THE COBATEST NETWORK:
A platform to perform monitoring and evaluation of HIV community-based testing practices in Europe

Fernàndez-López L¹,², Reyes-Urueña J¹, Agustí C¹,², Klavs I.³, Kustec T.³, Casabona J¹,² and the COBATEST Network group

¹Centre for Epidemiological Studies on HIV/STI in Catalonia (CEEISCAT), Agència de Salut Pública de Catalunya (ASPC)
²CIBER Epidemiología y Salud Pública (CIBERESP)
³National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ), Ljubljana, Slovenia

HepHIV 2017
Malta, February 1ˢᵗ
Programmatic objective:
To increase the percentage of HIV+ persons who know they are infected

Background

- Early testing helps to prevent transmission and lowers the risk of severe health complications

Low HIV testing:
Less than 50% of members of key populations were tested last year.
Relevant groups
At risk individuals and core groups

NON HEALTH CARE SETTINGS (CBVCTs)

Vulnerable groups

KEY POPULATIONS FOR TESTING

diagnosed HIV +

undiagnosed HIV +
Background

UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets (by 2020)
Framework for monitoring the HIV response in Europe (Dublin Declaration)

**Priority 1: Prevention**

- **Target 1:** 90% diagnosed of all people living with HIV
- **Target 2:** 90% on treatment of all people diagnosed
- **Target 3:** 90% virally suppressed of all people on treatment

**Priority 2: Testing**

**Priority 3: 4-point continuum**

Co-funded by the Health Programme of the European Union
HIV-COBATEST project (2010-2013)

HIV Community-based practices in Europe

co-funded by the Executive Agency for Health and Consumer (EAHC) under the EU Public Health Programme.

Specific objectives:

1. To gain a deep understanding of CBVCT programs and services in different countries.

2. To identify and describe good practices in the implementation of CBVCT.

3. To identify a core group of indicators that can be used to monitor and evaluate CBVCT.

4. To establish a network of community-based VCT in which to perform operational research.

5. To assess the acceptability, feasibility and impact of introducing oral rapid test technologies at community-based VCTs.
COBATEST NETWORK

Objectives:

☐ To develop and implement standardized questionnaires and procedures for monitoring and evaluation of CBVCT activity.

☐ To evaluate the potential impact of CBVCT services in the improvement of HIV early diagnosis and linkage to care.

☐ To consolidate a network of CBVCT services in which to perform operational research.

☐ To use the network for advocacy and good practices dissemination.

40 CBVCTs of 19 European countries
(Germany, Denmark, Chez Republic, Poland, France, Slovenia, Belgium, Romania, Portugal, Lithuania, Latvia, UK, Hungary, Ukraine, Austria, Greece, Italy, Switzerland and Spain)
## Standardized Data Collection Form

### HIV Testing Data Collection Form

**Name of the HIVCT site:** [Redacted]

**City of the HIVCT site:** [Redacted]

**Country:** [Redacted]

**Date of data collection:** [Redacted]

**Quality control:** [Redacted]

### General Information

**Gender:** Male, Female, Unknown

**Foreign national:** Yes, No, Don't know

**Do you work for an HIVCT site:** Yes, No, Don't know

**Date of last normal data collection:** [Redacted]

### Client Characteristics Data

**Name:** [Redacted]

**Address:** [Redacted]

**Telephone:** [Redacted]

**Email:** [Redacted]

**Date of birth:** [Redacted]

**Relationship to client:** [Redacted]

**Date of last normal data collection:** [Redacted]

### Previous HIV Test

**Date of last test:** [Redacted]

**Result of last test:** [Redacted]

**Type of test:** [Redacted]

### Risk Behavior Factors

**Exchange of sex for drugs or money last 12 months:** [Redacted]

**Sexual partner:** [Redacted]

**Number of sexual partners last 12 months:** [Redacted]

**Intra-venous drug use:** [Redacted]

**Shares materials with injecting drug use last 3 months:** [Redacted]

### Blood Donation

**Date of last blood donation:** [Redacted]

**Result of last blood donation:** [Redacted]

**Type of test:** [Redacted]

### Blood Tests

**HIV1 and HIV2 serological tests:** [Redacted]

**Result of last HIV1 serological tests:** [Redacted]

**Result of last HIV2 serological tests:** [Redacted]

**Type of test:** [Redacted]

### Blood Tests

**HCV serological tests:** [Redacted]

**Result of last HCV serological tests:** [Redacted]

**Type of test:** [Redacted]

### Commentary

**Other:** [Redacted]

**Additional information:** [Redacted]
Standardized tools

Common data base and Web based tool for data entry

**COBATEST NETWORK DATA COLLECTION FORM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pag 1.</th>
<th>Pag 2</th>
<th>Pag 3</th>
<th>Pag 4</th>
<th>Pag 5</th>
<th>Save [1:1]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**HIV TESTING DATA COLLECTION FORM:**

- **Name of the CBVCT site:** ICO-CBISCAT
- **City of CBVCT:**
- **Testing site:** CBVCT office
- **Date visit:** 7 July 2015

**Client’s unique identifier (used by the CBVCT service)**

- **Identifier:**

**or Client’s unique identifier (COBATEST)**

- **Gender:** Male, Female, Transgender
- **Date of birth:**
- **# Older brothers:** 0, **# Older sisters:** 0, **Initial letter of mother’s first name:**

**Client characteristics data:**

- **Foreign national:** Yes, No, Don’t know
- **Municipality or home town:**

https://eurohivedat.eu/
Standardized tools

https://eurohivedat.eu/

CORE INDICATORS TO MONITOR
COMMUNITY BASED
VOLUNTARY COUNSELLING AND TESTING (CBVCT)
FOR HIV

Guidelines for CBVCT services

Field-test version

July 2012

Funded by the European Union
Specific objectives:

1. To monitor and evaluate CBVCT services in Europe;
2. To identify determinants for HIV test seeking behaviour and sexual risk behaviour among MSM in Europe;
3. To describe and improve approaches of point of care and linkage to health services for HIV/STI among MSM in Europe;
4. To improve the implementation of CBVCT services specifically addressed to MSM in Europe;
5. To describe HIV testing patterns and identify barriers to testing and care among migrant populations in Europe;
6. To assess acceptability and feasibility of innovative strategies and interventions aimed at increasing HIV counselling and testing.
Core CBVCT indicators for CBVCT services I

**Level 1**

CBVCT 1:  # of clients tested for HIV with a screening test
CBVCT 2:  % of clients who reported to have been previously tested for HIV
CBVCT 3:  % of clients who reported to have been tested for HIV during preceding 12 months
CBVCT 4:  % of clients who reported to have been tested for HIV at the same CBVCT facility during preceding 12 months
CBVCT 5:  % of clients with reactive screening HIV test result
CBVCT 6  % of clients tested for HIV with a screening test who received the results
CBVCT 7:  % of clients with reactive screening HIV test result who received post-result
CBVCT 8:  % of clients with reactive screening HIV test result who were tested with confirmatory HIV test
CBVCT 9:  % of clients with positive confirmatory HIV test result
CBVCT 10: % of clients with positive confirmatory HIV test result who received the conclusive confirmatory HIV test result at CBVCT facility
CBVCT 11: % of clients with positive confirmatory HIV test result who received post-result counselling at CBVCT facility
Core CBVCT indicators for CBVCT services II

**Level 2** (Optional CBVCT indicators):

CBVCT 12: % of clients who received a pre-test discussion or pre-test counselling or pre-result counselling and were tested for HIV with a screening test

CBVCT 13: % of clients with non-reactive screening HIV test result who received post-result counselling

CBVCT 14: % of clients with negative confirmatory HIV test result who received the conclusive confirmatory HIV test result at CBVCT facility

CBVCT 15: Cost per client tested

CBVCT 16: Cost per HIV diagnosis

**Level 3** (2 additional optional core CBVCT indicators to be considered):

CBVCT 17: % of clients who tested HIV positive at CBVCT sites who were linked to health care

CBVCT 18: % of clients who tested HIV positive at CBVCT sites who were diagnosed late

All these indicators, except for CBVCT14 and CBVCT15, should be monitored in “disaggregated” form by gender, age (<25 and 25+ years old) and key population at risk (MSM, SW, IDU, migrants).
CBVCTs participating in the network can share their data in different ways:

- Using the COBATEST common tools (Standardized questionnaire and the web-based data entry tool)
- Sending disaggregated data according to the data file specifications prepared by the NIPH.
- Sending aggregated data using EXCEL reporting form to report the core CBVCT indicators for M&E
PRELIMINARY RESULTS - 2015

- Data submitted by 37 CBVCT services/networks from 15 countries (Denmark, France, Slovenia, Switzerland, Portugal, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Austria, Italy, Spain, Czech Republic, Croatia, Poland and Germany).
  - 25 CBVCT used data entry tool;
  - 3 CBVCT sent disaggregated data;
  - 9 CBVCT (3 networks) sent aggregated data.

- 95,493 clients were tested for HIV (screening) - individual CBVCTs: 8 - 43,097.

- Of 34 CBVCTs with at least 1 reactive HIV screening test result, 6 had not submitted information on HIV confirmatory testing results.

- % with HIV reactive screening HIV test result varied between 0% - 5.7% (mean 1.7%; median 1.3%)

- Of 22 CBVCTs (complete information), 14 reported 100% of reactive results had been tested with confirmatory tests and of other 8 the % varied: 42.5% - 99.5%.

- Of 6 CBVCTs (complete information), positivity rate varied: 0.3% - 3.4%.

- Among 13 CBVCTs (complete information), 11 had 100% linkage to health care and two 92% and 91%. 
Results 2015  Data from centres using common tools

- 25 CBVCT centres from 7 different countries (Spain, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine)

10,300 tests performed

9,102 clients tested

170 reactive screening tests

1.87%

119 confirmatory tests performed

116 confirmed positive

76 linked to care

70%

65.5%

1 false positive
2 no information
## Results 2015  Data from centres using common tools

- 25 CBVCT centres from 7 different countries (Spain, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine)

### Clients tested for HIV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age groups (N= 8,890)</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;20</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>8,9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;=21-35</td>
<td>5301</td>
<td>59,6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;=36-50</td>
<td>2250</td>
<td>25,3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>6,2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender (N=9,098)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>6603</td>
<td>72,6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2350</td>
<td>25,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>1,6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migrants (N= 8,745)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>2794</td>
<td>31,9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transmission Groups (N= 8,925)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDU</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>1,2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male sex worker</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>4,4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSM</td>
<td>4055</td>
<td>45,4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women sex worker</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>5,2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heterosexual women</td>
<td>1857</td>
<td>20,8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heterosexual men</td>
<td>2054</td>
<td>23,0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Type of test used (N=9,095)

- **Rapid blood test**: 7114 (78,2%)
- **Rapid oral test**: 1871 (20,6%)
- **Conventional test**: 110 (1,2%)

### Testing sites (N=9,102)

- CBVCT office: 8083 (88,8%)
- Outdoors/Van: 61 (0,7%)
- Sex work venue: 87 (1,0%)
- Sauna/sex venue: 146 (1,6%)
- Public venue: 187 (2,1%)
- Amusement venue: 355 (3,9%)
- Needle exchange venue: 31 (0,3%)
- Other: 152 (1,7%)

### Previous HIV test (N=8,970)

- yes: 5872 (65,5%)
- no: 3098 (34,5%)
Results 2015  Data from centres using common tools

- 25 CBVCT centres from 7 different countries (Spain, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All clients</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>&lt;25</th>
<th>&gt;=25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of clients with a reactive screening HIV test result</td>
<td>1,9%</td>
<td>2,4%</td>
<td>0,4%</td>
<td>1,2%</td>
<td>2,1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numerator</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denominator</td>
<td>9102</td>
<td>6748</td>
<td>2350</td>
<td>2324</td>
<td>6566</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key groups**

**MSM**

| % of clients with a reactive screening HIV test result | 2,6% | 2,6% | 2,3% | 3,6% |
| Numerator   | 114  | 114  | 25    | 117  |
| Denominator | 4399 | 4399 | 1081  | 3234 |

**IDU**

| % of clients with a reactive screening HIV test result | 1,9% | 2,6% | 0,0% | 0,0% | 2,2% |
| Numerator   | 2    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 2    |
| Denominator | 104  | 77   | 26   | 12   | 90   |

**SW**

| % of clients with a reactive screening HIV test result | 3,0% | 6,3% | 0,2% | 1,4% | 3,3% |
| Numerator   | 26   | 25   | 1    | 2    | 23   |
| Denominator | 872  | 395  | 477  | 142  | 705  |

**Migrants**

| % of clients with a reactive screening HIV test result | 2,3% | 3,2% | 0,7% | 1,6% | 2,6% |
| Numerator   | 65   | 58   | 7    | 10   | 53   |
| Denominator | 2794 | 1823 | 971  | 643  | 2077 |
## Limitations of data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limitations</th>
<th>Actions for improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Quality of information submitted to the network</td>
<td>1. Validation and analysis of HIV testing data in the community setting (with ECDC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To perform a data quality assessment of the data collected by the COBATEST network based on five dimensions of the data quality: data consistency, content and completeness, data utility and data collection processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Representativeness of the data</td>
<td>2. Enlarge the already existing network:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Core funding from Gilead)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Integration of community in the governance and management of the network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development of a specific Website and Logo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improvement of the tool:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>− specific annexes for each CBVCT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>− Adaptation for Tablets and Phones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Data integration with National Surveillance Systems</td>
<td>3. New joint Action:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• WP6: Monitoring and Evaluation of HIV, STIs and viral hepatitis testing and linkage to care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>− Consensus recommendations for integration of health care and CBVCT settings testing and linkage to care data into national surveillance and M&amp;E systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opportunities

- CBVCT programs and services in Europe have been expanding during last years and preliminary data shows they can be effective in both reaching the right target populations and facilitating periodical testing to high risk groups.

- Nevertheless, there is a huge heterogeneity in terms of organization, stability, size of reached population, observed prevalence and coordination with the formal system.

- The HIV-COBATEST and EURO-HIV-EDAT Projects have developed tools to facilitate both harmonization and M&E of CBVCT programs and services.

- The COBATEST network, can help ECDC and National Ministries to strength both the implementation and M&E of CBVCT in Europe.
Acknowledgements

We are grateful to all colleagues from the CBVCT centres participating in the COBATEST network for their collaboration in the network:

- AIDS Fondet* (Denmark)
- Fondazione LILA Milano* (Italy)
- Demetra* (Lithuania)
- Algarabía (Spain)*
- AVACOS*
- PRAKSIS*
- CAS Gibraltar*
- OMSIDA* (Spain)
- StopSida* (Spain)
- Àmbit Prevenció* (Spain)
- Gais Positius* (Spain)
- SAPS-Creu Roja* (Spain)
- Centre Jove d’Anticoncepció i Sexualitat* (CJAS) (Spain)
- Creu Roja Tarragona* (Spain),
- Actuavallès* (Spain)
- ACASC* (Spain)
- Associació Antisida de Lleida* (Spain)
- Assexora’Tgn* (Spain)
- ACCAS* (Spain)
- Baltic HIV Association* (Latvia)
- ACAS Girona* (Spain)
- Asociación SIOÉ* (Spain)
- Associació Lambda* (Spain)
- Centro Social Polivalente Mujer Gades* (Spain)
- IEMEKAIE*(Spain)
- Gay-alliance (Ukraine)
- Asociación Concordia*(Spain)
- Cruz Roja Córdoba (Spain)
- Asociación ADHARA(Spain)
- Proyecto Hombre (Spain)
- Concordia Marbella (Spain)
- AIDS-Hilfe NRW e.V (Germany)
- ARAS-AsociataRomana
- Anti-SIDA (Romania)
- Checkpoint LX (Portugal)
- Association AIDES (France)
- Legebitra (Slovenia)
- Czech AIDS Help Societ (Chez Republic)
- Association “Prevent”(Serbia)
- Positive Voice (Greece)
- AIDS Hilfe Wien (Austria)
- CBVCT network Poland
- LASS (UK)
- Le Kioske (France)
- Anonymous AIDS Association (Hungary)
- ISKORAK(Croatia)
- Switzerland Checkpoints

*BCN-Checkpoint is not a COBATEST member but has contributed with data.