**UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER**

**School of Geography, Geology and the Environment**

**Information Sheet for participants to the research project HIVGAYM (online survey)**

**Name of the Project:** “Analyzing the migration choices of HIV-positive gay men in England and Italy” (HIVGAYM)

**Name of Principal Investigator:** Dr Cesare Di Feliciantonio

**Name of Organization:** School of Geography, Geology and the Environment, University of Leicester

**Name of Supervisor:** Dr Gavin Brown

**Name of Sponsor:** [European Commission](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/), Marie Skłodowska-Curie action

**Introduction**

My name is Cesare Di Feliciantonio, I’m a Research Fellow at the University of Leicester (School of Geography, Geology and the Environment) where I am conducting a research project, funded by the EU under the Marie Curie-actions, around the living choices of gay/MSM/bisexual/queer men in England and Italy, focusing on the relation between HIV-status and the choice to migrate or stay in a specific place.

So if you are a gay/MSM/bisexual/queer man and you live either in England or Italy, you are eligible to participate to this research. This information sheet provides the main information in relation to the project, your rights if you are willing to participate and the procedures to collect, store, retain and disseminate the research data.

Participation in the survey is on a fully voluntary basis and completely anonymous, i.e. no personal information that might make possible to identify you (e.g. name, address, IP, etc) will be collected.

Even if you initially choose to take part to the survey, you can then leave at any stage during the completion, i.e. if you leave the survey before finishing it your answers won’t be registered. To register your answers, you will need to click ‘submit your answers’ at the end of the survey. After that you won’t be able to withdraw your answers anymore since the service is completely anonymous.

**Research aims and questions**

Several studies in social sciences have stressed the high mobility of gay men and its connection with HIV. In fact gay/MSM/bisexual/queer migrants are often identified as at greater risk of HIV, although several studies have also found a relationship between becoming HIV-positive and gay men’s decision to move cities or migrate. In a European context, there is very limited knowledge about the reasons why HIV-positive gay men choose to migrate to, and/or remain in, specific urban areas across the continent, and whether their mobility rate is higher than the mobility rate of HIV-negative gay men. This survey aims at addressing this gap in knowledge by investigating the living choices of both HIV-positive and HIV-negative gay men in England and Italy.

**Type of Research Intervention**

*What am I being asked to do?*

You can contribute to the research through the online survey.

*Why have I been asked to participate?*

If you are a man identifying as gay/MSM/bisexual/queer and you currently live in England or Italy you can contribute to the online survey.

*What does participation involve?*

The online survey is completely anonymous and voluntary. It does not require you to disclose any kind of personal information but only to respond to general questions about you and your perceptions and opinions about the city you live in (and your migratory experience, if any).

**Voluntary Participation**

Participation in the project is fully voluntary.

To register your answers, you will need to click ‘submit your answers’ at the end of the survey. You can abandon the survey at any stage before clicking the ‘submit your answers’ button and your answers won’t be registered. After clicking the ‘submit your answers’ button you won’t be able to withdraw your answers anymore since the service is completely anonymous.

**Duration**

The estimated duration of the survey is between 10 and 15 minutes.

**Risks**

Although the questions posed in the survey are general and do not involve disclosure of detailed information, you might uncomfortable or overwhelmed. Please remember that you can abandon the survey at any stage if you feel the need to. If you feel distressed and need support, you might want to consider to get in touch with a counselling service provider dedicated to gay/MSM/bisexual/queer men.

Here some of the main ones at the national level (England):

MindOut, tel. 01273 234839, email: info@mindout.org.uk, website: <https://www.mindout.org.uk/>

London Friend, tel. 020 7833 1674, email: office@londonfriend.org.uk, website: <http://londonfriend.org.uk/>

Stonewall, tel. 08000 50 20 20, website: <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/help-advice/contact-stonewalls-information-service>

Elop, tel. 020 8509 3898, email: info@elop.org, website: <http://www.elop.org/>

LGBT Foundation, tel. 0345 3303030, email: info@lgbt.foundation, website: https://lgbt.foundation/

**Benefits**

By taking part to the project, you will contribute to improve academic knowledge around HIV-status and migration for gay/MSM/bisexual/queer men, thus also supporting potentially improved awareness of these issues for policy makers and health practitioners that will be informed about the research and will likely read some of the research outputs.

**Reimbursement**

There is no financial incentive to participate to the research.

**Confidentiality**

As already stated, participation in the survey is fully anonymous, no personal information making you recognizable will be asked (e.g. name, address, your IP won’t be collected).

**Who to Contact**

For any doubt or question, please do not hesitate to contact me (cf254@leicester.ac.uk).

The ethical procedures followed are in line with new EU General Data Protection Regulation No. 2016/679, the Code of Practice of the University of Leicester and the Data Protection Act 2018 of the British State. For detailed information please visit the following websites: <https://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/researchsupport/integrity/code-of-conduct>

<https://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/ias/resources/policies/gdpr/Guidance%20Note%2012%20GDPR%20and%20Research%20Data%20Quick%20Guide.pdf>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents/enacted>

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2016.119.01.0001.01.ENG>

If you have any additional question or doubt concerning these ethical guidelines, please contact the Research Support Services Contact at the University of Leicester via email (RED@le.ac.uk) or via phone (00441162297763).