

3rd Steering Committee Meeting
9th-10th November 2006, Berlin

**Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviour (KAB) towards
HIV/STIs**
Survey among MSM - Sample

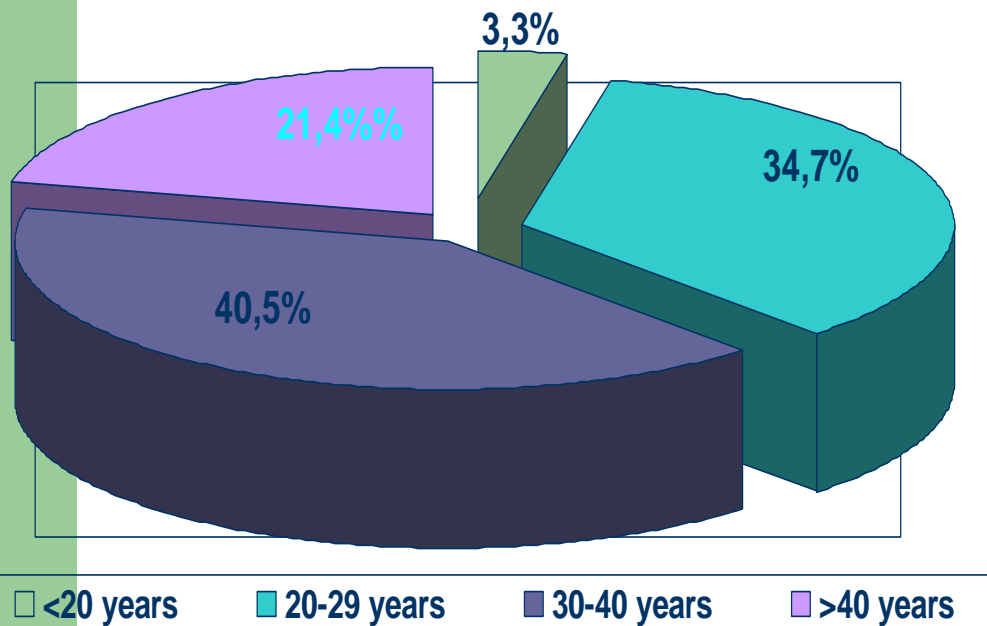
Model Regions	Planned	Achieved
MR 3: Austria	90	136
MR 3: Slovakia	90	57
MR 4: Italy	90	84
MR 4: Slovenia	90	83
Total	360	360

KAB Survey among MSM

Sample, Recruitment, Administration

- **Recruitment locations:**
 - gay clubs and bars (Austria, Italy, Slovenia);
 - gay parade (“Regenbogenparade”, Austria);
 - HIV Test/counselling centre (Slovakia);
 - MSM NGO (Slovenia);
 - Saunas (Italy)
- **Administration: self-administrated questionnaire**
- **Time: from May till October 2006**

KAB Survey among MSM First Results



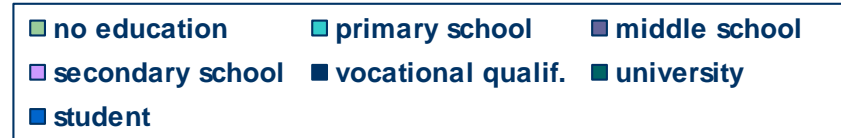
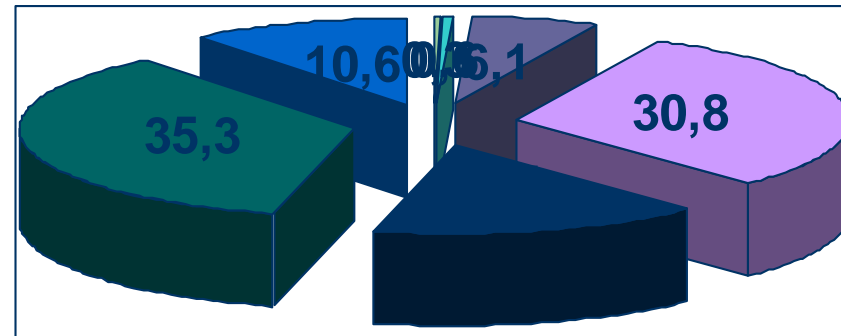
Age

- Good 40% are between 30-40 years old;
- Around 1/3 are between 20 and 29 years old;
- Around 1/5 is older than 40 years
- Mean age – 32 years (range 16-63 years)

KAB Survey among MSM - First Results

Education

- More than 1/3 (35,3%) have university degree;
- About 1/3 (30,8%) have secondary school degree;
- 16,1% have vocational qualification;
- About 10,6% are still students;
- Only 6,1% have middle school certificate



KAB Survey among MSM - First Results

Work situation

- More than 3/4 (79,7%) are occupied, out of whom:
 - 50,3% - full-time
 - 20,1 % - self-employed
 - 9,3% - part-time
- 4,2% are unemployed, 2% are retired and one man is a houseman
- 13,3% stated that they are still students

Health insurance

- The majority (97,2%) has health insurance

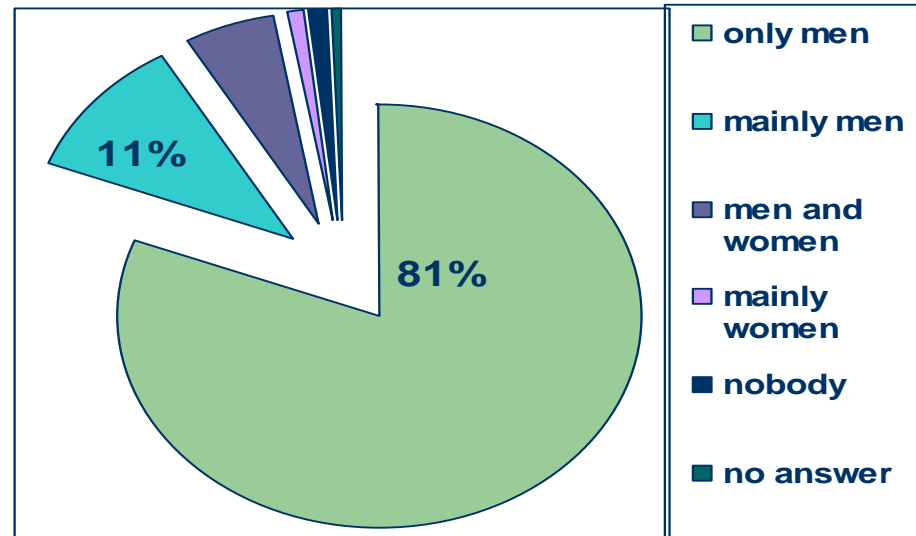
Partnership

- Nearly the half (44,7%) has a steady relationship with a man
- 2% have a relationship with a man and a women

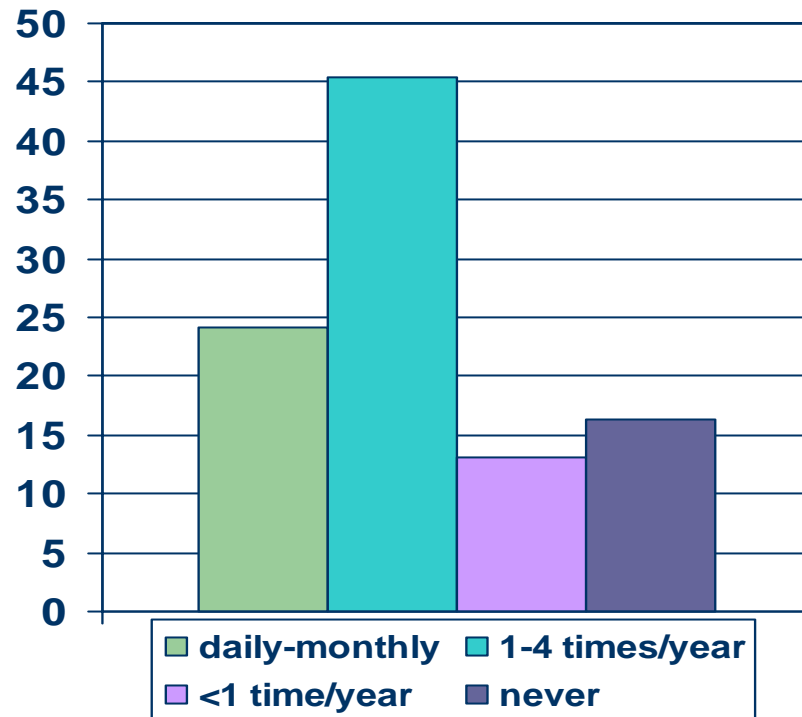
KAB Survey among MSM First Results

Sexual partners

- The biggest group (80,7%) has **only male** sex partners and 10,9% have **mainly male** sex partners;
- 5,6% have female and male sex partners and 4 men (1,1%) have given mainly female sex partners;



KAB Survey among MSM - First Results



Mobility across borders : travel to the neighbour countries

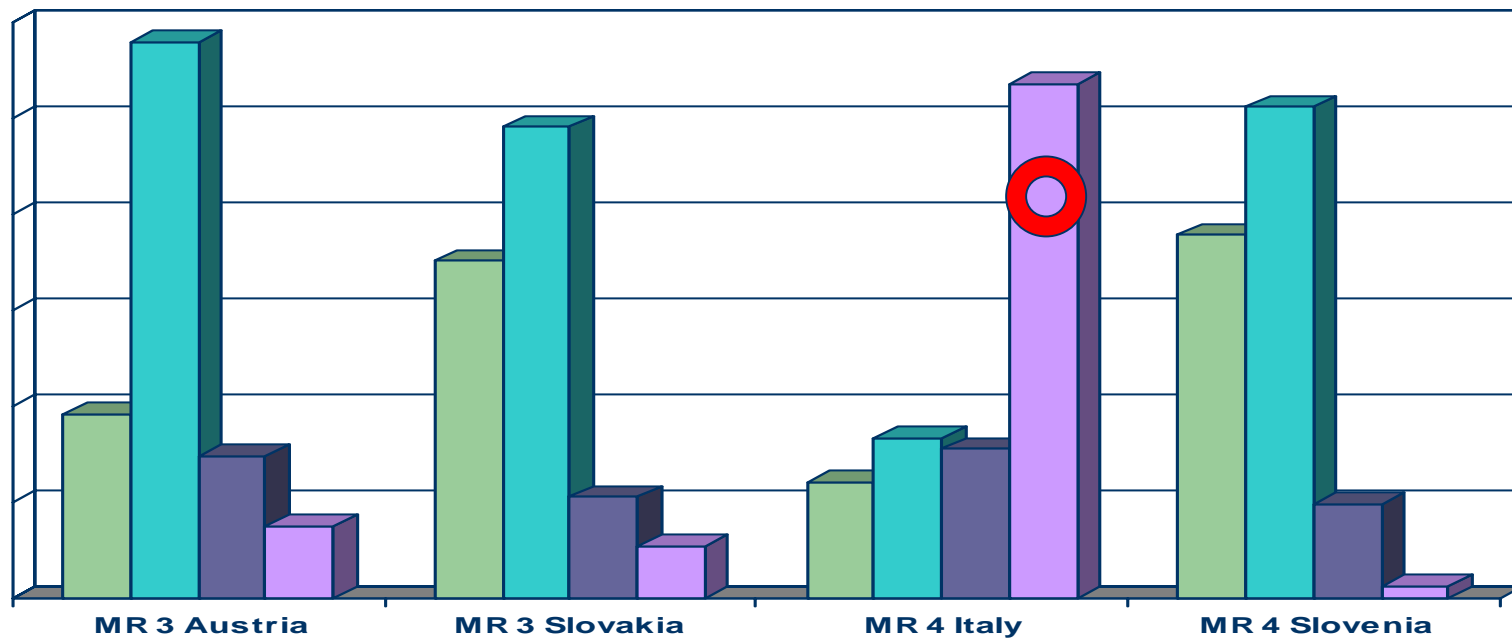
- 24,2% are frequent travellers (daily to monthly)
- Almost the half has moderate mobility patterns: 45,4% travel 1 to 4 times a year
- 13,1% travel seldom (less than once a year)
- 16,4% have “never” visited the BORDERNET neighbour country

KAB Survey among MSM

First Results: Mobility across border

- **Mobility patterns differ per region: The MSM from the new EC member states Slovakia (35,1%) and Slovenia (37,85) travel most frequently, whereas more than 1/2 of the Italians have never visited Slovenia (53,6%)**
- **The Slovenian MSM travel more often to the neighbour countries Italy and Austria than the other way around: 51,2% Slovenians have moderate mobility patterns while only 16,6% Italians travel in a moderate way to their neighbour countries**
- **The Austrian MSM have the highest rate of moderate travelling: 58% say that they travel 1-4 times/year to Slovenia, Slovakia or Italy**
- **The main purposes of travel are leisure time (215 responses) Guest visit (73), work (66), shopping (42), studies/vocational training (19)**

KAB Survey among Young Adults First Results: Mobility cross border II



■ frequent
 ■ moderate
 ■ seldom
 ■ never

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SPI Forschung gGmbH

10th November 2006
Berlin, Germany



KAB Survey among MSM First Results

Knowledge about HIV/AIDS

- 91,9 % think that they know very much or much about HIV;
- 79,5 % of them answer correct that AIDS can be treated but not cured; further 15,3% of them though stated “AIDS can not be treated” (as well as another 14,9% from those who think they know much about it)
- More than 3/4 (76,9%) know that AIDS can not be healed but treated;
- Only 7,6% think they know very little about HIV, about 5 % “do not know” or “are not sure” whether AIDS can be treated

KAB Survey among MSM First Results

Infection routes HIV (1) - the facts

- The most often correct answered questions:

HIV can be transmitted by:

- *„... anal sex without condom between men“ – 99,5%*
- *„...common use of syringes by IDU“ - 98%;*
- *„.....blood transfusion“ - 87%;*

Infection routes HIV (2) - the beliefs

- The majority has more than 10 out of 15 correct answers (91,6%)
- The highest rate of fully correct came from Austrian MSM (49%); Italian respondents have the lowest rate of fully correct answers (10,5%)
- The most often wrong answered questions:
 - *„HIV can be transmitted by .. use of hygienic articles (toothbrush)“ - only 57,7% answer correct ;*
 - *„...by kissing“ - 76% answer correct;*

KAB Survey among MSM First Results

HIV Protection - facts and beliefs

- Almost 100% (98,6) know that condoms protect;
- Only 5,5% believe that one can get protected by vaccination
- Less than this (2,4%) believe that the contraceptive pill protects



MSM respondents have a high knowledge of HIV transmission routes and protection

HIV - fears

- More than 3/4 (80 %) are afraid or very afraid of catching HIV; another 18,6 % are not at all afraid or just do not think about it;
- Good two thirds (66,5%) know someone with HIV/AIDS;

KAB Survey among MSM First Results

HIV Test

- 99,2 % know that there is a reliable HIV test;
- The most (88,8%) stated that there is a free of charge and anonymous test for HIV in their countries;
- 6%stated that one could only get free of charge and anonymous HIV test with health insurance (10,5 % of the Slovaks, n=6, but also for 8,5% of the Slovenians, n=7);
- 83,8 % had an HIV-Test. Nearly the half of tested (40,5%/122) are Austrians, 22,9% (69) Italians, 21,6% (65) Slovenians and 15% (45) Slovaks.

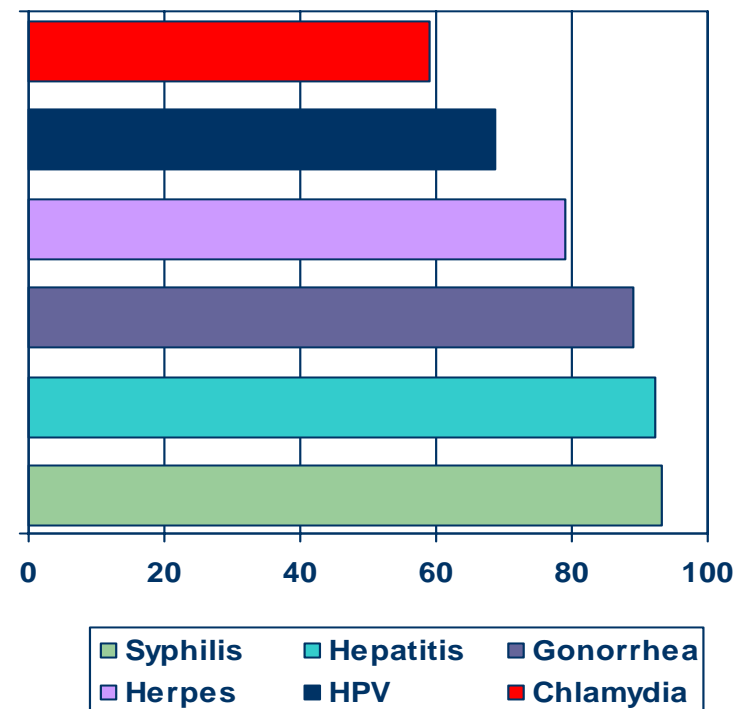
HIV Test

- Almost the half of the tests (46,4%) were carried out in the last year;
- Most often test services used:
 - 26,4% - *doctor/GP with HIV specialization*
 - 15,3% - *hospital with HIV specialization*
 - 11,9% - *public health service*
- Pre-test and post-test counselling
 - *Almost equal proportion of those who received pre test (71%) and post-test counselling (73,3%)*

KAB Survey among MSM - First Results

STIs knowledge and diagnostic

- Most known STIs are syphilis (93,1%), hepatitis (92,2), gonorrhoea (88,9%),
- The least known is Chlamydia (59,1%);
- More than half (54,9%/ 180) have had STI diagnostic in the last 2 years;
- Among the diagnosed, 71 (32 %) had a STI (*Gonorrhoea n= 25; Syphilis n=23; HPV - anogenital warts n= 19; Hepatitis B/C n=13, Herpes 7, Chlamydia 14*)



KAB Survey among MSM First Results: Safer Sex

Condom use during the last anal contact:

- More than 1/2 (55%/ 82) of all with *steady partners* (157) didn't use a condom during the last anal contact
- Only 9,7% (24) of all who had had *sex with occasional partners* (262) didn't use a condom during the last anal contact



About 60% of men with steady partners have also sexual contact with other men

General Condom use during anal contact:

- 37,6% (56) of all *with steady partners* (157) never use a condom, but 32,9% (49) of the same group always use a condom with their *steady partner*
- Only 1,6% (4) of all who had sex with other men (262) never use a condom, but almost 2/3 (64,9%/ 154) always use a condom with occasional partners
- 77,1% (37) of all who have ever paid for sex (50) always used a condom and 80,6% (25) of all who were paid for sex (31) always used a condom

KAB Survey among MSM First Results

Sexual practices with steady partners

Oral sex	98 % (N=145)
Anal sex	87,6 % (N=145)
Fist fucking	25,5 %

Sexual practices with other men

Oral sex	97,1 % (N=242)
Anal sex	88,8 % (N=232)
Fist fucking	22 % (N=227)



Sexual practices between steady and occasional partners are quite similar

KAB Survey among MSM First Results

High risk sexual practices

- Only 1,1% (4) say that they “want to forget the risk and just have fun when they go out”
- 6,1% (22) have sometimes unrestrained sex without condom
- Only 0,8% (3) practise “bare backing”
- 1,4% (5) “can’t think of anything, when everything gets so quick”

Risk management

- 21,7% (78) are only interested in a steady relationship
- 16,7% (60) have a small number of sexual partners
- 15,3% (55) are HIV tested and faithful (also their partner)
- 14,2% (51) don’t have sex with other men (also their partner)
- 13,1% (47) have only sex without penetration
- 11,7% (42) don’t visit certain meeting places
- 6,9% (25) say that their partners ejaculate always outside

KAB Survey among MSM First Results

Nightlife and

- 26,9% (95) go more than once monthly to gay clubs/ discos
- 74,4% (250) never go to sexparties
- 36,7% (126) change from time to time several gay clubs during one night
- Almost 1/3 (28,4% 97) from time to time have several male sex partners during one night

(sexual) mobility

- 29% (100) go from time to time abroad to have sex
- 25,7% (88) travel from time to time to gay events/ parades

KAB Survey among MSM: Conclusions (draft)

- **MSM respondents have relative high educational degree**
- **MSM respondents have a high basic knowledge of HIV/AIDS transmission and protection**
- **MSM respondents are nevertheless very afraid of getting infected with HIV/ AIDS**
- **Extremely high percentage of MSM respondents are tested, high proportion stated pre- and post test counselling**

KAB Survey among MSM: Conclusions (draft)

- **Almost 20 % had a diagnosed STI in the last two years**
- **More than 1/3 never use a condom during anal sex contacts with their steady partners**
- **Around 60% of all with steady partners have also sex with other men, thus increasing risk for steady partners (by unprotected sex)**
- **MSM respondents follow different strategies for risk management**
- **Only Few MSM undergo high risk practices (bare backing etc.)**

Outcome for Prevention strategies (draft)

- *Beside information campaigns prevention strategies for MSM should also focus on fears and risk management strategies*
- Further evaluation of data (national, regional and international) is needed
- Outcomes will be circulated and discussed within the BORDERNET network in the beginning of 2007

KAB Survey among MSM

Thank you for your attention !!!!

Funded by the EU Commission

The sole responsibility of any use that may be made of the information lies with the author (SPI Research gGmbH)

