

World Hepatitis Day 2019 - Europe

Regional Overview

Snapshot

47 countries participating
35 members celebrating
27 members using the Find the Missing Millions theme

Country commitments and announcements

Belarus' Ministry of Health announced their commitment to eliminate hepatitis C in the country by 2028 at a press conference they held with WHO EURO in Minsk.

The **Scottish** government committed to eliminating hepatitis C in the country by 2024, 6 years ahead of WHO's target.

The government of **Georgia** announced that it would be expanding its existing free hepatitis C, HIV and tuberculosis testing programme to several new regions. The Centers for Disease Control also released the initial findings of its report into the success of a programme to test and treat PWIDs in Georgia for hepatitis C, which is part of the country's overall hepatitis elimination plan.

The government of **Cyprus** unveiled a national programme to eliminate hepatitis C that will combine prevention with more effective treatment.

Celebrity involvement

UK-based Hepatitis C Trust were joined by ex-England and Arsenal footballer **Tony Adams**, who visited a prison and shared his own experiences of alcohol, prison, and recovery.

Member activity

Armenia

Positive People Armenian Network offered free and anonymous HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and syphilis tests in the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

Austria

Hepatitis Hilfe Österreich met with Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Brigitte Zarfl to discuss hepatitis and the organisation's work. They also held a press conference, where they discussed the need to find the missing millions, and Austria's response to infectious diseases including hepatitis and HIV. They also organised a musical concert to mark WHD, and shared FMM campaign materials on social media.

Azerbaijan

No activity reported from **Azerbaijan Medical Doctors and Students Public Union**

Belarus

No activity reported from **Together Against Hepatitis**

Belgium

VHC vzw shared the FMM film and used the customisable WHD poster tool to create awareness-raising posters in the local language, encouraging their followers to help spread the message about viral hepatitis.

No activity reported from **Carrefour Hépatites Aide et Contact (CHAC)**

Bosnia and Herzegovina

No activity reported from **The Chronic Viral Hepatitis Patients Association • "B18"**

Bulgaria

HepActive Association held testing and awareness-raising events in the towns of Varna, Turgovishte and Razgrad. The activities in Varna were organised in partnership with CheckPoint Sofia under the patronage of the Ministry of Health. Their events attracted more than 1000 people, and 995 were tested over a three-day period.

Hepasist promoted HepActive Association's event on social media, and posted several informative articles and links about hepatitis in the weeks surrounding World Hepatitis Day.

Croatia

Association of Treated and Ill with Hepatitis Hepatos Rijeka hosted and attended a series of events to mark World Hepatitis Day. In collaboration with the Public Health Teaching Institute of Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, they offered free and anonymous hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV counselling and testing. They also participated in the Viral Hepatitis Symposium at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases, organised a WHD press conference in partnership with PGZ NHIF, and hosted an information stand in front of a student restaurant in Brajda, where they spoke to members of the public and shared educational and promotional materials about preventative measures like condoms. They also raised awareness of hepatitis on their social media channels, and shared an informative article about WHD and the need to find the missing millions on their website.

Croatian Association of Treated and Ill with Hepatitis "Hepatos" administered hepatitis tests from their mobile testing "Infohep" van, and shared information on social media.

No activity reported from **Croatian Association of Treated and Ill with Hepatitis "Hepatis" - Zagreb and Zagreb County**

Finland

No activity reported from **A-clinic Foundation, Vinkki Drop-in Needle Exchange**

France

SOS Hépatites Federation partnered with the French Association for the Study of the Liver (AFEF) to raise awareness of hepatitis during the Tour de France. They took their message to 20 cities over three weeks and offered information and rapid blood tests, had a "Hepatitis in 7 questions" quiz, and a Gif machine people could use to make noise against hepatitis C. Their marathon campaign ended with the Tour at the Champs Élysées on WHD, where there was footfall of about 300,000 people. They engaged many people, including visitors to France who promised to "make noise" about hepatitis in their home countries. These activities are a continuation of their 2018 WHD campaign "Du bruit contre l'hépatite C" (Noise against hepatitis C). They also took to online channels to raise awareness, posting across their social media channels and on their website, and writing a blog.

Georgia

No activity reported from **Hepatitis C Cured Patient Association**

Germany

Deutsche Leberhilfe e.V. made lots of noise on Twitter on World Hepatitis Day, and posted WHA's FMM campaign materials on their social media channels throughout July.

Greece

Hellenic Association for the Study of the Liver (HASL) issued a press release, supported the Find the Missing Millions campaign on social media, and linked to NOhep.

Hellenic Liver Patient Association "Prometheus" launched the [NOhep Greece](#) digital tool for monitoring the progress of Greece's national hepatitis action plan. They and other patient associations also met with the Greek Ministry of Health to help raise the profile of patient associations and to communicate to ministers the main challenges that patients face in their contact with the Greek health system.

The organisation's President George Kalamitsis was interviewed about hepatitis on [the One Line Weekend show](#).

Hungary

No activity reported from **Majbetegekért Alapítvány Foundation for Patients with Liver Disease**

Ireland

No activity reported from **Community Response** or **Hepatitis C Partnership (Dublin)**

Israel

Hetzliver offered rapid hepatitis C tests at Israel's largest hospital, Sheba Medical Center. They also secured media coverage and raised awareness of viral hepatitis on Israeli TV and radio channels.

Italy

No activity reported from **EPAC**

Kazakhstan

AGEP'C raised awareness of World Hepatitis Day by sharing WHO's "Invest in Eliminating Hepatitis" campaign graphics on social media.

Lithuania

No activity reported from **Infectious Diseases Patients Association LIDPA**

Macedonia

Hepar Centre-Bitola's World Hepatitis Day celebrations carried on for an entire month and encompassed a wide range of activities. They secured TV interviews, held an outdoor concert, had a fire-breathing display, handed out information about hepatitis, and offered hepatitis tests to the general population and to people in prisons. They engaged celebrities, politicians, government officials and the private sector, and reached more than 5,000 people with their events. They also raised awareness of the Find the Missing Millions campaign by sharing the WHD film, and posted on their social media channels.

No activity reported from **Association for health education, prevention and better treatment (HEPTA)**

Montenegro

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Netherlands

The **Dutch Liver Patients' Association** marked WHD with an awareness-raising event with around 200 attendees. They engaged other civil society organisations as well as doctors,

nurses, and social workers. They also shared the Find the Missing Millions film, posted about WHD across their social media channels, and promoted the WHD website. They are planning a policy event to be held in November.

No activity reported from **Stichting Comfort Europa**

Poland

Fundacja Gwiazda Nadziei Star of Hope Foundation held a press conference in the week before World Hepatitis Day, under the Find the Missing Millions theme. Speakers included the President of the Polish Hepatological Society, the President of the Polish HCV Expert Group, the President of the Polish Society of Epidemiologists and Doctors of Infectious Diseases, and the National Institute of Public Health's Deputy Director for Analysis and Strategy in Public Health. They also distributed awards to key individuals who contribute to the elimination of hepatitis C in Poland and work to improve patients' quality of life.

Portugal

SOS Hepatites Portugal shared a number of posts and articles on their social media channels, raising awareness of World Hepatitis Day and the hepatitis C cure.

No activity reported from **Crescer na Maior**

Romania

Fundatia Baylor Marea Neagra held an event where they distributed information about hepatitis and provided free hepatitis and HIV tests and counselling. They also shared the targets of Romania's viral hepatitis strategy on Facebook, and raised awareness of the FMM campaign by using #FindtheMissingMillions.

Romanian Liver Patients Association (APAH_RO) carried out testing for hepatitis B and C between 22 and 30 July with the message "Test yourself! Find out! Be Involved!" in the cities of Bucharest, Brasov, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi, Giurgiu, Alexandria. They also gave out information about hepatitis and promoted healthy lifestyles with activities including cooking demonstrations.

No activity reported for **SANOHEP**

Russian Federation

Charitable Fund "Humanitarian Action" attended one of Russia's biggest music festivals to raise awareness of viral hepatitis. They took their branded van to VK Festival in St. Petersburg, testing 340 people for hepatitis and HIV, providing information about the diseases, and handing out items like condoms to help reduce transmission.

No activity reported from **Evidence Based Medicine Foundation, Not-For-Profit Partnership E.V.A., Saratov Regional Public Organization for Treatment and Prevention of Hepatitis or United Against Hepatitis**

Serbia

Hepatitis Hilfe shared WHA's Find the Missing Millions film on Facebook to raise much-needed awareness of viral hepatitis.

In collaboration with the Institute of Public Health of Serbia Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut and a network of other health institutions, **HROS** organised free fast testing for hepatitis in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac and Niš. They also shared a video message from the European Liver Patients Association (ELPA)'s president, Marko Korenjak, on their social media channels.

No activity reported from **AS Center for empowerment youth of people who are living with HIV/AIDS**

Slovakia

No activity reported from **Hep Help Klub**

Slovenia

No activity reported from **Association Slovenia Hep**

Spain

Associació Catalana de Malalts D'hepatitis (ASSCAT) organised an awareness-raising walk through Barcelona's Eixample district in collaboration with organisations including the Association of Patients and Liver Transplants of Catalonia (AMTHC) and Albi-Spain (Association for the Fight against Diseases Inflammatory bile). 40 people joined the walk, enjoying a guided tour of the area and a picnic in a nearby park.

Just ahead of WHD, they also launched a campaign called #JuntosSumamosPorLaHEP to raise awareness of viral hepatitis among primary care physicians, nurses and specialists. ASSCAT also used their social media channels and website to spread the word about WHD, sharing the FMM film and posting on Twitter and Facebook.

In collaboration with Asociación Española para el Estudio del Hígado (AEEH), Grupo De Trabajo Sobre Tratamientos del VIH, and Apoyo Positivo, **FNETH** launched their #Nopasesdelargo #Puedessertú campaign which saw digital adverts raising awareness of hepatitis C in stations across Spain's rail network. They also secured coverage on Radio Nacional De España (RNE)'s morning show and on the RTVE television channel, and held two informative talks at University Hospital Puerta del Mar De Cadiz.

Organización Nacional de Afectados por Hepatitis Virales (ONAH) took to social media to raise awareness of the hepatitis situation in Spain, highlighting that between 50,000 and 70,000 people in the country are thought to be living with hepatitis C unaware.

Sweden

No activity reported for **Riksforeningen Hepatit C (RHC)**

Switzerland

Representatives from **ARUD Zentren Für Suchtmedizin** and **Swiss Hepatitis C Association's** Peer2Peer programme positioned themselves at Zurich's main train station to hand out informational flyers and NOhep freebies to raise awareness of viral hepatitis.

Swiss Experts in Viral Hepatitis shared the FMM film on Facebook, and used social media to raise awareness of the 80,000 people living with hepatitis B or C in Switzerland, a third of whom do not know they are infected. They encouraged their social media followers to get tested.

Turkey

WHA members **Hep Yasam (Living with hepatitis association)** and **Turk Karaciğer Vakfi** worked with the Turkish Liver Foundation, Turkish Liver Research Association and Viral Hepatitis Society to maximise their impact and reach on World Hepatitis Day. They set up tents in Istanbul's Kadıköy Square, where members of the public could speak to doctors and learn more about hepatitis. They had a band, a dance group, and a pantomime team, and spelled out the word "Hepatit" in large yellow letters to attract attention. They also handed out balloons, tote bags, flyers, and posters. Landmarks including the Bosphorus Bridge and the historical Galata Tower were also illuminated yellow, and Prof Dr. Yilmaz Cakaloglu, President of Turk Karaciğer Vakfi, gave live interviews to television stations and the press.

Ukraine

Public Organization "ALLIANCE.GLOBAL" marked World Hepatitis Day with an all-Ukrainian informational and educational campaign in Kiev. The event was organized by the Альянс громадського здоров'я Alliance for Public Health and with the participation of a lot of other NGOs and municipal institutions. Anyone who was interested could have consultations with social workers and infectious disease doctors regarding the treatment, prevention and diagnosis of viral hepatitis, and get tested for hepatitis C at one of several mobile rapid testing points. More than 500 people attended the event, and 196 were tested. The main objective of this year's campaign, in addition to raising awareness of the importance of testing, was to inform the public about the availability of effective cures for hepatitis C. The organisation also added their voice to the FMM campaign, sharing the video and posting on social media.

Spark of Hope kept up their Find the Missing Millions and testing activities from WHD 2018 all throughout the year, and shared a photo album celebrating their achievements over the past 12 months on Facebook. Around WHD 2019, they provided hepatitis testing for patients and staff at the Ternopil Perinatal Center "Mothers and Children". They also reached online audiences by sharing the FMM film, posting on their social media channels, and writing a blog.

United Kingdom

The British Liver Trust issued a press release highlighting the need for increased diagnosis of viral hepatitis in the UK. They also posted on social media, urging their followers to take an online screener test to find out if they were at risk of hepatitis.

Staff, peers and volunteers from **The Hepatitis C Trust** completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge (walking 24 miles, climbing 5200 feet and completing three mountains in one day!) to mark the start of the week leading up to WHD. Under the banner of their #LeaveNoOneBehind campaign, regional teams around the UK held a number of awareness raising and testing events, and tested 715 people in prison for hepatitis C. Mayor of London Sadiq Khan also joined the Hepatitis C Trust's mobile testing van team to learn more about the organisation's work.

Waverley Care held an event to raise money for people living with HIV and hepatitis C in Scotland, and showed the power of the patient voice by sharing a blog from a patient who had undergone both Interferon/Ribavirin treatment and treatment with DAAs.

No activity reported from **Stop Hepatitis, Children's Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF), Chinese National Healthy Living Centre, European Coalition of Positive People, Terrence Higgins Trust or Young Addaction Liverpool**