



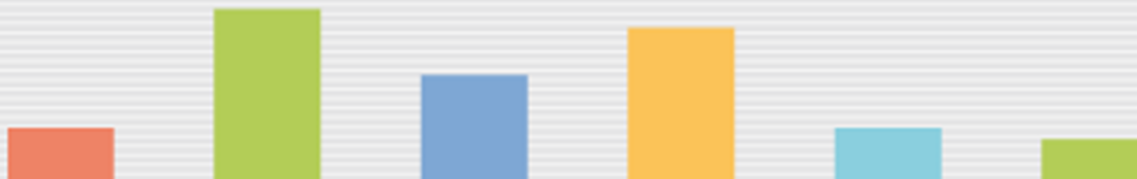
European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Promoting HCV testing & referral in drug treatment settings

Overview

DRID expert meeting, 24 September 2018

Nicola Singleton



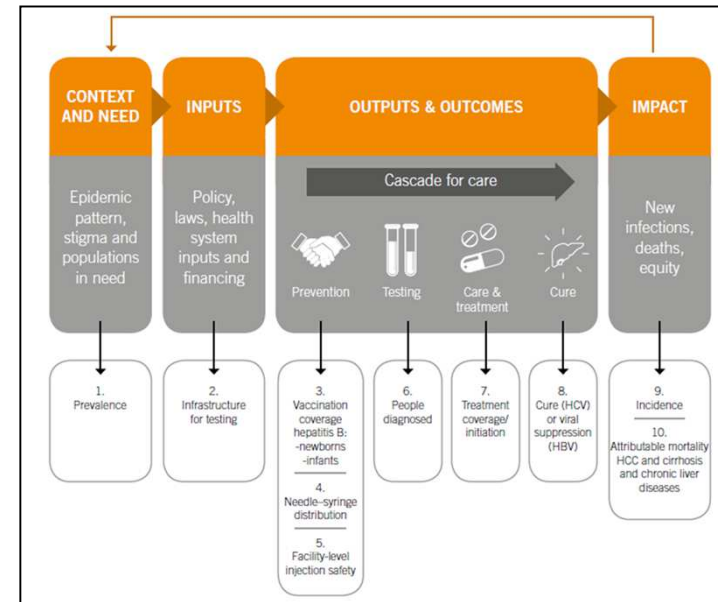
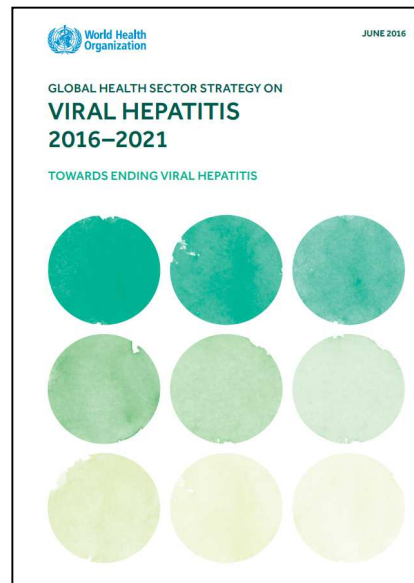
Rationale for the project

The EMCDDA is asked to act as catalyst for **improving the quality and delivery of responses** to infectious diseases

Special attention to developing resources in areas where drugs have a significant impact on European public health, such as **hepatitis C prevention and treatment, and overdose deaths**



WHO Global hepatitis strategy



GHSS: To eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030

Prevention → Testing → Care & Treatment

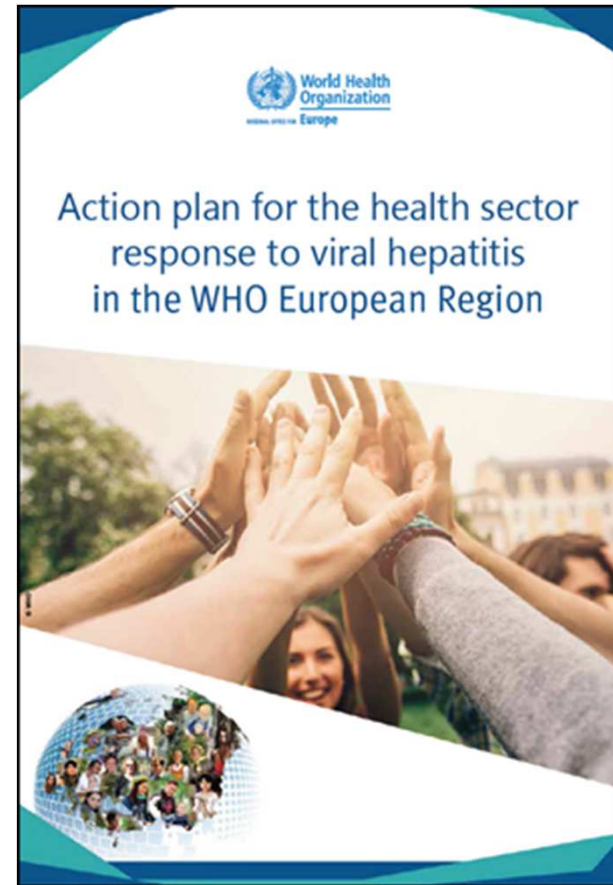


Translation into Regional Action, Milestones for 2018 and Targets for 2020

Diagnosing HCV:

Milestones for **2018**

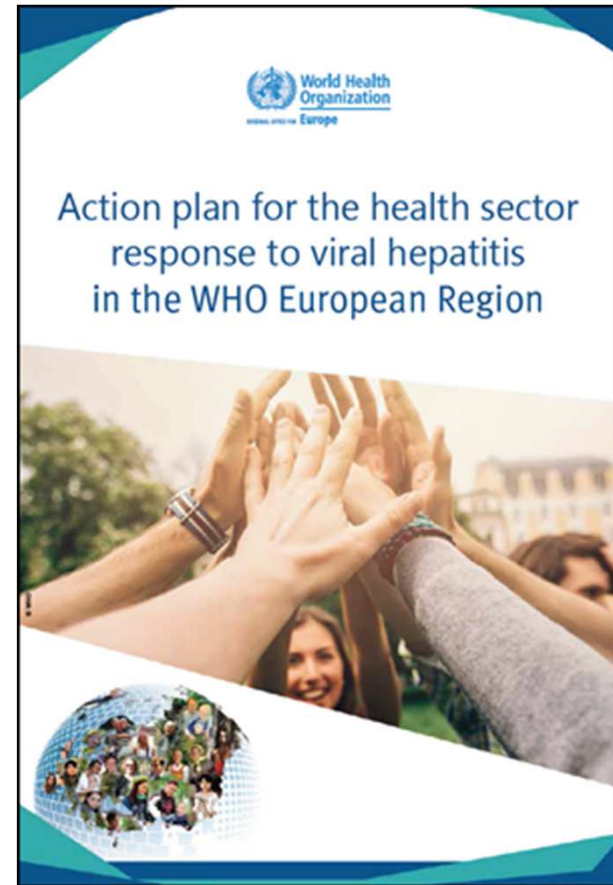
- High-quality viral hepatitis testing and diagnosis services available and accessible to all.
- National HBV and HCV testing policies aligned with WHO.
- All health care workers to know their viral hepatitis B and C serostatus.



Translation into Regional Action, Milestones for 2018 and Targets for 2020

Diagnosing HCV: Targets for **2020**

- 50% of all people with chronic HBV, HCV diagnosed.
- 75% of the estimated number of patients at late stage of viral hepatitis-related liver disease (cirrhosis or HCC) diagnosed.



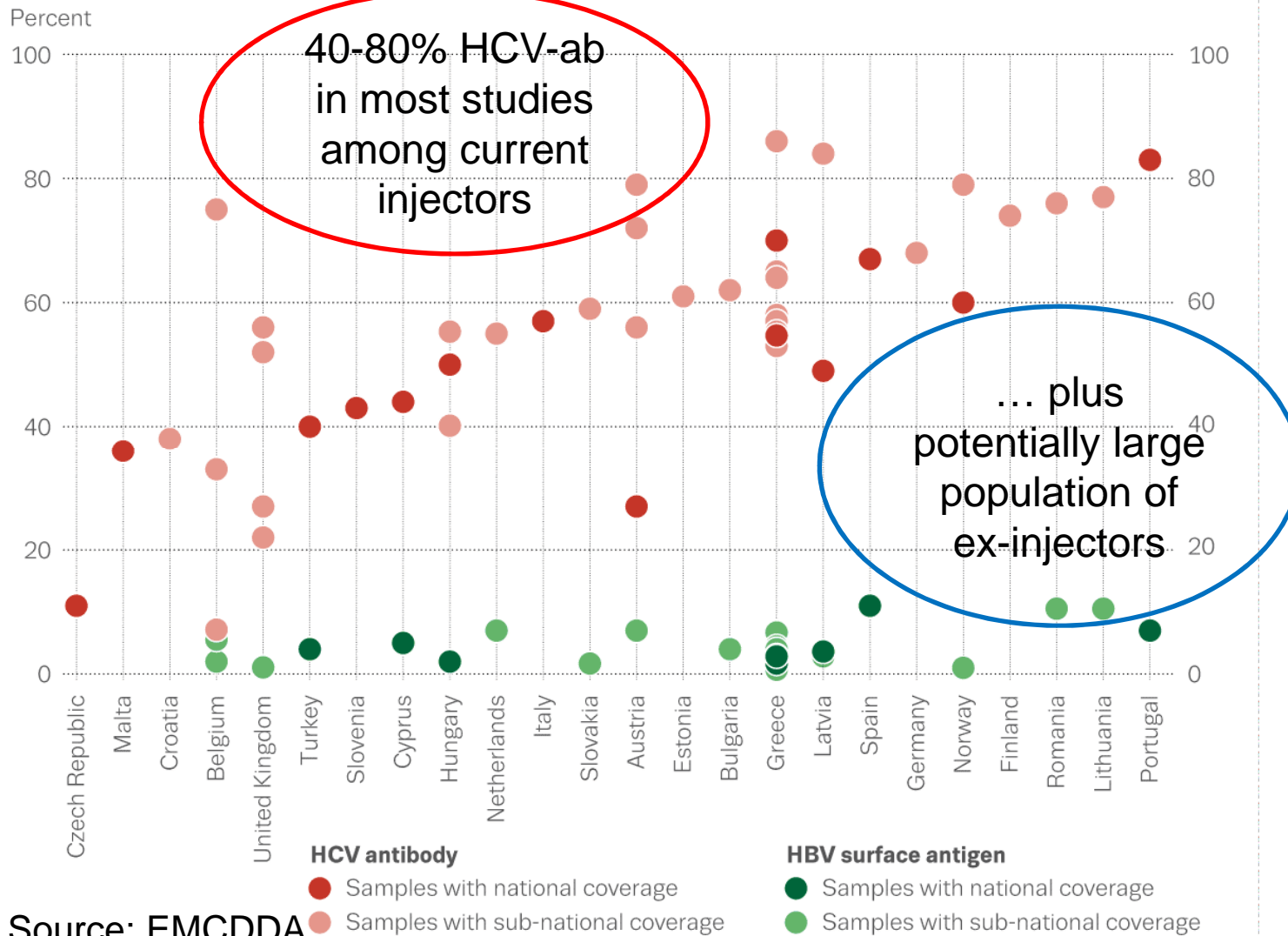
Why are PWID a priority?

- Globally, injection drug use is estimated to account for **23% of new HCV infections** (WHO Global Hepatitis Report 2017)
- In **Europe**, transmission through injecting drug use accounts for 75% of all new HCV infections with known transmission mode (ECDC, 2017)
- Injecting drug use also accounts for an estimated **11% of acute HBV cases** with known transmission mode (ECDC, 2017)



Prevalence of HBV and HCV among PWID

Prevalence of HCV antibody and HBV surface antigen among injecting drug users, 2014/15



Source: EMCDDA

Testing important minimum standard

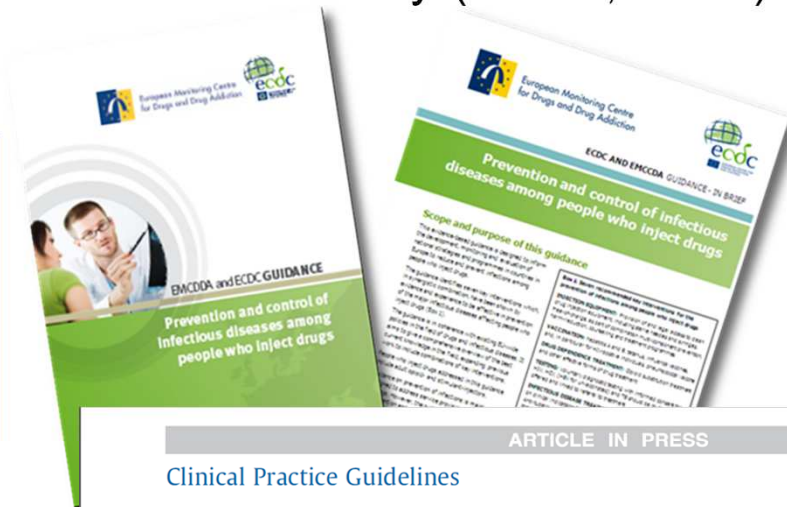
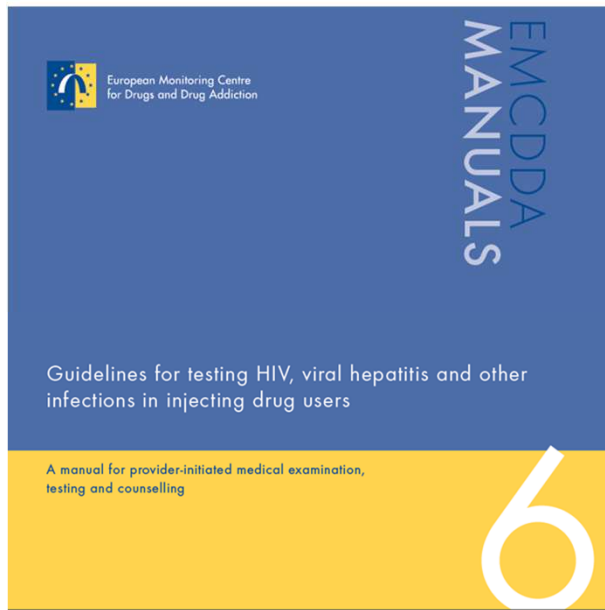
2015 EU Council Decision on minimum quality standards in demand reduction (minimum benchmark of quality for interventions)

'... Treatment services [should] provide voluntary testing for blood borne infectious diseases, counselling against risky behaviours and assistance to manage illness'.



Elimination of hepatitis among PWID

- Testing is a recommended intervention to prevent infections (EMCDDA 2010; ECDC/EMCDDA 2011);
- Guidance recommends routine, voluntary testing for anti-HCV and RNA.
- RNA-negative should be tested annually (EASL, 2018)



ARTICLE IN PRESS
 Clinical Practice Guidelines
EASL Recommendations on Treatment of Hepatitis C 2018[☆]
 European Association for the Study of the Liver*

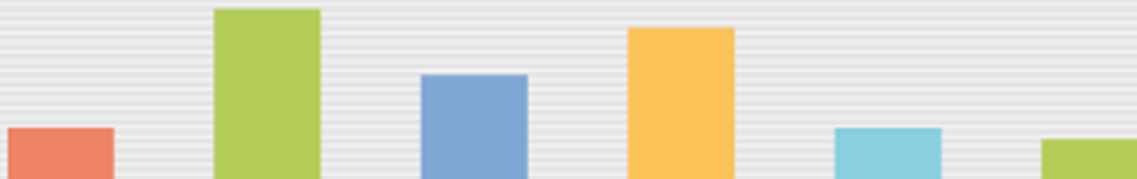
Summary
 Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is a major cause of chronic liver disease, with approximately 71 million chronically infected individuals worldwide. Clinical care for patients with HCV-related liver disease has advanced considerably thanks to an enhanced understanding of the pathophysiology of the disease, and because of developments in diagnostic procedures and improvements in therapy and prevention. These European Association for the Study of the Liver Recommendations on failure and portal hypertension is reduced after an SVR. Recent data suggest that the risk of HCC and liver-related mortality is significantly reduced, but not eliminated, in patients with cirrhosis who clear HCV compared to untreated patients and non-sustained virological responders, especially in the presence of cofactors of liver morbidity, such as the metabolic syndrome, harmful alcohol consumption and/or concurrent hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.³⁻⁹ HCV is also associated with a number of extra-hepatic manifestations and viral elimination induces





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Developing a model for EMCDDA support to practice in the harm reduction area



Pilot initiative to promote HCV testing in drug treatment settings

Purpose

- To operationalize the public health priorities of the EMCDDA strategy by promoting good practices and building capacity among drug services
- To support the MSs and EU institutions in reaching the UN targets
- To support NFPs efforts to improve practice in their countries (RTX DF Obj.2.1)
- To test the model and its application for future work on enhancing responses in other areas (e.g. DRD)



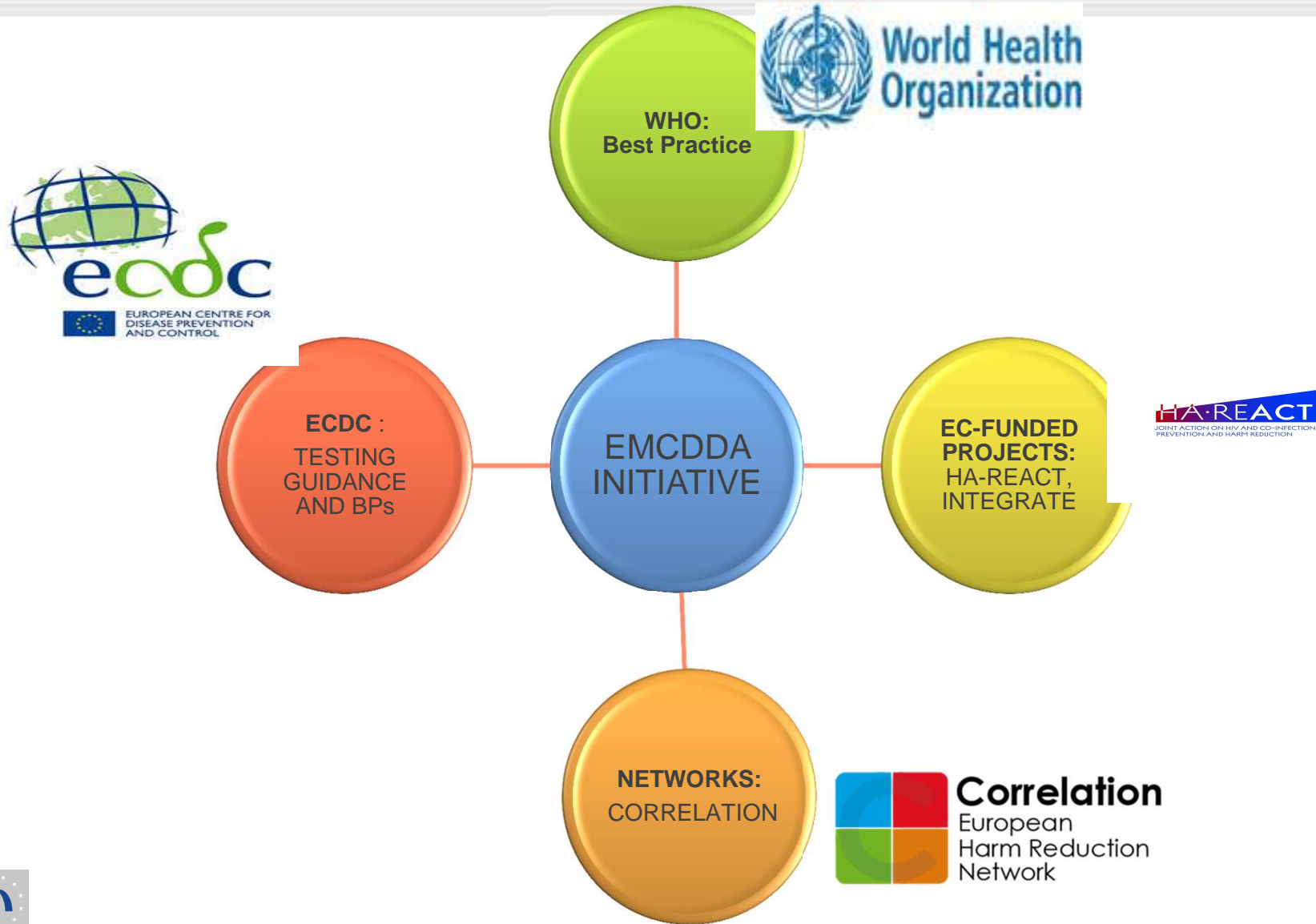
Pilot initiative to promote HCV testing in drug treatment settings

Objectives

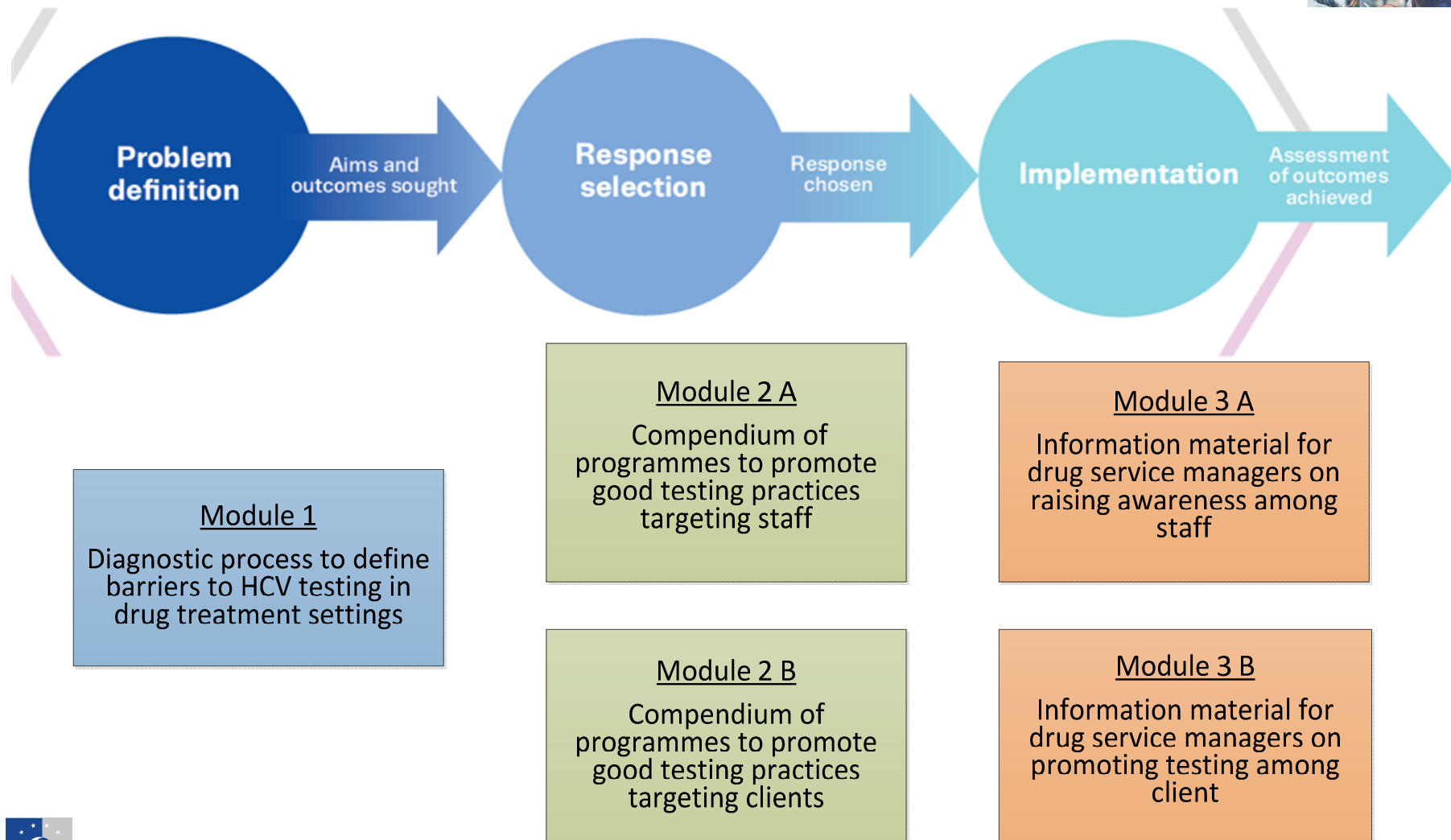
- to produce materials that can support the MSs and the EU in the promoting HCV testing (*selected modules making a coherent package*)
- to build on existing partnership and work in the area (*links with on-going initiatives in the testing area*)
- to pilot the approach with selected MSs (*countries with different epidemiological situation and responses in place*) to provide lessons for future work



PARTNERSHIP



A model for a pilot project on testing



Deliverables for different modules

Modules	Main outputs	Implementation/ promotion
I. Diagnostic process to support problem definition	A check list, handbook & a resource repository to support identifying areas for action and national & local level	National workshops/meetings to identify priority areas for action linked to potential options & bringing relevant stakeholders together.
II. Compendium of good testing practices	Repository of successful programmes to promote testing with a focus on implementation guidance	Expansion of the BPP & eXchange registry. Links with the EMCDDA hep C resource webpage
III. Informational material to promote testing for drug services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Materials on new tests targeting PWID b) A knowledge-building survey on HCV for staff of drug agencies to promote testing & status awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An EMCDDA's branded template ready for translation b) A survey module ready for translation

Stakeholder consultation on a new EMCDDA pilot initiative

- Lisbon - 26-27 April in Lisbon
- Broad range of expertise: FPs; DRID experts; Civil Society /NGOs; EC – funded projects; EC & ECDC (invited); JRC Behavioural Insights Team (at later stage)
- With objective to exchange views on:
 - current and potential activities to improve testing practice;
 - to identify facilitators and barriers for testing;
 - the role & responsibilities of different actors and the complementarity of the on-going projects/initiatives



Testing and linkage to care

Hepatitis B and C testing:

**why?
who?
how?**

A guidance paper on testing in community and harm reduction settings



MONITORING AND EVALUATION TO MEASURE IMPACT



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