



KOSOVO

VHPB BALKAN MEETING

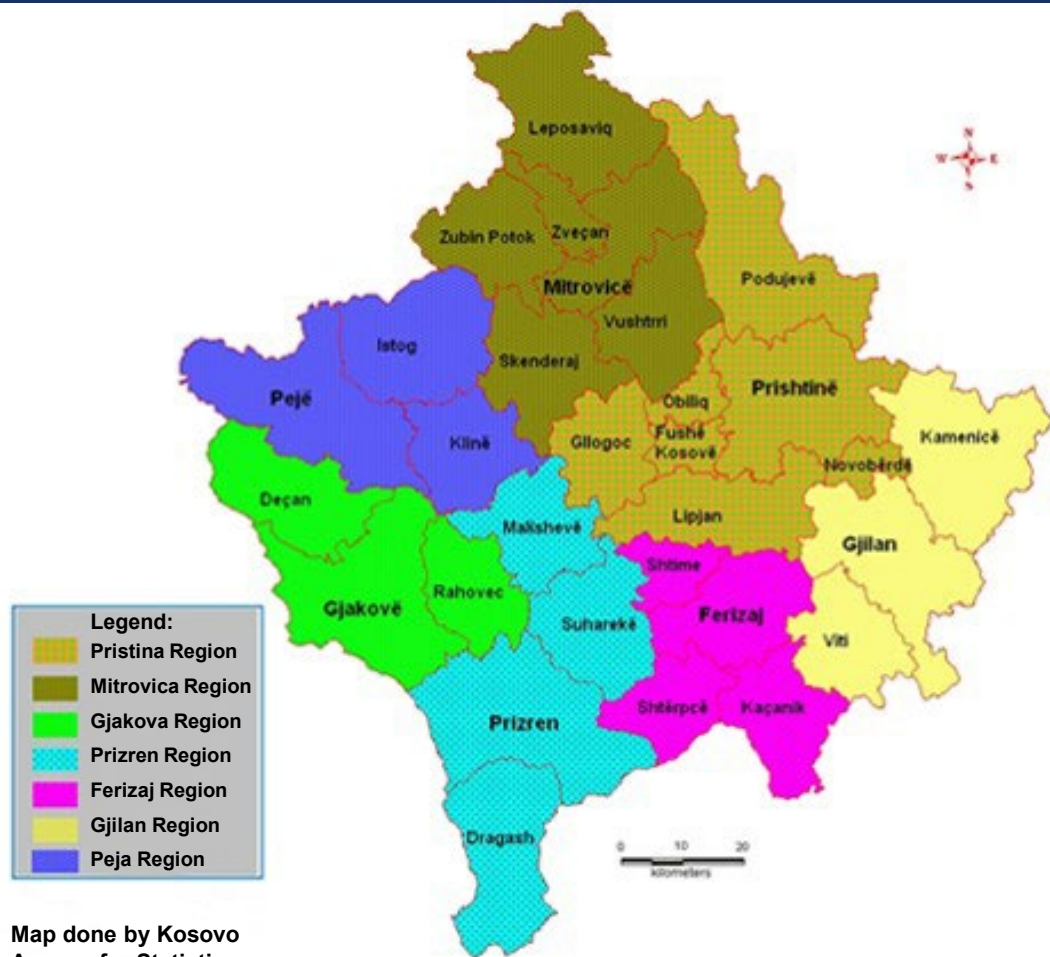
27-28 October, 2022, Skopje, North Macedonia

*LESSONS LEARNT, BEST PRACTICES AND FUTURE CHALLENGES –
KOSOVO EXPERIENCE WITH HCV*

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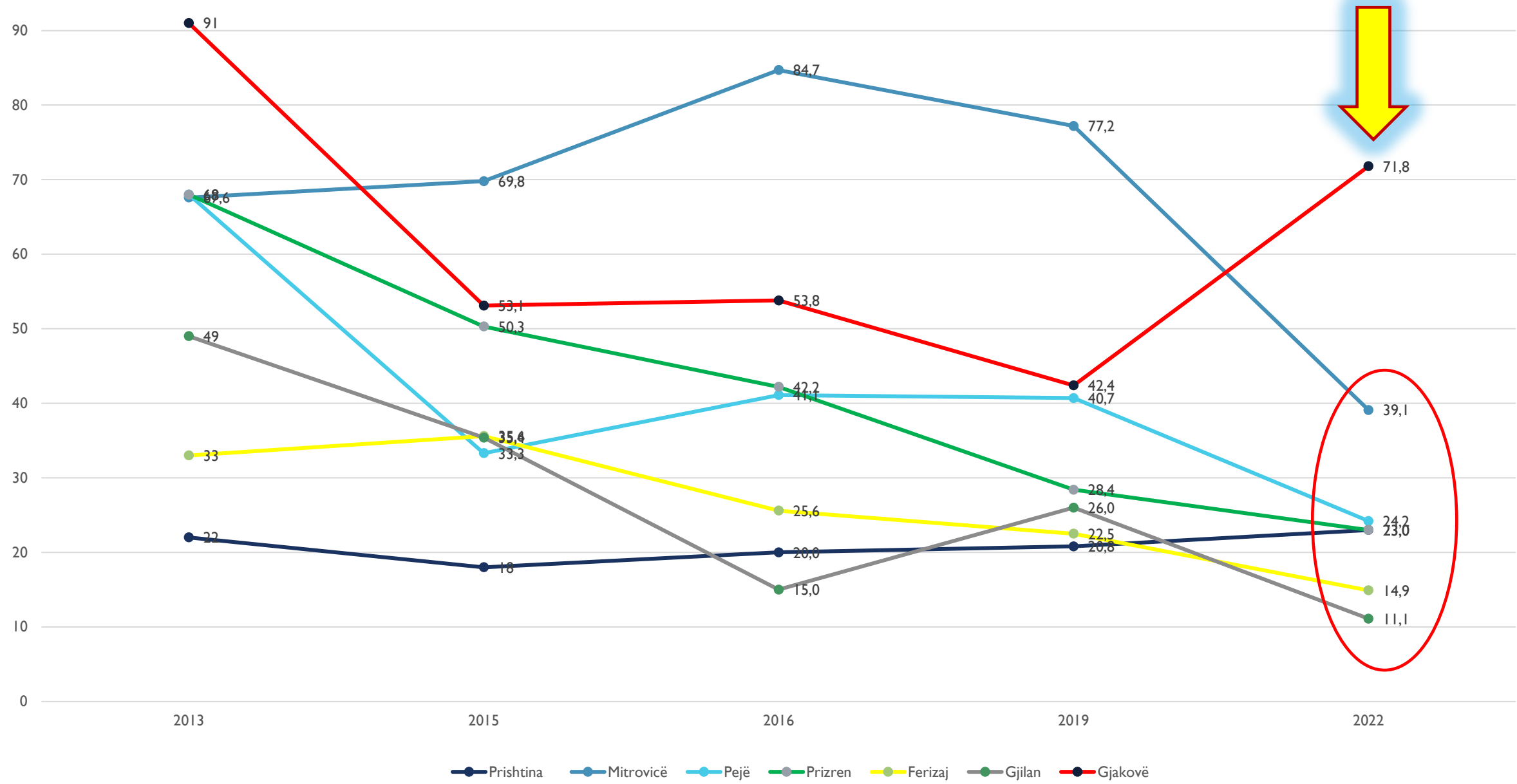


KOSOVO - COUNTRY SPECIFIC ISSUES



- App. 11000 km² with 1.8 million inhabitants, 7 regions (Pristina region with 27.5% of total population);
- Limited availability data on HCV infection
- Anti-HCV prevalence 0.5-0.7% among general population;
- App. 23000 blood donations per year with very low anti-HCV prevalence (<0.3%);
- Estimated 5000 IDU in Kosovo (app. 25% in Prishtina);
- App. 700 dialysis patients;
- Limited number of HCV infected individuals under the treatment program;

PRESENCE OF ANTI-HCV AMONG DIALYSIS PATIENTS IN KOSOVO DURING THE YEARS 2013 - 2022



KOSOVO - COUNTRY SPECIFIC ISSUES

- Challenges and needs to reach the 2030 Elimination Targets
- No national strategy or plan with main focus on prevention and control of viral hepatitis;
- Initial tentatives for development of Viral Hepatitis Strategy have failed and technical working groups never started with work – most probably due to lack of political support;
- Initial data from the treatment program with DAA for HCV are promising, including hemodialysis patients; Treatment with DAA of dialysis patients has additional benefits to HCV clearance since it contributes to prevention of HCV transmission;

KOSOVO - COUNTRY SPECIFIC ISSUES

- A 90% reduction in incidence (95% for HBV and 80% for HCV) and 65% reduction in mortality by 2030, compared with the baseline, it is very difficult to assess at this moment, not speaking for achievement;
- More efforts should be allocated in Kosovo with regard to:
 1. Hepatitis B vaccination and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HBV;
 2. Harm reduction interventions;
 3. Prevention of hepatitis infections in health-care settings;
 4. Testing for hepatitis B and C infection;
 5. Treatment of hepatitis B and hepatitis C;