

EUROPEAN HIV-HEPATITIS TESTING WEEK 2016

Results from the 2016 Evaluation

Summary: 519 partners from 47 of the 53 countries in the WHO European Region participated in the 2016 European Testing week. Of those, 25.8% submitted the evaluation survey. The majority were NGOs/CSOs (65%). MSM was most frequently targeted (68%), and 97% of survey respondents did HIV activities, 46% hepatitis C activities and 31% hepatitis B activities, including testing and outreach testing and awareness-raising. Many collaborated on a local level and made use of social media to increase awareness of ETW, their activities and the benefits of testing.

Background: The 2016 European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week (ETW), fourth of its kind, took place from 18-25 November 2016. In the WHO European Region, around **one in three** of the **2.5 million people living with HIV are unaware that they are HIV positive**. It is estimated that **13.3 and 15 million live with hepatitis B and C, respectively**. The purpose of the ETW is to **promote HIV and viral hepatitis testing and optimal care** in the WHO European Region.

Methods: The ETW was evaluated via online surveys distributed to all participating partners.

Results: 519 participating partners from 47 of the 53 WHO European Region Member States signed up for ETW and 25.8% submitted the evaluation survey (Figure 1).

Most, **65%**, of those who submitted the survey were NGOs/CSOs and 17% were healthcare clinics. Many participants reported HIV, HBV and HCV activities, including testing activities, during ETW (Figure 2).

Figure 1

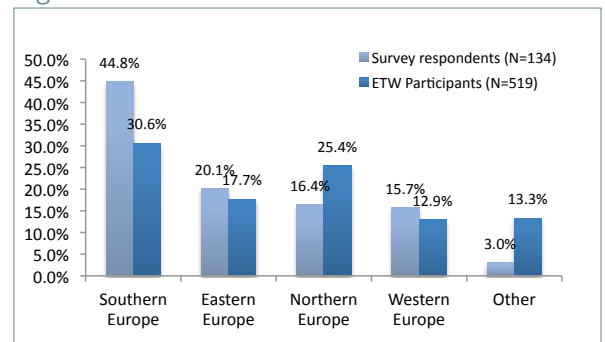
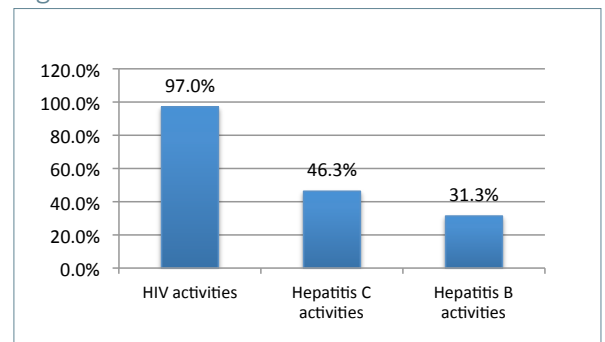


Figure 2



“Every tested person is worth the effort.” [Northern Europe]

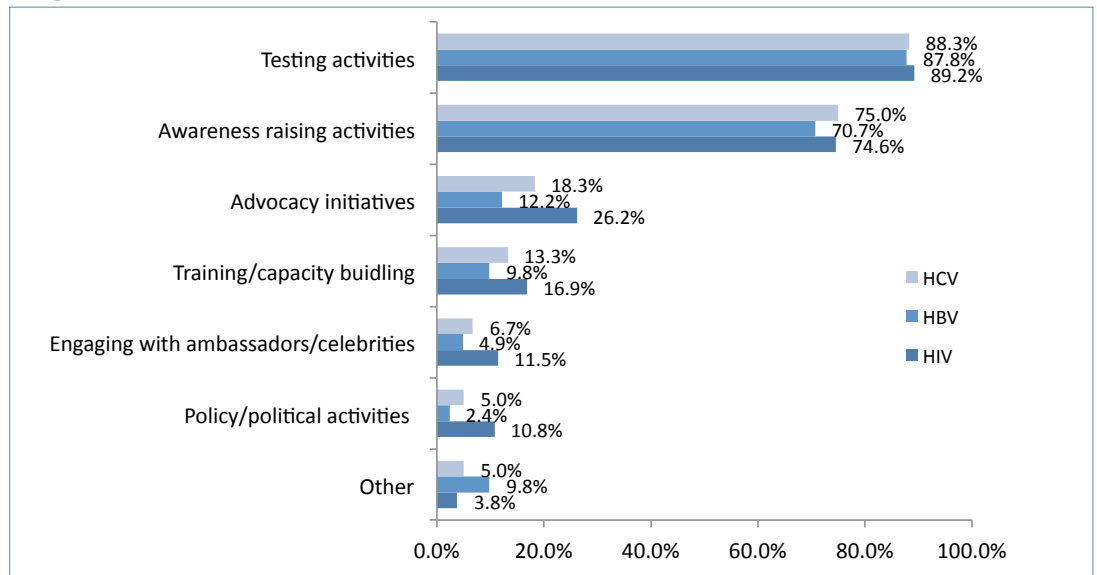
“We have participated for the last several years and have had great feedback. Informing on the topic is also one of the goals of our projects, so the testing week is just one of the weeks during which we prepare more activities/are louder.” [Eastern Europe]



Most did **testing and awareness raising activities** (Figure 3). While many reported successes during ETW, some also reported challenges, primarily lack of resources (44%) and patient barriers (21%).

Figure 3

“We could not provide as many HCV tests as we would have wanted because they are not funded and we were not in the condition to buy more.” [Southern Europe]



Online activity was also key in the success of ETW 2016. The ETW website was visited almost **46,000** times in 2016.

Almost 44% of the survey respondents had heard about the **European Test Finder**, and almost 40% about the collaboration with Grindr, Hornet and PlanetRomeo who have provided free advertising to promote the European Test Finder. More than 20% reported that people came forward for testing as a result of seeing the advertising on either Grindr, Hornet or PlanetRomeo.

A vast majority (**93%**) of survey respondents said that they planned to participate in next year's ETW.

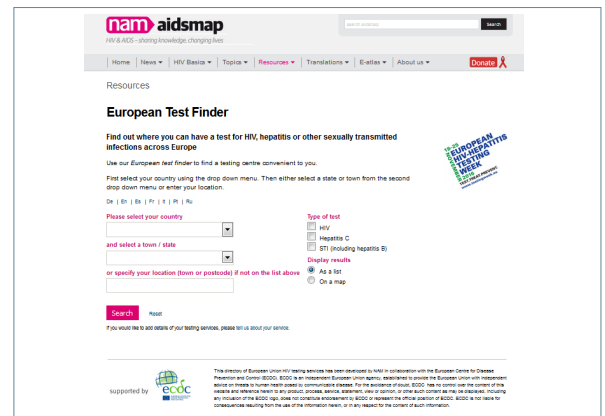


Figure 4

Figure 4 displays the reported **increase in HIV testing** as a result from activities conducted for ETW by year.

