

MANIFESTO

**Provide Access to HCV Testing,
Treatment and Care Services**

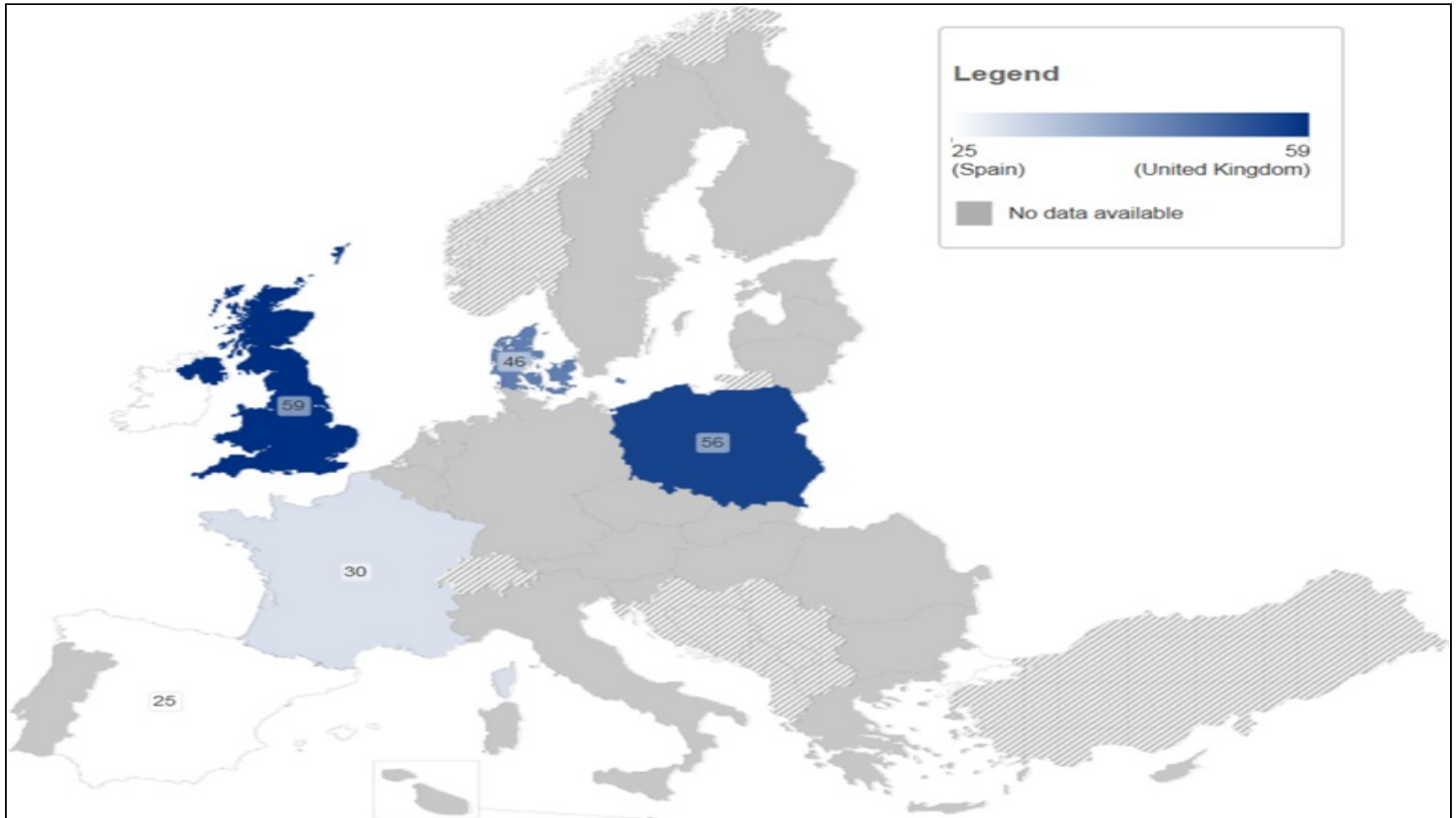
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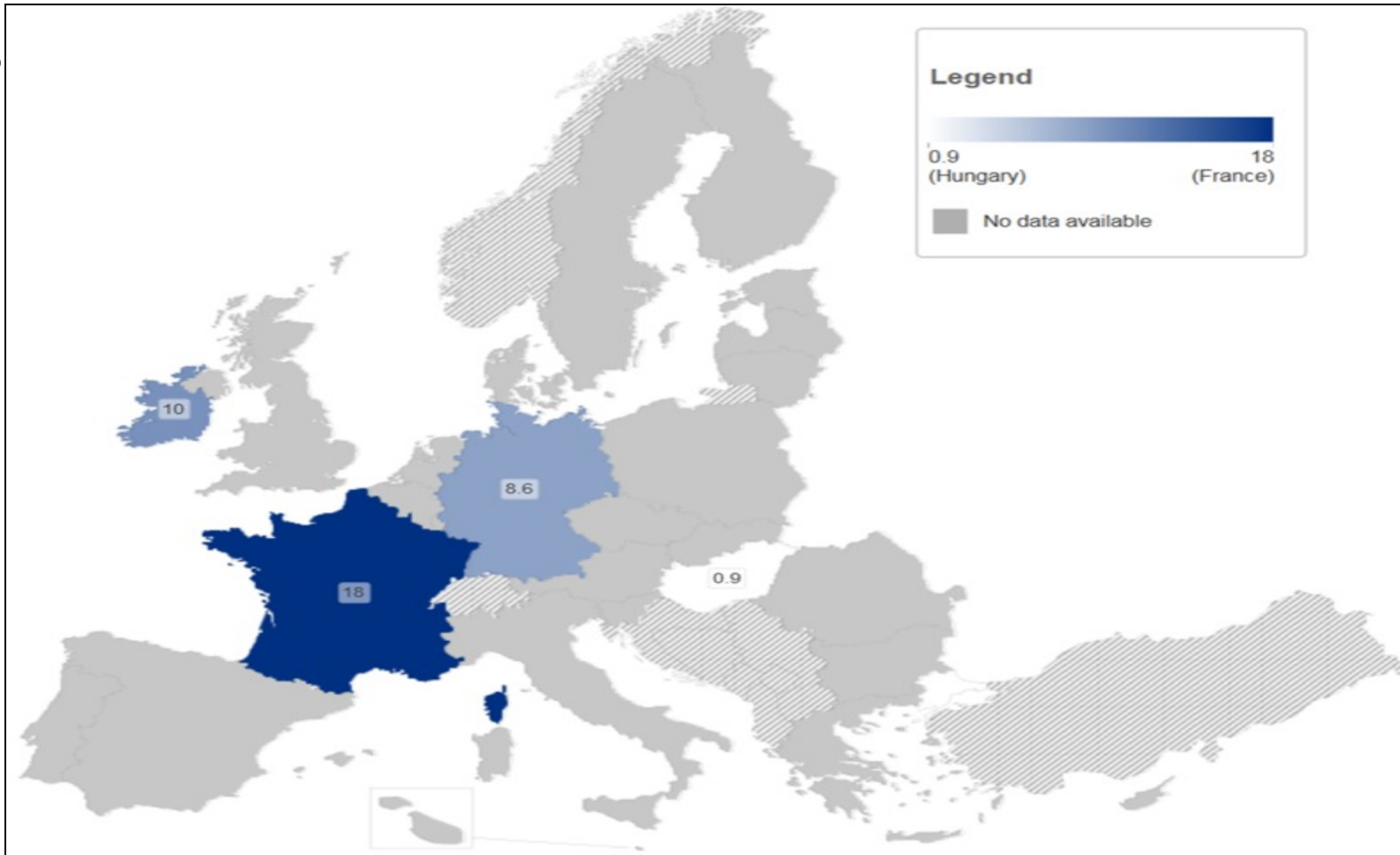
European Initiative Hepatitis C and Drug Use

Berlin: October 23, 2014

Proportion (%) of HCV **undiagnosed** PWID in Europe



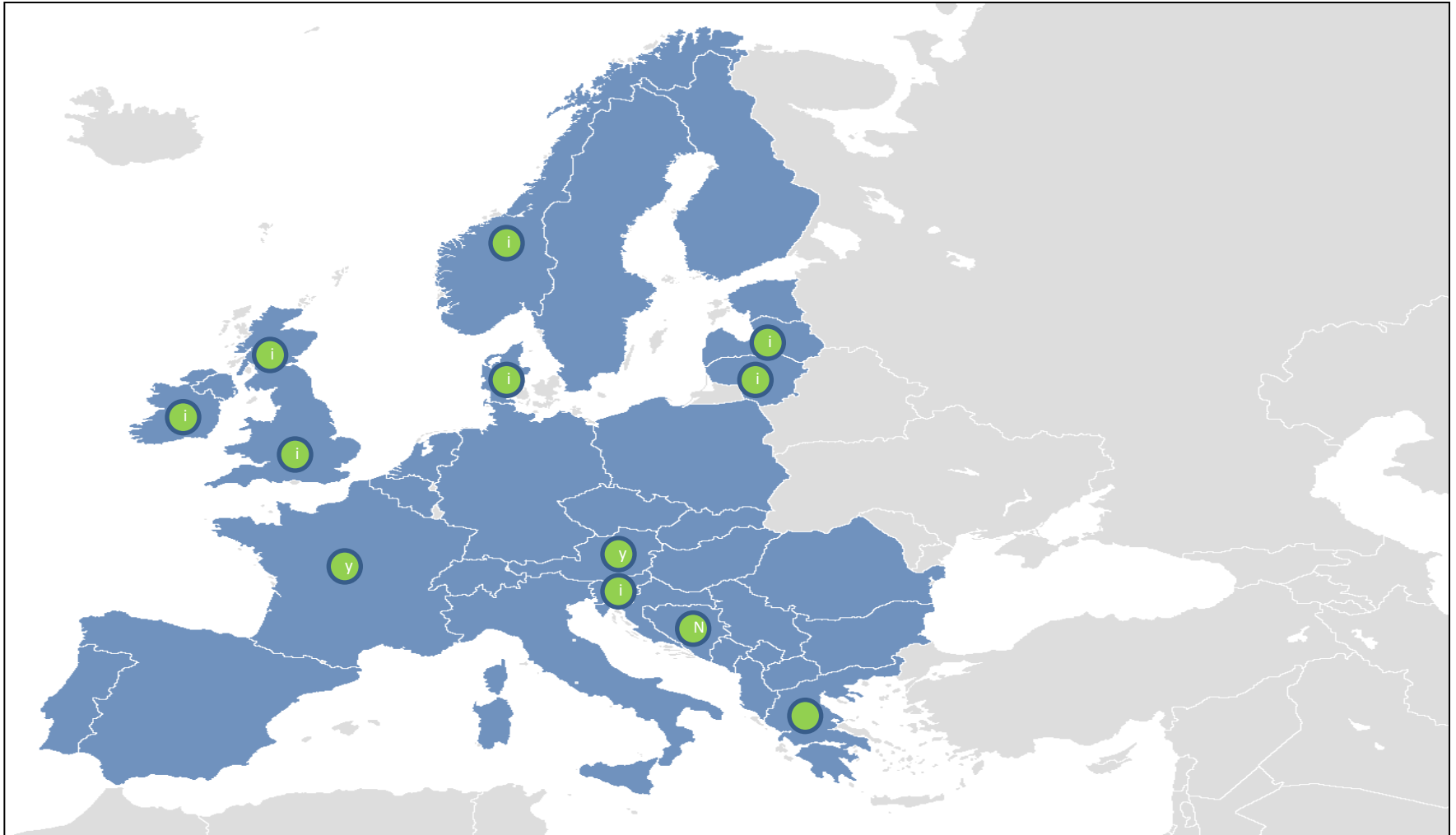
Proportion (%) of HCV-infected PWID in Europe entering **antiviral treatment** in observational studies in non-clinical settings



National level activities on HCV management

A survey of 33 European countries

● National strategy , 12 (11 PWID)

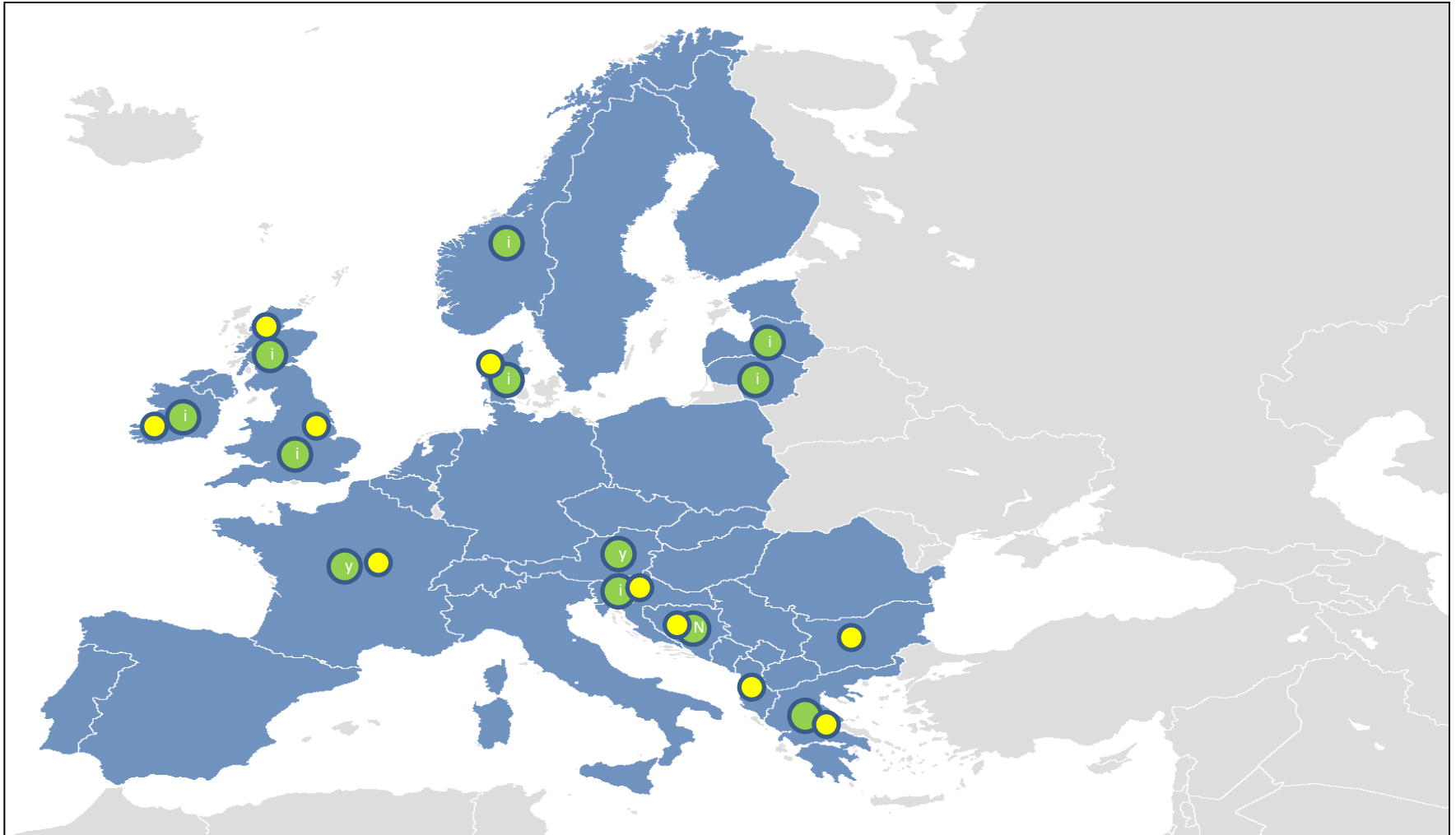


*Scotland was treated separately from UK

National level activities on HCV management

A survey of 33 European countries

● National strategy, 12 (7 PWID) ● National action plan, 10 (7 PWID)

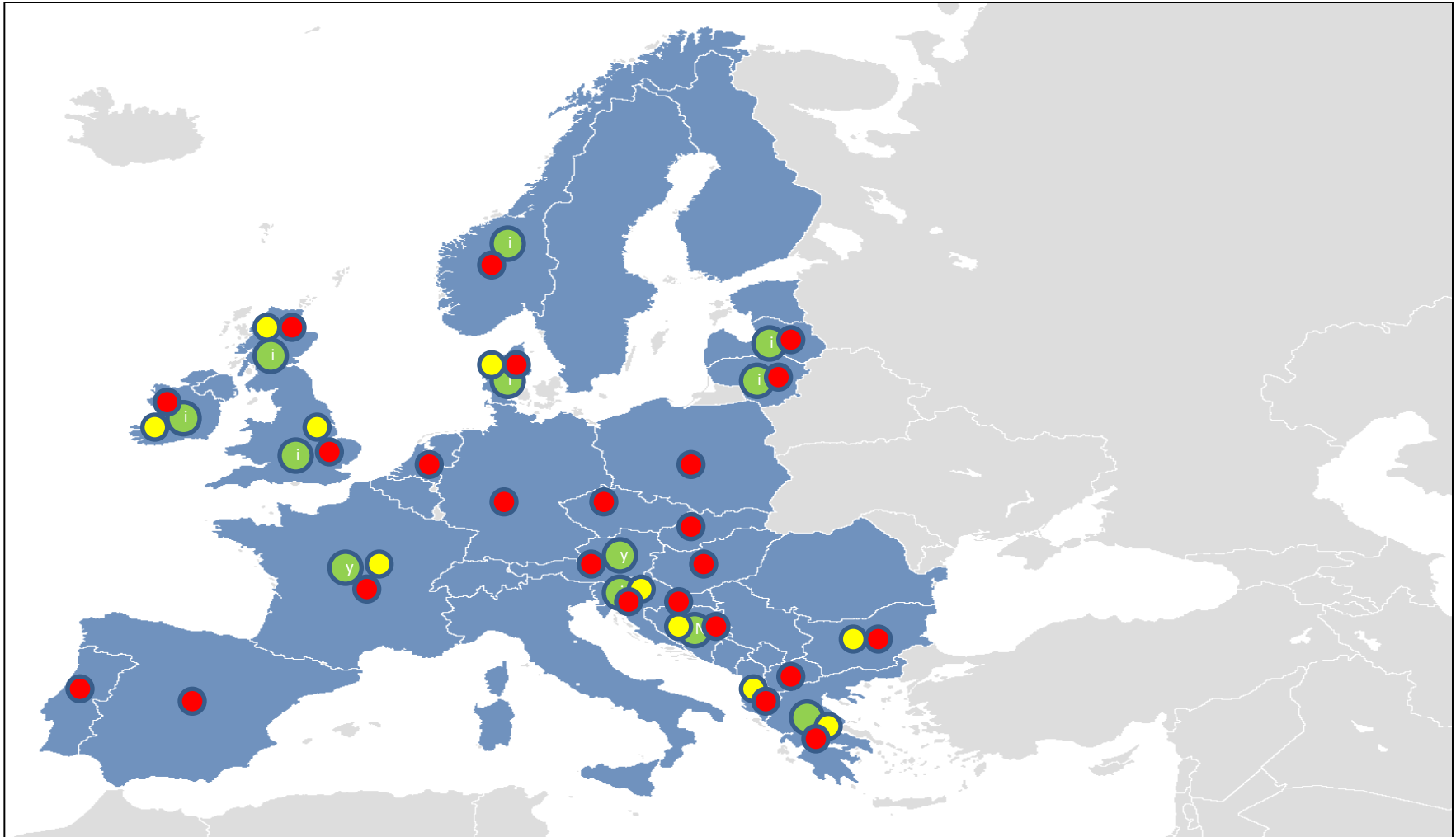


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National level activities on HCV management

A survey of 33 European countries

● National strategy, 12 (10 PWID) ● National action plan, 10 (7 PWID) ● National treatment guidelines, 24 (20 PWID)



*Scotland was treated separately from UK

Prevention of HCV transmission in PWID

- **HIV prevention programs** effective also in reducing transmission of HCV, however:
 - HCV incidence remains fairly high even in areas with such programs
 - risk of HCV among PWID is even higher in developing countries
- **Strategies for reducing harm associated with drug use:**
 - needle exchange programs
 - syringe access without a medical prescription
 - safe injection facilities
 - substance-abuse treatment
- The proposed strategies for prevention of HCV transmission in PWID:
 - **testing for HCV infection**
 - **treatment for HCV infection**

TESTING

Efficacy of access to HCV testing

Individual:

- no testing, no treatment: 5-10 y progression of liver disease in >50%
- early detection of HCV infection → early treatment → higher rate of SVR
- testing is effective and cost-effective also in low-threshold settings

 **Prevention of HCV-related morbidity and mortality**

TESTING

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- no testing, no treatment: 5-10 y progression of liver disease in >50%
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 **Prevention of HCV-related morbidity and mortality**

Epidemiological:

- screening & counselling:
 - reduce risk behaviour in uninfected and chronically infected
 - is cost effective
- notification of HCV-positive test:
 - significant reduction in subsequent drug use compared to non-converters

 **Prevention of HCV transmission**

TREATMENT

Efficacy of access to HCV treatment

Individual:

- cure
- prevention of life-threatening complications (cirrhosis, liver cancer)
- improved quality of life
- is cost-effective



Prevention of HCV-related morbidity and mortality

Perry C, Jarvis B. Drugs 2001; 61: 2263.

Heathcote E, et al. N Engl J Med 2000; 343: 1673.

Ghany MG, et al. Hepatology. 2009;49:1335-1374.

Stein K, et al. Gut 2002;50:253-8.

Swain M et al. Gastroenterology 2010; 139: 1593.601.

Hellard M et al. Clin Infect Dis 2009; 49: 561-73. Zanini B et al. Clin Ther 2010; 32: 2139-59.

Grischenko M, et al. Int J Technol Asses Health Care 2009; 2: 171-80.

TREATMENT

Efficacy of access to HCV treatment

Individual:

- cure
- prevention of life-threatening complications (cirrhosis, liver cancer)
- improved quality of life
- is cost effective

 **Prevention of HCV-related morbidity and mortality**

Epidemiological (modeling study):

- even modest rates of HCV treatment may effectively lower HCV prevalence (even with re-infection / treatment failure)
- combination of HCV treatment with needle/syringe programs and OST is critical (>50% decrease in prevalence over 10 years)

 **Prevention of HCV transmission**

Perry C, Jarvis B. Drugs 2001; 61: 2263.

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Martin JK et al. J Hepatol, 2011;54: 1137-44.

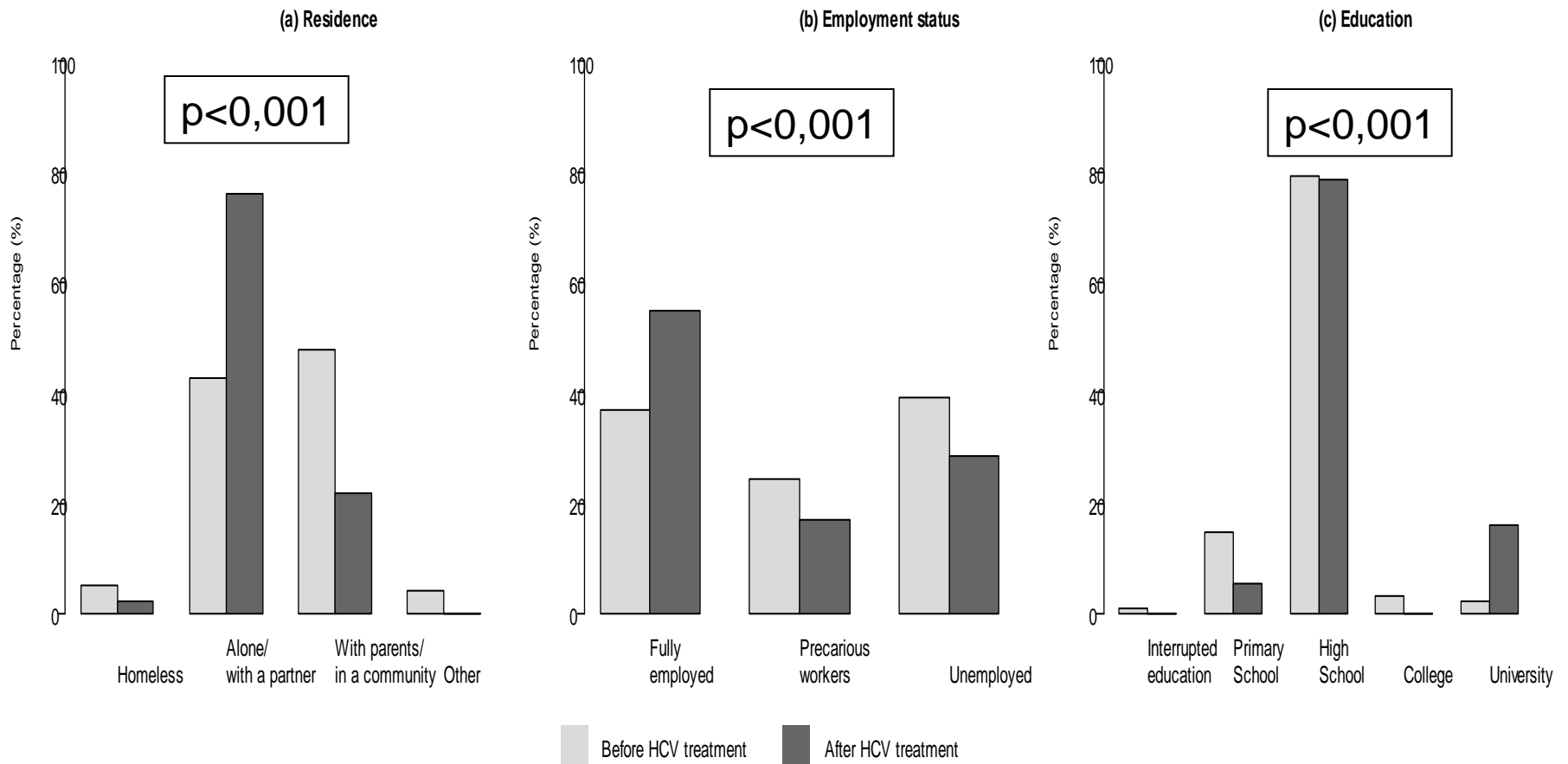
Martin JK et al. Clin Infect Dis 2013; 57(Suppl2): 39-45.

HCV treatment in PWID

- In former and current PWID, PEG/RBV treatment is:
safe
effective (54-56%)
- Treatment uptake effective and cost-effective also in **low threshold settings**
- A history of IDU does **not compromise : adherence**
treatment completion
- **No influence** of HCV treatment on: increase in drug use
treatment of drug use
- After successful treatment **refections are rare (1-5% per year)**

Significant change in lifestyle of PWID after successful HCV treatment

Residence, employment status and education level achieved among PWID with HCV infection before HCV treatment and after successful HCV treatment (N=96)



CARE

for HCV-infected PWID

- **Integrated care**
- It should be delivered **in a multidisciplinary setting**
- It should be considered **on the individual basis**

EASL. J Hepatol 2014; 60: 392-420.

Aspinall EJ, et al. Clin Infect Dis 2013; 57(Suppl 2): 80-9.

Robaey G, et al. Clin Infect Dis 2013; 57(Suppl 2): 129-37.

INTEGRATED CARE

for HCV-infected PWID

Using existing facilities:

- Hospital based clinics
- Drug detoxification clinics
- OST clinics
- Prisons
- Community-based clinics

Multidisciplinary team:

- Addiction specialists
- Viral hepatitis specialists
- Psychiatrists/therapists
- Councilors (specially trained nurses, social workers)
- **Peers (former HCV-positive PWID): personally, on-line**
- Other support system (family, friends, co-workers, etc.)

WHO, 2012.

Maticic M, Kastelic A. Zdrav Vestn 2009; 78: 529-39.

INDIVIDUAL APPROACH

of integrated care for HCV-infected PWID

- **Un-infected:** counselling to prevent HCV infection
testing for HCV infection (every 6-12 mths)
HBV vaccination
- **Acutely infected:** quick identification (and treatment)
- **Chronically infected:** identification
evaluation of readiness for HCV treatment
medical evaluation before HCV treatment
clinical management of co-morbidities
counselling
treatment
motivation during treatment

ACTION REQUIRED

- Implementation of comprehensive national policies on complex HCV management in PWID
- Provision of low-threshold and community-based testing (voluntary, free-of-charge)
- Provision of high-quality treatment (interferon-free)
- Provision of integrated care (multidisciplinary team)
- Involvement of PWID & their organizations in HCV prevention/treatment/care planning
- Equitable access to high-quality treatment by consensus agreement between pharma and EU member states to reduce prices of new drugs