

# Knowledge, and actual versus potential use of HIV self-testing and self-sampling testing kits in 8 European countries.

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# Introduction



**Self testing:** A person collects a specimen, performs the test and interprets the result.

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## Health services research

### SHORT REPORT

Identifying undiagnosed HIV in men who have sex with men (MSM) by offering HIV home sampling via online gay social media: a service evaluation

E Elliot, M Rossi, S McCormack, A McOwan

### Swab2know: An HIV-Testing Strategy Using Oral Fluid Samples and Online Communication of Test Results for Men Who Have Sex With Men in Belgium

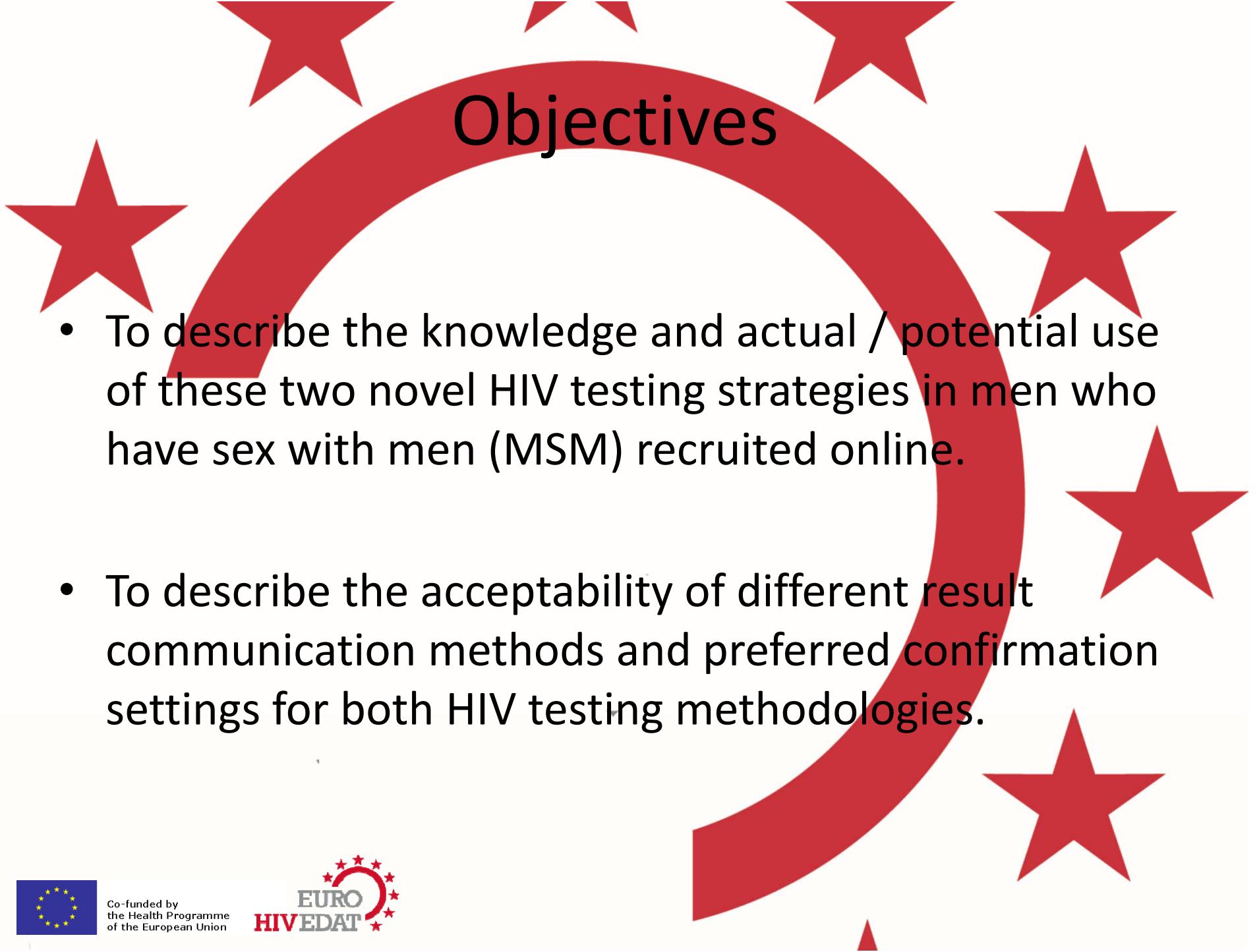
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**Self sampling:** A person collects a specimen, sends it to a lab where it is analysed. Then the result is sent to the individual.





# Objectives

- To describe the knowledge and actual / potential use of these two novel HIV testing strategies in men who have sex with men (MSM) recruited online.
- To describe the acceptability of different result communication methods and preferred confirmation settings for both HIV testing methodologies.



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# Methods

- Part of WP 9 Task 1

[www.eurohivedat.eu](http://www.eurohivedat.eu)



- Online self administered questionnaire (April – December 2016):
  - Mainly through Gay dating websites
  - Websites from CBO, associations, gay media.
- 8 EU countries

And  
you?  
How  
do you  
like it?  
Choose  
the way  
you test!



**And you? How do you like it?**

**Choose the way you test**



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# Methods

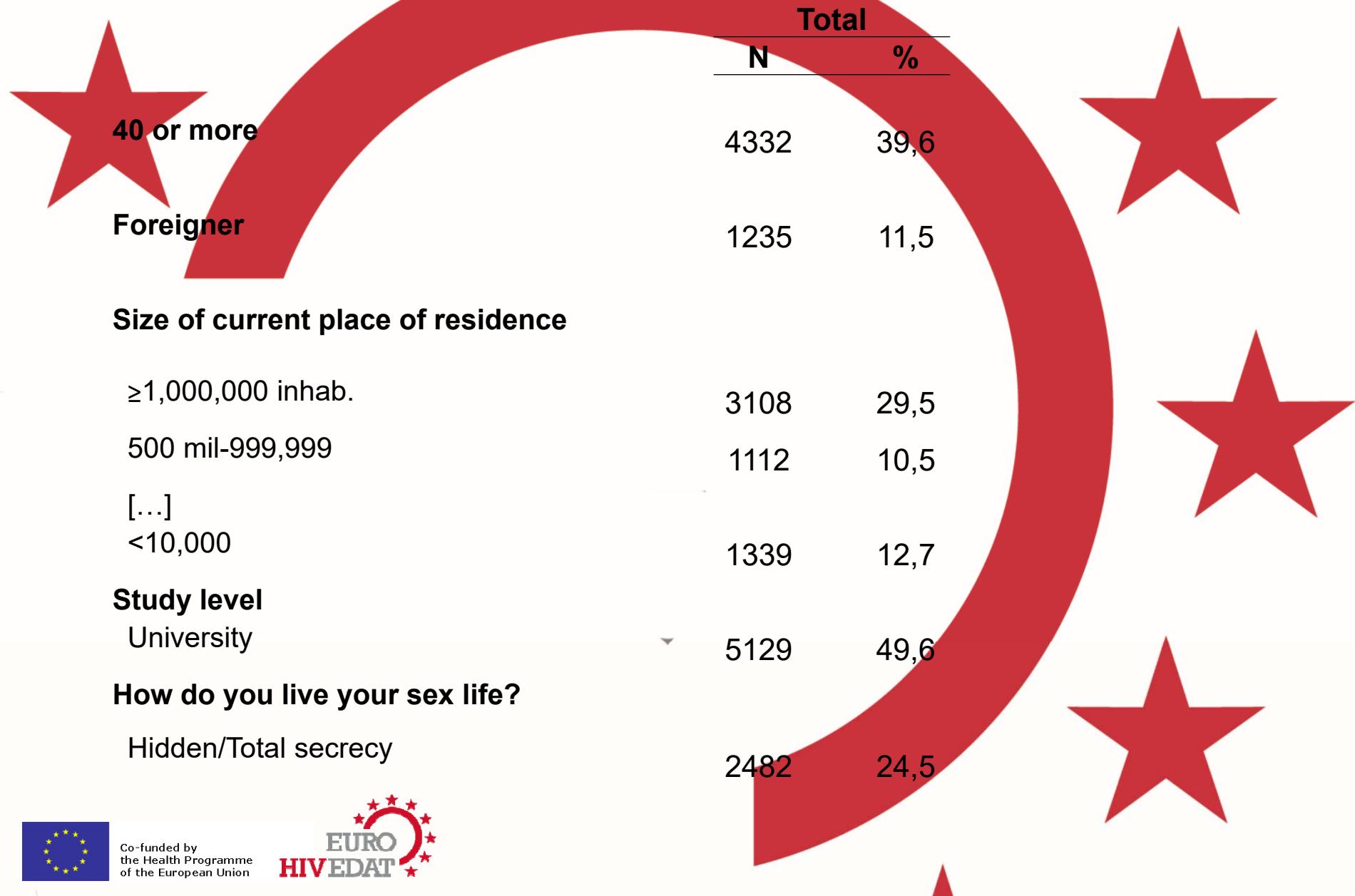
	Sample size
Spain	5366
Germany	2253
Greece	1218
Portugal	991
Romania	922
Denmark	505
Slovenia	336
Belgium	149
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11740</b>



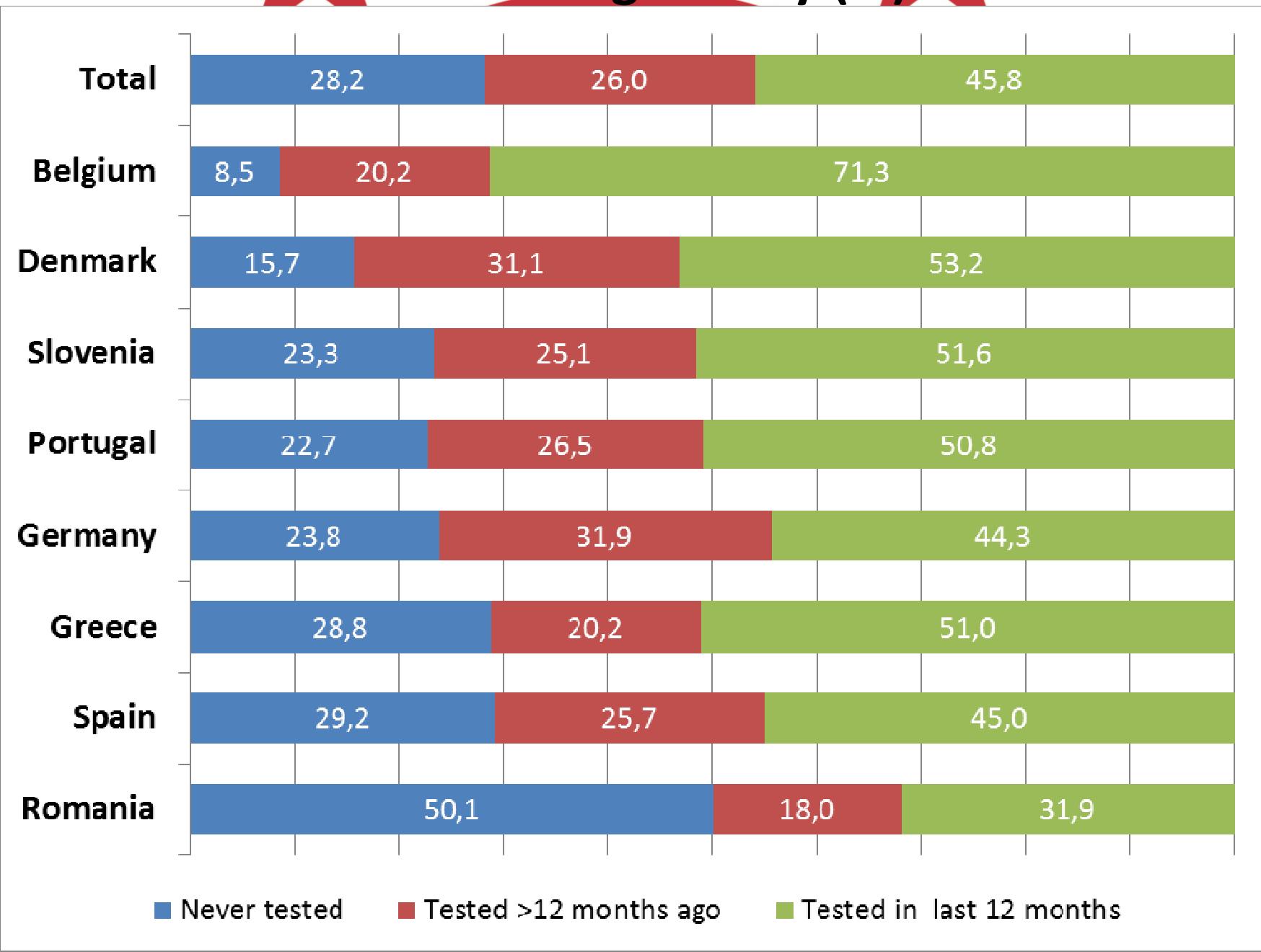
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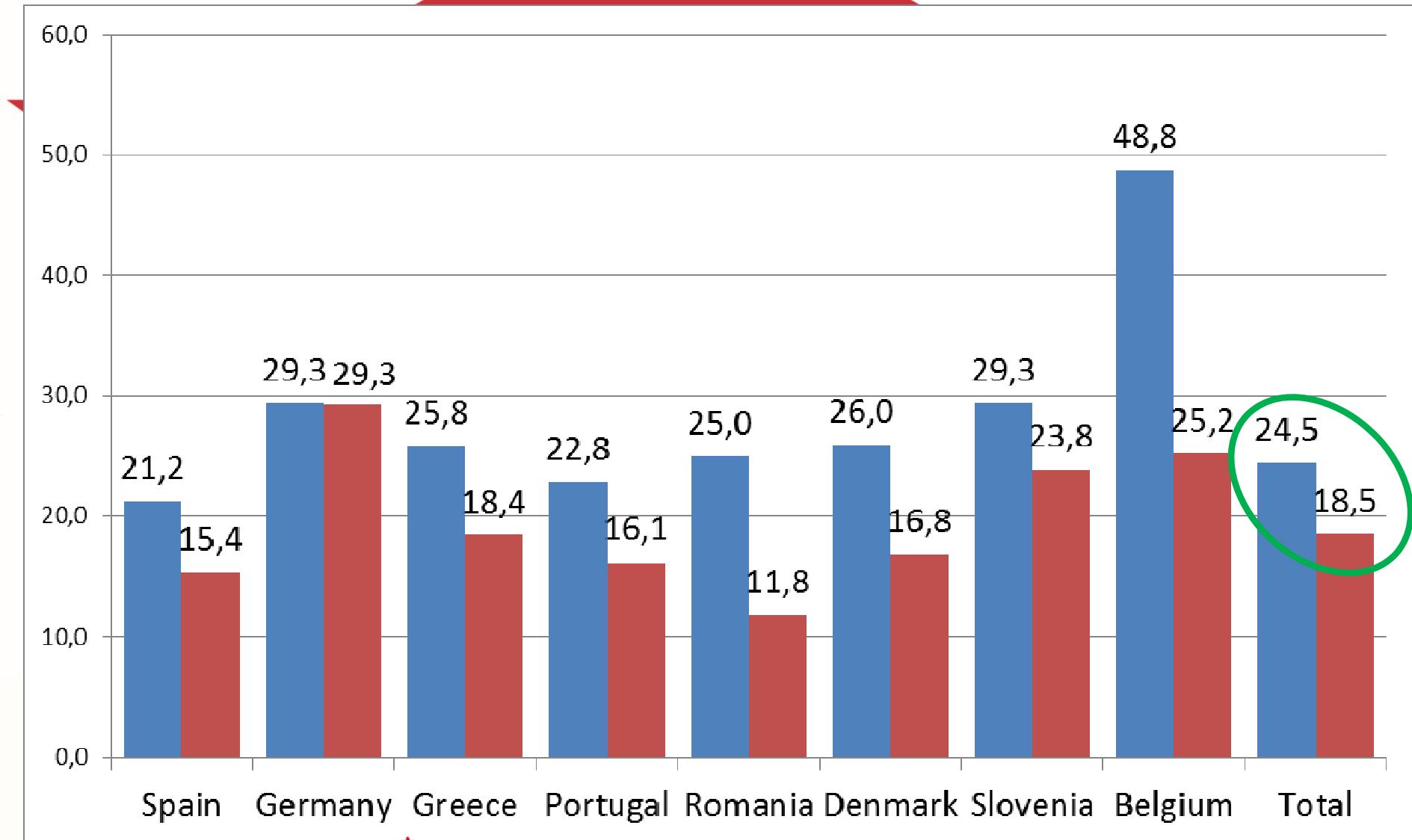
# Main characteristics of participants (N=11740)



# HIV testing history (%)



# Knows about the exsistence of self sampling and self testing



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# Used self sampling / Self testing in the past

- Self sampling: 0,8%

- Self testing: 2,0%

- 49.7% purchased non approved test kits online

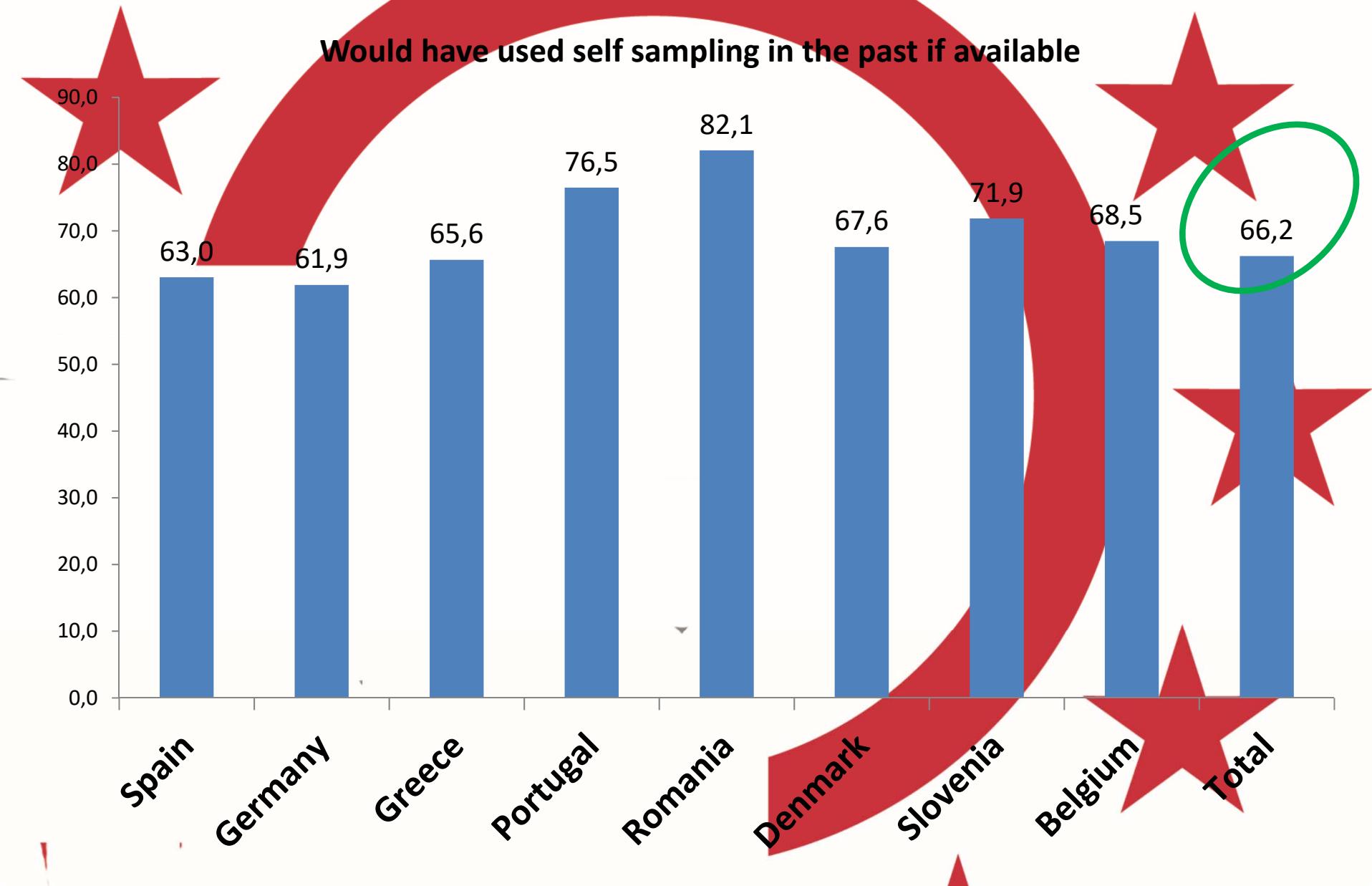


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# Would have used in the past if available: self sampling

Would have used self sampling in the past if available

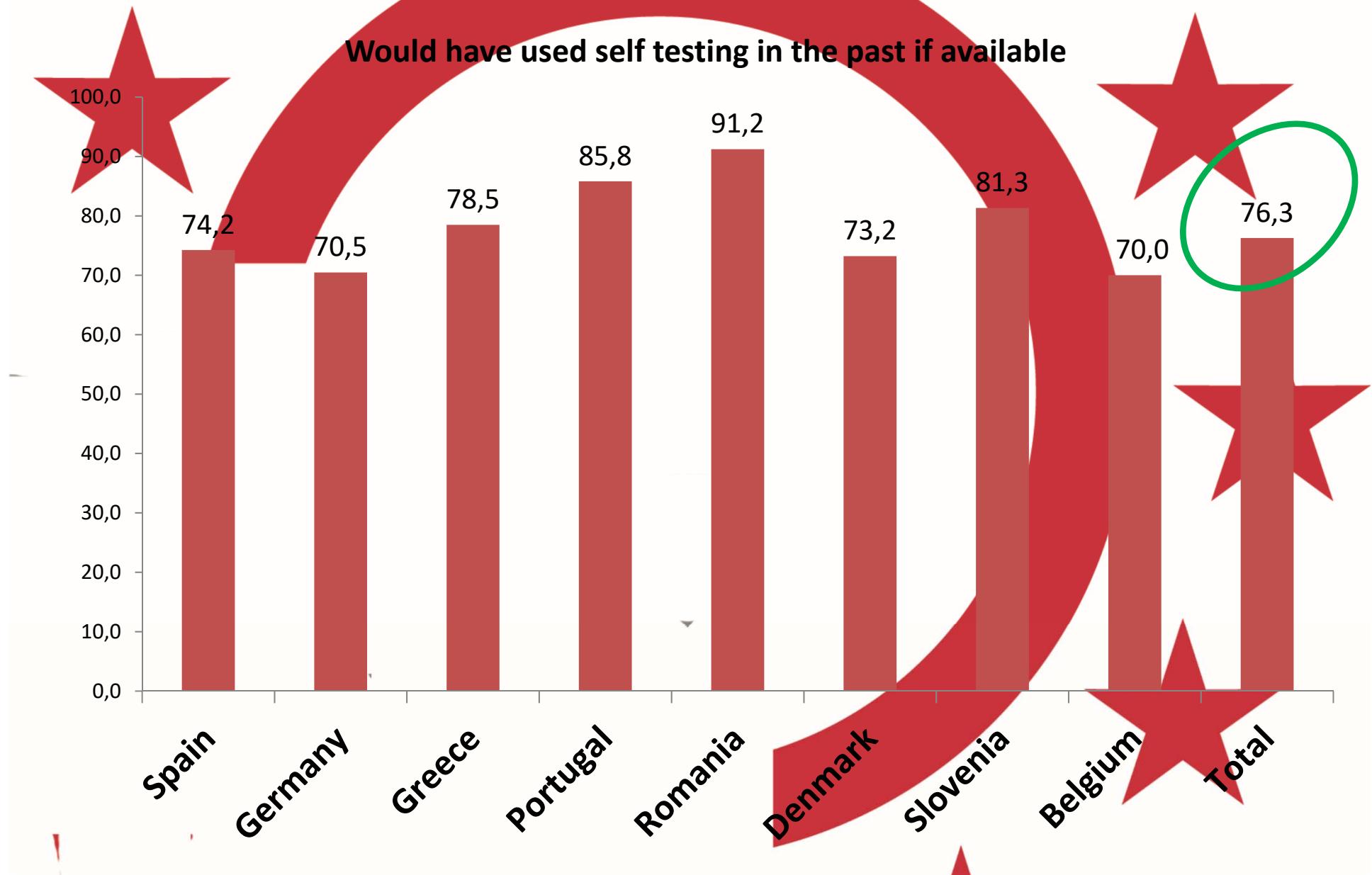


# How would you prefer to receive your test results back (Self sampling)

	Spain	Germany	Greece	Portugal	Romania	Denmark	Slovenia	Belgium	Total
By email	34,5	23,9	21,4	38,9	27,4	19,6	26,3	31,6	30,2
By text message	14,1	10,1	17,0	18,1	20,8	19,0	21,4	15,8	15,0
Through a secure website	17,5	22,5	7,1	19,3	12,0	16,7	24,6	26,3	17,4
By phone call									
<b>NON FACE TO FACE</b>	<b>40% would prefer presential options if the result was positive</b>								
Face to face consultation at medical office	23,8	25,4	26,6	12,0	26,3	17,3	12,1	17,9	22,8
Face to face consultation at CBO	2,9	8,5	13,7	8,6	2,4	11,3	7,6	1,1	5,9
<b>FACE TO FACE</b>	<b>26,8</b>	<b>34,0</b>	<b>40,3</b>	<b>20,6</b>	<b>28,7</b>	<b>28,6</b>	<b>19,6</b>	<b>18,9</b>	<b>28,7</b>

# Would have used in the past if available: Self testing

Would have used self testing in the past if available



**Where would you prefer to attend for confirmation & support if reactive test result (Self testing)**

	Spain	Germany	Greece	Portugal	Romania	Denmark	Slovenia	Belgium	Total
HIV/STI clinic	28,0	18,9	37,7	23,0	42,9	22,5	20,7	24,1	27,4
GP, Family doctor	21,0	39,5	1,0	20,0	3,3	42,6	12,5	57,5	22,2
Hospital/clinic	19,7	5,3	24,6	21,1	26,3	16,4	35,1	9,2	18,4
Medical specialist	19,8	22,2	14,7	8,3	4,5	1,5	12,0	3,4	16,3
At a CBO	6,5	9,3	10,5	18,4	3,3	15,7	13,5	1,1	8,8
Private laboratory	1,8	1,2	9,1	4,2	17,7	0,3	1,4	3,4	3,7
Other options	2,6	1,2	1,8	4,5	1,4	0,6	3,4	0,0	2,3

# Conclusions

- The use of both **Self testing** and **Self sampling** are not common but have the potential to constitute a valuable testing alternative for MSM.
- In the case that a **Self sampling** kit was used, the participants preferred receiving their results via non face to face methods. However, a large proportion would switch to face to face methods if the result was positive.
- HIV/STI Clinics and General Practitioners are the preferred settings to confirm a positive **Self test**



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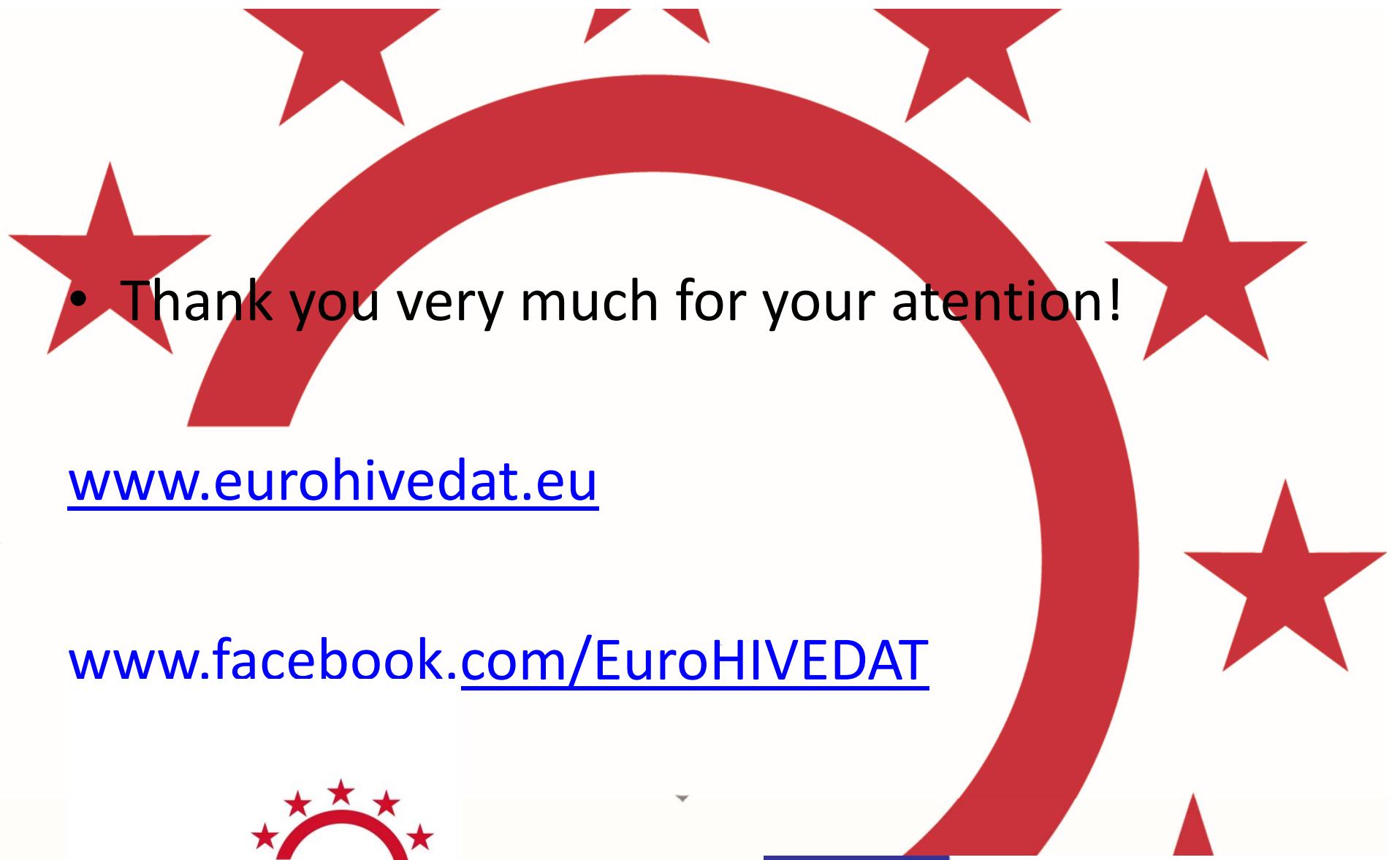
# Next steps

- V3T Study
- Semistructured interviews to stakeholders of three areas (Public policy/ Public health, Health care and Community based VCT services) to describe their opinions, their potential role if self sampling and self testing will be approved in their country and the potential impact of these interventions.
- Interventional study to evaluate the acceptability and feasibility of offering self sampling in outreach sessions and getting the results through a secure website

PO4/01 Euro HIV EDAT Project (WP9/2): HIV-testing Using Oral Fluid Samples and Online Communication of Test Results (**Swab2know**) T. Platteau<sup>1</sup> , C. Agusti<sup>2</sup> , E. Florence<sup>1</sup> , M. Lixandru<sup>3</sup> , L. Ooms<sup>1</sup> , T. Vermoesen<sup>1</sup> , L. Fernández-López<sup>2</sup> , K. Fransen<sup>1</sup> , V. González<sup>2</sup> , J. Casabona<sup>2</sup> , EURO HIV EDAT Project study group



[www.swab2know.eu](http://www.swab2know.eu)



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