



**INSTITUTE
OF TROPICAL
MEDICINE
ANTWERP**

PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS FOR SEX WORKERS IN BELGIUM

HOW TO PROVIDE CARE TO THOSE WITH DIFFICULT ACCESS TO HEALTH
SERVICES ?

Proposal to the Ministry of Social Affairs

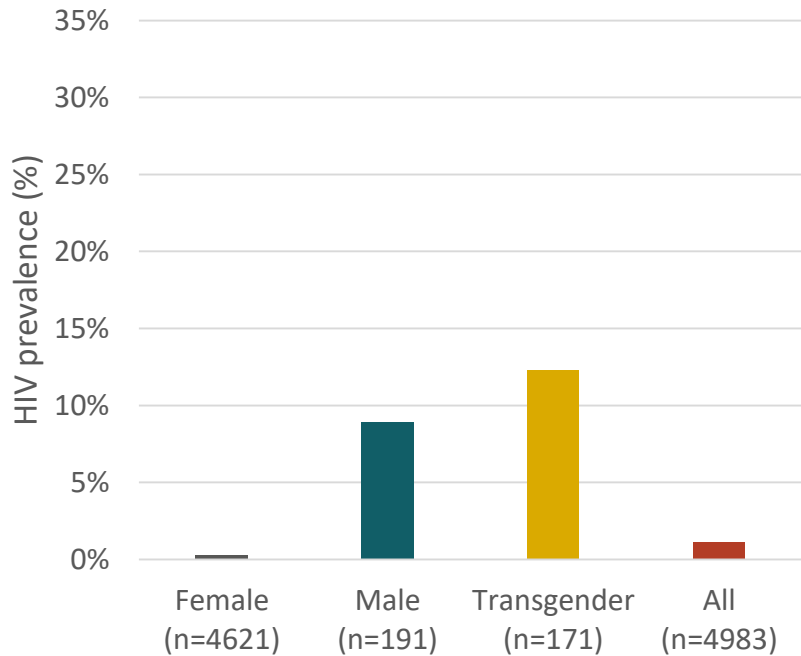
Request for structural support from the Belgian government



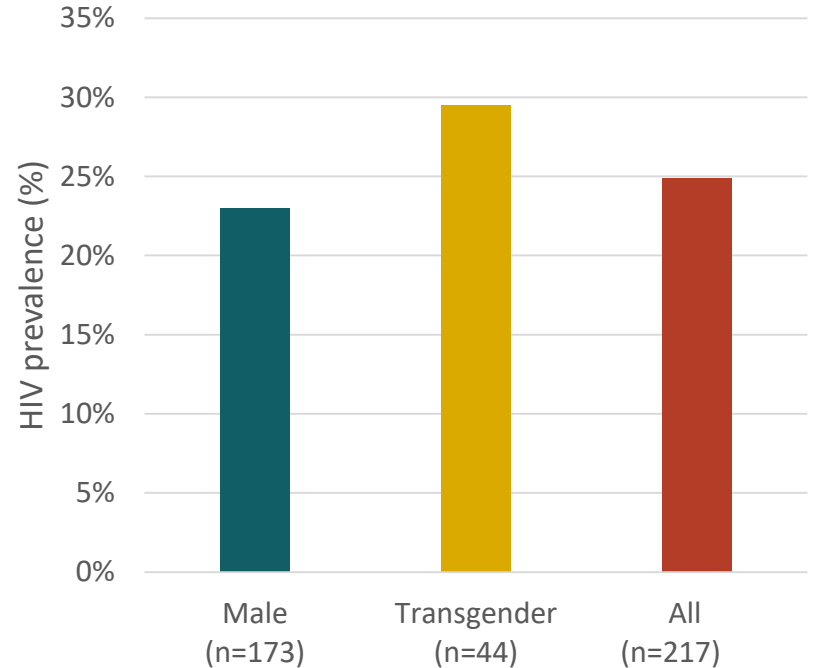
Heleen Van Mieghem, Promise project, ITM



HIV prevalence among sex workers



HIV prevalence among sex workers in Flanders from 2016-2019

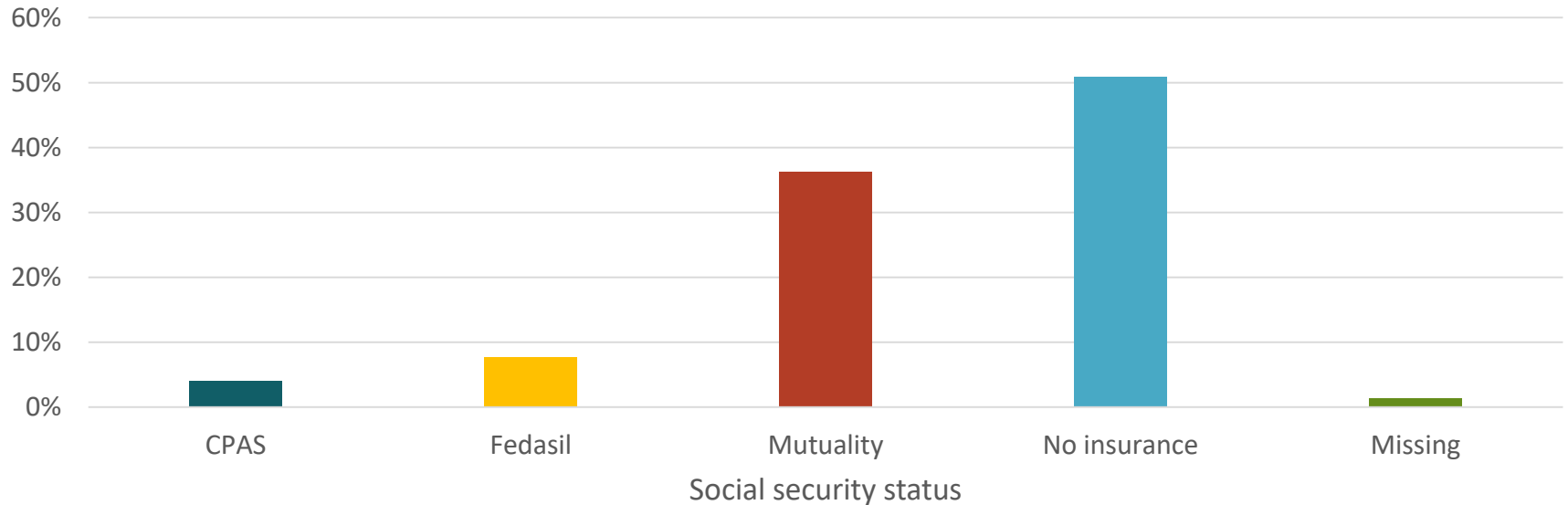


HIV prevalence among male and transgender sex workers in Brussels 2019-2020

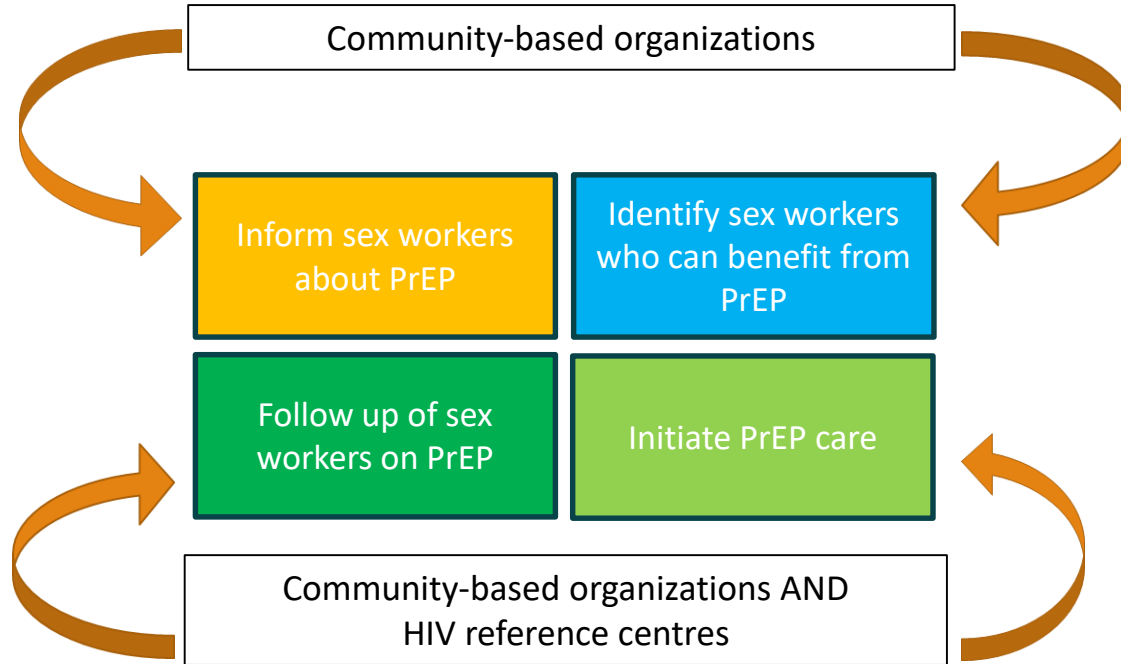


Difficult access to health care services

Medical insurance male and transgender sex workers in Brussels
2019-2020



Cornerstones of the proposal



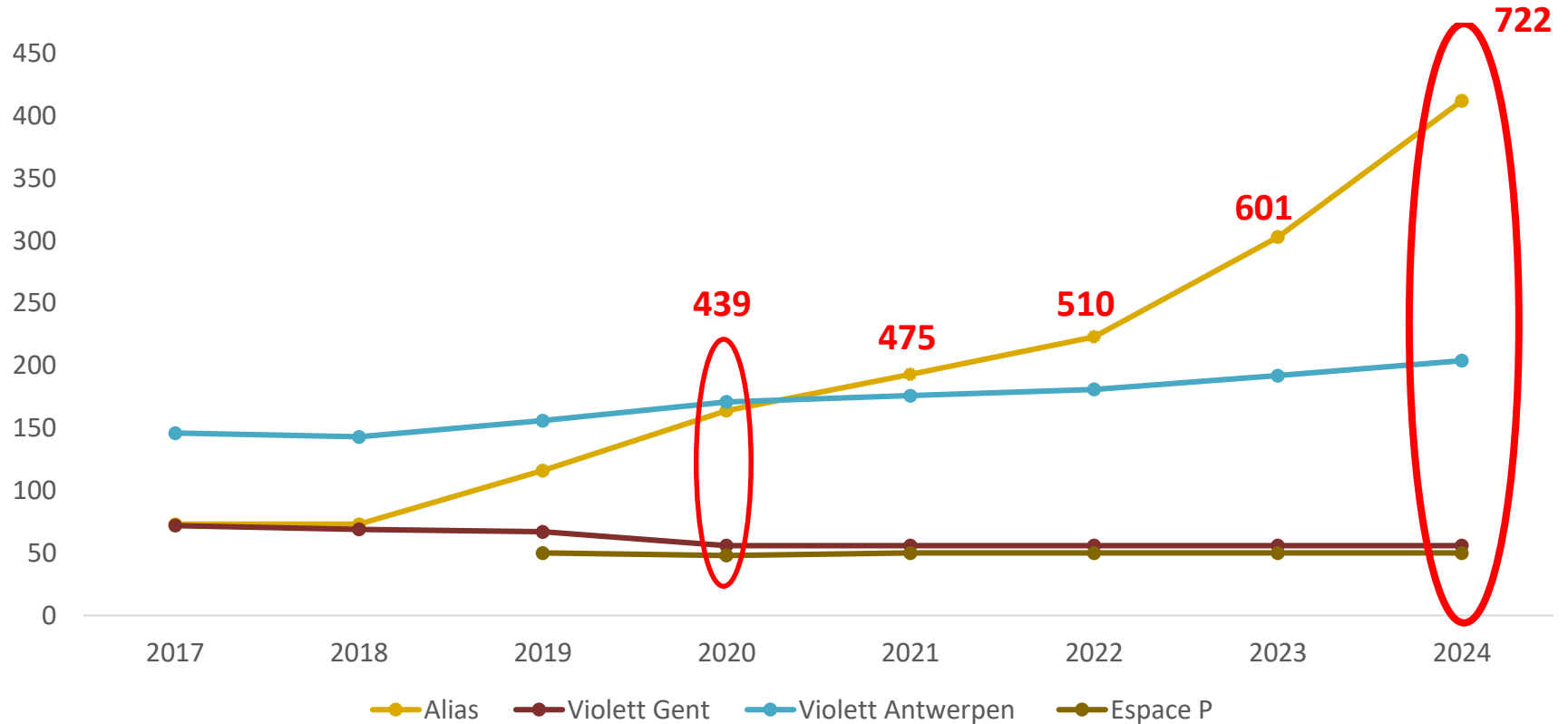
What does PrEP cost per year per individual ?

■ PrEP medication	1075 euro
■ Estimated lab costs	580 euro
■ Medical consultation (4/year)	192 euro
■ Extra costs (treatment, administration, ...)	150 euro

Estimation of total budget

1997 euro

Number of male and transgender sex workers in Belgium



Estimation of target population

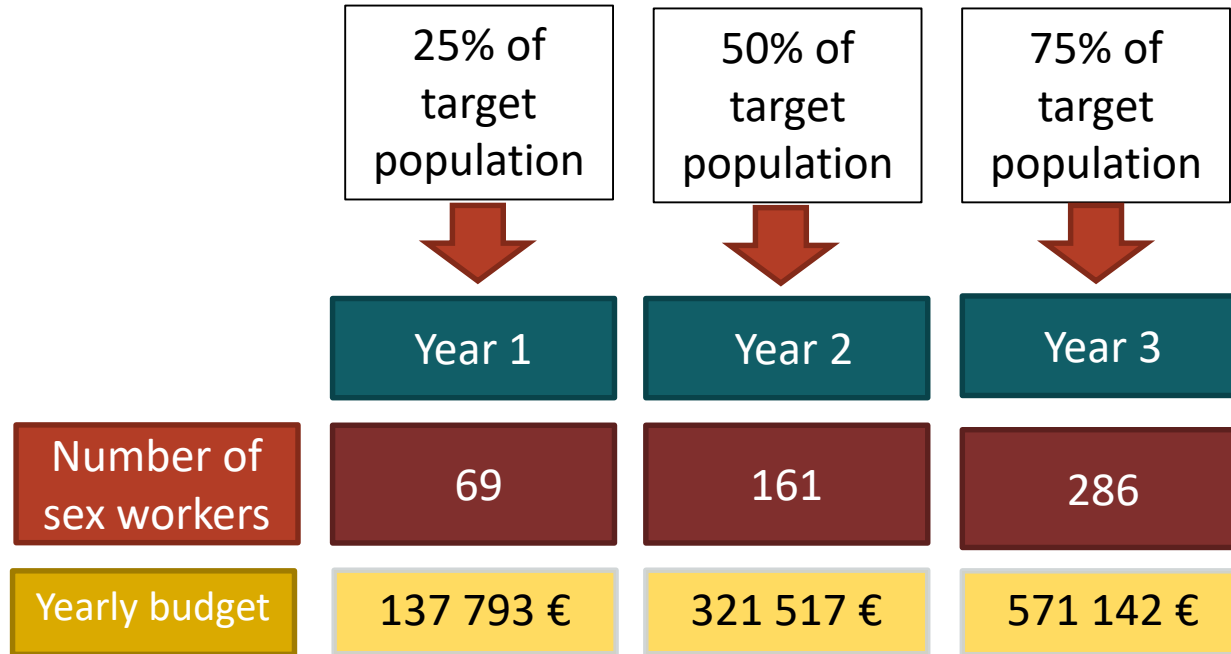
- 75 % of the total group of male and transgender sex workers could benefit from PrEP
- Of this group, 66% doesn't have access to PrEP
- TARGET POPULATION : 50% of total number of male and transgender sex workers
- Increase in service use for PrEP
 - 25 % of target population during first year (69 sex workers)
 - 50 % of target population during second year (161 sex workers)
 - 75 % of target population during third year (286 sex workers)

And female sex workers ?

- Low risk for HIV-infection
- But specific conditions (drug use, unprotected anal contacts)
- ASSUMPTION : 1% of total population might benefit from PrEP and doesn't have access.

			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
	Total # of female sex workers	1% of total # = TARGET POPULATION	25% of target population	50% of target population	75% of target population
Female sex workers	2010	20	5	10	15

Budget estimation : PrEP provision for SW without medical insurance during 3 years



PrEP for SW at risk for HIV without access to medical insurance

Total estimated budget for 3 years :
1 030 452 euro

- Allocated to the community-based organizations
- All sex workers have equal access to sexual health care services
- Reporting according to existing protocols
- Monitoring and evaluation

Way forward

- Meeting of 29 April 2022 with the Ministry of Social Affairs
- Detailed budget
- Protocol
- Written agreements with HRCs
- Implementation in 2023?



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This proposal is an initiative of all Belgian community-based organizations for sex workers and the Tropical Institute of Antwerp, with support from the HIV reference centers, Sciensano and the PrEP Network.



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