

ACHIEVE

ASSOCIATIONS COLLABORATING ON HEPATITIS TO
IMMUNIZE AND ELIMINATE THE VIRUSES IN EUROPE

7 December 2021, 10:00-12:30 CET | High-level Virtual Event

Setting the course for Hepatitis elimination – what the EU can do to help reach the WHO 2030 goal

Agenda

In 2016, the WHO adopted its global strategy to eliminate viral hepatitis B and C as a public health threat by 2030, building on the UN SDGs.

On the occasion of World Hepatitis Day 2021, the ECDC pointed out that the 2030 elimination target will not be reached, if the gaps in prevention (harm reduction, vaccination), diagnosis and treatment, as well as in the provision of reliable national data are not urgently addressed.

The ECDC's assessment is based on data from 2019, so the situation is likely to have worsened since then due to COVID-related disruptions. At the same time, there is a glimpse of hope, as, in the words of the ECDC, *"COVID-19 has demonstrated what can be achieved in a short time in communicable disease control. It highlights the potential for achieving the hepatitis elimination targets by 2030, given the highly effective diagnostic and therapeutic tools that are now available"*.

With its webinar, ACHIEVE would like to raise awareness of the urgent need to put viral hepatitis B and C elimination on track, and explore how EU policy initiatives and funding can help Member States drive forward elimination and facilitate good practices throughout the EU, also supporting the EU neighbourhood.

Agenda

10:00-10:05	Welcome remarks By Luís Mendão , ACHIEVE Co-Chair & European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG)
10:05- 10:20	What support can the European Commission and WHO Europe provide to EU Member States to meet the hepatitis elimination target? Opening statements by representatives of WHO and the EU <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Siddhartha Datta, Acting Director Communicable Diseases, Country Health programme Division, WHO Regional Office for Europe• John F. Ryan, Deputy Director of Public Health Directorate, DG SANTE, European Commission
10:20-10:55	Session 1: What are the barriers we need to overcome to drive forward elimination?



The ACHIEVE Coalition to eliminate viral hepatitis B and C is supported by AbbVie, Abbott, Cepheid and Gilead.

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	<p>Moderated panel discussion among health professional, patient and harm reduction expert. Questions from the audience via the chat function.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alexis Goosdeel, Director, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction• Professor Thomas Berg, Secretary General of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), Head of the Division of Hepatology, Leipzig University Medical Center• Ivana Dragojevic, ACHIEVE Co-Chair & board member of the European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA)
11:00-11:35	<p>Session 2: Good practices in the response to viral hepatitis across Europe.</p> <p>Moderated panel discussion including national experts who share experiences from good practice projects. Questions from the audience via the chat function</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrating HIV, Hepatitis TB services for vulnerable people - Romania - Maria Georgescu, Executive Director of the Romanian Anti-SIDA Association (ARAS)• Local good practice among vulnerable groups – France – Dr. Sandrine François & Céline Rigaud, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Limoges• Inclusion of hepatitis in primary care health check-ups – Germany - Professor Markus Cornberg, Deputy Director of Clinic for Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Endocrinology at Hannover Medical School
11:40-12:25	<p>Session 3: “The Way Forward: EU policy and funding measures to move the needle for 2030 elimination to become a reality”.</p> <p>Moderated panel discussion including EU and national policymakers and regulator; questions from the audience via chat function</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Cristian-Silviu Buşoi MEP, former rapporteur on EU4Health, EPP, Romania• Dr. Erika Duffell, Principal Expert Hepatitis, STI, Bloodborne Viruses, DPR at European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)• George Kalamitsis, ACHIEVE Co-Chair & Liver Patients International (LPI)• Greet Hendrickx, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board (VHPB) & Antwerp University
12:25-12:30	<p>Wrap Up: Closing remarks and summary of insights gained</p> <p>By George Kalamitsis, ACHIEVE Co-Chair & Chair Liver Patients International (LPI)</p>

The event will be moderated by Jacki Davis

About ACHIEVE

ACHIEVE is a coalition that brings together patients and community, clinicians and researchers who jointly advocate for EU support to combat viral hepatitis B and C and reach the 2030 elimination



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goal, in line with the WHO Global Health Sector Strategy, the WHO Europe Action Plan and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



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