



MEANINGFUL INCLUSION OF
PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS
AND THEIR ORGANISATIONS

STAY ALERTED

Although 150.000.000 are infected across the world, in Europe, the population **to whom the virus is considered to be more prevalent, are** the people who inject drugs (PWID) even to the level of 90% recognizing them as they Hepatitis C key target group.

We must **stay alerted**, study real-life events and their diversities, check if the material we have created about HCV could need professional or empirical updating, never forget how persistently HCV invades our lives, that it will never stop unless we stop it first and never forget our duty to raise awareness, train & support our peers but even their beloved environment.

STAY INCLUDED

It is truly proved that **peer based HCV programs** reduced transmission of viral hepatitis and HIV more adequately.

Moreover, people with higher problem standards, e.g. a woman injecting user, pregnant, homeless, sex worker, with severe circulation problems carrying HCV & HIV co-infection **CANNOT** draw any sense of optimism and courage to fight her hear more effectively than a peer can give it to her.

STAY INCLUDED

People who inject drugs have a great power in their hands while through their organisations, they can really influence political decisions and HCV policy in many levels: prevention, treatment, care services, even training and education concerning patients queries, doubts, emotions, even false beliefs or lack of trust towards the medical staff.

Effective policies do not only require grants and governmental strategies, they **also need the original participation of the target groups** who are essentially affected by the HCV virus: the intravenous drug users community. The advantages or deficits of a service or a treatment can be more successfully assessed when an infected PWID is analyzing them.

CAN BE REALLY MEANINGFUL

- Communities who 'flirt' daily with the virus are the only ones that care and afford to be involved in the construction of HR services, HCV prevention and training treatment and every type of care facilities.
- European & country-members policies must include mandates that will require the involvement of high-risk communities in all decision making processes that concern HCV services and policies.

CAN BE REALLY MEANINGFUL

- DU Organizations, under European and governmental support must be involved into implementing and sustaining funded peer-led HCV services by providing peer-to-peer education & low-threshold HR services. So, financial support is needed for DU Organizations to be involved in running an HCV service network.