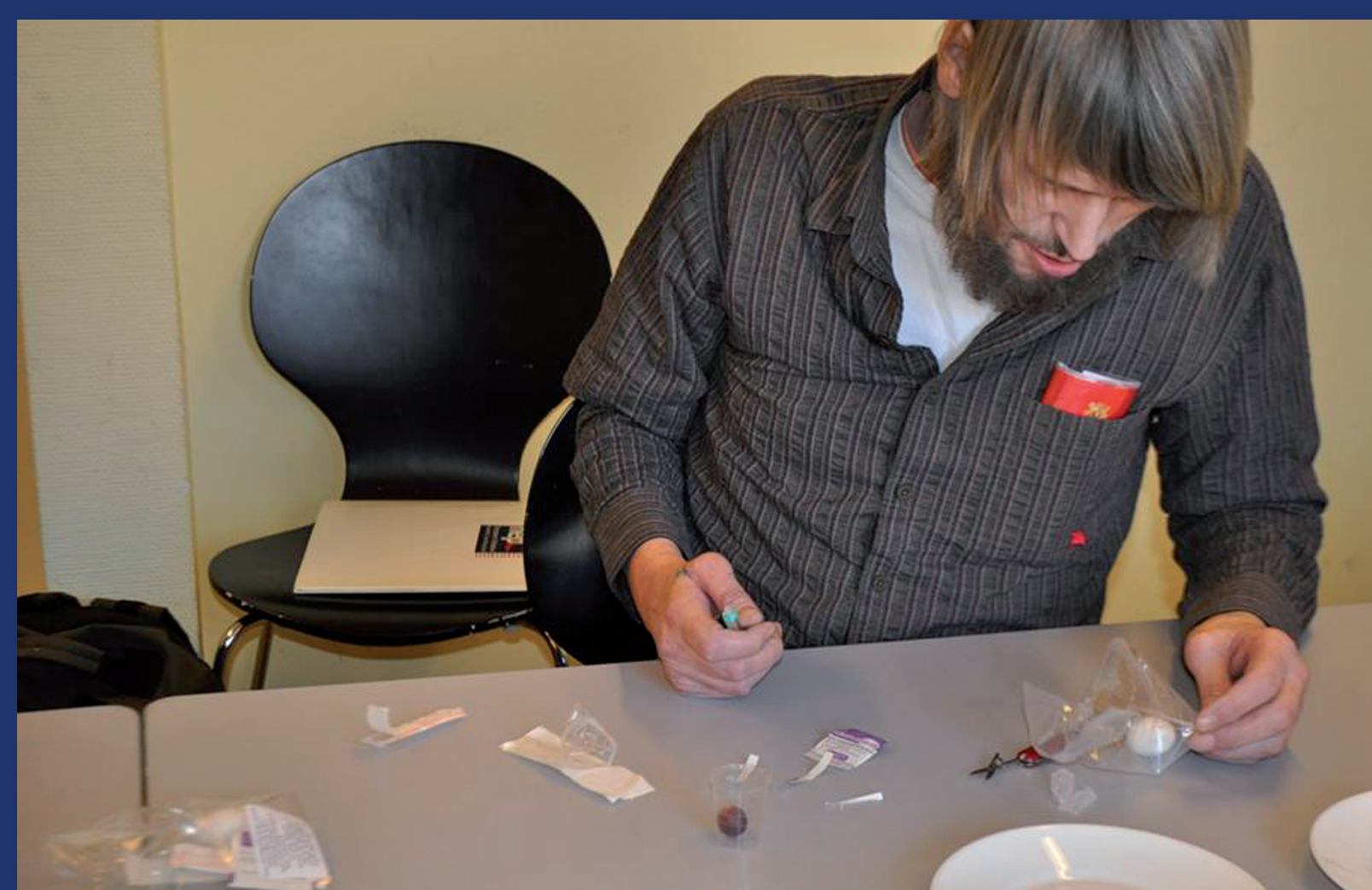




European Initiative
Hepatitis C and Drug Use

initiative



HCV Capacity Building Training for Harm Reduction & Peer Workers

As new direct acting anti-retroviral (DAA) HCV treatments become increasingly available throughout Europe, it is critically important that comprehensive integrated prevention services are in place to connect people who inject drugs (PWID) to treatment, and minimise risk behaviours that can result in re-infection post treatment.

Training Overview:

The Correlation Network's EU Hepatitis C and Drug Use Initiative developed capacity building trainings to assist harm reduction programs become capable to offer co-located integrated comprehensive HCV prevention and treatment support services targeting PWID. During the months of December 2015 and January 2016 capacity building trainings were conducted in five European countries, Italy, Spain, Greece, Denmark and Norway.

Organisations chosen were based upon an eligibility criteria looking at capacity of the organisation; willingness to implement and/or enhance HCV services; have dedicated peer workers or staff to provide HCV services; have linkage with medical facilities for testing and treatment; and organisation is in a country with high prevalence among PWID.

Findings:

Post training evaluation showed 85% reporting the training provided information that was direly needed, and 75% found

training time appropriate. 60% who participated in the trainings reported not having formal harm reduction risk counselling training, safer injection training, or knowledge of HCV prevention needs for PWID. The three most important modules documented were 67% transmission risks for PWID; 59% other risks of HCV transmission; and 56% safer injection information.



Conclusion:

We have seen a growing clinical care model for providing harm reduction services. This has created barriers and inability to engage PWID in user friendly behavioural outcome focused discussions intended to prevent HCV.

Despite the gaps in knowledge and skills, there was an overwhelming willingness to adapt and integrate science based behavioural interventions, rapid testing and Fibroscan screenings. Making this training critically important for providing effective HCV services.

If you would like your organisation to have a training please contact:
Jason Farrell jfarrell@correlation-net.org

www.hepatitis-c-initiative.eu



Correlation
European Network
Social Inclusion & Health

De Regenboog Groep
Correlation Network
administration@correlation-net.org
PO Box 10887
1001 EW Amsterdam / The Netherlands
Phone.: +31 20 5317600



Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on its behalf is liable for any use of information contained in this publication.
With financial support from the Drug Prevention and Information Programme (DPIP) of the European Union.