebrations – noting Jackie Sherrard’s huge efforts compiling a historical archive and a lively video created in conjunction with the American Sexual Health Association summarizing what IUSTI means to people today.
  - Incoming President Jo-Anne Dillon’s vision to strengthen organisational memory (the ‘WISDOM’ project), explore a global ‘STI day’ , forge better links with patient and advocacy groups to increase impact, and explore how to raise more money to support scholarships to fund LMIC members attending meetings.

Prof. Henry de Vries was awarded a silver IUSTI medal for his work in delivering the joint ISSTD/IUSTI congress in the difficult ‘lock-down’ conditions of 2021 and Dr Janet Wilson was awarded a gold medal for her leadership of IUSTI World through the pandemic.

Professor Dillon also joined the most recent IUSTI Europe Council Zoom call.

All IUSTI Europe members should be receiving the 4-monthly Global news updates which are full of ideas and opportunities to get involved in a range of global health activities related to STI control and management. If not, please contact [iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com)

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# IUSTI Europe Advanced Course – October 2023

by **Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini, Course Organisers**

"**SYPHILIS: From Alpha to Omega**". The IUSTI Europe Advanced Course marks the fourth of our Advanced Courses linked to an IUSTI Europe Congress, following the successful editions in 2017 in Helsinki, 2019 in Tallinn, and the virtual gathering in 2022 in Tbilisi. Organized by **Angelika Stary** and **Marco Cusini**, IUSTI officers for education, this course is scheduled for [Thursday, October 26th](#). Designed to serve as an educational instrument, the advanced courses delve deeply into various aspects of Sexually Transmitted Infections, enlisting renowned field experts as speakers to provide updates that are particularly relevant to clinical practice.

This year's advanced course is dedicated to syphilis, offering a comprehensive overview of the disease. With a noticeable rise in cases over the past years, syphilis stands as an intriguing and intricate ailment. The course aims to equip participants with a holistic understanding of the disease, integrating the latest updated information that proves invaluable in everyday clinical practice. Though tailored for young STI professionals, attendees of the congress as a whole will derive substantial benefits. "Syphilis from Alpha to Omega" is slated for Thursday, October 26th, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, with a deliberately limited number of participants to encourage enhanced interactivity and robust discussions. The organizers emphasize that interactive exchanges with speakers and facilitators are defining features of these courses, enriching the learning experience for all involved. The course program encompasses the entire spectrum of syphilis. Kicking off with historical insights shared by **Professor Michel Janier**, the leading author of IUSTI Europe's Syphilis guidelines, the course then traverses through epidemiology, clinical manifestations, differential and laboratory diagnosis, including rapid tests. Notable topics such as congenital syphilis and syphilis in the context of HIV will be thoroughly explored by **Dr. S. Fouéré** and **Dr. D. Gökengin**. **Professor Georg Stary** will delve into the immunological dimensions of syphilis. The course concludes with discussions on current treatments and the issue of resistance, led by **Professor George Sorin Tiplica** and **Dr. Marti Vall Mayans**.

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# IUSTI Webinars: Summary

by **Derek Freedman and George-Sorin Tiplica – Webinar Co-Editors**

As we wrap up our successful webinar series for spring 2023, we want to thank all our speakers and participants. Their support has made this series a tremendous success, with hundreds of registrations and enthusiastic online attendance. Our speakers delivered outstanding presentations and took the time to address questions. If you missed any of the webinars, don't worry, as recordings are available on [IUSTI website](#). Our autumn webinars are just around the corner. Stay tuned for updates and join us again for our upcoming series – and in the meantime, feel free to delve into the summary of the Spring 2023 webinars below.

## **Webinar 17 - The best from Germany**

*March 29, 2023*

This event brought together professionals from the Robert Koch Institut (RKI), Ruhr-University Bochum, Universitätsklinikum Carl Gustav Carus, and Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Topics covered included Germany's strategy for managing HIV, hepatitis and STIs in general, integrated molecular surveillance, syphilis in HIV primary infection, mpox, and a case study on recalcitrant anogenital pustules.

Dr. **Kathleen Klaper** and PD Dr. **Viviane Bremer** from the Robert Koch Institut (RKI) discussed Germany's comprehensive approach to managing HIV, STI and hepatitis. The presentation highlighted the importance of integrating molecular surveillance into the country's healthcare system, and the strategy focuses on improving early detection, treatment, and prevention efforts. PD Dr. **Adriane Skaletz-Rorowski** from WIR-Walk In Ruhr emphasized the significance of interdisciplinary teamwork for sexual health, and highlighted integrated molecular surveillance as a pivotal component of this approach. By combining data from various sources, it enables a more accurate assessment of the epidemiological landscape, which facilitates targeted interventions and resource allocation.

PD Dr. med. **Petra Spornraft-Ragaller**, from the Klinik und Poliklinik für Dermatologie at Universitätsklinikum Carl Gustav Carus, presented on syphilis maligna in the context of HIV primary infection, emphasizing the need for tailored treatment approaches and heightened

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awareness among healthcare providers. **Dr. Anja Potthoff**, also from WIR-Walk In Ruhr, delved into the intriguing topic of Monkeypox disease. Finally, PD Dr. med. **Ricardo N. Werner**, from the Klinik für Dermatologie, Venerologie und Allergologie Division of Evidence-Based Medicine (dEBM) at Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, shared a compelling case study involving recalcitrant anogenital pustules. The presentation highlighted the importance of considering rare, but clinically relevant differential diagnoses in the context of STI and dermatological conditions.

### **Webinar 18 - Recommendations for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Vaginitis**

*April 26, 2023*

This webinar discussed the International Society for the Study of Vulvo- vaginal Diseases (ISSVD)'s extraordinarily comprehensive set of recommendations and guidance concerning the diagnosis and treatment of vaginitis. We were extremely honoured to have **Prof. Jack Sobel** from Wayne State University, United States, sharing his years of wisdom. He fielded many questions, and the recording is a stand-out recommendation.

### **Webinar 19 - End of Season | STI Pot-Pourri**

*May 31, 2023*

The "End of Season | STI Pot-Pourri" webinar brought together experts in the field of STIs to discuss a diverse range of topics.

Dr. **Oriol Mitja**, from the Sexually transmitted infections and skin neglected tropical diseases section at Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol in Barcelona, Spain, addressed the critical issue of treating syphilis. Dr. Mitja discussed alternatives to penicillin, shedding light on innovative approaches that are particularly relevant for individuals with penicillin allergies or resistance.

Prof. **Marco Cusini**, affiliated with IRCCS Ospedale Maggiore in Milan, Italy, delved into the complexities of genital herpes. He shared challenging cases and clinical scenarios, offering solutions and strategies for managing this common, yet often perplexing STI.

Dr. **Dorian Rollet** from the Hospitalisation de Médecine Addictologique, Département de Psychiatrie et Médecine Addictologique at Hôpital Fernand Widal, presented insights into the

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growing concern of chemsex addiction. This emerging issue has profound implications for public health, and Dr. Rollet discussed possible interventions to address this complex challenge. His presentation shed light on the intersection of addiction and sexual health.

The webinar concluded with a presentation by Dr. **Teodora Wi**, lead for Sexually Transmitted Infections, Department of Global HIV, Hepatitis, and STIs Programmes at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva. Dr. Wi provided an overview of WHO's aims and goals for STI and HIV in 2023. Her presentation highlighted the global perspective on STI management and prevention, underscoring the importance of international collaboration and coordinated efforts in combating these public health challenges.

The recordings of the webinars are available on the IUSTI-EU web-page at [IUSTI Europe - Webinar Recordings](#).

Please let us know what you would like to see presented. Email us with your suggestions [df@freedman.ie](mailto:df@freedman.ie) / [romsoderm@yahoo.com](mailto:romsoderm@yahoo.com)



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## ECEE Network meeting, 10-11 June 2023

by **George-Sorin Tiplica** , IUSTI Europe Regional Chair, Romania

IUSTI-Europe was invited to participate in the Network Group meeting of the “**Euroguidelines in Central and Eastern Europe**” (ECEE) – an association established in 2016 to harmonize standards of care for people living with HIV in Central and Eastern Europe and neighbouring countries.



IUSTI-Europe was represented by **Deniz Gökengin**, national representative of Turkey, as liaison person and member of ECEE; **Jackie Sherrard** as Chief Editor of the European STI Guidelines Project and **George-Sorin Tiplica** as Chair of IUSTI-Europe Council. **Valeska Padovese**, national representative for Malta and President of the 36<sup>th</sup> IUSTI-Europe Congress, was present as a new member of ECEE. **Justyna Kowalska**, ECEE President, was a perfect host during the meeting.

Dr Sherrard presented IUSTI-Europe’s approach in formulating and disseminating the IUSTI Europe

*Justyna Kowalska, Valeska Padovese, Deniz Gökengin & George-Sorin Tiplica, ECEE 2023 meeting, Warsaw*

Guidelines on STIs, which led to much discussion. The prominent and particular role of dermato-venereologists in the diagnostic and treatment of STIs was underlined by Prof. Tiplica, especially in maintaining an accessible tertiary referral service.

Separate talks were focused on possible common activities and on the ECEE session that will take place during the 36th IUSTI-Europe Congress in Malta.

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## ECDC: STI Network meeting, June 2023

by **Lina Nerlander, Principal Expert, Sexually Transmitted Infections, ECDC, Stockholm**

The STI Network met in person at the ECDC office in Stockholm, Sweden on 28-29 June 2023. The Network consists of representatives from EU/EEA Member States. Also invited were partner organisations (WHO Europe, IUSTI Europe, civil society), Euro-GASP contractors and EU candidate countries. The aim was to offer an opportunity for ECDC and STI Network members to reconnect in person after several years of no face-to-face meetings, and resume discussions from the 2022 virtual STI Network meeting. This was a two-day technical meeting with plenary and panel discussions combined with expert keynote talks, small group discussions and country example presentations on recent STI outbreaks and the associated public health responses. IUSTI Europe delegates included **Chris Kenyon** (Belgium), **George-Sorin Tiplica** (Romania) and **Magnus Unemo** (Sweden).

Presentations and panel discussions covered several areas of STI work:

- Progress towards European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA) STI surveillance objectives and plans for **developing STI surveillance standards** for the Member States
- A new ECDC initiative to collect **surveillance data** from **electronic health records** where EU/EEA member states will be invited to participate
- Plans for **STI monitoring** within the ECDC framework service contract for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) monitoring. During 2024 the indicators will be drafted together with an Advisory Group, with a pilot data collection to take place in the fall. The indicators will cover prevention, testing, treatment and enabling environment
- Evidence, effectiveness, benefits and potential harms of **doxycycline** for **prophylaxis of bacterial STIs**
- Recent trends of **increased gonorrhoea notifications** among heterosexual people in the EU/EEA
- Feasibility of **STI sentinel surveillance** in the EU/EEA
- **Euro-GASP update** on antimicrobial resistance trends of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*

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- National **preparedness** and response to **STI outbreaks** among men who have sex with men (MSM) in the EU/EEA
  - Plans for an **ECDC preparedness simulation exercise** on a STI topic where STI and preparedness colleagues from Member States will attend.
  - **STI topics** for **ECDC scientific advice work** for the next 2-3 years
  - Strategies to accelerate progress towards **ending STI epidemics by 2030**.

Overall the meeting was very well received and there was a lot of good energy in the room with many ideas brought forward. After a long pandemic with reduced attention to STI work there are now several streams of work starting up which is exciting, and the long-standing collaboration with IUSTI is key to the success of many of these.

## Doxy-PEP – demonstration projects

Invitation from Otilia Mardh and Lina Nerlander, ECDC

A session in the STI Network meeting reported above reviewed the evidence around the effectiveness of Doxy-PEP as well as concerns around effects on antimicrobial resistance and the microbiome.<sup>1</sup>



One of the participant suggestions was to *identify Member States undertaking demonstration projects and coordinate opportunities for mutual exchange/learning*. Information from demonstration projects implemented in real life settings can complement evidence from literature

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<sup>1</sup> [Kong, Kenyon, Unemo. Important considerations regarding the widespread use of doxycycline chemoprophylaxis against sexually transmitted infections J Antimicrob Chemother. 2023 Jul 78:156101568 doi: 10.1093/jac/dkad129...](#)

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reviews and discussions with stakeholders, and we would like support of IUSTI Europe members in identifying **demonstration projects** in European countries referring to **Doxycycline prophylaxis of bacterial STIs**.

Please either respond by using this link <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/52cd3b7d-a43c-4791-683e-c5d089c03269> or directly to [STIHIVHEP@ecdc.europa.eu](mailto:STIHIVHEP@ecdc.europa.eu) and provide to the extent possible the following details:

<b>Title of demonstration project:</b>	
<b>Location (country/region):</b>	
<b>Target population:</b>	
<b>Organisation coordinating the project:</b>	
<b>Project coordinator (name, email) or contact details of another person that can provide information:</b>	
<b>Any other information:</b>	

ECDC will then contact the organisation/entity conducting the demonstration project and invite them to provide a more detailed description of the project. The final aim is for ECDC to organise a webinar where experiences from Doxy-PEP implementation research will be shared with the STI Network and other interested stakeholders.

Thank you for your contribution!

Figure: [Bottle of Doxycycline](#). Credit NIAID License Creative Commons CC BY 2.0 free to share and adapt.

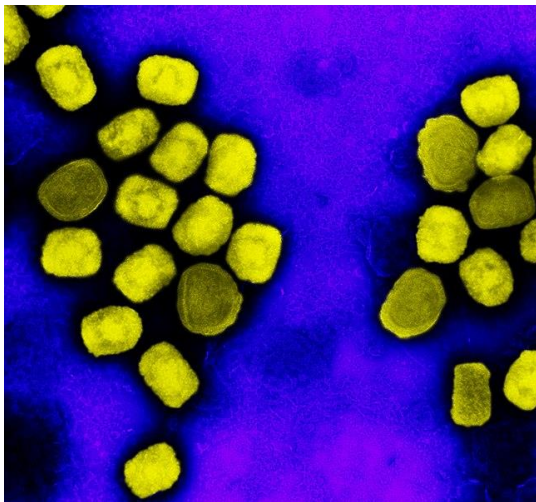
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# Mpox – news from Portugal

by Professor Carmen Lisboa, University of Porto

In Portugal, since July 2023 the number of confirmed cases of mpox has been increasing and, so far, around 100 cases have been reported. Most of reported cases occurred in the Lisbon region, similar to the 2022 outbreak.

Clinical services became aware of suspected cases, including in mpox vaccinated individuals. Laboratory confirmation of MPV infection raised our alertness. Re-infection in individuals who previously had the disease makes this cluster of mpox cases more worrying.



Health services, namely emergency room, STI outpatient clinics, dermatovenereology and infectious disease departments have been reorganised to receive all the suspected cases. PPE requirements and cleaning protocols have been re-implemented. However with the experience gained in the previous outbreak, this reorganization was more agile and easier. Healthcare staff are dealing with those affected with less fear.

Probably because we had experienced a mpox outbreak before, in this outbreak there is less panic. mpox is now perceived by the patients and healthcare workers as a mostly benign condition.

Vaccine programmes have been instigated across Portugal in 2022 mpox outbreak, with an excellent acceptance. And now, mpox vaccination is encouraged again. Vaccines are free and are given to all people considered to be at risk. Community patient groups, NGOs and social media continue to play an important role in establishing campaigns taking a target approach to those most vulnerable to mpox acquisition

[File:Monkeypox Virus \(52132066310\).jpg - Wikimedia Commons](#) Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License

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# Sexual Health, STI and HIV Research Roundup

by Tomislav Meštrović, Communications Committee Member, Croatia

## The burden of hepatitis B and C in Europe

Just published in Lancet Public Health in September 2023 is an update to the Global Burden of Disease study 2019 related to Hepatitis B and C. In 2019, Europe witnessed approximately 2.08 million new cases of acute hepatitis B and 0.49 million cases of hepatitis C spanning all age groups. While some reductions were seen in certain HBV and HCV-related diseases from 2010 to 2019, these conditions continue to exert a significant toll, underscoring the need for more robust and synchronized efforts across European nations to achieve the 2030 elimination target. More details can be found [here](#).

## A diagnostic-escape Finnish new variant of *Chlamydia trachomatis* remains a threat.

[A study](#) that investigated the occurrence of the Finnish new variant of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and other previously described chlamydial variants that escape the detection with the Aptima Combo 2 (AC2) molecular test showed that they are still present in Finland in 2022 - three years after the introduction of the updated AC2 assay. This is a diagnostic consideration which underscores the need for a prudent testing and evaluation approach.

## Slovenia's large STI prevalence survey first of its kind in central Europe

To enhance the foundation for STI prevention and control policies in Slovenia, and to supplement the routinely available STI surveillance data, [the second Slovenian National Survey of Sexual Lifestyles, Attitudes, and Health](#) had the objective of estimating the prevalence of *C. trachomatis*, *N. gonorrhoeae*, *M. genitalium* and *T. vaginalis* among individuals aged 18-49. This study marked the first of its kind in a central European country. The significant prevalence of *C. trachomatis* and the frequent occurrence of *Mycoplasma genitalium* in young adults imply gaps in testing, diagnosis, and treatment; consequently, ongoing monitoring becomes imperative to inform and guide the development of prevention and control policies and strategies at the national, regional, and global levels.

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## **HIV epidemiology in Europe**

ECDC continues with meticulous HIV/AIDS surveillance in Europe. The most recent 2022 report, published jointly by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, can be found [here](#).

[A study in Kazakhstan](#) of people newly found to have HIV infection between 2018 and 2020 highlighted a concerning increase in HIV infection rates in Kazakhstan, particularly among men aged 37 and older, underscoring the need for targeted prevention and intervention strategies. The study identified a significant issue with treatment adherence among people living with HIV.

Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 Feb 2022 more than 7 million people have been displaced across Europe. [Massman et al](#) report on the Czech Republic's experience integrating nearly 500 displaced people living with HIV into local services. Most were women with well-controlled HIV. Nearly 20% were co-infected with hepatitis C. Many arrived with little or no medication. The findings underscore the need for enhanced collaboration and coordination among healthcare services both within the Czech Republic and across European Union nations to ensure the optimal care for refugees living with HIV

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# Autumn European Testing Week: 20th to 27th November 2023



**European Testing Week** is an initiative in Europe that calls on partner organizations spanning community groups, healthcare facilities, and policy institutions to come together twice a year for a week-long period. Its primary objectives are to boost testing endeavors and raise awareness about the advantages of early hepatitis and HIV testing. This campaign has evolved significantly since its inception in 2013 and has now become a well-established European event, drawing the participation of numerous organizations each year.

IUSTI Europe is pleased to support **EuroTEST's European Testing Week initiative #EuroTestWeek**. More information available at [Testing Week @EuroTestWeek](#) or hashtag **#EuroTestWeek**

All materials to support testing week are available [here](#)



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## IUSTI Europe Guidelines

All current and draft guidelines are published here: [Treatment Guidelines \(Europe\)](#)

The guidelines group is chaired by Dr Jackie Sherrard, UK and meets quarterly.

The [vaginal discharge](#) guideline has had some minor revisions.

Under review are guidelines on chlamydia, partner management, scabies and non-specific urethritis.

Over the next year we plan to pilot a new way of producing 'living guidelines' using an online tool which should make guideline production more straightforward.

The guidelines group is always looking for members with skills in guideline development, critical appraisal of literature and writing to contribute, both at the level of the Guidelines Editorial group and to help with individual guidelines as lead or co-author. The next Guidelines group meeting will be during the Malta conference at the end of October.

Please contact Dr Sherrard if you are interested at [jackiesherrard@doctors.org.uk](mailto:jackiesherrard@doctors.org.uk)



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## Future events

Everyone should already be getting the regular updates for our **next Congress** including information about the **Advanced Course, social events** and **accommodation**. If not please sign up [here](#)



**36<sup>th</sup> IUSTI-Europe Congress Malta, October 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Grand Hotel Excelsior, Valletta**

**Reaching out to the Hard to Reach**

President: Dr Valeska Padovese  
Scientific Chair: Dr Henry De Vries

**IUSTI**  
INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS EUROPE

Other dates for your diary:

**12 – 14 Sep 2024**

37<sup>th</sup> IUSTI Europe Congress, Zagreb, Croatia

**17 – 20 Sep 2024**

[25<sup>th</sup> IUSTI World Congress, Sydney, Australia](#)

**26 – 30 July 2025**

[STI & HIV 2025 World Congress, Montreal, Canada](#)

**9 – 11 Oct 2025**

38<sup>th</sup> IUSTI Europe Congress, Rhodes, Greece

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## Final remarks

by **Andy Winter & Tomislav Meštrović, The Communications Committee**

Dear members of IUSTI Europe,

We hope that you have found this edition of our Newsletter to be both informative and valuable. If you have a story to share about your work or wish to be featured, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are keen to incorporate interviews and engaging discussions to enrich the content and foster a sense of community within our society.

Our thanks go to Ana-Maria Drăghici-Ionescu, Raluca Lascu, and Iulia Negulet in Romania for their invaluable support in managing our social media accounts.

As we look forward to the possibility of reuniting in person at the Malta meeting, we would like once again to extend an invitation to the event that promises to be a vibrant gathering of experts, researchers, clinicians, and professionals dedicated to the field of STIs. We anticipate the renewal of current collaborations and the emergence of new ones, as well as the development of many new friendships.

In the meantime, this Newsletter will continue to strive to keep you abreast of the latest research, informing you about pivotal IUSTI events, celebrating our shared accomplishments, and providing unwavering support to all our colleagues. We extend our sincerest thanks for your continued engagement and support. If you have any questions or suggestions, or if you wish to feature your work or contribute an article please contact us at [iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com)

IUSTI-Europe Newsletter Editors

**Dr. Andy Winter and Prof. Tomislav Meštrović**

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## Get involved in IUSTI Europe

*The International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) is the oldest international organization in the field (founded in 1923). Its objective is the achievement of international cooperation in the control of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection. IUSTI is on the Roster of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and is an official non-governmental organization in Consultative Status with the World Health Organization*

Join the [IUSTI Europe LinkedIn](#) group

There are a number of committees which always welcome enthusiastic members.

*Communication* - contact Andy Winter: [iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com)

*Education* - contact Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini: [iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com)

*Guidelines*: contact Jackie Sherrard [jackiesherrard@doctors.org.uk](mailto:jackiesherrard@doctors.org.uk)

*International development* - contact Mihael Skerlev: [iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com)

*Scientific Policy* - contact Derek Freedman: [iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com)

## Membership

IUSTI Europe membership has to be renewed **every calendar year** so will be due on **1 Jan 2024**. It costs £40 for which you get discounted registrations to IUSTI World meetings, a 40% discount for the International Journal of STD & AIDS, and regular updates from IUSTI Europe and the STI Global Update. The membership site has moved address following the IUSTI World site update and can be found [here](#).

## GDPR

*IUSTI Europe controls your personal data in line with GDPR requirements in Europe. Your personal data are held on the main IUSTI World membership database which is held in Australia. If you wish to amend your communication preferences or change your contact details please contact the membership secretary [iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com).*