

# Follow-up after release - The importance of working together with NGOs

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# HIV Berodung and its mission

The HIV Berodung is a national public health actor.

Its mission is to prevent new infections (HIV, STIs and hepatitis) and favor an environment that responds to the needs of affected people



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# HIV Berodung

Hépatitis, STIs and HIV

- Prevention: National campaigns, IEC and trainings
- Individual Counseling and Hotline 2755 4500
- Voluntary counseling and HIV, HCV, Syphilis testing
- DIMPS – mobile testing van
- Psychological support
- Social support
- Medical follow-up
- Supervised housing



Objective: ↗ Awareness, ↗ Testing, ↗ Treatment, ↗ Adherence = ↘ Infections





# Prevention

HIV prevention = acquiring knowledge, changing attitudes, changing behavior

- Participatory IEC and counseling on risks of HIV and HCV transmission, safer sex and safer use for individuals and groups
- Trainings for professionals
- Awareness raising campaigns (with the Ministry of Health)
- Awareness raising projects – creative competitions e.g. for the World AIDS Day (1st of December)



## Preventive Art 2016



# Voluntary Counseling and testing

Ensure access to medical follow-up and psychosocial support for people living with HIV!

- Rapid, free and anonymous testing for HIV, HCV and Syphilis
- Individual counseling by a psychologist and a nurse
- HIV Berodung, Information Center for Gay and Lesbian (CIGALE), DIMPS (mobile Van)



# Psychological support

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HIV Berodung – at home – CHL/hospital – CPL/prison

- Risk awareness and behavior change
- Emotional, Cognitive and Behavioral adaptation to HIV
- Treatment Adherence
- Life quality – stress, depression, self image
- Life project
- Stigmatisation and discrimination
- Family and friends

# Social and medical support

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## Social Support

- Guarantee access to treatment and medical care
- Request for income
- Debts
- Housing
- Follow up at home

## Medical Support (nurse)

- Preparation of medication
- Treatment adherence
- Accompaniment to medical appointments
- Follow up of the health situation

# Supervised housing

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- Housing for people living with HIV and suffering from a psychological, social or medical distress
- Foyer Henry Dunant: 17 rooms and 9 autonomous flats
- Stabilisation of résidents – access and adherence to treatment
- Accompaniment in social and medical procedures
- Social inclusion activities
- **Restore autonomy**



# Social inclusion activities



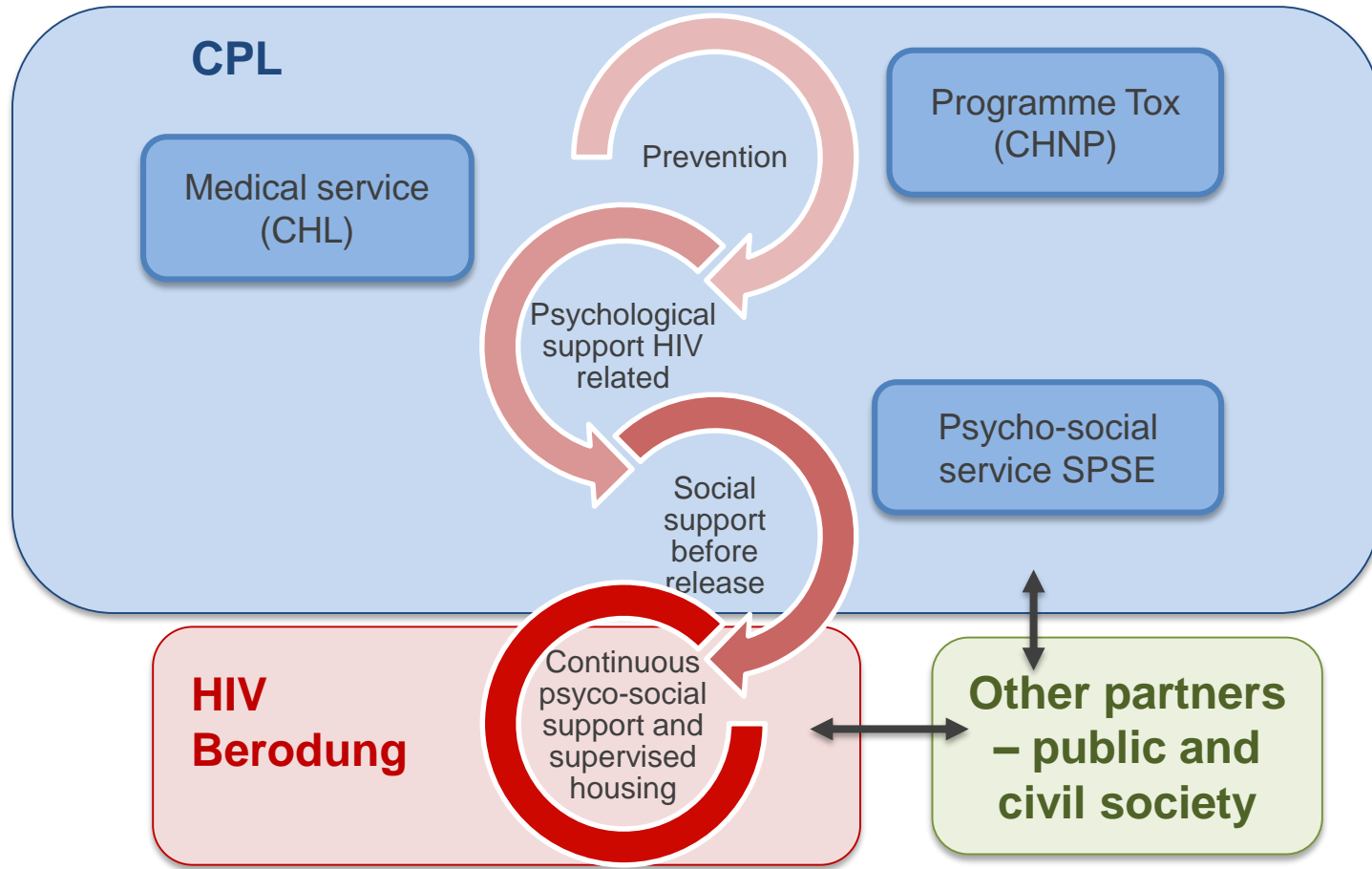
Fond de Gras



Minigolf

# Activities in Prison Centres Pénitentiaires Schrassig and Givenich

# How we work



# Prevention

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- In collaboration with the Programme Tox from the CPL
- IEC sessions for prisoners: French, Luxemburgish, English:
  - Information on ways of HIV transmission
  - Importance of testing and treatment
  - Information on the needle exchange programme offers in prison
  - Discussion on discrimination against people living with HIV

# Psychological Support

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- Collaboration with medical service for newly detected HIV infections or known clients
- Information exchange between nurses and HIV Berodung
- Visit to present services of HIV Berodung (newly detected)
- Follow-up of people living with HIV in prison if:
  - Psychological distress related to HIV
  - Adherence problems
  - Feeling of being discriminated for HIV status
  - Difficulties to project into life projects after release

# Social support

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- Collaboration with psychosocial service (SPSE) to prepare end of sentence and release
- Visit of social worker to client to discuss administrative procedures and projects after release:
  - Guarantee health insurance and access to treatment
  - Guarantee retain in care and psycho-social follow-up
  - Support procedures for address and income
  - Organise collaboration with other services
  - Discuss housing possibilities including supervised housing

# Why collaborate?

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- Collaboration with NGOs or « outside » services completes « inside » skills and service offer for specific needs - HIV
- HIV Berodung team is not part of prison system – allows different interaction with clients/prisoners, « more open »
- Offers a relay between the prison (inside) and the release (outside)
- Decrease the «lost of sight»
- Ensure continuous medical follow-up and psychosocial support for people living with HIV

**Thank you for your attention!**

