The role of Parliamentarians in removing legal barriers to support HBV and HCV elimination efforts

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Number of New HIV Infections 1983-2017

1979 1983 1996 2001 (~100,000 Heroin Users)

1st Dx HIV in Portugal

HAART

Drug Addiction as Health Problem

Source: INSA, 1983-2017 (notified cases until 15.04.2018)

Less than 2% are drug-related (MSW 57.5% | MSM 36.7%)

DRUG TOURISM

TROIKA

EU COMPARED CONSUMPTION

CRIME

SUCCESS RATES

DRUG RELATED IMPRISONMENTS

Source: @RBaptistaLeite
Hepatitis C in Portugal

2011 | TROIKA@Portugal

* Per capita spending in real terms.
Source: OECD Health Statistics 2015
Number of New HIV Infections 1983-2017

Source: INSA, 1983-2017 (notified cases until 15.04.2018)

1st Dx HIV in Portugal

HAART

Drug Addiction as Health Problem

TROIKA T&T FTC

HEP C

PrEP

HR 100%


3500 3000 2500 2000 1500 1000 500 0
HIV in Portugal
2011 | HIV Resolution
@RBaptistaLeite
Católica University of Portugal
Institute of Health Sciences
Public Health Unit

Consensus Method®

Review scientific data

Collect data from main stakeholders (Think Tank)

Consensus paper to support future decisions on how to manage and achieve elimination of hepatitis C in Portugal, from a public policy perspective: from prevention to cure

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"DON’T LET ME DIE!"
José Carlos Saldanha
The Ministry of Health announced an agreement with Gilead Sciences and DAA’s were fully funded for all patients with Hepatitis C. A risk-sharing model was adopted. The Ministry agreed on paying per patient that is clinically cured (not per number of weeks of treatment nor per number of patients treated) and the payment procedures were fully centralized.

Volume-based agreement: Price paid is inversely proportional to the number of patients treated.

Centralized registry database was commissioned and is currently used by physicians.

National Action Plan for Hepatitis C and the review of the national HCV treatment guidelines were prepared by a panel of experts.
Over 24,325 patients that have been diagnosed with chronic HCV in the NHS and their treatment has been authorised

22,589 patients have initiated treatment
 (>1/3 estimated population living with chronic Hep C)

13,180 PATIENTS CURED

96.4% SVR
Hepatitis C: Policy in Action

Hepatitis C in Portugal


Health Outcomes

Averted 3,477 premature liver related deaths
Gained 62,869 life years
Averted 339 liver transplants, 1,951 liver cancers, 5,417 cases of chirosis
Savings 271.4 million Euros on treatment costs related to hepatitis C complications

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A new model for purchasing medicines and other Health technologies?
Getting Political Leaders to push for Health

- In line with public concerns
- Clear ‘Before and After’ Data
- Savings, Low or No Cost (in this order)
- Timely results (i.e., election period)
COMPARING POLICIES ACROSS COUNTRIES

LETSENDHEPC.COM and download the APP ‘LET’S END HEPC’
ASSESSING AND FORESEEING IMPACT

POLICY IMPACT AND GAMIFICATION

- Main HCV Outcomes
- Per Year 2019-2030
- Vulnerable Populations

Elimination of HCV will not be achieved by 2030 with current policies (according to WHO elimination definition of HCV cut off of 90%).

LETSENDHEPC.COM and download the APP 'LET'S END HEPC'
There is a need to **TAKE ACTION** to deliver GLOBAL POLICY GOALS aligned with UN SDG’s

**Members of Parliament** approve health budgets, change laws and influence policies, keep governments and multilateral organizations **accountable** and are at an interface between decision makers, civil society and community-based organizations.

**All are needed** to achieve the target of ending infectious diseases as a global health threat.

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10 UNITE REGIONAL CHAPTERS
90 MEMBERS FROM 48 COUNTRIES
OUR VISION
A WORLD FREE FROM HIV/AIDS, VIRAL HEPATITIS AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

OUR MISSION
PROMOTE A GLOBAL POLITICAL RESPONSE TO END HIV/AIDS, VIRAL HEPATITIS AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES AS GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY 2030

OUR VALUES
INSPIRE, CONNECT, EMPOWER.
WE REJECT ALL FORMS OF VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION
UNITE Priority Areas

- WATER-BORNE DISEASES
- VIRAL HEPATITIS
- VACCINATION
- HIV/AIDS & PREPAREDNESS
- CONTROL
- ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
- MALARIA / OTHER NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES
- TUBERCULOSIS

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UNITE Network has the support of a multidisciplinary executive secretariat

Oscar Madureira
Legal Advisor

Catarina Moura
Communications Director

Gefra Fulane
Scientific Research Director

MP

Victoria Grandsoult
Advocacy and Community Engagement Director

Cristina Bernardo
Executive Director

Amish Laxmidas
Policy and Partnerships Director

Susana Santos
Fundraising & Innovation Director

Catarina Moura
Communications Director

Oscar Madureira
Legal Advisor

Joana Mendes
Executive Assistant and Human Rights Officer

Cristina Bernardo
Executive Director

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UNITE SECRETARIAT
Support to the MP’s:

- Scientific Support
- Legal Support
- Training and Empowerment
- Media and PR Support
- Political Analysis and Strategy Support
- Community Best Practices Sharing
UNITE Supporting Funders:

- AHF
- FRONTLINE AIDS
- MAC AIDS FUND
- OSF
- UNAIDS
UNITE IMPACT: Political Awareness, Advocacy and Influence (Examples of UNITE’s Advocacy work)
Political Leadership – Promote LAW CHANGES

- Peer to Peer Engagement in EECA: Support to a local NGO in Georgia to push Decriminalization of drug use in Georgia
- Support of UNITE Regional Chair.
UNITE SITE-VISITS

Joint Action Policy
Day
27th April 2019

• Site visit – Norte Vida (Porto)

What is Harm Reduction? Why it is important?
Joint Action Policy
Day 27th April 2019

• Political Advocacy: Call to Action signed by 15 MPs from 13 Countries.
UNITE Political Influence

- UNITE nominated President to run as Member of the Board of the PN on WB & IMF and was able to elect him as Vice-President of the Board.
- Elected by 163 Members of Parliament from 66 countries – Board is composed of 9 people and there were 22 candidates.
- The election represented a seat at the table for Global Health Affairs and UNITE’s President is the first Portuguese to hold such a position.
- UNITE will be having a focus on sustainable public health policies and now, more than ever, the support and intel of partners is vital.
- Successfully was able to bridge make with Southern Europe, MENA Region, Western and North Europe Members of Parliament in the meeting who supported UNITE’s candidate.

- Vice-Presidency of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund
Political Leadership – Promote LAW CHANGES

- Adoption of an European Resolution on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and TB in 2017
- MEP Silviu Busoi was the promotor of the initiative in the EU Parliament
- ACHIEVE Meeting in 2017 with UNITE President participation.
Political Leadership – Promote LAW CHANGES

• Romania’s government has included Hepatitis elimination in their National Action Plan

• Minister of Health of Romania, Ms. Sorina Pintea presented today the National Framework Plan to Control Viral Hepatitis in Romania for the period from 2019 to 2030.

• Meeting of UNITE President with Romenia SoE (January 2018).

https://twitter.com/europeliver/status/1128314681733656581?s=12 @RBaptistaLeite
Meetings of UNITE Members with Community Organizations

Mozambique

Mozambican parliamentarians visited the needle exchange program managed by MSF.

MP Macuiana also led a delegation with UNITE’s MP Beatriz Chaguala (from the ruling party) to ‘Centro Mafalala’
Meetings of UNITE Members with Community Organizations

Political will and Leadership in Kenya

After 2018 Joint Action Policy Day, UNITE's MP Esther Passaris, who was granted by the Kenyan President the Order of Grand Warrior and listed by CEO Global as one of the most influential women in business, showed political leadership and political will to have a clear path for scaling-up harm reduction services.

As a speaker of the 2019 Joint Action Policy Day, she sought the support of the community-based organisations and went on the ground to collect data and visit their services.

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US Elected Prosecutors with MPs and Community Organisations

- At the 2019 Policy Day we have included a new generation of prosecutors who can be a strong voice against criminalization and influence the media-setting.

UNITE Events
Flagship Event 2020

UNITE 1st Global Summit
Nairobi, Kenya
2020

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REBOOT
It’s time to end HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and other Infectious Diseases.

It’s time to UNITE.

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