



Joint Action on HIV and co-infection prevention and harm reduction HA-REACT

WP4 Testing and linkage to care

***WP7 Improved provision of integrated
HIV, HCV, TB treatment and harm
reduction for PWID***

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Basic facts

The HA-REACT Joint action is based on:

- Communication from the Commission [COM(2009)569] on “Combating HIV/AIDS in the European Union and neighbouring countries, 2009 -2013”
- Commission [SWD(2014)106] Action plan on HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries 2014-2016



Basic facts (2)

Budget: approx. 3,75 million EUR
co-funding by EC – 80%

Duration: October 2015 – September 2018

Coordination: National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland

Partners: 22 partners from 18 countries



Objectives of HA-REACT

- Zero new HIV cases, reduced HCV and TB among PWID in the EU by 2020
- Improved prevention and treatment of blood-borne infections and TB in priority regions and priority groups in the European Union

Purpose

Improved capacity to respond to HIV and co-infection risks and provide harm reduction with specific focus on people who inject drugs (PWID) in the EU

Direct beneficiaries: professionals working with PWID

Ultimate beneficiaries: people who inject drugs

HA-REACT Work Packages

- WP1. Coordination
- WP2. Dissemination
- WP3. Evaluation
- WP4. Testing and linkage to care
- WP5. Scaling up harm reduction
- WP6. Harm reduction and continuity of care in prisons
- WP7. Integrated care
- WP8. Sustainability and long-term funding



WP 4 Testing and Linkage to care

Leading partner:

Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe

Objective:

Improved early diagnosis of HIV, viral hepatitis and TB, as well as improve linkage to care of men and women who inject drugs.



WP 4 activities:

- 1. Personnel working with PWID in Hungary and Latvia trained in low-threshold testing of HIV, HCV and TB.
- 2. An interactive training manual and e-learning package on HIV, HCV and TB testing in low threshold settings for personnel who work with people who use drugs, with special focus on women and peers, developed.
- 3. Awareness of clients of their infection status, of prevention and treatment of HIV, HCV and TB, improved
- 4. Access to treatment after positive test result is ensured
- 5. Gender-specific approach in testing services focused on women who use drugs developed and implemented



Activities implemented so far:

- 1. Situation review to assess current situation, practice of HIV, HCV and TB testing, referral for treatment and care, and training needs in focus countries.
- 2. Structure of the training manual on HIV and HCV testing in low threshold settings with responsibilities. Reviewing first draft.
- 3. Development of the leaflets and posters for people who use drugs to promote rapid HIV and HCV tests in low threshold facilities in Latvia and Hungary in Latvian, Hungarian, English and Russian.
- 4. Conduction of trainings on testing of HIV, HCV and on TB for low-threshold facilities in Hungary and Latvia.



Leaflets and posters to promote HIV/HCV tests:

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW

HIV? HEP C? GET TESTED!



IT'S EASY
IT'S ANONYMOUS
IT'S FREE

—wén jobban szírtam a gyors-tesztet, mint minden szakság vénás vérvételre! —

ABLAK- PERIÓDUS

Akár 3 hónapig is eltarthat, míg a szervizben reál-ctigájban elhelyezések előrehaladóba a HIV illetve a hepatitis C ellen. Így az időszakban hajtás alkalmazásnak, mivel ebben az időszakban a tesztök általánosan eredményt is adhatnak.

A GYORSTESZTEK ELLENANYAGOT VIZSGÁLNÁK

Az invitatik meg, hogy megfertőződésből HIV-vel vagy hepatitis C-vel, és a szervezetben ellenanyagokat termelt a vírus felhalmozására.

A pozitív teszt eredményt azonban csak a szervizben van ellenanyag hatályban megfertőződésből HIV-vel illetve hepatitis C-vel. Általában az ellenanyag-tesztje pozitív lesz, csináltatni kell egy PCR (magát a vírust kiemeltetni) tesztet, hogy kiderüljön meennyi vírus van a szervezetben. Illetve, hogy a hepatitis C-vírus aktív-e.

WP7 Integrated care

We now have most of the knowledge and tools to end HIV, AIDS and hepatitis C among people who inject drugs in Europe. However, political will and cost remain as top priorities."

– Luis Mendão, co-chair of the HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum

Leading Partner:

National Institute for Health Development, Estonia (TAI/NIHD)

Objective:

- Improved provision of integrated HIV, HCV, TB treatment and harm reduction for PWID.
- **Key question to be answered:**
How to adjust services to the needs of people who use drugs who are often socially excluded and not skilled to navigate complicated healthcare and social welfare systems.



Capacity building of health, social and civil society professionals in providing better quality of care for PWID (1)

1st International workshop April 5th 2017 in Vilnius

During the first regional harm reduction conference organized by Eurasian Harm Reduction Network

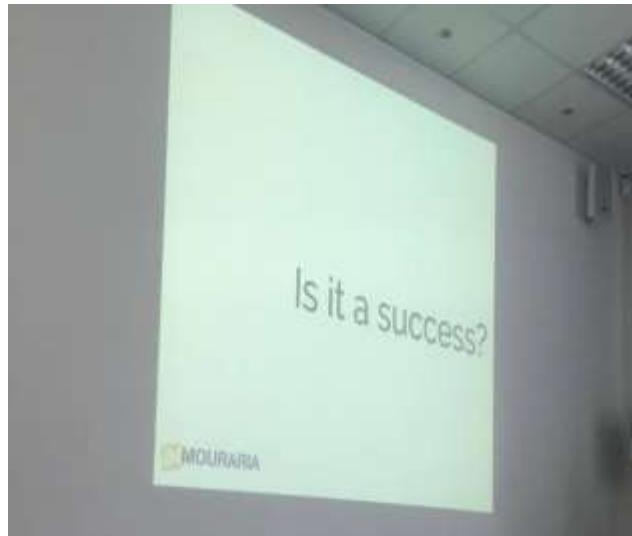


The workshop provided:

- An overview of different approaches to integrating care for people who inject drugs and highlighting how these necessitate new roles, responsibilities, skills and competencies (Lithuania, United Kingdom).
- An overview of good practices of integrated care from the countries already implementing effective solutions (Spain, Portugal, Germany, United Kingdom, including Scotland).
- Reflections on patients' experiences, needs and expectations and how to involve patients and community in developing services for PWID (Estonia, Portugal).

Capacity building of health, social and civil society professionals in providing better quality of care for PWID (2)

**2nd international workshop -
different ways to overcome
challenges**
2018



Objective

1st international workshop led to the identification of some major challenges and the 2nd workshop will focus on:

- How to develop non-hospital based approaches to improve vulnerable people's lives
- Role of peer-delivered services
- Focus countries will exchange feedback from national workshops, including recommendations for further actions on national and international level

Capacity building of health, social and civil society professionals in providing better quality of care for PWID (3)

National workshops on integrated care

At least two national workshops are organised in each focus country - Lithuania, Hungary, Czech Republic and Estonia

The aim of the workshops is:

- *To identify problems related to integration of services*
- *To select a problem to work on during and between the national workshops*
- *To describe their experience on solving the issue and propose a set of actions for further work on integration of services in their country.*

Estonia

What? Expanding access to naloxone through different services and settings

When? Planned for 30th August 2017 (linked to Overdose Awareness Day 31st August)

Who? Policeprison officers, nurses, general practitioners', NGO representatives, ambulance workers etc

Lithuania

What? Roles of institutions and future perspectives

When? Planned for 7th September 2017

Who? Different institutions involved in delivering HIV, HCV, TB and harm reductions for PWID services together to discuss their roles, responsibilities and come up with a model for future collaboration. Participants are from different municipalities, probation and police services, healthcare institutions, NGOs, social services etc

Czech Republic

What? Integrating care for drug users in the context of infectious diseases, especially HCV and linkage between different services and settings (low threshold services, outpatient care, psychiatry etc)

When? Prague on 16th October 2017

Development of tools and instructional materials for implementation of better quality care for PWID

- **Report on guidelines and models of care**

Mapping report/review of existing guidelines on quality of care and different models of care, quality assurance and improvement tools that can be implemented by different stakeholders and service providers to improve the quality of care.

- **Toolkit on models of care and quality**

Development of a practical toolkit on the implementation of care models (including linkage to early diagnosis services, throughcare, search for lost for follow up clients) and quality improvement.

The toolkit will synthesize core recommendations from international guidelines, include examples of the most relevant models of care (best practices, case studies), QA/QI and facilitation tools, and provide practical advice on how to achieve better integration and improve quality of services.



More information available:

<http://www.hareact.eu/en>

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