



# Community perspective on testing policies and practices

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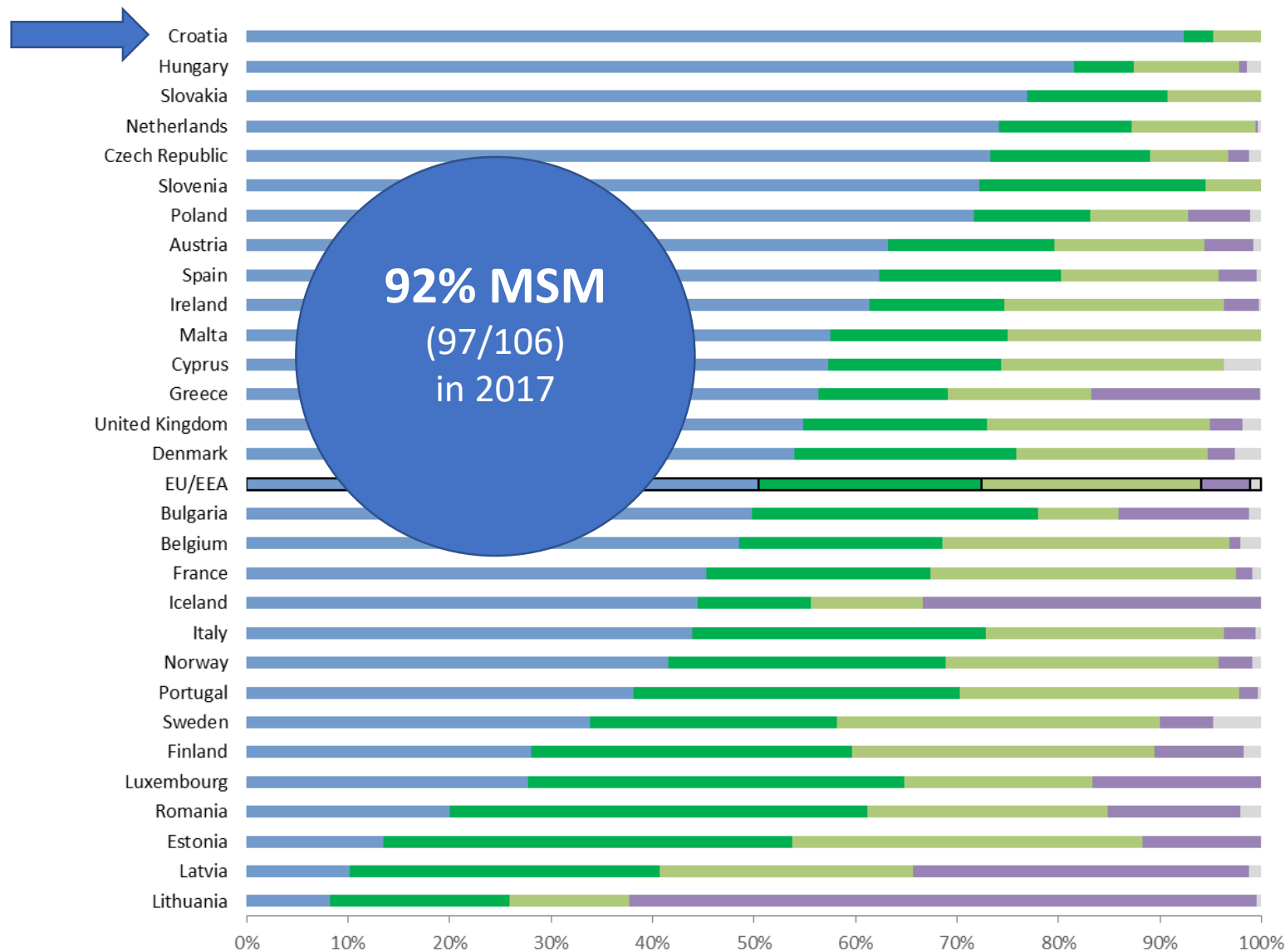
**EuroTEST/European Testing Week &  
INTEGRATE JA National Stakeholder Meeting**

11 April 2019, Zagreb

# Outline of the presentation

- Situation from community perspective
- What is Iskorak doing
- Moving forward

# Proportion of new HIV diagnoses, by country and transmission, EU/EEA, 2017



- Sex between men
- Heterosexual contact (males)
- Heterosexual contact (females)
- Injecting drug use
- Other/undetermined

Note: Germany did not report data for 2017, 0 cases were reported by Liechtenstein

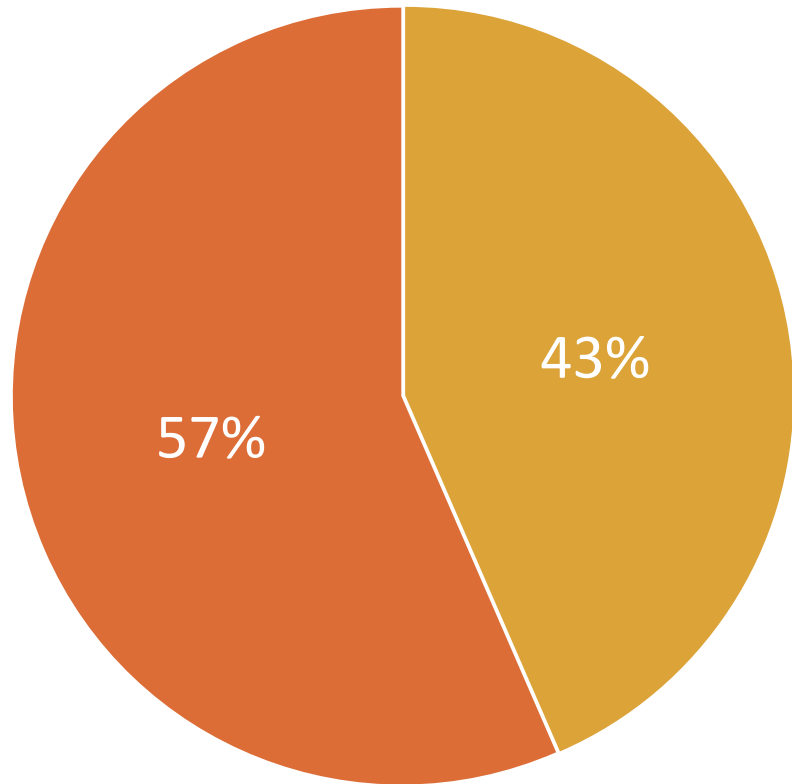
Source: ECDC/WHO (2018). HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Europe 2018– 2017 data

## Prevalence of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and sexual behaviours among men who have sex with men in Zagreb, Croatia, 2011

	<b>2011</b>	
	<b>RDS population estimates, % (95% CI)</b>	<b>n/N*</b>
<b>Biological data</b>		
HIV-1/2	2.8 (1.1 to 5.1)	14/387
Herpes simplex virus type 2	5.9 (3.1 to 9.1)	28/387
Hepatitis A	20.4 (15.3 to 26.2)	74/387
Hepatitis C	0.6 (0.1 to 1.4)	3/387
Antibodies to hepatitis B core antigen	6.9 (3.6 to 11.0)	25/387
Antibodies to hepatitis B surface antigen	44.0 (38.1 to 51.5)	175/387
Hepatitis B surface antigen	0.8 (0.1 to 1.9)	4/387
Syphilis †	7.6 (4.5 to 11.4)	26/387
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> (urine and/or rectal) ‡	7.2 (4.2 to 10.6)	33/387
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> (urine and/or rectal) ‡	2.7 (0.9 to 5.1)	8/387
<i>N gonorrhoeae</i> (oropharynx)	2.4 (0.9 to 4.1)	12/387

5% in 2017 (EMIS)

# Testing uptake among MSM (EMIS 2017)

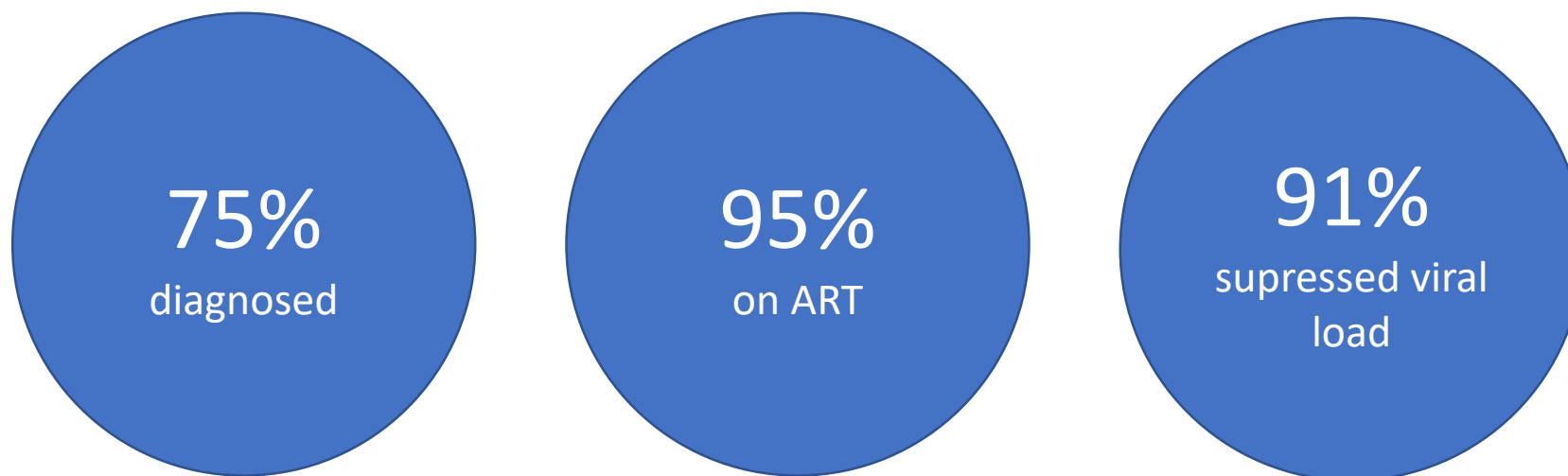


**43%** had an HIV test in the last 12 months - **55.6%** is European average

**64%** ever had an HIV test

**5.4%** had comprehensive STI screening (HIV, blood sample, rectal swab, urine sample or urethral swab) - **13%** is European average

# Reaching the 90/90/90 in Croatia



Approx 400 PLHIV not diagnosed

Preliminary results for 2017 Not for circulation

## Glavni cilj

Osigurati i dalje nisku razinu pobola od HIV-infekcije i AIDS-a u Republici Hrvatskoj; do 2020. godine ostvariti preduvjete za završetak epidemije u Hrvatskoj (90% zaraženih osoba je dijagnosticirano, 90% dijagnosticiranih uzima antiretrovirusne lijekove i 90% liječenih ima nemjerljivu viremiju).

*Croatian HIV/AIDS national prevention program 2017-2021.*

# Community-based HIV/syphilis testing

- Started in 2013
- Located at “LGBT centre”
- Targeting MSM (80%)
- Friendly service in the city centre
- Free and anonymous
- Rapid tests
- Partnership with Public Health Institute
- In 2018.: 962 tests
  - 1.6% HIV positivity in 2018; 2.1% HIV positivity in 2017)





Results in 60 seconds or less



negative



positive



invalid

bioLytical INSTI Multiplex HIV/sifilis test





ZAGREB



RIJEKA

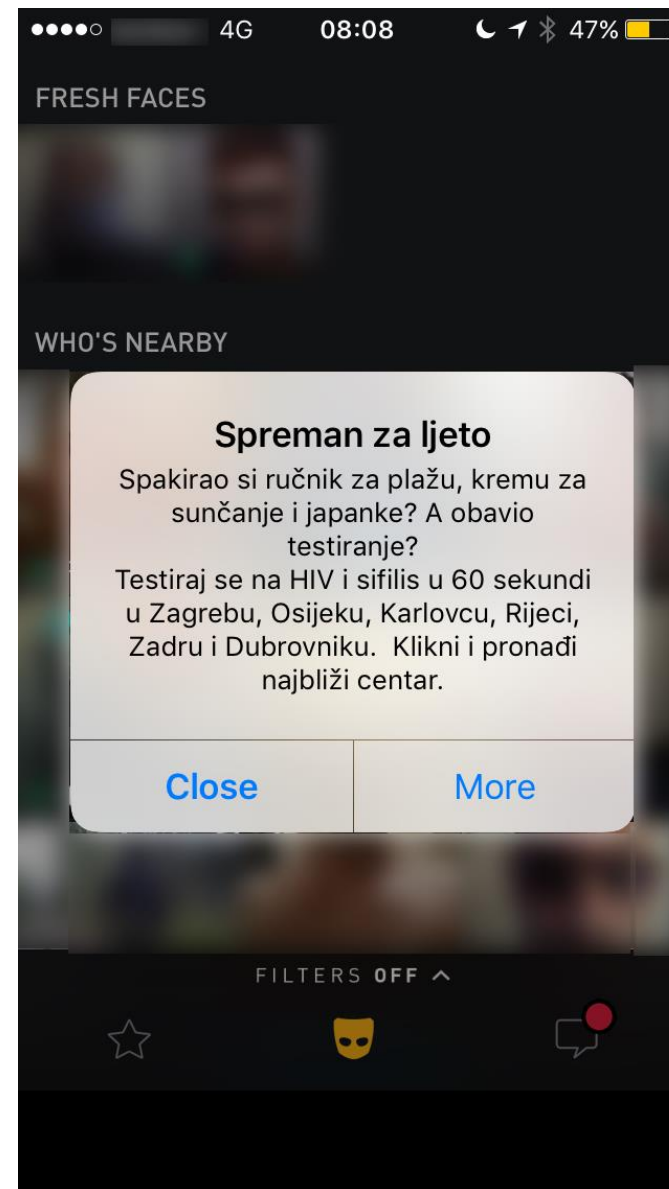


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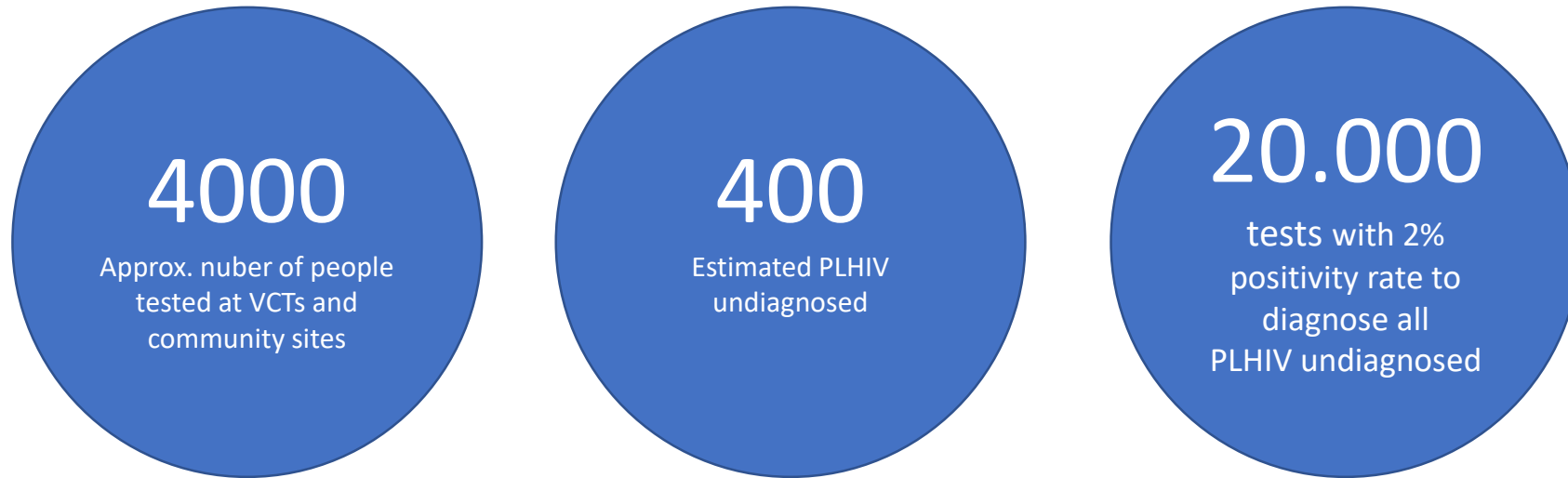


OSIJEK





# Moving forward: 1. Scale-up testing



## How to scale-up?

- 1. Increase resource** (more test kits, new MSM friendly testing sites...)
- 2. Lay provider testing**
- 3. Self-sampling/self-testing**

# Moving forward: 2. Improving services

## Better linkage to care

- Iskorak: goal 72h from positive test to treatment
- Some places in Croatia: 2 weeks

## Use rapid tests

- Target users prefer rapid tests
- The cost is lower

## Better targeting

- 80%+ of new infections are MSM, most testing sites have <50% MSM tested

## Counseling

- Often it is lengthy with high focus on risk reduction

# Other thoughts...

- Working with GPs – dead end
  - Most LGBT people are not out to their doctors
  - GPs not skilled to talk about sex
  - Long list of HIV indicators – not feasible for GPs to recognise them as HIV is a rare condition in Croatia
- Partner notification / contact tracing
  - Needs a modern approach taking into account sex culture of MSM
- Destigmatisation
  - Educate people about Undetectable=Untransmittable
  - HIV and LGBT awareness
  - Change storylines about STIs