

# VIRTUAL

**FAST-TRACK CITIES 2020**

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## Milan Hiv Community

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## Milan Community situation

- Anlaids, Asa, Cig-Arcigay, Nps, and Lila - Hiv associations working on the field since decades - founded in 2018 Milano Checkpoint to provide counseling, information, rapid tests and PrEP to the population, in a non medicalized setting. We also adhered to the Fast Track Cities project. Each Association maintained its own identity and tasks.
- During Covid-19 lockdown, activities changed significantly, according to the different needs of the population
- At reopening, following the safety rules against Covid-19 spread, we had to readapt our activities

## What we did during lockdown.

- Pick up and delivery of either antiretroviral treatments or food for more fragile Hiv (and non Hiv) positive people.
- We provided transport to hospitals for PLWH needing visits (non Covid-19 related).
- Psychological support for PLWH never stopped. We did it online (Skype, mail, phone). Offices were closed during lockdown, but phone lines have been diverted to dedicated mobile numbers. We added support on Covid-19 for the general population and health workers
- We provided logistical help to migrants on ARV

## What we did (2)

- Fund raising for DPIs, life support machines, tablets for hospitalized patients with Covid-19.
- Although PrEP visits (performed at the Milano Checkpoint only) stopped, consultations and follow up online followed on demand (mail, Skype)
- PrEP prescriptions never stopped under PrEP coordinator request, thanks to our doctors collaboration
- We organized live events on Facebook and Instagram (PrEP, Hiv, STIs, Chemsex)
- The chems users support group never stopped. Meeting weekly frequency doubled (!) and went on Skype.

## What we missed (1)

- In 2019 we performed, without appointment, 4598 Hiv rapid capillary tests, either in our premises and in MSM venues or during public events (i.e. Pride week), with a median attendance of 380 tests/month
- During lockdown (March-May 2020), all testing activities have been stopped
- After lockdown we had to reorganize the activity in the premises to avoid Covid-19 spread, only performing tests by appointment and below mandatory precautions.

## What we missed (2)

- Milano Checkpoint headquarter - formerly located in a municipal building - remained closed until we found a new location (July).
- No tests in MSM cruising venues due to lack of actual distancing
- Dropping number of tests during 2020 (Jan. to Aug.): 718, with a median attendance of 90/month

## What we missed (3)

- PrEP visits in 2019 were 433, with a median of 36/month; during 2020 (Jan. to Aug.) were 236, with a median of 28/month
- After reopening in July, we increased the visit sessions from 6 to 8/month, to supply visits and STI tests to whom who missed them during lockdown and who are in waiting list, allowing more same day PrEP (after actual HivRna NAAT test).

## Now

- In September we offered an open air testing weekend in a gay area in Milan
- We are organizing a monthly open air testing event in the same area. Actual problem: rain
- Testing sessions in MSM cruising venues will be performed only if:
  - venue is open for tests only
  - venue has a separate facility, where no crowding and distancing space are secured
- In our premises, we are trying to offer more testing days, in order of balancing the longer time requested to perform every test because of anti-Covid19 measures