

HIV testing in Europe

Annex 1. Survey targeting the Primary Target Group (Member States)



Abbreviations

CICT	Client Initiated Counselling and Testing
CSW(s)	Commercial sex worker(s)
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EU	European Economic Area
EEA	European Economic Area
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IV	Intravenous
MoH	Ministry of Health
MSM	Men who have sex with men
NGO(s)	Non-governmental Organization(s)
PICT	Provider Initiated Counselling and Testing
PLHIV	People living with HIV
PWID	People who inject drugs
STI(s)	Sexually transmitted infection(s)

Definitions used throughout the survey

Advocacy: Actions that seek to engage with decision makers and influence e.g. HIV policies

Evaluation: A collection of activities designed to determine the value or worth of a specific programme, intervention or project. As opposed to monitoring, evaluation looks at what is effective and why it is effective

Guidelines: Are normative recommended, but non-mandatory standards. E.g. operational recommendations for health care workers conducting HIV testing

Indicator condition-guided HIV testing: Routine HIV testing of individuals who attend health care settings with certain medical conditions linked to possible undetected HIV infection, e.g. infectious mononucleosis-like illness, pneumonia

Monitoring: The simple description, counting, and tracking of processes or events, without in-depth analysis or comparisons. Monitoring will answer the questions What? Where? When? How much or how many? But not Is it effective? or Why is it effective?

Normalisation of HIV testing: Making the process more like that for other screening and diagnostic tests

Policy: E.g. a national testing policy that is targeted towards health professionals ordering HIV related tests, and receiving and interpreting results, which sets out the framework for providing quality testing and removing real and perceived barriers to testing, including ethical issues

Programme: A combination of interventions or activities that a country establishes as a fundamental part of its structure and mission. Programmes tend to focus on a specific area (e.g., Improving HIV testing rates) and operate over the long-term

Strategy: A comprehensive action plan that identifies critical goals and objectives and defines actions to achieve these goals and objectives. E.g. a five-year plan that details principles, priorities, and actions to guide the collective national response to the HIV epidemic

Contact information

Name:

Position:

How long have you held this position

Evaluation of ECDC HIV testing guidance in the EU/EEA

In 2010, ECDC published the guidance HIV testing: increasing uptake and effectiveness in the European Union (http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/101129_GUI_HIV_testing.pdf) (the 2010 guidance).

In consideration of the recent developments in this field, ECDC is considering to update the guidance in 2016. As preparatory work, an evaluation of the impact of the 2010 guidance in the EU/EEA at national and supra-national levels has been commissioned.

The evaluation is being carried out by a team of contracted experts within the HIV in Europe Initiative (hiveurope.eu)

The survey comprises of six sections enquiring about:

- Your awareness about the guidance, its content, and through which channel you were informed.
- Its relevance for your work and in which aspects.
- How consistent it is with national guidance and how it complements national guidance.
- The impact it had on national policies.
- Your perception on the rationale for having an EU guidance and its added value.
- Your assessment of the structure and presentation of the guidance and its usability.

If you have any questions about the completion of the questionnaire, please contact: hie.rigshospitalet@regionh.dk.

In which sector do you work?

- Public health sector
- Private health sector
- Health research/academia
- NGO/CSO
- International organisation
- Other

Please specify: _____

What is your main area of work? Please tick one:

- Advocacy
- Research
- Programme development
- Programme/project coordination
- Policy maker
- Technical advisor/expert
- Surveillance
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Health care
- Other

Please specify: _____

Service/organisation (please provide name): _____

Have you participated in developing national HIV testing policy/guidelines in your country?

- Yes
- No

What was your role? _____

City: _____

Country where you work:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- The Netherlands
- United Kingdom

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

If anyone else provided any of the information in this questionnaire, please enter their contact details here:

1. Awareness

1.1 Which of the following international testing and guidelines/guidance documents are you aware of? Please tick all that apply

- ECDC 2010 "HIV testing: increasing uptake and effectiveness in the European Union"
- EMCDDA 2010 "Guidelines for testing HIV, viral hepatitis and other infections in injecting drug users"
- HIV in Europe 2012 "HIV Indicator Conditions: Guidance for Implementing HIV Testing in Adults in Health Care Settings"
- IUSTI 2014 "European guideline on HIV testing"
- WHO "2015 Consolidated guidelines on HIV testing services"
- WHO 2013 "HIV and adolescents: guidance for HIV testing and counselling and care for adolescents living with HIV"
- WHO 2010 "Scaling up HIV testing and counseling in the WHO European Region as an essential component of efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support"
- WHO/UNAIDS 2007 "Guidance on provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling in health facilities"
- None of the above
- Other

Please specify: _____

1.1.1 How did you become aware of it? Please tick all that apply:

- On the ECDC website
- On a national website
- It was referenced in a national HIV testing document (policy/guidelines/programme/strategy)
- Internet search
- HIV journals or literature
- Professional networks
- Meetings/conferences
- From a colleague
- Other

Please specify: _____

1.1.2 How familiar are you with the ECDC HIV testing guidance? Please tick all that apply:

- I am aware of it, but have not read it
- I have looked at it
- I have only read the policy brief version of the ECDC HIV testing guidance
- I have read it
- I have discussed it in professional settings/networks
- I have used it for work
- Other

Please specify: _____

1.1.3 Have you further circulated or distributed the ECDC HIV testing guidance (e.g. hardcopies, webpage, link)?

- Yes
- No

1.1.3.1 To approximately how many recipients? Please tick one:

- 0-10
- 10-50
- 50-100
- 100-500
- 500+

1.1.3.2 Did you circulate it in: (Please tick all that apply)

- Your own country
- Other EU/EEA countries
- Other

1.1.3.3 How would you describe the recipients? Please tick all that apply:

- Clinicians and other health professionals
- Civil society organisations and NGOs members/staff
- Researchers
- Decision-makers
- Public Health Institutions employees
- HIV programme managers
- Monitoring and Evaluation specialists
- Other

Please specify: _____

1.1.4 Has the ECDC HIV testing guidance been translated into your local language?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know
- NA (English is our local language)

1.1.4.1 Was it an official translation?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

1.1.4.2 Into which language(s)? Please tick all that apply:

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Icelandic
- Irish
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Norwegian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish

2. Relevance

2.1 Which of the following international testing guidelines/guidance documents have been relevant for your work? Please tick all that apply:

- ECDC 2010 "HIV testing: increasing uptake and effectiveness in the European Union"
- EMCDDA 2010 "Guidelines for testing HIV, viral hepatitis and other infections in injecting drug users"
- HIV in Europe 2012 "HIV Indicator Conditions: Guidance for Implementing HIV Testing in Adults in Health Care Settings"
- IUSTI 2014 "European guideline on HIV testing"
- WHO "2015 Consolidated guidelines on HIV testing services"
- WHO 2013 "HIV and adolescents: guidance for HIV testing and counselling and care for adolescents living with HIV"
- WHO 2010 "Scaling up HIV testing and counselling in the WHO European Region as an essential component of efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support"
- WHO/UNAIDS 2007 "Guidance on provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling in health facilities"
- None of the above
- Other

Please specify: _____

2.2 Was the ECDC HIV testing guidance relevant for your work when it was published in 2010?

- Very relevant
- Relevant
- Somewhat relevant
- Not relevant
- Other

Please specify: _____

2.2.1 Since 2010, for which areas of your work has the ECDC HIV testing guidance document been relevant (Please tick all that apply):

- As general information about approaches to HIV
- As comparison among different countries' testing policies
- As a reference policy document
- To provide technical feed-back to policymakers/decision-makers
- For national HIV testing policy/ guidelines/strategy development
- For national HIV testing policy/ guidelines/strategy monitoring
- For national HIV testing policy/ guidelines/strategy evaluation
- For HIV testing programme development
- For HIV testing programme monitoring
- For HIV testing programme evaluation
- Other

Please specify: _____

2.2.2 Which parts of the ECDC HIV testing guidance were most relevant for your work? Please tick all that apply:

- Core principles for national HIV testing strategies and programmes
- Whom to test (e.g. know your epidemic and identify groups most at risk, consider logistics and make testing available in various settings)
- Where to test (e.g. access to free healthcare, counselling and support and assurance of confidentiality)
- When to test (more frequent testing is advisable for people with ongoing risk behaviour, e.g. PWID are advised to get tested at least every 6 to 12 months)
- How to test (raise public awareness, ensure confidentiality, raise professional awareness and train the workforce, pre-test discussion, use appropriate testing technologies, always give results)
- Ensuring access to HIV treatment, care and prevention (access to antiretroviral therapy, access to psychosocial support and prevention services)
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Other

Please specify: _____

2.2.3 Since 2010, the ECDC HIV testing guidance has not been relevant for my work because (Please tick all that apply):

- It is too narrative and lacks concreteness
- A national testing policy/strategy/programme was already in place corresponding to the ECDC HIV testing guidance
- The release of the ECDC HIV testing guidance was untimely
- The content of the ECDC HIV testing guidance does not correspond to the needs within our country
- The ECDC HIV testing guidance is not aligned with existing national HIV testing policy/strategy/programmes
- Other HIV testing guidances have been used for my work
- Other

Please specify which needs: _____

If other HIV testing guidances have been used for your work, please specify which ones:

Please specify: _____

2.3 Is the ECDC HIV testing guidance relevant for your current work? Please tick one:

- Very relevant
- Relevant
- Somewhat relevant
- Not relevant
- Other

Please specify: _____

2.4 Considering that ECDC would develop a new guidance, which area/topic do you think should be added/prioritised for the next version?

	To be added/prioritised	To be removed/deprioritised
New testing technologies, e.g. self-testing/home testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The implications of new technologies for tracking testing rates and testing uptake	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community-based testing and lay providers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provider-initiated testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indicator condition-guided HIV testing (explained in key terms)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Continuum of care perspective	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Frequency of testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Priority group definition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Economic modelling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Monitoring and evaluation standards/tools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Implementation models and country case-studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Examples of strategies that have proven not to be cost-effective	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify: _____

3. Coherence/complementarity

3.1 In your country, is there:

(Please mark on a scale from 1-5 the degree to which the below documents are used nationally

(1: Not used at all and 5: Very widely used))

	1	2	3	4	5	Not applicable (there is not such a document in my country)
A National HIV strategy/policy that includes recommendations on testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A National HIV testing policy document	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National HIV testing guidelines document	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A National HIV testing strategy document	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A specific policy concerning Client Initiated Testing and Counselling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A specific policy concerning Provider Initiated Testing and Counselling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Guidelines on HIV testing issued by professional societies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify: _____

3.1.1 Please provide a link to the most widely used document (s) here or upload below:

3.1.2 Do you know in what year it was released/most recently updated? _____

3.1.3 Do you know when it is next due to be updated (e.g. 2016)? _____

3.2 To what extent is the ECDC HIV testing guidance aligned with the recommendations and/or technical content of the most widely used national policy/guidelines on HIV testing in your country? Please tick one:

- Very closely aligned (i.e. recommendations/technical content is almost 100% the same in the two documents)
- Somewhat aligned (i.e. more than 50% is the same)
- Only slightly aligned (i.e. less than 50% is the same)
- Not at all aligned
- Do not know

3.2.1 Please describe the areas/topics where there are significant differences between the ECDC HIV testing guidance and national policy/guidelines on HIV testing in your country: _____

3.2.2 What factors, in your opinion, may explain the significant differences between the ECDC HIV testing guidance and national policy/guidelines on HIV testing in your country? Please tick all that apply:

- Lack of awareness/untimely release of the ECDC HIV testing guidance
- Discrepancy between EU level priorities in terms of HIV testing and national priorities?
- Use of other HIV testing guidance documents e.g. issued by WHO or UNAIDS?
- Other

Please specify: _____

3.2.3 In your opinion, what could be strengthened in your national HIV testing policy? _____

3.3 In your country, are there National HIV testing programme(s)?

- Yes
- No, but we have ongoing testing programmes and services
- No, but our health system conducts HIV testing
- Other

Please provide link(s) or upload document(s): _____

3.4 How is your HIV testing programme funded in your country? Please tick all that apply:

- State funded
- International donor programme funded
- Health insurance funded
- NGO funded
- Other

Please specify: _____

3.5 What is included in your national HIV testing programme(s)? Please tick all that apply:

3.5.1 Goals and Principles

- A defined target audience
- Voluntary, confidential testing with informed consent
- Written informed consent
- Post-test access to treatment, care and prevention services
- Remove legal barriers
- Remove financial barriers
- Pre-test counselling or pre-test discussion
- Post-test counselling
- Streamlining of counselling process (less demanding)
- Raise professional awareness and train the workforce
- Partner notification
- Testing conducted by lay providers
- Monitoring and evaluation programme

3.5.2 Settings

- Dedicated HIV testing centres (e.g. for people at high risk, PWID services)
- Routine offering in general practice
- Routine offering in emergency departments
- Outreach services
- Non-medical, non-traditional alternative settings (saunas, field visits, etc.)
- Home testing/self-testing

3.5.3 Sub-groups

- Testing of all pregnant women for HIV (opt-out) Tandem Hep C or B/C and HIV testing
- Testing of all most-at-risk population groups
- Testing of people with an indicator condition, e.g. pneumonia, mononucleosis-like illness
- Testing of serodiscordant couples (routine testing of HIV negative partner)
- Testing frequency

3.6 In your opinion, what could be strengthened in your national HIV testing programme?

3.7 Is there a specific national Monitoring and Evaluation plan of national HIV testing in your country?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

4. Effectiveness/impact

4.1 Has the ECDC HIV testing guidance been used in the development, monitoring and/or evaluation of your national HIV testing policy/guidelines/programme/strategy?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

4.1.1 Please specify how it was used: (Please tick all that apply)

- To develop a new HIV testing policy/ guidelines To develop a new HIV testing programme
- To revise an existing HIV testing policy/guidelines
- To revise an existing HIV testing programme
- To support/inform the monitoring of HIV testing
- To support/inform the evaluation of HIV testing
- To advocate for HIV testing
- To fundraise/mobilise resources for HIV testing programmes
- Other

Please specify: _____

4.1.2 Which parts of the ECDC HIV testing guidance have been used for the development, monitoring and/or evaluation of your national HIV testing policies/guidelines or programmes/strategy? Please tick all that apply:

- Core principles for national HIV testing strategies and programmes
- Whom, where and when to test How to test
- Ensuring access to HIV treatment, care and prevention
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Other

Please specify: _____

4.1.3 Which core principles for national HIV testing recommended in the ECDC HIV testing guidance have been included in the development of your national HIV policies/guidelines or programmes/strategies?

- HIV testing should be voluntary, confidential and undertaken with informed consent
- Ensure access to treatment, care and prevention testing services
- Show political commitment
- Reduce stigma by normalising testing
- Develop and implement an HIV testing strategy with the participation of stakeholders (e.g. MSM,migrants)
- Remove legal barriers
- Remove financial barriers
- Make access to HIV testing an integral part of national strategies
- Other

Please specify: _____

4.1.4 How important was the use of the ECDC HIV testing guidance for changes in national HIV testing policies/guidelines or strategies/programmes in your country?

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Other

Please specify: _____

Within which areas? Please tick all that apply:

- Whom, where and when to test
- How to test
- Ensuring access to HIV treatment, care and prevention
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Other

Please specify: _____

4.1.5 Please specify why you think the ECDC HIV or testing guidance was not used to inform the development, monitoring and/or evaluation of your national HIV testing policy/guidelines or programme/strategy: (Please tick all that apply)

- A national testing policy/guideline or strategy/programme was already in place
- The release of the ECDC HIV testing guidance was untimely (e.g. we had just released a new one)
- The content of the ECDC HIV testing guidance does not correspond to the needs within our country
- The ECDC HIV testing guidance is not aligned with existing national HIV testing policy/guidelines or strategy/programme(s)
- Other HIV testing guidelines were used
- Other

Please specify which needs: _____

If other HIV testing guidelines were used, please specify which ones:

Please specify: _____

4.2 Have any changes in testing practices (e.g. new target groups, testing technologies or new ways of delivering tests) been observed in your country since 2010?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

4.2.1 Please describe the changes:

4.2.2 In your opinion, do you think the ECDC HIV testing guidance has had an impact on this change in testing practices in your country?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

Please explain: _____

4.2.3 Have the changes led to improvement in HIV testing in your country?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

Please explain: _____

4.3 Please complete the following statement choosing all options that apply: In order to increase the relevance and use of the ECDC HIV testing guidance for my work, it should:

- Be better aligned with other existing guidelines, (e.g. WHO 2015, IUSTI 2014)
- Complement other existing guidelines Include other topics
- Include guidance on indicator condition-guided HIV testing
- Be more specific and operational concrete in its guidance
- Be more user friendly
- Address practical challenges including implementation
- Be available in other languages
- Include a toolkit with implementation-oriented tools
- Include guidance on testing strategies
- Provide best-practice examples from the EU/EEA
- Have more focus on new technologies
- Provide framework for monitoring and evaluation of testing programmes
- Other

Please specify: _____

Please provide details to further explain your answer on how the ECDC HIV testing guidance can be improved:

5. EU Added Value

5.1 How would you assess the overall importance of having an EU level HIV testing guidance? Please tick one:

- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Other

Please specify: _____

5.1.1 Please describe the areas of work where you think it has the most importance: (Please tick all that apply):

- Monitoring and evaluation
- Developing policies, guidelines and/or programmes/strategies
- Advocacy purposes
- Other

Please specify: _____

5.1.2 If for developing policies, guidelines and/or programmes/strategies, on which level? Please tick all that apply:

- At international level
- At national level
- At local level
- At regional level
- At specialty level
- Other

Please specify: _____

5.1.3 Please describe in what ways it provides added value: (Please tick all that apply)

- Saves time/resources by providing up to date review of evidence relevant to the EU/EEA country
- Provides a benchmark
- Influences the development of national policies in the EU/EEA countries
- Fosters change in individual countries in EU/EEA by providing an EU/EEA standard
- It is well accepted as a reference policy document
- Provides leverage for advocacy purposes
- Other

Please specify: _____

5.2 In your opinion, is there an added value of having an up to date EU level HIV testing guidance?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

Please specify: _____

5.3 In your opinion, how could ECDC contribute to strengthening HIV testing within your country?

5.4 Is there any additional information ECDC could provide to support the development/monitoring/evaluation of your national HIV testing policy/ guidelines or programmes/strategy?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

Please specify the information needed: _____

6. Usability

6.1 Please reflect on the usability of the ECDC HIV testing guidance and choose the description you find most appropriate.

The ECDC HIV testing guidance:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
6.1.1 Is user friendly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6.1.2 Is clearly written and easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6.1.3 Has a clear structure and format	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6.1.4 Is too long	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6.1.5 Has enough details about HIV testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6.1.6 Lacks key information about HIV testing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6.1.7 Was easily accessible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6.1.8 It was a problem that it was not available in my language:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6.1.9 If you have any comments about the usability of the ECDC HIV testing guidance, please use this box: _____

6.2 How could the dissemination of the guidance be improved? Please tick all that apply:

- Translation into other EU/EEA languages Produce a collection of documents tailored to specific users (e.g. policy makers, advocacy activists)
- Be practical oriented, e.g. with a toolkit with implementation-oriented tools
- Complement the guidance with a peer-reviewed publication
- Upload the guidance on additional websites other than ECDC
- Provide best-practice examples from EU/EEA countries
- Organise workshops for MS and other stakeholders to promote its implementation
- Supplement the guidance with additional resources like information leaflets and posters for download
- Other

Please specify: _____

6.3 Are you familiar with the brief version of the ECDC HIV testing guidance?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know
- Other

Please specify: _____

6.3.1 Did you find the brief version of the ECDC HIV testing guidance useful?

- Very useful
- Useful
- Somewhat useful
- Not useful
- Other

Please explain: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey and for providing information on HIV testing. Your input is greatly appreciated.