



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 burden¹;
- 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 2030² 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.

Endorsed by:



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

¹ 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

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