



EuroTEST

Working together for integrated
testing and earlier care

Addressing Hepatitis, HIV, STIs and TB



HIV in Europe

Working Together for Optimal
Testing and Earlier Care

www.hiveurope.eu

Outcomes of the HIV in Europe Initiative

Annual Report 2018

Contents

Introduction.....	2
Activities and status of projects and results in 2018.....	3
Joint Action on integrating prevention, testing and link to care strategies across HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STIs in Europe (INTEGRATE).....	3
European Testing Week (ETW).....	3
HIV and hepatitis testing guidance in the EU/EEA	4
The HIV & HCV Testing Resource Centre.....	4
New Initiatives & Future Plans	5
EuroTEST – Consolidation of new name.....	5
HepHIV Conference 2019	5
ETW.....	5
INTEGRATE.....	6
Hepatitis late presentation.....	6
Diagnostic technologies projects.....	6
ECDC Literature Review on HIV prevalence rates (TBC).....	6
Policy and advocacy status and results in 2018	7
List of HIV in Europe publications, presentations and press in 2018.....	8
Funding of ongoing and approved projects	11
Table 1. Ongoing and approved projects for 2019-2021	12
Financial statement	14
EuroTEST Steering Committee	14
Partners of INTEGRATE.....	15
European Testing Week Working Group members.....	15

Introduction

Since 2007, the HIV in Europe initiative has been dedicated to improving earlier diagnosis and care for HIV throughout the European Region and has provided a European platform for the exchange of research findings and the promotion of related activities. The initiative has played a critical role in the HIV response by uniting clinicians, community activists, policymakers and researchers to ensure that people living with HIV are diagnosed early and linked to care and treatment.

Since 2014, the work of the initiative has also encompassed testing for hepatitis B and C, given the many interlinkages and institutionalised with the HepHIV Conferences (Barcelona 2014, Malta 2017, Bucharest 2019). During 2018, the initiative's Steering Committee committed to expanding the scope of the initiative to encompass the tendency to address infectious diseases more broadly and less disease specific due to the overlap in transmission routes and most-affected populations, reflected also in the EU policy framework on HIV/AIDS, TB and hepatitis – and the Joint Action Integrating prevention, testing and linkage to care strategies across HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STIs in Europe (INTEGRATE) www.integrateja.eu.

The impact of late diagnosis on individuals and health systems remains an urgent problem in Europe. Undiagnosed HIV and viral hepatitis – as well as tuberculosis (TB), causes unnecessary morbidity and mortality for the affected individual and involves an increased risk of unintentional transmission. Despite the knowledge that earlier testing and care is cost-effective, too many individuals still get diagnosed far too late.

The decision was made by the Steering Committee to re-name HIV in Europe to ***EuroTEST - Working together for integrated testing and earlier care*** and broaden the initiative's scope of work to include sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and TB. The overall objective of the initiative remains the same with a focus on testing – in combination when appropriate for HIV, hepatitis B and C, TB and STIs. The name change was announced during the HepHIV 2019 Conference in January 2019.

The initiative is directed by the Steering Committee, which is an independent group of experts who represent civil society, research institutions, policy bodies, health systems and public health institutions. It is led by one co-chair who is a clinician and one who is a community representative. There are also several observers, from the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and Hepatitis B & C Public Policy Association.

The Policy Secretariat of the EuroTEST Initiative is based with the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) and the Secretariat, which oversees the day-to-day running of EuroTEST and its various projects, is based within CHIP, Centre of Excellence for Health, Immunity and Infections at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen.

Since its initiation, 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.



Activities and status of projects and results in 2018

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

The EuroTEST secretariat (CHIP/RegionH) coordinates the Joint Action on integrating prevention, testing and link to care strategies across HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STIs in Europe - INTEGRATE. INTEGRATE runs over three years (September 2017-August 2020) and the budget is 2.5 Million EUR with an 80% co-funding from the 3rd EU Health Programme. INTEGRATE unites 29 partners from 16 countries (Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and UK). The partners are public health institutions, hospitals (infectious disease and research departments), NGOs and universities. The main objective of INTEGRATE is to integrate early diagnosis and linkage to prevention and care of HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STIs in EU member states by 2020. INTEGRATE focuses on how effective tools for diagnosis and linkage to care in one disease area can be used in others.

INTEGRATE is building on activities from OptTEST, Euro HIVEdat, HepCARE, E-detect-TB, EuroTEST and other relevant EU projects and EU institutions working with HIV, Hepatitis, TB and STIs testing and linkage to care.

INTEGRATE provides a platform to disseminate and exchange best practice among European countries and facilitate discussions on innovations and emerging issues within the 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.

During 2018, progress was achieved throughout the different INTEGRATE work streams and including:

- General administrative and coordination structures have been set up incl. development of project profile i.e. logo, webpage, internal portal, social media presence (FB and Twitter), document templates and newsletters.
- The mappings and literature reviews on the main topics in core work packages – partner notification, self-testing, ICT-tools, integrated testing, national surveillance integration of data – have been finalised and have also been used in the planning of pilots. The first yearly internal evaluation has been conducted with overall very positive feedback from partners.
- In the work with integrating testing and linkage to care 6 partners in Lithuania, Slovakia, Italy and Croatia and 2 collaborating stakeholders in Greece and Portugal have piloted a Spring European Testing Week (May 2018) in collaboration with the European Liver Patients' Association aiming at integrating activities for hepatitis and HIV. 1870+ tests were conducted in the organisations during that week. The protocol for pilots in Indicator Condition Guided testing has been translated into Romanian and Lithuanian and pilots have started in Romania and Lithuania. Work on mapping the status of self/home-testing across Europe and a literature review was conducted.
- In the work with improving the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) tools and Partner Notification, a thorough review was conducted and out of 115 ICT tools identified, 53 tools were evaluated, and 7 tools shortlisted for the INTEGRATE ICT tool which will be developed during year 2.
- Organisation of Satellite Symposium in conjunction with the AIDS 2018 conference in Amsterdam, entitled "HIV and co-infections in at-risk populations addressing cross-border treatment needs and ensuring earlier diagnosis for migrants, the homeless, prisoners and other vulnerable populations"

European Testing Week (ETW)

The pilot Spring European Testing Week, which occurred from 18-25 May 2018, was conducted in collaboration with ELPA and INTEGRATE with a focus on integrated testing for HIV and Hepatitis and increasing access for most-affected population groups. The main aim was to assess the feasibility and

sustainability of conducting two testing weeks in a year and to increase combined HIV-Hepatitis testing among most-affected populations, raise awareness and increase access to testing. There was focus on combined testing for HIV and Hepatitis; and a special focus on SW and PWID. Though notification of the Spring ETW was on short notice, 104 organisations in 47 countries from the WHO European region managed to sign up and conduct activities during the Spring ETW. Results from the post-Spring ETW pilot evaluation survey showed that most respondents (76%) reported doing activities for the general population (however respondents could identify more than one targeted population) and 33% reported conducting combined testing activities for HIV, HCV and HBV. Overall, the Spring pilot was successful and about 73% of the survey respondents reported that they were likely to participate in more than one ETW a year.

The start of the Autumn (November) ETW was marked by the release of the new ECDC testing guidance, which highly emphasised the importance of integrated HIV and viral hepatitis testing activities. At the end of the November 2018 ETW, there were 749 signed-up organisations (68 completely new to ETW). After each ETW, each signed-up organisation is asked to complete a post-ETW online survey. Respondents from the post-November 2018 ETW evaluation survey reported targeting their ETW activities for the general population, MSM, and young populations, however, respondents were able to select more than one target population. Respondents also reported conducting ETW activities for HIV, HCV and HBV. For the first time, respondents were able to indicate if they conducted activities for other conditions including STIs (chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis) and tuberculosis. The number of respondents who reported doing single disease activities decreased from 50% in 2017 to 34%, while the amount who reported combined activities (targeting more than one disease) increased from 50% in 2017 to 66% in 2018.

HIV and hepatitis testing guidance in the EU/EEA

In a consortium with Public Health England (PHE), St Stephen's AIDS Trust (SSAT)/Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), the EuroTEST Secretariat (CHIP/RegionH) coordinated the development of an evidence-based public health guidance on integrated HBV, HCV, and HIV testing in the EU/EEA commissioned by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). The development of the guidance included a systematic literature review of the latest evidence and input from a panel of European experts in the fields of HIV and viral hepatitis.

This project ran over three years (2016-2018) with a budget of 240.000 Euro, and it drew on a previous evaluation conducted in 2015-2016 by the same consortium on the impact and effectiveness of the 2010 ECDC HIV testing guidance.

The [integrated guidance](#) was published 23 November 2018 in conjunction with the start of the Autumn European Testing Week.

The guidance supports countries in the global effort to combat viral hepatitis and eliminate HIV as public health threats by 2030. The ECDC guidance advocates for the development of an integrated national testing strategy to combat all three infections, targeting most-affected population groups and outlines where, how and when to test by providing evidence-based strategies already implemented.

The HIV & HCV Testing Resource Centre

Since 2016, EuroTEST has had an online resource centre of peer-reviewed scientific articles on HIV and HCV testing and national HIV and HCV testing guidelines in the 53 countries of the WHO European Region on the [EuroTEST website](#). This is continuously updated and maintained to provide up to date and relevant information and resources to those interested in testing and linkage to care.

During 2018, EuroTEST continued to gather and analyse national HCV testing guidelines to map the current situation across Europe in terms of HCV testing (where people can test; who can conduct the testing), and a manuscript for publication is being drafted. Search strings through Medline, EMBASE and Google Scholar

were run, and relevant guidelines and articles were uploaded to the Resource Centre. Additional searched resources included websites for national Ministries of Health, national HIV testing guidelines provided by coordinators in OptTEST Work Package 5 and respondent answers to the survey evaluation of the 2010 ECDC HIV public health guidance.

New Initiatives & Future Plans

EuroTEST – Consolidation of new name

Since the name change announcement at the HepHIV2019 conference, information on the renaming will be communicated and disseminated to sponsors, endorsers and other stakeholders. Plans to expand the EuroTEST SC to include members representing the ‘new’ diseases (TB, STIs and hepatitis) in addition to engaging in projects and initiatives that focus on TB, STIs and/or hepatitis.

HepHIV Conference 2019

During 2018, important efforts were put into planning the HepHIV 2019 conference in collaboration with the INTEGRATE JA. The conference, running under the theme ‘Challenges of Timely and Integrated Testing and Care’, was held 28-30 January 2019 in Bucharest under the Romanian EU presidency. Over 200 people attended, and 70 abstracts were submitted to the conference. 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.

Based on the conference presentations a [call to action](#) addressing implications for policy and implementation agendas in the field of earlier and integrated testing is currently being drafted.

ETW

The second Spring European Testing Week will be held again from 17-24 May 2019 in collaboration again with ELPA and Integrate – now as an established campaign week.

In collaboration the ETW Working Group and Integrate partners are developing an educational and training component with focus on integrated testing in community settings to increase combined testing efforts and access to testing.

These educational initiatives will be conducted through webinars and three country meetings in collaboration with INTEGRATE partners in Croatia, Greece, Lithuania. The country meetings aim to bring together relevant stakeholders from policy and national surveillance institutions, clinical settings and community organisations involved in the continuum of care for people living with HIV (viral hepatitis, TB and STIs) to better understand local experiences and engage stakeholders in a national effort to identify gaps and seek solutions and synergies between all levels.

INTEGRATE

For the next pilot testing activities in Integrate, the first step is to develop an audit tool (online survey) for detailed baseline data on testing practices conducted by Integrate partners. Data collected from the audit tool will serve as a baseline for the pilot interventions focusing on enhancing integrated testing.

There will also be three regional workshops to implement capacity building of JA partners and national stakeholders (CSOs, health care professionals, public health care agencies, etc.) to provide training and education in the areas of integrated testing in community services, IC-guided testing in health care settings and the use of patient experience surveys for service improvement. The regional workshops are planned for Poland (June 2019), Italy (November 2019) and Estonia (May 2020).

Hepatitis late presentation

A proposal for a pilot project to apply the definition for late presentation of viral hepatitis has been developed and applications for funding will be conducted.

Diagnostic technologies projects

A new project proposal will be developed focusing on diagnostic technologies in community settings. It would cover several aspects:

- A survey among testing sites to examine diagnostic algorithms for POC diagnostics to see what has been done in campaigning across Europe to encourage testing (especially for hepatitis and syphilis).
- Develop tools to support enhanced screening for active syphilis in community settings.
- Explore opportunities for joint procurement among Checkpoints for point of care (POC) tools.

ECDC Literature Review on HIV prevalence rates (TBC)

EuroTEST has submitted a proposal to ECDC in response to a tender on mapping HIV seroprevalence rates in key populations across the EU/EEA based on a systematic literature review and mapping. Project initiation is planned for early Spring 2019 (TBC).

Policy and advocacy status and results in 2018

The Advocacy Secretariat of the EuroTEST Initiative is based with the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG). EATG advocates for optimal testing and care for the EuroTEST Initiative and promotes its projects and achievements.

Advocated for increased political attention to HIV and co-infections and investment in targeted services for main affected groups in the last year aimed at securing the adoption of a European Commission policy framework to improve the European response to HIV/AIDS, as well as viral hepatitis and tuberculosis co-infections across the continent. The secretariat also advocated for a strong EU presence at AIDS 2018 conference in Amsterdam. Through the Civil Society Forum on HIV, TB and viral hepatitis (CSF) it engaged with the European Commission services and agencies. At AIDS 2018, the European Commission launched a [Staff Working Document on HIV, TB, viral hepatitis and STIs](#), which provides an integrated analysis of the situation and policy instruments. It also highlights best practices on testing and linkage to care. Within the civil society zone of AIDS 2018, the secretariat organised sessions at the [European NGOs booth](#). These provided a platform for exchange between stakeholders on policy work and tools to achieve earlier diagnosis and treatment, as well as the integration of services. These sessions have included representatives from EuroTEST, WHO, EACS, the European Commission and EMCDDA and community groups across Europe. Tools from the OptTEST project by HiE were disseminated at the booth. The Secretariat also took part in a session at the EU booth on European Testing Week. EuroTEST was represented in several policy sessions at the AIDS 2018 conference, including at the [EU-UNAIDS symposia](#) with European ministers of health at the AIDS 2018 discussion on innovations in Europe to end AIDS.

The May and November meetings of the [Civil Society Forum](#) on HIV, TB and viral Hepatitis and Think Tank addressed testing strategies and barriers, with updates on testing regulations, an initiative on promoting HCV testing in drug treatment settings (EMCDDA), testing and treatment in prison settings (EMCDDA and ECDC). In November, at the Think Tank, member states provided feedback on European Testing Week.

In September, EuroTEST and EATG collaborated for a European Community Advisory Board meeting with community testing services providers, partners and diagnostics companies. The meeting started by a training by UNITAID on testing technologies for use in community settings. It was followed by an exchange on community testing approaches, challenges and needs. The meeting was then devoted to a dialogue between community and individual manufacturers on testing technologies, gaps and barriers to their use. Beyond individual testing tools, participants addressed the need for collaboration to simplify testing procedures, to integrate of testing and to identify the package of services to be provided. This discussion was to be followed at the HepHIV conference in 2019.

The advocacy secretariat has also worked on strengthening the capacity of communities to address legal and regulatory barriers to testing and treatment effectively, drawing on materials developed by EuroTEST. For instance, in June, EATG's training for new treatment advocates (STEP UP) addressed testing used the OptTEST advocacy toolkit. In July, materials were used in M-CARE training module focused on migrants.

List of HIV in Europe publications, presentations and press in 2018

Publications

1. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Public health guidance on HIV, hepatitis B and C testing in the EU/EEA – An integrated approach. Stockholm: ECDC; 2018.
2. Dara M, Gavry ZT, Mansfeld M (Eds). European Testing Week: A regional initiative to advocate and promote testing for viral hepatitis and HIV. In: Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to HIV in the WHO European Region. Copenhagen: WHO; 2018.
3. Jakobsen SF, Raben D, Sperle I, Lazarus JV, James C, Mendao L, de Wit J, Platteau T, von Lingen AI, Corbelli GM, Antoniadi C, Casabona J, West B, Rockstroh J and Delpech V. Scale-up of HIV self-testing. HIV Medicine [Internet]. 2018 May. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/hiv.12618>
4. Power L, Hows J, Jakobsen SF, Von Lingen A.-I. for OptTEST by HIV in Europe. Key findings on legal and regulatory barriers to HIV testing and access to care across Europe. Special issue: Outcomes of the HepHIV 2017 Malta Conference: Joining Forces for Earlier Diagnosis and Linkage to Care Across Europe. HIV Medicine [Internet]. 2018 Feb; 19(51):1-76. Available from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14681293/2018/19/S1>
5. Rütel K, Lemsalu L, Läht S for OptTEST by HIE. Monitoring HIV-indicator condition guided HIV testing in Estonia. Special issue: Outcomes of the HepHIV 2017 Malta Conference: Joining Forces for Earlier Diagnosis and Linkage to Care Across Europe. HIV Medicine [Internet]. 2018 Feb; 19(51):1-76. Available from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14681293/2018/19/S1>
6. Croxford S, Burns F, Copas A, Pharris A, Rinder Stengaard A, Delpech V for OptTEST by HIV in Europe. Factors associated with delayed linkage to care following HIV diagnosis in the WHO European Region. Special issue: Outcomes of the HepHIV 2017 Malta Conference: Joining Forces for Earlier Diagnosis and Linkage to Care Across Europe. HIV Medicine [Internet]. 2018 Feb; 19(51):1-76. Available from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14681293/2018/19/S1>
7. Rütel K, Kallavus K, Tomera I for OptTEST by HiE. Monitoring anonymous HIV testing in Estonia from 2005 to 2015. Special issue: Outcomes of the HepHIV 2017 Malta Conference: Joining Forces for Earlier Diagnosis and Linkage to Care Across Europe. HIV Medicine [Internet]. 2018 Feb; 19(51):1-76. Available from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14681293/2018/19/S1>
8. Raben D, Hoekstra M, Sperle I, Amato Gauci AJ, Causi C, West B, Sullivan A, Lazarus JV, Platteau T, Rockstroh JK on behalf of the HepHIV Conference Organising Committee and the HIV in Europe Steering Committee. The HepHIV 2017 Conference in Malta: joining forces for the earlier diagnosis of HIV and viral hepatitis. Special issue: Outcomes of the HepHIV 2017 Malta Conference: Joining Forces for Earlier Diagnosis and Linkage to Care Across Europe. HIV Medicine [Internet]. 2018 Feb; 19(51):1-76. Available from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14681293/2018/19/S1>
9. Delpech V, Lazarus J, Raben D, Rockstroh J, guest editors. Special issue: Outcomes of the HepHIV 2017 Malta Conference: Joining Forces for Earlier Diagnosis and Linkage to Care Across Europe. HIV Medicine [Internet]. 2018 Feb; 19(51):1-76. Available from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/14681293/2018/19/S1>

Presentations/Posters/Workshops

1. Combs L, Collins B, Delpech V et al. on behalf of the European Testing Week Working Group. Assessing the Impact of the Spring European Testing Week Pilot on Increasing Testing for Viral Hepatitis and HIV and Linking to Care. Poster presented at: 4th European Harm Reduction Conference; 2018 21-23 November; Bucharest, Romania.

2. Daamen C, James C, Mukiwa T, Garner A, Harrison-Quintana J, Hodson M, Combs L, Noori T. 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. Presented at: III International Conferences on Health Communication (HIV and Communication); 2018 21-22 November; Barcelona, Spain.
3. Daamen C, on behalf of the European Testing Week Working Group. European Testing Week: Are You In? Presented at: EU Think Tank on HIV, TB and Hepatitis; 2018 8 November; Brussels, Belgium
4. Grecu VI, on behalf of Integrate Joint Action. Joint Action on Integration of testing and linkage to care for HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STIs in Europe "Integrate." Presented at: 49th Union World Conference on Lung Health; 2018 24-27 October; The Haag, the Netherlands.
5. Raben D on behalf of HIV in Europe and Integrate Joint Action. Integrate. Presented at: Diagnostics meeting with community service providers and developers; 2018 7-9 September; Berlin, Germany.
6. Casabona J for Integrate Joint Action. Integrate. Presentation presented at: Screening and prevention for viral Hepatitis and HIV in CEE: Common challenges joint solutions; 2018 28-29 July; Sofia, Bulgaria.
7. Von Lingen AI for HIV in Europe and EATG. Improving health services for people in prison settings, new European guidance on active case finding in prison settings and innovative approaches to testing and linkage to care and after prison care. Workshop held at: The 22nd International AIDS Conference; 2018 23-27 July; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
8. D Simões for HIV in Europe. Getting to 90: Addressing inequalities in the HIV continuum of care in Europe and Central Asia. Presentation presented at: The 22nd International AIDS Conference; 2018 23-27 July; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
9. Sullivan AK, Rae C, Sperle I et al for OptTEST by HiE. OptTEST programme interventions for Indicator Condition HIV testing are effective in significantly increasing HIV testing rates in non-specialist healthcare settings across Europe. Poster presented at: The 22nd International AIDS Conference; 2018 23-27 July; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
10. Integrate Joint Action symposium. HIV and co-infections in at-risk populations addressing cross-border treatment needs and ensuring earlier diagnosis for migrants, the homeless, prisoners and other vulnerable populations. Symposium held at: The 22nd International AIDS Conference; 2018 23-27 July; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
11. Raben D on behalf of HIV in Europe. Implementing the SDG agenda to leave no one behind: Innovations in Europe on the Fast Track to ending AIDS. Presentation presented at: The 22nd International AIDS Conference; 2018 23-27 July; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
12. Hows JV, Power L, Jakobsen SF, Sprague L, Von-Lingen A, Duterte M. Data difficulties encountered in crowdsourcing information on legal & regulatory barriers to accessing HIV services (testing and care) for key populations across Europe. Poster presented at: The 22nd International AIDS Conference; 2018 23-27 July; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
13. Desai S, Tavoschi L, Combs L, Jakobsen SF, Sullivan A, Raben D, Delpech V, Croxford S. HIV testing strategies in Europe. Poster presented at: The 22nd International AIDS Conference; 2018 23-27 July; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
14. Rockstroh J on behalf of HIV in Europe. Participation in discussion on advocacy collaboration between doctors and civil society organisation towards earlier diagnosis and linkage to care. Meeting held at: The 22nd International AIDS Conference; 2018 23-27 July; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
15. Collins B on behalf of the European Testing Week Working Group. Reaching key populations in need of HIV and viral hepatitis testing and prompt linkage to care through European Testing Week. Workshop held at: The 22nd International AIDS Conference; 2018 23-27 July; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

16. Power L and Hows J on behalf of the OptTEST project. Stigma and legal/regulatory barriers to provision and uptake of HIV testing & treatment service. Workshop held at: The 22nd International AIDS Conference; 2018 23-27 July; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
17. Rae C and Jakobsen S on behalf of the OptTEST project. Presentation of OptTEST Indicator Condition-guided HIV testing tools and online training modules for health care staff. Workshop held at: The 22nd International AIDS Conference; 2018 23-27 July; Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
18. Power L for OptTEST by HiE. How legal and regulatory barriers to HIV healthcare currently operate (for migrants) in European countries. Presented at: EATG- European Africa Foundation M-CARE training; 2018 5-8 June; Warsaw, Poland.
19. Power L for OptTEST by HiE. Modernising HIV testing across Europe, How and why legal and regulatory barriers hinder modern and efficient HIV testing across Europe. Presented at: EATG STEP-UP training. 2018 7-10 June; Kiev, Ukraine.
20. Combs L on behalf of European Testing Week. European Testing Week. Presented at: COBATEST Annual Network Meeting. 2018 18 May; Barcelona, Spain.
21. Raben D for HIV in Europe and Integrate Joint Action. INTEGRATE Joint Action on overcoming barriers to services integration to improve quality of care. Presented at: EU Think Tank on HIV, TB and Hep; 2018 16-17 May; Luxembourg, Luxembourg.
22. Von Lingen AI for the European Testing Week Working Group. European Testing Week. Presented at: EU Civil Society Forum on HIV, TB and Hep; 2018 14-15 May, Luxembourg, Luxembourg.
23. Raben D on behalf of European Testing Week. European Hepatitis-HIV Testing Week. Presentation presented at: ECDC/WHO Joint Meeting on HIV in Europe and central Asia in the era of the SDGs: operationalizing goals and achieving targets; 2018 23-25 April; Berlin, Germany.
24. Croxford S, Tavoschi L, Combs L, Jakobsen SF, Sullivan A, Raben D, Delpech V, Desai S. HIV testing in the UK. In: Abstracts of the 4th Joint Conference of the British HIV Association (BHIVA) with the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH); 2018 17-20 April; Edinburgh, UK.

Press

1. EU Government Gazette. Behind the scenes at European Testing Week. Government Gazette; 2018 14 December. Available from: https://issuu.com/government.gazette/docs/government_gazette_-_2018_-_vol_3
2. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Marking European Testing Week: ECDC issues integrated hepatitis and HIV testing Guidance. ECDC; 2018 Nov 23. Available from <https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/marking-european-testing-week-ecdc-issues-integrated-hepatitis-and-hiv-testing-guidance>
3. World Health Organization. European Testing Week 2018. WHO; November 2018. Available from: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/events/events/2018/11/european-testing-week-2018>
4. Hughson G. Behind the scenes at European Testing Week. NAM; 29 October 2018. Available from <http://www.aidsmap.com/Behind-the-scenes-at-European-Testing-Week/page/3354501/>

Funding of ongoing and approved projects

The work of the Initiative is based on the voluntary engagement of steering committee members and limited funding for the two secretariats (CHIP in Copenhagen and EATG in Brussels). The steering committee decides how funding is allocated to the different projects and EuroTEST remains committed to remain as an 'initiative' (not an organisation), which initiates new research and influences processes.

To continue implementation of existing projects, initiate new projects and maintain the secretariat functions of the EuroTEST Initiative, it is imperative to seek funds for the period 2019–2021, as described below. The Initiative has developed a work plan for 2019-2021 where the projects (recurrent and new proposals) are described individually to facilitate potential funders to review and decide which activities they would like to support.

Table 1. Ongoing and approved projects for 2019-2021

Project	Description	Expected Outcome	Period
Secretariat function, advocacy and communication			
EuroTEST Secretariat: Coordination, fundraising and policy activities; advocacy	EuroTEST Secretariat (administration, IT, coordination, fundraising and advocacy), support for Steering Committee members, travel, materials print, advocacy plan and development	Efficient coordination of the Initiative's projects and advocacy activities. Make EuroTEST's agenda widely known and consolidation of the renaming and new mission.	2019-2021
Communication, dissemination and media approach	The implementation and dissemination of results of finalised and ongoing projects	Communication strategy/ Project results widely disseminated and duplicated/integrated in other organisations/studies; update on website and online resource centre; Website and Social media communication	2019-2021
Ongoing projects			
Coordination of the Joint Action INTEGRATE	EU co –funded Joint Action INTEGRATE (2017-2020)	Overall coordination	2019-2021
ECDC HIV seroprevalence mapping (TBC)	Systematic literature review to detect the HIV seroprevalence of key population groups in EU/EEA	Report mapping the seroprevalence based on evidence found in systematic literature review	2019
Biennial conferences	Next conference in Portugal 2021	Prepare and conduct 2021 conference which will cover also STIs and TB; promote dissemination and visibility of 2019-conference results	2019-21

Autumn & Spring European Testing Week	Providing support to participating partners across the WHO European Region, who want to undertake HIV and viral hepatitis testing activities, and increase awareness/normalisation of HIV and viral hepatitis testing; Promote the European Test Finder and disseminate through mobile dating apps	Build on the results of the previous ETWs to help increase access to testing, especially for main-affected populations; Translation and dissemination of European Test Finder; In 2019 and 2020 expand ETW to include testing for STIs and TB and target additional main-affected populations	2019-2020
Training and capacity building activities	Collaboration between ETW and Integrate	Develop training materials and arrange 3 national meetings and trainings; invite national stakeholders and experts (Croatia-April; Greece-May; Lithuania- June)	Spring 2019
New project proposals			
Continued dissemination and sustainability of OptTEST outputs	Continuation of outcomes; updating of tools and online resources	Upkeep and update indicator condition guided HIV testing tools and training materials; Stigma and legal barriers to HIV testing uptake and provision; updating of tools and database on stigma; updating of models and methods on linkage to care; updating of models on Cost-effectiveness of HIV testing	2019-2021
Hepatitis late presentation definition pilot project	Pilot project to test the two developed hepatitis late presentation definitions	Reimbursement of 10 countries/sites; data collection and analysis; publication of results	2019-2021
Expanding eastwards - INTEGRATE activities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Addition to the EU co-funded Joint Action INTEGRATE (2017-2020)	Engagement with stakeholders and sites in Eastern Europe and Central Asia; and expansion of activities to non-EU countries in particular to Ukraine, Belarus and Georgia	2019-2021
Diagnostics	Pilot project to implement hepatitis rapid tests as way to identify the approx. 80% undiagnosed	Secure cross-fertilization between HIV and Hep C; Draw on experience from the HIV field with rapid tests; led by a working group that includes hepatitis experts	2019-2021

Financial statement

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

EuroTEST Steering Committee

Co-Chairs:

Daniel Simões

Daniel Simões is a Psychologist working in the third sector since 2004. He has been working at Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamentos (GAT) in Portugal since 2011 in both project management and policy/advocacy activities, is a board member of GAT, and is co-coordinating the Community Based Testing Network in Portugal. He is member of the European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) and part of the Policy Working Group Steering Committee. Daniel is currently a research fellow in the Global Public Health PhD program, in the Institute of Public Health of the University of Porto, in Portugal

Jürgen Rockstroh

Jürgen Rockstroh is a Professor of Medicine and Head of the HIV outpatient clinic at the University of Bonn, Germany. He is an active member of the HIV/AIDS treatment community. Dr Rockstroh was the Chairman of the German Clinical AIDS Working Group (KAAD) from 1998 to 2007. From 2007 to 2011, he was elected as the president of the German AIDS Society. From 2009, he has been a member of the executive committee of the European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS).

Members:

- **Ann Sullivan**, Chelsea Westminster Hospital, UK;
- **Anders Sönnnerborg**, MD, PhD, Professor, Department of Medicine Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden;
- **Brian Gazzard**, Professor of Medicine, Imperial College School of Medicine, HIV Research Director, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, UK;
- **Brian West**, Board of Directors, European AIDS Treatment Group, (EATG);
- **Igor Karpov**, Professor, Department of Infectious Diseases, Belarus State Medical University;
- **Jack Lambert**, Consultant in Infectious diseases, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Dublin, Professor at UCD School of Medicine, Ireland
- **John de Wit**, Professor and Director, Centre for Social Research in Health, The University of New South Wales, and Visiting Professor of Social Psychology of Health and Sexuality, Utrecht University;
- **Jordi Casabona**, Scientific Director, Center for HIV/STI Epidemiological Studies of Catalonia, (CEEISCAT);
- **José Gatell**, Head, Infectious Diseases & AIDS Units, Clinical Institute of Medicine & Dermatology, Hospital Clinic, Professor of Medicine, University of Barcelona, [resigned in May 2018]
- **Jefferey Lazarus**, Professor of International Health Systems, University of Copenhagen, Denmark;
- **Jens Lundgren**, Professor, Director of CHIP, University of Copenhagen & Rigshospitalet, Denmark;
- **Lella Cosmaro**, Fondazione LILA Milan, Italy;
- **Liudmyla Maistat**, Policy and Advocacy Manager, The Medicines Patent Pool, Geneva, Switzerland;

- **Mojca Maticic**, Professor in Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology at the Medical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia and head of the Viral Hepatitis Unit at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile Illnesses, University Medical Centre Ljubljana
- **Nikos Dedes**, Past Chair of the Board of Directors, European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), Greece;
- **Nino Tsereteli**, Executive Director of “Center for Information and Counselling on Reproductive Health – Tanadgoma”, Georgia;
- **Stefan Mauss**, Center for HIV and Hepatogastroenterology, Germany;
- **Stanislas Pol**, Professor of Hepatology and Gastroenterology, Université Paris Descartes, Paris, France;
- **Tom Platteau**, mental health scientist and sexologist at the HIV/STI clinic of the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp;
- **Valerie Delpech**, Epidemiologist, Public Health England, London, United Kingdom;
- **Yazdan Yazdanpanah**, INSERM, France;
- **Yusef Azad**, Director of Strategy, National AIDS Trust, UK.

Observers: WHO Regional Office for Europe, Communicable Disease Unit; European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), represented by **Andrew Amato**; European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), represented by **Dagmar Hedrich**; Hepatitis B & C Public Policy Association, represented by **Angelos Hatzakis**.

Partners of INTEGRATE

CERTH - Centre for Research & Technology Hellas, Institute of Applied Biosciences, Information Technologies institute (Greece); CHIP – RegionH (DK); NIHD - National Institute for Health Development (EE); ICO – Catalan Institute for Oncology/ Instituto Catalán de Oncología (ES); NIJZ - National Institute of Public Health/ Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje (Slovakia); UCD - University College Dublin (Ireland); LILA MILANO - Fondazione LILA Milano ONLUS - Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l'AIDS (Italy); FVM – Fondazione Villa Maraini Onlus (Italy); NAC – National AIDS Centre Agency of the Ministry of Health (Poland); PHE - Public Health England (UK); CIPH - Hrvatski Zavod za Javno Zdravstvo (Croatian Institute of Public Health) (Croatia); FLIGHT - Life Quality Improvement Association (Croatia); IDIBAPS – Consorci Institut d’Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (Spain); ARCIGAY - Arcigay Associazione LGBTI Italiana (Italy); CRI - Croce Rossa Italiana (Italy); KEELPNO - Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Greece); VULSK - Vilnius University Hospital SANTARIŠKIŲ Klinikos (Lithuania); NVSPL – National Public Health Surveillance Laboratory (Lithuania); VPLC – Vilnius Centre for Addictive Disorders (Lithuania); ULAC - Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS (Lithuania); CHIDPVB – “Victor Babes” Clinical hospital of infectious diseases and pneumophtisiology Craiova (Romania); IPH – Institut of Public Health of Republic of Serbia “Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut” (Serbia); SMU - Slovak Medical University in Bratislava (Slovakia); ISPLN – Instituto de salud pública y laboral de Navarra (Spain); IPMN – “Marius Nasta” Institute of pneumophtisiology (Romania); HUHIV – Croatian association for HIV and viral hepatitis (Croatia); ISKORAK (Croatia); MFH– Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (Malta); SU - Semmelweis University (Hungary)

European Testing Week Working Group members

Josip Begovac - European AIDS Clinical Society (Croatia); Ben Collins – International HIV Partnerships/ReShape (United Kingdom); Caroline Daamen – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Sweden); Nikos Dedes – European AIDS Treatment Group (Greece); Valerie Delpech – Public

Health England (United Kingdom); Zoran Dominković – ISKORAK (Croatia); Jason Farrell – Correlation Network (the Netherlands); Marine Gogia – Georgian Harm Reduction Network (Georgia); Cary James - Independent consultant (United Kingdom); Chamut Kifetew - Terrence Higgins Trust (United Kingdom); Tudor Kovacs - International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer & Intersex Youth and Student Organisation (Belgium); Teymur Noori – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Sweden); Sini Pasanen – AIDS Action Europe (Germany); Lisa Power – Independent consultant (United Kingdom); Daniel Simões - Grupo de Ativistas em Tratamentos (Portugal); Ann-Isabelle Von Lingen – European AIDS Treatment Group (Belgium); Tonni van Montfoort - European Network of People Who Use Drugs (Belgium); Anna Zakowicz – AIDS Healthcare Foundation (the Netherlands).