

# Netherlands

## De Regenboog Groep (The Rainbow Group)

NGO – direct service provider

Amsterdam, the Netherlands

www.deregenboog.org

### SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

The respondent reviewed 25 items of information that the government of the Netherlands reported for the 2013 World Health Organization Global Policy Report on the Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis in WHO Member States.

✓ The government information was thought to be accurate for **60.0%** of items.

Survey points marked "accurate":  
1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 5.2 and 5.4.

✗ The government information was thought to not be accurate for **4.0%** of items.

Survey points marked "not accurate":  
2.2.

– The respondent took no position on the government information for **36.0%** of items.

Survey points marked "take no position":  
2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.10, 5.1, 5.3 and 5.5.

### Survey comments from The Rainbow Group:

#### Information reported by government (2012–2013)

✗ To our knowledge, this information is not accurate.

2.2 The government collaborates with the following in-country civil society group to develop and implement its viral hepatitis prevention and control programme: National Hepatitis Centrum.

– We take no position regarding this statement.

2.1 The government held events for World Hepatitis Day 2012 and has funded other viral hepatitis public awareness campaigns since January 2011.

#### Civil society respondent comments (2014)

The National Hepatitis C Centre closed down their activities in January 2013. I am not aware of any other civil society agency with whom they collaborate.

It might well be accurate, but I am not aware of any detail.

### Statement from The Rainbow Group regarding viral hepatitis screening, care and treatment issues in the Netherlands:

Although there is no formal guideline in the Netherlands that active drug users are not eligible for hepatitis C treatment, there is limited influx of people who inject drugs towards hepatitis C screening and treatment. The bottleneck seems to be at the level of drug treatment agencies. They show varied levels of awareness

and priority in getting people into treatment. On city levels, this policy – often in the hands of one or two addiction specialists – is decisive in the municipal availability of screening and treatment.

There are big differences throughout the country. Some cities have an active drug treatment agency resulting in substantial numbers of people being treated for hepatitis C, while in other cities there is way more limited awareness,

screening, and hepatitis C treatment. This was reported in a recent report from the Ministry of Health, conducted by the Trimbos Institute, on "Estimated Number of Opiate Users in the Netherlands" (2013).

Recommended change: the Ministry of Health needs to provide more coordination and prioritise hepatitis C as an urgent health issue.