

# Workshop East

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# East group – workshop VHPB Nov 2014



# What still needs to be done in the prevention and control of hepatitis: east group

- Review of the post-its
  - Address vaccine hesitancy groups
    - religious groups;
    - sometimes HCW are hesitant
      - Need for better educational programmes at (para)medical schools, pre- and in-training programmes
  - Address the issue of booster dose
  - Address the situation of infected HCW
  - Address the immunization of HCW
  - Address the role of mutants vis-à-vis treatment and risk to universal immunization programme



# What still needs to be done in the prevention and control of hepatitis: east group

- Review of the post-its
  - Low awareness of viral hepatitis in the general public
    - Importance of social mobilization
    - Education programmes
  - Access to treatment
  - Cost of treatment
  - Need for guidelines for hepB and C treatment
  - Stigmatization of risk groups in some countries
    - Disclose your health situation to survive/ be treated!



# What still needs to be done in the prevention and control of hepatitis: east group

- Review of the post-its
  - Need for infection control plan in some countries
  - Need for better case management
    - Currently not affordable
    - “why screening if you cannot offer treatment”
  - Perception of HBV vaccines being ‘tested’ on the local population!
    - Need a lot of communication efforts
  - Need for vaccination programmes in other risk groups than HCW
    - Most HCW vaccinated but sometimes ‘false’ contra-indications
    - Some key opinion leaders/journalists can be very influential, not always in the advantages of the control of viral hepatitis
  - Document cost of disease versus control/treatment in each country



# What still needs to be done in the prevention and control of hepatitis: east group

- Need for a country hepatitis plan addressing a lot of these issues!
  - Some countries have a plan, but no funding!
  - Plans are sometimes incomplete!



## What do you expect from the international organisation: east group

- Expect guidance in what needs to be done in the respective countries
  - What kind of studies to document the burden!
  - Assistance in infection control plan
  - How to link hepatitis B and C prevention/ control with other control strategies (like for HIV).
  - educate the country about existing evidence on e.g. booster, mutant issues, treatment, ...



## What do you expect from the international organisation: east group

- Expect guidance in what needs to be done in the respective countries
  - Lobby with MOH to better highlight the importance of viral hepatitis
  - Assist in negotiations with industry for better prizes in the Region
  - Technical assistance
    - E.g. in sero-surveys, workshops with WHO, VHPB experts
- Assist country in fundraising





## What do you expect from the international organisation: east group

- Expect same importance for viral hepatitis, as for polio, measles, influenza ... from WHO level
- Expect from ECDC more attention towards viral hepatitis....
  - How important is viral hepatitis for ECDC (compared to vector borne diseases?)
- Have VHPB meetings in the east group region to raise awareness, teach/inform colleagues, assist in the country plan!



THANK YOU

