

## Theme statement

### November 2022 European Testing Week (21-28 November)



## Testing is key!

For this November 2022 European Testing Week, let us use testing as a gateway to comprehensive care for those in need, within your service capacity, to not only test but **#TestTreatPrevent**.

A place where people get tested can serve more than one purpose. Testing is a key which can open the possibility of providing a comprehensive package of both prevention and care services which caters for the wider needs of clients. This can be done by also providing, or referring to, integrated testing for multiple diseases, counselling, harm reduction, treatment, PrEP, behavioural interventions, vaccination, among others.

Testing is key in knowing one's status, which should ultimately lead to care, treatment, prevention and improvement of quality of life. Testing brings knowledge, which can enable people to act and make choices, with support and advice from healthcare providers.

#### Key considerations

- For **healthcare workers**, put individuals at the centre of care. Make every contact with clients count and consider it as an opportunity to assess for co-infections and provide (or refer people to) other services, according to their needs, such as PrEP, harm reduction programmes, counselling, vaccination, social support, etc. Engage representatives from key populations for advice to best serve key populations.
- For **community-based organisations**, work with key population representatives to understand the needs and hopes of those you serve and aim to provide the most comprehensive package of services possible in your context in accordance with needs, and. Consider suggesting behavioural interventions to reduce risk, implement peer-led or peer-delivered interventions, and - if possible - providing referrals for treatment and preventive care. Share information and educate to increase empowerment and knowledge, and to combat misinformation and stigma.
- For **policy makers/decision makers**, increase funding and resources to support testing services. Adapt testing policies to allow for lay provider testing, and integrated testing. Eliminate punitive laws for key populations (including sex workers, people who use drugs, LGTB\* people, and people living with HIV) which hinder uptake of testing services.

### Key messages to people in need of testing

- ✓ Testing has become normalized during the Covid pandemic. Make healthy choices and get tested for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- ✓ Use the European Test Finder to search for your nearest testing services: <https://www.testfinder.info/>. Here you can also see which other services are offered by the providers.
- ✓ Knowledge is power! Knowing your status enables you to act on that knowledge and take control and make choices.
- ✓ Today there are effective treatments for HIV, hepatitis and STIs. Studies show that people who test and are diagnosed early have better health outcomes than those who wait.
- ✓ Testing services often provide opportunities to ask questions, receive counseling and benefit from other support services.

### How can I participate in ETW?

- ✓ Sign up on our website to show that you participate in the upcoming campaign: <https://www.testingweek.eu/sign-up/>.
- ✓ Download our logo, web banner and other campaign materials from the website (<https://www.testingweek.eu/campaign-materials/>) use it for your ETW activities to show that you are part of the campaign.
- ✓ Promote the European Test Finder: <https://www.testfinder.info/> to facilitate easy access to testing services. If your organisation provides testing services, make sure to include them in the Test Finder by [registering](#) on the website to provide information about your services.
- ✓ Plan activities that support the objectives of ETW. You can get ideas and inspiration through our “implementation handbook” (Toolkit 2, which can be found here: <https://www.testingweek.eu/campaign-materials/toolkits/>) or see examples of what other participants have done for ETW here: <https://www.testingweek.eu/resources/success-stories/>
- ✓ Follow us on Facebook (<https://en-gb.facebook.com/EuroTestWeek>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/EuroTestWeek>)
- ✓ Share pictures and stories about your ETW activities on Facebook and Twitter
- ✓ Tag us (@EuroTEestWeek) and use our hashtags on social media: #EuroTestWeek and #TestTreatPrevent