



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction



ECDC – EMCDDA Public health guidance on prevention and control of communicable diseases in prison

Lara Tavoschi ECDC, Dagmar Hedrich, EMCDDA
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PROJECT CONSORTIUM

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EXPERT PANEL

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Members: Barbara Janíková and Viktor Mravcik (Czech Republic), Kristel Kivimets (Estonia), Fadi Meroueh and Laurent Michel (France), Heino Stöver, Peter Wiessner and Ruth Zimmerman (Germany), Roberto Ranieri (Italy), Erica Cardoso, Rui Morgado (Portugal), Lucia Mihailescu (Romania), Jose-Manuel Arroyo (Spain), Stefan Enggist and Hans Wolff (Switzerland), Sharon Hutchinson (UK), Alison Hannah (Penal Reform International), Jan Malinowski (Council of Europe), Heino Stover (HA-REACT), Lars Møller (WHO), Ehab Salah (Adviser, HIV in prisons, UNODC, Vienna)



Rationale

- High burden of BBV among prisoners
- Prevalence HCV, HBV, HIV multiple times higher than general population
- Setting of increased risk of BBV transmission
- Strong association prison history and BBV prevalence in PWID
- Complex health and care needs of people in prison
- Opportunity to address healthcare needs of groups medically underserved in the community.

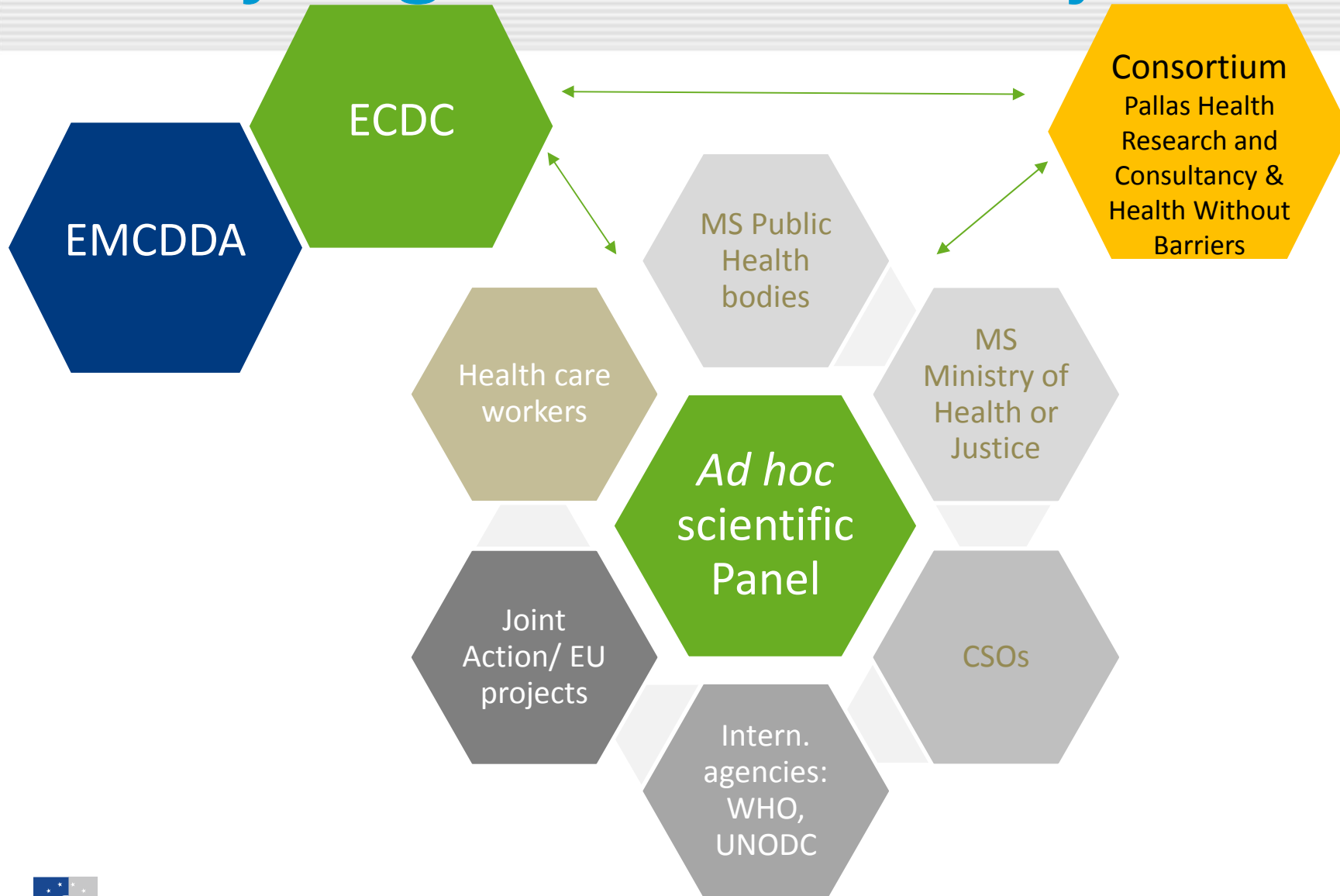


Guidance on prevention and control of communicable diseases in prison settings

- **Aim:** Develop an evidence-based public health guidance on prevention and control of communicable diseases in prison settings
- **Scope:** Improve prevention and control of communicable diseases in prison setting by identifying effective (cost-effective) interventions and service models
- **Audience:** Policy makers, policy advisors, programme managers, professionals involved in national guidelines/guidance development, service providers
- **Population:** People in prison [>18 years]



Project governance and key actors

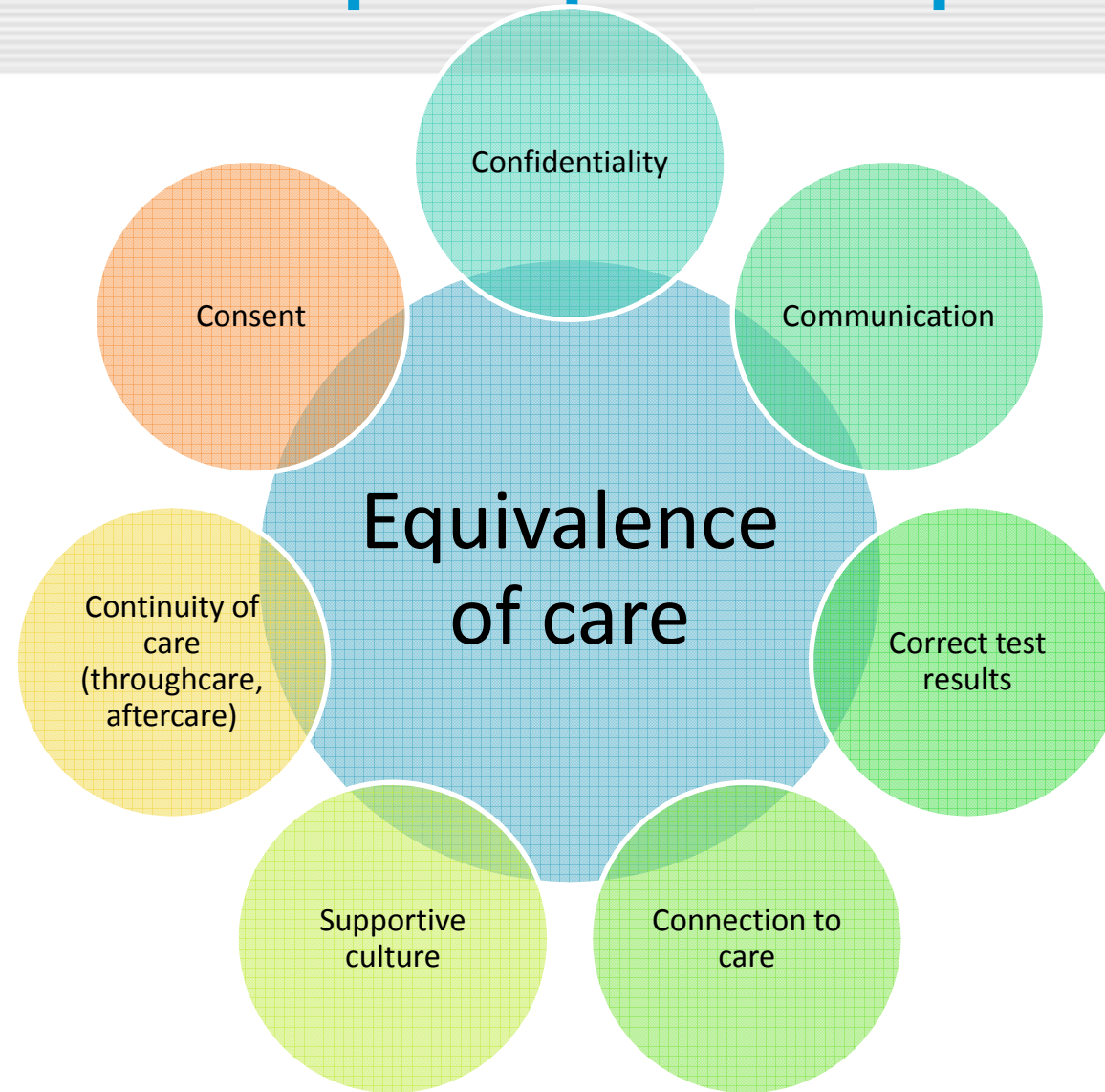


Prevention and control of blood-borne viruses in prison settings

- Review objectives:
- To gain insights in the evidence base for:
 - ✓ the prevention, care and treatment of HIV in prison settings, including throughcare;
 - ✓ the prevention, care and treatment of viral hepatitis in prison settings, with a focus on treatment of hepatitis C, including throughcare;
 - ✓ the prevention and control of injecting-related infections among current drug users in prison settings, including throughcare.

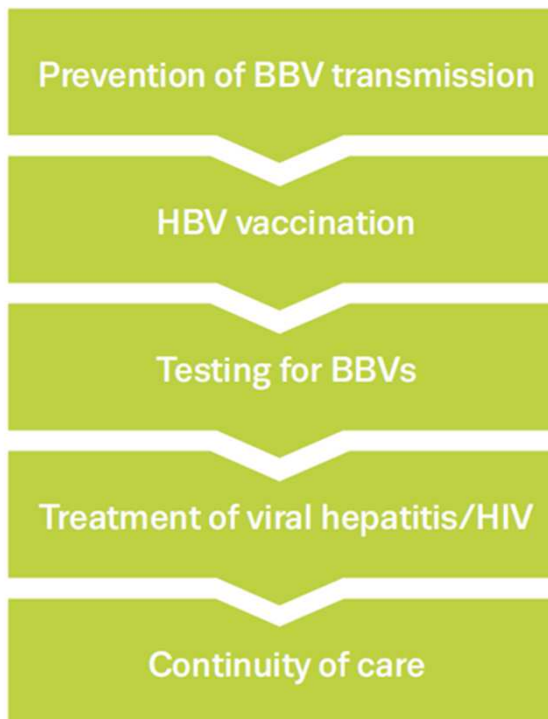


Foundational principles BBV prevention

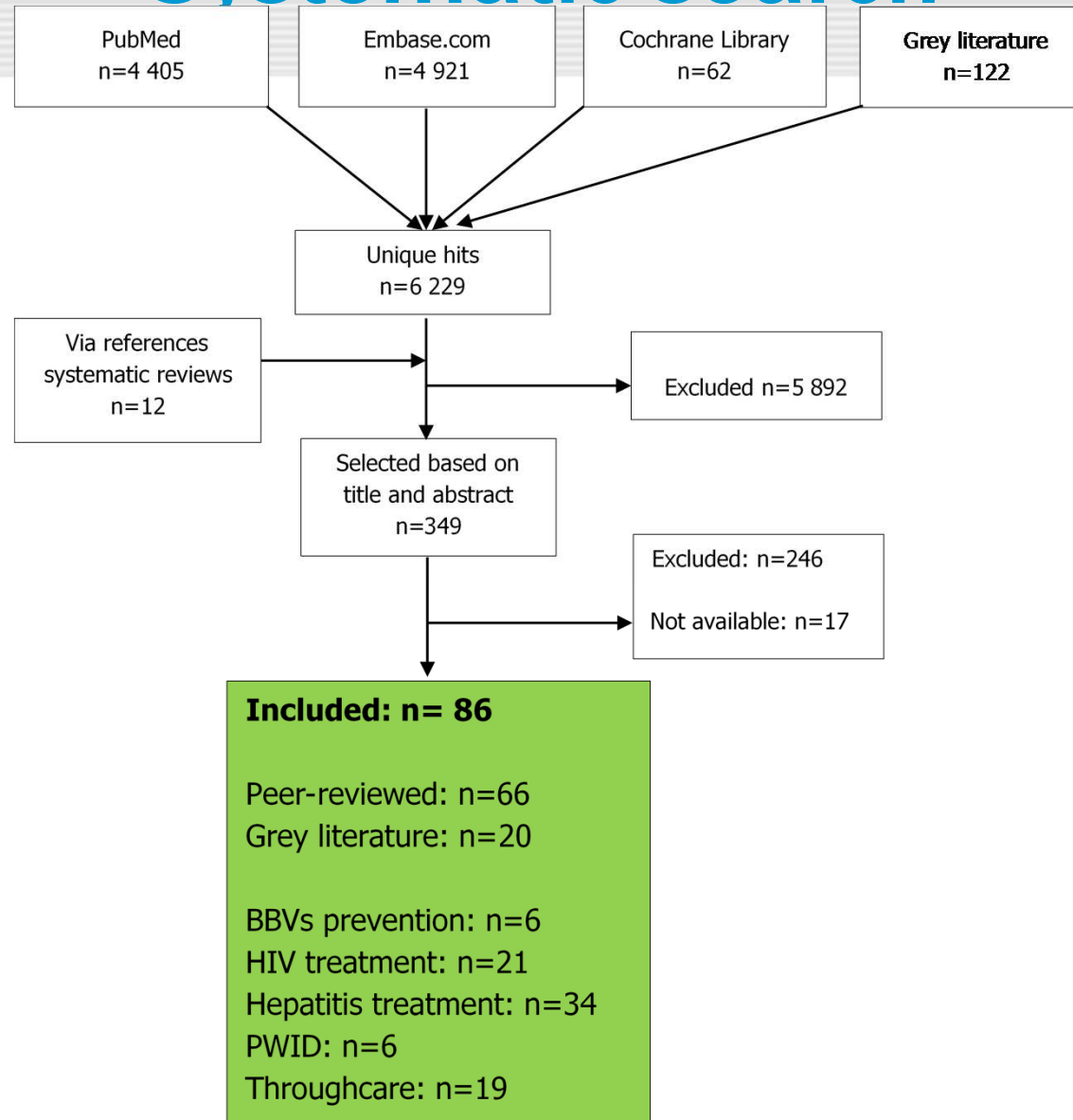


Main areas addressed in the guidance

MAIN AREAS ADDRESSED IN THE GUIDANCE



Systematic search



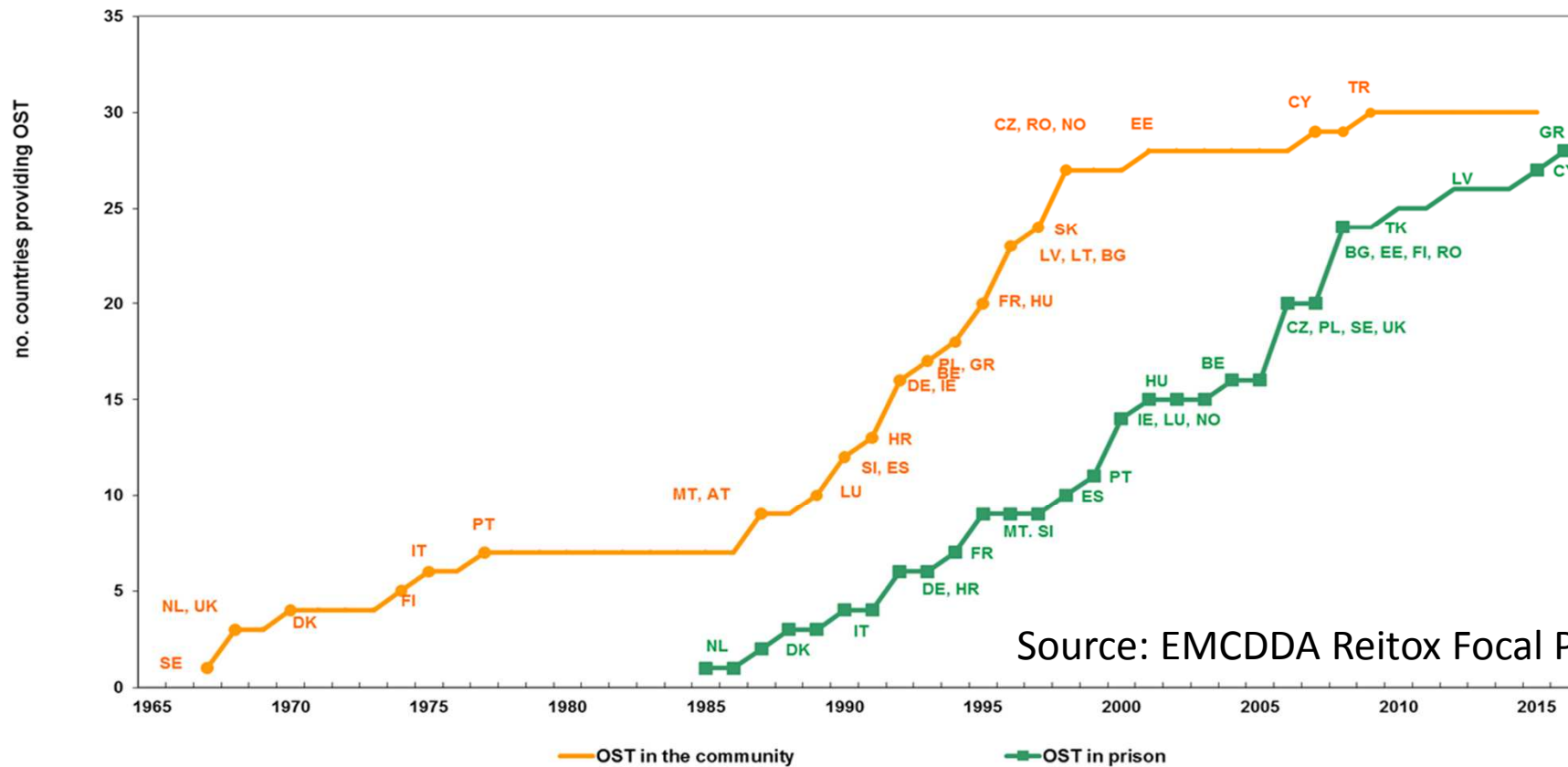
Prevention

- ❖ **Offer a comprehensive package of preventive measures to people in prison that meet the same national standards as those recommended for community settings.**
- ✓ Evidence shows that also in prison settings, condoms and behavioural interventions promote safer sex.
- ✓ Evidence shows that opioid substitution treatment reduces illicit opioid use and risks related to equipment sharing and, when continued on release, provides protection from death caused by overdose.
- ✓ Evidence shows that the provision of clean drug injection equipment is possible in prison settings and can successfully contribute to a comprehensive programme to reduce BBV transmission.



Opioid substitution treatment in prison

- Delayed introduction in prison settings in EU



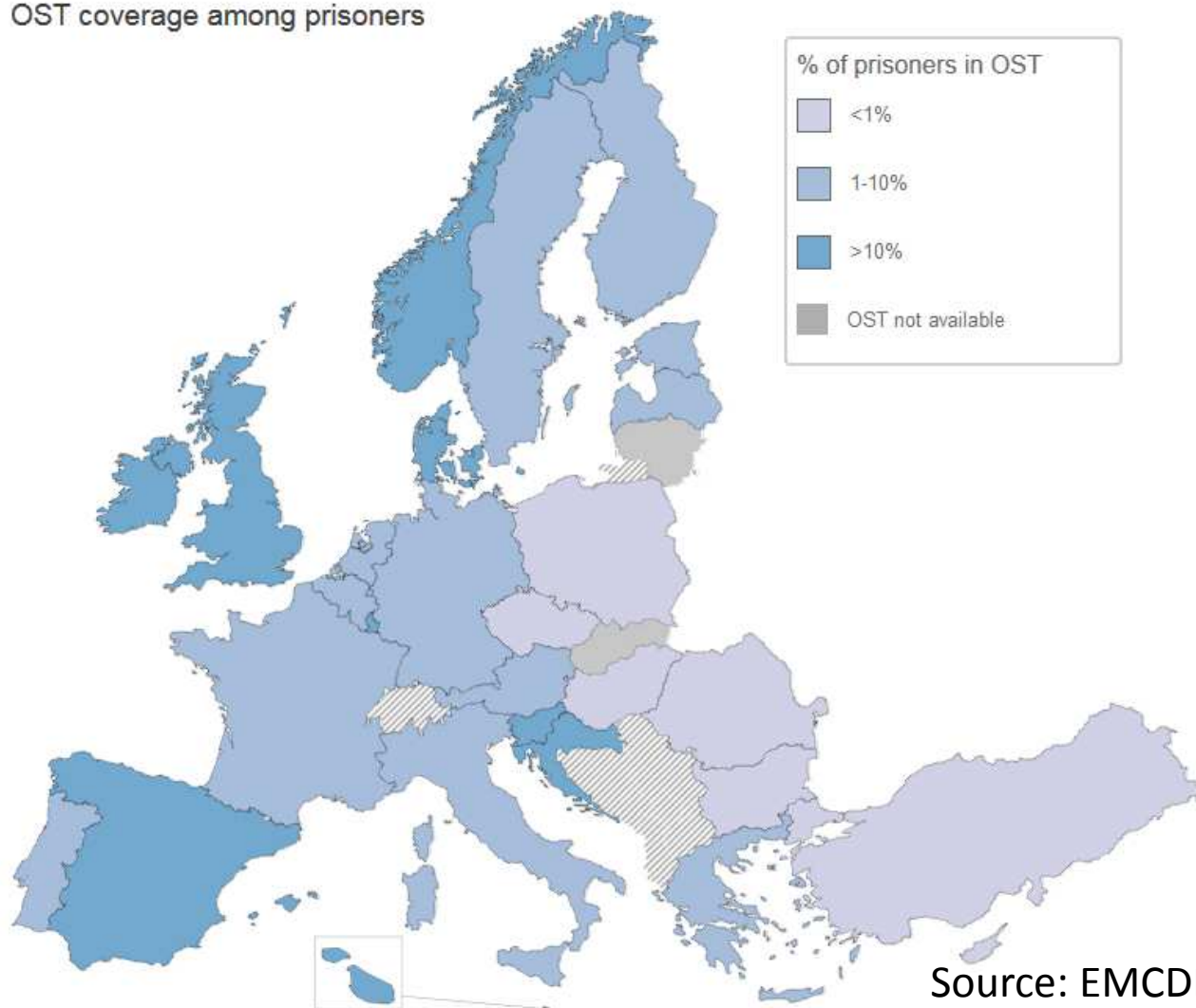
Source: EMCDDA Reitox Focal Points



OST coverage in 2016: proxy indication

(number on OST patients per 100 prisoners on a given day)

OST coverage among prisoners



Source: EMCDDA Reitox Focal Points



HBV vaccination

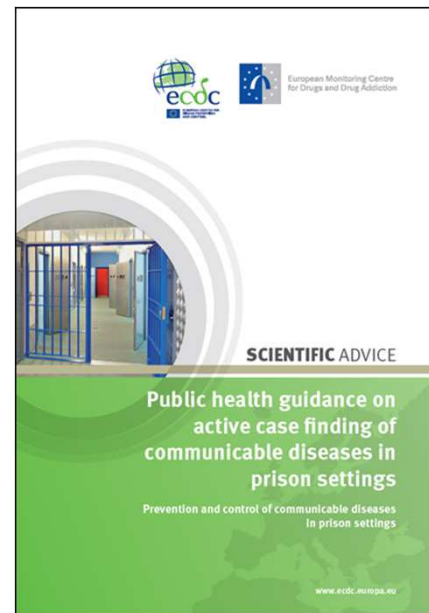
- ❖ Offer HBV vaccination to people in prison with unknown or negative serology.
- ✓ Evidence shows that using rapid schedules may result in a higher completion rate of the full schedule.



Testing for viral hepatitis and HIV

- ❖ **Actively offer BBV testing to all people in prison upon admission and throughout the time in prison.**
- ✓ **Evidence shows that pro-active provision of BBV testing leads to a higher uptake; health promotion and peer education have been shown to increase HIV testing uptake.**

See also detailed guidance published in May 2018:



Viral hepatitis and HIV treatment

- ❖ Offer appropriate treatment to individuals diagnosed with HIV, HBV or HCV infection in prison settings, in line with the guidelines applied in the community and meeting the same provision standards as in the community.
- ✓ Evidence shows that treatment of BBV infections is feasible and effective in prison.



Continuity of care

- ❖ **Actively support and ensure continuity of care between prison and community.**
- ✓ Evidence shows that release from prison is a key barrier to continuity and adherence to drug and infectious diseases treatment.
- ✓ Evidence shows that collaboration and partnership between prison and community health-care services promote and facilitate uninterrupted care.
- ✓ Evidence shows that active referral to external services improves treatment adherence.



Service priorities at the different stages of detention



The role of monitoring

- ✓ **Prison health is public health**
- ✓ **Monitoring essential to support policy and practice decisions**
- ✓ **Standardised tools to monitor and report epidemiological situation and health response available**
- ✓ **Integration with wider national health monitoring beneficial**



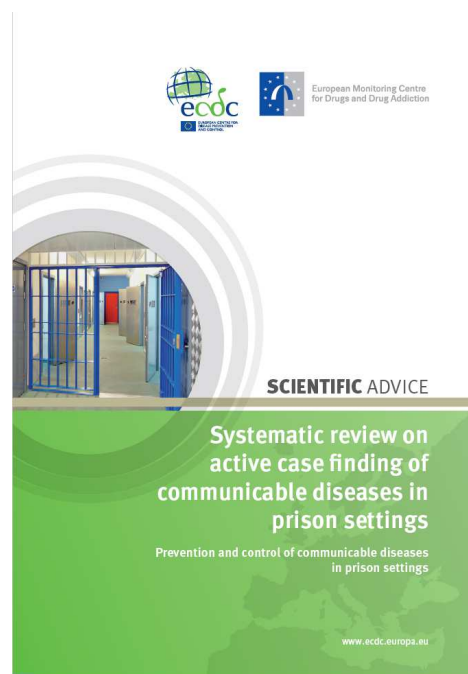
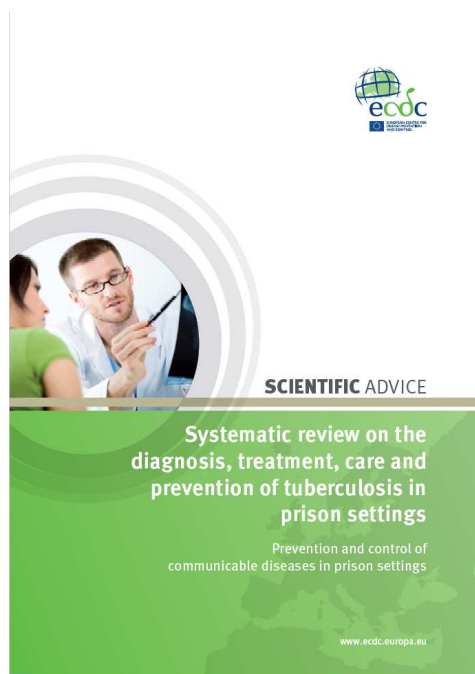
Need for more research

- ✓ Limited published research to confirm evidence-based interventions
- ✓ Grey literature and unpublished research remain fundamental source, but impose limitations
- ✓ Research on design of effective service delivery models lacking
- ✓ Worldwide Prison Health Research & Engagement Network (WEPHREN) may foster future research
<https://wephren.tghn.org/>
- ✓ ECDC, EMCDDA and WHO resources available

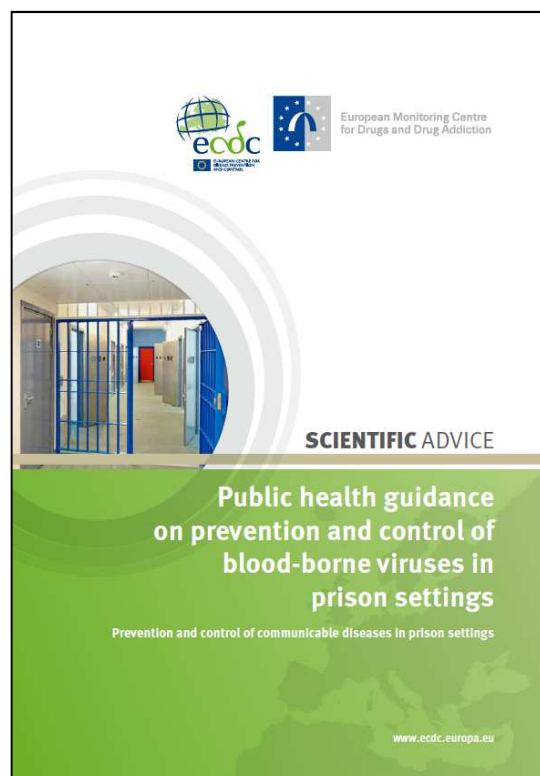
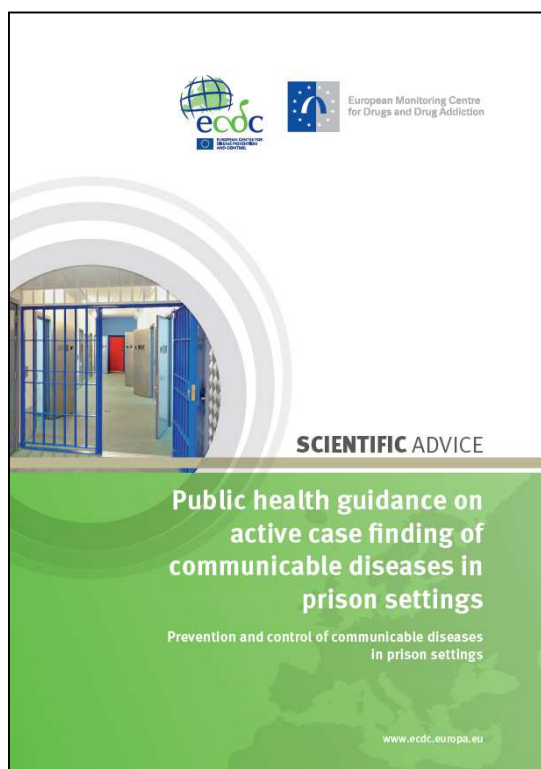


Online resources: systematic review reports

- <https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/systematic-review-active-case-finding-communicable-diseases-prison-settings>
- <https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/documents/Systematic-review-tuberculosis-in-prisons-May2017.pdf>
- emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-publications/ecdc/systematic-review-blood-borne-viruses-in-prison_en



Online resources: guidance documents



<https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/public-health-guidance-active-case-finding-communicable-diseases-prison-settings>

http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-publications/ecdc/guidance-blood-borne-viruses-in-prison_en





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Thank you

