

## **Discours d'ouverture (en anglais) de Tatjana Reic, la Présidente d'ELPA**

As President of ELPA I can say that if patients would be more closely involved in the decision making process, things would be different and I think, the situation would be much better. I would like to call on decision makers to encourage the active involvement of patients when developing national plans.

The key finding is the following:

- Significant shortcomings in all categories across all countries
- High prevalence of viral hepatitis
- Low detection rate due to lack of consistent screening programmes especially among high risk groups
- Significant increase in late stage of viral hepatitis (cirrhosis & HCC)
- High inequality with regard to access to treatment options within and between countries and between EU regions

The main areas for improvement that we have identified are:

- Lack of awareness of the risks of transmission especially among high risk groups
- Access to testing and treatment because once screened lots of possibilities for effective treatment exist.
- Lack of specific registries on viral hepatitis to keep track of infected patients and transmission threats

And friends, in our view, the solution is:

- National strategies/plans focussing on the 3 areas of improvement are the main vehicle to address the shortcomings
- Individual examples of best practices exist in Europe. They need to be consistently implemented across all countries
- Patients' empowerment is part of the solution. Patients need to be involved in the design and implementation of national strategies for these to succeed

This is an exciting time for those of us involved in improving the treatment of liver disease. There is a lot of interesting and innovative research taking place.

And if all of us can work together closely then I am sure that we can bring about a step-change in the way health systems deliver care for patients with liver disease. I hope we can grasp this opportunity.

I think this Index has generated a great moment for the hepatitis community to call on Member States to create national plans.