



## Hepatitis C Elimination in Europe

### *“Our vision for a Hepatitis C-free Europe”*

We, the signatories of this declaration, gathered in Brussels on the occasion of the first European Union HCV Policy Summit, on 17 February 2016, are committed to the elimination of hepatitis C in Europe.

- Hepatitis C is a life-threatening disease; it affects millions of people across Europe and has a significant morbidity and premature death burden<sup>1</sup>;
- Today, scientific breakthroughs give us the unique opportunity to eliminate hepatitis C in Europe, averting a significant toll in terms of deaths and societal and economic costs;
- The specific challenges of hepatitis C require holistic, people-centred, health system-wide approaches to disease awareness, prevention and integrated care, with all stakeholders combining their diverse skills and resources in a unified response.

We share the vision that eliminating hepatitis C in Europe by 2030<sup>2</sup> will require us to:

- 1) Make hepatitis C and its elimination in Europe an explicit and adequately resourced public health priority, to be pursued using appropriate means at all levels – through collaboration between individual citizens, civil society organisations, researchers, the private sector, local and national governments, European Union institutions – including the Commission, ECDC, EMCDDA, the WHO Regional Office for Europe and other relevant regional bodies;
- 2) Ensure that patients, civil society groups and other relevant stakeholders are directly involved in developing and implementing hepatitis C elimination strategies, with existing best practice examples and guidelines serving as the basis for people-centred health system-based strategies that emphasise tailored implementation at the local level;
- 3) Make the development of integrated care pathways a core component of hepatitis C elimination strategies, taking into account the specific health system barriers and other challenges related to the management of hepatitis C infection;
- 4) Pay particular attention to the links between hepatitis C and social marginalisation, and for all hepatitis C elimination-related activities to be consistent with fundamental human rights principles including non-discrimination, equality, participation and the right to health;

5) Strengthen efforts to harmonise and improve the surveillance of hepatitis C across the European Union, to inform and evaluate hepatitis C elimination strategies;

6) Introduce a European Hepatitis Awareness Week (the week of World Hepatitis Day) to hold intensive, coordinated awareness-raising and educational activities across Europe;

7) Review progress on achieving the objectives and goals set out in this manifesto on a regular basis and promote the manifesto at all relevant opportunities.



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**TO NOTE**

In developing this Manifesto, the following documents were taken into consideration:

- World Hepatitis Summit, 2-4 September 2015, Glasgow - [link](#)
- Glasgow Declaration on Viral Hepatitis, September 2015 - [link](#)
- World Health Assembly, Resolution 67.6 on Hepatitis, 24 May 2014 – [link](#)
- WHO, Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis Infection: Framework for Global Action, 2012 – [link](#)
- World Health Assembly, Resolution 63.18 on Viral Hepatitis, 21 May 2010 – [link](#)
- Hepatitis B and C Public Policy Association, High Level Meeting “Economic crisis and healthcare – ensuring access to public health services: the case of hepatitis B and C”, 3-4 June 2014 – [link](#)
- Hepatitis B and C Public Policy Association, Summit Conference on Hepatitis B and C in Mediterranean and Balkan Countries, 5-7 September 2012 – [link](#)
- Hepatitis B and C Public Policy Association, Summit Conference on Viral Hepatitis, 14-15 October 2010, Brussels – [link](#)

**REFERENCES**

<sup>1</sup> The WHO estimates that there are 14 million people affected by hepatitis C across WHO European Region and various accounts report some 6 million living in the European Union alone

<sup>2</sup> In line with the goals of the draft WHO Global Health Sector Strategy 2016-2021, November 2015 - [link](#)