

About Liver or Die

– the hepatitis C-project of Swedish Drug Users Union

Abstract

First of all I will talk about why SDUU, 4 years ago, decided to start a hepatitis C-project and explain why *Liver or Die* is such an important project. I'll describe what the purpose and the main goal with the project is. Also I will mention what we have achieved this far and say something about the progress of the project, 2012-2016.

I will talk about the overall project, what it is, who we are, what my part in the project is and how we run it. I'll describe the three main parts; the peer to peer-education, the website, <http://hepatitportalen.se> and the documentary 'The Hidden and Forgotten Plague - A film about hepatitis C'.

The peer education part includes:

- Our hepatitis C training for peer educators at a conference center out on the country side, where the participants after the training become peer educators themselves.
- Short courses when we go to different places to hold shorter versions of our hepatitis C-course.
- Just being outside (often at clinics and accommodations) chatting to people. We have learnt that this is a much better method at many places.

A lot of focus during my presentation will be on peer to peer education (drug users to drug users) and why we believe it is the most effective way to spread knowledge. We think that it is more important that the peer-educators in this project are drug users rather than hepatitis C-positive, since it is knowledge about stuff like how to avoid getting infected, how to avoid infecting others, how to inject safely, myth busting, HCV-facts and how to seek treatment rather than knowledge about "how it is to live with hepatitis C" that is useful for people in this case.

At last I will share some of my own thoughts about the hepatitis C-situation in Sweden, the Liver or Die-project and the work I'm doing.

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