

The European MSM Internet Survey (EMIS) Community Report 1.ie

Thank you for participating in the first European internet-based research project on homosexuality, homosexual behaviour and sexually transmitted infections (STI) among men who have sex with men.

You were part of something huge! 2,303 respondents for the Republic of Ireland (.ie) and 435 for Northern Ireland (reported in the UK figures) were among the more than 180 000 gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) who filled-in our questionnaire, making EMIS the largest study ever conducted on sex between men.

Knowledge on benefits of HIV-testing is high

This very high response to a 20 minute survey demonstrates a high community engagement, which would not have been possible without the support of local, national, and international LGBT and HIV organisations, as well as pan-European gay-organised social online-networks like GayRomeo and Manhunt. The EMIS questionnaire was available online in 25 different languages from June through to the end of August.

This first Community Report is aimed at giving information back to you as quickly as possible. We hope that you enjoy this update and we look forward to providing you with more information as our analyses progress.

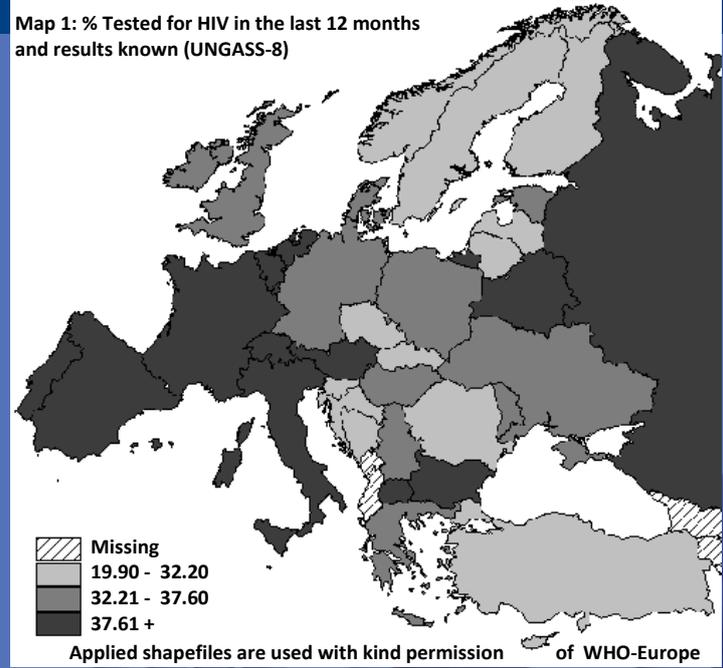
Absolute and relative response numbers differ from country to country. The largest number of men who answered the questionnaire came from Germany (.de), where nearly 56 000 men filled-in the survey.

However, Germany has the second largest population among the participating countries. In Slovenia (.si), the absolute number of respondents was just over 1000 but the relative response rate was similar to Germany. A comparison of response rate takes into account the countries' population size.

The relative response rate (per 10 000 inhabitants) is shown in the second column of the table on page 2. In Western European countries, this can roughly be interpreted as the percentage of MSM taking part in EMIS. E.g., in the United Kingdom (.uk), 3 per 10 000 would mean 3 per cent of MSM took part.

In South-Eastern and Eastern European countries, the value may represent a higher percentage of the total MSM population.

On average, EMIS respondents were 30 years old (third column in the table). However, there is an obvious pattern by region: In Eastern and South-Eastern European countries, participants were younger, while in Northern and North-Western European countries, respondents were older, many of them over 50. This may partly reflect different age distributions in the countries, but also different access and familiarity with the Internet, or different times spans since the emergence of visible gay communities.



About 35% of you have taken an HIV test in the previous 12 months. Testing for HIV in the last year was most common in Spain (.es), Portugal (.pt), Belgium (.be), and France (.fr). HIV-testing was least common in Lithuania (.lt), Finland (.fi), Slovenia, Croatia (.hr), and Turkey (.tr). Future analyses of EMIS data will show how the given pattern (see Map 1 above) reflects differences in access to testing, or differences in gay and bisexual men's satisfaction with counselling.

The average knowledge score regarding five statements on HIV and testing was 93%. Knowing that AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, or that a medical test can show whether you have HIV or not, was almost universal (98%). 94% said you knew already that there is still no cure for HIV infection, and 92% knew that HIV infection can be controlled with medicines, reducing its impact on health. 90% knew that after becoming infected with HIV, it may take several weeks before it can be detected in a test. Regional differences were small, but indicated slightly greater knowledge gaps in Eastern and South-Eastern European countries.

	Number of Respondents	Response per 10 000 ¹	Average age (median)	HIV test (last 12 months)	Knowledge on HIV-testing ²	Diagnosed HIV+ ³	'Being out' ⁴	Happy with their sex life
.at	4 205	5,02	31	41,2 %	92,2 %	5,4 %	60,6%	64,8 %
.ba	163	0,35	26	29,3 %	94,3 %	0,0 %	7,4%	40,9 %
.be	4 140	3,85	34	46,6 %	95,3 %	8,5 %	75,1%	68,2 %
.bg	1 084	1,43	28	41,4 %	90,1 %	1,5 %	30,3%	53,6 %
.by	379	0,40	27	37,6 %	86,9 %	1,9 %	24,5%	48,1 %
.ch	5 172	6,75	37	39,4 %	95,9 %	9,0 %	60,4%	69,1 %
.cy	287	3,30	30	32,1 %	88,0 %	1,1 %	28,3%	47,7 %
.cz	2 492	2,38	27	29,7 %	94,9 %	2,7 %	57,4%	57,6 %
.de	55 992	6,82	33	33,8 %	95,8 %	8,0 %	64,5%	61,6 %
.dk	1 789	3,24	34	35,3 %	95,6 %	8,8 %	60,3%	60,6 %
.ee	612	4,57	30	32,8 %	92,1 %	1,7 %	33,6%	49,5 %
.es	13 730	2,99	32	44,4 %	93,1 %	8,9 %	65,1%	68,2 %
.fi	2 072	3,89	33	23,8 %	89,9 %	3,2 %	55,6%	52,5 %
.fr	11 641	1,82	34	47,1 %	94,6 %	10,5 %	68,3%	72,3 %
.gr	3 231	2,87	30	33,7 %	90,2 %	8,1 %	34,0%	55,8 %
.hr	536	1,19	28	25,1 %	95,5 %	2,5 %	21,7%	46,8 %
.hu	2 133	2,13	28	34,0 %	93,4 %	3,2 %	38,3%	49,7 %
.ie	2 303	5,10	31	32,9 %	93,0 %	6,0 %	57,0%	53,2 %
.it	16 689	2,78	33	41,2 %	93,7 %	6,9 %	44,7%	62,9 %
.lt	618	1,84	27	19,9 %	83,1 %	2,0 %	22,7%	51,5 %
.lu	290	5,88	36	42,7 %	95,9 %	10,8 %	56,8%	59,7 %
.lv	734	3,25	30	25,5 %	86,2 %	3,9 %	28,5%	53,6 %
.md	123	0,30	25	36,0 %	86,0 %	2,6 %	17,1%	53,4 %
.mk	126	0,60	28	39,1 %	90,2 %	4,2 %	13,6%	44,6 %
.mt	123	3,00	32	35,1 %	92,8 %	1,7 %	51,2%	62,6 %
.nl	3 917	2,38	40	38,3 %	96,5 %	15,6 %	81,0%	69,2 %
.no	2 159	4,47	31	31,0 %	94,2 %	3,4 %	72,7%	56,0 %
.pl	2 873	0,75	28	35,9 %	94,8 %	5,1 %	40,9%	60,6 %
.pt	5 391	5,07	30	45,9 %	95,6 %	7,8 %	38,4%	65,9 %
.ro	2 466	1,15	27	30,8 %	89,6 %	2,6 %	20,7%	57,1 %
.rs	1 155	1,54	28	32,2 %	93,1 %	2,8 %	17,3%	49,6 %
.ru	5 263	0,37	30	43,1 %	86,3 %	6,4 %	28,9%	49,6 %
.se	3 269	3,53	35	30,4 %	96,3 %	4,8 %	69,2%	52,3 %
.si	1 036	5,05	30	24,7 %	91,0 %	2,6 %	34,4%	56,3 %
.sk	605	1,12	26	26,1 %	93,0 %	1,0 %	43,9%	52,5 %
.tr	2 010	0,28	27	25,2 %	81,7 %	1,5 %	22,2%	55,4 %
.ua	1 787	0,39	29	35,5 %	84,3 %	4,8 %	22,9%	48,5 %
.uk	18 393	2,99	36	36,4 %	95,7 %	10,4 %	66,9%	58,5 %
all⁵	180 988	2,82	30	34,6 %	93,1 %	4,1 %	39,7 %	55,6 %

1 Respondents per 10 000 inhabitants (general population).
 2 Average proportion of respondents who knew that the following five statements are true: i) AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV, ii) There is a medical test that can show whether or not you have HIV, iii) If someone becomes infected with HIV it may take several weeks before it can be detected in a test, iv) There is currently no cure for HIV infection, v) HIV infection can be controlled with medicines so that its impact on health is much less.
 3 Diagnosed with HIV among all respondents (regardless if tested or not). 4 'Being out': Most people who the respondent is in contact with know that he is attracted to men.
 5 Average of 38 countries (median), not the average of all respondents.

Less than 2% of all respondents (including those who never tested for HIV) were diagnosed with HIV in Bosnia (.ba), Slovakia (.sk), Cyprus (.cy), Bulgaria (.bg), Turkey, Malta (.mt), Estonia (.ee) and Belarus (.by). Conversely, more than 9% of all respondents were diagnosed with HIV in Switzerland (.ch), the United Kingdom, France, Luxemburg (.lu) and the Netherlands (.nl).

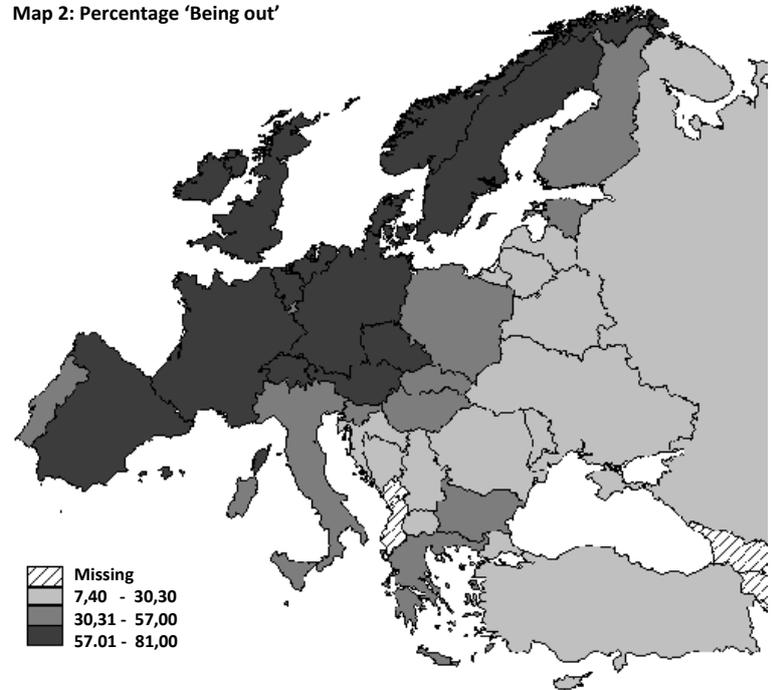
You should not assume that this reflects the true fraction of gay and other MSM with HIV in Europe, since some infections are not yet diagnosed, and since HIV-positive men's motivation to fill-in the EMIS questionnaire might vary between countries. The higher average age in some samples might also contribute to a higher proportion of men with HIV.

However what we can take from the data is that the number of MSM living with HIV in several countries (e.g. Poland, Russia) is substantially higher than officially reported. For some countries, this is the first time such data on MSM is published.

More men 'out' is associated with better sex lives

Huge differences can be seen regarding 'being out', which is visualized in the map on the right (Map 2). More than two thirds of men were 'out' in the UK, France, Sweden (.se), Norway (.no), Belgium, and the Netherlands. Less than a quarter were 'out' in Bosnia, Macedonia (.mk), Moldova (.md), Serbia (.rs), Romania (.ro), Croatia (.hr), Turkey, Lithuania, Ukraine (.ua), and Belarus (.by).

Map 2: Percentage 'Being out'



Applied shapefiles are used with kind permission of WHO-Europe

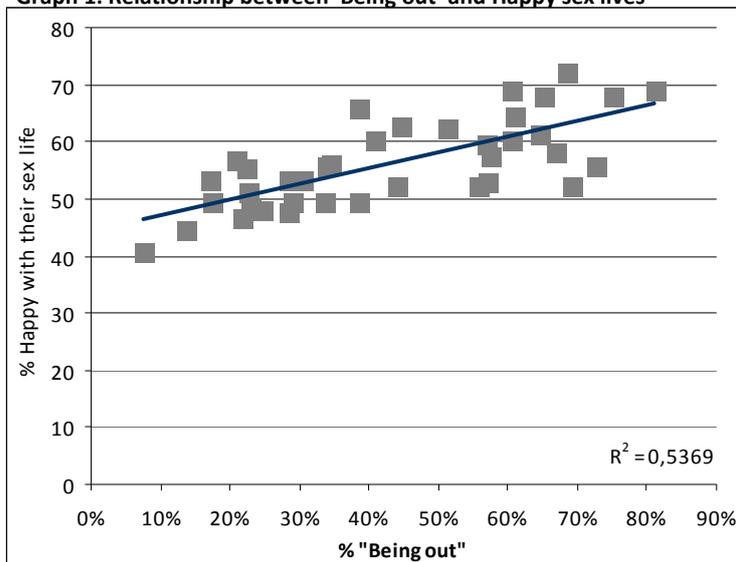
According to EMIS data, men in Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and France show the highest sexual happiness. Conversely, in Bosnia, Macedonia, Croatia, Cyprus, Belarus, Ukraine, Estonia, Serbia, Russia (.ru) and Hungary less than half of study participants said they were happy with their sex lives.

What can be seen from graph 1 on the left, is that there is a relationship between 'being out' and being happy with your sex life.

In the top right hand corner above the line, the squares represent countries where a high proportion of men are 'out' about their sexuality and are happy with their sex life (e.g. France, Belgium, and the Netherlands).

The squares on the left below the line are countries where very few men are 'out', and a much lower proportion are happy with their sex life (e.g. Bosnia or Macedonia). However, there are countries like Portugal where despite relative few men being out, sexual happiness is quite high.

Graph 1: Relationship between 'Being out' and Happy sex lives



You & your boyfriend are both sexier than Brad Pitt!

The EMIS team affirms the value of love and sex between men, and we rounded off the survey with a question that celebrates homosexual desire: "Who is the sexiest man on planet?" – On the next page you find the most popular answers:

Allover Top 12

1. My partner
2. Me
3. Brad Pitt
4. Cristiano Ronaldo
5. David Beckham
6. Ricky Martin
7. George Clooney
8. Hugh Jackman
9. Jake Gyllenhaal
10. Zac Efron
11. Jude Law
12. Johnny Depp

Most popular...

- Actor** – Brad Pitt
Ballet dancer – Roberto Bolle
Deity – God
Designer – Tom Ford
Fashion model – Jon Kortajarena
Footballer – Cristiano Ronaldo
Musician – Ricky Martin
Politician – Barack Obama
Porn star – Brent Everett
Rugby player – Ben Cohen
Tennis player – Rafael Nadal
TV presenter – Jesus Vazquez

- American** – Brad Pitt
Australian – Hugh Jackman
Belgian – Jean-Claude Van Damme
Brazilian – Ronaldinho Gaucho
Britain – David Beckham
Canadian – Keanu Reeves
Czech – Pavel Novotny
Cuban – William Levy
Frenchman – François Sagat
German – Lucas Podolski

- Greek** – Sakis Rouvas
Hungarian – Arpad Miklos
Irishman – Colin Farrell
Italian – Raoul Bova
Mexican – Gael Garcia Bernal
Portuguese – Cristiano Ronaldo
Puerto Rican – Ricky Martin
Spaniard – Enrique Inglesias
Swede – Freddie Ljungberg
Turk – Tarkan

The EMIS final report will be published in September, 2011. Meanwhile, you will find further feedback and reports on www.emis-project.eu. For any questions please contact emis@rki.de.



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*Thanks so much:
 you and 180,000
 other men were part
 of something huge...*

EMIS Associated Partners: **DE:** GTZ, Robert Koch Institute; **ES:** Centre de Estudis Epidemiològics sobre les ITS i SIDA de Catalunya (CEEISCat); **IT:** Regional Centre for Health Promotion Veneto; **NL:** University College Maastricht; **UK:** Sigma Research. Further Information: www.emis-project.eu. Contact: emis@rki.de

EMIS Collaborating Partners: **AT:** Aids-Hilfe Wien; **BE:** Institute of Tropical Medicine, Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis, Ex Aequo, Sensoa, Arc-en-ciel Wallonie; **BG:** National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Queer Bulgaria Foundation; **BY:** Vstrecha; **CH:** Institut universitaire de médecine sociale et préventive, Aids-Hilfe Schweiz; **CY:** Research Unit in Behaviour & Social Issues; **CZ:** Charles University (Institute of Sexology), Ceska společnost AIDS pomoc; **DE:** Berlin Social Science Research Center (WZB), Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe; Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA); **DK:** Statens Serum Institut, Department of Epidemiology, STOP AIDS; **ES:** National Centre of Epidemiology, stopsida, Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality; **EE:** National Institute for Health Development; **FI:** University of Tampere (Nursing Science), HIV-saatio/Aids-tukikeskus; **FR:** Institut de veille sanitaire (InVS), AIDeS, Act Up Paris, Sida Info Service, Le Kiosque, The Warning; **GR:** Positive Voice; **HR:** University of Zagreb (Humanities and Social Sciences); **HU:** Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (TASZ), Háttér; **IE:** Gay Men's Health Service, Health Services Executive; **IT:** University of Bologna, Arcigay, Istituto Superiore di Sanità; **LT:** Center for Communicable Diseases and AIDS; **LV:** The Infectiology Center of Latvia; **Mozaika;** **MD:** GenderDoc-M; **MK:** Equality for Gays and Lesbians (EGAL); **NL:** schorer; **NO:** Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services, Norwegian Institute of Public Health; **PL:** National AIDS Centre, Lambda Warszawa; **PT:** GAT Portugal, University of Porto (Medical School), Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; **RO:** PSI Romania **RS:** Safe Pulse of Youth; **RU:** PSI Russia, LaSky; **SE:** Malmö University, Riksförbundet för homosexuella, bisexuella och transpersoners rättigheter (RFSL); **SI:** National Institute of Public Health, Legebitra, ŠKUC-Magnus, DIH; **SK:** OZ Odysseus; **TR:** Turkish Public Health Association, KAOS-GL, Istanbul LGBTT, Siyah Pembe Uçgen İzmir; **UA:** Gay Alliance, Nash Mir, LiGA Nikolaev; **UK:** City University, London, CHAPS (Terrence Higgins Trust); **EU:** ILGA-Europe, Aids Action Europe, European AIDS Treatment Group, GayRomeo, Manhunt & Manhunt Cares

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