

## KAB Survey Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviour (KAB) towards HIV/STIs in Germany, Poland, Austria, Italien, Slovenia and Slovakia

Steffan E., Arsova-Netzelmann T., Sokolowski S., SPI Forschung gGmbH

### Remarks and objectives

- Young people's risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS is confirmed not only by recent data on new infections, but also by a variety of socio-demographic, cultural and psychosocial factors related to the age of experimentation and unsettled search of (sexual) identity.
- In Western Europe 30% of the HIV infected persons are younger than 30 years old.
- **Aim:** Identification of sexual risk indicators related to knowledge, attitudes, sexual practices and cross-border mobility of European young adults from six EU member states.

### Results

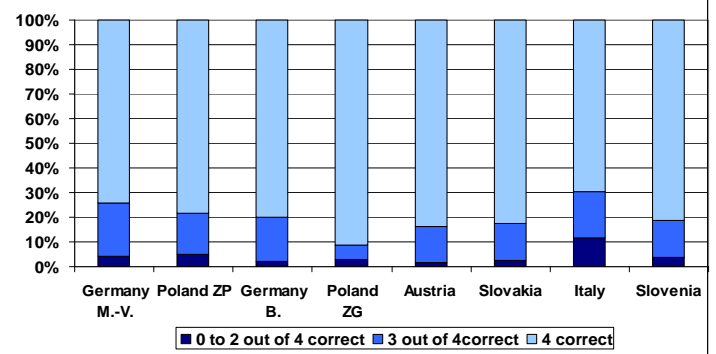
- The young adults show in general a high basic knowledge of HIV/STIs. 80% know the right answer to the main infection ways.
- However, at the same time various uncertainties exist related to wide-spread myths of infection and protection, especially among the interviewees from the new EU member states. Thus a third of the Slovenian interviewees (33,7%) believes that kissing represents an HIV infection risk (contact with saliva) and almost 40% of the Polish young people (from the region Zachodniopomorskie) believe that the use of a public toilet is an infection risk as well. These uncertainties benefit prejudices and stigmatisation towards HIV infected persons.
- Over a quarter (26%) of the young adults (with a considerable share of Germans among them) does not have information about the availability of anonymous and free-of-charge HIV counselling and testing offers. This fact may impact negatively their help-seeking behaviour.
- Young women and the respondents from old EU member states (especially Austrian and German women) tend more to single-partner relationships as a risk management strategy and state to chose more often the „no condom, no sex“ self-protective behaviour.
- Young men, as well as respondents from Mediterranean countries (Italy, Slovenia), predominate among those with multiple sexual partners, and partly with condom-unfriendly attitudes.
- Nevertheless, men report in general more condom use than women and rely more on their assertiveness skills at the condom negotiation.
- In general, condoms are used in the first place (75% of the respondents) as contraceptives, only after this as a prevention measure against HIV and STIs.

### Method

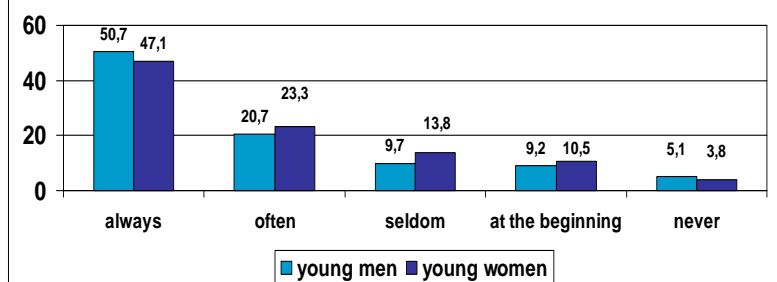
- Self-administrated KAB survey questionnaire in the respective country language
- Subjects: Sociodemography, knowledge and attitudes concerning HIV/AIDS and STIs, mobility in cross-border regions
- 1085 young adults aged 18 to 25 years were recruited in border regions of Austria, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, basing on a preliminary defined selection criteria of risky youth venues



### Knowledge of HIV transmission ways



### Condom use (%)



### Conclusions

The identified narrow link between condom use and prevention of unwanted pregnancies confirms unambiguously the importance of integrative prevention approaches, which embed the HIV/AIDS and STIs education in the wider frame of the sexual and reproductive health of young women and men.

Contact: SPI Forschung gGmbH,  
Kohlfurterstr- 41-43;  
10999 Berlin  
spi@spi-research.de

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