



# HIV Testing in Europe: Evaluating Impact, Added Value, Relevance and Usability of ECDC's 2010 HIV Testing Guidance

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ESCAIDE, Stockholm, 28 November 2016

# Conflicts of interest

None

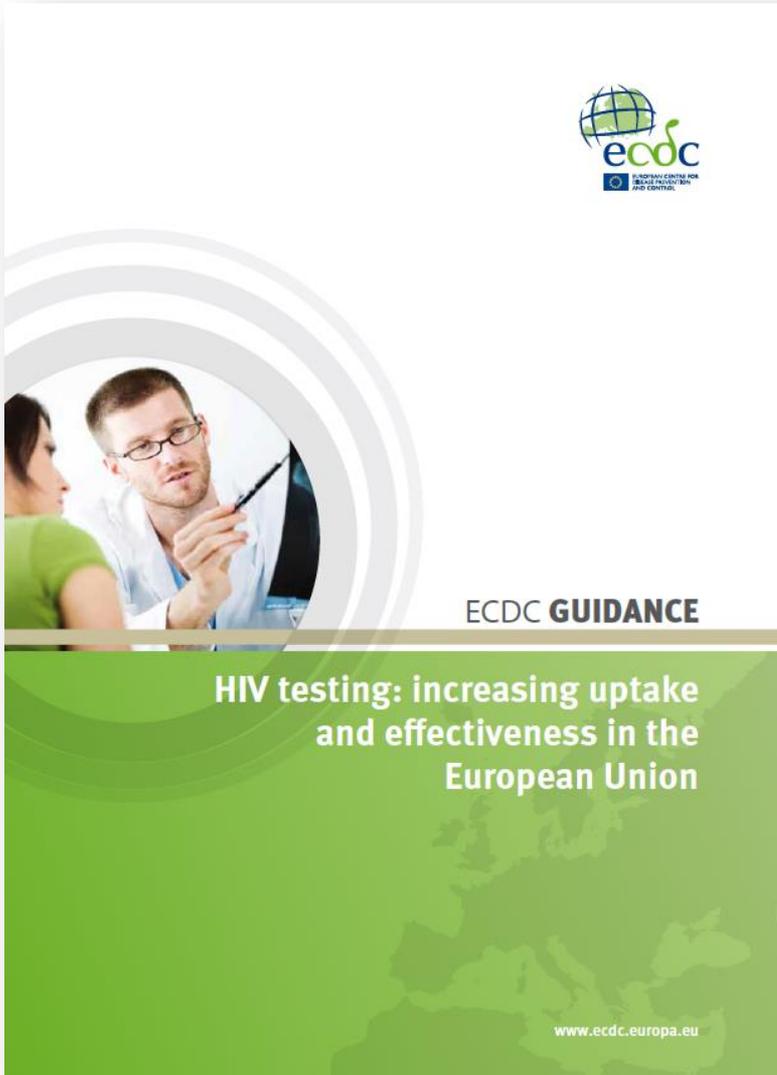


# Overview

1. Background and objectives
2. Methods
3. Results
4. Discussion
5. Conclusions and next step



# Background

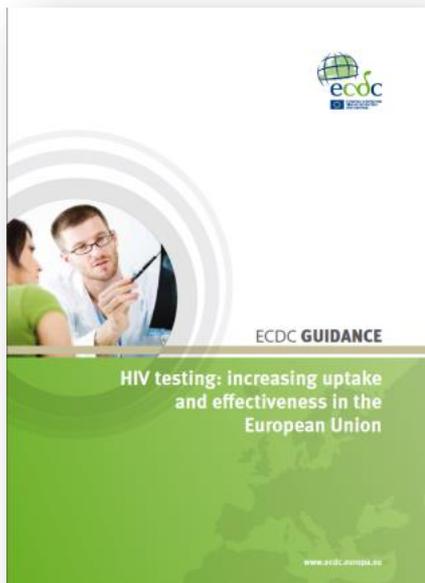


**Published:** 2010

**Scope:** to inform the development, monitoring and evaluation of national HIV testing strategies and programmes in the EU/EEA countries

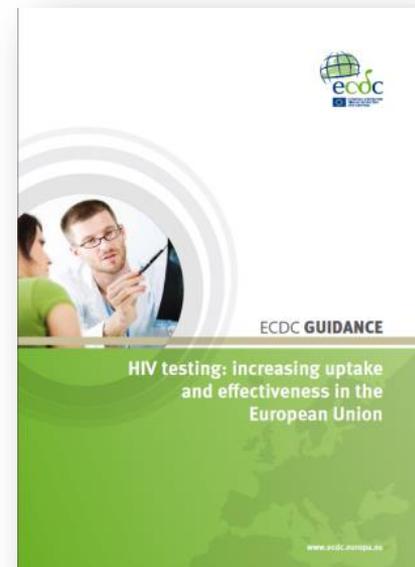
**Target Audience:** policy makers and national programme managers/coordinators

# New evidence



**New evidence**  
e.g. Indicator  
condition-driven  
HIV testing, lay-  
provider testing

**WHO HTS  
Global  
Guidance**



**Changing  
landscape**  
e.g. Self-testing,  
START trial, debate  
on HIV counselling

**Update ?**

**2010**

**2015**

# Aim

- **Aim of the project:** Understanding the **use** and **impact**, if any, of the previous ECDC HIV testing guidance **in the EU/EEA** and to make any **recommendation for future steps** in this area
- The project was commissioned by ECDC and the report was produced by HIV in Europe [contract number ECD.5593].
- Evaluation team: Ann Sullivan (SSAT); Dorthe Raben, Stine Finne Jakobsen and Ida Sperle (CHIP)
- Expert advisory group: Ann Sullivan (SSAT), Jürgen Rockstroh (HIV Outpatient Clinic at the University of Bonn, Germany), Brian West (EATG), Yazdan Yazdanpanah (Bichat Hospital), Valerie Delpech (PHE).

# Overview

1. Background and objectives

## **2. Methods**

3. Results

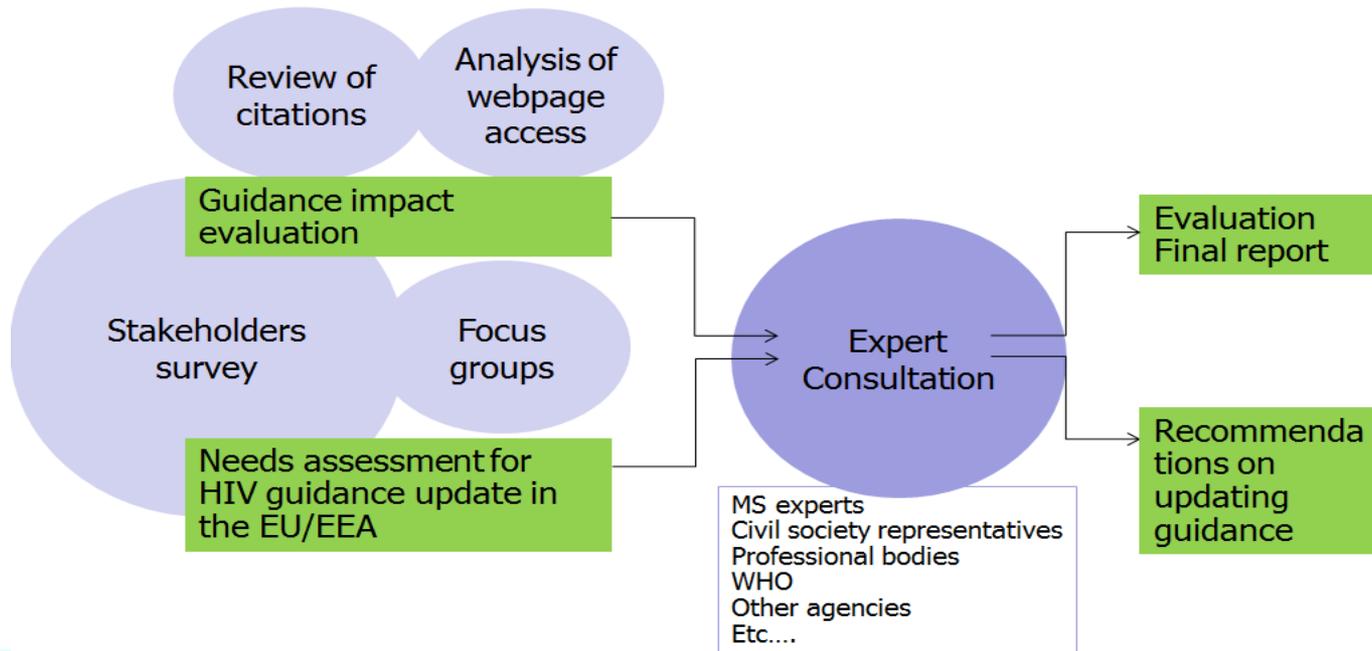
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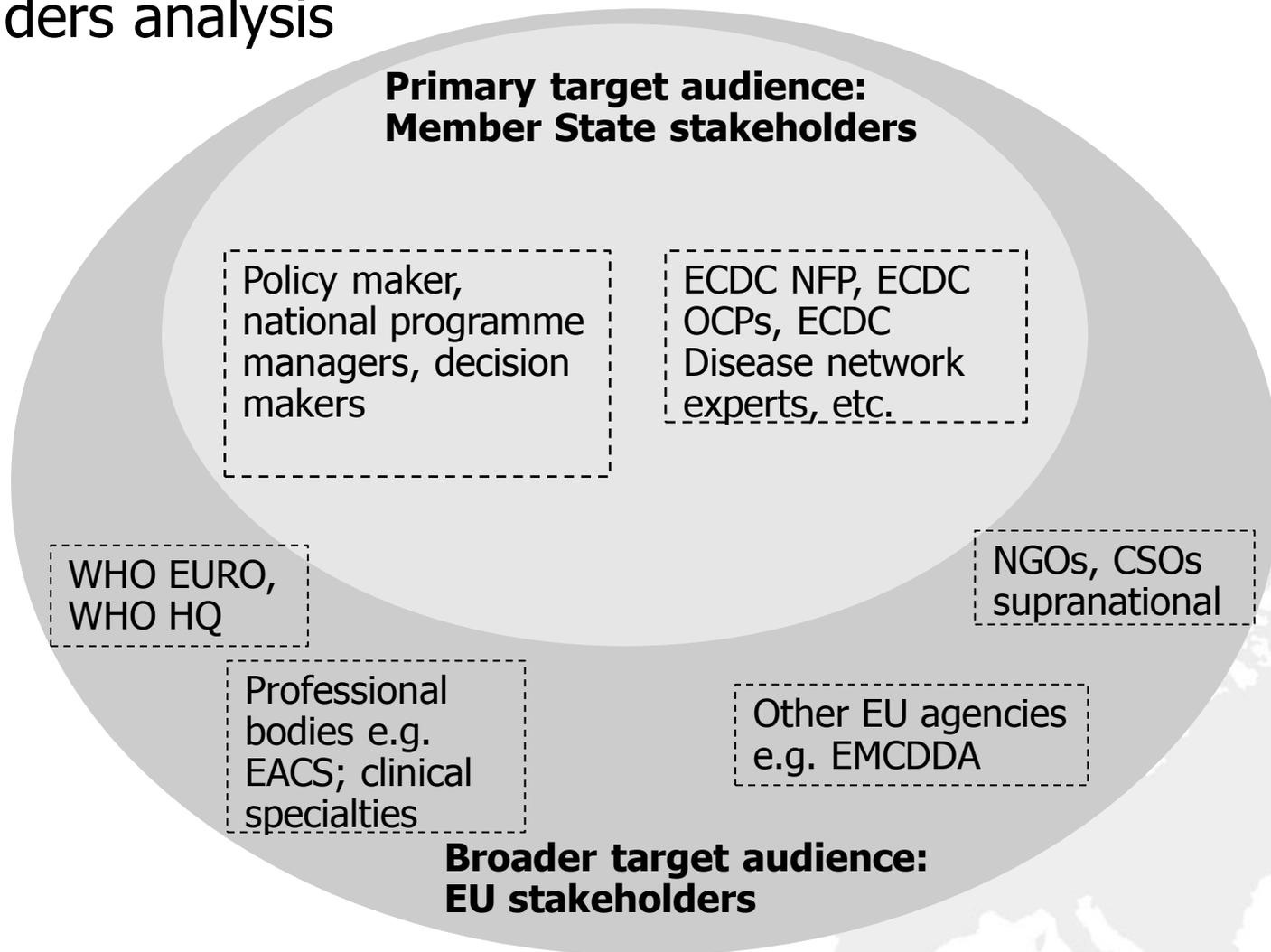
# Methods

- Quantitative stakeholder survey (primary target group/broader target group)
- Qualitative data from moderated focus group discussions (EACS conference, Barcelona, October 2015)
- Expert consultation meeting (28-29 January 2016)



# Methods

- Stakeholders analysis



# Evaluation questions

Evaluation Question	Indicators and qualitative input
<p><b>Awareness</b></p> <p>What is the level of awareness about the ECDC 2010 guidance among the primary and the broader target group?</p>	<p>% of respondents indicating awareness of the ECDC 2010 guidance by having:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• knowledge of its existence</li><li>• accessed it</li><li>• discussed it in professional settings/networks</li><li>• used it in their work</li><li>• distributed it to national/professional networks</li><li>• citations in national documents</li><li>• translated the guidance into local/common language</li></ul> <p>Qualitative input on the perceived level of awareness and possible reasons for high/low awareness.</p>

# Evaluation questions

Evaluation Question	Indicators and qualitative input
<p><b>Relevance</b> Does the HIV testing guidance address the needs of Member States in developing, monitoring and evaluating HIV testing strategies and/or programmes? (and non-Member States in developing, monitoring, evaluating or advocating for HIV testing strategies and programmes)</p>	<p>% of respondents indicating that the ECDC 2010 guidance was relevant for their work on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• developing a national HIV testing policy/strategy/programme</li><li>• monitoring their national HIV testing policy/strategy/programme</li><li>• evaluating their national HIV testing policy/strategy/programme</li></ul> <p>Qualitative input on aspects of the guidance in terms of relevance and usefulness.</p>

# Evaluation questions

## Evaluation Question

## Indicators and qualitative input

### **Coherence/complementarity**

To what extent is the ECDC 2010 guidance aligned and complementary to existing documents and interventions?

% of respondents indicating that their national HIV testing policy/guidelines/ programmes align with the ECDC 2010 guidance

Qualitative input on aspects of the guidance in terms of relevance and usefulness.

# Evaluation questions



## Evaluation Qs

## Indicators and qualitative input

### **Effectiveness/impact**

What was the impact of the ECDC 2010 guidance on developing, monitoring and evaluating HIV testing strategies and/or programmes at a national level?

How was the ECDC 2010 guidance used, if at all, by the primary/Broader Target Group?

% of respondents indicating no use of the ECDC 2010 guidance in their work, due to:

- lack of awareness; a national testing policy/strategy was already in place; the release was untimely; it not being aligned with existing national HIV testing policy/strategy; using other guideline documents
- Other

% of respondents indicating use of the ECDC HIV testing guidance document in their work on national testing policy/strategy/ programme in respect of:

- Development; revision; monitoring; evaluation; advocacy

% of respondents indicating that usage of the ECDC 2010 guidance in their work led to changes in national HIV testing policies/strategies/ programmes within the areas of:

- testing strategies: monitoring testing; evaluation of testing; advocacy for testing

% of respondents indicating that their country has produced ECDC 2010 guidance since 2010 and used the ECDC 2010 guidance to do so.

Qualitative input on the possible use of the guidance, factors hindering use, and any possible impact on testing.

# Evaluation questions



Evaluation Question	Indicators and qualitative input
<p><b>EU Added Value</b> Was there any added value of the ECDC guidance for the primary/Broader Target Group? What was, if any, the added value of the ECDC 2010 guidance over similar products at national or international level (e.g. national guidance, WHO guidance)?</p>	<p>% of respondents indicating that the ECDC 2010 guidance has been useful in their work to develop HIV testing policies at the national level.</p> <p>% of respondents indicating that the ECDC 2010 guidance has been or is useful in their work to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• advocate for HIV testing</li><li>• influence policymakers</li><li>• raise awareness</li></ul> <p>% of respondents indicating that the ECDC 2010 guidance is important for improving HIV testing in their country is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• very important</li><li>• important</li><li>• not important</li></ul> <p>Qualitative input on the guidance's EU status provides added value, e.g. whether it is considered important that a guidance exists at EU level.</p>

# Evaluation questions

Evaluation Question	Indicators and qualitative input
<p><b>Usability</b> Was the ECDC 2010 guidance designed to respond to users' needs?</p>	<p>% respondents indicating that the ECDC 2010 guidance was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• in a user friendly format</li><li>• written in accessible/comprehensible language</li><li>• contained sufficient details</li><li>• was brief and easy to read</li><li>• was easily accessible as a report</li></ul> <p>Qualitative input on the usability of the ECDC 2010 guidance, its format and suggestions for any changes in its format.</p>

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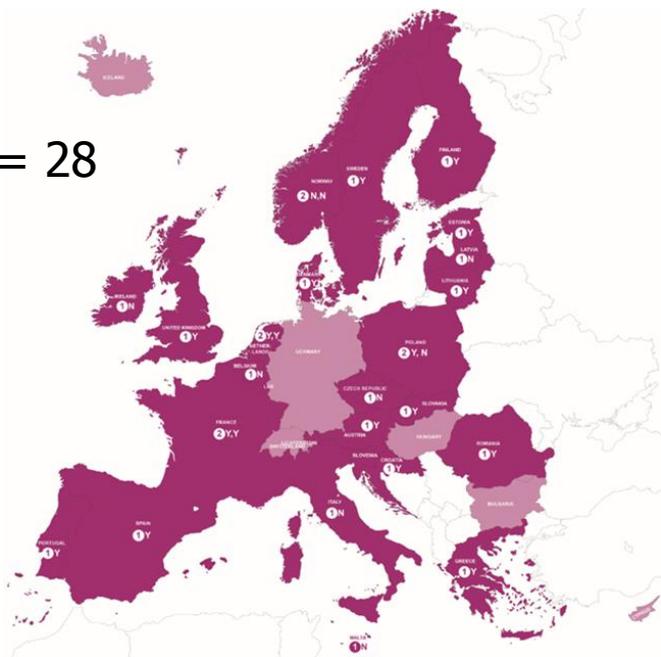
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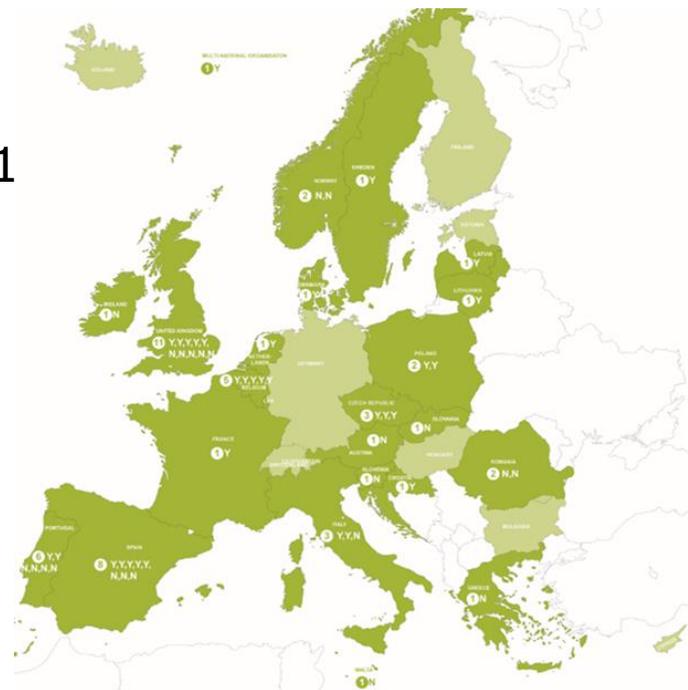
# Survey respondents

- 28 from primary target group, from 23 of 31 EU/EEA countries (MS representation 74%)
- 51 from broader target group, from 18 countries and one international organisation

PTG = 28



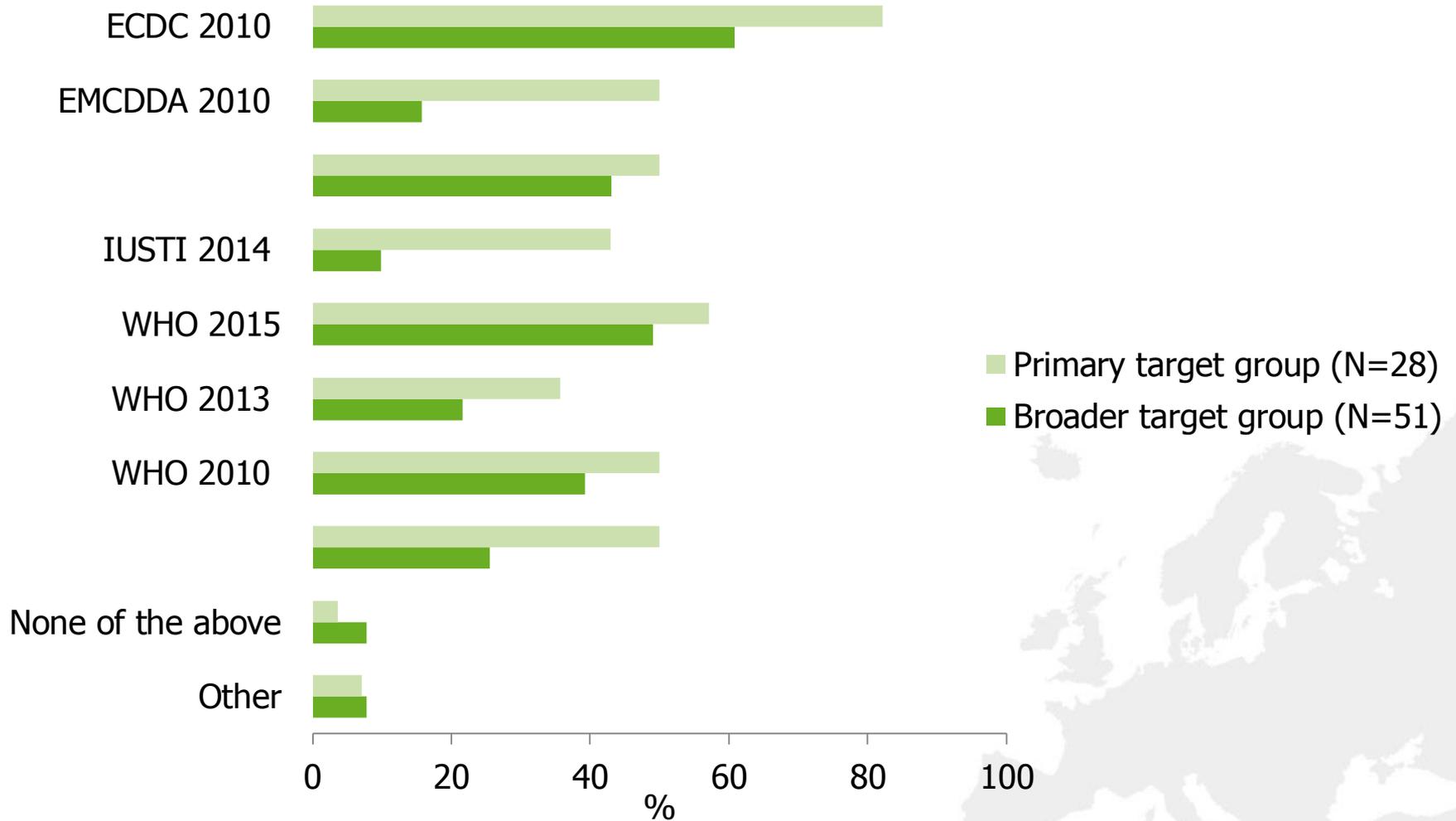
BTG = 51



# Awareness

Level of awareness	Primary Target Group (N=28)	Broader Target Group (N=51)	Total (N=79)
<b>Knowledge of its existence</b>	100% (N =28)	82% (N=42)	89% (N=70)
<b>Have looked at it</b>	36% (N=10/28)	26% (N=11/42)	27% (N=21/70)
<b>Have discussed it in professional settings/networks</b>	29% (N=8/28)	31% ( N=13/42)	30% (N=21/70)
<b>Have used it for work</b>	50% (N=14/28)	36% (N=15/42)	41% (N=29/70)
<b>Have distributed it in national/professional networks</b>	43% (N=12/28)	55% (N=23/42)	50% (N=35/70)
<b>Translated into local language</b>	0% (0=0/28)	5% (N=2/37)**	3% (N=2/65*)

# Relevance



# Coherence/complementarity

<b>Level of alignment (N=23)</b>	<b>N (%)</b>
<b>Closely aligned/somewhat closely aligned</b>	13 (57%)
<b>Slightly aligned</b>	1 (4%)
<b>Not at all aligned</b>	2 (9%)
<b>Do not know</b>	7 (30%)

# Effectiveness/impact

- 43% of primary target group respondents reported having used the ECDC 2010 guidance in the development, monitoring and/or evaluation of their national HIV testing policy/guidelines/programme/strategy.
- 56% of the broader target group respondents reported having used the ECDC 2010 guidance for developing information materials or advocacy activities.
- The majority of both primary and Broader Target Group respondents have observed important changes and some considered the ECDC guidance as having contributed to these.

# EU Added Value

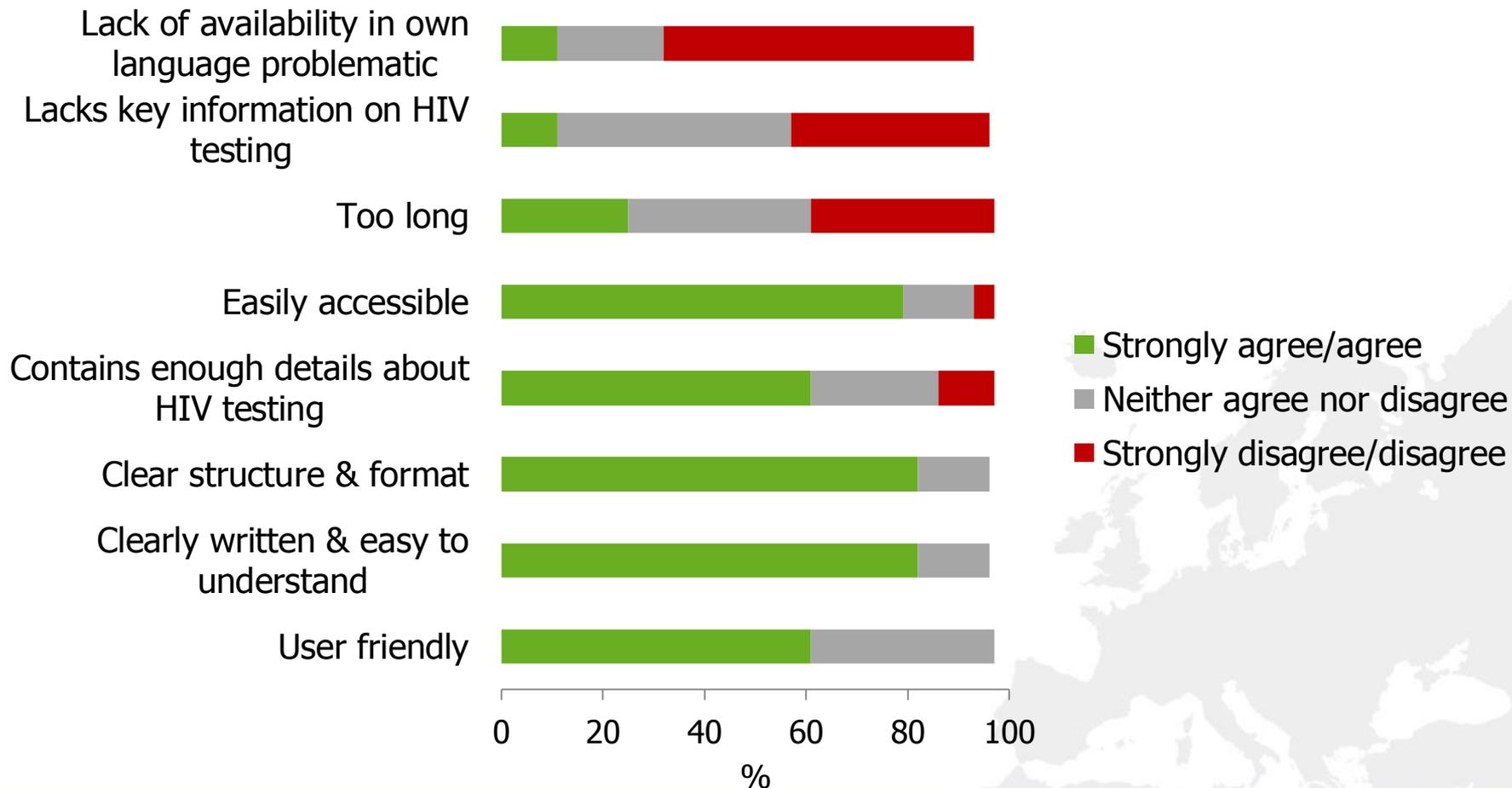
- 82% of primary target group and 90% of broader target group respondents respectively meant that it is very important/important to have an EU-level HIV testing guidance. Especially because/as:

	Primary Target Group (N=25)	Broader Target Group (N=50)	Total (N=75)
<b>It is well accepted as a reference policy document</b>	18 (72%)	26 (52%)	44 (59%)
<b>Fosters change in individual countries in EU/EEA by providing an EU/EEA standard</b>	15 (60%)	26 (52%)	41 (55%)
<b>Saves time/resources by providing up to date review of evidence relevant to the EU/EEA country</b>	15 (60%)	30 (60%)	45 (60%)
<b>Influences the development of national policies in the EU/EEA countries</b>	14 (56%)	35 (70%)	49 (65%)
<b>Provides a benchmark</b>	13 (52%)	26 (52%)	39 (52%)
<b>Provides leverage for advocacy purposes</b>	12 (48%)	25 (50%)	37 (49%)
<b>Other</b>	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	1 (1.3%)

# EU Added Value

“For countries like [country], where access to free of charge, anonymous testing for vulnerable groups is non-existent, it is important to have updated information and guidance in order to put pressure on public institutions and to get results and changes in this field.” [Focus Group participant]

## Primary target group



'The guidance document was useful, but provides very large lines (general lines). It is not specific enough, so therefore difficult to include (in national guidelines)'.

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# Discussion

- Good Member State representation, 23 of 31 EU/EEA countries (Member State representation 74%)
- Quantitative and qualitative data



# Limitations

- Low response rate in broader target group (N=51)
- Selection bias: respondents familiar with the ECDC 2010 guidance more likely to respond to the survey
- Self reported data (not objectively measured)
- Surveys not translated – confusion with terminology. And in some countries more than others.
- Pre-defined questions and response categories – are there topics/issues the Study Group has failed to include?
- Grouping of respondents in Primary Target Group (Member State representatives) and Broader Target Group

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# Conclusions and next step

- Both primary and broader target groups were aware of the ECDC 2010 guidance
- The results demonstrated that it had reached a broader audience than intended
- Many have used it for their work, and it was considered relevant and with good usability
- An important outcome of the evaluation was also the need for more focus on monitoring and evaluation of HIV testing
- ECDC is working on the development of an updated HIV testing guidance.

# Acknowledgements



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ECDC Expert Panel Members: Maria Axelsson, Sweden; Tamas Bereczky, Hungary; Jordi Casabona, Spain; Lella Cosmaro, Italy; Monica Dan, Romania; Silke David, the Netherlands; Nikos Dedes, Greece; Johann Fontaine, Germany; Deniz Gokengin, Turkey; Catherine Issaris, Greece; Cary James, United Kingdom; Lali Khotenashvili, World Health Organization; Irena Klavs, Slovenia; Justyna Kowalska, Poland; Jens Lundgren, Denmark; Kristi Rüütel, Estonia; Anna Zakowicz, the Netherlands.

Nikos Dedes (EATG)

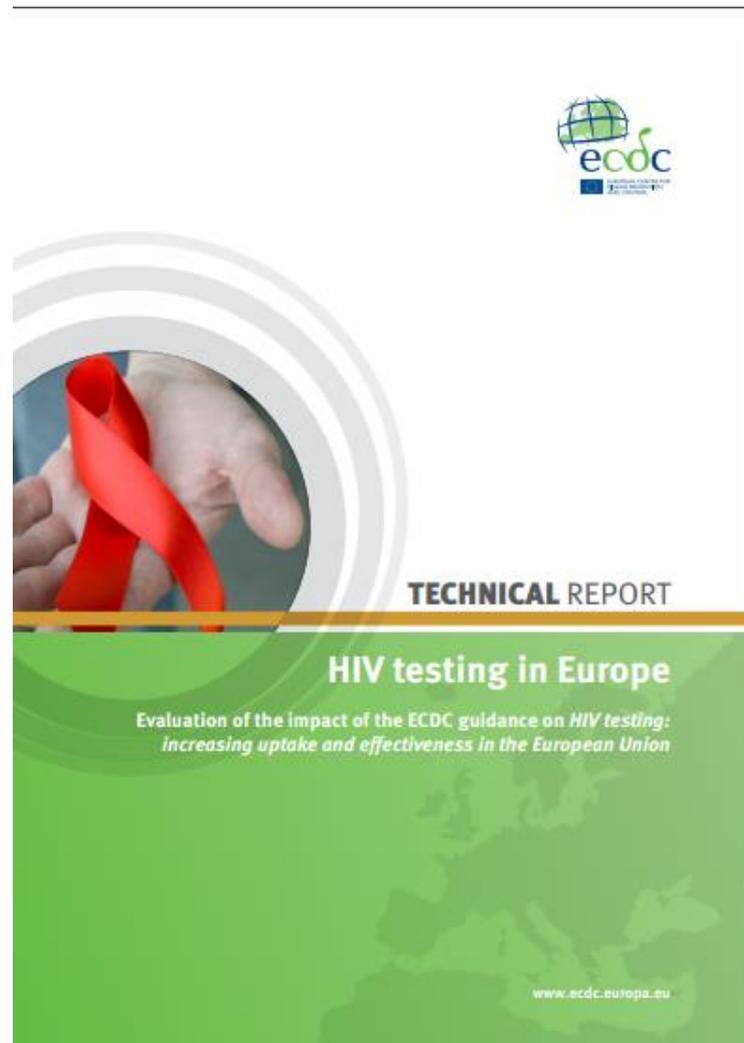
All the contact points in the Member States and EU/EEA professionals for responding to the survey questionnaire

All the Focus Group participants

# The evaluation report

The evaluation report has been published and can be accessed at:

<http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/HIV-testing-guidance-evaluation.pdf>



# Thank you

