



NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE



# Preventing HIV and co-infections in Europe through strengthened harm reduction

Joint Action on HIV and co-infection  
prevention and harm reduction  
HA-REACT

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**Jeffrey Lazarus, PhD, Professor**

Malta, 31 January 2017



## Basic facts (2)

<b>Budget:</b>	approx. 3,75 million EUR co-funding by EC – 80%
<b>Duration:</b>	October 2015 – September 2018
<b>Coordination:</b>	National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland
<b>Partners:</b>	23 partners from 18 countries



# Objectives of HA-REACT

- Zero new HIV, reduced HCV and TB among PWID in the EU by 2020
- Improved prevention and treatment of blood-borne infections and TB in priority regions and priority groups in the European Union

## Purpose

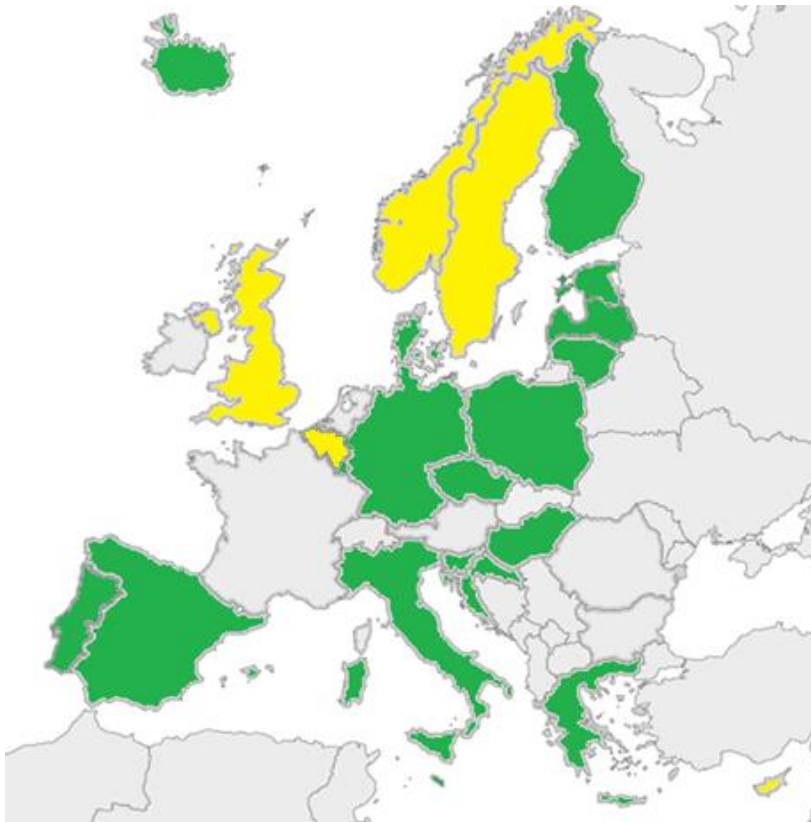
Improved capacity to respond to HIV and co-infection risks and provide harm reduction with specific focus on people who inject drugs (PWID) in the EU

**Direct beneficiaries:** professionals working with PWID

**Ultimate beneficiaries:** people who inject drugs

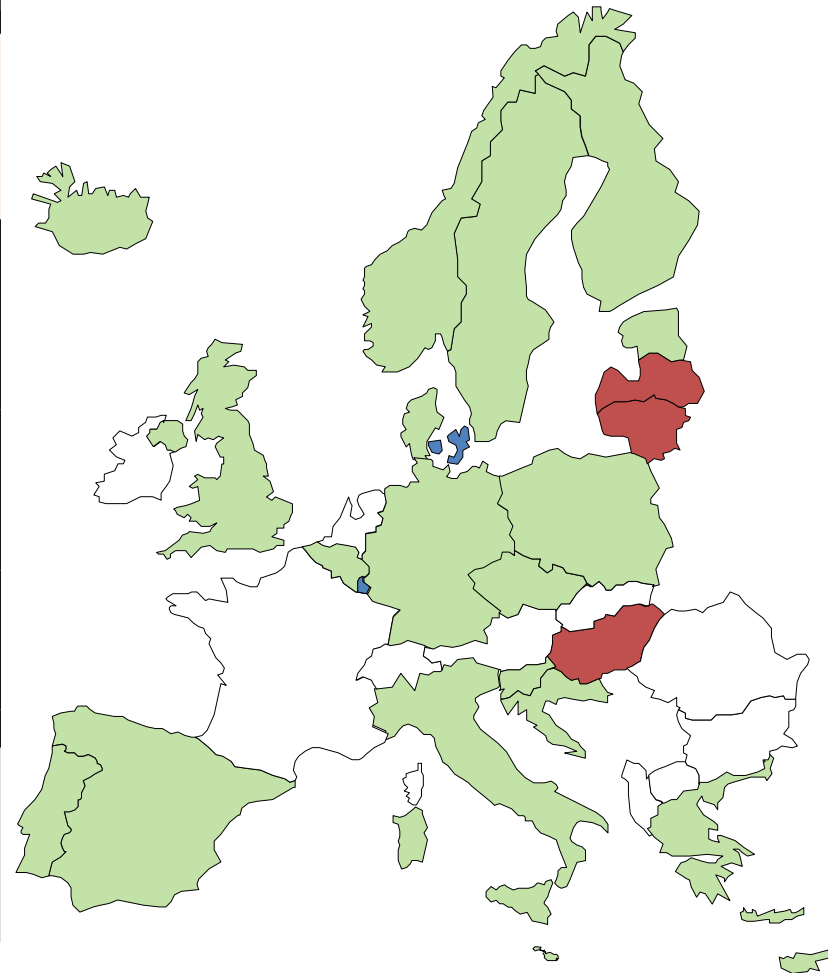


# Geographical coverage of HA-REACT



# Focusing the action: use of ECDC and EMCDDA objective selection criteria

	Table 1: Indicators of HIV trend, transmission risk and prevention coverage																													
	AT	BE	BG	HR	CY	CZ	DK	EE	FI	FR	DE	EL	HU	IS	IE	IT	LV	LT	LU	MT	NL	NO	PL	PT	RO	SK	SI	ES	SE	UK
HIV trend HIV case reports and prevalence (15% weight; no increase in case reports or prevalence=0; increase in one=1; increase in both=2; high without an increase=1)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Transmission risk prevalence of injecting drug use, changes in injecting risk behaviour (HCV prevalence and trends) (10% weight; no changes=0; moderate increase in one criteria=1; increase in >1 criteria=2)	0	0	2	0	1			1		0		2	2				2				0			0	2	0	0	0		0
OST coverage % estimated problem opiate user population receiving OST (cut-off 30%) (25% weight; OST coverage >30%=0; no data=1; OST coverage <30%=2)	0	1	1	0	0		1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	0
NSP coverage Number of syringes given out per PWID per year (cut-off 100 syringes) (25% weight; NSP coverage >100=0; no data=1; NSP coverage<100=2)	1	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	1
Taking part in the Joint Action		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X			X	X		
Scores (maximum 2)	0,3	0,8	1	0	0,6	0	0,5	0,6	0,3	0,3	0,3	0,9	1,2	0,5	0,3	0,3	0,3	1,5	0,9	0	0,3	0,3	0	0,8	0,5	1,3	1	0,3	0	0,5
Ranking of those participating in the JA (1=greatest need/opportunity to improve harm reduction situation)		6	3					8				5	2				1	4					6							
		NO ALERT – no evidence for increase in case reports or HIV/HCV prevalence and/or transmission risk and/or low intervention coverage																												
		CONCERN - Subnational increase in HIV/HCV prevalence and/or transmission risk or consistent but non-significant rise at national level.																												
		ALERT – evidence for significant increase in case reports or HIV/HCV prevalence and/or increase in transmission risk and/or low intervention coverage.																												
		Information unknown/not reported to EMCDDA/ECDC.																												



# HA-REACT Work Packages

- WP1. Coordination
- WP2. Dissemination
- WP3. Evaluation
- WP4. Testing and linkage to care
- WP5. Scaling up harm reduction
- WP6. Harm reduction and continuity of care in prisons
- WP7. Integrated care
- WP8 Sustainability and long-term funding



# Activities so far

- 1st Steering Committee in Luxembourg, 8-9 December 2015
- Kick-off in Vilnius, 14 January 2016
- 1st Advisory Board and 2nd Steering Committee in Vilnius, 15 Jan 2016
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee in Berlin on 12 May



## Activities so far (2)

- Logical Framework Approach workshops during spring 2016:
  - WP4 Testing and linkage to care, Budapest, 15-16 February
  - WP8 Sustainability and long-term funding, Riga, 14-15 March
  - WP5 Scaling up harm reduction, Vilnius, 16-17 March
  - WP6 Harm reduction and continuity of care in prisons, Prague, 18-19 April
  - WP7 Integrated care, Tallinn, 25-26 April





# Activities so far (3)

- Seminars for Debate in Vilnius and Riga, April 2016
  - Analysis of :
    - successful experiences in other countries
    - legal framework for the scale-up of HR: fully developed.
    - Political will toward harm reduction, drug policy and HIV/AIDS
    - Role of private sector: need to be involved (Lt)
- Leaflets and posters developed to encourage PWID to take rapid HIV and HCV tests (Lv, Hu, Eng, Ru)
- E-learning modules developed for prison <http://harmreduction.eu/>



# Recent and next activities

- **October 6-7, 2016, Berlin (Germany)**  
Study tour for prison staff from Czech Republic
- **October 2016, Madrid and Barcelona (Spain)**  
Study visits for participants from Latvia (WP5)
- **October 26, 2016, Budapest (Hungary)**  
HA-REACT Sustainable Funding meeting
- **November 2-4, 2016, Riga (Latvia):**  
HA-REACT Partnership Forum in Riga  
2<sup>nd</sup> Advisory Board  
4<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee



## Recent and next activities

- **November 15-17, 2016, Latvia**  
Training on HIV/HCV testing
- **December 13-15, 2016, Hungary**  
Training on HIV/HCV testing
- **January 31, 2017, Malta**  
CHAFEA Symposium (in connection with HepHIV conference)
- **March 7-9, 2017, Warsaw**  
International training seminar on OST and harm reduction in prisons
- **April 5-6, 2017, Vilnius (Lithuania)**  
International workshop on models of care  
Meeting on sustainable funding



# HA-REACT blog series

- Featured on the BioMed Central “On Health” blog and the *Hepatology, Medicine and Policy* (HMAP) blog
- Structured as interviews with Jeffrey Lazarus as WP2 lead & SC member
- Focuses on individual WPs
- Spotlights partners & their work
- Promotes HA-REACT
- Ongoing (8 published to-date)

## Latest HMAP posts



An interview with Luis Sordo del Castillo on the European Joint Action's work on harm reduction

Jeffrey V. Lazarus

The Joint Action on HIV and Co-Infection Prevention and Harm Reduction (HA-REACT) addresses knowledge gaps in the prevention of HIV and co-infections...  
[Read more »](#)



An interview with Piotr Wysocki and Iwona Wawer on the European Joint Action's work from a Polish-partner perspective

Jeffrey V. Lazarus

The Joint Action on HIV and Co-Infection Prevention and Harm Reduction (HA-REACT) addresses knowledge gaps in the prevention of HIV and co-infections...  
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### An interview with Heino Stöver on the European Joint Action's work on infectious diseases in prisons #HAREACT

Recent blog interview by [Jeffrey V. Lazarus](#) on infectious diseases in prisons within HA-REACT - the European Joint Action addressing existing gaps in the prevention of HIV and other co-infections, especially TB and viral hepatitis, among people who inject drugs (PWID).

Comment and share!



An interview with Heino Stöver on the European Joint Action's work on infectious diseases in prisons - On Health  
The Joint Action on HIV and Co-Infection Prevention and Harm Reduction (HA-REACT) addresses knowledge gaps in the preventio...

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### ...e European Joint in prisons #HAREACT

in prisons under HA-REACT - the  
of HIV and other co-infections,  
(PWID). Vital to consider PWID, co-  
o overcoming HIV/AIDS. Show less

er on the European Joint  
seases in prisons - On Health  
infection Prevention and Harm  
knowledge gaps in the preventio...



# Most important further work

- **Needed in the following areas:**
  - Design and implementation of women-friendly testing services
  - Ensuring sustainability of harm reduction activities in Focus countries (Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary)
  - Implementing the prison pilot and ensuring sustainability of results
  - Improving integration of care for PWID
  - Finding ways to ensure sustainable funding for harm reduction activities and NGOs offering them



# Topics for collaboration with other EU co-financed actions

- **OptTEST** – exchange of experiences in testing issues
- **HEPCARE** – access to care, integrated care
- **Euro HIV EDAT** – early diagnosis of HIV
- **E-DETECT TB** – early detection of TB at low-threshold centres for PWID
- **Link2Care** – several topics for collaboration, Jeffrey Lazarus as a link to HA-REACT



More information available:

<http://www.hareact.eu/en>

#HAREACT

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