



**EuroTEST**

Working together for integrated  
testing and earlier care

*Addressing Hepatitis, HIV, STIs and TB*

# Outcomes of the EuroTEST Initiative

## Annual Report 2022

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## Introduction

The EuroTEST 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 and 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.

In 2013, a concerted effort was made to also prioritise hepatitis and in 2019 the disease scope was further broadened to also address sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and tuberculosis (TB). With this change, EuroTEST reflected parallel shifts in the field to address infectious diseases more broadly and in a less disease specific manner, mainly due to overlaps in modes of disease transmission and affected populations. The initiative's primary focus remains on integrated testing when appropriate and linkage to care for people with HIV, hepatitis B and C, TB and STIs, aiming to utilise integrated strategies to help increase early detection and earlier entry into treatment for better health outcomes and prevention of onward transmission.

Since its initiation, EuroTEST has built a European platform where a wide range of 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.

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, including representatives from the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The SC is led by two co-chairs, one clinical and one community representative.

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

In comparison with the years 2020 and 2021, restrictions on movement and face-to-face meetings related to the global COVID-19 pandemic were lessened in 2022. While some activities were still organised as online-only events, others were convened physically, enabling long overdue face-to-face interaction with key partners, and in general planned activities could be implemented as planned with key partners less heavily occupied with COVID-19 related duties in 2022 as was the case in 2020-2021.

## Project activities, progress and results in 2022

### European Testing Week including European Test Finder

Being one of the EuroTEST flagship projects, the European Testing Week ran for its tenth 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 twice a year in Spring (May) and Autumn (November) to increase access to testing and promote awareness on the benefits of earlier hepatitis and HIV testing. The roughly 700 participants range from civil society organisations to healthcare institutions, government bodies and institutions of higher learning. Each organisation who participates in ETW volunteers their own time to organise local Testing Week activities and create displays of a united effort to increase testing awareness at all organisational levels.

A working group, consisting of experts within HIV and viral hepatitis, provides advice and direction for the initiative. In 2022, two new people joined the working group.

Key ETW activities in 2022 are described below.

#### **1) Impact survey for ETW participants:**

ETW has been running since 2013, with many participants integrating ETW into their yearly planning as a recurring event. After nearly 10 years, the EuroTEST Steering Committee and ETW Working group decided to carry out an assessment of the continued relevance, added value and impact of ETW, to inform strategic discussions about how the initiative should evolve. In Spring 2022, a survey was carried out by disseminating an online questionnaire to everyone who ever participated in the campaign. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate how participants have used and valued the initiative and to explore how the campaign can be improved.

Some of the main findings were:

- The majority of respondents (65%) had participated in ETW for between 5 and 10 years and continue to see benefits of participating in ETW each year, which include creating visibility for their services, providing opportunities for collaborations and for sharing experiences and learning from others.
- Respondents have observed an impact and benefits of ETW being a regional campaign (compared to local or national initiatives) and think that ETW helps boost local and national campaigns.
- Respondents who have used ETW to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of testing and have encouraged people to test, reported that ETW provided more testing opportunities than the rest of the year and have seen an increase in number of tests performed and clients accessing services.
- Respondents who have used ETW to engage in new testing activities have reached new target groups than they normally reach, tried out new and innovative testing approaches, offered testing for more infections and different types of tests than they normally offer.
- Some respondents have used ETW as a platform for advocacy to address policy makers, to promote changes in testing policies and in funding priorities.

- Respondents have also used ETW to provide capacity building such as training staff, volunteers and health professionals on testing-related issues.

The findings confirmed that there continues to be a strong interest in participating in ETW and that ETW creates an impact on awareness about testing and uptake of testing.

## 2) Strategic development of European Testing Week

The results of the survey were presented and discussed at a face-to-face meeting in Frankfurt on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022, where members of both the ETW Working Group and the EuroTEST Steering Committee participated in a workshop about the strategic direction of ETW. As a result of the findings and discussions, it was decided to re-organize the initiative and develop a “minimum model” for the initiative to focus on the aspects which participants and the Working Group value the most and consider to be the most important and effective elements for reaching the campaign’s objectives. This includes increasing and optimizing collaboration with the many relevant networks that are represented in the ETW network, both as members of the Working Group and as participants. ETW constitutes a network of networks, which can ensure a wider reach and bigger impact of the initiative through a snowball effect. These networks which focus on the relevant disease areas and key populations play an important role in disseminating information about ETW to their wider “constituencies”, thereby expanding the reach of the campaign. As part of this, Working Group members will act as ambassadors for ETW within their networks to promote the objectives and messages of the campaign and to encourage participation. Furthermore, involvement of networks in co-creating ETW activities, statements etc. contributes to ensuring relevance of activities and messages, in line with the current challenges and needs. Some of these networks collect relevant data, which can be used for monitoring and evaluating the impact of ETW. An example of this is COBATEST-a network of European testing service providers, which collect data on testing done by the members during different time periods. ETW made a presentation at their annual meeting in November and agreed to further explore opportunities for increased collaboration and data sharing.

**3) The Spring European Testing Week initiative** was held 16-23 May 2022 and focusing on the combined effects of the war that had recently broken out in Ukraine and the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as health emergencies also affecting testing services.

- As usual, the Working Group published a Theme Statement focusing on burning issues related to testing, this time focusing on the need to ensure access to safe testing services and linkage to care for the most marginalised groups including refugees and migrants.
- 3 videos were produced and disseminated with examples from ETW participants in different European countries (Poland, Italy and Spain) of providing testing services to refugees, migrants and other marginalised populations.



4) The November European Testing Week took place 21-28 November 2022.



- The Theme Statement encouraged participants to provide testing as a gateway to a broader package of comprehensive prevention and care services to cater for people’s wider needs.
- The secretariat organized a [live webinar to launch and discuss a new updated consensus definition of late HIV diagnosis](#), intended to avoid misclassification of newly infected individuals with a temporarily low CD4 count as being diagnosed late. The new definition was a result of work done by a EuroTEST working group, who published [an article](#) about the new definition in the journal HIV medicine in November 2022.



- The European Commission endorsed ETW and provided a video statement in support of ETW, emphasizing the importance of ETW and continued focus on testing.

5) Social media activities were expanded and focused on broad dissemination of ETW and related activities.

- So far, ETW has had accounts on Facebook and Twitter. In 2022, a new ETW Instagram account was launched to reach a broader audience and provide a platform for participants to easily share information about their ETW activities. This proved to be a great success and has been used very actively by participants, as evidenced by the number of people reached through the different posts, stories and reels. ETW participants were encouraged

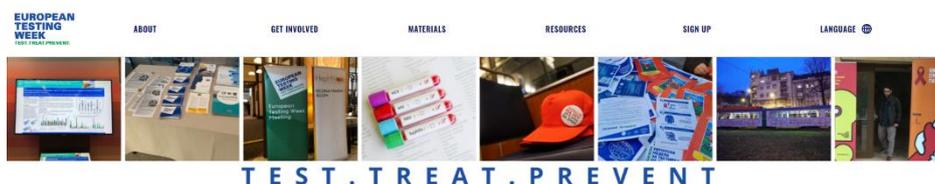
to “take over” the account for a day to showcase their ETW activities and promote their organisation and services. This resulted in “take overs” by a Spanish and a Greek ETW participating organisation.

- ETW also has its own YouTube channels, where ETW videos and webinars are posted and accessible (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmyMeow2Re-Bo8S8f1rfZtg>).



## 6) Launch of a new website for European Testing Week ([www.testingweek.eu](http://www.testingweek.eu))

The European Testing Week (ETW) website has largely remained unchanged since its first launch in 2013 and therefore, as the initiative has continued to evolve and grow, a new and more user-friendly website was developed and launched in 2022. The new website encompasses improved incorporation of different media outputs (e.g. better display of webinars, videos, social media graphics, web banners, etc.). Further, the new website is available in both English, Russian and Ukrainian. With the new website, a new process for signing up as a participant has been introduced, whereby previous participants are encouraged to sign up for each specific campaign that they participate in. Use (download) of campaign materials on the website is monitored for every campaign.



### European Testing Week 2023

European Testing Week is a European campaign that encourages partner organisations—in community, health care and policy institutions—throughout Europe to unite for one week twice a year to increase testing efforts and promote awareness on the benefits of earlier hepatitis and HIV testing. This initiative has progressed since its start in 2013 and has grown to be a widely recognised European event with hundreds of organisations participating every year. 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 volunteers their own time to organise their Testing Week activities and create incredible displays of a united effort to increase testing awareness at all organisational levels.

Now in its eleventh year, the European Testing Week initiative will host the Spring and Autumn ETWs on the following dates:

- Spring ETW: 15-22 May 2023
- Autumn ETW: 20-27 November 2023

The aim of the Spring and Autumn ETWs remains the same: 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.

Are you interested in joining the campaign? Then click the 'Sign up here' below and register your organisation!

[Sign up here to join](#)

## 7) European Test Finder (www.testfinder.info)

In 2021, European Testing Week took over the 'European Test Finder' (ETF), formerly hosted by NAM Aidsmap. ETF is an online tool which allows people to search for the nearest place testing for HIV, viral hepatitis or STIs. The new ETF website and database has been built from scratch and includes updated information about testing sites, and new features and search options. After intense efforts to encourage testing sites to provide and upload updated information about their services on the website, the website was launched on the last day of the November European Testing Week 2021. In 2022, the website was further developed and improved, based on advice and inputs from by the ETW Working Group. When war broke out in Ukraine in February, the secretariat was approached by WHO European region and a collaboration was initiated to utilize the Test Finder platform to also provide searchable information for Ukrainian refugees about treatment services for HIV, hepatitis and TB as well as opioid substitution therapy. Parts of the website were translated to Ukrainian, and the new additions were promoted widely. During November ETW, ETW was heavily promoted by both the secretariat (through videos and posts for social media, in newsletters and ads on dating apps in all European languages), and by ETW participants in connection with their ETW activities to encourage testing. This resulted in a remarkable increase in people searching for testing sites through ETF: during the week preceding ETW, there were 558 visits and 1,480 page views, while website use during the week of ETW surged to 19,517 visits and 39,858 page views. Both ECDC and WHO Regional Office for Europe endorse the Test Finder and link to it from their own websites.

The screenshot shows the European Test Finder website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo, a search bar, and links for 'About us', 'Login', and 'Register'. Below the navigation bar, there is a main content area with a search form and a statistics box. The search form includes a language selection dropdown (set to Ukrainian), a country selection dropdown (set to 'All'), a city input field, and a list of service types with radio buttons. A 'SEARCH' button is at the bottom of the form. The statistics box on the right shows '678 in 44 countries' and includes a call to action to register services. The footer contains contact information for Rigs hospitalet, social media icons, and logos for EuroTEST and European Testing Week.

European Test Finder | testing & treatment for HIV, hepatitis, TB & STIs

Search About us Login Register

Натисніть тут, щоб дізнатися більше про послуги щодо ВІЛ-інфекції, гепатиту, туберкульозу та опіоїдної замісної терапії для людей, які тікають від війни в Україні

Find the nearest place to get tested and treated for infections listed below. More sites are constantly being added.

Select a country ?

All

City (Please type the name in the local language)

City

Type of services (By selecting more than one type of service from the list, your search results will show only sites which match all the services selected)

- HIV testing
- HIV treatment (ART)
- Viral Hepatitis testing
- Viral Hepatitis treatment
- STI testing
- Tuberculosis services
- Opioid substitution treatment (OST)

SEARCH

Number of health facilities included

678 in 44 countries

Please register and include your services in the European Test Finder

We need your help to make sure as many testing and treatment sites as possible are included. If you represent a site offering any of these services in the wider European region, please make sure to register to include your site on this website. For easy instructions, please watch our short video on Youtube: [Instructions' video](#)

Read more

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CHIP, Section 2100  
Blegdamsvej 9, DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark

euotestfinder.rigshospitalet@regionh.dk

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EuroTEST  
Working together for integrated testing and earlier care  
Addressing hepatitis, HIV, STIs and TB

EUROPEAN TESTING WEEK  
TEST.TREAT.PREVENT.  
www.testingweek.eu

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## Face-to-face strategy meetings of the EuroTEST Steering Committee, European Testing Week Working Group and HepHIV 2023 Organizing Committee

On 6-7 September 2022, the EuroTEST Steering Committee, the European Testing Week Working Group and the HepHIV 2023 Conference Organising Committee met in Frankfurt, Germany, for the first face-to-face meeting since 2020.

The lively discussions covered the strategic direction of the EuroTEST initiative for 2023 and beyond, including the scope and focus areas going forward, fundraising strategies and the planning and implementation of current and planned projects.

The ETW WG discussed how to take the European Testing Week campaign forward, focusing on the results from the 2022 special impact survey on how participants use and value the initiative and how the campaign can be improved.

The HepHIV Conference Organising Committee discussed planning of the 13-15 November 2023 HepHIV conference that will take place in Madrid, Spain, focusing mainly on the conference aim and objectives, the scientific programme and abstract categories.



## HepHIV Conference

The 2021 HepHIV conference 'Call to Action' was [published as a short communication in International Journal of STD & AIDS in 2022](#). The call covered eight specific areas for action addressing implications for policy and implementation agendas in the field of earlier and integrated testing for HIV, viral hepatitis, STI and TB.

Planning of the HepHIV 2023 conference, which will take place 15-17 November 2023 in Madrid, Spain, was initiated during 2022. A conference Organizing Committee consisting of 25 members representing HIV, hepatitis and STI clinical and community experts, representatives from pan-European network and organisations and European institutions was established to oversee the conference organisation and prepare the scientific programme. The preliminary programme was

developed, and key speakers identified and invited. The planning also included a site visit to identify a suitable conference venue in Madrid. The aim and objectives for the 2023 Conference are listed in the '2023 workplan' section.



### [EuroTEST assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on testing for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections in the WHO European Region](#)

A comprehensive assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on testing services for HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs in the WHO European Region was conducted in 2020 in collaboration with partners from community, health care and public health institutions. The survey assessed the quantitative and structural impacts on testing in various settings (laboratories, specialist clinics and community-based testing services). It also collected information about factors influencing the observed impact, new measures put in place to mitigate the service disruptions and areas where guidance or support were needed. The main results were published in Eurosurveillance presented at various meetings and conference and additional results published in subsequent papers and abstracts.

In 2021-2022, a shorter follow-up assessment tailored to the stage of the pandemic was conducted in English, Russian and Spanish, documenting the continued impact and how testing services continued to adapt to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 during 2021. Data collection took place between 13 December 2021 and 13 March 2022. The findings were presented at the IAPAC Fast Track Cities conference in Madrid in October 2022, with additional papers forthcoming. While less dramatic than in 2020, reported impact on testing services remained considerable during the first half of 2021 and diminished somewhat during summer/early fall 2021, with community testing sites being most severely affected.

The assessment results have been key in bringing attention to the many identified service gaps related to testing across Europe and helped inform advocacy efforts and next steps in the regional and national testing responses. Some services adapted well to mitigate impact of the pandemic and some changes have now been embedded into routine practice.

### [Working groups to review the definitions of HIV and viral hepatitis late diagnosis](#)

**HIV late diagnosis:** Late diagnosis and linkage to care of people with HIV remains a key challenge in the response to the epidemic in Europe and elsewhere. The consensus definition of HIV late presentation from 2010 has been widely adopted, including within the joint ECDC/WHO European level HIV surveillance activities where data on late presentation are being collected from all countries in the WHO European Region and published on an annual basis. However, as testing for

HIV has expanded and frequency has increased in some populations and regions in recent years, particularly in relation to the roll out of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) programmes, an increasing number of people are being diagnosed with HIV during seroconversion illness when their CD4 count may be temporary low (known as the 'seroconversion effect'). Using the existing consensus definition of HIV late presentation (developed by a working group under 'HIV in Europe' in 2010), these individuals will be incorrectly assigned as being diagnosed late. Therefore, a EuroTEST working group, with the support of ECDC and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, revised the definition and reviewed the feasibility of incorporating data on markers of recent infection to enable better distinction between people diagnosed with HIV late and people recently acquiring HIV, facilitating re-categorising people recently infected as 'not late'. The revised definition was [published in HIV Medicine](#) in a 2022 World AIDS Day Special Issue focusing on HIV late diagnosis and presented and discussed at a [live webinar](#) hosted by EuroTEST on 21 November 2023 in connection with European Testing Week.

**Chronic viral hepatitis late diagnosis:** An expert group under EuroTEST (formerly HIV in Europe) in 2017 developed a consensus definition of late presentation with chronic viral hepatitis to help improve epidemiological understanding of viral hepatitis. This definition is however not able to adequately reflect the fact that hepatologists are working with a mixed population consisting of both patients who are first time diagnosed as well as patients who have lived with HCV for many years and present for care with advanced decompensated cirrhosis. To facilitate generation of valid data for assessing late presentation with chronic viral hepatitis, a EuroTEST working group has updated the definition to reflect this difference in patients. Further work is planned for 2023 to consolidate, publish and disseminate the revised definition and promote its use among relevant expert groups, including research groups.

### [Working group to support roll-out of HIV and HCV self-testing](#)

A EuroTEST working group was established in 2021 to continue the work of the INTEGRATE Joint Action and see how lessons learned from implementation of existing HIV self-testing activities could be used in supporting the roll-out of self-testing for hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted infections. Due to the delay in the expected roll out of hepatitis C self-tests across Europe and due to increased workloads of the working group members related to the mpox outbreak, the group only convened once to initiate the work.

EuroTEST has already collaborated as a partner on the Co-LEAD project on HIV and HCV self-testing led by EATG and supported by FIND (the global alliance for diagnostics). That project mapped policies, regulations and practical factors enabling and/or hindering community level access to RDTs for self-testing in Europe and Central Asia (see <https://www.eatg.org/projects/co-lead/>).

### Collaboration with diagnostic companies

As part of the November 2022 European Testing Week Cepheid asked the secretariat to share an open call to apply to borrow free GeneXpert testing systems during ETW for 12 selected ETW partners across Europe. Cepheid provided free training and guidance for using the machines to providers as well as up to 100 tests for each participant. Especially ETW organisations with mobile outreach were among the testing providers who benefitted from this point-of-care service.



### Country support for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, STIs and viral hepatitis in the EU/EEA countries.

As part of an ECDC country support framework contract, EuroTEST in collaboration with the European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS) and Centre for Online and Blended Learning (COBL) at the University of Copenhagen have conducted four 2-day online workshops and three webinars.

The aim of the two-day online workshops was to support the implementation of the ECDC 'HIV and hepatitis testing guidance' as well as the 'STI testing standards in an integrated manner in EU/EEA countries. 65 representatives from 17 countries European countries participated in the workshops. The workshop programme was a mix of presentations providing overviews of the ECDC recommendations, presentations of good practice examples of how integrated testing has been implemented in a variety of settings interspersed with time for plenary and breakout discussions reflecting on participants own national testing policy/guidance/recommendations. As an outcome of the workshop the participants developed a draft roadmap on the steps needed to improve testing guidance and standards implementation in their own country.

The overall aim of the three online webinars organised by EuroTEST, EACS and ECDC was to strengthen EU/EEA countries' capacities and capabilities to address the three different topics. For the HIV-focused webinar the aim was to ensure that countries in the EU/EEA provide standardised HIV prevention, treatment and care for persons fleeing from Ukraine. For the hepatitis-focused webinar the aim was to strengthen countries' capacities and capabilities to prevent and control viral hepatitis among migrant populations. For the STI-focused webinar the aim was to increase countries' knowledge and awareness of current and upcoming POCT technologies for STIs, and the contexts they can be used in. The webinars lasted between 90-120 minutes and had between 45 and 133 participants. The webinars are available at the ECDC online virtual academy (EVA) <https://eva.ecdc.europa.eu/course/view.php?id=639>).

## Policy and advocacy activities

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

In 2022, EATG in collaboration with EuroTEST disseminated the Co-LEAD research report, published a policy and practices brief and a summary from the December 2021 community workshop that discussed rapid diagnostic tests, regulatory issues and good practices.

A poster was presented at the European Meeting on HIV and HCV organised by Virology Education. The findings of the research and recommendations were discussed with a self-test company at a European Community Advisory Board organised by EATG and further shared with stakeholders at World AIDS Conference in July Montreal.

In February, EuroTEST via its advocacy secretariat provided input to the WHO Regional Office for Europe consultation in preparation for its European Action Plans. It welcomed the adoption of the WHO/Europe actions adopted in October and which provide a roadmap for its member states.

From early March to August, access to testing and linkage to care for HIV, HCV and TB for people displaced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine were regularly discussed during, first weekly then bi-weekly, Civil Society Forum for Ukraine meetings. These were facilitated by the European AIDS Treatment as policy secretariat and brought together Ukrainian partners, organisations providing services to refugees in countries neighbouring Ukraine different services of the European Commission, EMCDDA, ECDC and WHO Europe.

Sustained advocacy of EuroTEST and partners for EU health funding to address testing and linkage to care for HIV, TB, viral hepatitis for key populations bore fruits as the European Commission selected three three-year projects promoting decentralised testing and linkage to care within the EU. Several EuroTEST members will be involved in the projects, which will also include stakeholder engagement and policy advocacy beyond actual implementation of integrated testing services.

Lastly, EuroTEST was represented and gave presentations at multiple European meetings and conferences in 2022, including: WHO/Europe Regional consultation on developing the 2022–2030 action plans for the elimination of HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs in the WHO European Region (Feb 2022); WHO/Europe & ECDC HIV network meeting on humanitarian crisis (March 2022); DGSante Supporting Ukraine and Neighbouring Countries Webinar (March 2022); various meetings of the EU HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and tuberculosis Civil Society Forum (e.g. March 2022 meeting on support to Ukraine); EATG ECAB Orasure HIV and HCT self-testing meeting (April 2022); 6th Euroguidelines in Central and Eastern Europe (ECEE) Conference (Sept 2022); IAPAC Fast Track Cities Conference (Oct 2022); HIV Glasgow (Oct 2022); EACS Standards of Care meeting (Brussels Oct 2022); ECDC Dublin Declaration Advisory Group meeting (Nov 2022); Joint WHO-ECDC HIV network meeting/World AIDS Day 2022 Webinar (Nov 2022).

## Workplan 2023-2024

The proposed activities and plans of the EuroTEST initiative for 2023-2024 are described below.

### **Pilot implementation of the revised HIV late diagnosis definition**

The 2011 consensus definition of HIV late presentation was updated and published by a EuroTEST working group in December 2022 – now including markers of recent infection, enabling better distinction between people diagnosed late and people who acquired HIV recently and were misclassified as late due to an interim low CD4 cell count.

The working group plans to implement a multi-country pilot to test implementation of the definition and quantify a ‘recent infection correction factor’ for people diagnosed with low CD4 cell count, focusing particularly on the MSM population. This pilot will provide country specific estimates of a correction factor to be applied to current surveillance data on late diagnosis to re-categorise people who are recently infected as ‘not late’.

Planned outputs:

- Preliminary data for quantifying a ‘seroconversion effect’ correction factor for people diagnosed late in Europe, generated through a multi-country implementation pilot study.

### **Revise and disseminate viral hepatitis late presentation definition**

The working group on viral hepatitis late presentation has updated the 2017 consensus definition to reflect the difference between patients diagnosed at a late stage of infection and patients who have lived with diagnosed viral hepatitis for many years but are presenting late for care, with advanced decompensated cirrhosis.

Further work is needed to consolidate, publish and disseminate the revised definition and promote its use among relevant expert groups, including research groups.

Planned outputs for 2023 are:

- Updated definition of chronic hepatitis late presentation, published in a relevant journal
- Dissemination and implementation of the revised definition through educational activities (webinars, workshops etc.) aimed at sharing existing and/or facilitating further research.

### **Mapping of testing consent guidance and practice across Europe**

Requirements for consent for blood borne virus testing vary across European countries – and differ for various infections. Explicit informed consent accompanied by pre- and post-test counselling is recommended for HIV testing in many countries. In others, a written consent is required.

Complicated HIV testing consent procedures are a barrier for testing implementation in many settings, particularly in non-specialist healthcare settings. However, a comprehensive overview of European consent requirements is lacking.

EuroTEST proposes to undertake a mapping of HIV and viral hepatitis testing consent requirements and practice in the European countries. The mapping will serve as input for developing a ‘standard of care’ testing consent form to be recommended for implementation in the European countries. Different recommendations across settings may be applicable, for example

consideration of implied consent for routine blood testing in emergency department settings. A broad European level consultation with relevant stakeholders is foreseen as part of the process of forming recommended consent standards.

Subsequent implementation of the recommended consent procedure will require multidisciplinary discussions at the national level and will not be covered as part of this activity. However, suggested next steps regarding implementation at country level considering the findings, will be included in the final paper.

Planned outputs:

- A published mapping of HIV and viral hepatitis testing consent requirements in the WHO European Region
- A recommended 'standard of care' testing consent procedure for blood borne virus testing, with possible variation across settings.

### **Mapping of 2018 ECDC testing guidance policy uptake**

In 2018, ECDC published the 'Public health guidance on HIV, hepatitis B and C testing in the EU/EEA – an integrated approach' to support Member States in their efforts to improve case detection and uptake of testing programmes as part of the global effort to eliminate viral hepatitis and HIV as public health threats by 2030. Alongside scientific advice on who to test and where to test, the guidance strongly advocated for the development of integrated national testing strategies or programme for HBV, HCV and HIV based on six core principles. However, a European level overview of the extent to which this technical guidance has been translated into policy in the European countries is lacking.

EuroTEST is planning to map policy uptake of the 2018 ECDC integrated testing guidance and assess implementation of key recommendations. The mapping will be based on a desk review of national testing guidelines supplemented with data from the ECDC annual Dublin Declaration monitoring process and outputs from country support workshops conducted in collaboration with ECDC and EACS on the status of ECDC testing guidance implementation in the EU/EEA countries.

Planned outputs:

- Mapping of the extent to which countries have adopted key policy recommendations from the 2018 ECDC integrated testing guidance, including an overview of countries with integrated HBV, HCV and HIV testing policy recommendations available.

### **Expand on knowledge from HIV self-testing implementation**

The EuroTEST working group, established in 2021, will explore how lessons learned from INTEGRATE and from implementation of existing HIV self-testing activities can be used to support roll-out of self-testing for hepatitis C and/or STIs. The initial plans were to identify good practice HIV self-testing/self-sampling case studies and initiate development of a "lessons-learned" catalogue to guide implementation of HCV/STI ST/SS initiatives in Europe, focusing for example on how to tackle pricing, access, referral, linkage to care, remote counselling etc. The group also

plans to liaise with EATG and other European self-testing projects, seeking to identify synergies and guide final agreement on outputs that will complement ongoing work.

### **European Testing Week**

The Spring ETW will take place 15-22 May and will kicked off with a launch event organised jointly by EuroTEST, European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG, which acts as the policy secretariat for EuroTEST) and European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS). The event will take place at the European Parliament, to allow participation of MEPs, who will be sensitized about the importance of prioritizing HIV and viral hepatitis as well as the importance and impact of ETW in terms of closing the existing gaps in testing. Media will also be invited to cover the event to increase public awareness about testing and ETW.

The Autumn ETW (20-27 November) will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ETW. This will be an opportunity to showcase what has been achieved through the campaign during that period but also to raise awareness about the continued need for ETW. In connection with the HepHIV conference in Madrid in November, an event will organized to mark the anniversary of ETW.

### **European Test Finder (under European Testing Week)**

With more and more testing sites registering on the ETF website, more emphasis will be on promotion to end users of the website, e.g. through dating apps, social media etc. Also, we will continue to identify and contact testing sites and encourage registration, as well as ensuring that currently registered sites review and update the information about their services.

### **Collaboration with diagnostic kit companies**

As a continuation of the site meeting held at HepHIV2021 by the policy secretariat EATG with community testing services providers, partners and diagnostics companies on testing technologies for use in community settings, EuroTEST will continue to collaborate with diagnostic kit companies, including Cepheid, OraSure, InTec and Owen Mumford, among others. Plans for 2023 include planning another diagnostic side meeting at the HepHIV 2023 in Madrid. Also, ETW will continue to reach out to other diagnostic kit companies with offers to collaborate on ETW activities. These activities will help community settings improve synergies with diagnostic manufacturers, increase access to testing and awareness of testing, especially for key populations through the partnerships with the social networking apps.

### **HepHIV 2023**

The HepHIV 2023 will be held in Madrid, Spain on 13-15 November 2023. Spain will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the second half of 2023 and – as has been the case with previous conferences – the EuroTEST secretariat works toward placing the conference under the auspices of the Spanish EU Presidency. Local Co-chairs will be Julia Del Amo, Director of the HIV, STIs, viral hepatitis and tuberculosis Control Division, Ministry of Health, Spain; Arkaitz Imaz, representative from the Spanish Society of Infectious Diseases (SEIMC); and Bellvitge Hospital, Barcelona and Alejandro Bertó Moran representative from National NGO/patient representative. Coordinator of ADAHARA and founder Seville Check Point.

The conference will bring together stakeholders from all levels of the health system from community organisation to health care providers with the fields of HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STIs to exchange knowledge and experiences. There will be a special focus on integrated testing strategies, to discuss challenges and solutions, especially in relation to undiagnosed cases, testing and linkage to care, stigma and reaching mobile populations and migrants. The conference also aims to inspire political discussions, provide opportunities for multi-stakeholder dialogue, and increase knowledge of the public health concerns associated with these epidemics.

The main objectives of the HepHIV 2023 Conference are to:

- Provide an overview of progress in prevention, testing and linkage to care for HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs and TB and integrated approaches by discussing current gaps in implementation and sharing models of good practice to address identified barriers.
- Provide an overview of HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs and TB-related operational research, highlighting both programmatic and implementation challenges and exploration and strategies to overcome these challenges.
- Discuss innovative initiatives/strategies and technologies for prevention, earlier testing and care for the different infections for key population, in particular mobile populations and migrants.
- Discuss the impact of stigma and strategies to mitigate it on testing services and link to care procedures for HIV, viral hepatitis, STIs and TB

Experiences from the COVID-19 pandemic and the virtual HepHIV 2021 conference have been taken into consideration in the planning and therefore the 2023 conference will combine on-site participation with online streaming of sessions to be made available on-demand afterwards. This will allow for participation from a wider range of regions and countries, including settings where conference participants may not otherwise have been able to pay for the travel and conference fee.

### **Country support for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, STIs and viral hepatitis in the EU/EEA countries**

Under the ECDC Country Support framework contract EuroTEST will in the first 6 month of 2023 in collaboration with EACS and COBL design, develop and implement the following activities for the ECDC thematic network members and relevant national stakeholders:

- One webinar (60-90 min) on co-infection/indicator guided testing awareness
- One 1-day online training (8 hrs) on implementing the operational guidance on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- One 1-day online training (8 hrs) on implementing the guidance on antenatal screening for HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis
- One 2-day face-to-face workshop on increasing the use of surveillance and monitoring data (2 will follow in next contract)
- One webinar (60-90 min) on stigma awareness

EuroTEST steering committee members and relevant experts will be involved in the development of the activities where relevant. The specific contract for the second half of 2023 has at the time of this report not been shared by ECDC, but it is expected that the request will entail 4-5 similar activities.

### **European HIV Standards of Care in the EU/EEA countries**

As a related activity CHIP has in in collaboration with the European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS) secured a four-year framework contract from ECDC on development of European HIV Standards of Care. A team of scientific experts will as part of the first specific contract covering 2023 develop 2 draft standard of care modules (topics to be decided), develop the online audit tool and facilitate a workshop in connection with the EACS conference in October 2023.

## List of EuroTEST-related publications and other media outputs in 2022

### Publications

1. Stengaard AR, Raben D, Leite RB, Seyler T, Lazarus JV, Lambert J, Collins B, Attawell K, Raahauge A, Rockstroh JK, Simões D; for the 2021 HepHIV Conference Organising Committee and the EuroTEST Steering Committee. **A call to action to reclaim focus on testing and early treatment for HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections and tuberculosis.** Int J STD AIDS. 2022 Sep;33(10):943-948. Epub 2022 Jul 15. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1177/09564624221107464>.
2. Jordans CCE, Vasylyev M, Rae C, Jakobsen ML, Vassilenko A, Dauby N, Grevsen AL, Jakobsen SF, Raahauge A, Champenois K, Papot E, Malin JJ, Boender TS, Behrens GMN, Gruell H, Neumann A, Spinner CD, Valbert F, Akinosoglou K, Kostaki EG, Nozza S, Giacomelli A, Lapadula G, Mazzitelli M, Torti C, Matulionyte R, Matulyte E, Van Welzen BJ, Hensley KS, Thompson M, Ankiersztejn-Bartczak M, Skrzat-Klapaczyńska A, Săndulescu O, Streinu-Cercel A, Streinu-Cercel A, Miron VD, Pokrovskaya A, Hachfeld A, Dorokhina A, Sukach M, Lord E, Sullivan AK, Rokx C; Guidelines Review Group for the projects: Optimising testing and linkage to care for HIV across Europe (OptTEST by HiE) and the Joint Action on integrating prevention, testing and linkage to care strategies across HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STIs in Europe (INTEGRATE). **National medical specialty guidelines of HIV indicator conditions in Europe lack adequate HIV testing recommendations: a systematic guideline review.** Euro Surveill. 2022 Dec;27(48). Available from: <https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2022.27.48.2200338>.
3. Croxford S, Stengaard AR, Brännström J, Combs L, Dedes N, Girardi E, Grabar S, Kirk O, Kuchukhidze G, Lazarus JV, Noori T, Pharris A, Raben D, Rockstroh JK, Simões D, Sullivan AK, Van Beckhoven D, Delpech VC, for the EuroTEST HIV Late Diagnosis Definition Working Group. **Late diagnosis of HIV: An updated consensus definition.** HIV Med. 2022 Dec;23(11):1202-1208. Epub 2022 Nov 8. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/hiv.13425>.

### Presentations/Posters

1. Stengaard A, Daniel Simões, Agusti C, Bagyinszky F, Bluemel B, Buti M, Casabona J, Delpech V, Duffell E, Fernandez Lopez L, James C, Kowalska JD, Krasidis C, Kuchukhidze G, Mardh O, Mozalevskis A, Noori T, Pharris A, Rockstroh JK, Rokx C, Rützel K, Seguy N, Shelevakho O, Sullivan AK, Tivoschi L, Unemo M, von Lingen A, Vovc E, Winter A, Raben D, for the EuroTEST COVID 19 impact assessment consortium of partners and the EuroTEST Steering Committee. **Impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on testing services for HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs in the WHO European Region, 2021.** Fast Track Cities conference. Sevilla, Spain, 11-13 October 2022.
2. L. Combs, C.B. Kahama, B. Collins, D. Simões, J.K. Rockstroh, D. Raben, on behalf of the EuroTEST Steering Committee and European Testing Week Working Group. **Using a regional awareness campaign to increase testing coverage and awareness: Results**

from a **European Testing Week survey**. Fast Track Cities conference. Sevilla, Spain, 11-13 October 2022.

3. Collins B, Kahama CB, on behalf of the European Testing Week Working Group. **European Testing Week**. COBATEST Network Annual Meeting, Barcelona, Spain, 15 November 2022.

## **Webinars, videos and other media outputs**

### Webinars

1. EuroTEST and ETW. Updated definition of HIV late diagnosis. 21 Nov 2022. Available from: <https://www.testingweek.eu/resources/webinars-videos/etw-2022-updated-definition-of-hiv-late-diagnosis/>

### Videos

1. European Testing Week. SETW 2022. Experiences from Italy of providing stigma-free HIV & HCV care to people who use drugs. Available from: <https://www.testingweek.eu/resources/webinars-videos/setw2022-experiences-from-italy/>
2. European Testing Week. SETW 2022. Experiences from Poland on ensuring access to testing and treatment for Ukrainian refugees. Available from: <https://www.testingweek.eu/resources/webinars-videos/setw2022-experiences-from-poland/>
3. European Testing Week. SETW 2022. Experiences from Spain on ensuring access to testing and treatment for migrants & refugees. Available from: <https://www.testingweek.eu/resources/webinars-videos/setw2022-experiences-from-spain/>
4. European Test Finder. It's time to get tested! Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/7Zifuqut9r>
5. European Testing Week. What is European Testing Week? Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/kbWfLaXXfiQ>

### Other media

1. Statements from the European Testing Week Working group regarding testing during the COVID-19 pandemic: [May 2022](#) and [November 2022](#).
2. See other media outputs on the European Testing Week [YouTube channel](#), [Facebook page](#), [Instagram page](#), and [Twitter page](#).

## **ECDC country support activities, jointly with EACS**

1. Online workshops: Implementing ECDC HIV, hepatitis B and C testing guidance, as well as STI testing standards in the EU/EEA. 25-26 Aug, 21-22 Sep, 27-28 Sep, 5-6 Oct. More information at: <https://eva.ecdc.europa.eu/course/view.php?id=639>
2. Webinar: Key considerations on the continuum of HIV care for refugees from Ukraine. May 2022. More information at: <https://eva.ecdc.europa.eu/course/view.php?id=639>
3. Webinar: Testing and care of hepatitis B and C among migrant populations in the EU/EEA. 18 October 2022. More information at: <https://eva.ecdc.europa.eu/course/view.php?id=721>
4. Webinar: Current and upcoming point-of-care testing technologies and how they can impact sexual health, particularly for key populations. 28 October 2022. More information at: <https://eva.ecdc.europa.eu/course/view.php?id=661>

## Annex 1. Overview of ongoing and planned activities

Project	Description	Expected Outcome	Period
<b>Secretariat coordination, communication/dissemination, advocacy, collaboration</b>			
Secretariat coordination of all ongoing projects	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 2022 and 2023, online and face-to-face meetings, including EuroTEST SC meetings, HepHIV conference Organizing Committee meetings (in 2023) and ETW Working Group meetings. These outcomes will summarise and 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).	2023-24
	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).	2023-24

Project	Description	Expected Outcome	Period
	EuroTEST's Policy Secretariat coordinates the advocacy tasks to foster renewed political commitment at national and European levels to support continued progress toward the UNAIDS and SDG targets for HIV and other infectious diseases. The Policy Secretariat engages and participates in all relevant EU-level meetings.	Representation at relevant meetings and conferences, including the EU-level meetings.	2023-24
<b>Ongoing projects</b>			
Expand on knowledge from HIV self-testing implementation	Working group to support roll-out of self-testing beyond HIV, including HCV and STIs. Work will be based on lessons learned from INTEGRATE, implementation of existing HIV self-testing activities and work of other European projects.	The preliminary outcomes are identification of good practice HIV self-testing/self-sampling case studies and development of a "lessons-learned" catalogue to guide implementation of HCV/STI ST/SS initiatives in Europe. The final outcomes will be consolidated following dialogue with other European level self-testing projects, seeking to identify synergies with ongoing work.	2023-24
COVID-19 impact assessment follow-up	Two clean datasets are available (2020 and 2021). Key data and findings have been published in a number of papers and abstracts but additional data, notably from 2021, are yet unpublished or only published as conference abstracts/presentations.	Additional publication in a peer-reviewed journal.	2023
Publish and disseminate the revised definition of chronic viral	A EuroTEST working group has updated the 2017 consensus definition to reflect the difference between patients diagnosed at a late stage of infection and patients who lived with diagnosed viral hepatitis for many years	Publication of the revised definition a relevant journal.  Dissemination and implementation of the revised definition through educational activities	2023-24

Project	Description	Expected Outcome	Period
hepatitis late presentation	but are presenting late for care, with advanced decompensated cirrhosis.	(webinars, workshops etc.) aimed at sharing existing and/or facilitating further research.	
Support implementation of the updated HIV late diagnosis definition	A working group revised and published the 2011 consensus definition in 2022, enabling distinction between people diagnosed with low CD4 due to late diagnosis from those with recent infection. The WG plans to implement a multi-country pilot to test implementation of the definition and quantify a 'recent infection correction factor' and re-categorise people diagnosed with low CD4 cell count due to recent infection as 'not late'.	Preliminary data for quantifying a 'seroconversion effect' correction factor for people diagnosed late, generated through a multi-country implementation pilot study.	2023-2024
ECDC Country Support	Management and coordination of the design, development, implementation of training activities and reporting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Webinar on co-infection/indicator condition guided testing awareness</li> <li>• One 1-day online training on implementing the operational guidance on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)</li> <li>• One 1-day online training on implementing the guidance on antenatal screening for HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis</li> <li>• One 2-day face-to-face workshop on increasing the use of surveillance and monitoring data</li> <li>• One Webinar on stigma awareness</li> </ul>	Feb-Aug 2023
European Testing Week	Management of biannual ETW campaigns (May and November) including May ETW launch event, coordination of Working Group, stakeholders, partners, endorsers and	SETW (15-26 May) and Autumn (20-27 November); May launch event, WG meeting; upkeep of the ETW materials (development of new logos, templates); development of online	2023-24

Project	Description	Expected Outcome	Period
	sponsors; communication regarding project updates.  Further strengthening of newly initiated collaboration with International Testing Week (ITW)	materials, webinars and other events evaluation reports; submitted manuscript to scientific journal. Increased visibility of ETW through launch and closing events and ongoing communication efforts.	
European Test Finder	Further promotion of European Test Finder to end users, e.g. through dating apps, social media etc.; continued efforts to encourage more testing sites to register; review and update of information for currently registered sites.	Updated European Test Finder with 500+ registered testing sites.	
HepHIV Conference	Preparation of conference, fundraising, coordination of organising committee, final program, abstract process, sponsors, invitations and logistical planning of the event	Conference (13-15 November 2023), final programme, posters and abstracts, side meetings, sponsor booths, social events etc.	2023
Collaboration with diagnostic kit companies	Continued dialogue and collaboration with diagnostic kit companies to improve testing technology and availability in community settings; support pilot activities of POC in community settings.	Diagnostic side meeting and potential diagnostic sponsor booths at HepHIV 2023 Conference. Continued collaboration with diagnostic kit companies, jointly with EATG.  Increased access to affordable diagnostic kits to support ETW testing activities.	2023-2024
Development of European HIV Standards of Care	CHIP in collaboration with EACS will support ECDC on development of European HIV Standards of Care through a four-year framework contract.	For 2023, a team of scientific experts will develop 2 draft standard of care modules (topics to be decided), develop an online audit tool and facilitate a workshop in connection with the EACS conference in October 2023.	2023

## Annex 2. Financial statement and EuroTEST Steering Committee

### Financial statement

The EuroTEST initiative has received funding and grants from Gilead Sciences, ViiV Healthcare, Merck/MSD, Cepheid and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

The HepHIV 2023 Conference has applied for sponsorship grants for this purpose via the EuroTEST Initiative from Gilead Sciences, MSD/Merck and ViiV Healthcare.

### EuroTEST Steering Committee

Ann K. Sullivan, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, United Kingdom; Ben Collins, European Testing Week working group chair, ReShape/International HIV Partnerships, United Kingdom; Brian Gazzard, Imperial College, School of Medicine, HIV Research Director, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, United Kingdom; Cary James, World Hepatitis Alliance, United Kingdom; Daniel Simões, Coalition PLUS, Portugal (Chair); Daniela Rojas Castro, Coalition PLUS, France; Ferenc Bagyinszky, AIDS Action Europe, Germany; Francesco Negro, European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), Switzerland; Igor Karpov, Department of Infectious Disease, Belarus State Medical University, Belarus; Irith De Baetselier, Antwerp Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium; Jack S. Lambert, University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland; Jeffrey V. Lazarus, ISGlobal, Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Hospital Clínic - University of Barcelona, Spain; Jens D. Lundgren, Rigshospitalet, CHIP (Centre of Excellence for Health, Immunity and Infections), University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Johanna Brännström, Department of Infectious Diseases, South Hospital & Institute of Medicine, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden; Jordi Casabona, Center for HIV/STI Epidemiological Studies of Catalonia (CEEISCAT), Spain; Jürgen Rockstroh, Department of Medicine I, University Hospital Bonn, Germany (Chair); Kira Grazava, TB Coalition Europe, Ukraine; Lella Cosmaro, Fondazione LILA Milan, Italy; Liudmyla Maistat, Medicines Patent Pool, Switzerland; Liver Patients International (name TBC); Magnus Unemo, WHO Collaborating Centre for Gonorrhoea and Other STIs, National Reference Laboratory for STIs, Örebro University Hospital, Sweden; Mark Vermeulen, Aidsfonds – Soa Aids Nederland, Netherlands; Mojca Matičič, University Medical Centre Ljubljana, Slovenia; Nikos Dedes, European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) & Positive Voice, Greece; Nino Tsereteli, Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health – Tanadgoma, Georgia; Rajul Patel, Department of Genitourinary Medicine, Southampton University Hospitals & International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI), United Kingdom; Tom Platteau, HIV/STI clinic of the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium; Valerie Delpech, New South Wales Health, Sydney, Australia; Yazdan Yazdanpanah, Director, ANRS Maladies Infectieuses Emergentes, France. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) (Teymur Noori, Erika Duffell); European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMDCCA) (Thomas Seyler); World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (Nicole Seguy).

### **European Testing Week Working Group members**

Anna Zakowicz, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Ann-Isabelle Von Lingen, European AIDS Treatment Group, Brussels, Belgium; Ann Piercy, GOSHH, Ireland; Ben Collins, ReShape/ International HIV Partnerships, London, United Kingdom (Chair); Cary James, World Hepatitis Alliance, London, United Kingdom; Daniel Simões, EPIUnit - Institute of Public Health of the University of Porto/Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamentos, Portugal/Coalition Plus, France; Igor Gordon, Eurasian Harm Reduction Association, Latvia; Jack Lambert, University College Dublin, Ireland; Janko Belin, AREAL TRIBE, Slovenia; Jason Farrell, Correlation-European Harm Reduction Network/Choices Support Centre, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Jonas Demant, User's Academy, Denmark; Jorge Garrido, Apoyo Positivo, Spain; Josip Begovac, European AIDS Clinical Society, Zagreb, Croatia; Jules James, European Sex Workers Rights Alliance (ESWA), Belgium; Laura Fernandez-Lopez, Center for HIV/STI Epidemiological Studies of Catalonia (CEEISCAT) and CIBER Epidemiología y Salud Pública (CIBERESP), Spain; Luca Stevansson, European Sex Workers Rights Alliance (ESWA), Belgium; Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak, European AIDS Treatment Group, Belgium; Manuel Maffeo, LILA Milano, Italy; Marine Gogia, Georgian Harm Reduction Network, Tbilisi, Georgia; Milan Mishkovikj, European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA) & Hepar Centar-Bitola, North Macedonia; Nikos Dedes, Positive Voice, Athens, Greece; Oksana Panochenko, AIDS Action Europe, Berlin, Germany; Sini Pasanen, HIV Finland, Helsinki, Finland; Tajinder Tiwana, World Hepatitis Alliance, United Kingdom; Takudzwa Mukiwa, Terrence Higgins Trust, London, United Kingdom; Teymur Noori, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Stockholm, Sweden; Tonni van Moonfort, European Network of People Who Use Drugs, Brussels, Belgium; Tudor Kovacs, International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Intersex Youth and Student Organisation, Brussels, Belgium; Valerie Delpech, New South Wales Health, Sydney, Australia; Zoran Dominković, Iskorak, Zagreb, Croatia.