The role of international organisations in the elimination of hepatitis: The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board meeting 5th April 2023
Erika Duffell, ECDC
ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

- An agency of the European Union founded in 2005, located in Solna, Sweden
- Currently 326 employees & 24 EU nationalities
- Budget in 2022: almost 96 million euros
ECDC mission & role

To identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases.
Partners

European Commission

EU/EEA Member States

EU agencies

European Parliament

Council of Ministers

Research community

WHO

EU enlargement countries

European Neighbourhood Policy partner countries

Centres for Disease Prevention and Control

NGOs
Strengthened ECDC mandate

- Epidemiological **surveillance** via integrated systems enabling real-time surveillance
- **Preparedness** and **response** planning, reporting and auditing
- Provision of non-binding **recommendations** and options for risk management
- Capacity to mobilise and deploy **EU Health Task Force**
- Network of EU reference **laboratories**
- Wider **global reach**
The Hepatitis B and C Network

• The Network was set up by ECDC in 2010 with the first meeting held in Stockholm in March 2011

• Network comprises of representatives from all EU/EEA Member States

• Subgroup of network members formed the ‘Coordination Committee’

• Initial focus of the network was to develop and implement a surveillance system for new diagnoses of acute and chronic hepatitis B and C
ECDC’s programme of work in supporting countries reach the hepatitis elimination goals

Support in understanding epidemiological situation
- Surveillance newly diagnosed infections
- Generation robust data on prevalence, morbidity, mortality, etc

Monitoring of responses to hepatitis B/C
- Monitoring programme to support countries in assessing progress towards the elimination of hepatitis

Provision of technical support
- Technical support to EU/EEA countries
- Development of evidence based guidance
Hepatitis B and C surveillance timeline

1st data collection
Surveillance review
Case definition

1st data collection
Surveillance review
Case definition

Development of the hepatitis programme of work

Prevalence
- SPHERE-C protocol
- Support to conduct surveys
- National modelling estimates
- National mortality estimates
- Attributable fraction estimates
- Hospital data analysis
- Review of nosocomial transmission
- Epidemiological assessment

Morbidity and mortality
- National mortality estimates

Vulnerable populations
- Migrant populations
- People in prison
- People who inject drugs
- BBV prevention and active case finding guidance

Country support
- Country visits
- Workshops and training events
- Webinars
- Antenatal screening
- Testing
- Technical guidance
- Development of monitoring programme

Monitoring
- Sentinel surveillance
- Development of monitoring programme

Systematic reviews
- Prevalence database

Guidance on screening
- BBV prevention and active case finding guidance

Guidance on prevention of infections
Development of the hepatitis programme of work

- **Prevalence**
  - Prevalence database
  - Systematic reviews
- **Morbidity and mortality**
  - Support to conduct surveys
  - National modelling estimates
- **Vulnerable populations**
  - National mortality estimates
  - Attributable fraction estimates
  - Hospital data analysis
  - Review of nosocomial transmission
  - Epidemiological assessment
  - Guidance on screening
  - Situational assessment
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- **Technical guidance**
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  - Sentinel surveillance
  - Development of monitoring programme
- **Vulnerable populations**
  - Migrant populations
  - People in prison
  - People who inject drugs
  - BBV prevention and active case finding guidance
  - Guidance on prevention of infections
- **SPHERE-C protocol**
- **Systematic reviews**

Guidance on screening and prevention of infections.
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SPHERE-C protocol

National modelling estimates

Sentinel surveillance

Support to conduct surveys

Systematic reviews

Epidemiological assessment

Development of monitoring programme

Workshops and training events

People in prison

Webinars

Workshops and training events

Guidance on prevention of infections

Development of monitoring programme

Sentinel surveillance

People in prison

Guidance on screening

Situational assessment

People who inject drugs

Migrant populations

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Target Audience</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>15:00-16:00: Webinar on improving testing for HIV and related co-infections in general practice</td>
<td>GPs, nurses</td>
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<td>April 12-13</td>
<td>Stockholm: Workshop on increasing the use surveillance and monitoring data for action</td>
<td>CSOs (Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain)</td>
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<td>May 16-17</td>
<td>(two mornings), Online: Training on implementing PrEP operational guidance</td>
<td>Network members</td>
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<td>May 31-Jun 1</td>
<td>(two afternoons), Online: Training on implementing antenatal screening for HIV, hepatitis B, syphilis guidance</td>
<td>Network members</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>15:00-16:00: Webinar on stigma in general practice: what it is and how it impacts health</td>
<td>GPs, nurses</td>
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<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Follow-up on implementing integrated testing roadmaps</td>
<td>Network members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Implementing the PWID guidance</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>Consultancies/country-to-country exchanges</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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ECDC capacity building related to the Sustainable Development Goals
Current ECDC hepatitis projects

- **Prison elimination project**
  - Launch of joint ECDC/EMCDDA project in 2023 to develop toolkit to support countries in elimination of hepatitis in prisons
  - Annual data collections
  - 4 year project to be launched in 2023
  - Initial focus to collect data on late presentation and treatment

- **Sentinel project**
  - Biennial data collection
  - Ongoing revision of indicators
  - Annual advisory group meeting

- **Country support project**
  - Ongoing project to support countries conduct HCV surveys in general population

- **Modelling**
  - Project to start in 2023 to develop national estimates of HBV prevalence
  - Advisory group to be established
  - Launch of joint ECDC/EMCDDA project in 2023 to develop toolkit to support countries in elimination of hepatitis in prisons

- **Routine surveillance**
  - Advisory group to be established
  - Launch of joint ECDC/EMCDDA project in 2023 to develop toolkit to support countries in elimination of hepatitis in prisons

- **Mortality work**
  - Launch of project in 2023 to collect empirical data on the ‘attributable fraction’ and estimate mortality
  - Advisory group to be established

- **Prevalence**
  - Ongoing project to support countries conduct HCV surveys in general population
Challenges for ECDC in supporting countries reach hepatitis elimination targets

- Variation in the support needed by different countries
- Variation in local public health capacity to work on hepatitis
- Large number of diverse issues to be addressed as identified by the network for ECDC
- Limited resources at ECDC (staff and budget)
- Turnover of staff at ECDC
- Competing priorities for ECDC staff
- Competing communicable disease priorities at ECDC
- Maintaining strong collaborations across organisations and ensuring effective synergies