



ESTICOM Project
www.ESTICOM.eu
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Outline

- Introduction to ESTICOM Project
- Aims & objectives of ESTICOM Project
- Current status of the project components



European Union
Health Programme

European Surveys and Training To Improve
MSM Community Health (**ESTICOM**), 2016-
2019

**EMIS (European MSM
Internet Survey) 2017**



**ECHOES (European
Community Health
Worker Online Survey)
2017**

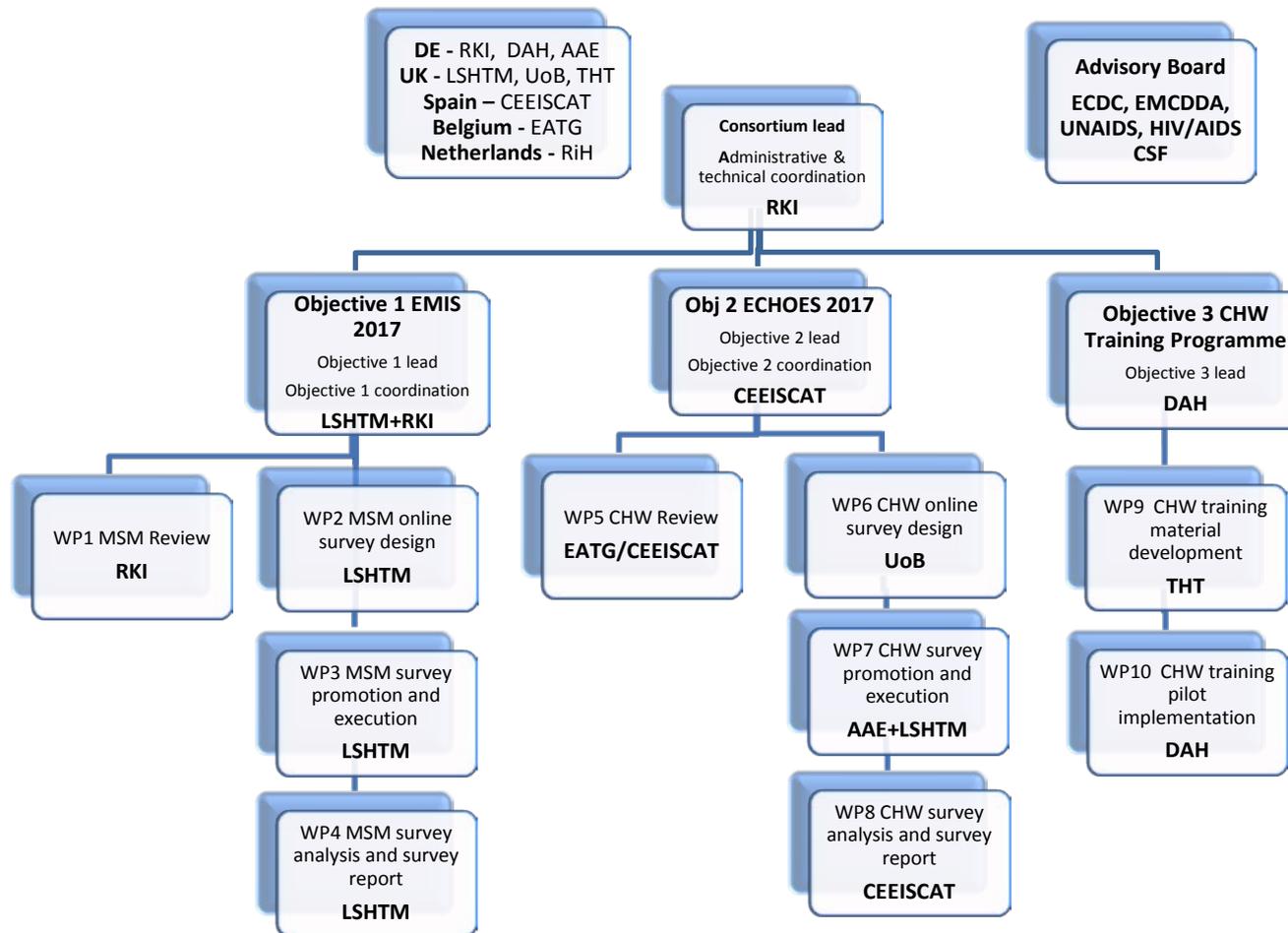


Community Health
Worker Training
Programme





Consortium structure





Objective 1 - EMIS 2017: Aims

- Assess STI testing behaviours and diagnoses (HIV, syphilis, gonorrhoea, chlamydia, anal/genital warts, HCV), coverage of HAV & HBV vaccination, among MSM in Europe
- Describe level and distribution of sexual risk and precautionary behaviours:
 - Numbers of partners, condom use, partner's HIV status
 - Use of PrEP
 - Chemsex practices
 - Smartphone sexual networking apps
 - Mental health
- Assess HIV/STI prevention needs and generate data useful for the planning of HIV and STI care and treatment programmes



WP1: Review of sexual health of MSM in Europe

Aims:

- To identify gaps in the literature which EMIS 2017 might address
- To inform modifications to the EMIS 2010 questionnaire for use in EMIS 2017

Objectives

- To review what is known about prevalence and trends in diagnoses of HIV and other STIs among MSM in Europe
- To summarise sexual risk behaviours among MSM in Europe.
- To assess challenges and gaps in HIV/STI diagnostic, prevention and treatment services for MSM in Europe



Data that EMIS 2017 will collect

Testing

- Accessibility of HIV & STI testing
- Location of HIV testing (if tested)
- What samples were taken as part of STI testing

Prevention

- HIV/STI knowledge
- Condom use
- PrEP use

Treatment

- Number/proportion of HIV-positive men on ART (and with undetectable viral load)
- Length of time between HIV diagnosis and treatment initiation
- Reasons for not taking ART

Objective 1 (WP 1 – WP 4)

- **Current status:**

- WP 1 Submitted

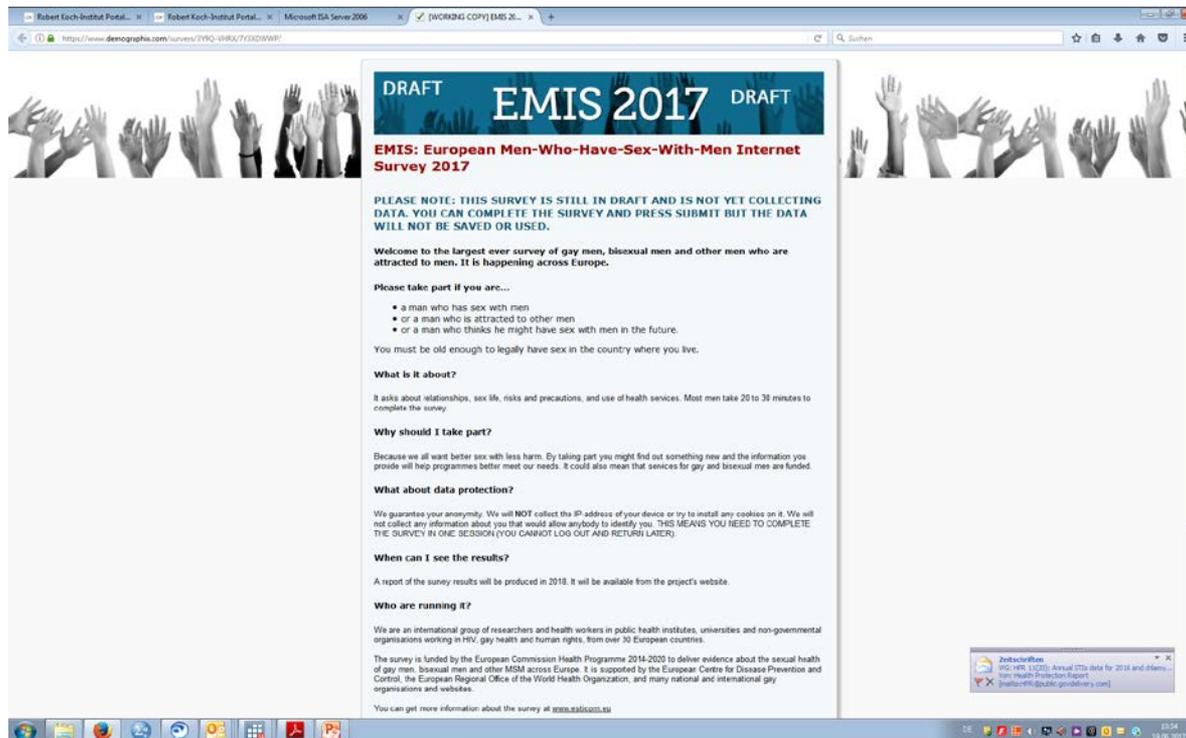
Literature Review of HIV and sexually transmitted infections among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Europe

official approval to publish the review on our website is pending

- WP 2 Draft questionnaire Submitted

- Final questionnaire and promotion plan under development

EMIS questionnaire – online pretesting



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the EMIS 2017 questionnaire pretesting page. The page is titled "DRAFT EMIS 2017 DRAFT" and "EMIS: European Men-Who-Have-Sex-With-Men Internet Survey 2017". The page content includes a "PLEASE NOTE" section stating that the survey is still in draft and not yet collecting data. It also includes a "Welcome" message, a "Please take part if you are..." section with bullet points, a "What is it about?" section, a "Why should I take part?" section, a "What about data protection?" section, a "When can I see the results?" section, and a "Who are running it?" section. The page is framed by a decorative border of raised hands.

DRAFT EMIS 2017 DRAFT

EMIS: European Men-Who-Have-Sex-With-Men Internet Survey 2017

PLEASE NOTE: THIS SURVEY IS STILL IN DRAFT AND IS NOT YET COLLECTING DATA. YOU CAN COMPLETE THE SURVEY AND PRESS SUBMIT BUT THE DATA WILL NOT BE SAVED OR USED.

Welcome to the largest ever survey of gay men, bisexual men and other men who are attracted to men. It is happening across Europe.

Please take part if you are...

- a man who has sex with men
- or a man who is attracted to other men
- or a man who thinks he might have sex with men in the future.

You must be old enough to legally have sex in the country where you live.

What is it about?

It asks about relationships, sex life, risks and precautions, and use of health services. Most men take 20 to 30 minutes to complete the survey.

Why should I take part?

Because we all want better sex with less harm. By taking part you might find out something new and the information you provide will help programmes better meet our needs. It could also mean that services for gay and bisexual men are funded.

What about data protection?

We guarantee your anonymity. We will NOT collect the IP address of your device or try to install any cookies on it. We will not collect any information about you that would allow anybody to identify you. THIS MEANS YOU NEED TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY IN ONE SESSION (YOU CANNOT LOG OUT AND RETURN LATER).

When can I see the results?

A report of the survey results will be produced in 2018. It will be available from the project's website.

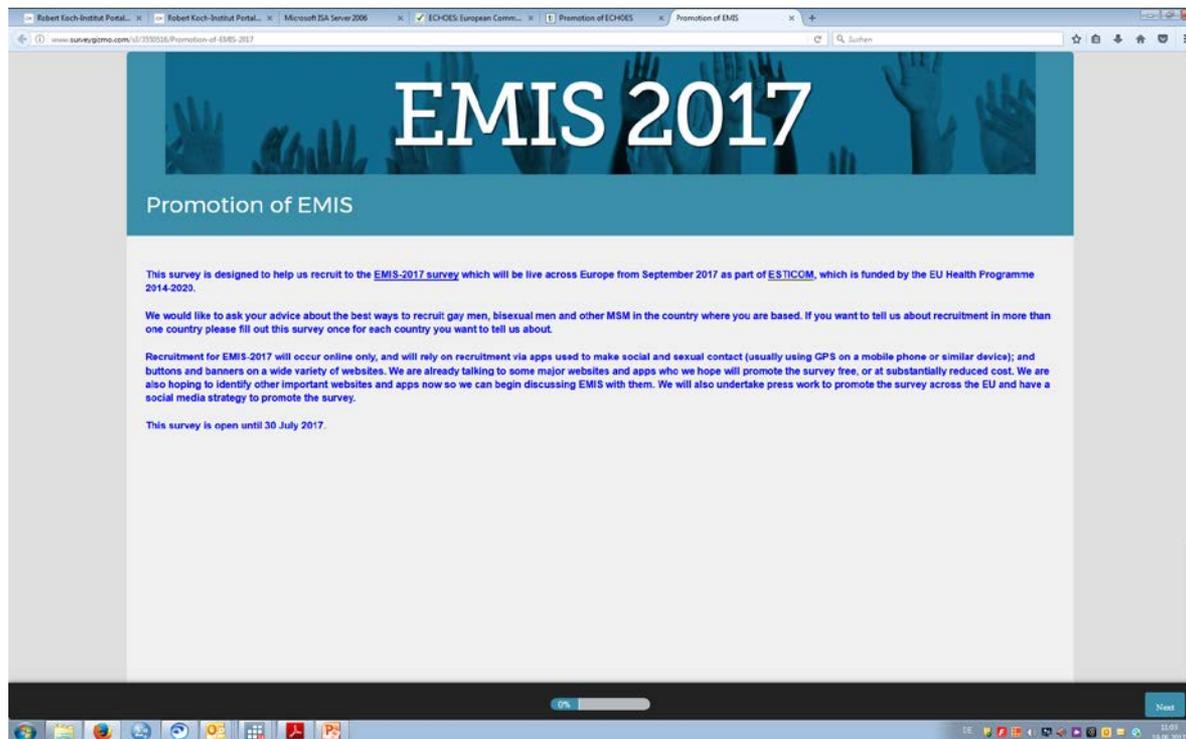
Who are running it?

We are an international group of researchers and health workers in public health institutes, universities and non-governmental organisations working in HIV, gay health and human rights, from over 30 European countries.

The survey is funded by the European Commission Health Programme 2014-2020 to deliver evidence about the sexual health of gay men, bisexual men and other MSM across Europe. It is supported by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the European Regional Office of the World Health Organization, and many national and international gay organisations and websites.

You can get more information about the survey at www.emis2017.eu

EMIS survey promotion





Objective 2 - ECHOES 2017: Aims

- Understand **who** community health workers (CHW) providing sexual health support for MSM in Europe are - **what** they do, **where** they do it, **why** they do it
- Assess CHW **knowledge, attitudes** and **practices**
- Identify what **barriers** and **challenges** CHWs face in providing sexual health services for MSM
- Inform the **content, structure** and **approach** of **Objective 3** (training programme)

Categorization of CHWs' activities by role

ACCESS (Ensuring people get the services they need)

E.g. Linkage to care and treatment, accessing medical services, supporting people to move along the continuum or 'pathway of employability'

EDUCATION (Providing culturally appropriate health education and other related information)

E.g. Sexual health promotion; spreading awareness on HIV prevention; providing information on legal rights

ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING (giving voice to the community regarding their needs and building individual and community capacity)

E.g. Advocating to ensure that the needs of gay men living with HIV are met, Providing support against discriminatory attitudes; providing support and infrastructure to other organisations

SERVICE DELIVERY (Providing direct services, such as informal counselling, social support, health screenings...)

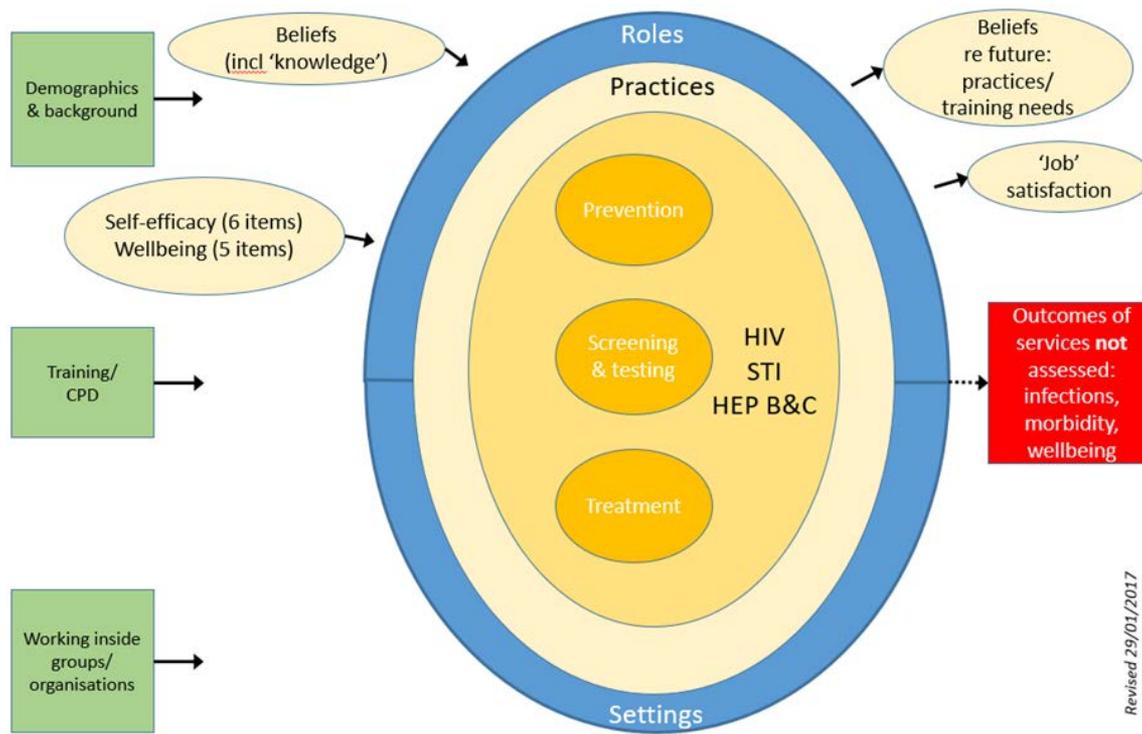
E.g. Distribution of leaflets, condoms, lubricant; HIV/STI testing and counselling, drug and alcohol services; mental health services and psychological support



Gaps in training packages

- **Eastern European** countries: the lowest number of trainings;
- No clear CHW **selection criteria** for training, no standardized training **curriculum**;
- A **theoretical framework** was missing in half of the trainings;
- Most of the training packages aimed at improving **knowledge** and **capacity** of CHW to develop competencies directly related to their activities; however, **skills** are included to a lesser extent;
- Training packages were in general **under-evaluated** and not always **accredited**.

Concept for CHW questionnaire development





Objective 2 (WP 5 – WP 8)

Current status:

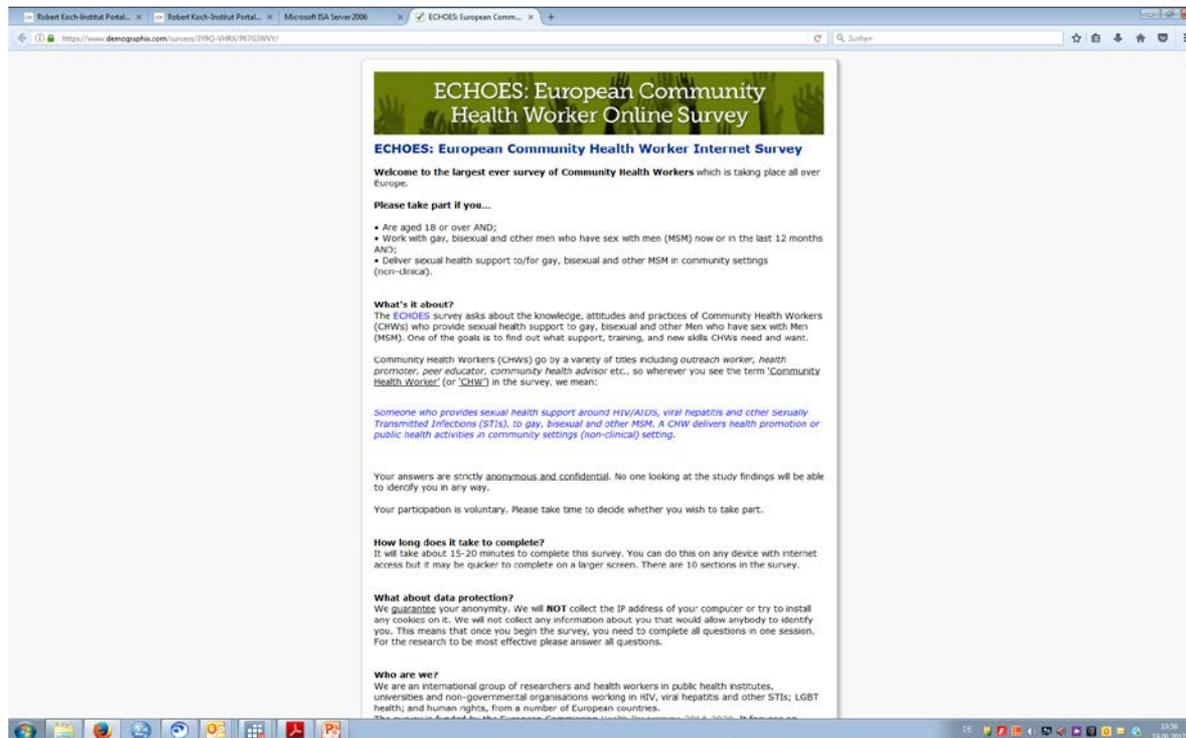
- WP 5 Submitted

A Review of Community Health Worker (CHW) knowledge, attitudes and practices relating to the sexual health of MSM, including existing training materials and manuals in Europe and neighbouring countries

- WP 6 Draft questionnaire Submitted
- Final questionnaire and promotion plan under development



ECHOES online pretesting

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the ECHOES survey website. The browser's address bar shows the URL "https://www.demographia.com/surveys/279Q-VHX/757J2WVY/". The website content includes a header with the title "ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey" and a sub-header "ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Internet Survey". Below this, there is a welcome message, a list of criteria for participation, a description of the survey's purpose, and information about data protection and the research team.

ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey

ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Internet Survey

Welcome to the largest ever survey of Community Health Workers which is taking place all over Europe.

Please take part if you...

- Are aged 18 or over AND;
- Work with gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) now or in the last 12 months AND;
- Deliver sexual health support to/for gay, bisexual and other MSM in community settings (non-clinical).

What's it about?

The ECHOES survey asks about the knowledge, attitudes and practices of Community Health Workers (CHWs) who provide sexual health support to gay, bisexual and other Men who have sex with Men (MSM). One of the goals is to find out what support, training, and new skills CHWs need and want.

Community health Workers (CHWs) go by a variety of titles including outreach worker, health promoter, peer educator, community health advisor etc., so wherever you see the term 'Community Health Worker' (or 'CHW') in the survey, we mean:

Someone who provides sexual health support around HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), to gay, bisexual and other MSM. A CHW delivers health promotion or public health activities in community settings (non-clinical) settings.

Your answers are strictly anonymous and confidential. No one looking at the study findings will be able to identify you in any way.

Your participation is voluntary. Please take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

How long does it take to complete?

It will take about 15-20 minutes to complete this survey. You can do this on any device with internet access but it may be quicker to complete on a larger screen. There are 10 sections in the survey.

What about data protection?

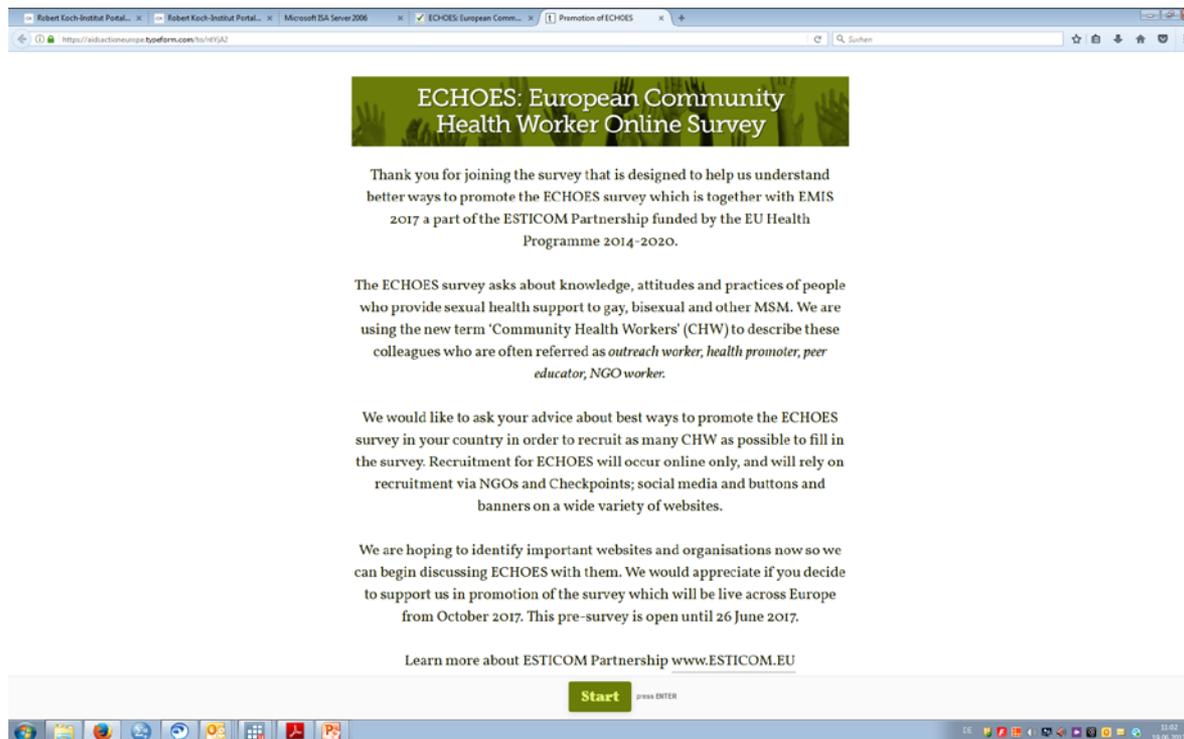
We guarantee your anonymity. We will **NOT** collect the IP address of your computer or try to install any cookies on it. We will not collect any information about you that would allow anybody to identify you. This means that once you begin the survey, you need to complete all questions in one session. For the research to be most effective please answer all questions.

Who are we?

We are an international group of researchers and health workers in public health institutes, universities and non-governmental organisations working in HIV, viral hepatitis and other STIs; LGBT health and human rights, from a number of European countries.

The survey is funded by the European Commission, Health Programme 2014-2020.

ECHOES promotion survey



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://adactioneurope.eu/form.com/ta/495A2>. The page content is as follows:

ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey

Thank you for joining the survey that is designed to help us understand better ways to promote the ECHOES survey which is together with EMIS 2017 a part of the ESTICOM Partnership funded by the EU Health Programme 2014-2020.

The ECHOES survey asks about knowledge, attitudes and practices of people who provide sexual health support to gay, bisexual and other MSM. We are using the new term 'Community Health Workers' (CHW) to describe these colleagues who are often referred as *outreach worker, health promoter, peer educator, NGO worker*.

We would like to ask your advice about best ways to promote the ECHOES survey in your country in order to recruit as many CHW as possible to fill in the survey. Recruitment for ECHOES will occur online only, and will rely on recruitment via NGOs and Checkpoints; social media and buttons and banners on a wide variety of websites.

We are hoping to identify important websites and organisations now so we can begin discussing ECHOES with them. We would appreciate if you decide to support us in promotion of the survey which will be live across Europe from October 2017. This pre-survey is open until 26 June 2017.

Learn more about ESTICOM Partnership www.esticom.eu

Start press ENTER

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the date and time as 15.06.2017 15:06.



Objective 3 - CHW Training Programme: Aims

- To develop a set of evidence based training modules and materials for use by CHW trainers and CHWs
- To develop and conduct a training programme in 10 pilot countries to improve access to and quality of sexual health services for MSM



Objective 3 (WP 9 – WP 10)

Current status:

Draft training materials for CHW under preparation

Concept paper has been circulated among the project partners and to the advisory board

Expert meeting with country representatives in Berlin in August 2017

Country selection for the CHW training pending

Milestones



Training Programme

Tasks ahead in Objective 3

Work plan for Year 1-2		
Aug. 17	WP9	<p>Draft training programme presented to contracting authority for approval (D9.1)</p> <p>The first version of the workshop material will integrate the content/topics of the survey questionnaires.</p> <p>The outcome of the surveys can't yet be included.</p> <p>Aim is to present the range of the topics and main approaches.</p>
Aug. 17	WP9/10	Potential national pilot country partners are invited to a European MSM experts meeting in Berlin, August 4-6, 2017. The first draft of the training materials will be discussed/reviewed.
Nov. 17 Dec. 17	WP10	Plan for training programme and content delivered to contracting authority for approval (D10.1)
M16-19 Jan.-Apr. 18	WP9/10	Implementation of Training of trainers training package (D10.2)
Feb. – Mar. 18	WP9-10	Discuss preliminary results of MSM and CHW surveys to inform re-drafting of training materials and training programme
May – Oct. 18	WP10	Implementation of ten National Training workshops in pilot countries

ESTICOM Timelines and Deliverables

Where are we?

Deliverables in Year 1			
D1	MSM Review Report	D5	CHW Review Report
D2.1	Proposal for EMIS 2017 Questionnaire	D6.1	Proposal for ECHOES Questionnaire
D2.2	EMIS 2017 Questionnaire (June 2017)	D6.2	ECHOES Questionnaire (July 2017)
D3.1	Promotion plan and dissemination strategy for EMIS 2017 – (June 2017)	D7.1	Promotion plan and dissemination strategy For ECHOES (June 2017)
D3.2	Survey protocol and proposed hosting and data protection strategy for EMIS 2017 - (June 2017)	D7.2	Survey protocol and proposed hosting and data protection strategy for ECHOES - (July 2017)
D9.1	Draft training materials for CHW – (August 2017)	IM & IR	Interim Meeting and First Interim Report (includes Deliverables O-3.2; 5-7.2 and 9.1) – (August 2017)
	EMIS 2017 online launch Sept.2017		ECHOES launch Sept.-Oct. 2017