



EuroTEST

Working together for integrated
testing and earlier care

Addressing Hepatitis, HIV, STIs and TB

Outcomes of the EuroTEST initiative

Annual Report 2019

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Introduction

The initiative, originally named HIV in Europe, began in 2007 as a way to bring attention to the importance of earlier diagnosis and care for people living with HIV. The initiative has played a critical role in the HIV response by uniting clinicians, community activists, policymakers and researchers to ensure that people are diagnosed early and linked to care and treatment. Although the initiative started with an HIV focus, in 2013, a concerted effort was made to also prioritise hepatitis. Since its initiation, HIV in Europe has built a European platform where independent experts from civil society, policy institutions, health care and European public health institutions work toward influencing policy, share knowledge and build the evidence-base to support earlier diagnosis and care of HIV and viral hepatitis across Europe.

In 2018, the initiative's Steering Committee committed to broadening the initiative's scope further to reflect the shifts in the field to address infectious diseases more broadly and less disease specific due to overlaps in disease transmission and affected populations, reinforced by efforts made by leading institutions including the European Commission policy framework on HIV/AIDS, TB and hepatitis, the EU-funded Joint Action INTEGRATE and European guidelines recommended by the European Centre of Disease Prevention and Control and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

On 28 January 2019, to commence the opening day of the HepHIV conference in Bucharest, Romania, the initiative was officially renamed to EuroTEST with the intention of broadening the disease scope of the initiative to address hepatitis and HIV as well as sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and tuberculosis (TB). The overall objective of the initiative will remain the same with the primary focus on testing, however, in combination when appropriate for HIV, hepatitis B and C, TB and STIs. EuroTEST aims to utilise integrated strategies to help increase early detection and earlier entry into treatment leading to better health outcomes and preventing the risk of further transmission.

The initiative is directed by a Steering Committee (SC), which is an independent group of HIV, viral hepatitis, STI and TB experts who represent civil society, research institutions, policy bodies, health systems and public health institutions. The SC is led by two co-chairs, one clinician and one community representative. There are also several observers who contribute to the SC including representatives from the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

EuroTEST's Policy Secretariat is based at the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) in Brussels and the Secretariat, which oversees the day-to-day management of the initiative and its various projects including financial management, is based at Centre for Excellence for Health, Immunity and Infections (CHIP) in Copenhagen. CHIP – is an integrated part of the Department of Infectious Diseases at Rigshospitalet, which is a hospital within the legal entity of the Capital Region of Denmark.

Since the beginning, the initiative has obtained support from industry sponsors to conduct its activities, underwrite the biennial conferences, and to focus on activities in the Eastern European region, and in recent years the European Commission has been a major co-funder of EuroTEST activities.

Project activities, progress and results in 2019

HepHIV2019 Conference

The sixth biennial HepHIV conference was held 28-30 January in Bucharest, Romania under the Romanian EU presidency. The conference was attended by 243 people from 37 countries around the world. Of the attendees, 36% of the attendees were community representatives, 21% were policymakers/public health institution representatives; and 14% were clinicians. Only a small fraction (8%) of the attendees represented epidemiologists, statisticians and social scientists.

The main objectives of the HepHIV 2019 conference were to:

- Provide an overview of innovative initiatives and best practices on optimal testing and earlier care for HIV and viral hepatitis from different settings across Europe, including progress and challenges in the integration of services;
- Provide opportunities for multi-stakeholder dialogue to develop creative solutions to unresolved challenges in research and implementation of HIV and viral hepatitis, TB and STI policies and programmes to improve early diagnosis and care;
- Sustain and fuel the political discussion of testing policies, increase political commitment and public awareness by discussing how to translate global and regional goals, objectives and targets into local implementation plans.

Results from the conference evaluation reported that the majority of respondents (94%; (n=48)) agreed that the overall conference was useful and informative, and 92% also agreed that it was relevant to their field of work and/ or current research. Approximately, 42 out of the 48 respondents were generally satisfied with the whole conference and said it met their expectations. The overall impression of the presentations from the scientific programme was positive, with approximately 90% agreeing that they were informative and interesting. Although the overall consensus was that the scientific programme covered a variety of disease areas (88%) and had a wide range of geographical representation (88%); some of the respondents highlighted that some key groups were underrepresented, and some disease topics not fully covered (e.g. HBV). Similarly to past HepHIV conferences, the 2019 conference ended with a Call to Action to help influence the efforts needed to improve testing for HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs and TB and provide guidance for the development of the scientific programme for the next HepHIV conference. [Media, evaluation and conference proceedings reports](#) were developed, in addition, results from the conference have been submitted as a special communication to HIV Medicine for publication expected in 2020.

Joint Action on integrating prevention, testing and link to care strategies across HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STIs in Europe (INTEGRATE)

The secretariat of EuroTEST (CHIP/RegionH) is coordinating the Joint Action on integrating prevention, testing and link to care strategies across HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STIs in Europe - INTEGRATE. The INTEGRATE Joint Action aims to increase integrated early diagnosis and linkage to prevention and care of the aforementioned four disease areas in EU Member States by 2020. INTEGRATE is 80% funded by the EU 3rd Health Programme and offers a platform to disseminate and exchange best practices among Member States and facilitate the discussions on innovations and emerging issues within these four diseases. In this respect, INTEGRATE is a shared European effort that extends beyond the partners and can create important synergies

across European stakeholders, projects and initiatives. The project will complete in August 2020 with the intention to ensure sustainability of the developed tools and materials.

During 2019, progress from the various work streams help to produce milestones and achievements, including:

- At the HepHIV2019 Conference, an INTEGRATE Partnership Forum was organised to gather all partners and advisory board members to discuss current progress, lessons learned and develop action plans for synergies and sustainability of project outcomes.
- As part of the HepHIV2019 programme INTEGRATE developed together with Chafea an EU Health Project Symposium.
- INTEGRATE, in collaboration with EuroTEST and European Testing Week, organised National Stakeholder Meetings and Trainings in INTEGRATE partner countries in Croatia, Lithuania, Poland and Italy. These meetings and trainings built upon the methodology and ideas from previous work done through the OptTEST project and their purpose was to gather all relevant national and local stakeholders to discuss current testing implementation and how to improve, tying into the 2018 ECDC guidance on integrated testing for HIV and viral hepatitis.
- A regional workshop on testing was held in Poland with participation from all partners, Advisory Board members and national stakeholders.
- A regional workshop in Italy was organised and focused on self-testing, partner notification and ICT-based combination prevention.
- Testing pilots
 - Indicator-condition guided testing in non-Infectious Disease settings in Romania, Lithuania and Spain;
 - Integrated testing for HIV, viral hepatitis and/or STIs in Croatia, Lithuania, Greece, Slovakia, Italy, Poland, Slovenia;
 - Self-test pilots initiated in Lithuania and Italy and stakeholder roundtable meeting held in Lithuania,
- Development of an Information & Communication Technology (ICT) tool with a risk calculator, link to the European Test Finder and prevention and information features. The tool will start piloting in Italy, Lithuania and Croatia.
- Partner notification training conducted for Italian and Greek partners. Further national training conducted in Italy.
- Key indicators for the minimum common data collection of HIV, viral hepatitis and STI testing and linkage to care to be integrated into national surveillance and M&E systems agreed upon and currently being piloted in Slovenia, Estonia, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and Spain.
- In collaboration with EuroTEST and European Testing Week, developed educational webinars focusing on self-testing, community testing, the 2018 ECDC guidance and monitoring and evaluation. The purpose of these webinars was to provide more interactive materials and opportunities to educate and train the ETW/EuroTEST/INTEGRATE networks on how to improve testing strategies learning from successful case examples.

European Testing Week

Among the EuroTEST flagship projects, European Testing Week ran for its seventh consecutive year. European Testing Week (ETW) has become a well-known awareness campaign throughout Europe. The main aim of ETW is to unite partner organisations throughout Europe for one week to increase access to testing and promote awareness on the benefits of earlier hepatitis and HIV testing. What once started as an annual event has now become a biannual event with two ETWs occurring each year in Spring (May) and Autumn (November). Each organisation who signs up for ETW volunteers their own time to organise their local Testing Week activities and create displays of a united effort to increase testing awareness at all organisational levels.

Key ETW activities for 2019 include:

- Hosted a special session at the HepHIV2019 Conference in Romania, where results from the Spring 2018 ETW pilot, November 2018 ETW and collaborations with ECDC, Terrence Higgins Trust, NAM-AIDSmap and social networking apps for the European Test Finder were presented and discussed. A representative from an NGO in Ukraine also presented on his experience as an ETW participant.
- Following the results from the pilot Spring ETW in May 2018, the second Spring ETW was held 17-24 May. The Spring ETW is implemented in close collaboration with the European Liver Patients Association (ELPA) and partners in INTEGRATE. There was a 31% increase in participating organisations from the pilot and results from the post-ETW evaluation survey showed that 68% reported an increase of at least 50% in testing during SETW and 71% reported doing some form of combined testing/activities targeting more than one condition.
 - To help with the launch, ETW developed and disseminated a statement calling for the scale-up and prioritisation of testing for HIV and viral hepatitis in prisons and other closed settings, which has helped to expand the initiative's capacity to reach key populations;
 - During the 2019 SETW, the first two webinars were hosted in collaboration with INTEGRATE and EuroTEST, which focused on case examples of best practice of community testing in Southern Europe and a HIV self-testing programme in the UK. The format of the webinars included a brief introduction, a presentation related to testing in Europe or showcasing good practice examples of testing, followed by live Questions & Answers;
- The autumn ETW took place 22-29 November and new for 2019, a theme for the autumn campaign was developed to steer focus of activities and improve communication with stakeholders. The theme emphasised the importance of *integrated testing* for viral hepatitis, HIV and STIs, tying into the 2018 ECDC public health guidance on integrated testing for HIV and viral hepatitis. At the end of the 2019 November ETW, 770 organisations had signed up for the week—the highest number recorded for the initiative. Preliminary results from the ETW evaluation show that almost 50% of all sign-ups came from countries in western Europe following by the East (24%) and Central Europe (21%). The countries with the most signed-up organisations were Ukraine (63) followed by the UK (58) and Lithuania (53).

- A new factsheet on STIs was developed as an integral part of INTEGRATE JA activities. It provides an overview of the current situation regarding three STIs monitored by the EU across Europe (chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis).
- The secretariat hosted three more webinars (October-November) following the same format as the webinars conducted in Spring. Topics included presentations on the 2018 ECDC public health guidance on integrated testing for HIV and viral hepatitis, integrated community testing in low-threshold settings and how to use data collected in community settings to influence political change. ETW also supported a webinar hosted by the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) on applying integrated testing recommendations in community settings.
- In partnership with the ECDC, Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) and AIDSMap-NAM, collaborated on the European Test Finder (ETF) to undergo a complete update. The Test Finder has been incorporated into a new INTEGRATE health App – the RiskRadar. Additionally, partnerships with social networking apps including Grindr, Hornet and Plane Romeo were established to provide pro bono advertising for the ETF before and during ETW as a way to increase awareness of testing and promotion of the ETF
- The ETW secretariat had an accepted poster presentation at the 17th European AIDS Clinical Society Conference in Basel, Switzerland. The poster, “Seven years of European Testing Week: impact of a regional awareness campaign on increase in awareness and testing activities in Europe” highlighted seven years of results from the post-ETW evaluation surveys. Additionally, an abstract presented at the III International Conference on Health Communication in 2018 which showcased results from the collaborations with ECDC, THT and AIDSmap-NAM on the European Test Finder were published in La Revista Española de Comunicación en Salud in 2019.

[EuroTEST Resource Center – adding Hepatitis Testing Guidelines](#)

Within the project investigating availability of HCV testing in non-hospital settings and HCV testing carried out by non-medical personnel within the WHO European Region, national guidance on HCV testing were retrieved from publicly available documentation on government websites and reviewed. In 2018, all retrieved information was sent to national experts for verification, and where guidance did not exist, experts were asked to provide input on testing conditions. Information was retrieved for 49 out of 53 countries in the region. According to written guidance, HCV testing can only be carried out by health care personnel in the majority of the 53 countries, but testing can be performed in different settings outside hospital e.g. GP, prison and drug addiction centers. In 2019, the online EuroTEST Resource Centre has been updated with all national HCV guidelines, and a manuscript for a journal article has been drafted.

[Literature review to assess the HIV seroprevalence in key populations in the EU/EEA](#)

The EuroTEST secretariat in partnership with independent contractors, were contracted by ECDC to gather, review and synthesise all relevant peer-reviewed published literature on HIV seroprevalence in 31 EU/EEA countries among men who have sex with men (MSM), people who inject drugs (PWID), sex workers, prisoners, migrants and pregnant women in the EU/EEA. Over 10 000 articles were identified and underwent title and abstract screening. After the initial screening, 356 articles were selected for full-text review and data extraction including a quality

assessment and risk of bias. In total, 117 articles were accepted in line with the inclusion criteria and extracted data was compiled into tables for the final report. The evidence from the review will also be analysed and summarised into a manuscript for publication in a scientific journal in 2020.

Scoping project to develop European Standards of Care for People Living with HIV

The EuroTEST secretariat in partnership with the European AIDS Clinical Society, were contracted by ECDC to conduct a scoping exercise to explore the perceived usefulness and possible outline of a Standard of Care (SoC) guidance for people living with HIV, considering public health, clinical and community perspectives. Overall, the scoping exercise aimed to provide input to ECDC's decision-making process on whether to develop European standards of care for people living with HIV and how such standards can be of most use for people living with HIV, clinicians and public health experts. An expert meeting was held in Basel in November 2019, and a final report is being drafted.

Policy and advocacy activities

EuroTEST aims to inform policy processes, share knowledge and improve the evidence base around important issues of earlier testing and care. As part of its secretariat for policy and advocacy, the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) advocates for optimal testing and care for the EuroTEST initiative and promotes its projects findings to stakeholders.

In 2019, it advocated continued political attention at the EU level to support countries in their effort to achieve early diagnosis and linkage to care for HIV, TB and viral hepatitis and STIs of key populations. In June, EATG, together with the EU Civil Society Forum (EU CSF) on HIV, TB and hepatitis, organised an exchange over EuroTEST, European Commission, EU and international agencies work on testing and integrated testing. Moreover, there was outreach to the new MEPs, new Commissioner to anchor HIV, TB and hepatitis in their agenda. Concerns were raised about the European Commission decision to close down the EU CSF and member states expert group in their current form as they have been useful tools to improve testing and linkage to care strategies etc. That concern and continued collaboration at the EU level were included in the hearing of the European Commissioner for Health at the European Parliament, as well as in Parliamentary questions. In November, Commission services met with the CSF coordination team and agencies to discuss the use of EU Steering Group on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, the Health Security Committee, the Best Practice Portal, the EU Health Policy Platform and continuation of the EU CSF in a new form.

In January 2019, EATG and EuroTEST organised a stakeholders side meeting at the HepHIV conference to discuss what needs to be done to implement guidelines in the real world. The meeting increased understanding of the new ECDC testing guidance, ways to foster implementation at the local level from the perspectives of different actors, as well as indications of further "game-changer" screening approaches to improve the health outcomes of key affected populations.

In September, via the European Community Advisory Board, community actors involved in the design and implementation of testing services at local level met with diagnostics industry developers to discuss and share information on packages of testing services according to different contexts; b) discuss R&D and access to new tools to optimise community testing and screening models (e.g. products aiding U=U; c) discuss unmet needs (e.g. access to testing in EECA).

As advocacy secretariat, EATG has also worked on strengthening the capacity of communities to address legal and regulatory barriers to testing and treatment effectively, to increase awareness on testing guidance for HIV, HBV and HCV via its STEP UP training programme and M-CARE training project with Africa Advocacy foundation.

Proposed activities and plans for 2020

INTEGRATE

The INTEGRATE Joint Action will conclude in end of August 2020. Results from all work streams and pilots including integrated testing, HIV self-testing, monitoring, partner notification training and outcomes from the ICT tool will be evaluated and summarised. The final Regional Workshop and Partnership Forum meeting will take place in Tallinn, Estonia 26-27 May 2020. INTEGRATE partners, advisory board members and relevant external experts and EC staff, will be invited to the Partnership Forum.

Follow-up on National Stakeholder Meetings & Trainings

EuroTEST in collaboration with the INTEGRATE JA, organised National Stakeholder Meetings and Trainings in 2019 (Croatia, Lithuania, Poland and Italy). As a follow-up to these National Meetings and sustainability of the outcomes from the INTEGRATE JA, EuroTEST will support efforts to further assess the implementation/adaptation of the both the guidance on testing for hepatitis and HIV and meeting recommendations in national policies and strategies.

Assessment of current ST/SS strategies in Europe and dissemination of best practices

Building on the work being developed in INTEGRATE JA where a mapping of ST/SS throughout Europe is being conducted with specific country focus, the secretariat will support further assessment of current support structures for ST/SS at the country level, taking into account the overall awareness of ST/SS (among the general population) and user experience of purchasing/using/interpreting ST/SS to determine if continued efforts must be made to improve access and availability of self-tests/self-sampling.

European Testing Week

The European Testing Week initiative will continue to occur biannually with 2020 marking the overall eighth year of the initiative and the third year of the Spring ETW, which in 2020 continues to be implemented in collaboration with INTEGRATE JA. ETW will continue to support and encourage partner organisations—in community, health care and policy institutions-- throughout Europe to unite during ETW to increase testing efforts and promote awareness on the benefits of earlier hepatitis and HIV testing.

Geographic expansion of ETW

ETW has become an established event that many, from all organisational levels, expect every year. There has been growing interest from countries outside of the European region that would like to partake in ETW or a similar testing awareness event. The proposal is to examine the feasibility and acceptability of expanding the idea of ETW globally.

EuroTEST

The EuroTEST initiative will continue to address hepatitis, HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and tuberculosis (TB) in the context of supporting efforts and projects that utilise integrated strategies to help increase early detection and earlier entry into treatment for the four diseases.

Improved testing diagnostics

As a continuation of the meeting series arranged by the policy secretariat and the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) in 2018-19 with community testing services providers, partners and diagnostics companies on testing technologies for use in community settings, a pilot project is being developed with a focus on new testing technologies and the opportunities for integrated point-of care testing in non-medical settings.

Re-thinking Public Health guidance development

EuroTEST was involved with the development of the evidence-based ECDC public health guidance on integrated testing for viral hepatitis and HIV which was published in 2018. The proposal is to re-think the current process on guidance development and create a new adapted methodology to produce guidance.

EACS Public Health module

As part of plans for further expansion, the EuroTEST secretariat and members of the EuroTEST and the INTEGRATE Steering Committees aim to support the development of a new public health module in the EACS online course for the clinical management of HIV.

HepHIV Conference 2021

The latest 2019 HepHIV Conference that occurred in Bucharest, Romania ended with a Call to Action to work towards the 2030 Global Targets. The 7th HepHIV Conference will take place in Lisbon, Portugal from 5-7 May 2021 in conjunction with the EU presidency building upon the HepHIV2019 Call to Action.

Subcontracts

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

- The EuroTEST secretariat has coordinated an ECDC-funded project to conduct a literature review to collect the latest evidence on HIV seroprevalence in key populations in the EU/EEA. The final outputs from this project, a report and published manuscript in a scientific journal, will be produced in 2020.
- The EuroTEST secretariat has in partnership with the European AIDS Clinical Society coordinated an ECDC- commissioned project, exploring the perceived usefulness and possible outline of a European Standards of Care for People Living with HIV. A final report and a manuscript will be produced in 2020.

List of EuroTEST-related publications, presentations and press in 2019

Publications

1. Rützel K, Lemsalu L, Lätt S, Epštein J, on behalf of OptTEST by HIV in Europe. Missed opportunities for HIV testing in people diagnosed with HIV, Estonia, 2014 to 2015. *Euro Surveill.* 2019 Apr;24(15). doi: 10.2807/1560-7917.
2. Raben D, Sullivan AK, Mocroft A, Kutsyna G, Hadžiosmanović V, et al., on behalf of the HIDES Study Group. Improving the evidence for indicator condition guided HIV testing in Europe: Results from the HIDES II Study – 2012 – 2015. *PLoS One.* 2019 Aug 13;14(8):e0220108. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0220108.
3. Combs L, Daamen C, Kifetew C. Going new ways to end HIV: reaching men who have sex with men through a community, business, and public health partnership to increase HIV testing in Europe. *RECS. Suplemento 2, 2019.Comunicación y VIH.* doi.org/10.20318/recs.2019.4596
4. Croxford S, Tavošchi L, Sullivan AK, Combs L, Raben D, Delpech V, Jakobsen SF, Amato-Gauci AJ, Desai S. HIV testing strategies outside of health care settings in the European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA): a systematic review to inform European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control guidance. *HIV Med.* 2019 Nov 14. doi: 10.1111/hiv.12809.
5. Desai S, Tavošchi L, Sullivan AK, Combs L, Raben D, Delpech V, Jakobsen SF, Amato-Gauci AJ, Croxford S. HIV testing strategies employed in health care settings in the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA): evidence from a systematic review. *HIV Med.* 2019 Nov 14. doi: 10.1111/hiv.12809.

Presentations/Posters

1. Croxford S, Tavošchi L, Sullivan AK, Combs L, Raben D, Delpech V, Jakobson SF, Amato-Gauci AJ, Desai S. Community-based HIV testing in Europe: a systematic review. Oral presentation at the sixth HepHIV conference; Bucharest; 2019 Jan 28-30.
2. Sullivan AK, Croxford S, Desai S, Combs L, Tavošchi L, Mason L, Delpech V, Hoekstra M, Jakobsen SF, Amato-Gauci AJ, Raben D. Evidence-based public health guidance for integrated HBV, HCV and HIV testing in Europe. Oral presentation at the sixth HepHIV conference; Bucharest; 2019 Jan 28-30.
3. Croxford S, Tavošchi L, Sullivan AK, Combs L, Raben D, Delpech V, Jakobson SF, Amato-Gauci AJ, Desai S. HIV self-sampling and self-testing in Europe: a systematic review. Poster presentation at the sixth HepHIV conference; Bucharest; 2019 Jan 28-30.
4. Ben Collins on behalf of the European Testing Week Working Group. Preliminary results from the evaluation of the 2018 November ETW. Presentation at the European Testing Week Special Session at the sixth HepHIV conference; Bucharest; 2019 Jan 28-30.
5. Marinela Debu on behalf of the European Testing Week Working Group. Results from the May 2018 Spring European Testing Week pilot. Presentation at the European Testing Week Special Session at the sixth HepHIV conference; Bucharest; 2019 Jan 28-30.
6. Ben Collins on behalf of the European Testing Week Working Group. HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections: Maximising testing opportunities through integrating services. Presentation at the Wellbeing Economy – a Way to Sustainability in the HIV and AIDS Response; Helsinki; 4 October 2019.
7. Lauren Combs on behalf of the European Testing Week Working Group and EuroTEST Steering Committee. Seven years of European Testing Week: impact of a regional awareness campaign on increase in awareness and testing activities in Europe. Poster presentation at the 17th European AIDS Conference; Basel; 6-9 November 2019.

8. Dorte Raben on behalf of INTEGRATE and EuroTEST. How can we improve monitoring of HIV and integrated testing in the EU/EEA?. Presentation at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control Dublin Declaration Advisory Group Meeting; Stockholm; 9-10 December 2019.

Press

1. EuroTEST. Opening day of the HepHIV2019 Conference and renaming announcement of HIV in Europe to EuroTEST [press release] (2019 January 28) [cited 2020 January 27]. Available from: <http://www.eurotest.org/News/Latest-Publications-Outcomes>
2. European Testing Week. European Testing Week calls for a scale-up and the active offer of voluntary and confidential testing for HIV, hepatitis B and C to be prioritised for all people in prisons and other closed settings [public statement] (2019 May 17) [cited 2020 January 27].
3. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. It is always time to test: Spring European Testing Week. Stockholm; ECDC; 2019 May 21 [cited 2020 January 27]. Available from: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/it-always-time-test-spring-european-testing-week>
4. European Testing Week. November 2019 European Testing Week: Integrated testing of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections [public statement] (2019 August 22) [cited 2020 January 27].
5. World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. European Testing Week 2019 [Events]. Copenhagen; WHO Europe; November 2019 [cited 2020 January 27]. Available from: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/events/events/2019/11/european-testing-week-2019>.
6. World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. Rapid HIV testing saves lives – it's time to make the switch. Copenhagen; WHO Europe; 2019 November 11 [cited 2020 January 27]. Available from: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/communicable-diseases/pages/news/news/2019/11/rapid-hiv-testing-saves-lives-its-time-to-make-the-switch>
7. Le Gouvernement du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg. Semaine européenne du dépistage - Une semaine riche en événements de sensibilisation et de solidarité! [French]. Luxembourg; Santé Luxembourg; 2019 November 21 [cited 2020 January 27]. Available from: <http://sante.public.lu/fr/actualites/2019/11/semaine-europeenne-du-depistage-dimps/index.html>
8. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Know your status: get tested during European Testing Week. Stockholm; ECDC; 2019 November 22 [cited 2020 January 27]. Available from: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/know-your-status-get-tested-during-european-testing-week>

Other media

1. Will Howells and Taku Mukiwa on behalf of Terrence Higgins Trust. Introducing a free HIV self-testing service: Terrence Higgins Trust's experience offering HIV self-test kits online [Webinar]. Copenhagen: EuroTEST and European Testing Week; 2019 May 21 [cited 2020 January 27]. Video: 41 minutes. Available from: <https://bit.ly/2OsZvBc>
2. Miguel Rocha on behalf of Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamentos (GAT) & CheckpointLX. High contribution, low public funding: Southern European Checkpoints' role in HIV detection in 4 countries [webinar]. Copenhagen: EuroTEST and European Testing Week; 2019 May 21 [cited 2020 January 27]. Video: 34 minutes. Available from: <https://bit.ly/2OsZvBc>
3. Miguel Rocha on behalf of Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamentos (GAT) & CheckpointLX. Applying Integrated Testing Recommendations in Community Settings [webinar]. Brussels: European AIDS Treatment Group; 12 Sept 2019 [cited 2020 January 27]. Video: 46 minutes. Available from: https://youtu.be/Oig0_gevKK0
4. Anastasia Pharris on behalf of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Moving towards integration: ECDC public health guidance on HIV, hepatitis B and C testing in the EU/EEA

- [webinar]. Copenhagen: EuroTEST and European Testing Week; 2019 Sept 24 [cited 2020 January 27]. Video: 33 minutes. Available from: <https://bit.ly/2Kpt4Pq>
5. Jason Farrell on behalf of Correlation Network. HIV and viral hepatitis community-based testing in low threshold settings: European experiences [webinar]. Copenhagen: EuroTEST and European Testing Week; 2019 Oct 29 [cited 2020 January 27]. Video: 19 minutes. Available from: <https://bit.ly/2NPJxOZ>
 6. Daniel Simões on behalf of Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamentos (GAT) and Dr. Daniela Rojas Castro on behalf of Coalition PLUS. Using data for change: How to generate and use information from the real world, for the real world [webinar]. Copenhagen: EuroTEST and European Testing Week; 2019 Nov 22 [cited 2020 January 27]. Video: 52 minutes. Available from: <https://bit.ly/2NjElwE>
 7. European Commission. "The time to test is now!", Commissioner Andriukaitis endorses the European HIV and Hepatitis Testing Week (22-29 November 2019) [video]. Brussels: European Commission; 22 November 2019 [cited 2020 January 27]. Video: 2 minutes. Available from: https://ec.europa.eu/health/communicable_diseases/latest_updates_en

Annex 1: Overview of ongoing and proposed activities

Project	Description	Expected Outcome	Period
Secretariat coordination, communication/dissemination, advocacy, collaboration			
All projects (including ETW, INTEGRATE JA, HepHIV Conference, subcontracting, research and proposed new activities)	Management tasks for each project (e.g. reporting, budgeting, fundraising, organising teleconferences and face-to-face meetings, etc); coordination of expert groups, advisory boards, steering committees and working groups; monitoring and evaluation.	Annual Reports for 2019 and 2020, teleconferences, face-to-face meetings (in 2020 and 2021) including EuroTEST SC meetings, conference planning kick-off meeting and ETW Working Group meetings. These outcomes will guide the direction of the EuroTEST projects and ensure their successful implementation. A well-functioning secretariat will also ensure support and endorsement from a broad range of stakeholders (community organisations, health care professionals, government agencies and international organisations).	2020-2021
	Each project coordinated by EuroTEST has its own network including stakeholders, endorsers, sponsors, community organisations, health care professionals and public institutions. The secretariat communicates with its networks through frequent updates on project websites, posts on social media, press releases, newsletters, promotional materials (online and paper) and through representation at relevant meetings and conferences.	Communication plan, regular updates to project websites, posts on social media, press releases, newsletters, development of promotional materials (online and paper), 1-2 publications annually (peer-reviewed, posters, newspapers, online articles, other journals).	2020-2021
	EuroTEST's Policy Secretariat coordinates the advocacy tasks to foster renewed political commitment at the National and European	Representation at relevant meetings and conferences including the EU-level meetings,	2020-2021

	levels to achieve universal access to prevention, testing, treatment and care for HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs and TB. The policy secretariat engages and participates in all related open EU-level meetings.	Joint Action INTEGRATE's final meeting and HIV Glasgow 4 – 7 October 2020.	
	EuroTEST maintains strong collaborations and partnerships with numerous international public and private institutions including among them but not limited to diagnostic kit manufacturers, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Terrence Higgins Trust, AIDSMap-NAM, social networking apps.	Follow-up meeting to the first European Community Advisory Board meeting with community testing services providers, partners and diagnostic test kit manufacturers, increased access to affordable diagnostic kits to support ETW testing activities, update and expansion of the European Test Finder.	2020-2021
Ongoing projects			
HepHIV Conference	Fundraising; coordination of organising committee, endorsers and sponsors; development of scientific programme (including identifying and inviting speakers, abstract categories); logistical planning of the event	Launch of planning with a face-to-face meeting during early Spring 2020 and the formulation of the conference organising committee including local affiliates and establishment of preliminary conference logistics (main aim and objectives, date, venue, etc).	2020-2021
Joint Action INTEGRATE	Management and coordination of the final year of the Joint Action; summarisation and dissemination of project findings and conclusions.	Final Partnership Forum Meeting in May 2020 in Estonia; project report; published supplement in scientific journal.	2020

European Testing Week	Management of biannual ETW campaigns (May and November); coordination of Working Group, stakeholders, partners, endorsers and sponsors; communication of project updates	SETW (16-22 May) and Autumn (20-27 November); WG F2F meeting; Upkeep of the ETW materials (development of new logos, templates); evaluation reports; submitted manuscript to scientific journal.	2020-2021
Literature review for HIV seroprevalence in key populations in EU/EEA	Finalise report and submit manuscript.	Final report and 1-2 manuscripts published in scientific journals.	2020
Scoping project to develop European Standards of Care for People Living with HIV	Finalise discussion paper that provides input to ECDC's decision-making process on whether to develop European standards of care for people living with HIV and how such standards can be of most use for people living with HIV, clinicians and public health experts.	Final report and 1 commentary-style manuscript published	2020
Hepatitis Testing Guidelines	Continued updating of online Resource Centre with national HCV guidelines, and finalisation of manuscript	1 manuscript published in scientific journal	
New project proposals			
Follow-up on the EuroTEST/ INTEGRATE National Stakeholder Meetings	Gather country-level feedback on current initiatives/testing policies/planned adaption and/or changes to testing policy.	A better understanding of how the meeting recommendations are being interpreted by national stakeholders and how the newest guidance is being disseminated and prioritised in order to provide tailored assistance for each country	

Assessment of current ST/SS strategies in Europe and dissemination of best practices	Support further assessment of current support structures for ST/SS at the country level, taking into account the overall awareness of ST/SS (among the general population) and user experience of purchasing/using/interpreting ST/SS	A better understanding of current implementation of ST/SS in Europe and development of strategies to improve information dissemination on how to obtain, use, and interpret ST/SS results.	
Integrated point of care testing	Support EATG with continued dialogue and collaborations with diagnostic kit companies to improve testing technology and availability in community settings; support pilot activities of POC in community settings	Collaboration with diagnostic kit companies; pilot study results	
Re-thinking public health guidance development	<p>Phase 1: Review available testing guidelines across Europe; review and document the current process of public health guideline development using national, regional and international guidelines as examples; conduct 1-2-1 interviews with 5-8 experts in the field (from WHO, ECDC and other relevant public health bodies, academics); plan and deliver 1-2 workshops with relevant experts to review and discuss the gathered evidence; produce a guide with input from stakeholders</p> <p>Phase 2: Pilot new guidelines development within 2 selected countries; refine and publish guide</p>	Phase1: A workshop write-up, a guide on 'How to develop a public health guidance,' and other recommendations including how to gather and share good practice of testing. Phase 2: a write up of the pilot process, assistance for each pilot country in producing a new testing guideline and a submitted publication.	

<p>Geographic expansion of ETW</p>	<p>Consultation with international organisations who have coordinated global awareness campaigns, including WHO, ECDC, World Hepatitis Alliance, and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. patient organisations, NGOs, healthcare providers, governments, etc) to examine the feasibility and logistical implications of expansion.</p>	<p>Meetings with relevant stakeholders who have implemented similar awareness campaigns and a better understanding of the feasibility of expanding a regional awareness campaign to the global scale, including the required tasks and considerations to make before implementation.</p>	
<p>Update of the joint 2011 EMCDDA & ECDC guidance on prevention and control of infectious diseases among people who inject drugs (TBC)</p>	<p>Coordination of project team; development of work plan and protocol; review of the latest literature; analysis of evidence; draft guidance report; draft manuscript</p>	<p>Project workplan and protocol; updated guidance report; published manuscript.</p>	

Financial statement

The EuroTEST initiative has received funding and grants from Gilead Sciences, ViiV Healthcare, Janssen, Merck/MSD, AbbVie, AAZ, Cepheid, InTec, OraSure, Owen Mumford and the European Commission under the 3rd and 2nd Health Programmes and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

The HepHIV 2019 Bucharest Conference was co-funded with the Health Programme of the European Union and was funded by the HIV in Europe/EuroTEST Initiative that received sponsorship funds for this purpose from Gilead, Merck MSD, ViiV Healthcare, Abbvie, Autotest Santé (AAZ-LMB), Cepheid, InTec, OraSure and SH:24. The Health Programme of the European Union funded parts of the conference – in particular the EU Health Project Symposium: Integrated Testing and Synergies.

EuroTEST Steering Committee

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