



Generalitat de Catalunya  
**Agència de Salut Pública de Catalunya**

# **THE COBATEST NETWORK:**

## A PLATFORM OF HIV COMMUNITY BASED TESTING PRACTICES IN EUROPE

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Luxembourg, November 25<sup>th</sup>

# 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.



### General 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.

# Euro HIV-EDAT Project (2014-2017)

## Operational knowledge to improve HIV early diagnosis and treatment among vulnerable groups in Europe

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



Operational knowledge to improve HIV early diagnosis and treatment among vulnerable groups in Europe

Co-funding from the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency (CHAFAE) under the EU Public Health Programme for the period April 2014-September 2017 (Grant Agreement N°20131101).

### 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

# Network's objectives and participants

## 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 18 European countries

(Germany, Denmark, Czech Republic, Poland, France, Slovenia, Belgium, Romania, Portugal, Lithuania, Latvia, UK, Hungary, Ukraine, Austria, Greece, Italy and Spain)



# Methodology

## STANDARDIZED DATA COLLECTION FORM

### Web based tool for data entry

**HIV TESTING DATA COLLECTION FORM**

Name of the CBVCT site: \_\_\_\_\_ Testing site:  CBVCT office  Outdoor/Pop  Sex work ven  Sauna/sex vo

City of the CBVCT site: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of visit: Day: [ ] [ ] [ ] Month: [ ] [ ] Year: [ ] [ ] [ ]

User's unique identifier (used by the CBVCT service): \_\_\_\_\_

User's unique identifier (COBATEST): \_\_\_\_\_

**Client's characteristics data:**

Gender:  Male  Female  Transgender Date of birth: [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

Foreign national:  Yes  No  Don't know Country of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ is the client a:  Resident  Tourist

Municipality or home town: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons for HIV testing:** (multiresponse)

Risk exposition  For control/screening  Window period in the last test

Unprotected vaginal sex  My partner asked to me

Unprotected anal sex  Before dropping using condom with my partner

Unprotected oral sex  I wish to have a baby

Broken condom  Prenatal screening before delivery

Unprotected sex with sex worker  Regular control

My partner has tested positive recently  Only to know my health status

Episode of sharing injection material  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons for come to this CBVCT service to be tested:** (multiresponse)

I've come here before  I've seen this CBVCT in a pamphlet  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

A friend told me about this CBVCT  I've found this CBVCT in internet  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Previous HIV tests:**

HIV test in the past?  Yes  No  Don't know

HIV test in the last 12 months in this CBVCT facility?  Yes  No  Don't know

**Risk behaviour/factors:**

Sex in the last 12 months with:  men  women  woman and man  I haven't had sex

Condom use in the last sexual relation with penetration?  Yes  No  Don't know

Exchange of sex for drugs or money in the last 12 months?  Yes  No  Don't know

STI diagnosed in the last 12 months?  Yes  No  Don't know

Ever in jail?  Yes  No  Don't know

unprotected sex with penetration in the last 12 months with:

Sex workers:  Yes  No  Don't know

IDU:  Yes  No  Don't know

Known HIV positive partner:  Yes  No  Don't know

MSM:  Yes  No  Don't know

**Intravenous drug use:**

Yes  No  Don't know

Share of materials of injection in the last 12 months, as:

Syringes or needles?  Yes  No  Don't know

Spoons, filters, water, ...?  Yes  No  Don't know

## Core indicators for M&E

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

#### Guidelines for CBVCT services

#### Field-test version

July 2012

### HIV TESTING DATA COLLECTION FORM:

Pag 1. Pag 2. Pag 3. Pag 4.

**HIV TESTING DATA COLLECTION FORM:**

Name of the CBVCT site:

City of CBVCT:

Testing site:

Date visit:

**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:  # Older sisters:  Initial letter:

**Client characteristics data:**

Foreign national  Yes  No  Don't know

Municipality or home town

# Metodología

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- 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

# Results

## Preliminary data (centres using common tools)

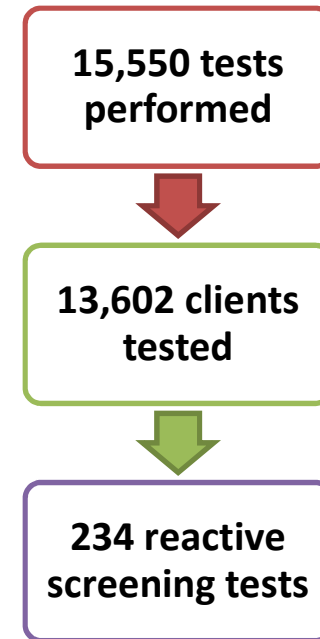
- ❑ 26 CBVCT centres from 7 different countries\*
- ❑ Period analyzed: January 2013 – June 2015
- ❑ Most of the centres started introducing data in January 2014

\*Spain, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine

### Number of test per year

Year	N tests	N centres
2013	2229	9
2014	9266	20
2015* (January – June)	4036	23

1.72%





# Results 2014

**1.58%**

Clients tested for HIV

	N	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	6057	70.8%
Female	2370	27.7%
Transgender	125	1.5%
<b>Age groups</b>		
<20	728	8.7%
>=21-35	4795	57.6%
>=36-50	2238	26.9%
>50	566	6.8%
<b>Migrants</b>		
yes	2811	32.9%
<b>Risk Groups</b>		
UDI	134	1.6%
Male sex worker	346	4.1%
MSM	3267	38.8%
Women sex worker	365	4.3%
Heterosexual women	1983	23.5%
Heterosexual men	2334	27.7%

**9,266 tests performed**



**8,554 clients tested**



**135 reactive screening tests**

Clients tested for HIV

	N	%
<b>Types of tests</b>		
Rapid blood test	6717	78.5%
Rapid oral test	1679	19.6%
Conventional test	156	1.8%
<b>Testing sites</b>		
CBVCT office	7556	88.3%
Outdoors/Van	23	0.3%
Sex work venue	56	0.7%
Sauna/sex venue	176	2.1%
Public venue	48	0.6%
Amusement venue	192	2.2%
Other	503	5.9%
<b>Previous HIV test</b>		
yes	5500	64.3%



# Results 2014

## CBVCT 5 Number of clients with reactive screening HIV test result

TOTAL	All	Males	Females	<25	>=25
% of clients with reactive screening HIV test result	1.58%	1.93%	1.09%	1.51%	2.0%

### Key Population Groups

Migrants	All	Males	Females	<25	>=25
% of clients with reactive screening HIV test result	2.24%	2.65%	1.50%	2.47%	2.12%

MSM	All	Males	Females	<25	>=25
% of clients with reactive screening HIV test result	3.13%	3.13%	-	3.67%	3.00%

SW	All	Males	Females	<25	>=25
% of clients with reactive screening HIV test result	4.02%	7.69%	0.54%	6.38%	3.51%

IDU	All	Males	Females	<25	>=25
% of clients with reactive screening HIV test result	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

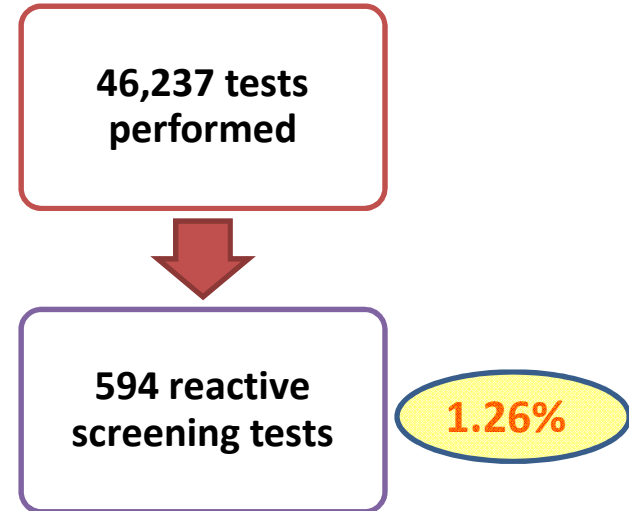
# Results

## Data received 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2015:

- ❑ 31 CBVCT centres from 12 different countries\*

\*Spain, Denmark, Italy, Latvia, Ukraine, Croatia, Austria, Portugal, France, Slovenia, Poland and Czech Republic

- 23 CBVCT used data entry tool
- 4 CBVCT sent disaggregated data
- 4 CBVCT sent aggregated data



# Opportunities and challenges

Opportunities	Challenges
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Interest of ECDC in the potential use of data collected in CBVCTs for formal surveillance systems.</li> <li>2. Generate strategic information, as has stated the Consolidated Strategic Information Guidelines published recently by WHO.</li> <li>3. Provide important information for the continuum of prevention, care, treatment and support, improving some information gaps at the level of prevention and HIV testing and also at the level of linkage to care.</li> <li>4. To implement complementary operational projects (WHO POC STI tests validation, MSM sero-negative cohort...)</li> <li>5. TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION ACROSS SECTORS AND ORGANIZATIONS. AVOID DUPLICATION. GAIN EFFICIENCY.</li> <li>6. More opportunities for fund raising (i.e. Operating Grants)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Duplication with other initiatives and networks</li> <li>2. Too many non-coordinated requests to centres.</li> <li>3. Lack of retention of the participating CBVCT services</li> <li>4. Quality of information submitted to the network</li> </ol>

# Conclusions

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- The COBATEST project has contributed to standardize indicators and data collection instruments used by CBVCT across Europe.
- The COBATEST network has proven the feasibility of actually collecting standardized data from CBVCT in different countries.
- Quality of the data will improve if the network can be sustainable over time and it increases its coverage.
- This information can contribute to improve CBVCT services, to better assess the services cascade and to advocate for these services in the HIV national plans.
- The ECDC is interested in the potential use of data collected in CBVCTs for formal surveillance systems.
- We encourage countries to ask to their CBVCT services to collect these indicators and incorporate them in their national plans.
- We offer our help in the process, offering the COBATEST standardized tools, and offering help in the data analysis.
- To strength collaboration across sectors and organizations. To avoid duplications with other initiatives. To gain efficiency.