



Formative research report

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Glossary

EMIS – European MSM Internet Survey

FR – formative research

FRR – formative research report

FSW – female sex workers

HBV – hepatitis B virus

HCV – hepatitis C virus

HIV – human immunodeficiency virus

IDU – intravenous drug users

IQR – interquartile range

Q – quartile

MSM – men who have sex with men

RDS – respondent driven sampling

STI – sexually transmitted infection

TLS – time location sampling

Content

1. Overall information on the formative research process and the data sources
2. Background information on the study area and MSM population
 - 2.1. Legislative background in SIALON II countries
 - 2.2. Proportion of MSM population by the study area
 - 2.3. Characterisation of the target population (EMIS data)
 - 2.3.1. Age distribution
 - 2.3.2. Education
 - 2.3.3. Employment
 - 2.3.4. Migrations status
 - 2.3.4. Current relationship status
 - 2.3.5. Who are you sexually attracted to?
 - 2.3.6. Outness
 - 2.3.7. Gay friends
 - 2.3.8. Self-reported HIV and STI positivity
3. Gay/gay friendly commercial and non-commercial sites
 - 3.1. Overview of gay friendly commercial and non-commercial sites in the study areas
 - 3.2. MSM population attending gay venues (EMIS results)
 - 3.3. Characteristics of the MSM population that can be reached in gay venues (EMIS data for TLS countries)
 - 3.3.1. Who can be reached in bars, pubs, or cafes?
 - 3.3.2. Who can be reached in community centres, organisations or social groups?
 - 3.3.3. Who can be reached in gay saunas?
 - 3.3.4. Who can be reached in gay discos or night-clubs?
 - 3.3.5. Who can be reached in backrooms, sex-clubs, and sex-parties?
 - 3.3.6. Who can be reached in cruising sites?
 - 3.3.7. How many MSM can be reached in porn cinemas?
4. Recency of visiting a website for MSM (EMIS data)
5. The prevention activities
6. HIV, Syphilis and Viral hepatitis B (HBV) and C (HCV), testing and therapy
7. Overall information about the experience with study methodology and studies among MSM
8. Formative research report annexes
 - 8.1. FRR Annex 1. Formative research questionnaire for study sites
 - 8.2. FRR Annex 2. Commercial gay venues by study sites
 - 8.3. FRR Annex 3. Non-commercial gay venues by study sites
 - 8.4. FRR Annex 4. HIV testing and counselling sites by study site
 - 8.5. FRR Annex 5. Presentation of the FR results in the Project meeting, Berlin, 11.-13.02.2013

1. Overall information on the formative research process and the data sources

This formative research (FR) was carried out for 13 SIALON II countries performing the study. Each country preselected the study area as well as recruitment methodology and target sample size (n=400). Altogether 9 countries will recruit study participants by using time location sampling (TLS) and 4 countries by using respondent driven sampling (RDS). Main questions and aspects FR had to cover were decided in the Kick-Off-Meeting (Luxemburg, 15.-16.12.2011) and Steering Committee meeting (Verona, 27.-29.02.2012). Further consultation with project partners and steering committee members' followed per e-mail and in Telephone conferences. Project partners commented and agreed on the FR questionnaire.

For FR purposes we used information from both FR questionnaires and EMIS data. The questionnaires (see formative research report (FRR) Annex 1) were filled out by each project partner from the respective study country and queried information on:

- the study site
- previous experience with different study methodologies and target groups
- gay-friendly commercial and non-commercial sites
- prevention activities
- HIV, STIs, HBV, and HCV testing and therapy
- legislation and stigmatisation

In addition to the information provided by each country we used EMIS data to further characterise the MSM population in each respective study area. We describe demographic characteristics, outness, gay-venue attendance, and HIV and STI history by study area.

Information on the SIALON II study area, type of sampling and how good the EMIS data fit these study areas are summarised in Table 1.1.

We extracted the data containing all the relevant information for SIALON II countries from the EMIS data set. Altogether 3.6% (4,505/126,289) of all respondents had discrepancies in two or more question sets. In concordance with the approach of the EMIS research team we excluded these participants from further analysis. The proportion of participants excluded from analysis due to discrepancy did not differ significantly between SIALON study areas (p-value=0.38). Note that for FR purposes we analysed only a part of EMIS results. Detailed analysis of all EMIS data on country and region level will be available in the EMIS report. Currently published data and national reports of the EMIS data are available at www.emis-project.eu. The publication of the Final Report is expected in June 2013.

Altogether 119,557 records from the EMIS data base were available for the SIALON II countries. From these records altogether 17,160 were further selected for the SIALON II study areas. Table 1.2 summarises the information of EMIS records per country, number and proportion of records with missing information about the place of residence of participants, number and proportion of EMIS records matching SIALON study area. In some of the study sites the size of the sample available for the analysis is small (for example in Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Kingdom, and Italy (Verona)). This should be taken into account when interpreting the results of the EMIS data. **And, more important, this indicates that in these countries (Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Kingdom, and Verona, Catania and Napoli in Italy) there might be challenges to motivate a higher proportion of potential study participants than EMIS (where approximately 10% of those who were**

approached eventually participated). Possibilities to expand the study area/engagement of alternative venues should be considered and implemented if needed.

For the data generated from EMIS results, we are able to provide estimates for all potential study sites in Italy (Verona, Rome, Milan, Catania, Napoli). For the data generated from FR questionnaires we can only provide information on Verona in Italy.

All the calculations from EMIS data observations with missing values were excluded.

Table 1.1. Study area in each SIALON II partner country, correlation with EMIS data, sampling methodology

Country	Study area	Abbreviation	Does it fit well to EMIS study regions?	Sampling methodology
Belgium	Brussels city centre	BE	Yes	TLS
Bulgaria	Sofia	BG	Yes	TLS
Germany	Hamburg	DE	Yes	TLS
Spain	Barcelona	ES	Yes	TLS
Lithuania	Vilnius	LT	Yes (Vilnius district)	RDS
Poland	Warsaw	PL	Yes (Mazowieckie district)	TLS
Portugal	Lisbon and Setubal regions	PT	SIALON catchment area will be smaller than these two districts	TLS
Romania	Bucharest	RO	Yes	RDS
Sweden	Stockholm	SE	Yes (Stockholm, Södermanland, Uppsala county)	TLS
Slovenia	Ljubljana	SI	Yes (Osrednjeslovenska district)	TLS
Slovakia	Bratislava	SK	Yes	RDS
United Kingdom	Brighton and Hove	UK	Yes	TLS
Italy, Verona	Verona	IT (Verona)	Yes	RDS
Italy, Rome	Rome	IT (Rome)	Yes	
Italy, Milan	Milano	IT (Milano)	Yes	
Italy, Catania	Catania	IT (Catania)	Yes	
Italy, Napoli	Napoli	IT (Napoli)	Yes	

Table 1.2. EMIS records per country, number and proportion of records with missing information about the place of residence of participants, number and proportion of EMIS records matching SIALON study area

Country	EMIS data on country level			SIALON study area	
	Total N	Missing information on area		EMIS participants corresponding study area	
		N	%	N	%
Belgium	3,982	349	8.8%	1,044	28.7%
Bulgaria	1,036	94	9.1%	485	51.5%
Germany	54,387	4,634	8.5%	2,569	5.2%
Spain	13,111	1,104	8.4%	1,732	14.4%
Lithuania	595	66	11.1%	274	51.8%
Poland	2,746	247	9.0%	928	37.1%
Portugal	5,187	498	9.6%	2,448	52.2%
Romania	2,327	279	12.0%	651	31.8%
Sweden	3,132	284	9.1%	1,362	47.8%
Slovenia	990	124	12.5%	402	46.4%
Slovakia	586	45	7.7%	252	46.6%
United Kingdom	15,494	1,673	10.8%	290	2.1%
Italy, Verona	15,984	1,581	9.9%	314	2.2%
Italy, Rome	15,984	1,581	9.9%	1,776	12.3%
Italy, Milan	15,984	1,581	9.9%	1,963	13.6%
Italy, Catania	15,984	1,581	9.9%	176	1.2%
Italy, Napoli	15,984	1,581	9.9%	494	3.4%

2. Background information on the study area and MSM population

2.1. Legislative background in SIALON II countries

The number of years since when homosexuality is legal in the SIALON II countries ranges between 10 (Romania) and 220 (Belgium) years. In Bulgaria, Lithuania, Romania, and Slovakia homosexuality is legal since less than 25 years. Gay marriage is possible in Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and will be introduced by 2015 in UK. Currently, in UK, Germany, Slovakia, and Slovenia other types of an officially recognized partnership are possible. In Bulgaria, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, and Romania same sex unions are not recognised. With the exception of Italy these belong to the countries, where homosexuality has become legal only recently.

In all the countries legislation forbids discrimination regarding sexual orientation.

The table 2.1 summarises the year since when homosexuality is legal in each country, at what level homosexual relationship is legal, as well as if and since when the national legislation forbids discrimination by sexual orientation, and if there lately have been studies assessing discrimination, stigmatization, or hate towards LGBT population.

Based on this information we might expect that the gay communities in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland and Romania might be less open, thus harder to reach.

Table 2.1. Background information on legislation and stigmatization in the study areas

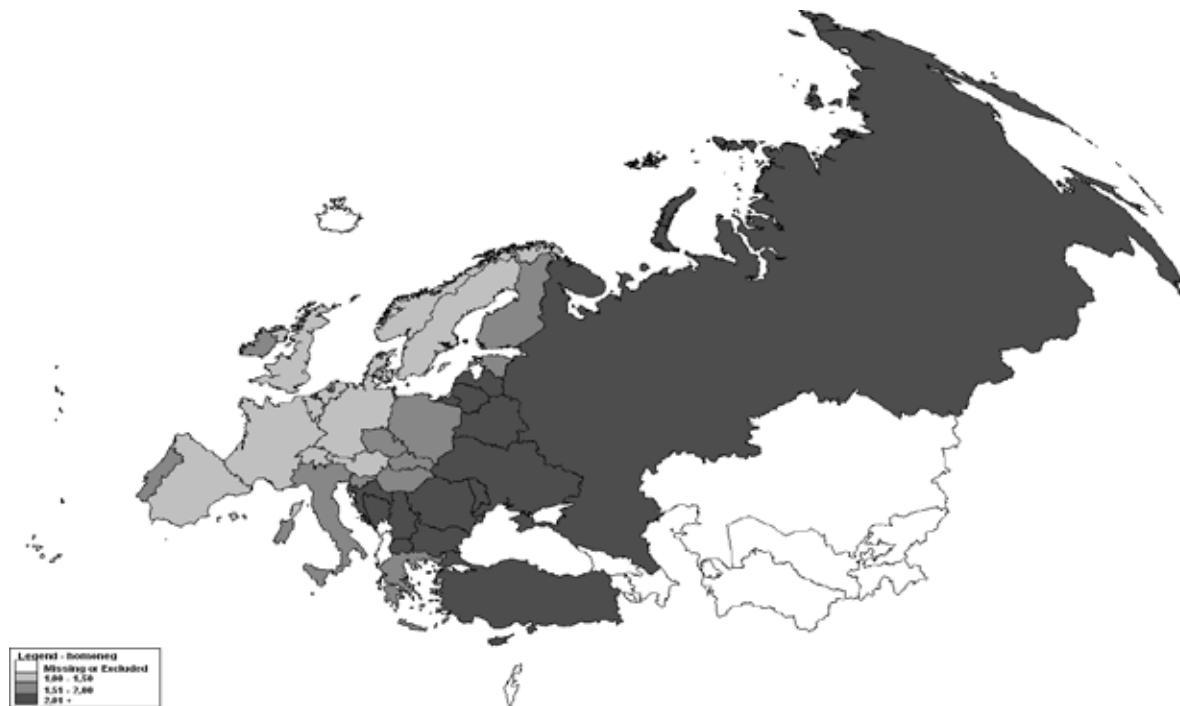
Country	Homosexuality legal since	Homosexuality is legal but same sex unions are not recognised	Other type of official partnership possible (date since when)	Marriage performed (date since when)	Adoption possible (date since when)	Legislation (persons should not be discriminated by sexual orientation) - date since when	Studies assessing discrimination, stigmatization, or hate towards LGBT population in last 24 months
BE	1792		1996	2003	2006	2007	Y
BG	1990	Y				2004	Y
DE	1969		2001		Step-child adoption only (full joint adoption proposed)	2006	Y
IT (Verona)	1887	Y				2003	Y
LT	1993	Y				2008	Y
PL	1932	Y				2004 (2010) partially	Y
PT	1982		2001	2010		1975	Y
RO	2002	Y				2002	Y
SK	1991		*			N	N
SL	1974		2006			1991	Y
ES	1979		1998	2005	2005	1995	Y
SE	1944		1988	2009	2003	1987	N
UK	1967		2004/2005	by 2015	2005	2007	Y

*date since when missing

2.2. Internalised homonegativity in the study countries

The Reactions to Homosexuality scale, first developed by Ross and Rosser in 1996 and recently revised (Smolenski *et al.*, 2010), was presented to EMIS respondents in order to measure internalised homonegativity. Here we present EMIS data on country level from the EMIS report. According to EMIS results the mean internalised homonegativity score for all respondents with a valid score was 1.50 (range 0-6; SD=1.23). Mean scores for countries ranged from 1.22 in the Netherlands (lowest) to 2.58 in Bulgaria (highest) (figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1. Internalised homonegativity scores across Europe (EMIS report)



EMIS data on internalised homonegativity are published in:

*Michael W. Ross; Rigmar C. Berg; Axel J. Schmidt; Harm J. Hospers; Michele Breveglieri; Martina Furegato; Peter Weatherburn (2013): [Internalised homonegativity predicts HIV-associated risk behavior in European men who have sex with men in a 38-country cross-sectional study: some public health implications of homophobia](#). *BMJ Open* 2013;3:e001928. (doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2012-001928).*

2.3. Proportion of MSM population by the study area

Each SIALON II partner provided the most recent available information on the proportion of MSM among the adult male population in their country and study area (if available). This proportion ranged between less than 2% to almost 10% by country. Some of the countries, like Belgium, Sweden, United Kingdom, and Poland could provide a good reference for this estimate. While in Bulgaria the estimate is based on experts' opinion and there are three countries that were not able to provide this estimate (Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia). The information on proportion of MSM population by the country together with comments and references is summarised in table 2.2.

Table 2.2. Proportion of MSM among adult male population by the country, comments and the references

Study area	MSM (among adult male population), %	Comments, references
BE	1.9% (Country)	<i>Survey Gelijke Kansen 2007, Steven Lenaers (Steunpunt Gelijkekansenbeleid) – sexual attraction was measured, not behaviour.</i>
BG	≥3%	For country and study area, based on expert opinion
DE	6% (Country)	In the city probably more (8%). <i>M. Bochow (1997), Aids-Forum DAH, Bd 26, 20 Statistikamt Nord (Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein)</i>
IT (Verona)	.	
LT	1.1-2.7%	<i>UNDP. Reversing the epidemics. Facts and Policy options. Bratislava, 2004; 25-36.</i>
PL	9.7% (Country) 2.3% (Country)	Men had ever sexual contact with men (internet survey 2010). http://www.opzs.pl/uploads/assets/files/Seks_Polakow_w_Internecie_materialy.pdf Men had ever sexual contact with men (self-administered questionnaire as part of face-to-face interview on random sample from voting districts 2001). <i>Izdebski Z. Selected Aspects of Evaluation of the National HIV/AIDS Prevention Program within the Scope of Society's Knowledge, Sexual Behaviour and Condom Availability in Poland. Warsaw 2002: UNDP, National AIDS Centre</i>
PT	10.2% (Country)	350,000 MSM reported by study partner. For calculation used data on adult male population (3.420,859) from World dataBank (http://databank.worldbank.org)
RO	.	Up to 4000 present in gay scene in Bucharest. 5293 registered MSM profiles on gayromeo.org for Bucharest.
SK	.	
SL	.	
ES	3-6% (Country)	<i>LGBT report, Spain, 2011</i>
SE	1.4-3.2% (Country) 3.9%	<i>Nationella folkhälsoenkäten, 2011</i> <i>UngKAB study, 2009</i>
	2.8% (Country)	<i>National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (NATSAL II) from 2001. Only takes into account adult males aged 15-44 years so likely to be an underestimate. New data for 2010 due in 2013 which will include older age bracket and this new estimate likely to be much higher. 564,760 (calculated 2.8%)</i>
UK	13% (Study area)	<i>Brighton and Hove City Council (2011). Health and Wellbeing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Summary.</i> 35,000 (calculated 13%). The data does not break down into MSM, rather LGBT. Although the denominator in this case is not clear, it is likely to be the total adult population of Brighton (not just male population). Brighton population in 2009 estimated at 256,300 (Office for National Statistics). Gender break down for Brighton: 51% female; 49% male

2.4. Characterisation of the target population (EMIS data)

2.4.1. Age distribution

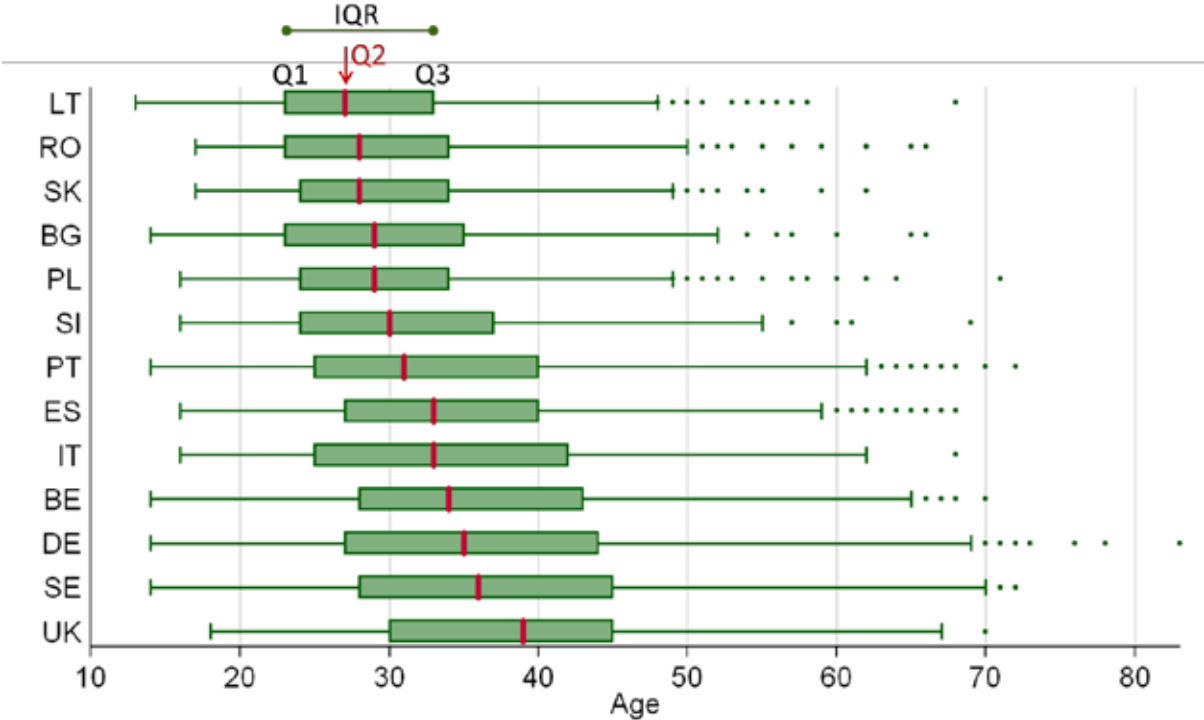
The age distribution of the MSM reached by EMIS in the SIALON study areas significantly differed by study region (Kruskal Wallis test, p-value<0.001). The MSM population in the study sites in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, as well as Napoli and Catania in Italy is younger than the MSM population in Belgium, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom, and Italy (Rome, Milano and Verona). See table 2.3 and figure 2.2.

This might be related to the differences in the time span since when an openly accessible gay scene exists, age of homosexual consent, the level of openness and the differences in populations that use internet and are eager to participate in online surveys. **In order to reach better representation of older MSM population in SIALON II study Bulgaria, Poland, and Slovenia (study sites using TLS methodology) should - if possible - identify and include venues in the sampling that are more frequently visited by older MSM.**

Table 2.3. Median age, interquartile range (IQR), minimum and maximum age, and the proportion of population younger than 30 years of age

Study area	Median	IQR	Minimum	Maximum	<30 years of age	
					N	%
BE	34	28-43	14	70	326	31.2%
BG	29	23-35	14	66	260	53.6%
DE	35	27-44	14	83	820	31.9%
ES	33	27-40	16	68	633	36.6%
LT	27	23-33	13	68	174	63.5%
PL	29	24-34	16	71	510	55.0%
PT	31	25-40	14	72	1,057	43.2%
RO	28	23-34	17	66	370	56.8%
SE	36	28-45	14	72	396	29.1%
SI	30	24-37	16	69	200	49.8%
SK	28	24-34	17	62	140	55.6%
UK	39	30-45	18	70	72	24.8%
IT (Verona)	33	25-42	16	68	121	38.5%
IT (Rome)	33	26-41	14	78	704	39.6%
IT (Milano)	28	26-40	14	70	751	38.3%
IT (Catania)	27	24-35	16	59	96	54.6%
IT (Napoli)	33	23-37	15	75	279	56.5%

Figure 2.2. Age distribution by study site



2.4.2. Education

According to EMIS, the information on the level of education was gathered by asking participants “What is your highest education qualification?”. The response set for this question varied by survey language; however, all answer categories were grouped according to the International Standard Classification of Educational Degrees (ISCED). Please note that this grouping may still generate larger discrepancies between countries (particularly Germany is an outlier compared with the other SIALON and EMIS countries). Therefore – although ISCED has been constructed to improve comparability - these parameters cannot be compared equally well between the countries. However, it can be used for comparison of the MSM population reached by EMIS and the population that will be reached by SIALON II.

Table 2.4. Number and proportion of MSM with low/middle and high education by study area

Study area	Low/middle (ISCED I+II)		High (ISCED III+)	
	N	%	N	%
BE	221	21.2%	820	78.8%
BG	168	34.9%	314	65.1%
DE	1,683	66.1%	863	33.9%
ES	516	29.9%	1,211	70.1%
LT	59	21.7%	213	78.3%
PL	176	19.1%	744	80.9%
PT	989	40.8%	1,434	59.2%
RO	207	31.9%	441	68.1%
SE	553	40.8%	804	59.2%
SI	192	48.0%	208	52.0%
SK	99	39.6%	151	60.4%
UK	109	37.8%	179	62.2%
IT (Verona)	189	60.6%	123	39.4%
IT (Rome)	841	47.6%	925	52.4%
IT (Milano)	900	46.2%	1,050	53.8%
IT (Catania)	110	63.2%	64	36.8%
IT (Napoli)	275	56.0%	216	44.0%

2.4.3. Employment

The percentage of unemployed men ranged between 2.6% (Romania and Lithuania) and 9.2% (Spain and Napoli in Italia). The Proportion of employed and unemployed men by study area is summarised in table 2.5.

Table 2.5. Number and proportion of employed, unemployed, and men with other occupation by study area

Study area	Employed		Unemployed		Other occupation	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
BE	763	73.3%	66	6.3%	212	20.4%
BG	355	73.7%	27	5.6%	100	20.7%
DE	1,935	75.9%	122	4.8%	493	19.3%
ES	1,245	72.1%	159	9.2%	323	18.7%
LT	203	74.6%	7	2.6%	62	22.8%
PL	665	72.0%	32	3.5%	227	24.6%
PT	1,746	71.9%	137	5.6%	545	22.4%
RO	483	74.7%	17	2.6%	147	22.7%
SE	1,040	76.6%	60	4.4%	257	18.9%
SI	263	65.8%	21	5.3%	116	29.0%
SK	186	74.1%	13	5.2%	52	20.7%
UK	217	74.8%	13	4.5%	60	20.7%
IT (Verona)	231	73.8%	16	5.1%	66	21.1%
IT (Rome)	1,217	68.9%	102	5.8%	447	25.3%
IT (Milano)	1,466	75.0%	84	4.3%	404	20.7%
IT (Catania)	98	56.0%	12	6.9%	65	37.1%
IT (Napoli)	257	52.6%	45	9.2%	187	38.2%

2.4.4. Migrations status

The proportion of MSM that were born in another country than the current country of residence differed substantially by study area. Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, and Catania and Napoli in Italy had less than 6% of MSM population that was born in another country. Contrastingly in Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, and the United Kingdom this proportion was nearly or slightly over 20%. The proportions of MSM born in country of residence and in another country are displayed in table 2.6.

Table 2.6. Number and proportion of MSM born in country of residence and in another country by study area

Study area	Born in country of residence		Born in another country	
	N	%	N	%
BE	582	56.2%	453	43.8%
BG	461	95.2%	23	4.8%
DE	2,319	90.9%	233	9.1%
ES	1,104	64.0%	620	36.0%
LT	264	96.4%	10	3.6%
PL	877	95.0%	46	5.0%
PT	1,943	79.7%	494	20.3%
RO	613	94.6%	35	5.4%
SE	1,085	80.1%	270	19.9%
SI	378	94.7%	21	5.3%
SK	231	92.4%	19	7.6%
UK	213	74.0%	75	26.0%
IT (Verona)	286	91.7%	26	8.3%
IT (Rome)	1,580	89.5%	185	10.5%
IT (Milano)	1,745	89.3%	210	10.7%
IT (Catania)	168	96.6%	6	3.4%
IT (Napoli)	474	96.1%	19	3.9%

2.4.5. Current relationship status

In the total sample, 55.5% were single (currently no steady partner), 39.4% were in a steady relationship with a man, 4.6% were in a steady relationship with a woman, and 0.5% had both male and female steady partners. The proportion of single men, men in a steady relationship with men, woman, and both varied by study area and are displayed in table 2.7.

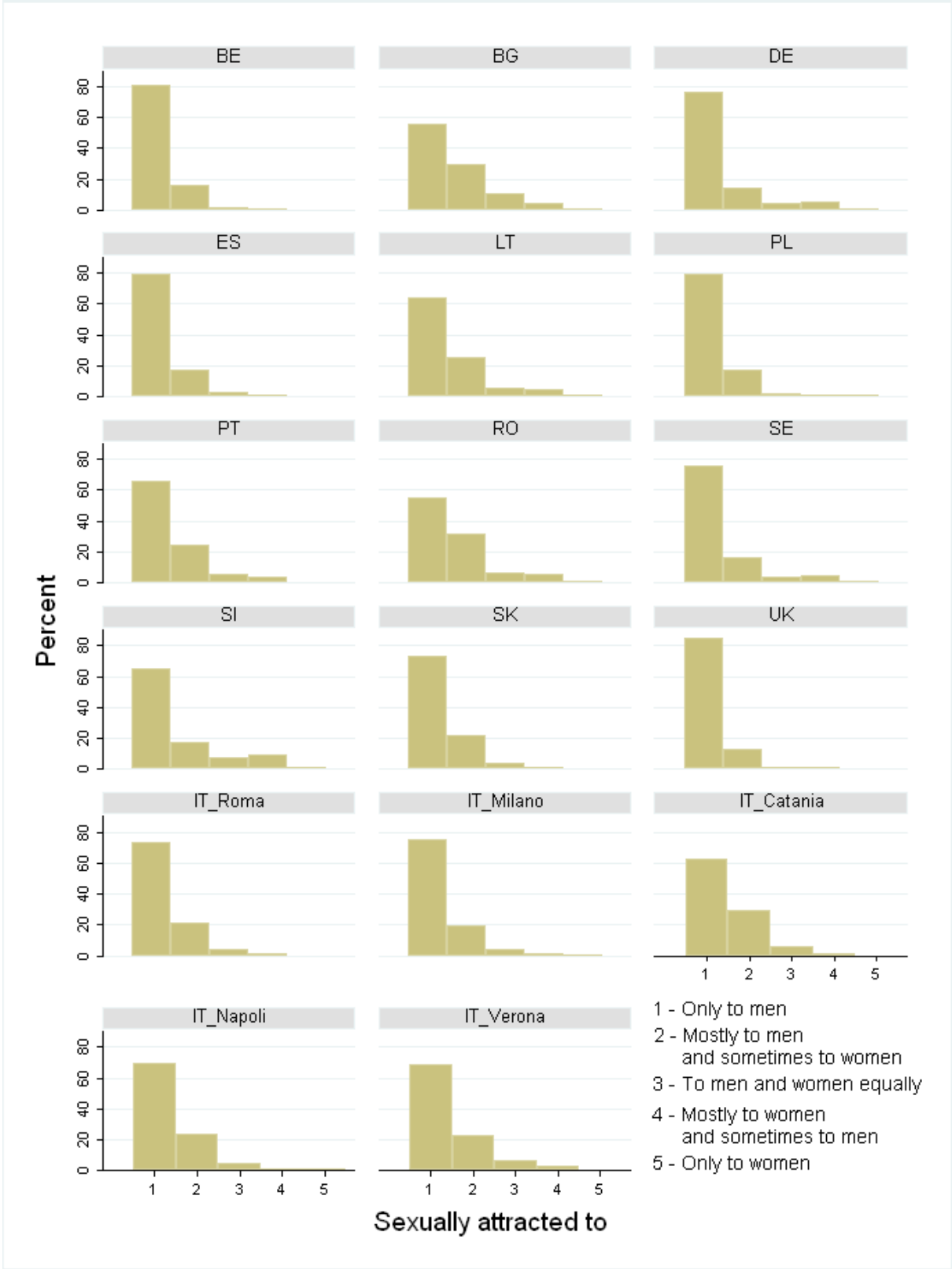
Table 2.7. Number and proportion of MSM who are single, are in a steady relationship with men only, with women only or both, by study area

Study area	Single		Steady relationship					
	N	%	With men only		With men and women		With women only	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
BE	549	52.6%	472	45.2%	4	0.4%	19	1.8%
BG	266	55.1%	184	38.1%	5	1.0%	28	5.8%
DE	1,296	50.6%	1097	42.9%	6	0.2%	161	6.3%
ES	1,122	64.9%	570	33.0%	1	0.1%	36	2.1%
LT	139	50.7%	120	43.8%	3	1.1%	12	4.4%
PL	482	52.1%	418	45.1%	4	0.4%	22	2.4%
PT	1,365	55.9%	926	37.9%	18	0.7%	135	5.5%
RO	335	51.5%	259	39.8%	7	1.1%	49	7.5%
SE	733	53.8%	557	40.9%	8	0.6%	64	4.7%
SI	195	48.5%	163	40.5%	1	0.2%	43	10.7%
SK	130	52.2%	113	45.4%	0	0.0%	6	2.4%
UK	146	50.3%	137	47.2%	1	0.3%	6	2.1%
IT (Verona)	178	56.9%	117	37.4%	1	0.3%	17	5.4%
IT (Rome)	1,094	61.9%	609	34.4%	6	0.3%	59	3.3%
IT (Milano)	1,190	60.8%	706	36.1%	4	0.2%	58	3.0%
IT (Catania)	106	60.2%	59	33.5%	1	0.6%	10	5.7%
IT (Napoli)	322	65.8%	142	29.0%	4	0.8%	21	4.3%
Average		55.5%		39.4%		0.5%		4.6%

2.4.6. Who are you sexually attracted to?

In all the countries the vast majority of MSM reported that they are sexually attracted only to men. However, the proportions of men attracted also to women varied between countries (see Figure 2.3). The proportion of men also attracted to women were higher in Bulgaria, Lithuania, and Romania compared to Belgium, Germany, Spain, Poland, Sweden, UK, and Italy, where the proportion of men attracted only to men was around and above 80%.

Figure 2.3. Distribution of MSM sexually attracted to men and to women by study area.



2.4.7. Outness

According to EMIS, outness was defined as the degree to which men are open about their sexual attraction to others. The level of outness differed substantially between the study areas. The proportion of men being out about their sexual orientation to all or most people ranged between 26.8% (Romania) and 86.9% in UK. In Bulgaria, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and some sites in Italy the proportion of MSM who are out only to some people were over 30% (with 53% in Lithuania and 52% in Bulgaria). **In the SIALON II context this indicates that in these countries the MSM population will be harder to reach, as well as the reached population will most probably represent the men who are more out about their sexual orientation.** Proportions of men out to most, some, and only few people by study site are summarised in table 2.8.

Table 2.8. Number and proportion of MSM by level of outness and study site

Study area	Out to most people		Out to no-one or only few people		Out to some people, but not to most	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
BE	811	77.8%	138	13.2%	93	8.9%
BG	163	34.2%	246	51.6%	68	14.3%
DE	1,830	71.6%	517	20.2%	208	8.1%
ES	1,286	74.4%	282	16.3%	160	9.3%
LT	79	29.3%	143	53.0%	48	17.8%
PL	476	51.5%	306	33.1%	142	15.4%
PT	1,087	44.6%	972	39.9%	380	15.6%
RO	173	26.8%	382	59.2%	90	14.0%
SE	1,033	76.1%	214	15.8%	110	8.1%
SI	183	45.9%	170	42.6%	46	11.5%
SK	133	53.0%	78	31.1%	40	15.9%
UK	252	86.9%	17	5.9%	21	7.2%
IT (Verona)	132	42.0%	140	44.6%	42	13.4%
IT (Rome)	969	54.8%	582	32.9%	217	12.3%
IT (Milano)	1,122	57.5%	594	30.4%	237	12.1%
IT (Catania)	64	36.6%	86	49.1%	25	14.3%
IT (Napoli)	188	38.2%	228	46.3%	76	15.4%
Average		53.0%		34.4%		12.6%

2.4.8. Gay friends

The proportion of the men with gay friends differed substantially between study areas. In Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia and some sites in Italy the proportion of men who had none or only few gay friends was nearly or more than 30% (see table 2.9). This finding is in line with the proportion of men being out about their sexual orientation and again indicates that **there is some proportion of MSM that probably will not be reached in the SIALON II study. The high proportion of men with no or only few gay friends can influence the recruitment process in the countries performing RDS – as these men will be less likely recruited and, if recruited, to enrol in the study further participants. Therefore it is highly important to preselect seeds with a wide network of gay friends, as well as in advance to account that not all recruited participants will be productive (i.e. consider larger number of seeds).**

Table 2.9. Number and proportion of MSM whose friends most or all are gay, some are gay, none or few are gay, by study area

Study area	Most or all		Some		None or few	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
BE	193	18.5%	689	66.0%	162	15.5%
BG	47	9.7%	266	55.1%	170	35.2%
DE	510	19.9%	1,422	55.5%	630	24.6%
ES	416	24.0%	1,048	60.6%	266	15.4%
LT	42	15.4%	146	53.5%	85	31.1%
PL	108	11.7%	658	71.1%	160	17.3%
PT	307	12.6%	1,422	58.3%	710	29.1%
RO	68	10.5%	364	56.2%	216	33.3%
SE	266	19.5%	818	60.1%	277	20.4%
SI	48	11.9%	215	53.5%	139	34.6%
SK	32	12.8%	172	68.8%	46	18.4%
UK	99	34.3%	158	54.7%	32	11.1%
IT (Verona)	54	17.3%	166	53.0%	93	29.7%
IT (Rome)	326	18.5%	993	56.2%	447	25.3%
IT (Milano)	433	22.1%	1,105	56.5%	419	21.4%
IT (Catania)	26	14.8%	88	50.0%	62	35.2%
IT (Napoli)	60	12.1%	253	51.2%	181	36.6%
Average		16.8%		57.7%		25.5%

2.4.9. Self-reported HIV and STI positivity

Self-reported HIV positivity rate versus those tested negative or untested ranged between less than 2% (Bulgaria, Lithuania, and Slovakia) and 21% (UK). HIV positivity rate by study site is summarised in table 2.10.

Table 2.10. Number and proportion of HIV positive MSM (versus those diagnosed negative or untested)

Study area	Diagnosed positive	
	N	% (95% CI)
BE	99	9.5% (7.7-11.3%)
BG	9	1.9% (0.7-3.1%)
DE	267	10.5% (9.3-11.7%)
ES	224	13.0% (11.4-14.6%)
LT	4	1.5% (0.03-2.9%)
PL	62	6.7% (5.1-8.4%)
PT	215	8.8% (7.7-10.0%)
RO	23	3.5% (2.1-5.0%)
SE	96	7.1% (5.7-8.4%)
SI	13	3.3% (1.5-5.0%)
SK	4	1.6% (0.03-3.2%)
UK	60	20.7% (16.0-25.4%)
IT (Verona)	23	7.4% (4.5-10.3%)
IT (Rome)	150	8.6% (7.3-9.9%)
IT (Milano)	192	9.9% (8.6-11.2%)
IT (Catania)	7	4.0% (1.1-7.0%)
IT (Napoli)	21	4.3% (2.5-6.1%)

Table 2.11. Proportion of MSM who tested positive for HIV among those with known HIV test result

Study area	Not tested		Tested			
	N	%	Last test negative		Diagnosed positive	
			N	%	N	%
BE	105	10.1%	838	89.4%	99	10.6%
BG	145	30.1%	327	97.3%	9	2.7%
DE	632	24.8%	1,648	86.1%	267	13.9%
ES	251	14.6%	1,244	84.7%	224	15.3%
LT	131	48.7%	134	97.1%	4	2.9%
PL	258	27.9%	605	90.7%	62	9.3%
PT	587	24.1%	1,629	88.3%	215	11.7%
RO	250	38.5%	376	94.2%	23	5.8%
SE	252	18.5%	1,011	91.3%	96	8.7%
SI	141	35.3%	245	95.0%	13	5.0%
SK	95	37.8%	152	97.4%	4	2.6%
UK	49	16.9%	181	75.1%	60	24.9%
IT (Verona)	92	29.5%	197	89.5%	23	10.5%
IT (Rome)	452	25.8%	1,148	88.4%	150	11.6%
IT (Milano)	413	21.3%	1,334	87.4%	192	12.6%
IT (Catania)	65	37.6%	101	93.5%	7	6.5%
IT (Napoli)	182	37.4%	284	93.1%	21	6.9%
Average		28.2%		90.5%		9.5%

In the table 2.12. are displayed proportions of MSM diagnosed positive with at least one bacterial STI or 1st diagnosis of anal or genital warts or herpes in the last 12 months. The lowest positivity rates were observed in Lithuania and Slovakia and the highest in Belgium, Spain, Romania, and UK. Figure 2.4 displays proportion of MSM with positive HIV status and proportion diagnosed positive with at least one bacterial STI or 1st diagnosis of anal or genital warts or herpes in the last 12 months.

Table 2.12. Number and proportion of MSM diagnosed positive with at least one bacterial STI (Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, or Chlamydia) or 1st diagnosis of anal or genital warts or herpes in the last 12 months

Study area	Diagnosed positive	
	N	% (95% CI)
BE	117	11.3% (9.4-13.3%)
BG	35	7.3% (5.0-9.6%)
DE	227	8.9% (7.8-10.0%)
ES	265	15.3% (13.6-17.0%)
LT	11	4.0% (1.7-6.4%)
PL	72	7.8% (6.1-9.6%)
PT	213	8.8% (7.7-9.9%)
RO	65	10.1% (7.8-12.5%)
SE	111	8.2% (6.7-9.7%)
SI	33	8.3% (5.6-11.0%)
SK	8	3.2% (1.0-5.4%)
UK	47	16.5% (12.2-20.8%)
IT (Verona)	20	6.4% (3.7-9.2%)
IT (Rome)	175	10.0% (8.6-11.4%)
IT (Milano)	202	10.4% (9.1-11.8%)
IT (Catania)	17	9.7% (5.3-14.1%)
IT (Napoli)	33	6.7% (4.5-9.0%)

Figure 2.4 displays proportion of MSM with positive HIV status (versus HIV negative or unknown) and proportion diagnosed positive with at least one bacterial STI or 1st diagnosis of anal or genital warts or herpes in the last 12 months.

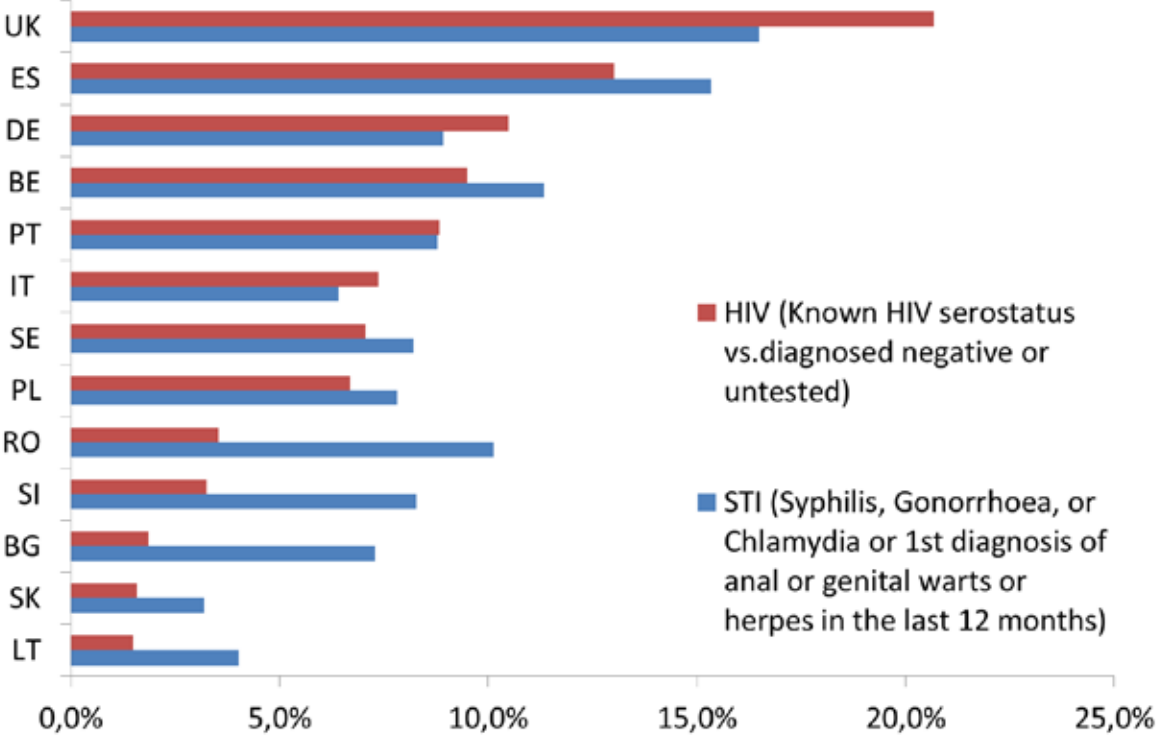


Table 2.12. Percentage of MSM who have tested positive for syphilis within last 12 months among those with blood test for STIs (other than HIV) within the last 12 months

Study area	Not tested		Tested			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
BE	582	56.9%	413	93.9%	27	6.1%
BG	344	75.4%	108	96.4%	4	3.6%
DE	1,838	73.3%	620	92.5%	50	7.5%
ES	982	57.9%	627	87.7%	88	12.3%
LT	221	82.8%	46	100.0%	0	0.0%
PL	685	75.4%	204	91.5%	19	8.5%
PT	1,778	75.2%	519	88.6%	67	11.4%
RO	427	66.7%	193	90.6%	20	9.4%
SE	815	61.1%	508	98.1%	10	1.9%
SI	310	78.3%	80	93.0%	6	7.0%
SK	202	80.5%	48	98.0%	1	2.0%
UK	139	48.8%	142	97.3%	4	2.7%
IT (Verona)	195	63.3%	105	92.9%	8	7.1%
IT (Rome)	1,251	72.4%	427	89.7%	49	10.3%
IT (Milano)	1,212	63.3%	637	90.5%	67	9.5%
IT (Catania)	141	82.9%	27	93.1%	2	6.9%
IT (Napoli)	395	82.1%	71	82.6%	15	17.4%
Average		70.4%		92.7%		7.3%

3. Gay/gay friendly commercial and non-commercial sites

Each study site collected information on commercial and non-commercial gay (friendly) venues. As lives of gay communities are often organized around venues and social structures, this information can be used to better understand the community in each respective study area, as well as the opportunities for the TLS sampling. It should be taken into account that the study areas differ by their size (in respect of population and geographic region), therefore direct comparison of the numbers of the venues between these sites is not possible.

3.1. Summary of gay friendly commercial and non-commercial sites in study areas

The number of different commercial venues ranged between 4 (Romania and Slovakia) and 39 (Spain). Sexual contact was facilitated on average in almost half (46%) of the commercial venues. The proportion of venues among all commercial venues where sexual contact is facilitated was highest in Bulgaria, Italy (Verona), Poland, and Slovenia; lowest – in Sweden and UK. In Romania sexual contact is not facilitated in any of the 4 reported commercial venues. Approximately in half of the venues condoms and lubricants are available (if available, then almost always both are available). Prevention leaflets are available on average in 62% of all the commercial venues. This, however, varies substantially between countries. In Bulgaria, Germany, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, and UK prevention materials are available in all or almost all the commercial venues. Contrastingly, in Italy (Verona), Lithuania, and Slovakia prevention materials are not available at all in these venues (in Lithuania available in 1 venue out of 7). Outreach workers are visiting all or almost all the commercial venues in Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, and UK. While only few or no venues in Italy (Verona), Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden are visited by outreach workers. The overview of commercial venues is summarised in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1. Overview of commercial venues by study site

Country	N	Sexual contact facilitated		Condoms available		Lubricants available		Prevention leaflets available		Visited by outreach worker	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
BE	28	10	38%	14	50%	13	50%	24	88%	20	73%
BG	7	6	86%	7	100%	7	100%	7	100%	7	100%
DE	36	15	42%	17	47%	17	47%	35	97%	36	100%
IT (Verona)	8	5	63%	4	50%	4	50%	0	0%	2	25%
LT	7	3	43%	4	57%	3	43%	1	14%	1	14%
PL	16	10	63%	10	63%	10	63%	11	69%	9	56%
PT	28	15	54%	20	71%	28	100%	28	100%	27	96%
RO	4	0	0%	4	100%	0	0%	4	100%	0	0%
SK	4	2	50%	1	25%	1	25%	0	0%	1	25%
SL	6	4	67%	5	83%	5	83%	5	83%	6	100%
ES	39	18	46%	15	38%	0	0%	30	77%	6	15%
SE	25	7	28%	9	36%	9	36%	9	36%	7	28%
UK	24	4	17%	23	96%	23	96%	24	100%	22	92%
Average			46%		63%		53%		62%		56%

The number of different non-commercial venues ranged between none (Slovakia) and 12 (Sweden). Sexual contact was facilitated in almost none or only few of the venues, except Bulgaria, Germany, Slovenia, and Sweden. The non-commercial venues where sexual contact is facilitated were usually gay cruising sites. Condoms and lubricants were available in none or only few of these venues, except study sites in Bulgaria, Sweden and UK, where almost in all of the sites condoms and lubricants were available. Prevention leaflets were available approximately in half of the venues and more than half of the venues were visited by outreach workers. Again this varies substantially by study site. Overview of non-commercial venues is summarised in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2. Overview of non-commercial venues

Country	N	Category			Sexual contact facilitated		Condoms available		Lubricants available		Prevention leaflets available		Visited by outreach worker	
		Community centre	Cruising site	Other	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
BE	2	1	1		0	0%	0	0%	1	50%	1	50%	2	100%
BG	10	1	9		9	90%	9	90%	10	100%	10	100%	10	100%
DE	6	2	4		4	67%	2	33%	2	33%	2	33%	6	100%
IT (Verona)	3	1	2		0	0%	0	0%	1	33%	1	33%	1	33%
LT	3	1	2		0	0%	0	0%	1	33%	1	33%	1	33%
PL	7	2	5		0	0%	0	0%	1	14%	2	29%	0	0%
PT	4	1	3		0	0%	0	0%	1	25%	1	25%	4	100%
RO	5	1	4		0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	20%	1	20%
SK	0	0	0		0		0		0		0		0	
SL	1	0	1		1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
ES	10	7	3		1	10%	0	0%	6	60%	7	70%	9	90%
SE	12	4	5	3	7	58%	6	50%	10	83%	10	83%	5	42%
UK	7	5	2		2	29%	2	29%	6	86%	5	71%	6	86%
Average						29%		17%		19%		46%		59%

Among the countries applying TLS methodology for sampling the lowest number of gay-venues is in Slovenia (together 7 venues). However, according to FR research in all of these venues sampling would be possible. The average number of clients in the 6 commercial venues is 20 (range 10-30) in weekdays and 30 (range 40-300) on weekends. However, in the average only 60% of the population in these venues are MSM. This should be particularly taken into account when planning the sampling frame for Slovenia.

The country specific information on type of commercial and non-commercial venues for the TLS countries, and details on number of clients, etc. are reported in FRR Annex 2 and 3.

3.2. MSM population attending gay venues (EMIS results)

The proportion of MSM who ever have visited gay social venue community centre, organisation or social group, bar, pub, cafe, disco) in their country of residence varied by study site. In Bulgaria,

Lithuania, Romania, Slovenia, and Italy (Napoli) only 70 to 80% of MSM have ever visited gay social venues in their country of residence. In Belgium, Spain, and UK this proportion was over 95%. In the table 3.3 there is information summarised on the proportion of MSM reached by EMIS that have attended gay social venues ever, in the last 12 and 6 months, and last 4 weeks. Since the SIALON II study is planned for a time period of approximately 3 months, the best estimate about MSM population we can reach in the venues is last 6 months. According to these data we can conclude that SIALON II will reach only part of the population reached by EMIS and this varies by study site. **Sampling in the gay social venues in Bulgaria and Slovenia (proportion of MSM who visited gay social venues in the last 6 months) might reach only half of the MSM population (reached by EMIS).**

Table 3.3. Recency of visiting any gay social venue in the country of residence (community centre, organisation or social group, bar, pub, cafe, disco)

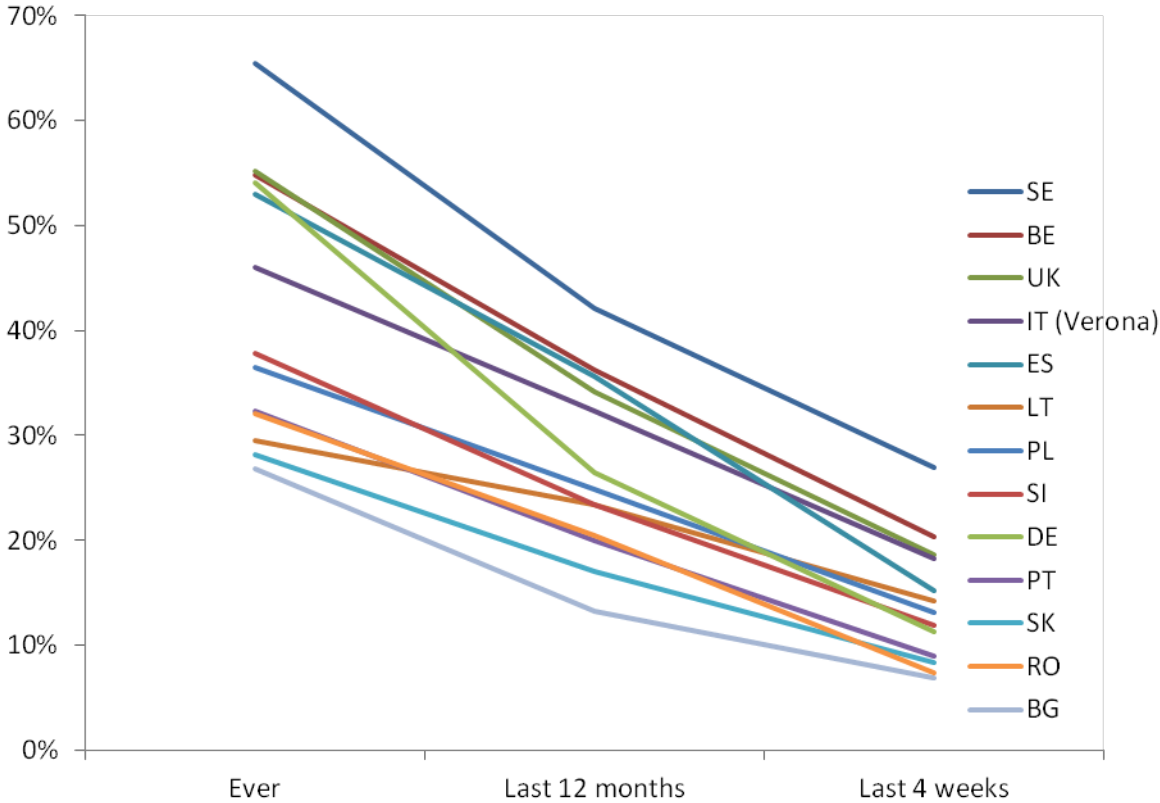
Study area	Never		Ever		Last 12 months		Last 6 months		Last 4 weeks	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
	BE	50	4.8%	994	95.2%	928	88.9%	861	82.5%	733	70.2%
BG	107	22.2%	375	77.8%	300	62.2%	251	52.1%	161	33.4%
DE	247	9.6%	2,319	90.4%	2,102	81.9%	1,891	73.7%	1,502	58.5%
ES	52	3.0%	1,680	97.0%	1,604	92.6%	1,508	87.1%	1,251	72.2%
LT	66	24.1%	208	75.9%	180	65.7%	156	56.9%	103	37.6%
PL	70	7.5%	858	92.5%	783	84.4%	691	74.5%	545	58.7%
PT	313	12.8%	2,134	87.2%	1,857	75.9%	1,636	66.9%	1,237	50.6%
RO	168	25.8%	483	74.2%	399	61.3%	341	52.4%	215	33.0%
SE	92	6.8%	1,270	93.2%	1,137	83.5%	1,043	76.6%	877	64.4%
SI	106	26.4%	296	73.6%	237	59.0%	196	48.8%	134	33.3%
SK	31	12.3%	221	87.7%	182	72.2%	149	59.1%	93	36.9%
UK	2	0.7%	288	99.3%	280	96.6%	261	90.0%	233	80.3%
IT (Verona)	41	13.1%	273	86.9%	245	78.0%	221	70.4%	180	57.3%
IT (Rome)	200	11.3%	1,572	88.7%	1,369	77.3%	1,213	68.5%	949	53.6%
IT (Milano)	179	9.1%	1,782	90.9%	1,602	81.7%	1,477	75.3%	1,234	62.9%
IT (Catania)	28	15.9%	148	84.1%	132	75.0%	120	68.2%	92	52.3%
IT (Napoli)	108	21.9%	386	78.1%	332	67.2%	291	58.9%	206	41.7%

Gay community centre, organisation or social group altogether were the least attended venues. On average only nearly half of MSM have ever attended this kind of venue. The situation varied by study site and in the last 12 months was highest in Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Italy (Verona) and UK (over 30% of MSM visited these venues in last 12 months) and lowest in Bulgaria and Slovakia. The information on proportion of MSM reached by EMIS that attended gay community centres or organisations, or social groups ever, in the last 12 months, and last 4 weeks is summarised in table 3.4 and displayed in figure 3.1.

Table 3.4. Visited gay community centre or organisation, or social group in country of residence

Study area	Never		Ever		Last 12 months		Last 4 weeks	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
BE	471	45.2%	571	54.8%	377	36.2%	212	20.3%
BG	353	73.2%	129	26.8%	64	13.3%	33	6.8%
DE	1,177	45.9%	1,386	54.1%	679	26.5%	289	11.3%
ES	812	47.0%	914	53.0%	614	35.6%	262	15.2%
LT	193	70.4%	81	29.6%	64	23.4%	39	14.2%
PL	588	63.5%	338	36.5%	230	24.8%	121	13.1%
PT	1,652	67.6%	790	32.4%	489	20.0%	220	9.0%
RO	442	67.9%	209	32.1%	133	20.4%	48	7.4%
SE	470	34.6%	890	65.4%	573	42.1%	367	27.0%
SI	250	62.2%	152	37.8%	94	23.4%	48	11.9%
SK	181	71.8%	71	28.2%	43	17.1%	21	8.3%
UK	130	44.8%	160	55.2%	99	34.1%	54	18.6%
IT (Verona)	169	54.0%	144	46.0%	101	32.3%	57	18.2%
IT (Rome)	965	54.7%	800	45.3%	494	28.0%	242	13.7%
IT (Milano)	1,060	54.1%	899	45.9%	535	27.3%	299	15.3%
IT (Catania)	107	60.8%	69	39.2%	52	29.5%	28	15.9%
IT (Napoli)	318	64.4%	176	35.6%	118	23.9%	61	12.3%

Figure 3.1. Proportion of MSM who have visited gay community centre or organisation, or social group in country of the residence ever, in the last 12 months and in the last 4 weeks, by study site

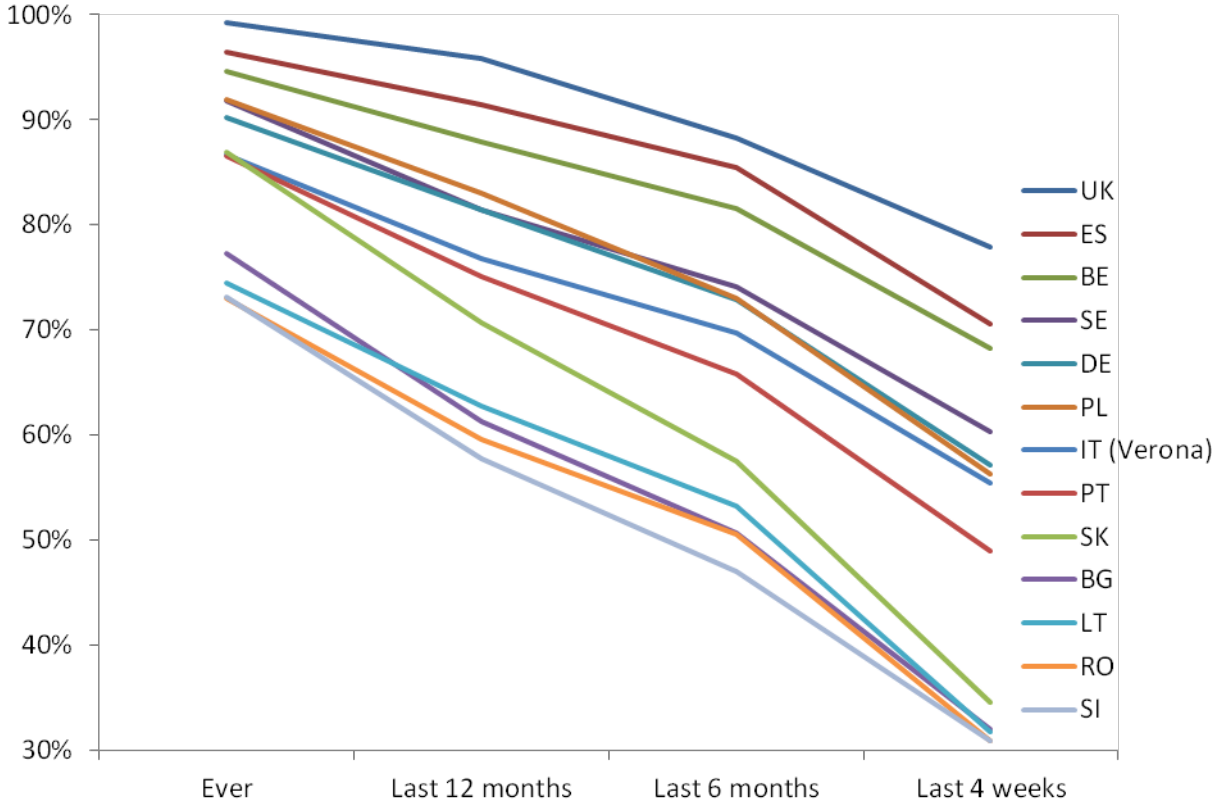


Altogether 86% of MSM population have attended gay commercial venues like bar, pub, disco, etc. at least once ever. Again this varied by study site and in the last 6 months was highest in Belgium, Spain, and UK (over 80% of MSM visited these venues in last 6 months) and lowest in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Romania, and Slovakia (less than 60%). The information on proportion of MSM reached by EMIS that attended gay commercial venues ever, in last 12 and 6 months, and last 4 weeks is summarised in table 3.5 and displayed in figure 3.2..

Table 3.5. Visited gay commercial venue in the country of residence

Study area	Never		Ever		Last 12 months		Last 6 months		Last 4 weeks	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
BE	56	5.4%	988	94.6%	918	87.9%	851	81.5%	713	68.3%
BG	109	22.7%	372	77.3%	295	61.3%	244	50.7%	154	32.0%
DE	250	9.7%	2,316	90.3%	2,088	81.4%	1,870	72.9%	1,466	57.1%
ES	61	3.5%	1,671	96.5%	1,583	91.4%	1,480	85.5%	1,223	70.6%
LT	70	25.5%	204	74.5%	172	62.8%	146	53.3%	87	31.8%
PL	75	8.1%	851	91.9%	769	83.0%	676	73.0%	521	56.3%
PT	330	13.5%	2,117	86.5%	1,836	75.0%	1,609	65.8%	1,197	48.9%
RO	176	27.0%	475	73.0%	388	59.6%	329	50.5%	201	30.9%
SE	111	8.1%	1,251	91.9%	1,109	81.4%	1,010	74.2%	822	60.4%
SI	108	26.9%	294	73.1%	232	57.7%	189	47.0%	124	30.8%
SK	33	13.1%	219	86.9%	178	70.6%	145	57.5%	87	34.5%
UK	2	0.7%	288	99.3%	278	95.9%	256	88.3%	226	77.9%
IT (Verona)	42	13.4%	272	86.6%	241	76.8%	219	69.7%	174	55.4%
IT (Rome)	209	11.8%	1,562	88.2%	1,349	76.2%	1,192	67.3%	918	51.8%
IT (Milano)	186	9.5%	1,775	90.5%	1,586	80.9%	1,454	74.1%	1,200	61.2%
IT (Catania)	29	16.5%	147	83.5%	130	73.9%	117	66.5%	89	50.6%
IT (Napoli)	122	24.7%	372	75.3%	316	64.0%	275	55.7%	192	38.9%

Figure 3.2. Proportion of MSM who have visited any gay commercial venue in country of residence ever, in the last 12 months, in the last 6 months and in the last 4 weeks, by study site (Please note that minimum value on X axis is 30%)

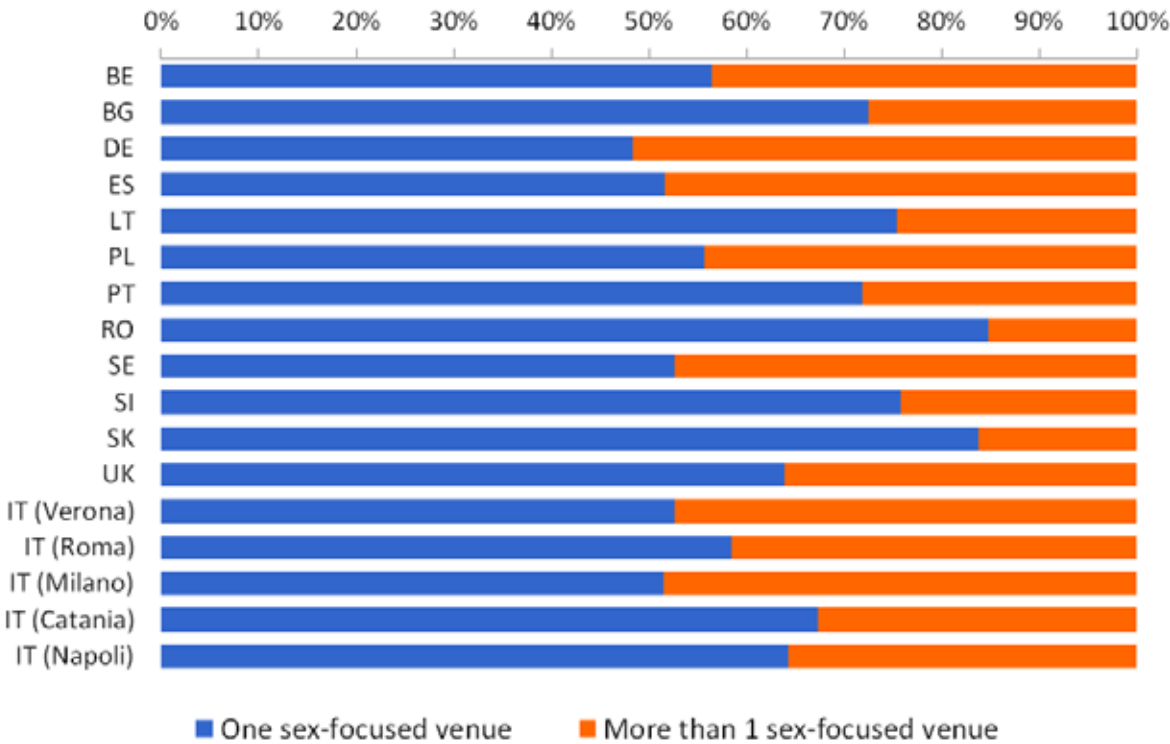


The Sex-focused venues have ever been visited by an average of 68% of MSM population and in the last 6 months it has been 42%. Again this varied by study site and in the last 6 months was highest in Belgium, Spain, and UK (over 50% of MSM visited these venues in last 6 months) and lowest in Slovenia and Slovakia (around 25%). The information on the proportion of MSM reached by EMIS that attended sex-focused venue for MSM ever, in last 12 and 6 months, and last 4 weeks is summarised in table X. The proportion of MSM who in the last 4 weeks have visited more than one sex-focused venue was on average 11%, however, varied by country (table 3.6). Figure 3.3 displays distribution of proportions of MSM who visited one and more than one sex-focused venues in the last 4 weeks.

Table 3.6. Visited a sex-focused venue for MSM in their country of residence

Study area	Never		Ever		Last 12 months		Last 6 months		Last 4 weeks		In the last 4 weeks visited more than 1 sex-focused venue	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
BE	188	18.0%	856	82.0%	690	66.1%	581	55.7%	420	40.2%	183	17.5%
BG	181	37.6%	301	62.4%	225	46.7%	185	38.4%	142	29.5%	39	8.1%
DE	626	24.4%	1,941	75.6%	1,448	56.4%	1,190	46.4%	843	32.8%	436	17.0%
ES	275	15.9%	1,457	84.1%	1,155	66.7%	996	57.5%	691	39.9%	334	19.3%
LT	144	52.6%	130	47.4%	98	35.8%	82	29.9%	57	20.8%	14	5.1%
PL	307	33.1%	620	66.9%	480	51.8%	382	41.2%	255	27.5%	113	12.2%
PT	728	29.8%	1,718	70.2%	1,319	53.9%	1,081	44.2%	790	32.3%	222	9.1%
RO	306	47.0%	345	53.0%	248	38.1%	198	30.4%	112	17.2%	17	2.6%
SE	395	29.0%	967	71.0%	656	48.2%	531	39.0%	376	27.6%	178	13.1%
SI	179	44.5%	223	55.5%	142	35.3%	101	25.1%	66	16.4%	16	4.0%
SK	137	54.4%	115	45.6%	84	33.3%	65	25.8%	37	14.7%	6	2.4%
UK	48	16.6%	242	83.4%	182	62.8%	159	54.8%	119	41.0%	43	14.8%
IT (Verona)	92	29.3%	222	70.7%	174	55.4%	152	48.4%	112	35.7%	53	16.9%
IT (Rome)	459	25.9%	1,313	74.1%	982	55.4%	808	45.6%	547	30.9%	227	12.8%
IT (Milano)	487	24.8%	1,473	75.2%	1,134	57.9%	961	49.0%	682	34.8%	331	16.9%
IT (Catania)	53	30.1%	123	69.9%	92	52.3%	75	42.6%	49	27.8%	16	9.1%
IT (Napoli)	198	40.1%	296	59.9%	234	47.4%	181	36.6%	115	23.3%	41	8.3%

Figure 3.3. Proportions of MSM who visited one and who visited more than one sex-focused venue among those who visited these venues in the last 4 weeks



3.3. Characteristics of MSM population that can be reached in gay venues (EMIS data for TLS countries)

This chapter describes MSM by outness, HIV and STI positivity, and age who visited particular types of venues. These data should help to better understand who can be reached in venues and how to interpret the data gathered in the study sites performing TLS. This analysis is performed only for sites performing TLS. We compared the proportions of MSM who visited these sites in the last 6 months stratified by level of outness (out to all or almost all, some, and few or none), HIV status (HIV+ and HIV negative or unknown), and STI positivity (diagnosed positive with at least one bacterial STI (Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, or Chlamydia) or 1st diagnosis of anal or genital warts or herpes in the last 12 months). As well as compared mean age between those who visited these venues and those who did not.

Overall we observed that:

MSM who are not out about being attracted to men are less present in:

- bars, pubs, or cafes
- community centre, organisation or social group
- gay disco or night-club
- backroom, sex-club, sex-party (in some countries only)

MSM population did not differ by level of outness in:

- gay saunas
- cruising sites

We will potentially reach proportionally more HIV+ MSM (than we would reach in a population-representative sample) in:

- bars, pubs, or cafes (in some countries only)
- gay saunas
- gay disco or night-club (in some countries only)
- backroom, sex-club, sex-party
- cruising sites

MSM population did not differ regarding HIV status in:

- community centre, organisation or social group

We will reach proportionally more recently tested positive for STI MSM (than we would reach in a population-representative sample) in:

- bars, pubs, or cafes (in some countries only)
- gay saunas
- gay disco or night-club (in some countries only)
- backroom, sex-club, sex-party
- cruising sites

MSM population did not differ regarding STI status in:

- community centre, organisation or social group

MSM population is younger in comparison to MSM population reached by EMIS in:

- bars, pubs, or cafes (in some countries only)
- gay disco or night-club

MSM population is older in comparison to MSM population reached by EMIS in:

- gay saunas
- backroom, sex-club, sex-party
- cruising sites

MSM population did not differ in comparison to MSM population reached by EMIS in:

- bars, pubs, or cafes (in some countries only)
- community centre, organisation or social group

The study site specific results by type of the venue are summarised in tables 3.7 to 3.12. In table 28 are displayed proportion of MSM that can be reached in porn cinemas (due to small number we did not stratify this analysis)

3.3.1. Who can be reached in bars, pubs, or cafes?

Table 3.7. Number and proportion of MSM, who visited **bars, pubs, or cafes** in the last 6 months overall and stratified by outness, HIV and STI status and age

TLS study area	Proportion of MSM, who visited bars, pubs, or cafes in the last 6 months overall and stratified by outness, HIV and STI status											Comparison of mean age between those who visited these venues and those who did not, mean (IQR)			
	Overall		Outness				HIV			STI (in last 12 months)			Visited	Did not visit	p-value**
	N	%	All or almost all	Some	Few or none	p-value*	HIV-	HIV+	p-value*	STI-	STI+	p-value*			
BE	836	80.1%	86.2%	82.4%	50.4%	0.000	79.9%	83.8%	0.348	79.7%	83.8%	0.304	34 (28-42)	35 (27-47)	0.025
BG	204	42.1%	54.2%	58.5%	28.9%	0.000	43.0%	33.3%	0.564	42.3%	48.6%	0.468	27 (23-33)	30 (24-35)	0.010
DE	1,782	69.4%	80.7%	75.6%	33.3%	0.000	68.3%	82.7%	0.000	68.1%	85.8%	0.000	36 (28-44)	34 (25-43)	0.001
ES	1,446	83.5%	88.2%	85.3%	66.0%	0.000	82.9%	88.8%	0.025	82.6%	89.4%	0.006	33 (27-39)	34 (26-43)	0.333
PL	610	65.7%	81.5%	71.1%	48.5%	0.000	66.3%	66.1%	0.976	65.3%	76.4%	0.057	28 (25-34)	29 (24-34)	0.155
PT	1,529	62.5%	77.6%	73.9%	43.4%	0.000	61.7%	72.6%	0.002	61.2%	77.5%	0.000	31 (25-39)	32 (25-41)	0.112
SE	937	68.8%	80.4%	66.5%	31.6%	0.000	68.0%	83.3%	0.002	67.9%	82.7%	0.001	36 (29-45)	36 (27-47)	0.960
SI	157	39.1%	59.3%	53.2%	17.7%	0.000	38.8%	53.9%	0.275	38.7%	48.5%	0.273	29 (24-35)	30 (23-38)	0.663
UK	253	87.2%	89.2%	92.4%	41.2%	0.000	86.1%	91.7%	0.249	86.1%	93.6%	0.158	38 (29-45)	42 (34-46)	0.147
Overall	7,754	68.9%	82.0%	74.6%	41.0%	0.000	68.0%	80.8%	0.000	67.7%	82.0%	0.000	33 (26-41)	32 (25-42)	0.016

*Chi2 test (or Fishers exact test where applicable)

**Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test

- 1) The proportion of MSM who visited gay pub, bar or cafe in the last 6 months differs by level of outness, i.e. those who are not out about being attracted to men are less presented in these venues
- 2) In some of the countries the proportion of HIV+ MSM that visited gay bars, pubs or cafes was higher than proportion of HIV- or untested MSM, i.e. in gay-saunas we will potentially reach proportionally more HIV+ MSM (than we would reach in a population-representative sample)
- 3) In some of the countries the proportion of MSM tested positive for any STI (excluding HIV) in the last 12 months that visited gay bar, pub or cafe was higher than proportion of those not tested positive, i.e. in some countries in gay-bars, pubs and cafes we will potentially reach proportionally more recently tested positive for STI MSM (than we would reach in a population-representative sample)
- 4) In some study sites MSM population visiting gay-bars, pubs or cafes is older or younger in comparison to MSM population reached by EMIS, i.e. in other countries there is no difference in age. This might be explained by different profile of gay bars

3.3.2. Who can be reached in community centre, organisation or social group?

Table 3.8. Number and proportion of MSM, who visited **community centre, organisation or social group** in the last 6 months overall and stratified by outness, HIV and STI status, and age

TLS study area	Proportion of MSM, who visited community centre, organisation or social group in the last 6 months overall and stratified by outness, HIV and STI status										Comparison of the mean age between those who visited these venues and those who did not, mean (IQR)				
	Overall		Outness				HIV			STI (in last 12 months)			Visited	Did not visit	p-value**
	N	%	All or almost all	Some	Few or none	p-value*	HIV-	HIV+	p-value*	STI-	STI+	p-value*			
BE	309	29,6%	32.8%	29.2%	17.4%	0.002	29.5%	31.6%	0.662	29.0%	31.6%	0.561	34 (27-42)	35 (28-43)	0.142
BG	45	9,3%	13.9%	10.7%	7.0%	0.153	9.4%	0.0%	1.000	9.0%	11.4%	0.550	27 (23-35)	29 (23-35)	0.433
DE	484	18,8%	22.3%	21.6%	6.4%	0.000	18.8%	21.0%	0.381	18.8%	19.8%	0.699	36 (27-45)	35 (27-43)	0.593
ES	469	27,1%	31.3%	25.0%	18.2%	0.000	26.2%	33.6%	0.021	26.0%	33.1%	0.017	33 (27-39)	33 (27-40)	0.749
PL	178	19,2%	30.6%	20.8%	8.9%	0.000	19.1%	22.6%	0.496	19.2%	18.1%	0.806	27 (24-32)	29 (25-34)	0.001
PT	349	14,3%	20.8%	16.3%	8.1%	0.000	14.1%	16.4%	0.359	13.6%	21.7%	0.001	30 (23-38)	32 (25-40)	0.003
SE	466	34,2%	41.5%	26.1%	20.2%	0.000	32.9%	53.1%	0.000	33.6%	42.3%	0.064	36 (29-45)	36 (28-45)	0.572
SI	71	17,7%	33.3%	21.8%	6.5%	0.000	18.1%	7.7%	0.333	17.2%	24.2%	0.312	30 (24-37)	29 (24-37)	0.854
UK	75	25,9%	26.8%	26.6%	11.8%	0.463	23.9%	33.3%	0.138	26.1%	27.7%	0.819	42 (31-47)	38 (29-44)	0.121
Overall	2446	21,7%	29.0%	21.4%	10.1%	0.000	21.3%	27.2%	0.000	21.2%	26.9%	0.000	33 (26-42)	33 (26-41)	0.625

*Chi2 test (or Fishers exact test where applicable)

**Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test

- 1) The proportion of MSM who visited community centres in the last 6 months differs by the level of outness, i.e. those who are not out about being attracted to men are less presented in these venues
- 2) In majority of the study sites the proportion of MSM who visited community centres or similar did not differ by HIV status or being tested positive for STI in last 12 months. In some though. This probably can be explained by the type of community centres (i.e. a community centre for HIV+ MSM)

3.3.3. Who can be reached in gay saunas?

Table 3.9. Number and proportion of MSM, who visited the **gay saunas** in the last 6 months overall and stratified by outness, HIV and STI status, and age

TLS study area	Proportion of MSM, who visited the gay saunas in the last 6 months overall and stratified by outness, HIV and STI status										Comparison of the mean age between those who visited these venues and those who did not, mean (IQR)				
	Overall		Outness				HIV			STI (in last 12 months)			Visited	Did not visit	p-value**
	N	%	All or almost all	Some	Few or none	p-value*	HIV-	HIV+	p-value*	STI-	STI+	p-value*			
BE	265	25.4%	25.8%	23.8%	29.2%	0.478	25.0%	30.3%	0.252	24.4%	35.0%	0.013	35 (29-43)	34 (27-43)	0.189
BG	131	27.0%	26.4%	23.3%	30.0%	0.324	27.5%	22.2%	1.000	27.0%	34.3%	0.352	31 (25-36)	28 (23-33)	0.003
DE	583	22.7%	23.9%	22.0%	21.9%	0.515	21.1%	38.5%	0.000	21.6%	35.3%	0.000	40 (32-46)	33 (26-42)	0.000
ES	479	27.7%	28.3%	28.3%	26.1%	0.743	26.0%	39.6%	0.000	26.6%	35.1%	0.005	35 (29-40)	32 (26-39)	0.000
PL	136	14.7%	12.8%	14.3%	17.1%	0.350	13.2%	36.7%	0.000	13.6%	30.0%	0.000	29 (26-36)	28 (24-34)	0.014
PT	873	35.7%	39.4%	38.1%	31.8%	0.003	33.4%	61.5%	0.000	34.5%	51.4%	0.000	34 (28-43)	29 (23-38)	0.000
SE	328	24.1%	24.8%	22.9%	24.6%	0.787	23.1%	43.5%	0.000	23.8%	37.3%	0.001	40 (32-48)	34 (27-44)	0.000
SI	61	15.2%	17.4%	13.4%	15.6%	0.698	14.4%	30.8%	0.133	13.5%	30.3%	0.010	32 (27-40)	29 (24-36)	0.023
UK	101	34.8%	36.1%	35.9%	20.0%	0.504	30.8%	51.7%	0.003	32.3%	51.1%	0.014	39 (33-47)	38 (28-44)	0.024
Overall	2957	26.3%	26.9%	26.4%	26.1%	0.725	24.7%	43.6%	0.000	25.1%	38.6%	0.000	36 (29-43)	32 (25-40)	0.000

*Chi2 test (or Fishers exact test where applicable)

**Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test

- 1) The proportion of MSM who visited gay-saunas in the last 6 months does not differ by level of outness
- 2) In most of the countries the proportion of HIV+ MSM that visited saunas was higher than proportion of HIV- or untested MSM, i.e. in gay-saunas we will potentially reach proportionally more HIV+ MSM (than we would reach in a population-representative sample)
- 3) In most of the countries the proportion of MSM tested positive for any STI (excluding HIV) in the last 12 months that visited saunas was higher than proportion of those not tested positive; i.e. in gay-saunas we will potentially reach proportionally more recently tested positive for STI MSM (than we would reach in a population-representative sample); i.e. in SIALON sample (in TLS study areas) potentially proportion of MSM who had unprotected sex in the last 12 months will be larger than in the general MSM population
- 4) MSM population visiting gay-saunas is older in comparison to MSM population reached by EMIS

3.3.4. Who can be reached in gay disco or night-club?

Table 3.10. Number and Proportion of MSM, who visited **gay disco or night-club** in the last 6 months overall and stratified by outness, HIV and STI status, and age

TLS study area	Proportion of MSM, who visited gay disco or night-club in the last 6 months overall and stratified by outness, HIV and STI status											Comparison of the mean age between those who visited these venues and those who did not, mean (IQR)			
	Overall		Outness				HIV			STI (in last 12 months)			Visited	Did not visit	p-value**
	N	%	All or almost all	Some	Few or none	p-value*	HIV-	HIV+	p-value*	STI-	STI+	p-value*			
BE	627	60.1%	65.8%	61.3%	35.6%	0.000	60.3%	62.6%	0.646	58.8%	72.4%	0.005	32 (27-40)	38 (30-47)	0.000
BG	215	44.3%	56.3%	64.8%	28.9%	0.000	45.1%	50.0%	1.000	44.6%	55.9%	0.201	27 (23-33)	30 (23-35)	0.005
DE	1,353	52.7%	61.9%	59.5%	22.9%	0.000	52.5%	60.8%	0.011	51.6%	73.0%	0.000	33 (27-41)	37 (28-45)	0.000
ES	1,248	72.1%	77.0%	75.6%	52.3%	0.000	72.0%	75.1%	0.338	70.8%	81.9%	0.000	32 (26-38)	36 (29-44)	0.000
PL	601	64.8%	76.9%	69.6%	51.6%	0.000	65.5%	66.1%	0.914	64.6%	73.6%	0.122	28 (25-33)	30 (24-35)	0.072
PT	1,358	55.5%	71.0%	66.6%	36.9%	0.000	55.0%	62.8%	0.028	54.3%	70.0%	0.000	30 (25-38)	33 (25-42)	0.000
SE	836	61.4%	72.7%	57.4%	30.5%	0.000	61.3%	74.7%	0.009	60.5%	78.4%	0.000	35 (28-43)	39 (28-48)	0.000
SI	157	39.1%	64.0%	52.1%	16.6%	0.000	39.5%	41.7%	1.000	39.3%	39.3%	0.492	28 (24-34)	31 (25-38)	0.005
UK	187	64.5%	65.0%	68.4%	41.2%	0.102	65.7%	60.0%	0.415	62.6%	72.3%	0.203	34 (27-42)	44 (38-51)	0.000
Overall	6,582	58.5%	68.9%	65.0%	35.1%	0.000	58.3%	65.7%	0.000	57.3%	73.7%	0.000	32 (26-39)	35 (27-44)	0.000

*Chi2 test (or Fishers exact test where applicable), **Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test

- 1) The proportion of MSM who visited gay disco or night-club in the last 6 months differs by the level of outness, i.e. those who are not out about being attracted to men are less presented in these venues
- 2) In some of the countries the proportion of HIV+ MSM that visited gay disco or night-club was higher than proportion of HIV- or untested MSM, i.e. in Germany, Portugal and Sweden in these venues we will potentially reach proportionally more HIV+ MSM (than we would reach in a population-representative sample)
- 3) In most of the countries the proportion of MSM tested positive for any STI (excluding HIV) in the last 12 months that visited gay disco or night-club was higher than proportion of those not tested positive; i.e. in these venues we will potentially reach proportionally more recently tested positive for STI MSM (than we would reach in a population-representative sample);
- 4) MSM population visiting gay disco or night-club is younger in comparison to MSM population reached by EMIS

3.3.5. Who can be reached in backroom, sex-club, and sex-party?

Table 3.11. Number and proportion of MSM, who visited **backroom, sex-club, sex-party** in the last 6 months overall and stratified by outness, HIV and STI status, and age

TLS study area	Proportion of MSM, who visited backroom, sex-club, sex-party in the last 6 months overall and stratified by outness, HIV and STI status										Comparison of the mean age between those who visited these venues and those who did not, mean (IQR)				
	Overall		Outness				HIV			STI (in last 12 months)			Visited	Did not visit	p-value**
	N	%	All or almost all	Some	Few or none	p-value*	HIV-	HIV+	p-value*	STI-	STI+	p-value*			
BE	359	34.4%	36.9%	33.9%	25.6%	0.039	32.6%	52.5%	0.000	31.9%	54.7%	0.000	36 (30-42)	33 (27-43)	0.015
BG	49	10.1%	9.9%	10.7%	10.3%	0.981	10.5%	0.0%	0.608	10.3%	11.4%	0.774	27 (22-33)	29 (24-35)	0.176
DE	739	28.8%	33.0%	28.3%	19.3%	0.000	26.1%	54.1%	0.000	26.5%	54.2%	0.000	39 (32-45)	33 (26-42)	0.000
ES	644	37.2%	39.8%	37.0%	30.4%	0.016	34.0%	59.0%	0.000	35.3%	50.0%	0.000	35 (28-41)	32 (25-39)	0.000
PL	220	23.7%	31.2%	20.6%	22.7%	0.011	22.4%	46.8%	0.000	22.5%	40.9%	0.000	30 (26-36)	28 (24-34)	0.001
PT	318	13.0%	17.8%	15.1%	8.5%	0.000	12.0%	23.6%	0.000	11.8%	26.4%	0.000	36 (29-45)	31 (24-39)	0.000
SE	285	20.9%	22.1%	19.3%	19.8%	0.502	19.1%	45.8%	0.000	19.9%	33.3%	0.001	41 (32-48)	34 (28-44)	0.000
SI	16	4.0%	9.2%	2.8%	2.4%	0.038	3.6%	7.7%	0.397	4.1%	3.0%	1.000	34 (28-40)	29 (24-36)	0.101
UK	76	26.2%	26.0%	29.0%	23.5%	0.849	21.2%	48.3%	0.000	23.6%	42.6%	0.007	42 (34-48)	38 (28-44)	0.001
Overall	2,706	24.0%	30.0%	23.3%	15.7%	0.000	21.9%	46.2%	0.000	22.2%	41.7%	0.000	36 (30-44)	32 (25-40)	0.000

*Chi2 test (or Fishers exact test where applicable)

**Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test

- 1) In most study sites the proportion of MSM who visited backroom, sex-club, sex-party in the last 6 months differs by the level of outness, i.e. those who are not out about being attracted to men are less presented in these venues
- 2) In most of the study sites the proportion of HIV+ MSM that visited backroom, sex-club, sex-party was higher than proportion of HIV- or untested MSM, i.e. in these venues we will potentially reach proportionally more HIV+ MSM (than we would reach in a population-representative sample)
- 3) In most of the countries the proportion of MSM tested positive for any STI (excluding HIV) in the last 12 months that visited backroom, sex-club, sex-party was higher than proportion of those not tested positive; i.e. in these venues we will potentially reach proportionally more recently tested positive for STI MSM (than we would reach in a population-representative sample);
- 4) MSM population visiting backroom, sex-club, sex-party is older in comparison to MSM population reached by EMIS

3.3.6. Who can be reached in cruising sites?

Table 3.12. Number and proportion of MSM, who visited the cruising sites in the last 6 months overall and stratified by outness, HIV and STI status, and age

TLS study area	Proportion of MSM, who visited the cruising sites in the last 6 months overall and stratified by outness, HIV and STI status										Comparison of the mean age between those who visited these venues and those who did not, mean (IQR)				
	Overall		Outness				HIV			STI (in last 12 months)			Visited	Did not visit	p-value**
	N	%	All or almost all	Some	Few or none	p-value*	HIV-	HIV+	p-value*	STI-	STI+	p-value*			
BE	265	25.4%	25.8%	23.7%	29.2%	0.478	25.0%	30.3%	0.252	24.4%	35.0%	0.013	35 (29-43)	34 (27-43)	0.189
BG	131	27.0%	26.4%	23.3%	30.0%	0.324	27.5%	22.2%	1.000	27.0%	34.3%	0.352	31 (25-36)	28 (23-33)	0.003
DE	583	22.7%	23.9%	22.0%	21.9%	0.515	21.1%	38.5%	0.000	21.6%	35.3%	0.000	40 (32-46)	33 (26-42)	0.000
ES	479	27.7%	28.3%	28.3%	26.1%	0.743	26.0%	39.6%	0.000	26.6%	35.1%	0.005	35 (29-40)	32 (26-39)	0.000
PL	136	14.7%	12.8%	14.3%	17.2%	0.350	13.2%	36.7%	0.000	13.6%	30.0%	0.000	29 (26-36)	28 (24-34)	0.014
PT	873	35.7%	39.4%	38.1%	31.8%	0.003	33.4%	61.5%	0.000	34.5%	51.4%	0.000	34 (28-43)	29 (23-38)	0.000
SE	328	24.1%	24.7%	22.9%	24.6%	0.787	23.1%	43.5%	0.000	23.1%	37.3%	0.001	40 (32-48)	34 (27-44)	0.000
SI	61	15.2%	17.4%	13.4%	15.6%	0.698	14.4%	30.8%	0.113	13.5%	30.3%	0.010	32 (28-40)	29 (24-36)	0.023
UK	101	34.8%	36.1%	35.9%	20.0%	0.504	30.8%	51.7%	0.003	32.3%	51.0%	0.014	39 (34-47)	38 (28-44)	0.024
Overall	2,957	26.3%	30.0%	26.4%	26.1%	0.725	24.7%	43.6%	0.000	25.1%	38.6%	0.000	36 (29-43)	32 (25-40)	0.000

*Chi2 test (or Fishers exact test where applicable)

**Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test

- 1) In most of the study sites the proportion of HIV+ MSM that visited cruising sites was higher than proportion of HIV- or untested MSM, i.e. in these venues we will potentially reach proportionally more HIV+ MSM (than we would reach in a population-representative sample)
- 2) The proportion of MSM tested positive for any STI (excluding HIV) in the last 12 months that visited cruising sites was higher than proportion of those not tested positive; i.e. in these venues we will potentially reach proportionally more recently tested positive for STI MSM (than we would reach in a population-representative sample);
- 3) MSM population visiting cruising sites is older in comparison to MSM population reached by EMIS

4. Recency of visiting a website for MSM (EMIS data)

Almost in all study sites nearly and more than 90% of MSM population have visited a website for MSM in the last 7 days (over 70% in the last 24 hours). These proportions differed by study sited, however the differences were much less pronounced in comparison to proportion of MSM attending venues.

Table 4.1. Recency of visiting a website for MSM

Study area	Last 7 days		Last 24h	
	N	%	N	%
BE	957	91.9%	798	76.7%
BG	427	89.0%	358	74.6%
DE	2,367	92.6%	2,009	78.6%
ES	1,660	96.2%	1,455	84.3%
LT	259	94.9%	223	81.7%
PL	879	95.0%	800	86.5%
PT	2,278	93.8%	1,857	76.5%
RO	593	92.1%	492	76.4%
SE	1,274	93.9%	1,091	80.4%
SI	360	89.8%	312	77.8%
SK	242	96.0%	210	83.3%
UK	270	93.4%	216	74.7%
IT (Verona)	292	93.3%	250	79.9%
IT (Rome)	1,641	93.0%	1,357	76.9%
IT (Milano)	1,828	93.3%	1,540	78.6%
IT (Catania)	159	91.4%	125	71.8%
IT (Napoli)	444	90.2%	377	76.6%

5. Prevention activities

Almost in all the SIALON II study areas outreach work and prevention activities have been carried out (see table 5.1). Major types of the prevention activities are summarised in table 5.2.

Table 5.1. Prevention activities and outreach work in the study area in the last 12 months

Country	Outreach work	Prevention activities	Evaluation of prevention activities
BE	Y	Y	Y
BG	Y	Y	N
DE	Y	Y	Y
IT (Verona)	Y	Y	N
LT	.	.	Y
PL	Y	Y	N
PT	Y	Y	N
RO	Y	Y	N
SK	N	Y	.
SL	Y	Y	N
ES	Y	Y	Y
SE	Y	Y	Y
UK	Y	Y	Y

Table 5.2. Major types of prevention activities

Information campaigns on various topics, including poster campaigns, mass media campaigns, social media campaigns (Facebook, Twitter), websites, videos, leaflets. Partially connected with distribution of condoms and lubricants as well as linking target group with specific services (i.e. counseling). Campaigns in World AIDS Day and other mass events.	BE, BG, DE, RO, ES, UK
Distribution of condoms and lubricants in gay venues. Usually connected with distribution of information material and/or in frame of outreach work.	BE, PT, RO, SL, ES, IT
Websites containing information on various topics as well as forums for exchange of opinions, information and as platform for online consultations.	BE, UK, PL, DE
Consultation (and testing) services for MSM. Providing face to face health promotion and counselling on various topics. At some services also VCT and testing for other Infections. Support groups. Harm reduction.	BE, BG, DE, PL, ES, UK
Outreach work and mobile medical units.	BE, BG, IT, PL, PT, RO, SL, ES, SE, UK
Telephone, online and Skype consultations	BE, ES, PL, UK
Peer education , education for bar-tenders or other leaders	BE, DE, PL, PT, UK
Advocacy , open podium discussions / interviews in media. Gay pride	BE, DE, SK, ES, UK
Activities for communities of PLWHIV	BE, UK

Major lessons learned from prevention activities

For information campaigns: focus group pre-testing with the target audiences was crucial

Working closely with venues to establish mutually beneficial outcomes for both customers & service providers. Free condom & lube provision to venues was crucial to encourage engagement of venue management.

Gay community is open to participate in prevention activities, and surprisingly open to discuss openly. There is a lack of knowledge about the Basics and stigma among the community.

Campaigns only in World AIDS Day or other special events is insufficient and should be implemented during whole year

HIV and Safer messages don't need to be 'clever', simple and to the point messages such as THINK' were rated well by MSM

PEP training seminars for outreach workers, volunteers and helpline workers was needed. Awareness on PEP among MSM doubled in 4 years

Major challenges to implement prevention activities

The lack of economic resources for prevention activities and/or for free condoms and lubricants

Lack of human resources (partially linked to the lack of economic resources)

Negotiating delivery of services in gay venues

To involve MSM that are not already motivated or integrated in prevention activities

6. HIV, Syphilis and Viral hepatitis B (HBV) and C (HCV), testing and therapy

Table 6.1. Proportion of HIV positive persons among population in general and among MSM receiving antiretroviral therapy by study area

	Community		MSM		MSM – EMIS Data*	
	% of HIV+ receiving ARV treatment		% of HIV+ MSM receiving ARV treatment		% of HIV+ MSM receiving ARV treatment	
Country	Country	Study area	Country	Study area	Country	Study area
BE	79%	79%	74%	74%	64%	59%
BG ²	30%	63%	.	.	67%	67%
DE ³	78%	78%	78%	78%	75%	78%
IT (Verona)	.	.	.	.	67%	52%
LT ⁵	12%	.	35%	.	73%	50%
PL ⁶	38%	81%	61%	69%	56%	48%
PT ⁷	57%	.	69%	.	73%	70%
RO	.	.	.	.	69%	70%
SK	45%	47%	45%	49%	50%	25%
SL ¹⁰	82%		88%		68%	46%
ES ¹¹	85%	89%	80%	36%	70%	74%
SE	90%	91%	90%	90%	74%	69%
UK ¹³	87%	79%	87%	79%	74%	82%

*Note that for Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia calculations on country level are based on <15 and on study area level on <10 HIV+ respondent

EMIS data reflect the treatment situation in 2009. Due to higher treatment uptake and the trend to recommend starting treatment earlier, treatment rates may be higher in 2013.

Table 6.2. Guidelines and standards for the management of HIV+ patients by country

Country	Guidelines exist	Screening						HBV vaccination recommended	Under which conditions ARV is recommended			Frequency of monitoring visits for HIV+ , times per year	
		Exist	Syphilis	Gonorrhoea	Chlamydia	HCV	Other		CD4 count, cells/mm3	HBV infection	AIDS-defining illness	On treatment	Not yet on treatment
BE	Y***	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	<350	Y	Y	2-3	3-4
BG	Y	N						N	<350	N	N	6	2
DE	Y	N#	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	<350	Y	Y	4	4
IT (Verona)	Y	N						.	<350	Y	Y	3-4	3-4
LT	Y	N						N	<200	N	Y	4	4
PL	Y	Y	Y			Y	HBV	Y	<350	Y	Y	4	2-4
PT	Y	N						.	<350	Y	Y	2 ^{\$}	2
RO	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
SK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	HBV	Y	<350	Y	Y	4	2
SL	Y	Y	Y					Y	<350	Y	Y	3-4	2-3
ES	Y	Y	Y			Y		N	<350	N	Y	4	4
SE	Y	N*						Y**	<350	Y	Y	2	2
UK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	<350	N	Y	4-6	4-6

SE * There are other testing routines in place in each respective clinic; ** All MSM are recommended vaccination against HBV

BE *** European guidelines, no Belgian guidelines; PT \$ If patient stable

DE # included in quality assurance (is recommended and can be provided for HIV+ patients (without extra costs for patients))

Table 6.3. Availability of ARV drugs by country, treatment interruptions because of stock-out of drugs

ARV groups and drugs	BE	BG	DE	IT (Verona)	LT	PL	PT	RO	SK	SL	ES	SE	UK
NRTI combinations													
Abacavir/Lamivudine/Zidovudine	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Abacavir/Lamivudine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tenofovir/Emtricitabine	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Zidovudine/Lamivudine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NRTI/NNRTI combinations - Tenofovir/Emtricitabine/Efavirenz	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NRTI													
Abacavir	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tenofovir	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Didanosine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lamivudine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Emtricitabine	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Zidovudin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
NNRTI													
Efavirenz	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nevirapin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Etravirin	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rilpivirine	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	.	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Protease Inhibitor combination													
Lopinavir/ Ritonavir	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Protease Inhibitors													
Darunavir	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Atazanavir	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Saquinavir	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Fosamprenavir	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Ritonavir	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tipranavir	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Integrase inhibitor - Raltegravir	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
CCR5 inhibitor - Maraviroc	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fusion inhibitor - Enfuvirtide	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Treatment interruptions because stock-outs of drugs	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	.	N	N	N	N	N

7. Overall information about the experience with the study methodology and studies among MSM

Overall information about the experience with the study methodology and studies among MSM are summarised in tables 7.1 and 7.2. All of the study countries already have the experience with at least one type of MSM study. From TLS countries Belgium, Slovenia, Spain and UK have already experience with TLS methodology in study among MSM. From RDS countries none of the countries have experience with RDS methodology among MSM, however, Lithuania have experience with this methodology in study among IDUs.

Table 7.1. Experience with studies among MSM and other target groups by study methodology

Country	TLS	RDS	Other study methodology (among MSM only) in previous 24 months (for example internet based studies like EMIS)
BE	MSM	FSW	Y
BG			Y
DE		IDU	Y
IT	MSM		Y
LT		IDU	Y
PL		IDU	Y
PT		IDU, DU	Y
RO	MSM		Y
SK	MSM		Y
SL	MSM		Y
ES	MSM	Youth	Y
SE		IDU	Y
UK	MSM	MSM (1)	Y

Table 7.2. Number of studies among MSM by type of the study

Country	TLS	RDS	Internet based (EMIS)	Other (In last 24 months)
BE	1		1	1
BG			1	1
DE			1	1
IT (Verona)	1		1	1
LT			1	
PL			1	
PT			1	1
RO	1		1	
SK	2		1	
SL	1		1	1
ES	1		1	2
SE			1	
UK	6	1	1	

8. Formative research report annexes

- 8.1. FRR Annex 1. Formative research questionnaire for study sites
- 8.2. FRR Annex 2. Commercial gay venues by study sites
- 8.3. FRR Annex 3. Non-commercial gay venues by study sites
- 8.4. FRR Annex 4. HIV testing and counselling sites by study site
- 8.5. FRR Annex 5. Presentation of the FR results in the Project meeting, Berlin, 11.-13.02.2013