DRID meeting 2017 - Session 6 (16 June 2017)

Monitoring the national policy landscape addressing access of PWID to HCV care in Europe

Preliminary results of the EMCDDA "gap survey"

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Outline

- Background
- Methods
- Preliminary results
- Country examples: Netherlands, Finland and Greece
- Planned next steps
- Input from the DRID experts:
 - What type of output is useful for member states?

WHO context: Importance of national plans

• WHO/Europe action plan (2018 milestone): "A costed and funded national hepatitis plan with clear targets or a viral hepatitis response plan integrated into a broader health strategy or action plan"



Background

- WHO/Europe 2018 milestone
- National HCV policies = National strategies, action plans, guidelines on HCV prevention and treatment
 - An indicator of commitment; but polices often without budgets attached
 - Used for advocacy by civil society

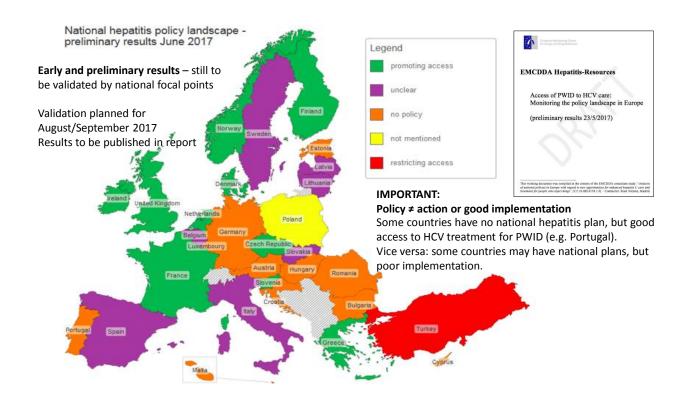






Methods

- Review of the following sources:
 - EMCDDA HHR + Policy workbooks submitted by Member States
 - National websites and literature
- "Gap-survey" on national HCV policies with DRID experts (April/May 2017)
 - Written feedback from 15 countries: AT, BE, CY, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GR, HR, IT, LU, NO, PO
 - Discussions the last couple of days (DRID/ECDC focal points): N=10
 DRID focal points: EE, LV, NL, SE, SI + ECDC focal points: BG, IE, PT, RO, UK
 - Missing (N=5): HU, LT, MT, SK, TR



Thoughts for discussion:

 Using the "momentum" of HCV elimination to improve access to harm reduction services

Barriers for PWID access to DAA in Europe:

- High price of the drugs → restrictions / waiting lists
- Poor linkage to care / services not adapted to needs of PWID
- Concerns about re-infection rates need to strengthen prevention
- Stigma & discrimination

Thank you

Points for discussion

- Is there a need for defining what is a national HCV policy / strategy / action plan / guideline?
- Suggestions for categories to classify national HCV policies: [INPUT WELCOME]
 - No national policy
 - Policy planned?
 - HCV policy: Restricting PWID access to HCV Tx
 - HCV policy: No mention of PWID access to HCV Tx
 - HCV policy: unclear if PWID access to HCV Tx addressed
 - HCV policy: Promoting PWID access to HCV Tx