

# hepc

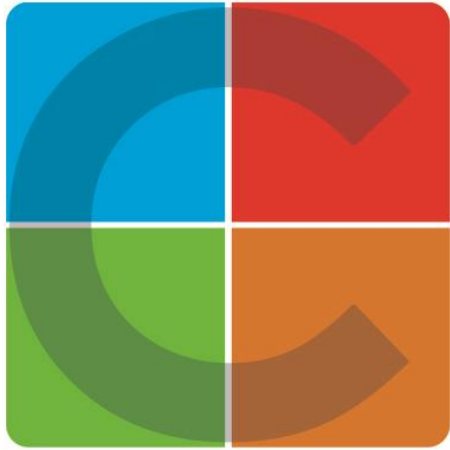
European Initiative  
Hepatitis C and Drug Use

initiative

Eberhard Schatz, Harm Reduction Conference,  
7 – 9 May 2014, Basel

# Introduction

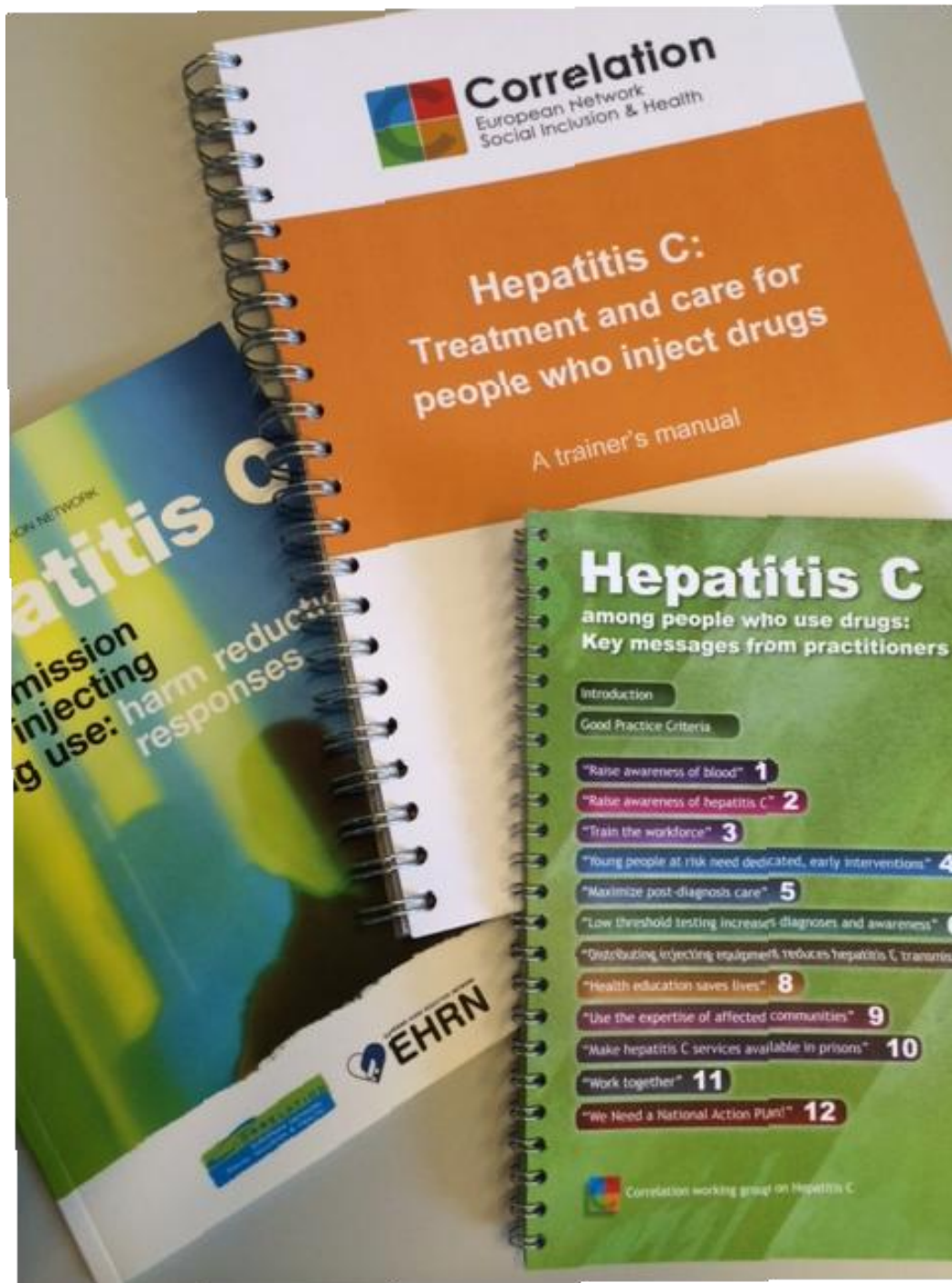
- Background
- Why?
- What?
- Next



# Correlation

European Network  
Social Inclusion & Health

- European network since 2004
- Access to health and social services for marginalised groups
- Financed by the European Commission
- More than 150 partners in all European countries



# Background

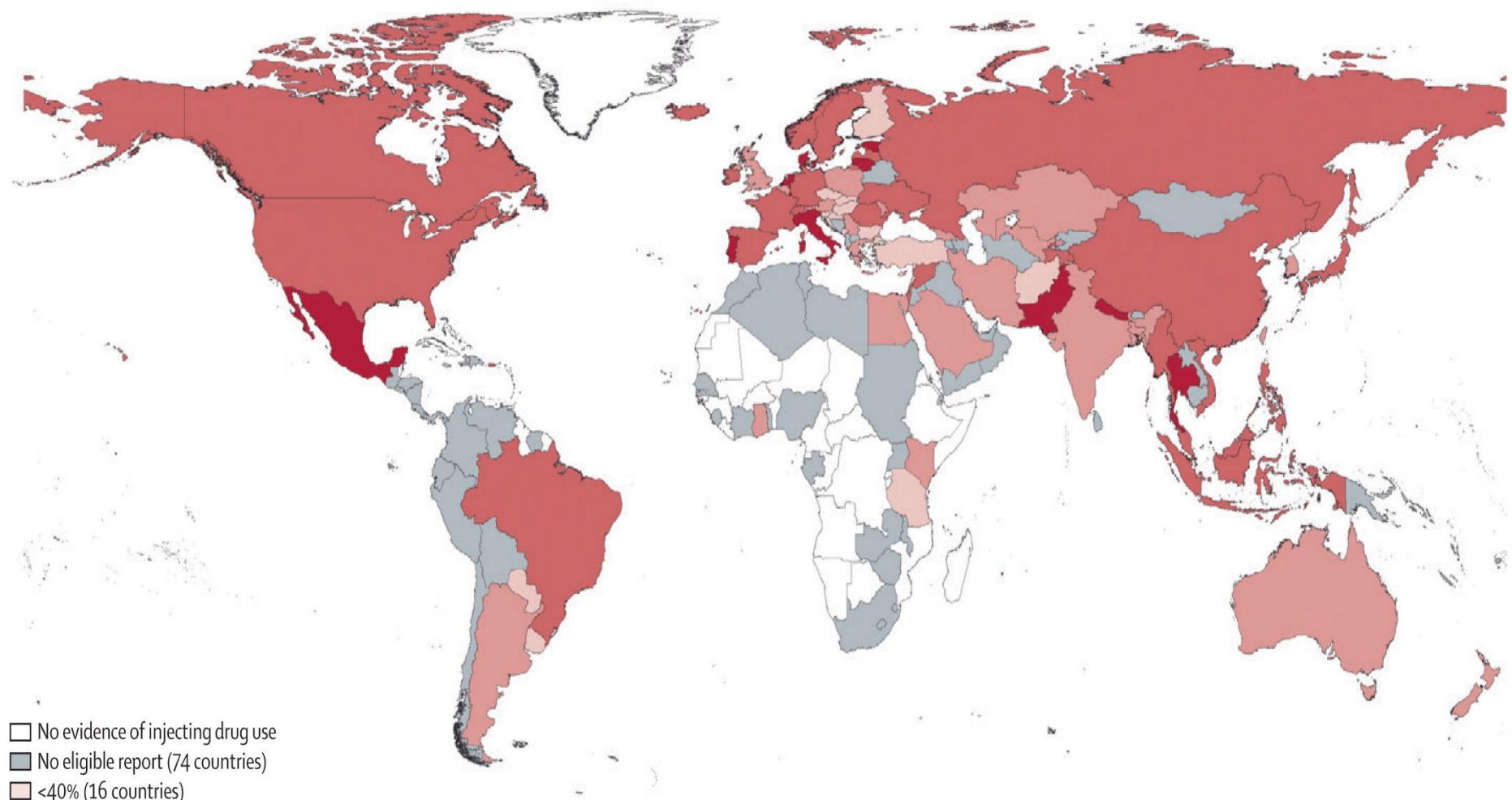
- Drug Prevention and Information Programme (DPIP), EC DG Justice
- January 2013 – December 2014

# Partners

- 30 partners from 15 countries
  - 8 universities / health institutes
  - 15 service provider (NGO's)
  - 2 drug user organisations
  - 5 European Networks
- Observers: EMCDDA, WHO

# Why I

- Current estimates are that between 7.3 and 8.8 million persons are infected with HCV in the European Union, i.e. twice as many as an estimate made in 1997 [1].
- An annual average incidence rate of 6.19 per 100,000 inhabitants (95% CI 4.90-7.48) can be estimated, based on rates reported from the European region to the WHO [2].
- Intravenous drug users are particularly exposed to the risk of HCV infection, with prevalence rates of up to 50% in Cyprus [3], 59.8% (95% CI 50.7-68.3) in France [4], 75% for those admitted for opiate detoxification in Germany and 83.2% in Italy [5].



- No evidence of injecting drug use
- No eligible report (74 countries)
- <40% (16 countries)
- 40-<60% (24 countries)
- 60-<80% (25 countries)
- ≥80% (12 countries)



# Why II

- High prevalence
- Low detection rates
- High inequalities in regard to information, testing and healthcare

# Why III

- Gaps in service provision to PWUD
- Gaps in knowledge and awareness
- Gaps in national and European HCV strategies and policies

# Need for

- Actions on practical level
- Access to current evidence and knowlegde
- Peer involvement and training
- Influencing policies

# What I: Method and means

## Activities

- Analysing key interventions for HCV prevention > producing knowledge about obstacles > increasing awareness amongst staff members
- Compile up-to-date information regarding theory and practice in the field of HCV and drug use
- Developing and implementing peer to peer training capacity
- Mapping analysing and comparing HCV action plans and strategies > developing and implementing advocacy strategy > organising policy dialogue meetings, national/European level

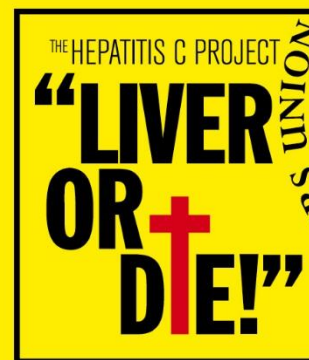




# • Liver or Die

- To inform and to be informed
- To learn and to teach

- Ett projekt som drivs av
- Svenska Brukarföreningen,
- med stöd av Smittskyddsinstitutet



# Communicable diseases - EU's role



- Development of an EU expertise in the field of communicable diseases



- Public Health Programme
  - To improve citizens' health security;
  - To promote health, including the reduction of health inequalities,
  - To generate and disseminate health information and knowledge.





Scott Roberts

John White

Michelle...

Julianne...



# The Momentum....

# EASL Recommendations on Treatment of Hepatitis C

2014



# EASL

European Association  
for the Study of the Liver

Coordinator: Jean-Miche  
Panel members: Alessio Ag  
Geoffrey D  
Xavier Forr  
Massimo P  
Christophe

# hepC

initiative

initiative  
Drug Use

BMJ

BMJ 2014;348:g2700 doi: 10.1136/bmj.g2700 (Published 10 April 2014)

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NEWS

## Hepatitis C could be virtually eliminated by 2030, experts believe

Geoff Watts

London

Hepatitis C may no longer be considered a serious public health concern within the next few decades if new drugs are as effective as early signs have shown and concerted action is taken to reduce the condition in more patients so that they can be better managed, experts have predicted.

The development of epidemiological models of hepatitis has allowed clinicians to predict the effect of new treatments. "If we continue as we are," said Crump, "the model suggests we'll see a slow fall in the prevalence of hepatitis C in England from the present level of 144 000 down to a little over 80 000 by 2030." With the new drugs and a greater effort to find patients with the condition, in a best case scenario the figure

HEPATOLOGY

EDITORIAL

## Eradication of Hepatitis C Infection: The Importance of Targeting People Who Inject Drugs

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) affects ~170 million people worldwide and causes significant morbidity and mortality.<sup>1</sup> In high-income countries, people who inject drugs (PWID) are

prevention, meaning improved access to more effective and well-tolerated HCV treatment. Other major elements include increasing coverage of opiate substitution

# First WHO guidelines for screening, care and treatment of persons with hepatitis C infection



## GUIDELINES FOR THE SCREENING, CARE AND TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH HEPATITIS C INFECTION

APRIL 2014

GUIDELINES



SOVALDI...  
SO EXPENSIVE

GILEAD'S SOFOSBUVIR  
APPROVED BY THE EMA AND FDA  
BUT ACCESSIBLE FOR HOW MANY?

\$84,000

GILEAD...  
WE CAN'T AFFORD  
TO WAIT



# Next

- Launch Manifesto
  - 6 key messages for a better hep c policy
- > To be disseminated to all governments of the WHO Europe Region



**European  
Conference on  
Hepatitis C  
and Drug Use**

**Berlin  
23-24 October  
2014**



**[www.hepatitis-c-initiative.eu](http://www.hepatitis-c-initiative.eu)**

**Get involved !**

**[eschatz@correlation-net.org](mailto:eschatz@correlation-net.org)**