



EMIS-2023

Extending internet-based health and behaviour surveys aimed at men who have sex with men to Eastern European and Central Asian countries and strengthening capacities in Western Balkan countries

Context

In recent years, there have been efforts to upscale HIV treatment and prevention in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, including conducting studies among men who have sex with men (MSM). One commonly used method to recruit participants for these studies has been respondent-driven sampling. However, this method failed to recruit the key target group of MSM who have already been diagnosed with HIV, resulting in a serious underestimation of HIV prevalence. A complementary approach for collecting HIV-related health indicators among MSM is the use of large low-threshold online surveys. Here, participants are recruited using advertisements on gay dating apps and gay social networks to report on health outcomes. The underrepresentation of people diagnosed with HIV appeared not to be an issue in such surveys. Therefore, this project aims to facilitate the administration of surveys of this kind to MSM in Eastern European, Central Asian and Western Balkan countries. To reach its target group (MSM), the project collaborates with civil society organisations concerned with HIV prevention and human rights.

Objective

Strengthening national surveillance and reporting on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections in Eastern European, Central Asian and Western Balkan countries.

Thematic focus

Strengthening of public health systems

Surveillance and reporting

Infection prevention and control

Marketing authorisation and safety of medicinal products

Resolutions and international agreements

Key facts

Duration

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Budget

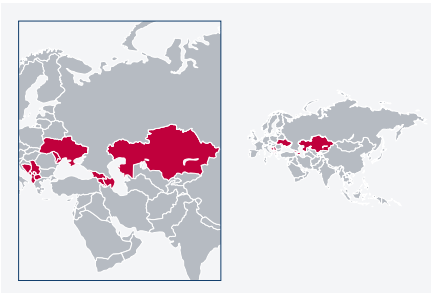
~ EUR 105,000

Partner countries

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine

Region

Eastern and South Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus



Implemented by

Robert Koch Institute (RKI)

Commissioning party

German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)

Activities



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Establishing new data sources for sexual health and behavioural indicators for MSM



RESEARCH AND PROVISION OF EVIDENCE

Developing a questionnaire and conducting an online survey on the health and behaviour of MSM; analysing the data and establishing health measures based on the findings



NETWORKING AND COOPERATION

Building collaboration with national civil society organisations on prevention and support for MSM

In cooperation with

- Deutsche Aidshilfe (DAH), Germany
- Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity (ECOM)
- South Eastern Europe Regional TB and HIV Community Network (SEE RCN)

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GHPP, the Global Health Protection Programme of the German Federal Ministry of Health, promotes networking, exchange and cooperation between specialized German and international public health actors. By reducing health risks and strengthening health systems at the national, regional and international level, in particular relating to pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response, the GHPP fosters public health protection – worldwide.

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