

# INHSU 2018

7TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON  
HEPATITIS CARE IN SUBSTANCE USERS

by NEWSIFARMA

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## Joint Action Policy Day marked by the launch of a Global Declaration to Eliminate Hepatitis C in People Who Use Drugs



### Clinical perspective: hepatitis C care in Portugal

For **Rui Tato Marinho**, INHSU 2018 co-convenor and gastroenterologist in Hospital de Santa Maria, Portugal has two worlds in respect of treatment of hepatitis C: in one hand, the country has great specialists able to treat patients with VHC, a good hospital system, access to the best drugs in the world and laws that allow to treat all people. On the other hand, some hospitals and organizations that work in the field do not have capacity to allocate all the patients that need treatment, sometimes because of other reasons.

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### "If our goal is eliminate this kind of infections, we must work all together"

For **Isabel Aldir**, coordinator of the Portuguese National Program for the Viral Hepatitis, the Joint Action Policy Day was a very important initiative, because "it brought together all the different stakeholders at the same table that play a role" in the reduction of HIV and HCV infections in people who use drugs. "If our goal is eliminate hepatitis C, we must work all together", says the specialist in an interview to News Farma.

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### Policy perspective: decriminalization and harm reduction in Portugal

The decriminalization of drug use in Portugal seventeen years ago was a very important measure for the country, because "allows make policies that respect the dignity of people who use drugs" and to treat them like any other patient, says the director of the Portuguese Intervention Service in Addictive Behaviours and Dependencies. However, **João Goulão** highlights that although Portugal had change the prohibitionist paradigm, still have problems with the regulatory paradigm.

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### Best practises and policies to enhance drug user health: perspective from the community

People who use drugs face many challenges in harm reduction programs, mainly because their actions are criminalized. In an interview to News Farma, **Judy Chang**, International Network of People who Use Drugs, explains what other challenges people who use or inject drugs encounter every day.

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### Photo gallery #2: INHSU 2018 wants to motivate policy champions in drug user health and hepatitis C elimination

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