

ERNA – European Red Cross / Red Crescent Network on HIV, AIDS and TB

Plan of Action 2007

Context

Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV, AIDS represent serious health and social problems within the European region. According to the latest official statistics, 2.2 million people were living with HIV in Europe in 2005, most of them (1.6 million) in eastern Europe and central Asia.

Basic facts about HIV in Europe

- HIV incidence is increasing steadily in western and central Europe and dramatically in Eastern Europe. This will remain a major challenge to public health in the 21st century.
- There are people living with HIV in every European country. An estimated 270,000 people were newly infected with HIV in 2006 in the region.
- Almost one-third of the newly diagnosed HIV infections in the region are in people aged 15 –24 years.
- As of mid-2006, only about 13 per cent of those in need were receiving anti-retroviral treatment.
- In eastern Europe overall, using non-sterile injecting drug equipment remains the predominant mode of HIV transmission.
- In central and western Europe, the predominant transmission group is heterosexual. About three-quarters of heterosexually acquired HIV infections in these areas are among immigrants and migrants.
- People who use non-sterile drug equipment represent more than two-thirds of HIV cases in the region. These individuals remain especially poorly served when it comes to anti-retroviral therapy.
- Across the continent, HIV infections through heterosexual contact are increasing steadily and women account for a rising proportion of cases.

Basic facts about TB in Europe and worldwide

- Tuberculosis is the single most deadly microbe in history, having killed an estimated 1 billion people since the dawn of recorded civilization.
- More people are dying of TB today than ever before, about 1.7 million each year. It is the world's leading cause of maternal mortality and the leading killer of people with HIV, AIDS.
- One in three people on earth are now infected with TB bacilli and 10 per cent of them will develop the active disease sometime in their life.
- If left untreated, a person with infectious TB will on average infect 12–15 other people in the course of one year.
- TB is fully curable in more than 90 per cent of patients with a six to eight month course of first-line drugs that cost as little as US\$ 20 on the global market.
- In the European region, 450,000 people develop TB every year and 70,000 people die of it.
- TB overwhelmingly affects the most vulnerable people in European societies – the very poor, the homeless, the elderly, alcoholics, drug users, prisoners – and the uncontrolled rise in HIV prevalence in Eastern Europe will worsen the TB epidemic, as it has in Africa.
- In many countries of the former Soviet Union, TB control is plagued by poor treatment practices – mainly the use of inappropriate or poor quality drugs and high percentages of patients who fail to complete their treatment.
- Poor treatment practices have produced dangerously high levels of multi drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) – strains that are resistant to the two most potent first-line TB drugs, rifampicin and isoniazid, and are up to 100 times more costly to treat with much lower cure rates.
- All 12 of the countries in the world today with the highest levels of MDR-TB are in the European region. Poor treatment of MDR-TB is now generating “extensively drug-resistant” strains that do not respond to most second-line TB drugs and are virtually untreatable.

ERNA background

ERNA was established in 1998 in Rome with the aim of coordinating the sharing of experiences, transfer of best practices and the promotion of collaborative efforts among National Societies of the European region. The network's vision is to have well functioning National Societies that are able to address HIV, AIDS, TB and related problems. Currently ERNA gathers 40 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from Europe.

The mission of the network is to encourage participation and to help strengthen National Societies' operational capacity to combat HIV, AIDS, TB and other communicable diseases by gradually developing activities at the community level particularly in the areas of prevention, care, treatment, control, harm reduction, psychosocial support, legal support, reduction of stigma and discrimination, social integration and other community activities targeted at the most vulnerable people.

General objective of ERNA is to contribute to the reduction of the spread of HIV, AIDS, TB and other communicable diseases principally among the most vulnerable people.

This year ERNA is having an important task to participate in the preparations of the European Red Cross/Red Crescent conference which will take place in May 2007. In order to spread the information about the network, the updated brochure and CD with informational materials will be distributed during the Conference in Istanbul.

ERNA is taking a lead role in promoting the links between National Societies and networks and other organisations. It is a coordinating body searching for better communication between National Societies as well as between National Societies and the Federation. ERNA has an important role in strengthening advocacy activities. Co-operation between National Societies and governments, WHO, UN agencies, other non-governmental organizations and their mutual exchange of experiences might have a positive synergetic effect on all beneficiaries as well as it can possibly strengthen the national Health Care systems.

ERNA stresses the importance of reinforcing the involvement of people living with HIV (PLWH) as well as people affected by HIV, AIDS and TB and other target groups in this co-operation. ERNA considers initiating the partnership with East European & Central Asian Union of PLWH Organisations (ECUO).

ERNA searches for the opportunities to build capacity of the National Societies both in HIV and TB field.

The Network wants to develop a concept of ERNA sub-regional coaches. In pilot stage, two persons will be selected through consultation from among ERNA member National Societies to be trained in HIV and TB field and become ERNA resource persons, who will have input and contribute to capacity building, experience exchange and information sharing among the ERNA members.

ERNA considers organising training on AIDS Competence for interested National Societies in order to understand the process and use it while reflecting on their work.

ERNA supports the scale-up of the Harm Reduction activities in the region. This year the network wants to follow up the trainings in Villa Maraini and find out about further development and challenges of the National Societies carrying out the Harm Reduction activities.

ERNA is also interested in being an active part of New HIV and AIDS Global Alliance within the Federation and strongly supports Global Alliance main objectives:

- preventing further infections
- expanding care, treatment and services
- reduce stigma and discrimination
- strengthening community

Plan of Action for ERNA 2007

Specific objectives outlined in the TORs for ERNA	Specific activities for 2007	Expected results	Indicators	Assumptions	Time frame	Budget / financial plan
To strengthen and promote the exchange of experiences, information and best practices among member National Societies and with others	ERNA Board Meeting	Agreement for proceeding of the Network Discussion on ERNA contribution to the preparation of European RCRC Conference in Istanbul Discussion on specific activities of ERNA in 2007	Budget for 2007 and Plan of Action for 2007 discussed and outlined		Beginning of 2007	Travel, meals and accommodation expenses for ERNA Secretariat covered by ERNA 2 000 EUR
	Preparation of ERNA brochure and ERNA informational CD including the updated mapping of existing HIV, AIDS and TB programmes of ERNA member National Societies	Updated awareness of existing resources and knowledge in NS's when it comes to HIV, AIDS and TB programmes Better awareness of existing needs of assistance	Brochures and CDs distributed at the Regional European RCRC conference in Istanbul, Turkey, May 2007	That ERNA member National Societies provide available information on their activities	Beginning of 2007	Expenses for layout, printing and CD burning and copying costs 2 500 EUR Mailing costs – Istanbul 300 EUR
	ERNA Board Meeting	Preparations of the 11 th ERNA meeting in Tallinn List of the guests to invite for the 11 th ERNA meeting Stop TB Partnership involvement discussed ERNA involvement in Global HIV and AIDS Alliance	Provisional Programme for 11 th ERNA Meeting adopted List of the guests approved		April 2007	Travel, meals and accommodation expenses for ERNA Secretariat covered by ERNA 2 000 EUR
	Participation in fulfilling the specific tasks of Stop TB Partnership for Europe – Mapping of services and resources for TB control in the region (in cooperation with the Swedish RC)	Awareness of existing TB resources and services and gaps in high and medium burden countries	Information collected from the approached National Societies	That the National Societies are willing to provide available information	Spring 2007	No expenses
	Preparatory visit of ERNA Secretariat at the Estonian RC for the 11 th ERNA meeting	See and check the possibilities and facilities to organize the annual meeting	Venue of the meeting approved Budget of the meeting discussed	That the Estonian RC provides necessary information and cooperates in ERNA Meeting preparatory works with ERNA Secretariat	Spring 2007	Travel, meals and accommodation expenses for ERNA Secretariat covered by ERNA 800 EUR

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	ERNA Secretariat Coordinator present at the 7 th European RCRC Conference in Istanbul	Distribution of the ERNA information materials, facilitation of the discussion in groups in Health and Care Group work	Materials distributed during conference Exhibition stall		20-24 May 2007	Conference fee and travel 1 500 EUR
	ERNA Board meeting	Preparation and further discussions on the 11 th ERNA meeting in Tallinn Estonian RC as hosting NS present at the meeting Agenda of the meeting outlined Working groups agreed Budget of the meeting approved	Agenda of the meeting and work in groups agreed Agreements on the budget agreed with Estonian RC		Summer 2007	Travel, meals and accommodation expenses for ERNA Secretariat covered by ERNA 2 000 EUR
	To organize the 11 th ERNA meeting, Tallinn, Estonia	Facilitated knowledge and experience sharing Main theme focusing on partnership with affected communities	Member National Societies shared their experience at the Conference Reinforced partnership with other involved stakeholders Active participation of all concerned members in the sessions Increased knowledge among member NS on specific issues discussed in the sessions Best practices shared among the member National Societies	That the budget for the meeting is covered That National Societies are willing to report on their best practices That there are available lecturers and facilitators for the workshops That the member National Societies participate actively in the workshops	21-24 September 2007	The budget for the meeting (incl. travel expenses, meals and accommodation) covered by ERNA Conference costs 30 000 EUR Travel costs 25 000 EUR
	ERNA Board Meeting	11 th ERNA Meeting evaluation			To be determined late autumn 2007	Travel, meals and accommodation expenses for ERNA Secretariat covered by ERNA 2 000 EUR
To promote the setting up of innovative initiatives and to reproduce them in other National Societies by adapting them to the beneficiaries	Follow-up of Harm reduction training courses in Villa Maraini	Extended sharing of experience with other partners Capacity building and knowledge sharing of members Capacity building and knowledge	Well trained persons in member National Societies	That IFRC supports this idea That there are experienced trainers/educators	Throughout 2007	No expected expenses

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	<p>To keep ERNA website www.erna.sk updated all the time, insert the relevant information from member National Societies</p> <p>To use the e-conference group ERNAids</p>	<p>sharing of members in the field of Harm Reduction</p> <p>Information tool for members More effective sharing of experience and knowledge leading to better HIV, AIDS programs on NS level.</p> <p>Sharing information, Exchange of knowledge among members, better possibilities to reach directly and at the same time more stakeholders Discussion forum</p>	<p>Feedback from members about HIV, AIDS and TB and other communicable diseases related activities within their NS</p> <p>Well-informed members, Good knowledge about the members and their activities</p>	<p>available That National Societies are interested in Harm Reduction activities</p> <p>That it will be used and thus it will provide useful information to all members, interested individuals and other groups</p> <p>That there is an interest to use such a media for interactive discussion</p>	Throughout 2007 and continuously	<p>150 EUR</p> <p>No expenses</p>
<p>To promote and facilitate concerted collaborative actions in the prevention of HIV, AIDS, TB and other communicable diseases with UN agencies, EU, non-governmental organizations, Global Fund (to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria), other international and national organizations and with existing Federation's Networks</p>	<p>Increase the existing cooperation with ENP+ and GNP+, UNAIDS, WHO, EU, Global Fund, Stop TB etc. To seek for other potential partners/donors involved in the fight against HIV, AIDS, TB and other communicable diseases</p> <p>To establish contact and cooperation with Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network (CEEHRN)</p> <p>Meeting of ERNA President with representatives of Eastern European & Central Asian Union of PLWH Organisations</p>	<p>Strategic partnership between National Societies and other agencies & partners</p> <p>Partnership in Harm Reduction activities, events, initiatives</p> <p>Partnership between ERNA and ECUO discussed</p>	<p>Number of partnership established</p> <p>Inviting the CEEHRN representatives to 11th ERNA meeting in Tallinn</p>	<p>That National Societies have programs and feasible projects to present and to offer to potential partners, that there is a will to cooperate</p> <p>That there is a reciprocal interest in cooperation</p> <p>That there is a reciprocal interest in cooperation</p>	<p>Throughout 2007; new partners to be invited to the 11th ERNA meeting</p> <p>Throughout 2007, details to be determined</p>	<p>Partners will pay for their own participation in general and ERNA will cover costs for specially invited guests</p> <p>Partners will pay for their own participation in general</p> <p>Accommodation, travel 2 000 EUR</p>

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	(ECUO) Cooperation with the Red Cross EU Office based in Brussels	Partnership with the RC/EU Office, possibly with other NGOs based in Brussels RC EU Office representative present at Annual ERNA meetings	Increase in assistance		Throughout 2007	
To involve PLWH and other target groups in work at all levels	To establish contact and initiate the partnership with Eastern European & Central Asian Union of PLWH Organisations (ECUO) To invite PLWH, and other affected people and their NGOs to 11 th Annual Meeting	Partnership in activities at all levels Partnership and more involvement of PLH, TB patients, affected people and other target groups in ERNA activities	Increased cooperation of National Societies and national PLWH organisations	That there is a reciprocal interest in cooperation	Throughout 2007	ERNA covering necessary costs of the invited persons to Tallinn 5 000 EUR
To give technical support and assistance to member National Societies (upon expressed need) in areas where a gap in knowledge and skill exists with the motive of fostering their operational capabilities	To organise the training on AIDS Competence for selected ERNA members' delegates (or ERNA National Societies) In pilot stage, two persons from among ERNA member National Societies selected through consultations to become sub-regional coaches	The National Societies understand the AIDS Competence process in order to use it while reflecting on their work Appointed persons will be trained in HIV and TB field and become ERNA resource persons, who will have input and contribute to capacity building, experience exchange and information sharing among the ERNA members	Number of National Societies having undergone the AIDS Competence process Two initial coaches appointed	That the National Societies express their interest in being trained in AIDS Competence That National Societies and individuals express their interest in the concept of the sub-regional coaches	During 11 th ERNA meeting and later follow-up To be determined	10 000 EUR Cost of trainings, travel related costs and accommodation for two persons 8 000 EUR
To render technical support and assistance to National Societies in countries in transition and developing countries through common projects of European National Societies	To support financially the participation of two technical people from two ERNA member National Societies in 7 th European RCRC Conference, Istanbul, Turkey	Technical people from ERNA member National Societies participated in the 7 th European RCRC Conference and participate in the Health working group	Number of technical people who participated in the conference with ERNA support	That there are funds for such support	20-24 May 2007	Conference fee and travel related costs of two participants 3 800 EUR

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	<p>To try to create conditions for covering financially participation of member NS in conferences related to HIV, TB and other communicable diseases (limited number – “first ask=first served”)</p> <p>To try to create conditions for facilitating exchange visits among member National Societies, exchange of experiences from one to other, especially among countries in transition/PNSs</p> <p>Use the expertise of National Societies successful in preparing Public Health project proposals to European Commission</p>	<p>National Societies participated in relevant conferences</p> <p>Exchange of knowledge among members, better possibilities to have more effective programs, information sharing</p> <p>Successful and effective HIV, AIDS and TB projects co-funded by EU funds</p>	<p>Number of National Societies which participated in international conferences</p> <p>Improvement in the quality of project organization and implementation by involved National Societies</p> <p>Number of Public Health projects accepted by European Commission</p>	<p>That member National Societies express their concrete needs, wishes and proposals for such study visits</p> <p>That there are sufficient funds for it That National Societies will benefit from such visits</p> <p>That National Societies have well trained staff and sufficient funds in order to be capable to submit EU project proposals</p>	<p>Throughout 2007</p> <p>Continuously</p> <p>Throughout 2007</p>	
<p>To promote the integration of HIV, AIDS, TB and other communicable diseases into other health programs and develop tools and methods for its implementation</p>	<p>To invite one or more experts from member National Societies to share their experience (co-operation with Ministry of Health – Social support and Health education)</p> <p>At the 11th ERNA Meeting invited UN agencies representatives presenting HIV, AIDS and TB related activities in collaboration with Governments Work with national Health Care systems</p>	<p>Increased knowledge Spread of helpful information and well-tried practices, know-how Increased cooperation between RCRC and national Health Care systems</p>	<p>Such presentation achieved</p>	<p>That there is a willingness to share the experience</p>	<p>During the 11th Meeting</p> <p>During the 11th Meeting</p>	