



H. E. R. A.

HEALTH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



EECA Regional Meeting  
Outreach VCT  
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# Scaling up VCT in Macedonia

- Before Global Fund- Only 3 HIV testing points
- 14 VCT centers- Health Institutions (2004-2007)
- 2007 Outreach VCT- NGO HERA in partnership with Institute for Public Health and 3 NGOs (EGAI, TRUST, HOPS)

**Goal of the Outreach VCT** - Increased access to quality voluntary counselling and testing among vulnerable and most at risk population

**How we work?** - Outreach team consisted of NGO counsellor for VCT, laboratory worker from Health Institution and gatekeeper from the beneficiaries.

**Who we target?**- Vulnerable and most at risk and hard to reach groups: MSM, Prisoners, IDUs, Sex workers, Youth and other population that have need of HIV testing.



# Outreach VCT

**April 2009-** Expansion of Outreach VCT in ten other cities in Macedonia

**Partnerships-** 10 local NGOs/10 local centers for Public Health

## Results of Outreach VCT-

**2007-** 1336 clients (45.4%) of VCT in the country covered with Outreach VCT project. 33% of new HIV positive cases.

**2008-** 642 clients (26.4%) of VCT in the country covered with Outreach VCT.

**2009-** 1571 clients (62%) of VCT in the country covered with Outreach VCT. 42% of new HIV positive cases

**2007-2009** 14 NGOs and 11 Institutions for Public Health involved in delivering Outreach VCT activities for vulnerable groups



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# Achievements and challenges

## Achievements:

- Expansion of network of local NGOs and enlarged number of CBO providing VCT services.
- Linkages of SRH and HIV programs:
  - Introducing Hepatitis C tests through the mobile VCT clinic
  - Integrating VCT in the Youth friendly services for SRH

## What make the activity successful?

- Well build partnership among NGOs dealing with different vulnerable and most at risk population
- Increased commitment of the governmental institutions to support NGOs HIV/AIDS Outreach activities among most at risk populations as a result of well-established partnership

The biggest **challenge** is to ensure sustainability of the Outreach VCT project within the Current National programs



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