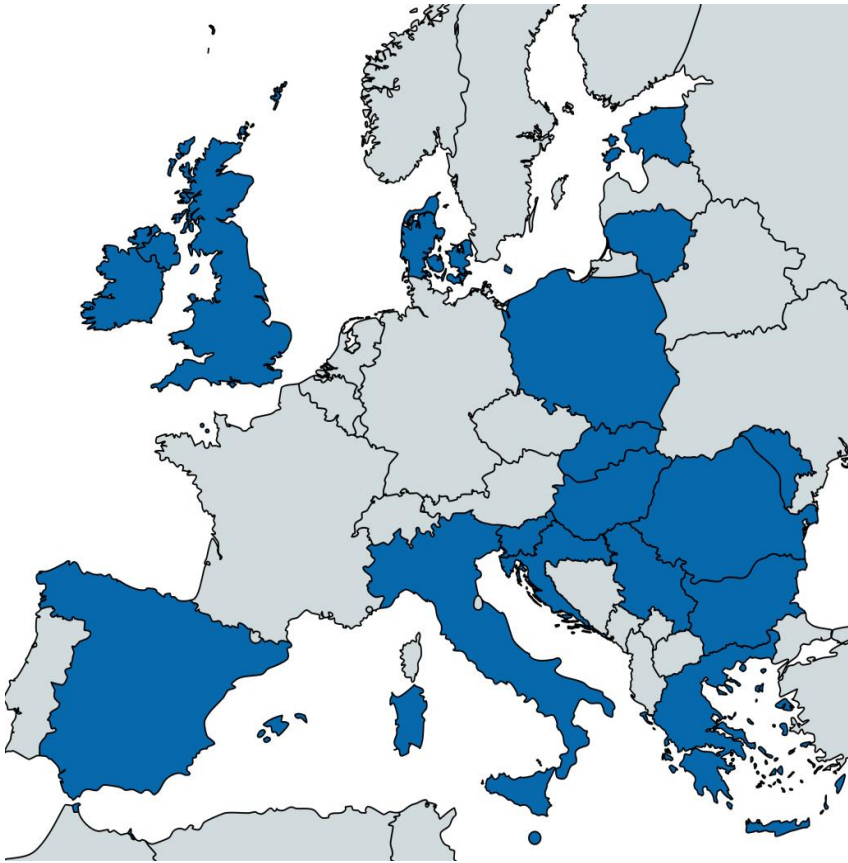


# **Joint Action on Integration of Testing and Linkage to Care for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STIs & TB in Europe “Link2Care”**

EU Health Programme Projects' Symposium  
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# Partners and current status



- Joint Action (HP-JA-2016), 3rd Health Programme and 2016 Work Programme
- 33 nominated partners from 18 EU countries
- Participation from Public Health institutions (20), Hospitals (Infectious disease and research departments) (5), NGOs (7) and Universities (1)
- First draft submitted November 2016
- Quality assurance meeting and review Dec 2016
- Currently working on second submission
- Tentative launch May 2017
- 36 Months (2017-2020)
- Overall budget 2,4 mill Euro (80% EU)

# Link2Care - Objective

## Overall objective:

- To adapt and implement sustainable activities (tools and practices) that will comprehensively assist in preventing transmission and/or optimising the ability to diagnose early infection with HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and/or STIs and ensure linkage to care across Europe.
- Link2Care builds on a number of previous and current EU-funded projects in which different Link2Care partners are also active (Quality Action, OptTEST, EuroHIVEDat, HA-REACT, HEPCARE)

# Relevance

- Focus on the continuum of care on increasing testing awareness and increasing linkage to care especially focusing on key populations.
- Contributes to the objectives of the Public Health Program 2014-20 and supporting the Commission communication on 'Combatting HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighboring countries'.
- Link2Care supports collaboration between health care institutions, policy institutions and civil society organizations in support to health policy planning development and sustainability.
- Focus on member states in Europe with high rates of HIV, viral hepatitis, TB or STIs and/or low access to care – addressing the relevant gaps depending on the needs and setting in the participating countries.

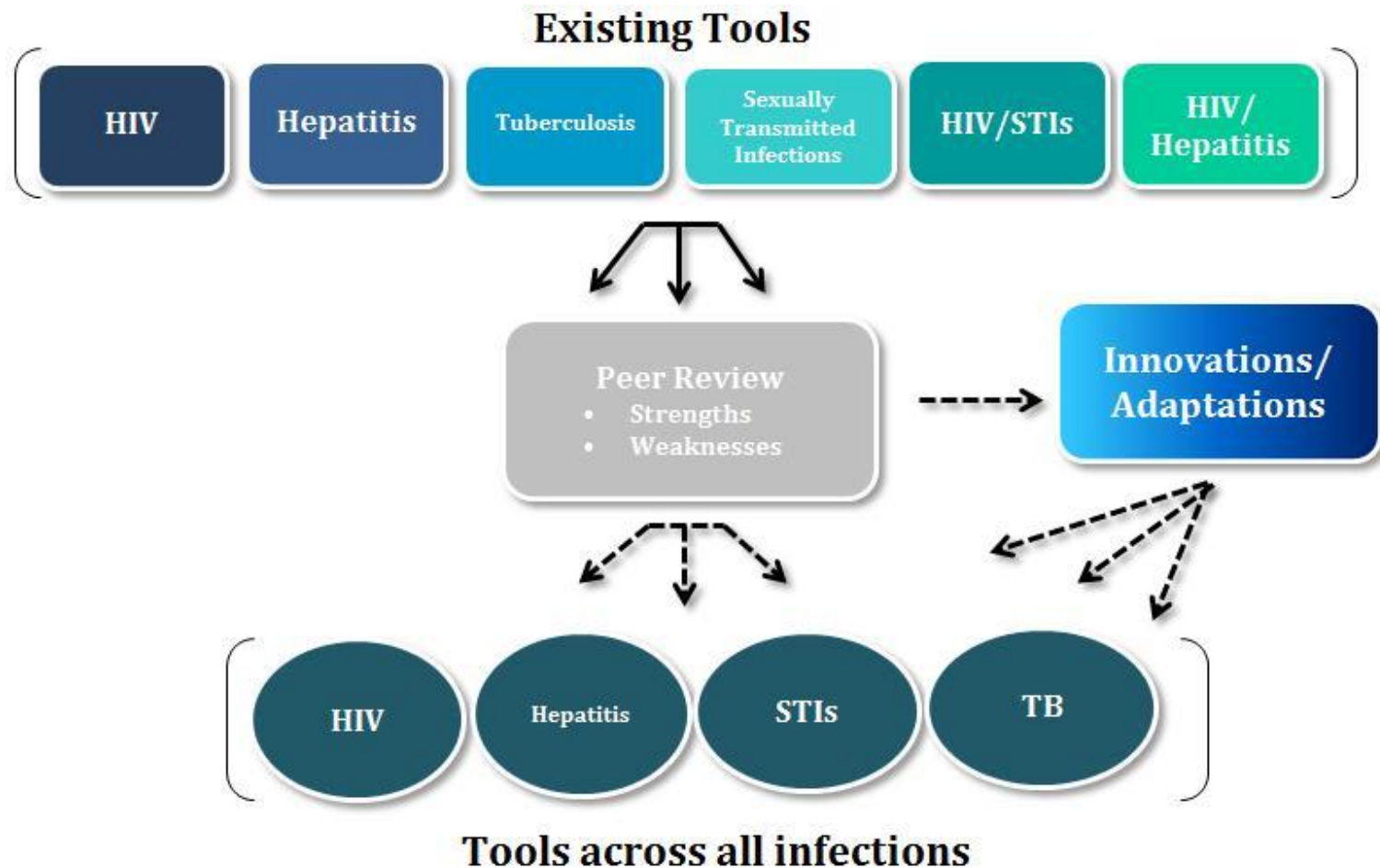
# Work Packages

WP		LP/Co-LP
<b>Horizontal Work Packages</b>		
1	Coordination	LP: CHIP (Denmark)
2	Dissemination	LP: CERTH (Greece)
3	Monitoring and Evaluation	LP: IPMN (Romania) Co-LP: PHE (UK)
4	Policy development and sustainability	LP: ARCIGAY (Italy) Co-LP: NIHD (Estonia)
<b>Core Work Packages</b>		
5	Testing and linkage to care	LP: CHIP (Denmark) Co-LP: PHE (UK)
6	Monitoring of HIV, STIs and viral hepatitis testing and linkage to care	LP: CEEISCAT (Spain) Co-LP: NIJZ (Slovenia)
7	Improving effectiveness of combination prevention	LP: UCD (Ireland) Co-LP: LILA MILANO (Italy)
8	Capacity building	LP: FVM (Italy) Co-LP: NAC (Poland)

# Four disease areas – need to combine efforts

- Continued challenges with controlling and preventing further transmission of HIV, Hepatitis, TB and STIs
  - High prevalence of co-infection due to overlaps in key populations and mode of transmission
  - Challenges ensuring that people are diagnosed early and enter the care system
- Link2Care will focus on how effective tools for diagnosis and linkage to care in one disease area can be used in other.

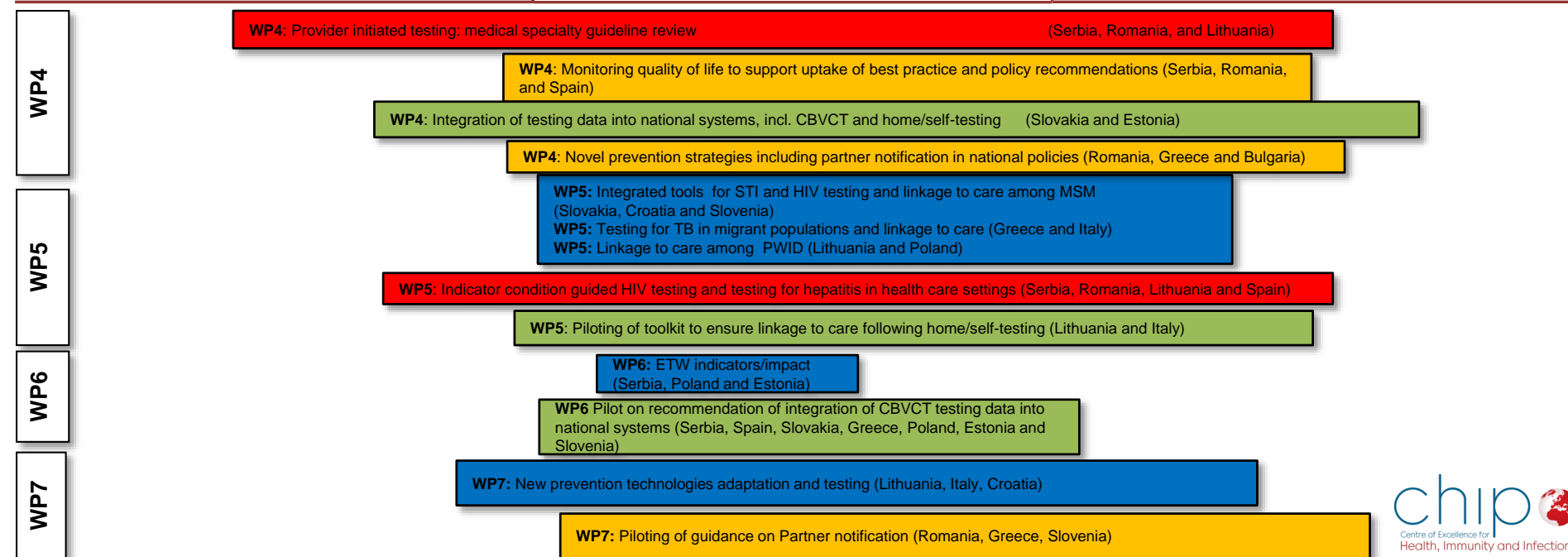
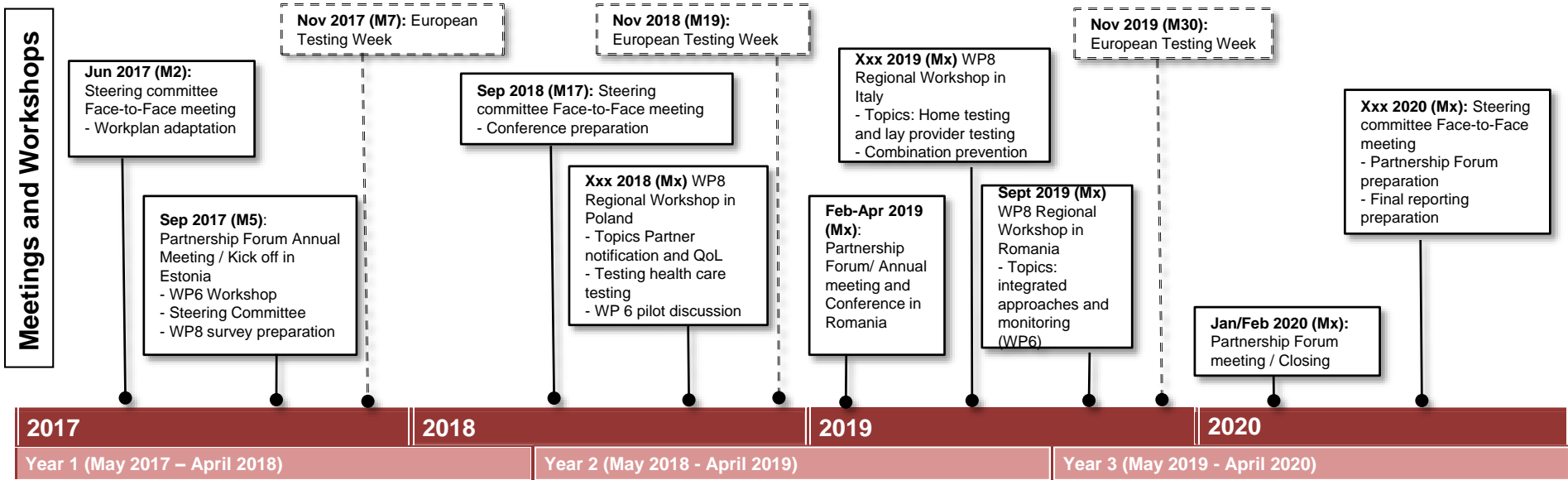
# Mapping and adapting tools



# Meetings and Pilot Activities

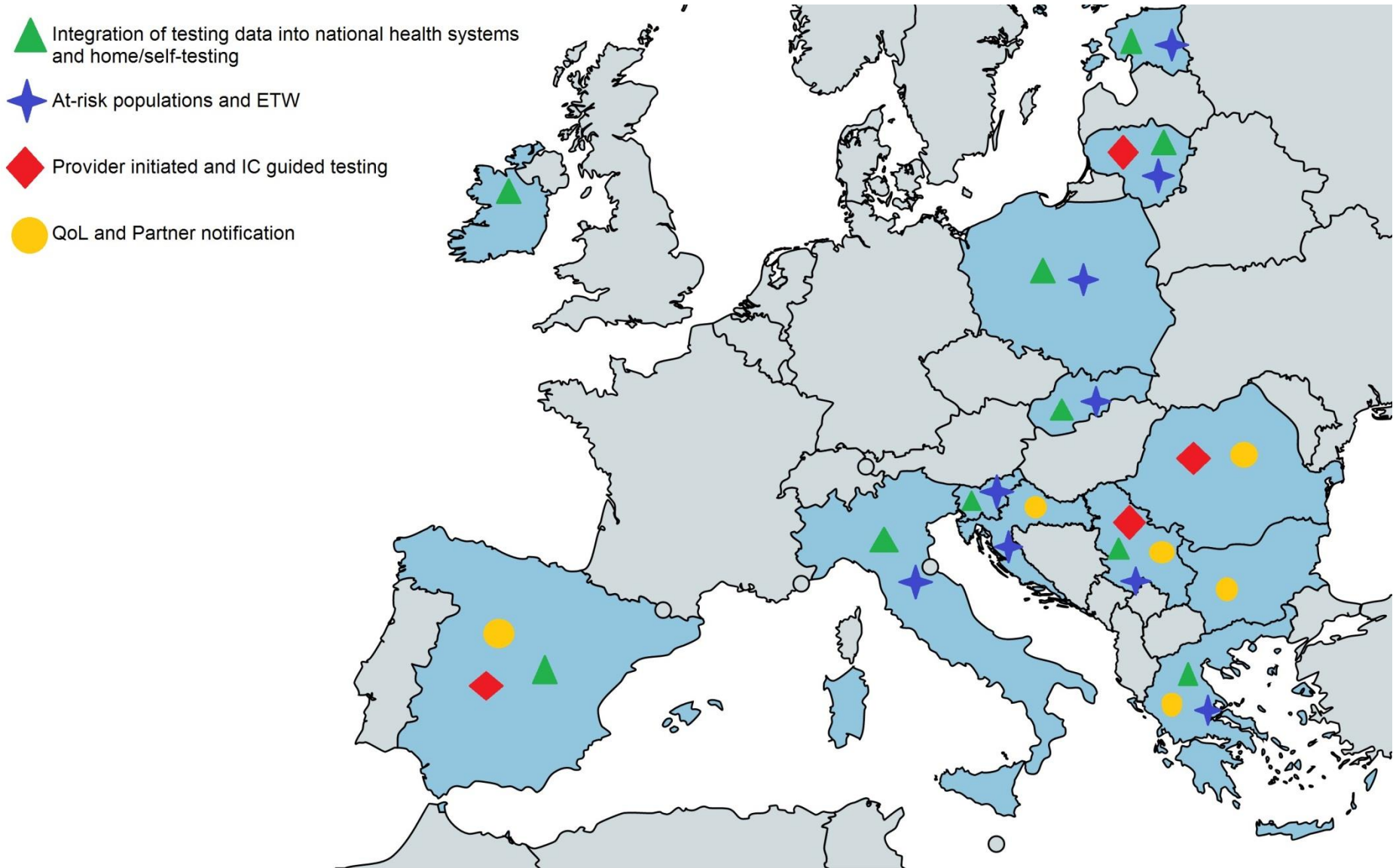
## EU Presidencies during the Joint Action

Malta (Jan – Jun)	Estonia (Jul – Dec)	Bulgaria (Jan – Jun)	Austria (Jul – Dec)	Romania (Jan – Jun)	Finland (Jul – Dec)	Croatia (Jan – Jun)	Germany (Jul – Dec)
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# Link2Care Pilot Countries



# Link to other EU initiatives

- Ambition is to get in dialogue and collaborate with other relevant (EU) projects working with HIV, Hepatitis, TB and STIs testing and linkage to care
- Important to involve countries that are not partners in the Joint Action and stakeholders other than the partners. The partners involved are often only representing one constituency (mostly public health institutes)
- Not to duplicate, but ensure synergies and sustainability – engagement with many collaborating and external partner