

Local Elimination Programs Leading to Global Action in HCV (LEGA-C): Implementation Science Studies in Europe Aiming to Streamline the HCV Care Pathway

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Poster #



Conclusions

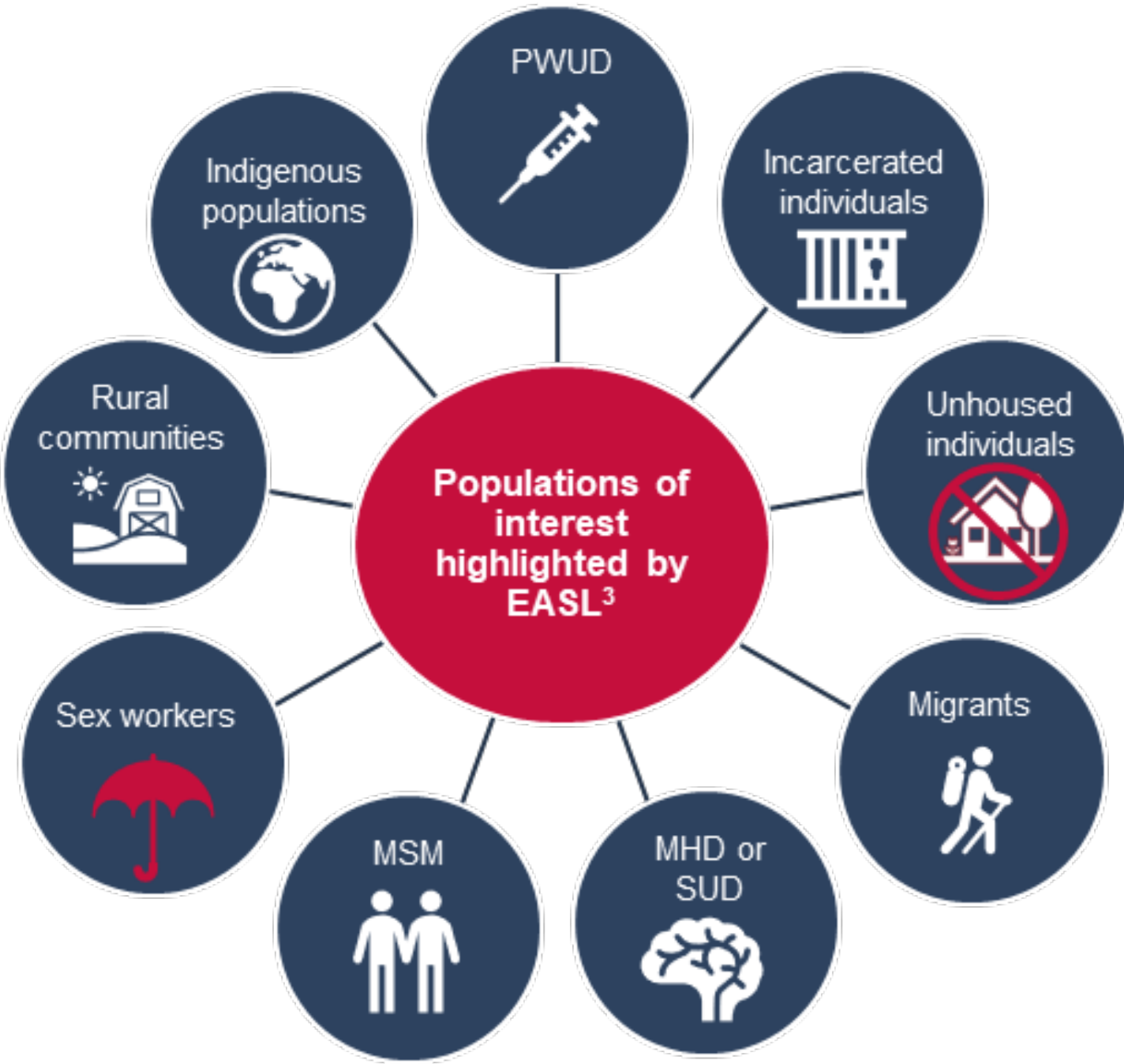
- The LEGA-C initiative has supported >120 implementation-science studies globally, 32 of which were conducted in Europe
- 25 out of 32 European studies focused on streamlining the care pathway for a variety of populations with HCV infection
- These findings highlight the value of multistakeholder collaboration by reaching nearly 9000 individuals, including populations historically less engaged in healthcare
- These studies focusing on vulnerable populations play a crucial role in the elimination of HCV in Europe

Plain Language Summary

- The LEGA-C initiative was launched to support the goal of understanding, treating, and eliminating hepatitis C virus in underserved populations globally
- These findings represent the strength of partnerships in Europe between Gilead Sciences, Inc., and local communities in overcoming barriers to care

Introduction

- Since 2016, Gilead Sciences, Inc., has supported studies and grant initiatives focused on HCV elimination under its **Local Elimination Programs Leading to Global Action in HCV (LEGA-C)** initiative, making progress toward the World Health Organization goal of eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030.¹
- To date, Gilead Sciences, Inc., has funded more than 120 investigator-sponsored research and collaborative studies across more than 30 countries worldwide under the LEGA-C initiative.²
- In 2020, the EASL released the latest recommendations on treatment of HCV and identified patients who are historically less engaged in healthcare and will benefit from a more streamlined care pathway.³

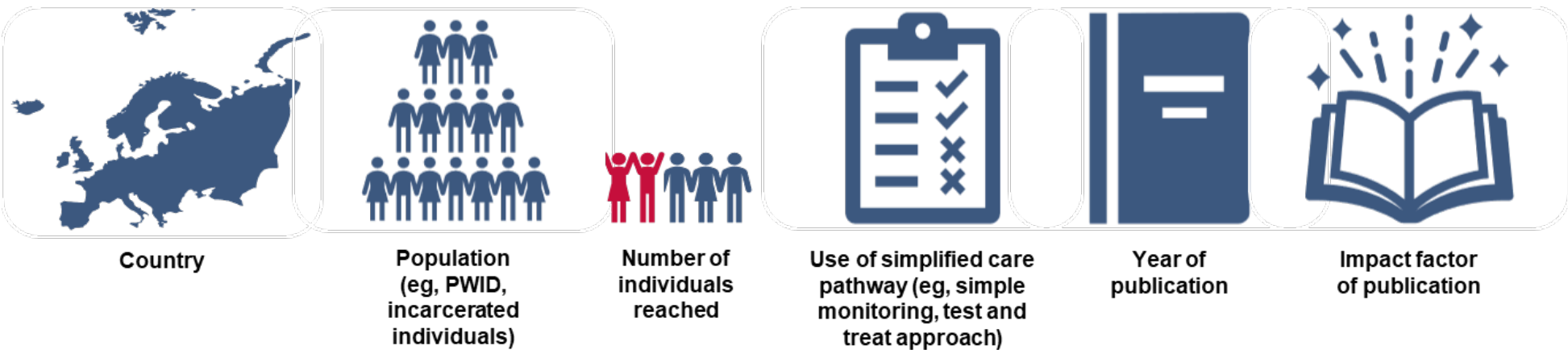


Objectives

- To comprehensively describe the studies under the LEGA-C initiative and locally supported projects in European countries, specifically focusing on populations historically less engaged in healthcare, as defined by EASL guidelines, to achieve HCV elimination.

Methods

- We confirmed and augmented information by searching ClinicalTrials.gov and PubMed (1 Jan 2016 to 15 Jul 2022) for study and publication details, as well as abstract booklets from EASL and AASLD and Google (1 Jan 2018 to 15 Jul 2022) for congress presentations.
- Investigators located in the EU5 reported funding from non-LEGA-C, non-Gilead grants.
- Studies performed in the European region were identified, and the below information was extracted.



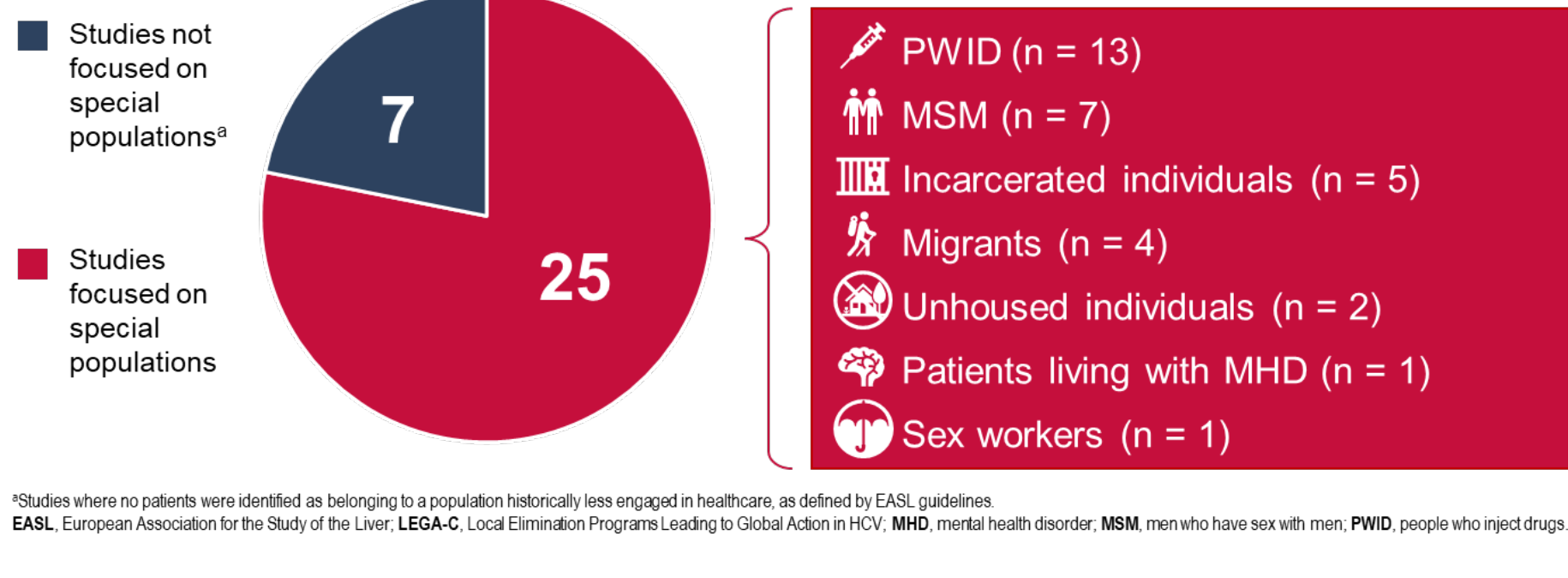
Results

- As of July 2022, 32 (27%) studies were conducted in Europe across 12 countries (Austria, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom).

LEGA-C Study Locations Across Europe



European LEGA-C Studies Focused on Special Populations



- In these 32 European studies, 25 (78%) focused on special populations, with 8935 individuals reached.

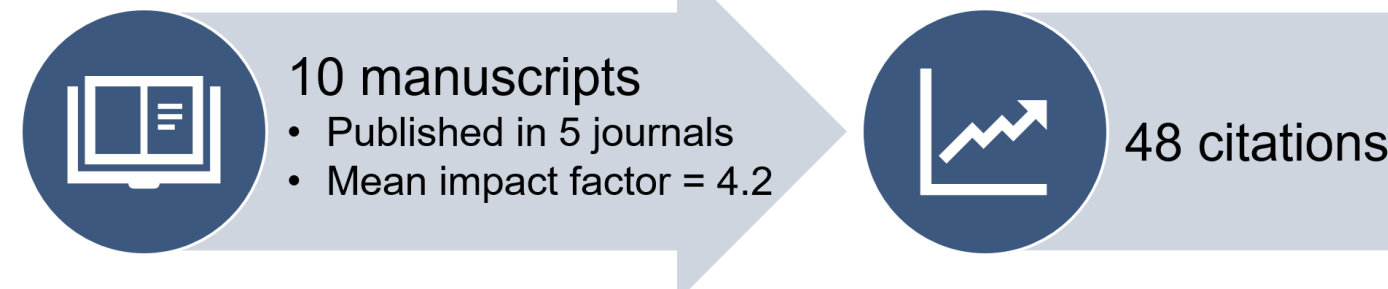
Types of Studies/Projects

Test and treat	18
Simplified screening & linkage to care/minimal monitoring	9
Epidemiology	4

Some studies represent more than 1 study type.

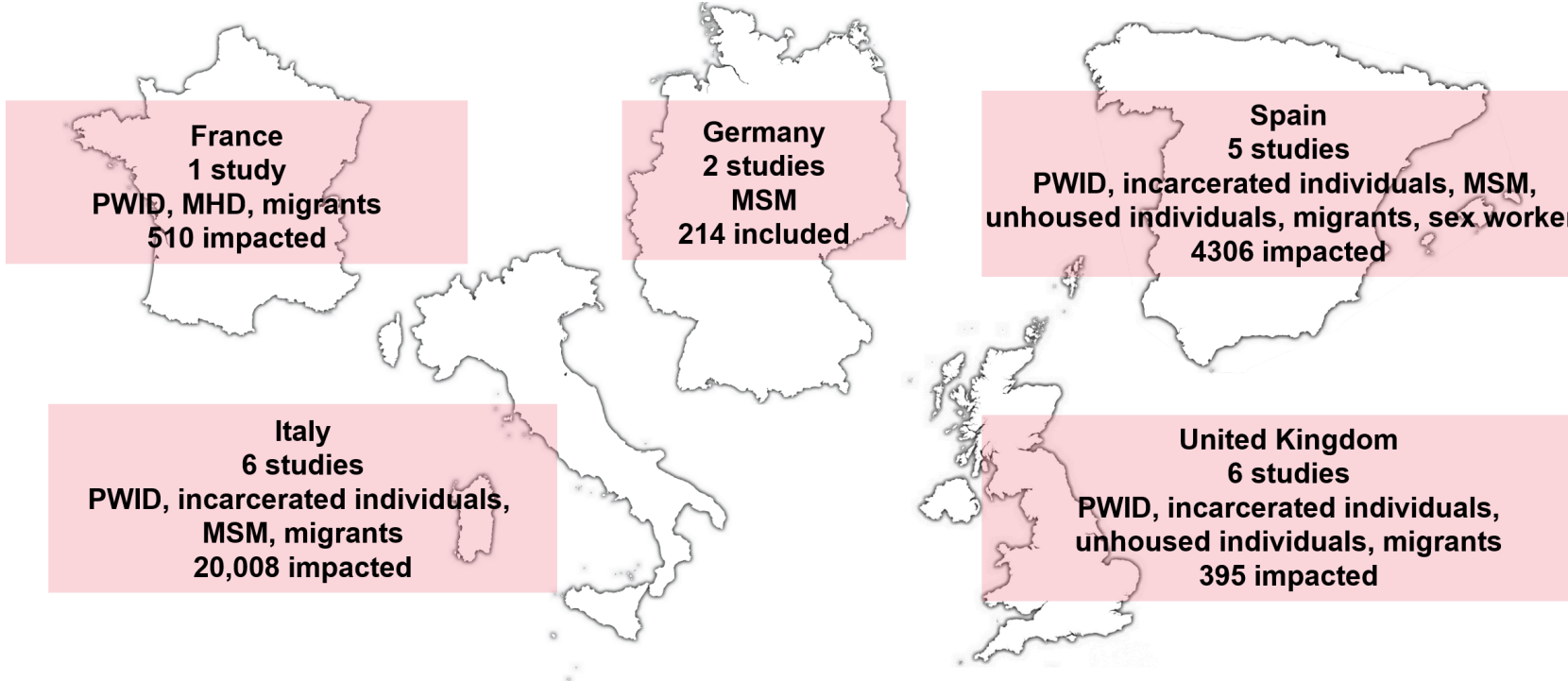
- Among the 32 studies, the test and treat approach was the most frequent, followed by the screening and monitoring simplification approach.
- Notably, use of both aforementioned approaches increased in studies during the years 2021–2022 compared with 2018–2020.

Publications Including Special Populations From LEGA-C–Funded European Studies



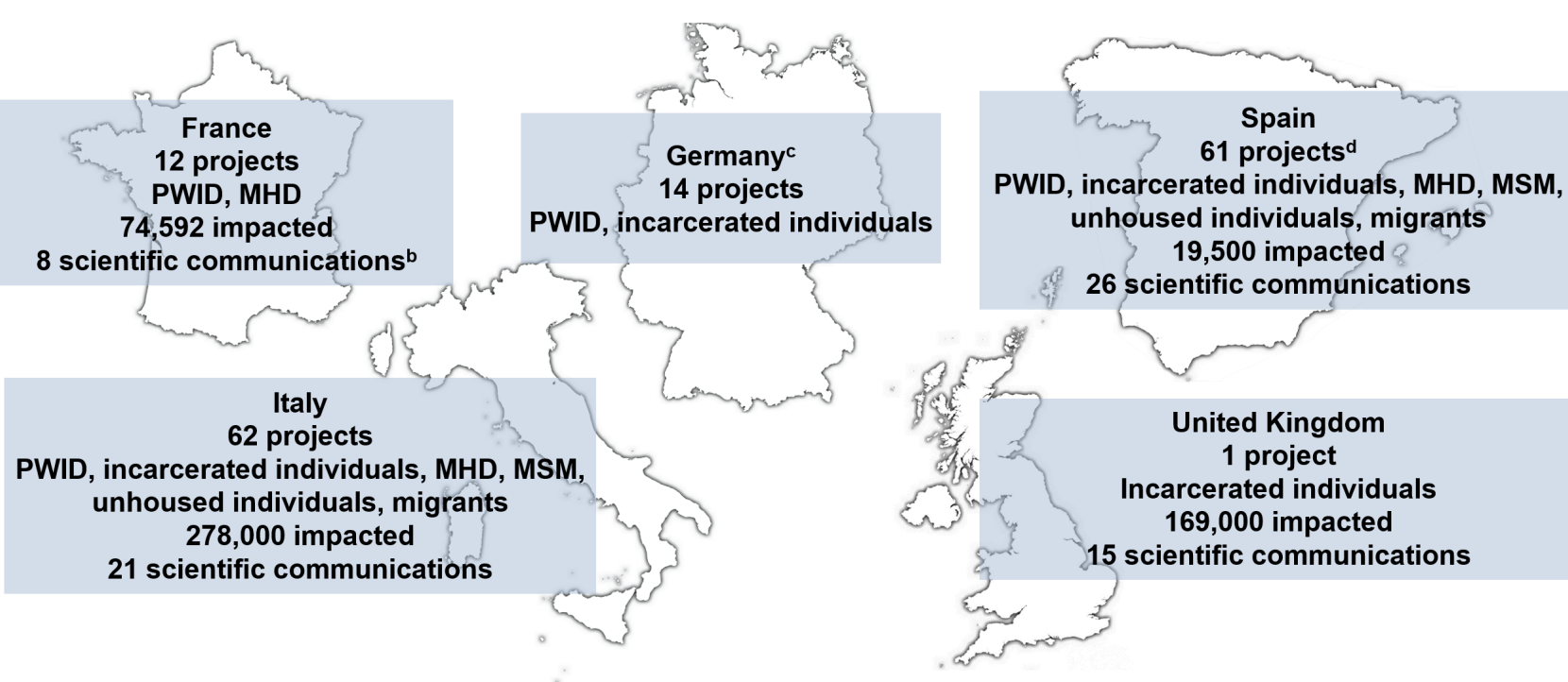
- 44% (13/42) of projects are currently ongoing
- 26 out of the 32 studies had conference presentations or publications
- 7 studies in 2018–2019
- 2 studies in 2020
- 17 studies in 2021–2022
- An increase in studies that included individuals who were unhoused, sex workers, incarcerated, and people who inject drugs was observed during 2021–2022

EU5 LEGA-C–Funded Studies Including Special Populations



EU5, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom; MHD, mental health disorder; MSM, men who have sex with men; PWID, people who inject drugs.

EU5 Locally Funded Projects^a



^aNot funded by the LEGA-C initiative. ^bScientific communications include manuscripts, abstracts, posters, and presentations. ^cNumber of individuals impacted and number of related scientific communications not reported. ^dOnly includes microelimination grants from Gilead Sciences SLU, Spain, and Asociación Española para el Estudio del Hígado (2018–2023); other projects or grants not included. EU5, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom; MHD, mental health disorder; MSM, men who have sex with men; PWID, people who inject drugs.

AASLD, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases; EU5, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom; EASL, European Association for the Study of the Liver; HCV, hepatitis C virus; LEGA-C, Local Elimination Programs Leading to Global Action in HCV; MHD, mental health disorder; MSM, men who have sex with men; PWUD, people who use injected drugs; SUD, substance use disorder.

References 1. World Health Organization. Interim Guidance for Country Validation of Viral Hepatitis Elimination. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021. 2. Kwon KM, et al. Local Gilead Elimination Programs Leading to Global Action in HCV (LEGA-C): outcome of studies and the impact focusing on activities within the United States. Abstract presented at: AASLD, The Liver Meeting; Nov 10–14, 2023; Boston, MA. 3. European Association for the Study of the Liver. [Published correction appears in J Hepatol. 2023;78(2):452]. J Hepatol. 2020;73(5):1170–218. doi:10.1016/j.jhep.2020.08.018.

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