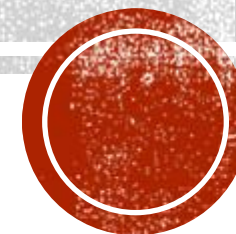


DRUG STUDY IN LITHUANIA



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DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY

- **STUDY:** Prevalence of infections and risk behaviour related to the use of narcotic and psychotropic substances among intravenous drug users in Lithuania“

- **TARGET POPULATION:**

Active IDUs (clients of Low Threshold Centres (LTC))

- **STUDY PARTICIPANTS:**

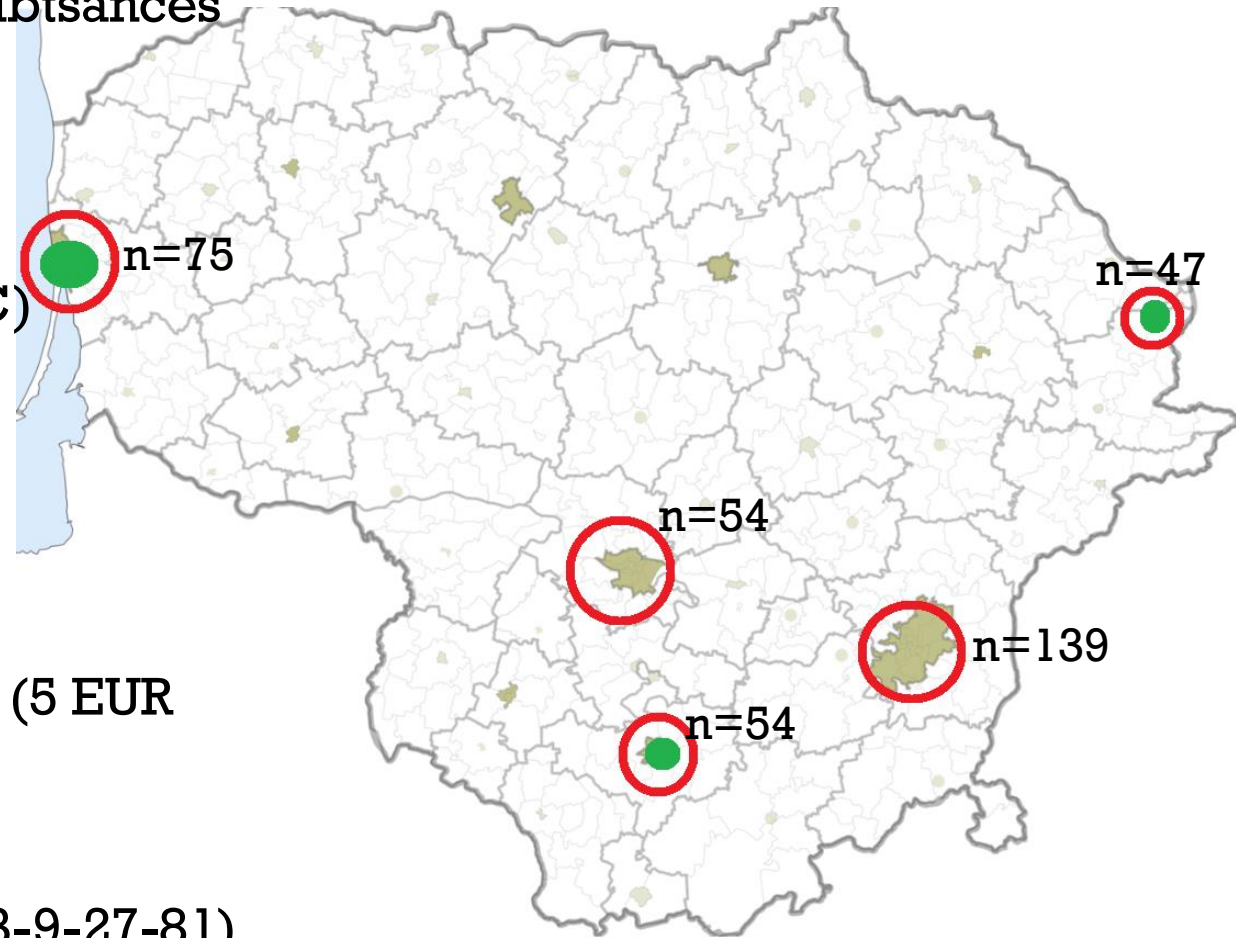
n=369 [368-371] active IDUs in LTC in 5 sites
(in 2015: n=200)

- **INCENTIVES:**

Each participant of the study received incentives (5 EUR coupon in supermarket)

- **SAMPLING METHOD:**

Respondent-driven sampling: 8 seeds, 4 waves (1-3-9-27-81)



INCLUSION CRITERIA AND DATA COLLECTION

Inclusion criteria

- >18 yrs
- Currently injecting - (or injected at least once during the last 30 days) narcotic/psychotropic substances not for treatment purposes
- Expressed informed consent
- Lithuanian/Russian language
- Resident of Lithuania
- Has registered coupon of the „seed“

Data collection

- Biological specimens (Rapid tests HIV, HBV, HCV)
- Risk behaviour questionnaire
- Data collection duration – 3 months
- Costs ~40 EUR/participant
- **Challenges:**
- Recruitment difficulties in smaller cities
- Quality of data collection (missing values, ranges etc.)



ADDED VALUE OF RDS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

- **Possibility of continuous surveillance**
- **Social profile of PWID:** education, employment, homelessness status
- **Treatment history:** history of OST (in LT or abroad), proportion in OST now, proportion in treatment in case of HIV+
- **Behavioural risk factors:** broader list of injected substances, where obtain sterile injecting equipment (needles, syringes), sexual behaviour, overdose history
- **Infectious disease prevalence:** HIV, HBV, HCV
- **Validation of findings:** (prisons, major injected substance from syringe study)
- **Comparative approach:**

INTEGRATE Joint Action: Strategies to prevent and treat HIV, Hepatitis, TB and STIs in Europe:

LT data: 2019 (10 months): 1667 HIV tests, 9 cases (0,5%); HIV positive; 1528 HCV tests - 187 cases (12.2%)



FUTURE STUDIES

- Surveillance of DRID and risk behaviour among IDUs
- Management of HIV case treatment: access to care and care pathways

How could EMCDDA support you in your next RDS study?

- Trainings
- Methodological and data analysis consultations

