

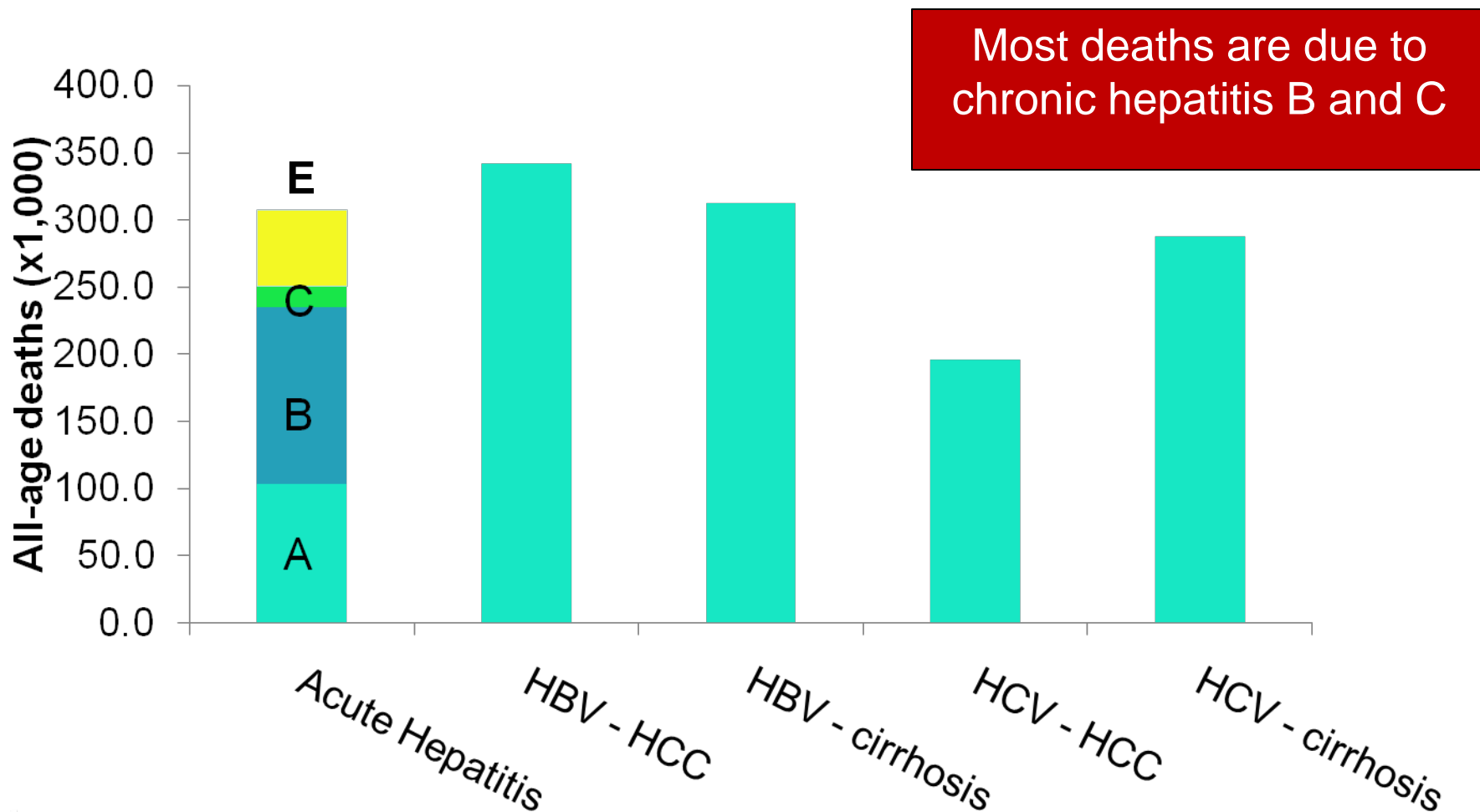
# **Perspectives of Viral Hepatitis Control**

**Academic session celebrating more than two  
decades of the VHPB**

**University of Antwerp 12 November**

Dr Nedret Emiroglu  
WHO Regional Office for Europe

# Estimated global hepatitis deaths by virus type and disease outcome, 2010



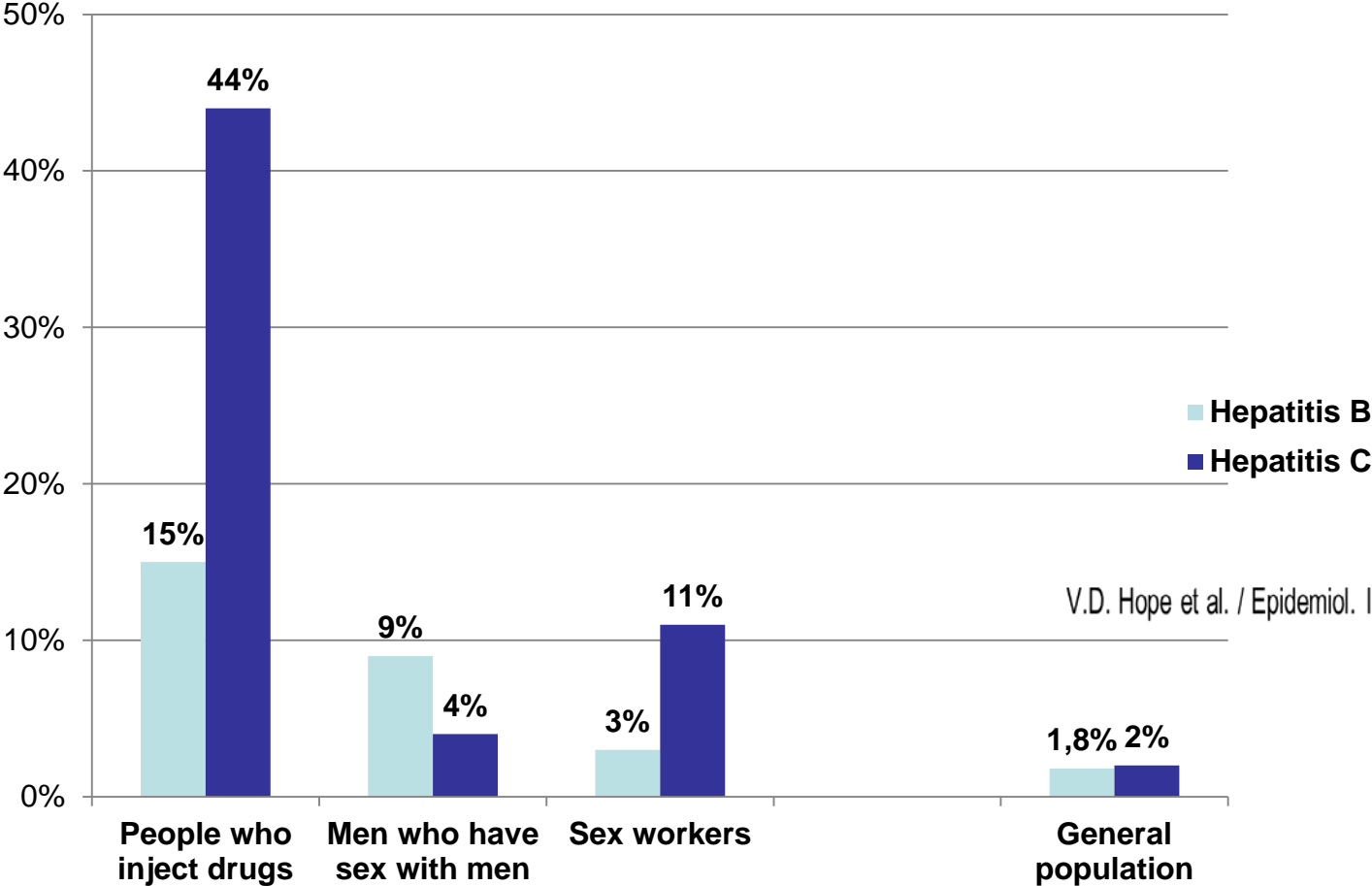
# Burden of viral hepatitis in the European Region of WHO

- Estimated number of people living with infection<sup>1</sup>:
  - Hepatitis B - 13.3 million
  - Hepatitis C - 14 million
  - Over 60% infected live in eastern European and central Asian countries
- Estimated number of deaths due to viral hepatitis<sup>2</sup>:
  - 60 000 deaths due to Hep B annually
  - 84 000 death due to Hep C annually

<sup>1</sup> V.D. Hope et al. / Epidemiol. Infect (2013) 1-17

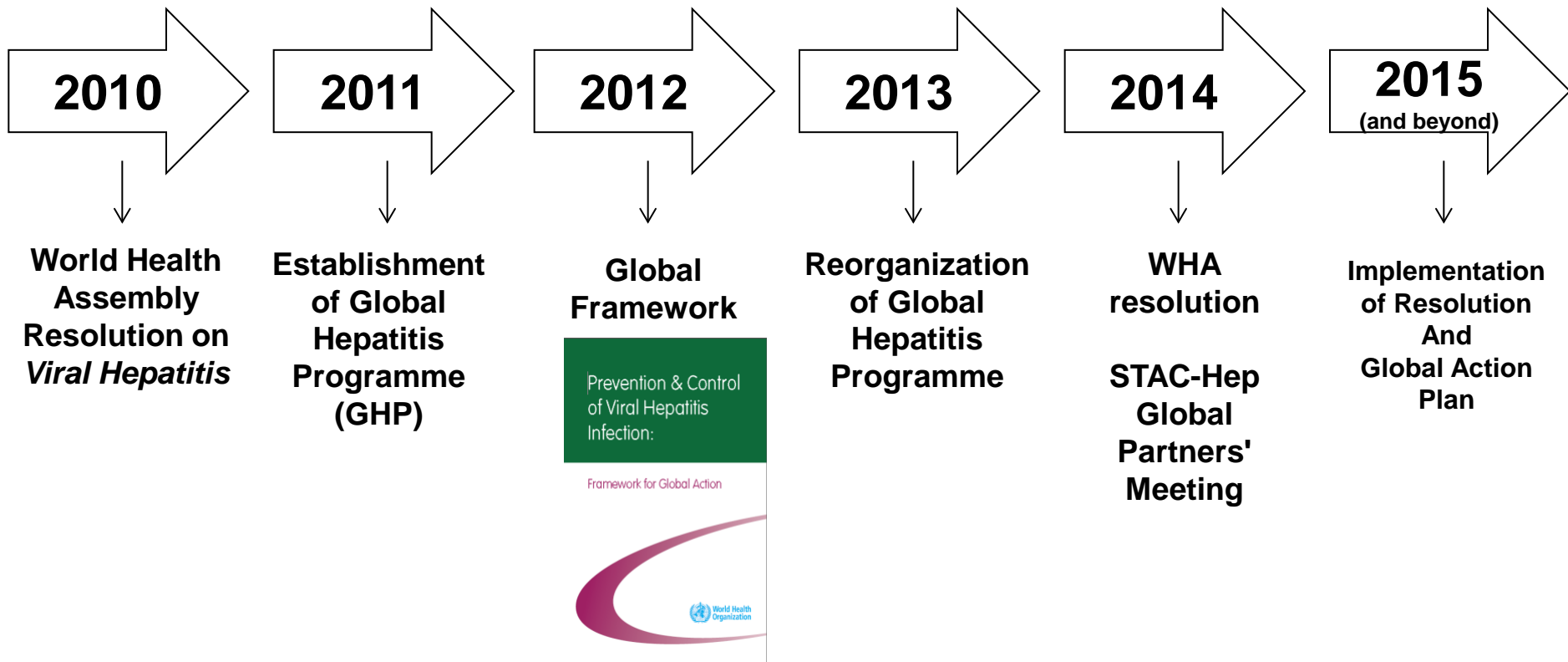
<sup>2</sup> Global Disease Burden Estimate

# Hepatitis B and C among “most affected population groups” WHO European Region, 2008



V.D. Hope et al. / Epidemiol. Infect (2013) 1-17

# Viral Hepatitis recognized as a global public health problem



- ✓ Hep B immunization
- ✓ Blood/injection safety
- ✓ Outbreak control
- ✓ Water and sanitation



# World Health Assembly Resolution 2104

- Develop comprehensive strategy for viral hepatitis prevention and control
- Designate 28 July as World Hepatitis Day
- Support integrated, cost-effective approach to Viral Hepatitis, considering linkages with HIV co-infection
- Promote access to preventive, diagnostic and treatment technologies against viral hepatitis
- Promote injection safety at all levels of national healthcare system
- Monitor progress and evaluate implementation
- Support scientific research

# Global strategy for viral hepatitis prevention and control

- Goal: To develop a strategy that identifies priorities and sets global targets for a coordinated global response
- Will cover 2016-2020; to be presented at WHA in May 2016
- Regional consultation and stakeholder engagement as critical components
  - Discussion with Member States at the Regional Committees in 2014
- World Health Assembly discussion in May 2015/2016
- Discussion at the Regional Committee to define the regional context (possibly in 2015 / 2016)

## Vision:

**A world where viral hepatitis transmission is stopped and all have access to safe and effective care and treatment**



# Global Hepatitis Framework: Four Axes



**Axis 1: Partnerships, resource mobilization and communication**

Strategic axis 1. Building partnerships, raising awareness and mobilizing resources



**Axis 2: Data for policy and action**

Strategic axis 2. Data for policy and action

**Axis 3: Prevention of virus transmission**



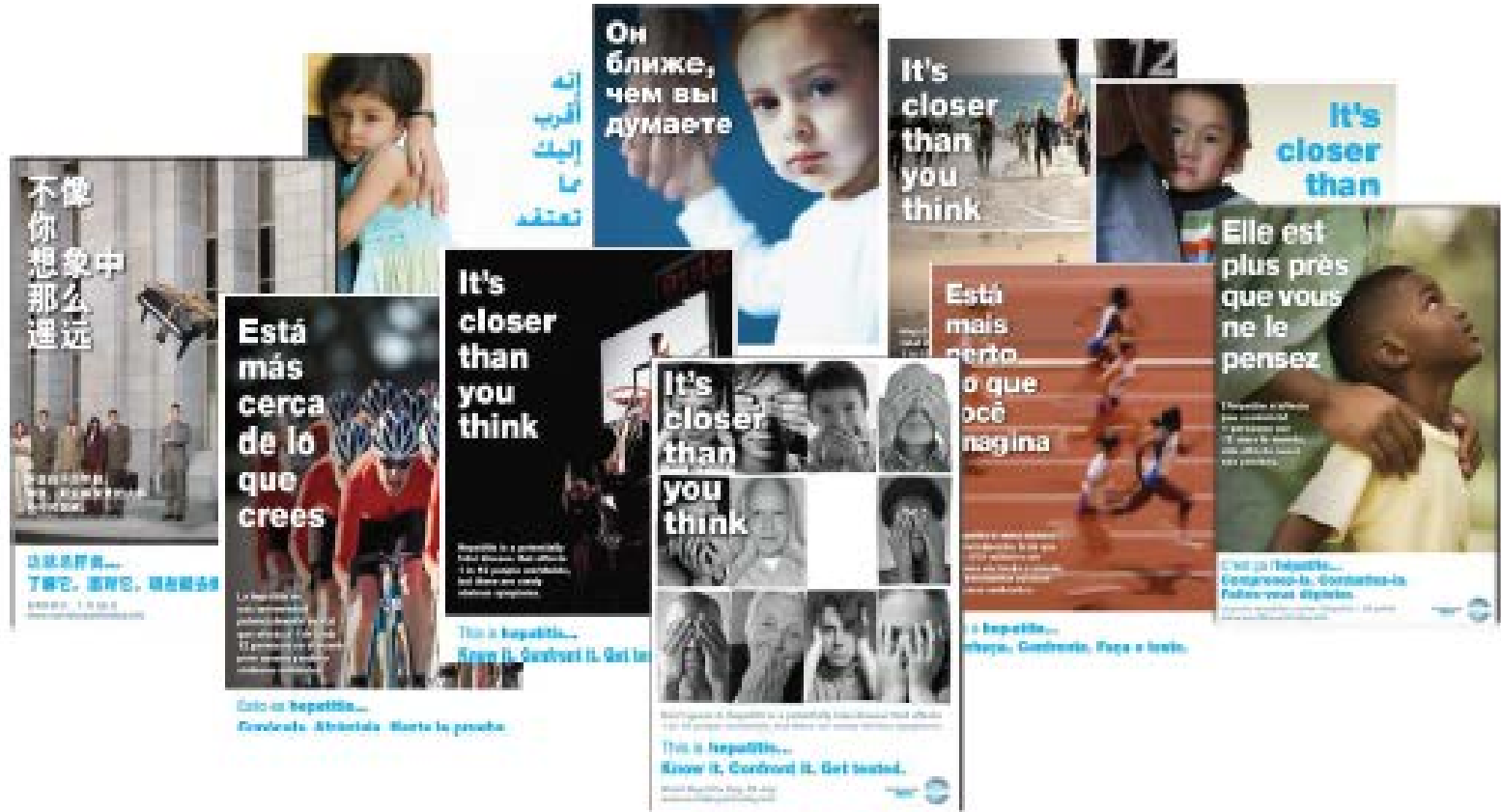
Strategic axis 3. Prevention of transmission



**Axis 4: Screening, care and treatment**

# Partnerships, resource mobilization and communication

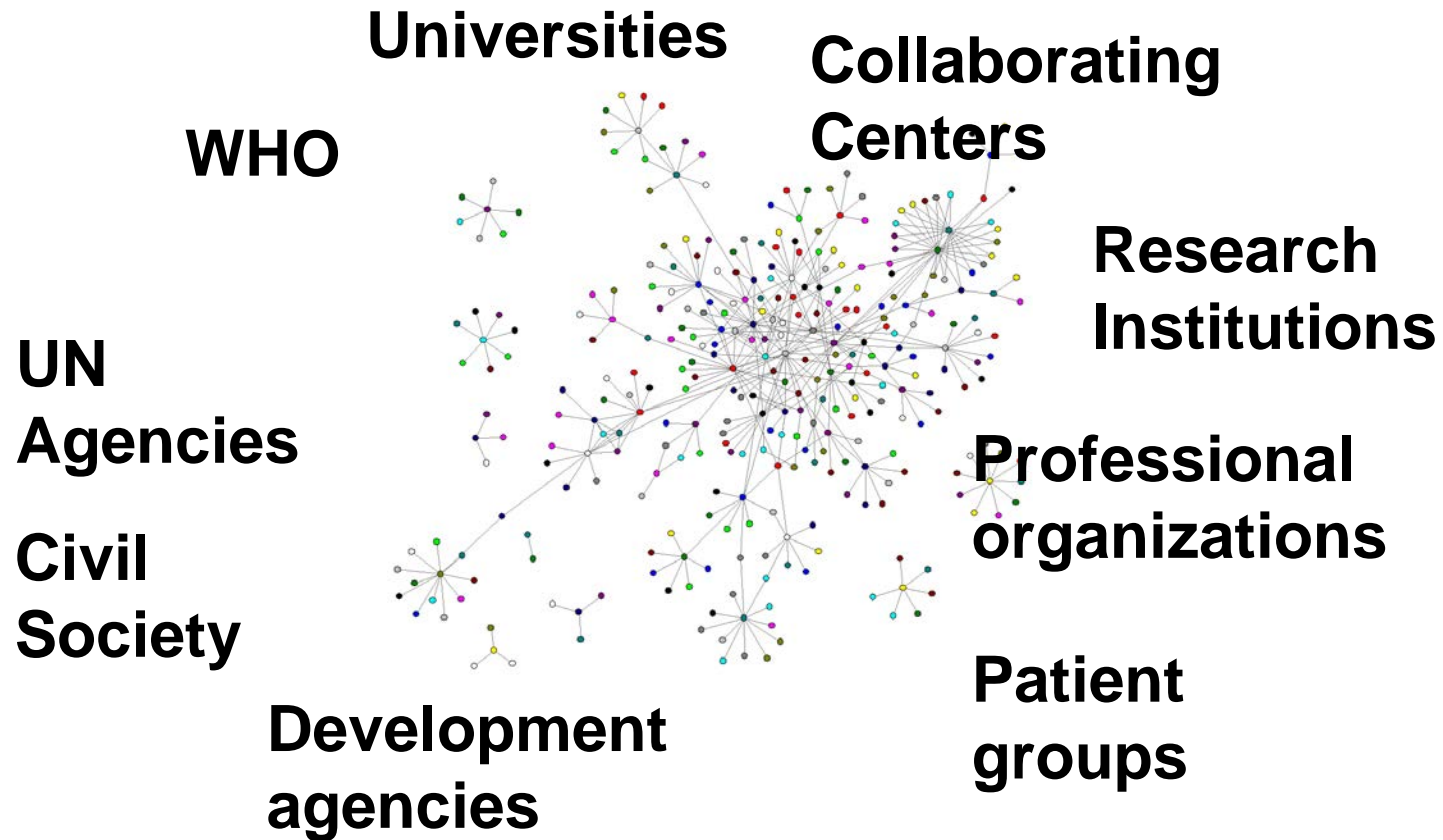
## World Hepatitis Day: 28 July 2013



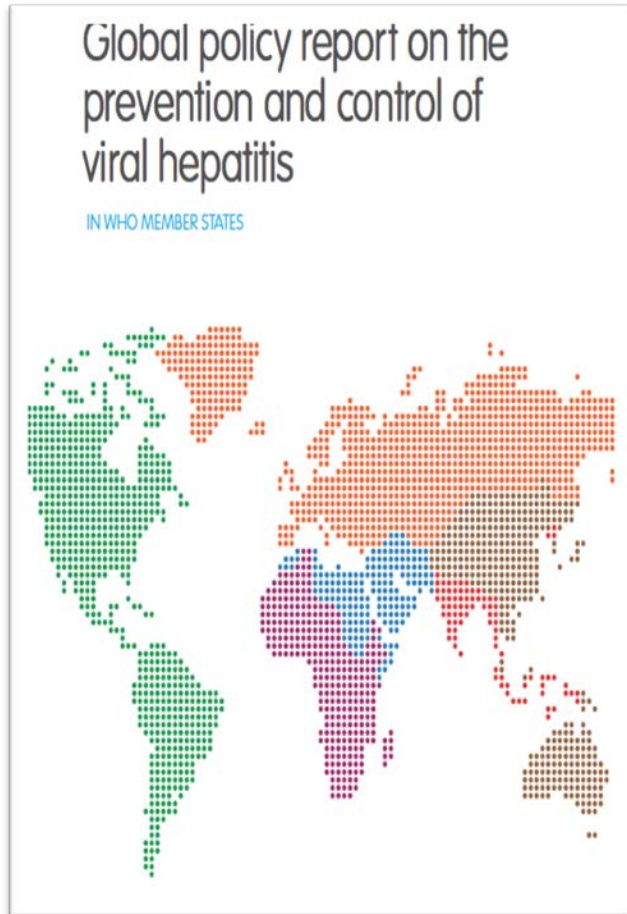
World Health Organization

World Hepatitis Alliance

# Global hepatitis network: members



# Data for policy and action



- Global Policy Report
- Regional estimate of hepatitis B and C burden, 2013
- Routine Viral hepatitis surveillance:
  - Acute hepatitis surveillance is weak in many countries
  - Chronic hepatitis surveillance does not exist in the majority of low and middle-income countries

# Prevention of virus transmission

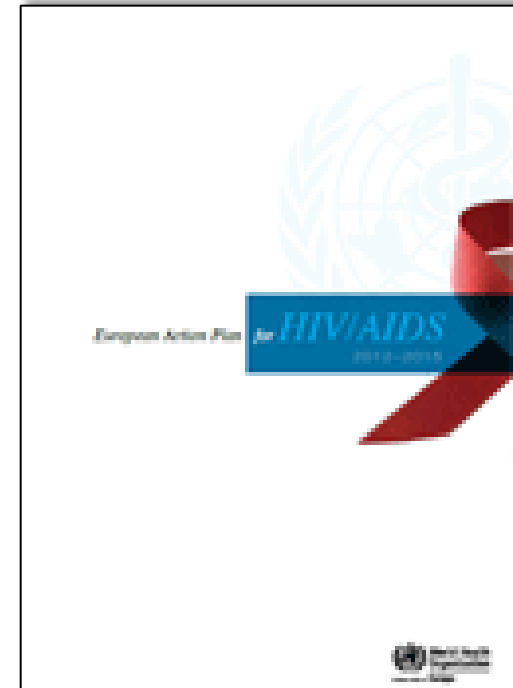
## Hepatitis B immunization

- European Vaccine Action Plan 2015-2020 endorsed by Regional Committee in September 2014:
  - *“a European Region free of vaccine preventable diseases, where all countries provide equitable access to high quality, safe, affordable vaccines and immunization services through the life course”*
- Successful prevention of HBV transmission through immunization programmes, however challenges remain
- Regional Hepatitis B Control Goal 2015-2020 (being developed)

# Prevention of virus transmission

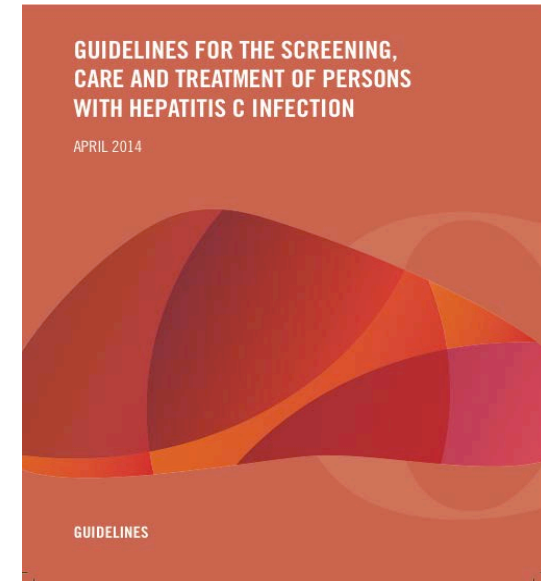
## Blood safety and injection safety

- Policy guidance and technical assistance for;
  - universal access to safe blood and blood products
  - self-sufficiency in safe blood and blood products based on voluntary unpaid blood donation
- European Action Plan for HIV/AIDS, 2012-2015: to reduce HIV and viral hepatitis co-infection
- Promotion of harm-reduction guidance and services



# Screening, care and treatment

- Major advances in treatment options
- Address pricing issues:
  - WHO Expert Committee will review HCV related medicines in April 2015
  - Analysis of patents situation (published in September 2014)
  - Evaluation of pharmaceutical products to treat HIV / HCV coinfection



# Conclusions

- Successful prevention of HBV transmission through implementation of immunization programmes, however challenges remain to be addressed
- Using critical momentum to reinforce and scale up actions for prevention and control of viral hepatitis
  - World Health Assembly discussion on global viral hepatitis strategy (May 2015/2016)
  - Discussion at the Regional Committee to define the regional context (possibly in 2015 / 2016)
- Political commitment and resources for hepatitis prevention and control
- Increasing engagement through awareness and partnerships
- Supporting countries in development and implementation of coordinated multisectoral national strategies for prevention, diagnosis and treatment



Join our listserv

[hepatitis@who.int](mailto:hepatitis@who.int)

Thank you...