



Joint Action on integrating prevention, testing and linkage to care strategies across HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STIs in Europe

Newsletter

Issue 01, March 2018

# Welcome to the INTEGRATE Newsletter

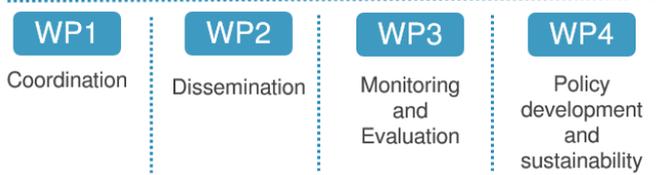
You can subscribe to INTEGRATE's newsletter on our website where it is also available for download.



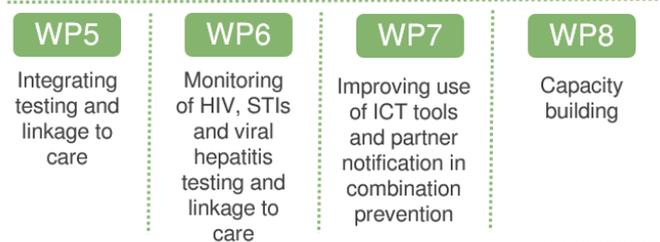
The INTEGRATE Joint Action aims to implement integrated activities to improve the awareness, prevention, early diagnosis and linkage to care of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), hep (Viral hepatitis), TB (Tuberculosis) and STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections) in Europe.

The four disease areas share common social and health determinants affecting the same vulnerable populations, are treatable and create unnecessary suffering of patients. INTEGRATE aspires to implement a multidimensional approach that will reduce the public health burden and determine the optimal profile of interventions to be implemented.

## Four Horizontal Work Packages



## Four Core Work Packages



## Objectives

- ▲ Support collaborative implementation of the Joint Action activities through timely reporting, dissemination and evaluation.
- ▲ Support national institutions in reviewing and revising policies and action plans to include integrated activities related to early diagnosis & prevention of the four diseases.
- ▲ Improve the monitoring & evaluation of these activities and assist in the integration of data into national surveillance and M&E (Monitoring & Evaluation) systems.
- ▲ Improve the use of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) tools and partner notification for prevention by 2020.
- ▲ Ensure better preparedness of healthcare professionals, civil society organizations and public health institutions through training and knowledge sharing on the integration of diagnosis and linkage to care for HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and STIs.



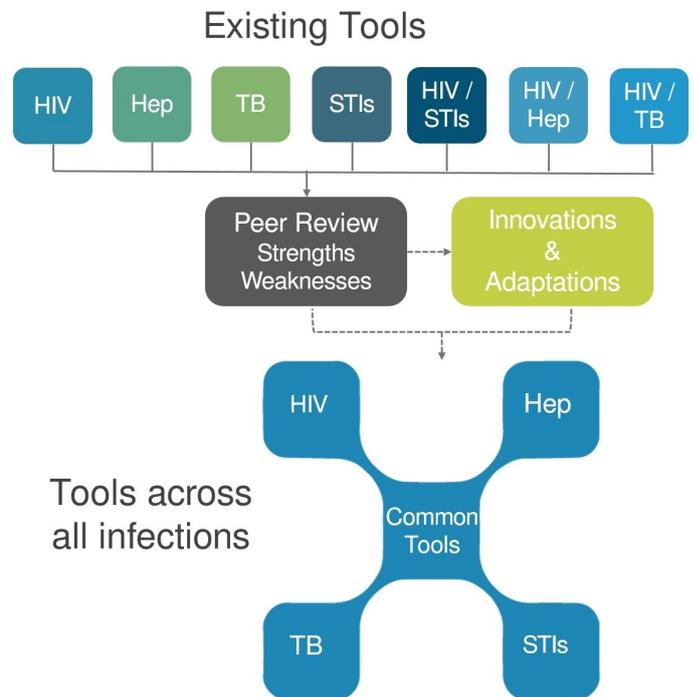
## Tools

Over the years, a great number of tools and materials focusing on the early diagnosis and linkage to care for one or more of the above four diseases have been developed and implemented. Despite the wide use of these guides and their input in shaping policy and strategies in Europe, challenges remain.

The optimal testing coverage has not been met in many countries, while several of them lack the infrastructure to conduct nationwide monitoring and surveillance of testing and linkage to care. Integrate intends to focus on those member states where gaps exist and where interventions have proven to be ineffective and evidence based or have been conducted in an insufficient manner, thus having a minor impact on the country's health outcomes.

Furthermore, given the added risk for vulnerable populations, interventions need to be specifically designed to accommodate the specific needs of those at-risk groups.

INTEGRATE will map and utilize existing effective tools that were developed to reduce transmission, optimize early diagnosis and linkage to care in one or more disease areas. Through a peer-review process, tools that are complementary for other diseases will be identified and evaluated.



INTEGRATE will provide a platform to facilitate the review of these tools and their cross-linking abilities, evaluate the need for adaptation or further innovation and employ multidimensional approaches to identify and implement the optimal profile for linkage to care.

The tools will be piloted in 12 of the partner countries and regional workshops will be held in Poland, Italy and Estonia to discuss the pilots as well as the WP topics in the regional contexts.

In 2019 INTEGRATE will hold a conference in conjunction with the European HEPHIV Conference in Romania.



## Main Work Areas

### Clinic based testing – Indicator Condition (IC) guided testing

INTEGRATE will support expanded IC-guided HIV testing in health care settings in high priority countries and further adapt tools and materials initially developed for HIV testing to support testing for STIs, hepatitis and TB and promoting these across Europe.

### Self-testing and home-sampling

INTEGRATE will pilot ways to ensure adequate confirmatory testing and linkage to care for self-testers, and explore potential for expanding self-testing and home-sampling for STIs and HCV which also have rapid testing technologies.

### Testing - European Testing Week

INTEGRATE will support the revision and adaptation of these materials to include STI testing during ETW in 2018/2019, in addition to testing for HIV and viral hepatitis.

### Partner notification

INTEGRATE will build on conclusions and recommendations from existing reports on partner notification and seek to provide an update on changes to the legal aspects of partner notification in the European countries represented in the JA. By addressing gaps in the evidence and determining the most effective approaches to partner notification, INTEGRATE will disseminate evidence-based tools on partner notification that can be adapted to different country contexts, population groups and health care settings in order to enhance the implementation of partner notification across Europe.

### Patient experience survey

INTEGRATE will explore the possibilities of using secure and anonymous patient surveys, to provide insights into barriers to testing, ease of linkage to care and subsequent access to treatment and experiences in the health care setting. Linking these with clinical metrics and measures of overall well-being using validated quality of life measures will form a fundamental part of designing interventions that are appropriate, sensitive, and meet the needs of affected populations.

### ICT tools used for prevention

INTEGRATE will draw on existing tools and experiences to extend and adapt best practice ICT-based prevention packages which have proven effective for HIV to viral hepatitis, STIs and TB where feasible by promoting integrated approaches and building on experiences of other European projects.

### Monitoring and evaluation

INTEGRATE will address some of these challenges and opportunities by identifying processes that can facilitate the integration of testing and linkage to care data for HIV, Hepatitis and STIs into surveillance and M&E systems, helping to produce meaningful national datasets that capture the activities of the various organisations conducting testing, such as Community Based VCT settings (CBVCT) and health care settings and strategies highly popular such as the European Testing Week (ETW).



## News & Events 1/2

### INTEGRATE Kick-off meeting in Brussels

INTEGRATE celebrated its kick-off meeting in Brussels, September 18-20, 2017. The project's launch was part of the joint closing conference of the EU projects EURO HIV EDAT and Opt-TEST. The partners had a chance to get to know each other, present the competencies their organisations bring into INTEGRATE and discuss how the project can build on the work of the EURO HIV EDAT, OptTEST and other relevant EU projects.



Representatives from CHIP, GAT, WHO and ECDC as well as other key experts participated in a panel discussion on moving towards integration of HIV, viral Hepatitis, TB and STIs.



On the 20th of September, EU commissioner for Health and Food Mr. Vytenis Andriukaitis welcomed INTEGRATE's participants at the DG San-te premises in Brussels.



### INTEGRATE joined the EU Health Policy Platform

INTEGRATE will actively contribute in the EU Health Policy Platform by releasing its key outcomes to the platform.



Interaction with a broad spectrum of experts and stakeholders participating in the EU Health Policy Platform will be pursued, in order to maximize the INTEGRATE dissemination activities and its overall impact.



## News & Events 2/2

### INTEGRATE WP Meeting in Croatia

INTEGRATE's WP meeting will take place in 2-3-4 May in Zagreb, Croatia.

Partners working on topics related to testing (WP5, WP6) and WP4 Patient Experience Survey, external experts, Advisory Board members as well as European Testing Week (ETW) Group members will participate in the meeting that will be held in the Croatian Institute of Public Health in Zagreb.

### HepHIV 2019 Conference in Romania

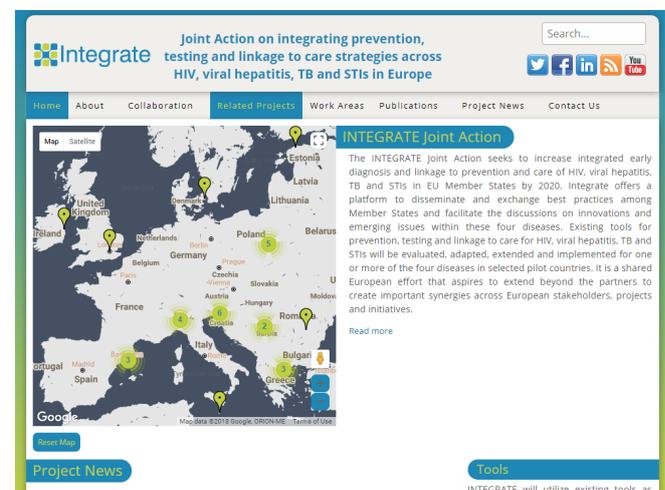
The HepHIV 2019 Conference will take place 28-30 January in Bucharest, Romania. The conference is organised by the HIV in Europe Initiative jointly with INTEGRATE.



The aim of the HepHIV 2019 conference will be to further improve integration of HIV, viral hepatitis, STI and TB testing by engaging stakeholders within the fields and to stimulate exchange of experiences and best practices as well as presenting the latest evidence within the field of testing and linkage to care for all 4 conditions.

### INTEGRATE Website and Social Media Presence

The INTEGRATE website was launched on November 2017 and can be found at <http://integrateja.eu>. It is the main channel for disseminating and communicating the Joint Action's ongoing stream of news, results, activities and generated material.



INTEGRATE's Social Media (SoMe) presence is spread across popular SoMe platforms, such as [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Youtube](#). INTEGRATE is also featured on the CHAFEA (Consumer, Health and Food Executive Agency) Website, in the Health Programme Database.



## Consortium

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Croatia</b><br/>  HRVATSKI ZAVOD ZA JAVNO ZDRAVSTVO<br/> </p>  | <p>Hrvatski zavod za javno zdravstvo Croatian Institute of Public Health</p>   | <p> REPUBLICAN CENTRE FOR ADDICTIVE DISORDERS</p>              | <p>Republican Centre for Addictive Disorders</p>   |
| <p></p>   | <p>Life Quality Improvement Organisation "FLIGHT"</p>  | <p> UAC<br/> <small>Užduošumų ligų ir AIDS centras</small></p> | <p>Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS</p>   |
| <p></p>   | <p>Croatian association for HIV and viral hepatitis</p>  | <p> Santaros Klinikos</p>                                      | <p>Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos</p>   |
| <p> ISKORAK</p>   | <p>ISKORAK</p>   | <p><b>Malta</b><br/> </p>                                     | <p>Health Promotion and Disease Prevention</p>   |
| <p><b>Denmark</b><br/> </p>   | <p>Region Hovedstaden / CHIP</p>   | <p><b>Poland</b><br/> </p>                                     | <p>National AIDS Centre Agency of the Ministry of Health</p>                                 |
| <p><b>Estonia</b><br/>  Tervise Arengu Instituut<br/> <small>National Institute for Health Development</small></p>  | <p>Tervise Arengu Instituut National Institute for Health Development</p>  | <p><b>Romania</b><br/> </p>                                    | <p>"Victor Babes" Clinical Hospital of Infectious Diseases and Pneumophtisiology Craiova</p> |
| <p><b>Greece</b><br/>  CERTH<br/> <small>CENTRE FOR RESEARCH &amp; TECHNOLOGY HELLAS</small><br/>  HCDCP<br/> <small>HELLENIC CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL &amp; PREVENTION</small><br/> <small>MINISTRY OF HEALTH</small></p> | <p>Centre for Research &amp; Technology Hellas, Institute of Applied Biosciences, Information Technologies Institute</p> | <p></p>  | <p>"Marius Nasta" Pneumophtisiology Institute</p>  |
| <p></p>   | <p>Hellenic Center for Disease Control &amp; Prevention</p>  | <p><b>Serbia</b><br/> </p>                                    | <p>Institute of Public Health of Serbia "Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut"</p>                       |
| <p><b>Hungary</b><br/> </p>   | <p>Simmelweis University</p>   | <p><b>Slovakia</b><br/> </p>                                 | <p>Slovak Medical University in Bratislava</p>   |
| <p><b>Ireland</b><br/> </p>   | <p>University College Dublin, National University of Dublin, Ireland</p>   | <p><b>Slovenia</b><br/> </p>                                | <p>National Institute of Public Health Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje</p>              |
| <p><b>Italy</b><br/> </p>   | <p>Arcigay Associazione LGBTI Italiana</p>   | <p><b>Spain</b><br/> </p>                                    | <p>Centre d'Estudis Epidemiològics sobre les ITS i Sida de Catalunya</p>                     |
| <p></p>   | <p>Croce Rossa Italiana</p>  | <p><b>IDIBAPS</b><br/> </p>                                  | <p>Consorci Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdicas August Pi i Sunyer</p>                      |
| <p></p>   | <p>Fondazione LILA Milano ONLUS - Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l'AIDS</p>   | <p></p>  | <p>Instituto de Salud Pública y Laboral de Navarra</p>                                       |
| <p></p>   | <p>Fondazione Villa Maraini Onlus</p>  | <p><b>United Kingdom</b><br/> </p>                           | <p>Public Health England</p>   |

For further information

Find out more about the **INTEGRATE** Joint Action

Visit the [JA website](http://www.integrate-rigshospitalet.dk)

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