

Background

The number of new HIV diagnosis continues to rise in many European countries, being the epidemic largely concentrated in certain sub-populations, namely MSM (with the highest proportion of diagnosis), migrants and IDU. Recent data estimates that in EU Member States 30% of those infected are unaware of their infection and that many HIV diagnosed patients are entering care more than 1 year after diagnosis. Early HIV diagnosis and treatment has great benefits both at the individual (improving survival) and population level (decreasing transmission), therefore increasing the proportion of people with HIV who know they are infected and linking them to care is a critical public health priority.

Most-at-Risk Populations for becoming infected with HIV are more difficultly reached in health care settings, being Community Based Voluntary Counselling and Testing services (CBVCTs), when specifically tailored to the target population and local context, more efficient to increase early HIV diagnosis and treatment.

The Euro HIV EDAT project is built on the existing COBATEST network of CBVCTs established by the European Project HIV-COBATEST, also co-funded by the European Commission (Grant Agreement 2009 12 11). This network is the unifying thread of the proposal. A subset of CBVCT services who are members of the network will participate in the activities planned in the project.

Funded by the



Main Partner



Centre d'Estudi Epidemiològic sobre les Infeccions de Transmissió Sexual i Sida de Catalunya



Generalitat de Catalunya
Agència de Salut Pública de Catalunya



Fundació Institut d'Investigació en Ciències de la Salut Germans Trias i Pujol

Associated Partners



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EURO HIV EDAT Project



Operational knowledge to improve HIV early diagnosis and treatment among vulnerable groups in Europe

Co-funding from the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency (CHAFAE) under the EU Public Health Programme for the period April 2014-September 2017 (Grant Agreement N°20131101).



Purpose

The purpose of the project is to generate operational knowledge to better understand the role and impact of CBVCTs, to explore the use of innovative strategies based on new technologies and to increase early HIV/STI diagnosis and treatment in Europe among the most affected groups.

Specific objective(s) of the project

1. To monitor and evaluate CBVCT services in Europe
2. To identify determinants for HIV test seeking behaviour and sexual risk behaviour among MSM in Europe
3. To describe and improve approaches of linkage to health services for HIV/STI among MSM in Europe
4. To improve the implementation of CBVCT services specifically addressed to MSM in Europe
5. To describe HIV testing patterns and identify barriers to testing and care among migrant populations in Europe
6. To assess acceptability and feasibility of innovative strategies and interventions aimed at increasing HIV counselling and testing.

Methods and means

To achieve these objectives 6 Core Work Packages have been defined:

- **WP4.** Standardised data collection and analysis from the COBATEST network of European CBVCT services for monitoring and evaluation (Coordinated by Institute of Public Health, Slovenia)
- **WP5.** Follow up and longitudinal analysis of clients attending MSM Checkpoints (Coordinated by CEEISCAT, Spain)
- **WP6.** Data collection and pilot study on Point of Care and linkage to health services for HIV/STI in MSM Checkpoints (Coordinated by AIDS Fondet, Denmark).
- **WP7.** Development of a Toolkit for implementation and evaluation of MSM Checkpoints (Coordinated by AIDS-Hilfe, Germany)
- **WP8.** Rapid assessment on access to HIV testing and care for migrant populations in Europe (Coordinated by AIDES, France)
- **WP9.** KAP/B survey and pilot intervention on innovative strategies and interventions (Coordinated by ITM, Belgium)

Main Partner

Fundació Institut d'Investigació en Ciències de la Salut Germans Trias i Pujol/Centre for Epidemiological Studies on HIV/AIDS and STIs of Catalonia (CEEISCAT) - Agència de Salut Pública de Catalunya.

Associated Partners

1. Institut Català d'Oncologia (ICO) (Spain)
2. Projecte dels NOMS-Hispanosida (Spain)
3. Association AIDES (France)
4. Fondet til bekæmpelse af AIDS (AIDS Fondet) (Denmark)
5. National Institute of Public Health (Slovenia)
6. Društvo Kulturno, informacijsko in svetovalno središče Legebitra (Slovenia)
7. AIDS-Hilfe NRW e.V. (Germany)
8. ARAS - Romanian Association Against AIDS (Romania)
9. Institute Tropical Medicine (Belgium)
10. Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII) (Spain)
11. Centros de Investigación Biomédica en Red (CIBER) (Spain)
12. GAT-Grupo Português de Activistas sobre Tratamentos de VIH/SIDA (Portugal)
13. Fondazione LILA Milano ONLUS - Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l'AIDS (Italy)
14. Athens Checkpoint-Positive Voice (Greece)

Collaborating Partners

1. Robert Koch Institute (Germany)
2. Stop SIDA (Spain)
3. Iskorak - Sexual and gender minorities rights centre (Croatia)
4. Instituto de Saúde Pública da Universidade do Porto (ISPUP) (Portugal)
5. Àmbit Prevenció (Spain)
6. The National AIDS Centre (Poland)
7. Helseutvalget for bedre homohelse / Gay & Lesbian Health (Norway)
8. Plus onlus (Italy)
9. AIDS Action Europe (Netherlands)
10. Association of HIV affected women and their families "Demetra" (Lithuania)
11. Agència de Salut Pública de Barcelona (Spain)
12. PRAKSIS NGO (Greece)
13. Leicester City Council Public Health Directorate (United Kingdom)
14. Health Protection Agency (United Kingdom)
15. Estonian Network of People Living with HIV (EHPV) (Estonia)
16. Baltic HIV Association (Latvia)
17. Safe Pulse of Youth (Serbia)



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