



# Screening for Hepatitis B and C among migrants in the European Union

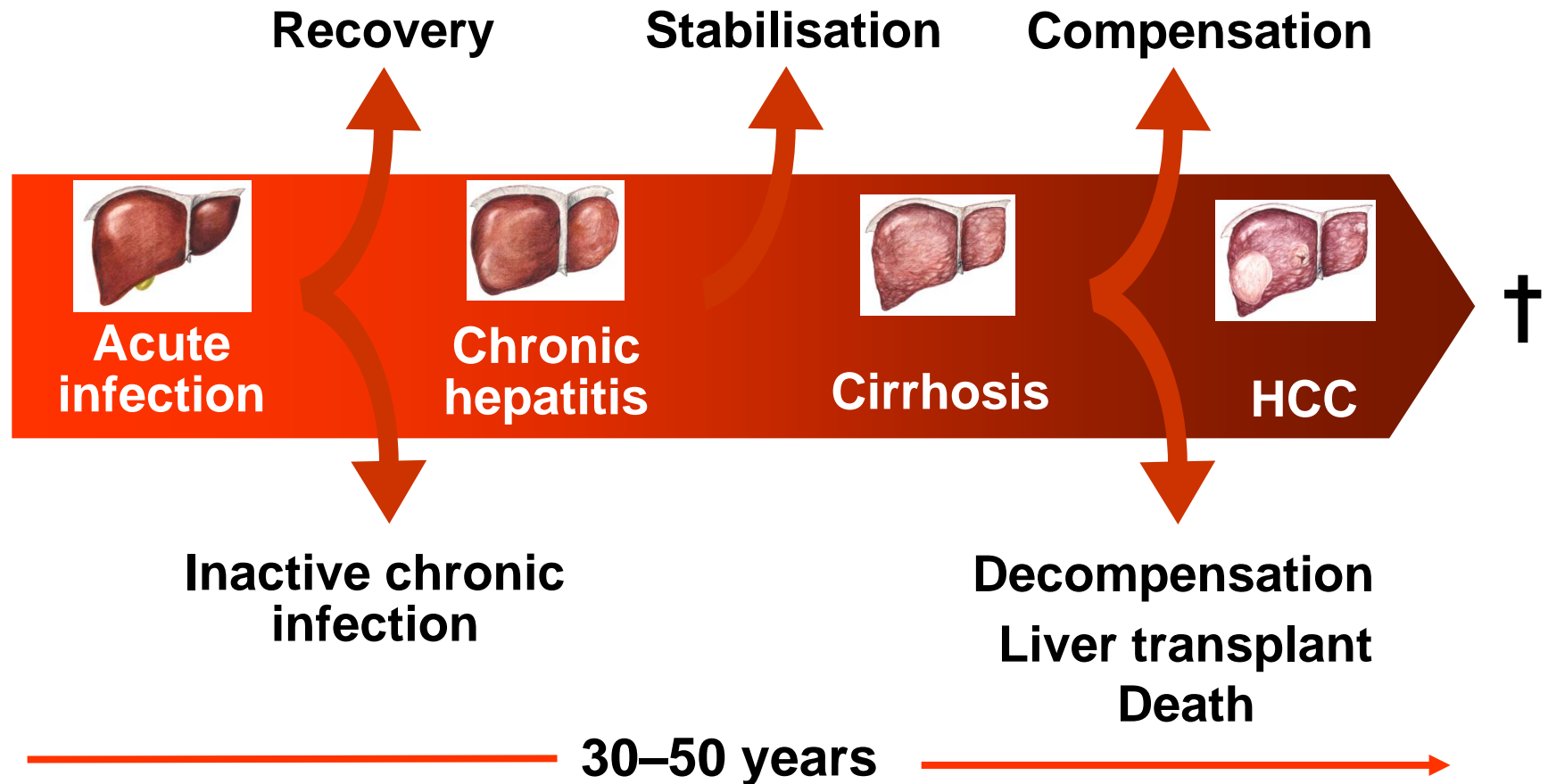
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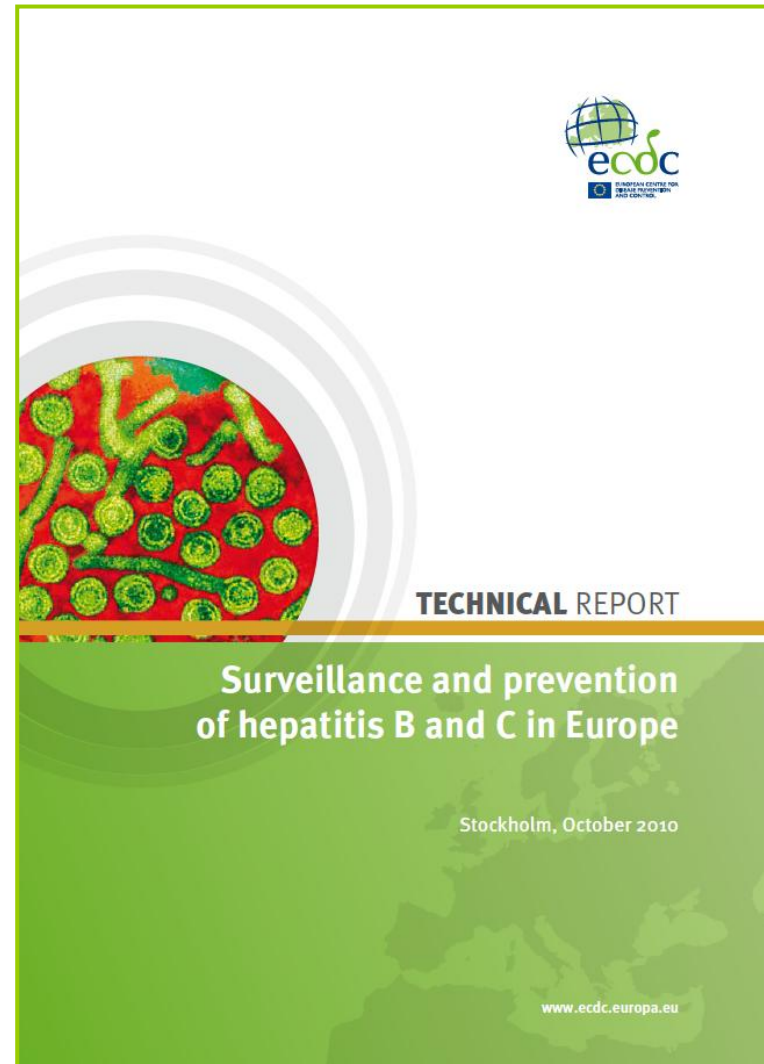
Correlation Conference

Ljubljana, 13-12-2011

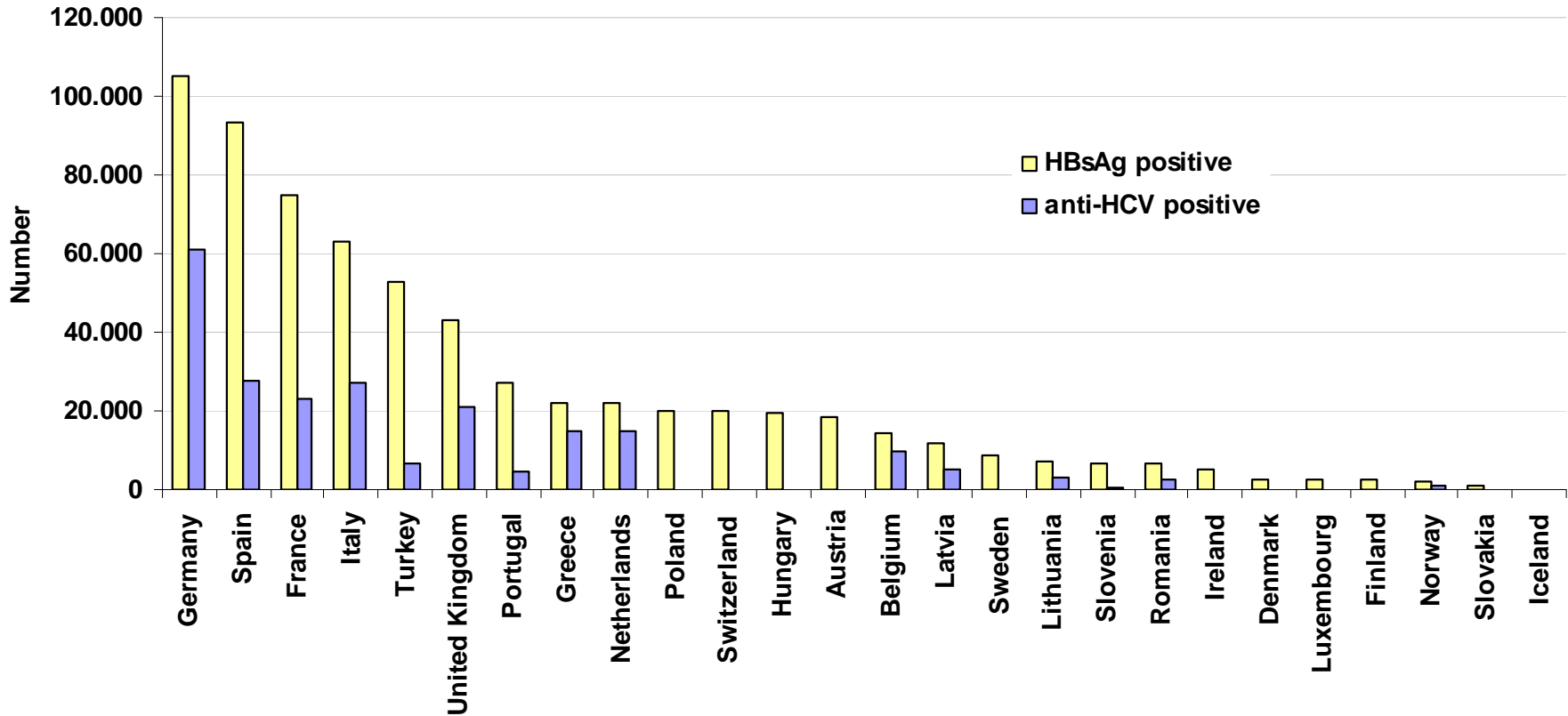
# Natural history of hepatitis B



# ECDC reports (2010)



# Estimated number of HBsAg and anti-HCV positives in the three largest migrant groups, by country



# Findings related to migrants



- HBV and HCV prevalence studies in migrants are limited
- In nearly all countries the estimated prevalence of HBV and HCV is higher among migrants compared to the general population
- Large estimated numbers of chronically HBV and HCV infected migrants in Western European countries
- Low prevalence countries have evidence of high prevalence among risk groups, mainly migrants and IDU
- No published studies on screening policies in migrants (2009)

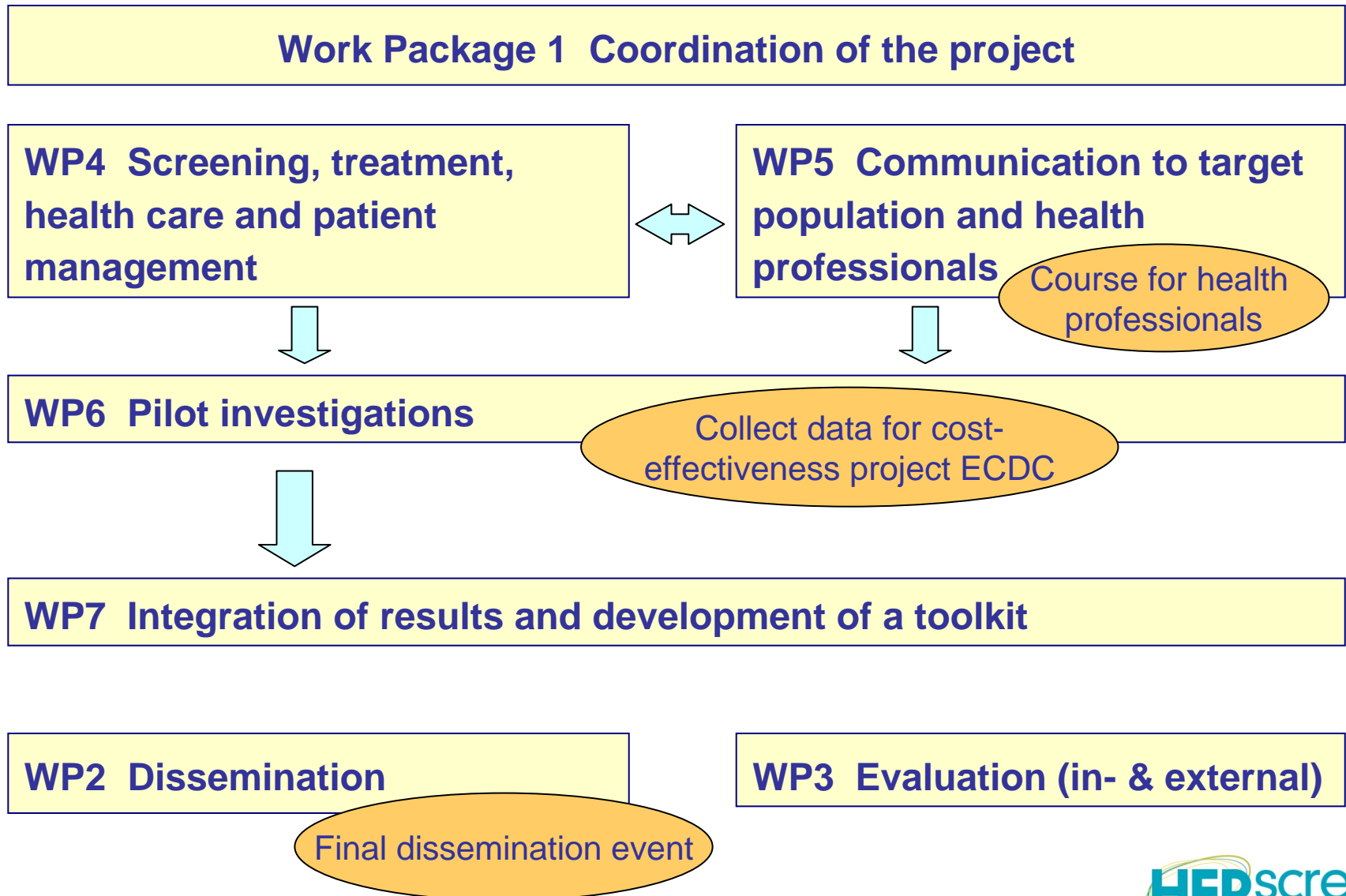
# HEPscreen project

- Knowledge on screening of migrants is fragmented
- Integrate available and new knowledge
- Develop tools for screening

## General objective

- To assess, describe and communicate to public health professionals the tools and conditions necessary for implementing successful screening programmes for hepatitis B and C among migrants in the European Union

# Structure of the project



# Target group

## Pilots

- Migrants and ethnic minorities at increased risk of HBV or HCV
- Type of migrants: long term migrants
- Type of ethnic minorities: with high population prevalence of HBV/HCV
- Health professionals (WP5)

## Tool kit

- Public health professionals in the EU

## **WP4 Screening, treatment, health care and patient management**

### Activities:

1. Identification of main migrant and ethnic minority populations in the study countries classified according to Hepatitis B/C endemicity in the country of origin

### Epidemiological analysis based on:

- National statistics
- WHO classification endemicity level

# WP4 Screening, treatment, health care and patient management

## Activities:

2. Description of migrant specific Hepatitis B and C screening programmes and counselling, referral, clinical management and treatment guidelines

## Methods:

- Search published and grey literature, relevant national websites and websites of expert groups
- Develop survey tool (questionnaire)

# WP4 Screening, treatment, health care and patient management

## Activities:

3. Description of the functioning of selected migrant screening programmes

## Methods:

- Identify screening programmes (link WP5)
- Develop interview guideline
- Interview experts
- Collect information on functioning, efficiency, barriers and problems faced

# WP5 Communication to target population and health professionals

## Activities:

### 1. Collect and analyse information leaflets

- Collect leaflets through contacting patient groups
- Identify individuals with language skills to assess the leaflets
- Select 'best' leaflet by Delphi method

## WP5 Communication to target population and health professionals

Activities:

2. Collate information on communication strategies (link WP 4)
  - Identify screening campaigns for migrants
  - Assess communication materials used (adverts, posters, internet, tv/radio campaigns)
  - Evaluate effectiveness of campaigns

## **WP5 Communication to target population and health professionals**

Activities:

### **3. Residential course for health professionals**

- Develop course on effective communication
- Develop communication tools
- Make info from course available via website (webcasts)

## WP5 Communication to target population and health professionals

Activities:

4. Develop web based community of health professionals
  - Using SINAPSE tool
  - Training platform

## WP6 Pilot investigations

Aim:

Test different approaches to screening:

- Information and outreaching, combined with testing through local general practitioners
- Combined information and testing on location
- Opportunistic and systematic case finding in general practice
- Case finding through existing screening programs.

# WP6 Pilot investigations

## Sites and target groups:

- **Barcelona**
  - Latin America, Eastern Europe
- **Grampian (Scotland)**
  - Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe
- **Budapest**
  - Pregnant women from Romania, former Yugoslavia, former USSR, Roma
- **London**
  - Indian subcontinent, South East Asia, sub-Saharan Africa

# WP6 Pilot investigations

## Pilot Barcelona:

- Organise awareness campaign in cultural centres and refer for testing to:
  - GP's in the district
  - International Health Centre
  - Centre of Lung Diseases
- Offer testing to visitors of:
  - International Health Centre
  - Centre of Lung Diseases

# WP6 Pilot investigations

## Pilot Grampian:

- Organise awareness campaigns combined with on site testing at:
  - Universities
  - Work places

## WP6 Pilot investigations

### Pilot London:

- Offer testing through GP's
- With and without HIV testing

## WP6 Pilot investigations

### Pilot Budapest:

- Develop methods to increase participation in pregnancy screening
- Clinical follow-up of positive participants
- Contact tracing

## WP6 Pilot investigations

Data for cost-effectiveness:

- Collect data through centralised protocol with central coordination
- Data on pre pilot screening rate
- Additional number screened/detected through pilots
- Costs of the pilots
  - Time, training, counselling, serological tests, etc.

# WP7 Integration of results and development of a toolkit

## Activities:

1. Appraisal of different screening strategies
  - Strategies identified (WP4 and WP5)
  - Strategies of pilot studies (WP6)
  - Match screening criteria (e.g. Wilson & Jungner)
2. Appraisal of quality indicators for monitoring

# WP7 Integration of results and development of a toolkit

Activities:

3. Identify promising screening strategies
  - Based on appraisal of criteria and findings from pilots
  
4. Identify best practices for communication
  - Based on WP 6 and findings from pilots
  - Develop generic formats

# WP7 Integration of results and development of a toolkit

## Activities:

### 5. Develop toolkit

- Practical aspects
- Materials collected/developed
- Recommendations

### 6. Develop policy document

- Recommendations for implementation of screening programmes
- Involve policy makers

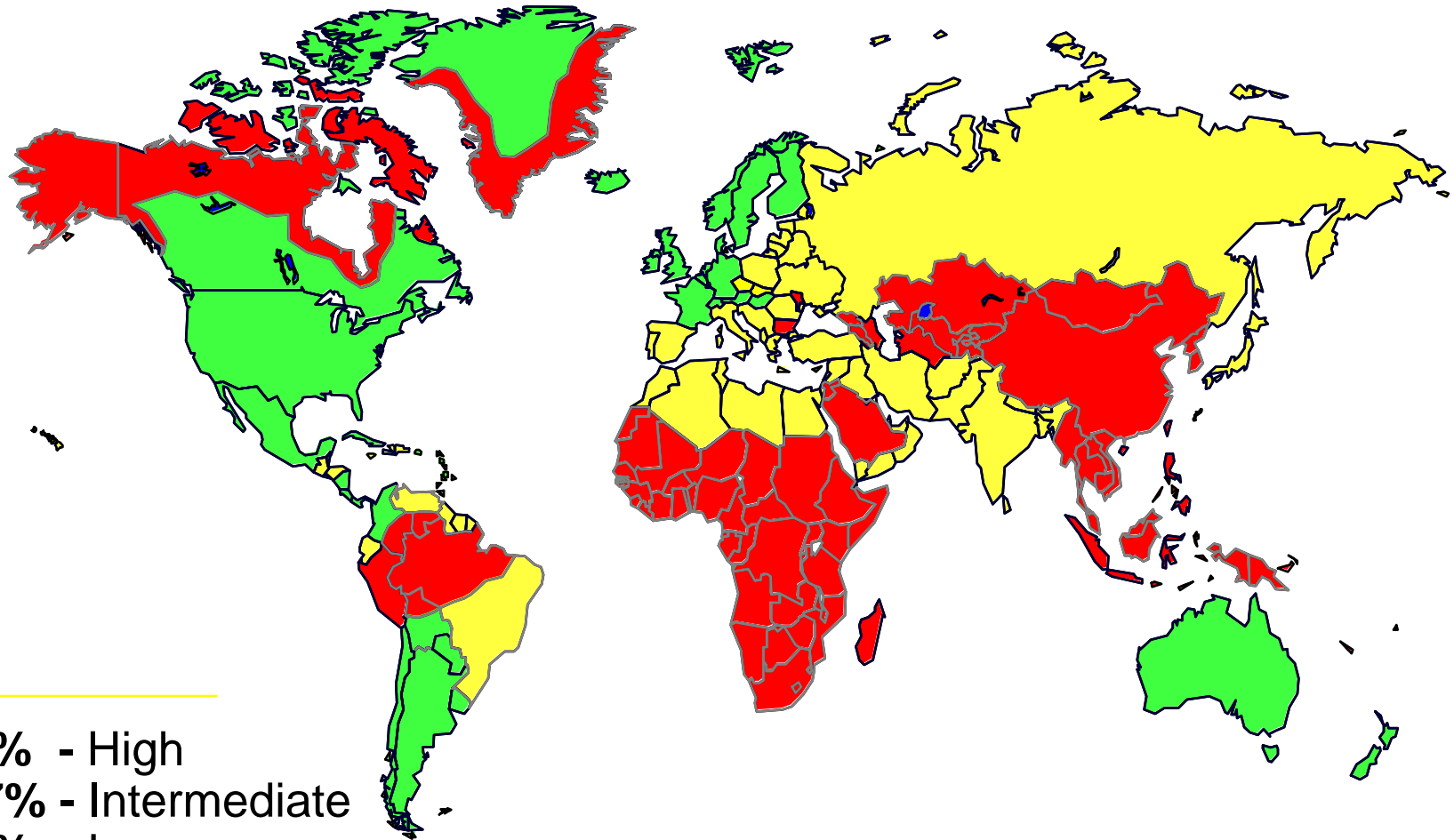
# HEPscreen

SCREENING FOR HEPATITIS B AND C  
AMONG MIGRANTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

[www.hepscreen.eu](http://www.hepscreen.eu)



## Prevalence of chronic hepatitis B



- $\geq 8\%$  - High
- 2-7% - Intermediate
- $< 2\%$  - Low

# Prevalence of hepatitis C

