



# The PROTECT (Understanding Pre-exposure pRophylaxis mOdalities for HIV prevenTion in the European CommuniTies) Study Protocol

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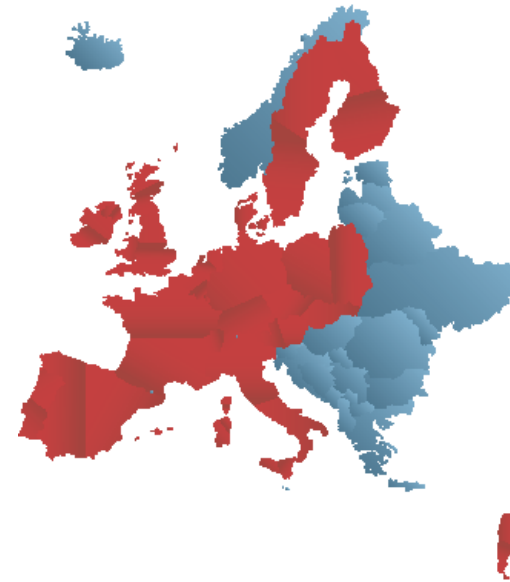
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## What is the PROTECT Study?

**Objectives** - The PROTECT study is a pan-European cross-sectional survey and seeks to understand who could benefit from long-acting injectable PrEP (LA PrEP) in this diverse region and how these benefits are perceived. It is also investigating the motivations for LA PrEP uptake, oral PrEP usage patterns, unmet needs related to oral PrEP use, and their correlation with interest in LA PrEP and preferred access pathways. Data in this study is being collected via online convenience sampling.

**Participants** - The study targets multiple populations of interest to explore LA PrEP uptake more comprehensively. Men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM), trans\* people, heterosexual cisgender men and women who have sex with men, and people living with HIV are all being engaged via tailored online surveys. The multi country approach allows for both inter- and intra-country comparison of data. *Marketing collateral examples below left and below right.*

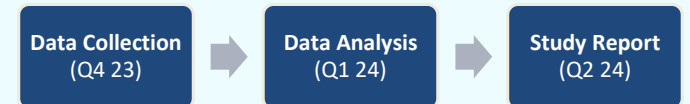
**Locations** - Data will be collected from participants in the following (19) countries: UK, Germany, Spain, Italy, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Switzerland, Austria, Ireland, Czech Republic, Portugal, Poland, Israel – see map right for countries in red in which data collection will occur.



## Outcomes and benefits of this research?

- **Guidance for healthcare systems** - The results of this study have the potential to provide clear and effective guidance on who may benefit most from LA PrEP and why.
- **Insights for community organizations** – Data from this study could support community organizations to better develop HIV prevention campaigns or other interventions that resonate with their communities.
- **Support for clinicians** – Knowledge of the perceived barriers or benefits of PrEP can support clinicians in conversations about HIV prevention with the people they provide care to.

## Timeline



## Why is this research needed?

Increased PrEP uptake, both orally and via injection, could support an end to HIV and help support global HIV/AIDS goals. The introduction of a long acting as a new PrEP modality to the current PrEP landscape in Europe, which currently comprises oral PrEP only, is expected to reduce HIV transmission.

To date there is little data available on interest and intention to use a LA PrEP formulation in Europe and data from other contexts is less applicable to the European context due to different demographics, psycho-social determinants or healthcare systems.

Given the potential for individuals to use LA PrEP in the future, an investigation of the determinants and needs of individuals for LA PrEP use in Europe is critical in supporting its additional benefits recognition and uptake.

## How is this research innovative?

**Filling knowledge gaps** - There are unmet needs in terms of access to HIV prevention tools among communities impacted by HIV. Additional ways to access PrEP can facilitate increased PrEP utilization (uptake, adherence and persistence) among those currently unwilling or unable to use oral TDF/FTC as PrEP.

**Tailored approach** - The development of the data collection tools have been informed by community review, with organizations and individuals representing key target groups providing detailed feedback (trans\* people, heterosexual people and MSM). The survey will be made available in the main languages spoken across the countries in focus and in select migrant languages spoken within the region.

**Regional, national and international foci** – The data obtained through this study will provide the opportunity to understand differences across different geographic levels.

