

The Correlation seminars

Correlation **WP 7** Hepatitis C

Building capacities on HCV: A training for trainers

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Background

In the European Union (EU) the rates of newly reported cases of HIV infection in injecting drug users are mostly at stable and low levels, or in decline. HCV is more prevalent in injecting drug users across the whole EU and varies from 18% to 95% (with half of the countries reporting levels in excess of 40%). Further to the East, in countries such as Russia or Ukraine where an estimated 1-2% of the total population is injecting drugs, HCV and HIV co-infection rates reach up to 95%. Despite lack of awareness about HCV and political commitment, there is little doubt that HCV is a serious health threat to societies. The WHO even estimates 350.000 lives being lost annually to hepatitis C related liver diseases.

Training Manual

EHRN is currently developing a training manual in the framework of Correlation II. It will provide a set of materials for capacity building on HCV for different groups – from policy makers and health care professionals, to harm reduction service providers and drug user and HIV activists. The manual will cover issues such as transmission mechanisms - understanding drug using behaviours and how HCV can be addressed; natural history/course; issues affecting specific groups; prevention/NSPs; testing and diagnostics; treatment and care literacy; living with HCV; co-infections and advocacy of HCV treatment and care for IDUs.

Pilot Training

The pilot training session will serve as input for the training manual on HCV, which is being developed by two experienced experts in harm reduction: Danny Morris and Neil Hunt from the UK.

The main objective of the pilot training is to test the training tool and receive feedback from potential users of the tool. Such feedback is crucial to ensure that the tool is being used and is adapted to the needs of the target group. The training tool will be completed based on the feedback from Correlation partners, the results of the training and the evaluation by participants. After the training tool is finalized, the participants of the pilot training will be encouraged to test the final document in their countries (field testing).

The training will take place from
22 to 24 September 2010
in Budapest, Hungary.

For whom is the training?

The training will gather people from around the EU and beyond with advanced knowledge of HCV. Participants will be working on different levels, in order to receive substantial input into the training manual.

The call for participants will be released in the summer of 2010.

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