

August 23, 2022

Dear Martin Davoren,

Abstract ID#30

We are pleased to inform you that your abstract below has been accepted for the 2022 Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference! Your abstract will be presented during the parallel sessions as well as included in the Conference Book of Abstracts.

The 2022 Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference will be a hybrid conference, although we encourage presenters to attend in person if possible. The registration for the conference will open on 1 September 2022 and in your registration, you can indicate how you will participate in the conference – in person in UN City or Online.

Please note that each city and national network in the Healthy Cities Network has a limit to the size of their delegation attending. If you are not a Network Coordinator, we encourage you to contact your Healthy City or National Network Coordinator to share your abstract acceptance and confirm a seat in the delegation.

As we get closer to the conference, we will contact you and ask you to re-submit your final abstract (500 words or less) to be included in the 2022 Book of Abstracts. We will also share the provisional programme, so that you know when your presentation will take place. Please note that you will have a 10 minute presentation followed by 5 minutes of question and answer with the audience.

Please contact the Healthy Cities Secretariat at eurohealthycities@who.int if you have any questions regarding the 2022 Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference.

Warm regards,

WHO Healthy Cities Secretariat

Accepted Abstract:

(1) Title

World AIDS Day Run: Tackling HIV related stigma within communities

(2) Context: issue or a problem + policy and organizational context

It is estimated that over 6,000 people in Ireland are living with HIV. Advances in HIV treatment means that individuals living with HIV can live long and healthy lives. However, the stigma associated with HIV

has been well documented. Anxiety, depression and psychological distress are noted among people living with HIV (PLHIV), posing a significant public health challenge.

(3) Rationale: reasons for taking the initiative

In 2018 the Sexual Health Centre launched our World AIDS Day Run to highlight HIV Testing and tackle HIV stigma. The event which takes place on World AIDS Day is a 5km run in collaboration with the HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme and Healthy Ireland. The run has to date advocated for individuals to 'Know your Status'.

(4) Description: of the case study including methods used, processes, politics and time-frame

From 2018 to 2021, the event and campaign has involved:

- Inviting individuals to become 'Ambassadors against HIV Stigma';
- Signposting participants to their local parkrun event in Ireland to participate in the World AIDS Day Run on December 1st;
- Providing participants with a free dri-fit top that signals World AIDS Day and links to services; and
- At the 5km event, the participants see a myth busting sign at each kilometre. The included myths are as follows:
 - a. HIV is not transmitted from sweat, tears or saliva
 - b. You cannot get HIV from toilet seats
 - c. HIV is not transmitted from sharing food or utensils
 - d. You cannot get HIV from kissing
 - e. Undetectable = Untransmittable

(5) Achievements: impact at strategic/operational level, critical success factors and challenges, lessons learnt

The event has grown from 350 participants in 2018, 430 in 2019, 500 in 2020 and over 1,000 in 2021 signaling societies enthusiasts to tackle the stigma associated with HIV. The World AIDS Day run has facilitated the topic of HIV and it's related stigma being brought into the public discourse and signposting individuals to relevant services.

(6) Conclusion

Following consultation with stakeholders and feedback at events to date, the run will be updated to the slogan End HIV Stigma in 2022.