

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.

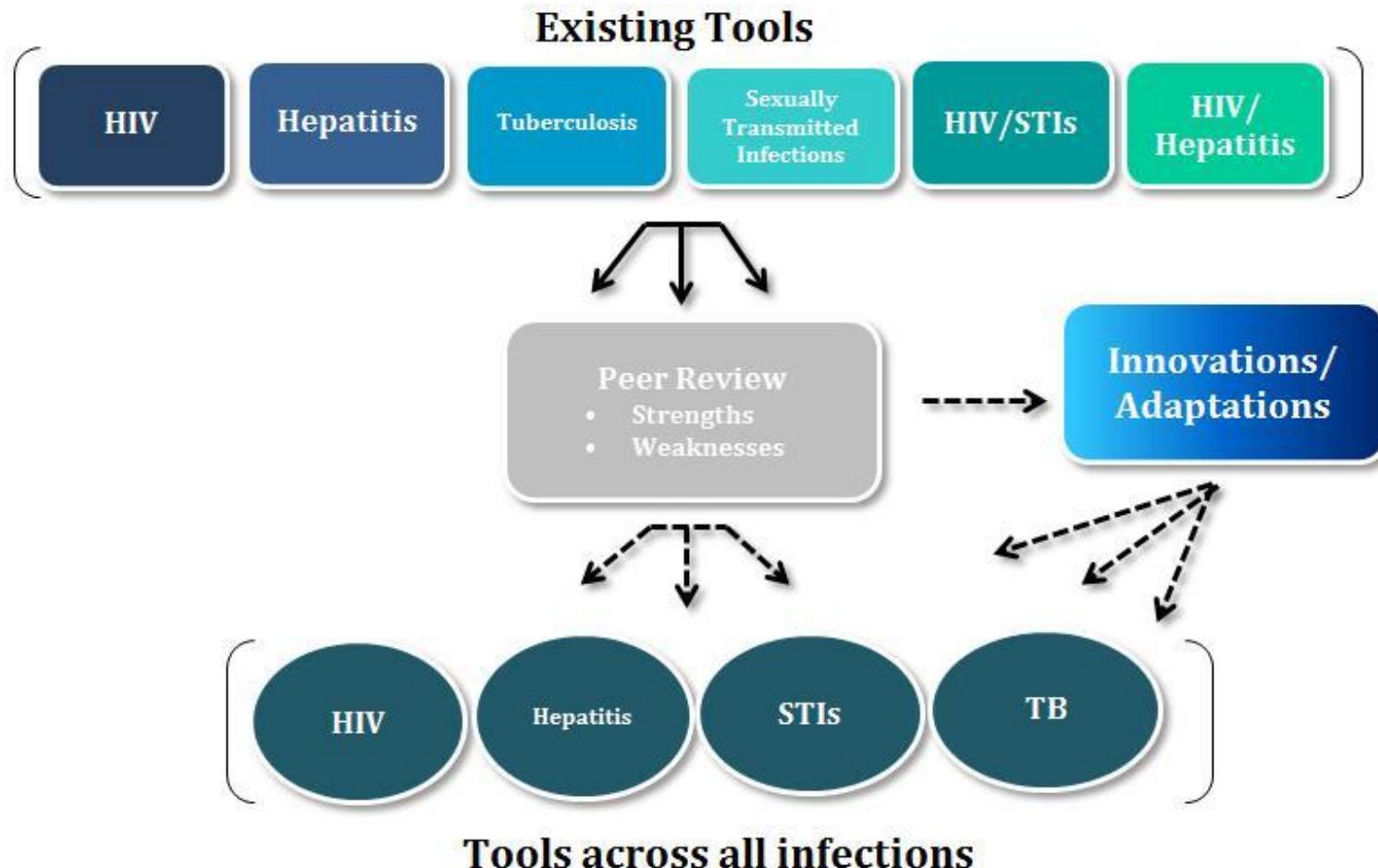
Work Packages

WP	LP/Co-LP
Horizontal Work Packages	
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)
Core Work Packages	
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

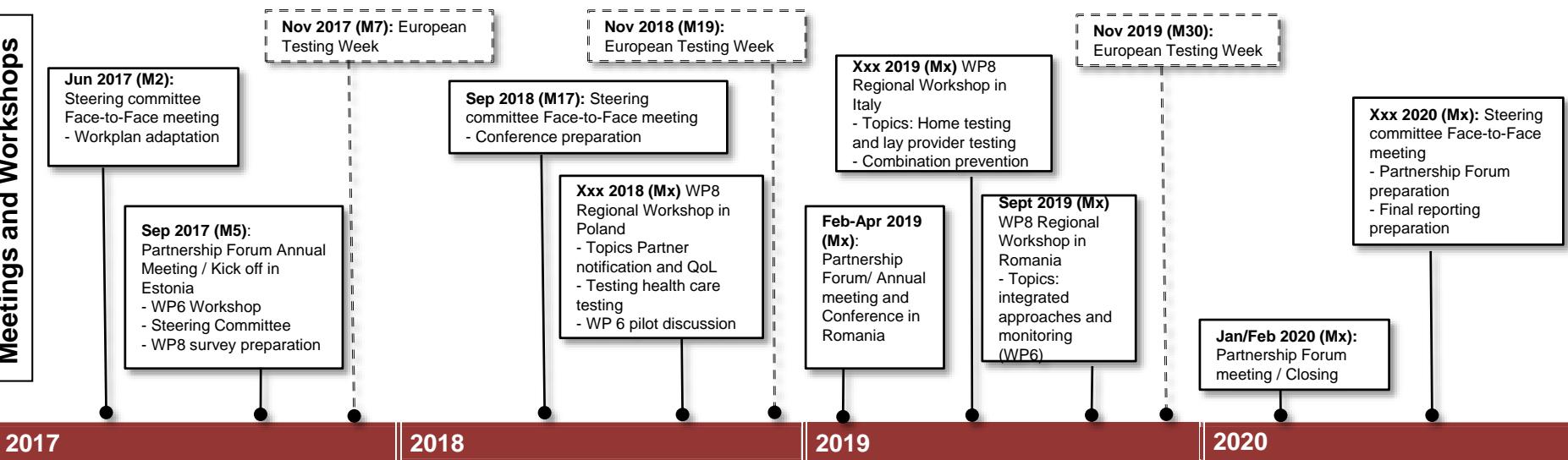


Meetings and Pilot Activities

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)

Meetings and Workshops



2017

2018

2019

2020

Year 1 (May 2017 – April 2018)

Year 2 (May 2018 - April 2019)

Year 3 (May 2019 - April 2020)

WP4

WP4: Provider initiated testing: medical specialty guideline review (Serbia, Romania, and Lithuania)

WP4: Monitoring quality of life to support uptake of best practice and policy recommendations (Serbia, Romania, and Spain)

WP4: Integration of testing data into national systems, incl. CBVCT and home/self-testing (Slovakia and Estonia)

WP4: Novel prevention strategies including partner notification in national policies (Romania, Greece and Bulgaria)

WP5: Integrated tools for STI and HIV testing and linkage to care among MSM (Slovakia, Croatia and Slovenia)

WP5: Testing for TB in migrant populations and linkage to care (Greece and Italy)

WP5: Linkage to care among PWID (Lithuania and Poland)

WP5: Indicator condition guided HIV testing and testing for hepatitis in health care settings (Serbia, Romania, Lithuania and Spain)

WP5: Piloting of toolkit to ensure linkage to care following home/self-testing (Lithuania and Italy)

WP6: ETW indicators/impact (Serbia, Poland and Estonia)

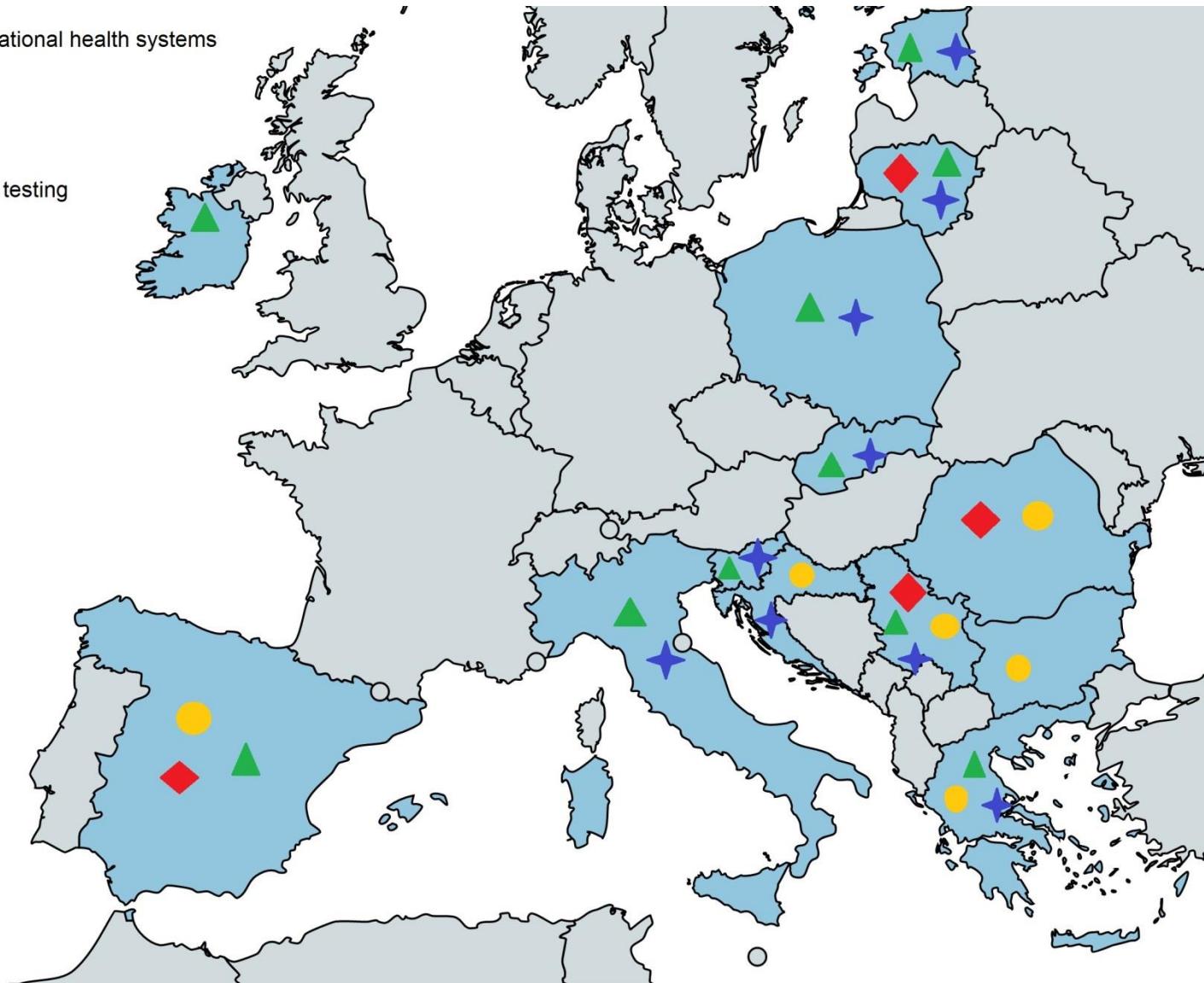
WP6 Pilot on recommendation of integration of CBVCT testing data into national systems (Serbia, Spain, Slovakia, Greece, Poland, Estonia and Slovenia)

WP7: New prevention technologies adaptation and testing (Lithuania, Italy, Croatia)

WP7: Piloting of guidance on Partner notification (Romania, Greece, Slovenia)

Link2Care Pilot Countries

- ▲ Integration of testing data into national health systems and home/self-testing
- ◆ At-risk populations and ETW
- ◆ Provider initiated and IC guided testing
- QoL and Partner notification



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