

Bulgarian National Hepatitis Plan



European Liver
Patients Association



Dr. Stanimir Hasardzhiev

Executive director of the European Liver Patients' Association
Chairperson of the National Association for Fighting Hepatitis – Hepasist, Bulgaria

Hepatitis in Bulgaria: Data?

- **HBV estimated 4.2%**
- **HCV estimated 1.2-1.3%**

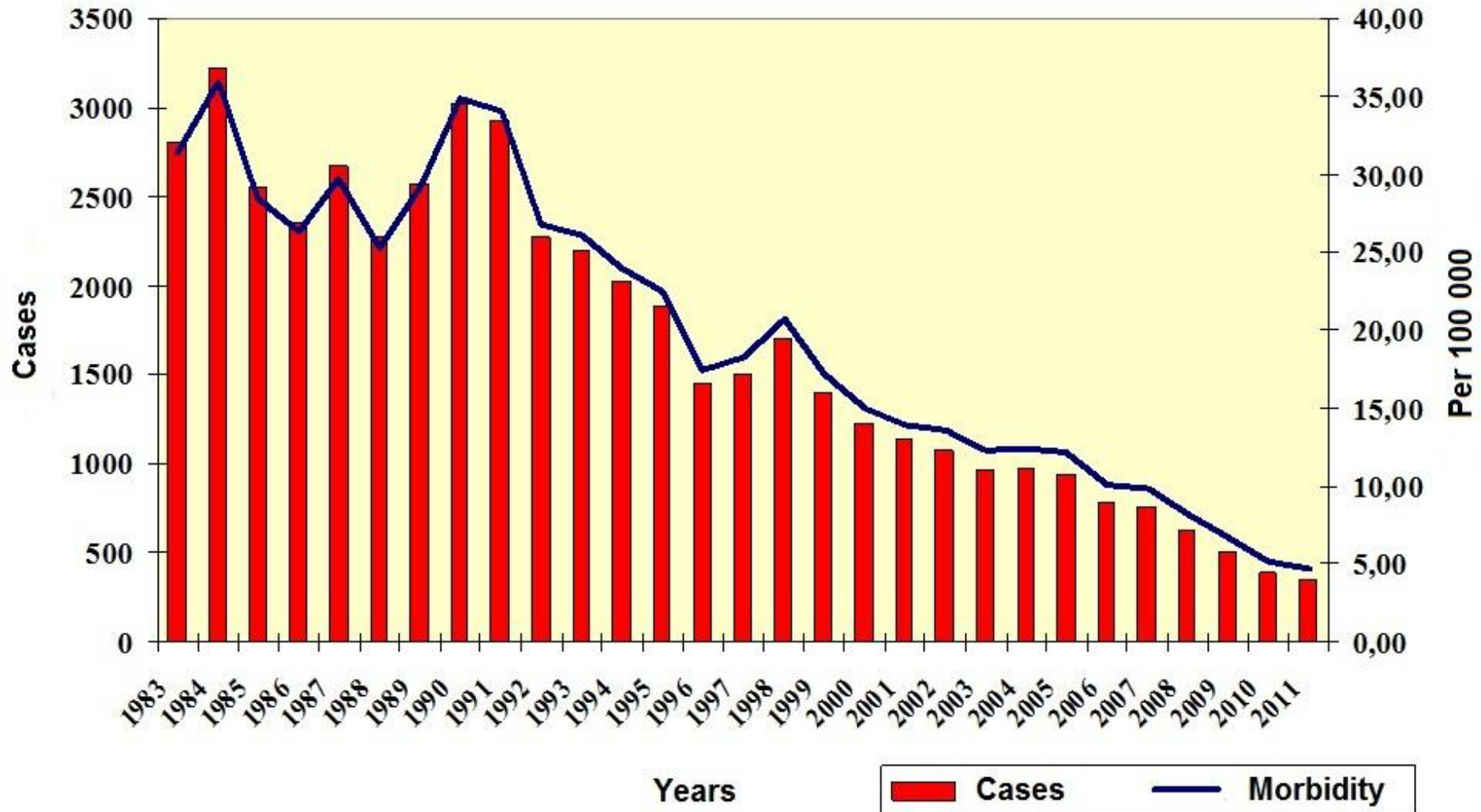
Hepatitis in Bulgaria: The measures

- General improvement of living standards, the introduction of specific public health measures, such as control of blood products (blood donor screening for the presence of HBsAg - 1979, use of universal precautions in health care facilities, disposable Syringes (1980) and others
- Registration and reporting of viral hepatitis cases (1983)
- Testing of pregnant women for HBsAg (1982-1991)
- Selective vaccination of medical personnel – 1988
- Disinfection and Sterilization; regulatory framework; health promotion, training of medical staff to comply with standard precautions
- Mass immunization of newborns - 1992

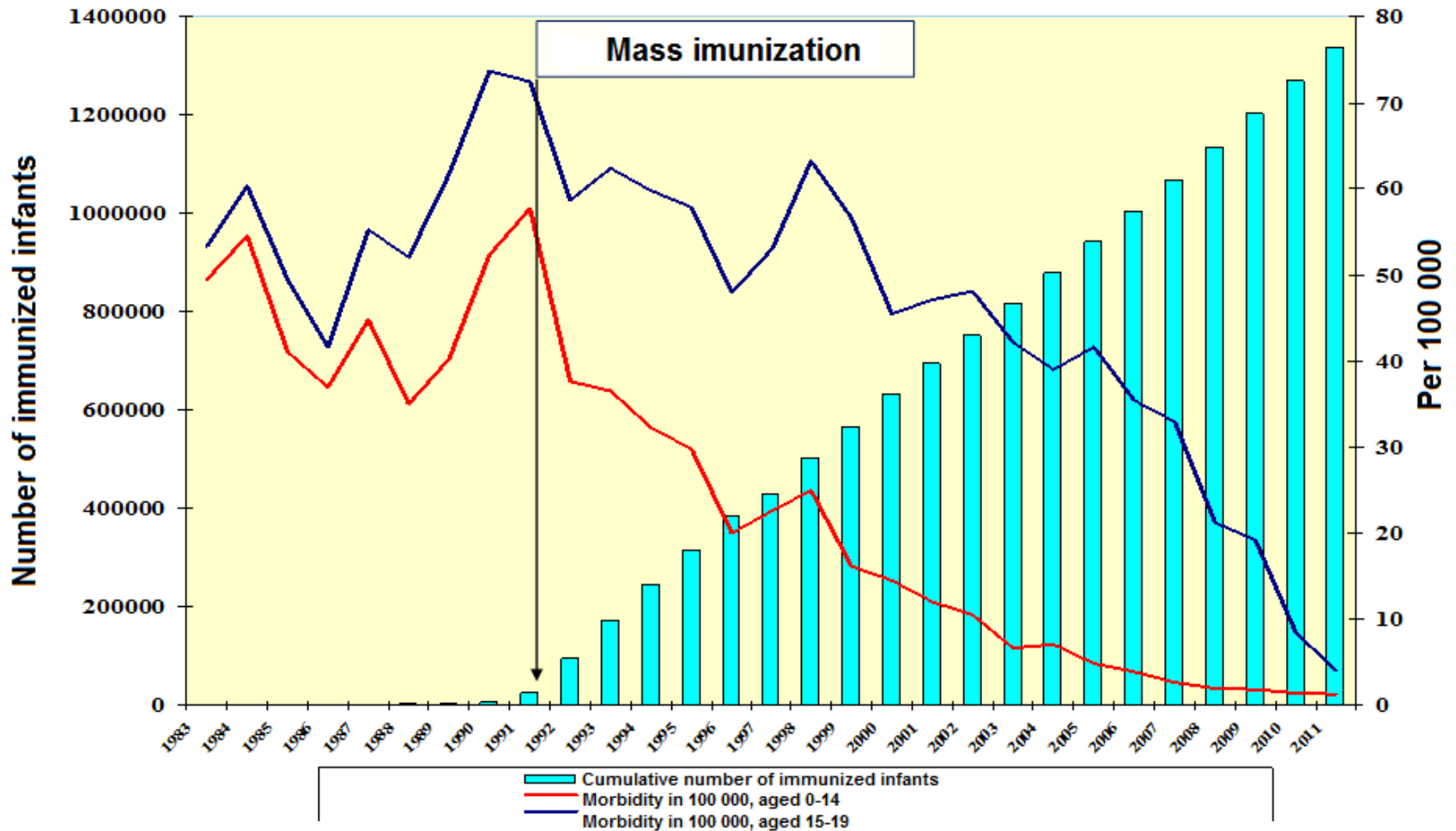
Hepatitis in Bulgaria: The Vaccination program

- Period of mass immunization of newborns: (1992-2011)
- The greatest decrease in total incidence of acute HBV is established after introducing the strategy for mass immunization of infants:
 - The annual incidence of acute viral hepatitis B gradually and steadily declined, from 26.70 per 100,000 (2,268 cases) in 1992 to 3.97 per 100,000 (344 cases) in 2011
 - The highest morbidity in 2011 was recorded in the age groups that are not covered by immunization: 20-24 and 25-29 - 12.89 and 12.42 per 100,000
 - The greatest reduction in the incidence of HBV in children aged 0 to 14 years (with 97.51%) and young people from 15 to 19 years (with 92.56%), and it correlates with the gradual increase in cumulative number of children immunized in Bulgaria

Hepatitis in Bulgaria: Number of new cases of acute HBV infection



Number of immunizations and case findings in the vaccinated population



The Euro Hepatitis Care Index

- A systematic analysis of the current situation in Europe in the field of Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C
- In EU 27 + Norway, Switzerland and Croatia
- In the field of prevention, case finding, access to treatment, national strategy, patient involvements and outcomes
- Commissioned by the European Liver Patients' Association
- Created by Health Consumer Powerhouse

<http://www.hep-index.eu/>

Bulgaria in the Euro Hepatitis Care Index

- Among the 30 countries in the survey:
 - 21st place, after Malta and before Greece;
- Among the new EU Member States (acceded after 2004)
 - 5th place, after Malta and before Cyprus

Bulgaria in the Euro Hepatitis Care Index

- Weak points:
 - Vaccination in risk population
 - HBV vaccination reimbursement
 - Free anonymous hepatitis testing and counseling
 - ALT tests routinely by GPs
 - Screening funding
 - Availability of new drugs
 - Hepatitis specialist nurses
 - HCC registry
 - Liver transplants per million population

Bulgaria in the Euro Hepatitis Care Index

- Good practices:
 - Universal infant HBV vaccination since 1992
 - Universal antenatal HBV screening
 - Sustainable Treatment Funding
 - Waiting time for specialist appointment less than 4 weeks
 - Treatment of children in specialized units
 - HCV Genotyping
 - National HCV/HBV patient organizations
 - High SVR rates

The Bulgarian National Hepatitis Plan

- The result of the successful collaboration between the healthcare system and the non-governmental organizations.



“Hepasist”: Setting the Ground for the Plan

- **14.12.2011 - Expert Meeting**
 - “Contemporary approach and European Practices in the Strategies for Chronic Viral Hepatitis”
- **27.01.2012 - Letter to the Bulgarian MoH**
 - To affirm the need for a National Hepatitis Plan
- **05.08.2012 – Round Table in the Bulgarian Parliament**
 - To discuss the future National Hepatitis Plan

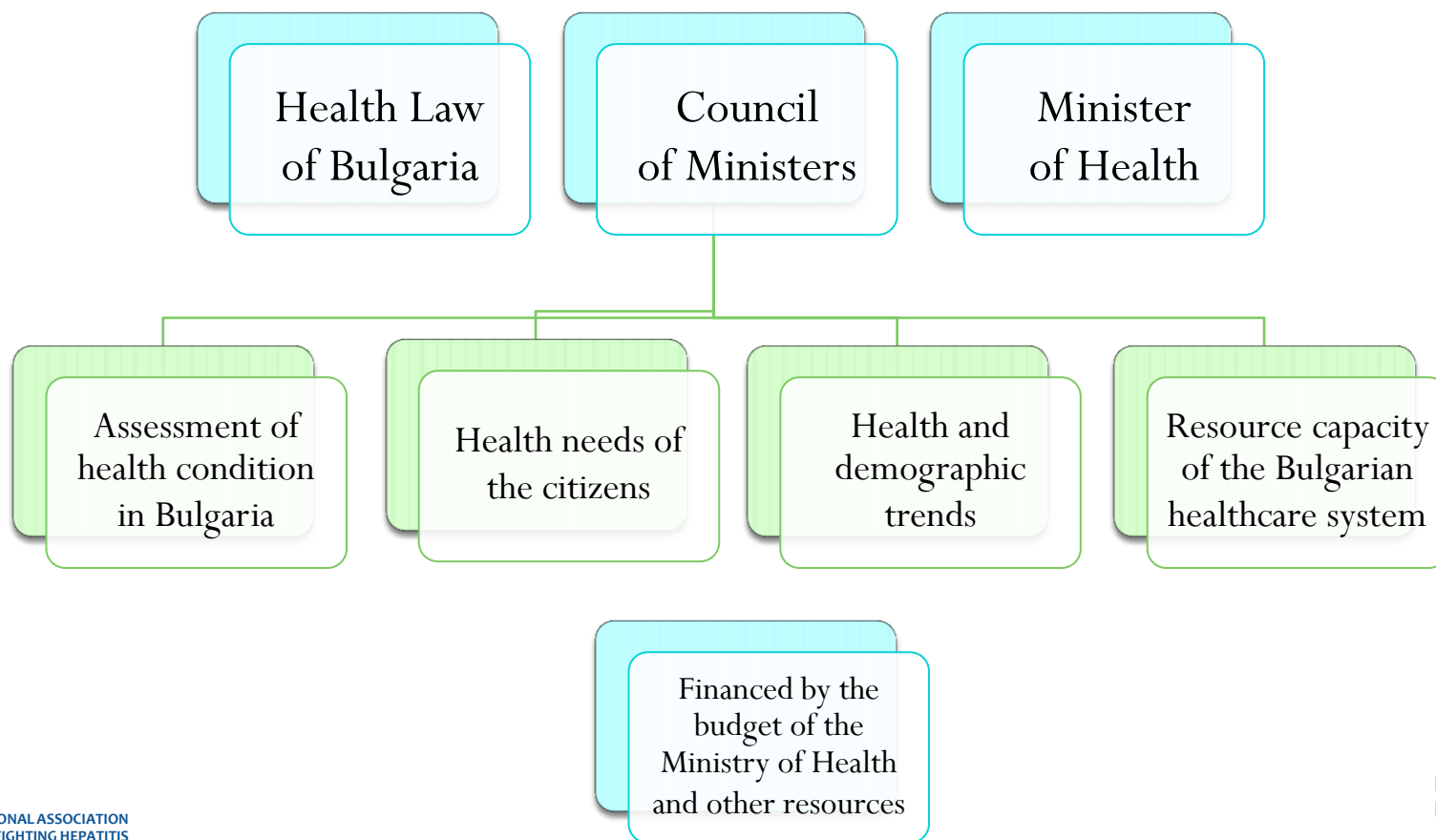


“Hepasist”: Setting the Ground for the Plan

- 28.11.2012 – Press-conference
 - To announce the formation of a Working Group
- 03.12.2012 – First Meeting of the Working Group



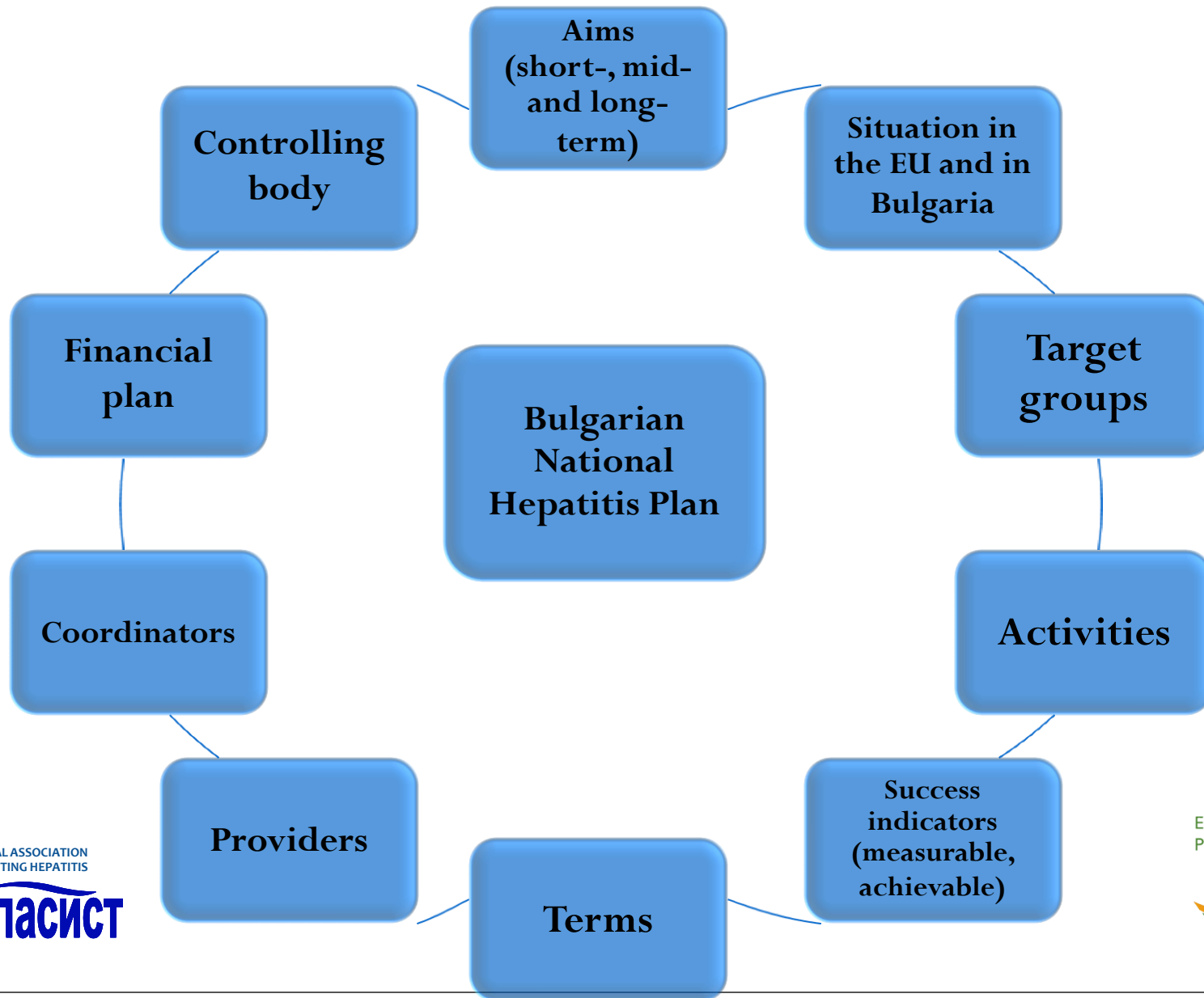
Legal foundation of the National Hepatitis Plan



Aspects of the Hepatitis Plan

- The Bulgarian National Hepatitis Plan is to be created according to the WHO's **Prevention & Control of Viral Hepatitis Infection: Framework for Global Action**, in the following main directions:
 - Raising awareness, promoting partnerships and mobilizing resources
 - Evidence-based policy and data for action
 - Prevention of transmission
 - Screening, care and treatment

Concept of the Hepatitis Plan



Participants in the working group

- Public health experts
- Epidemiology experts
- Infectious disease specialists
- Gastroenterology experts
- Hepatitis co-infection specialists
- Prevention specialists
- Hepatology experts
- Financial experts
- Health insurance experts
- Patient representatives



Administrative procedure

Minister of Health

- Creation of a workgroup to develop the plan
- Preparation terms

Relevant Directorates

- Remarks for the National Plan concept

Management of Ministry of Health

- Discussion
- Adoption

Public discussion

- Publication of the National Plan at the Ministry of Health web site
- 14-day term for discussion

Law of normative documents

- Coordination between different Directorates
- Positions from other Ministries
- 10-day term

Council of Ministers

- Consideration
- **Adoption**

Timeline and funding of the Hepatitis Plan

- The work group for the Bulgarian National Hepatitis Plan was established in autumn 2012
- The draft of the National Bulgarian plan is to be finalized in spring 2013
- The Bulgarian National Hepatitis Plan to be adopted by Council of Ministers by June 2013
- Implementation and funding to start as soon as possible

Thank you for your attention!



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