



European Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction

Experience from pilot testing of the HCV knowledge questionnaire

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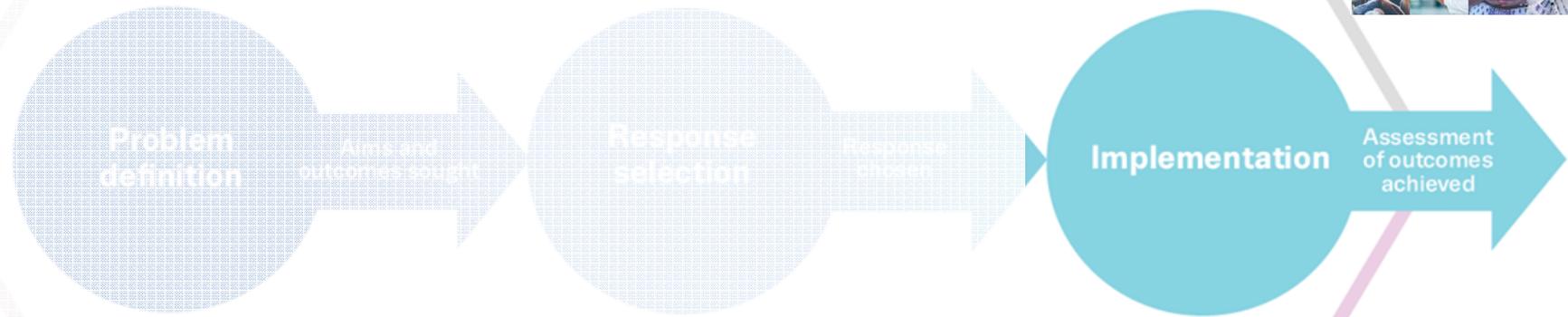
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Toolbox: HCV testing & referral to care



Guiding Access to HCV Care through Drugs Services
EMCDDA State of the Art Series

A manual for understanding, designing, or access or identify barriers and opportunities for providing HCV testing and care in drugs services in Europe

The diagnostic process

- Mapping the current situation – barometer
- Roundtable discussion
- Action planning

The new models of care

- Selection of testing programmes
- Identification of other responses
- Implementation experience focus

Hepatitis C	Know this already	Yes	No
The level of hepatitis C in the general population in Europe is generally low (below 2%)	()	()	
The level of hepatitis C among people who inject drugs in Europe is generally high (above 2%) or even higher	()	()	
Hepatitis C testing and treatment has benefits for both the individual and for others, as the transmission of the virus is reduced	()	()	
Hepatitis C is mainly transmitted through blood	()	()	

Materials to support the action

- Information material for drug services to raise awareness among staff
- Knowledge Questionnaire

Development process

1. First version of Knowledge Questionnaire (KQ) developed by RKI based on the experience of DRUCK
2. EMCDDA adopted the questionnaire and further developed the content
3. Translation and programming in LimeSurvey
4. Initial test in PL during annual conference^{KK1}:
 1. Introductory session & online questionnaire promoted
 2. Two focus-groups
5. Pilot of on-line versions in Italy and in Estonia
6. Further refinements and translations



Slide 4

KK1

and DRID expert

Klaudia Kepa, 21/09/2018

Key features of the questionnaire

EMCDDA Harm Reduction Initiative - Increasing HCV testing and referral in drug services for PWID

Knowledge questionnaire for drug service staff

How much do you know about viral hepatitis and the tests and treatment available? This short questionnaire will help us find out which topics people tend to be less sure about so that more information and training in these areas can be provided – and we hope it will be a useful knowledge refresher for you!

0% 100%

English

A. Hepatitis C

*** The level of hepatitis C in the general population in Europe is generally low (below 2%)**

I knew this already
 This is new to me

*** The level of hepatitis C among people who inject drugs in Europe is generally high (often 50%) or even higher)**

I knew this already
 This is new to me

*** Hepatitis C testing and treatment has benefits for both the individuals treated and for others, as the transmission of the virus is reduced**

I knew this already
 This is new to me

*** Hepatitis C is transmitted through blood.**

I knew this already
 This is new to me

Question index

1. A. Hepatitis C
2. B. Hepatitis B
3. C. Personal Status
4. D. Evaluation of the questionnaire

Topics covered

A series of true statements

Non-judgmental answer options



Results from initial test in Poland

1. Both the format (not a test) and the content were well received (interesting)
2. Online version is user friendly
3. Triggered discussion about the national situation and barriers for testing
4. Staff do not get training so the knowledge questionnaire useful here
5. Need for more information about new testing methods and treatment options + international recommendations (also for advocacy work)
6. There is a need to provide links to educational material

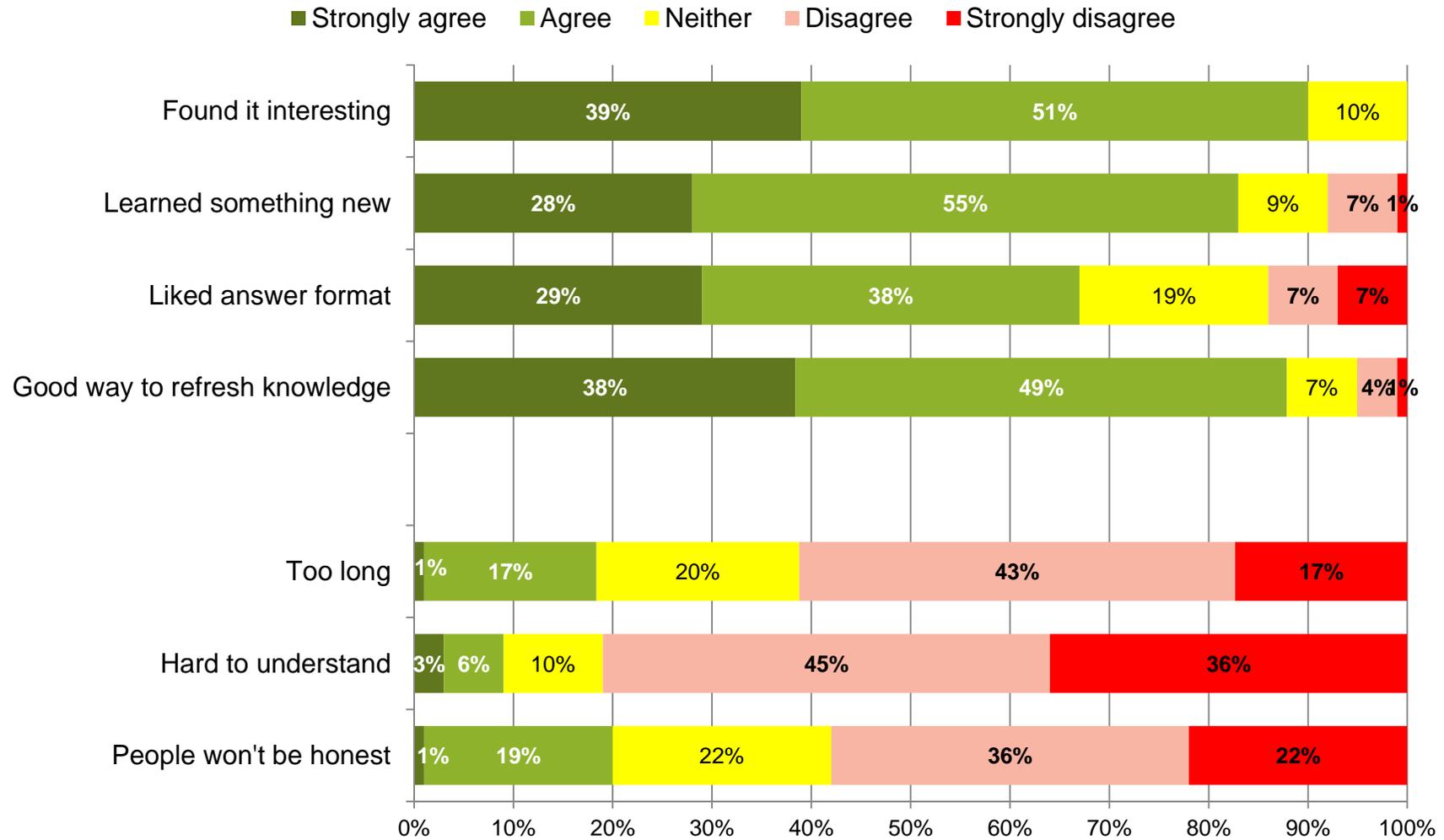


Results from piloting in Italy (1)

- N = 73;
- only 1 person did not complete all questions;
- mainly from ‘community testing’, residential treatment & low threshold services;
- 33% provide services for PWID regularly, 50% occasionally and 17% rarely;
- proportion answering “I knew that already” ranged from 55% to 100%;
- 91% of respondents knew their hepatitis B status and 90% their hepatitis C status.



Results from piloting in Italy (2)

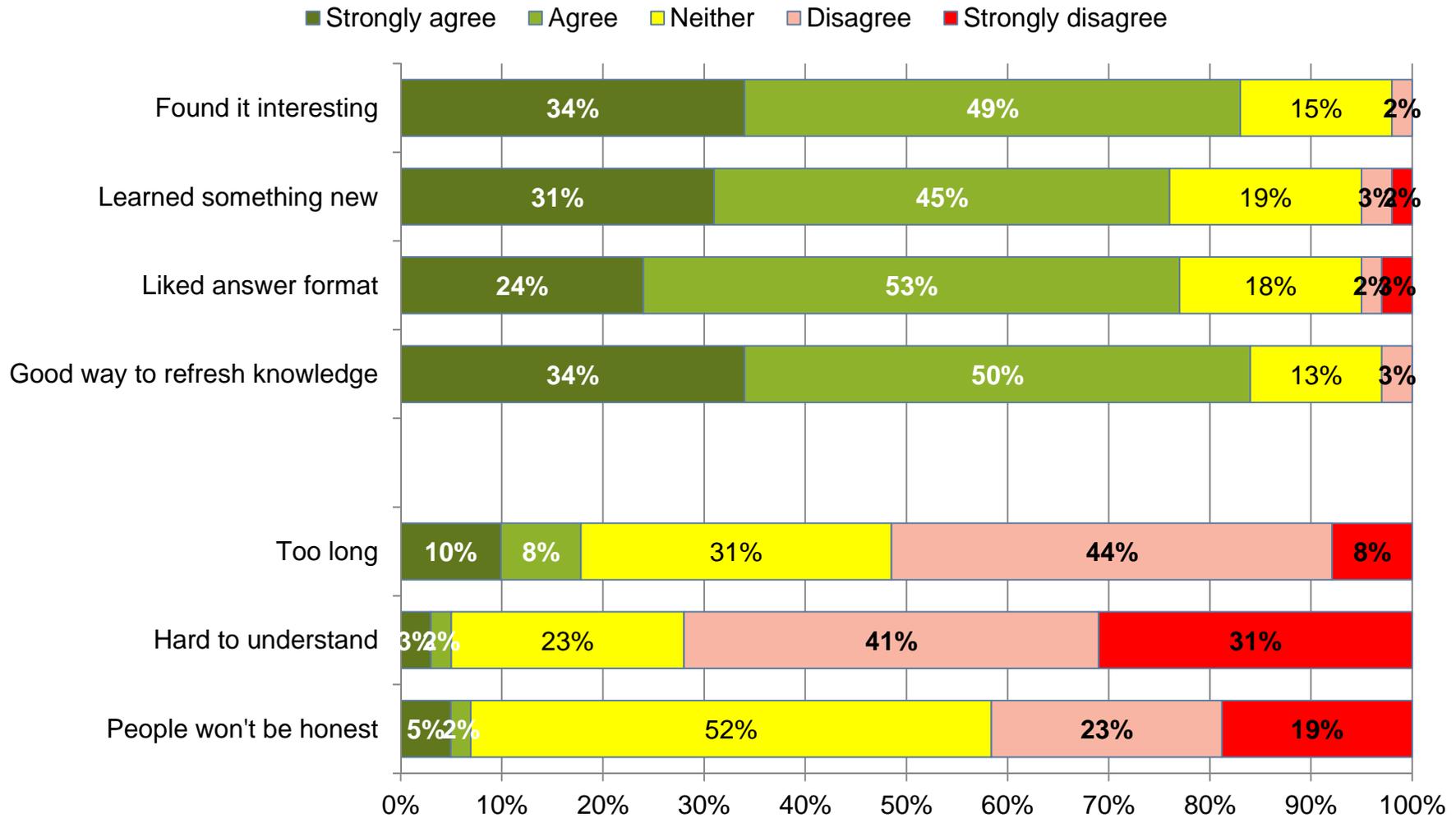


Results from piloting in Estonia (1)

- N = 75;
- only 3 person did not complete all questions;
- mainly from low threshold services (76%);
- 69% provide services for PWID regularly, 16% occasionally and 16% rarely;
- proportion answering “I knew that already” ranged from 44% to 97%;
- 90% of respondents knew their hepatitis B status and 89% their hepatitis C status.



Results from piloting in Estonia (2)



Conclusions

- The KQ seems useful for services;
- Knowledge seems quite high but they think it useful;
- There was overlap between the 2 pilot countries on the points they were less likely to know:
 - WHO recommends PWID who test +ve for HCV should receive treatment
 - To know if a person is currently infected requires a further test
 - The level of hep C in the general population in Europe is generally low (<2%)
 - The test for HCV should be repeated 3 months after treatment completion
 - The different ways HCV can be transmitted
 - To prevent hep B infection ideally 3 doses of the vaccine is needed

We prefer the current version of the questionnaire (I heard about it/This is new to me) over true and false – to avoid putting pressure on staff



Next steps

- Finalise the questionnaire now.
- Do additional translations
 - English, Polish, Italian, Estonian, Russian, Portuguese, German, French.
- Work with NFPs and others who want to use it in different ways.



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The questionnaire could be also useful for the staff to discuss the subject of HCV with their clients (sort of a checklist).

- Consider further evaluation.





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