ESTICOM – European Surveys and Trainings to Improve MSM Community Health

- European MSM Internet Survey (EMIS 2017): generation of data useful for the planning of HIV and STI prevention and care programmes for MSM and the monitoring of national progress in this area. Survey online Sept. 2017 – Nov. 2017

- European Community Health Worker Online Survey (ECHOES) about knowledge, attitudes, practices and training needs of community health workers (CHW) working with MSM. Survey online Oct. 2017 – Dec. 2017

- Development and pilot testing of a training programme for MSM-focused community health workers intended to be adaptable for all EU countries.
  - Training of trainers workshops Jan. 2018 – Apr. 2018
  - Piloting of national trainings in 10 countries Aug. 2018 – Oct. 2018
ESTICOM Timelines

- Duration: Aug. 25, 2016 - Aug. 24, 2019
- Inception meeting: Sep. 5-6, 2016
- MSM sexual health and prevention needs review: March 2017
- CHW training needs review: March 2017
- Questionnaire sign-offs: June-July 2017
- Expert workshop to discuss survey results: April 2018

- Project website for further information and dissemination of results currently under development, launch hopefully by end of February or early March 2017
WP1 Literature review on MSM sexual health

• Close cooperation between WP1 and WP2 - video conferences every other week
• Drafts of Section 1 (incidence/prevalence of HIV/STIs) and Section 2 (sexual risk behaviours) are complete.
• Draft documents have been shared with relevant project partners: Sigma research (WP2 – MSM Survey Design) and THT (WP9 – CHW Training Materials)
• Work on Section 3 is underway (barriers to HIV/STI prevention, diagnosis and treatment). Analysis of 2016 Dublin Declaration monitoring data currently being performed.
WP 2 Development on MSM online survey

• Consultation on priorities for survey topics was sent out 25 November 2016 to 318 ESTICOM subscribers
• Reminder sent 19 December
• 50 agencies responded, from 21 European countries, plus pan-European agencies and the US (survey improvement only)
• The basis for consultation was the question stems of the EMIS 2010 survey
• Responses included nominating questions that could be dropped, suggestions for new topics to be included, and problems with existing question stems.
• The consultation has given a clear steer on modifying the EMIS 2010 survey for 2017
• Next stage will be consultation with ESTICOM subscribers on a first draft of the survey at the end of February.
WP5 CHW review

Associated Network:

- Over 500 persons in 40 countries were contacted, and 87 replies were received to an online survey about CHW related surveys and/or training material.
- An online contact database (common with WP3) was created (389 subscribers).
- Based on the responses, material was collected from 19 countries (67 documents in total).
- 10 Interviewees were selected from the Associated Network.
WP6: CHW questionnaire development

• The first ever European survey of CHW will be called: ECHOES: European Community Health worker OnlinE Survey

• Working definition of CHWs: “A CHW is someone who currently provides sexual health support directly to gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) which includes HIV/STI and/or viral hepatitis (Hep B & C). A CHW delivers health promotion and/or public health services directly to gay, bisexual and other MSM in a community (i.e. non-clinical) setting”).

• The term “gay, bisexual and other MSM” should be used when we refer to the population with whom CHW work.

• Inclusion criteria for ECHOES: 18 years old or older.

• Core principles of the conceptual map (next slide) based on literature reviews, review of existing surveys, and input from WP5 and Objective 2 partners following Berlin meeting (October 2017). Further developed from Oct 16-Jan 17.

• Ethical approval obtained for initial piloting in Feb/March 17

• Full draft expected end of Feb 2017
WP 9: CHW Training Materials (THT)

- A first draft of the training material structure will be finished end of May 2017.
- D9.1 (M12, Aug 2017):
  - The first version of the workshop material will integrate the content/topics of the survey questionnaires.
  - It will be still quite basic as the outcome of the surveys can’t yet be included. (The first outcomes of the surveys will be presented in April 2018).
  - Aim is at least to present the range of the topics and main approaches.
  - The first draft of the training materials will be discussed/reviewed with the experts on the European MSM experts meeting in Berlin, August 4-6, 2017.
  - After agreement of D9.1 by Chafea/Steering Group the material will be worked out in detail till mid-December 2017 the latest.
  - Survey results will be integrated as soon as they are available.
WP 10: CHW Training Programme (DAH)

- In M6 (Feb) the countries that showed interest in participating and that applied to the criteria will be contacted for approval of interest:
  - 5 countries with funding for their national pilot trainings (PL (also ToT), CR, PT, IT (also ToT), EE – all tbc.)
  - 5 have to finance it by themselves (GB, DE, AU, FR, NL – all tbc.)
- The potential national pilot country partners will be invited to the European MSM experts meeting in Berlin, August 4-6, 2017.
- THT will prepare the workshop material, including E-Learning. DAH will adapt the material in cooperation with the national partners for the ToT and pilot countries due to their requirements and the needs assessment and amend the interactive modules.
WP11 – Monitoring & Evaluation

M2 Starting Environment
Purpose
Establish initial expectations, challenges and opportunities regarding the ESTICOM project as perceived by consortium and advisory board members.

Method
Phone interviews, using predefined forms. 19 people were interviewed (13 Consortium Members, 6 Advisory Board members).

M3 Quarterly Project Progress Monitoring
-- All planned activities have been implemented in the first 3 months
-- Some encountered challenges:

* Tight timelines (all WPs);
* Limited availability of published evidence (influencing scope/definitions used for surveys) (WP1,5)
* A lack of knowledge of or absence of relevant materials by national contact persons (WP5)
* Some delays due to start-up phase of project (all Wps)
* Access to and use of Dublin Declaration data (WP1)
* Changes in and/or hiring of project staff; followed by slight delays in activities (WP6)