**ERNA BOARD Meeting**

**8 - 9 November 2016, Budapest**

**Participants**

* Massimo Barra, ERNA President
* Uldis Likops, ERNA Vice President
* Azamat Baialinov, ERNA Vice President
* Kumarkhan Dzhunushaliev, ERNA Secretariat
* Mauro Patti, Steering Committee Member RC/RC Partnership on Substance Abuse
* Mahesh Gunasekara, IFRC Regional Office
* Lasha Goguadze, IFRC Geneva

| **Agenda item** | **Decisions taken** | **Comments** |
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| **8 november** |  |  |
| **1. Opening at the Regional IFRC Office** | General remarks from Mr Simon Missiri, Regional Director of IFRC Europe Region  - Discussions on social issues related to HIV, TB and Hep C  - Problem of funding  - Activity, motivation and capacity of NSs  - Support from IFRC now and in future  - Meeting of Russian speaking NSs in plans of IFRC | - Mr Missiri opened meeting at Regional IFRC Office and asked about the plans of the ERNA Network and what kind of support is needed from IFRC  - Mr Massimo discussed issues related to HIV, TB, Hep C and Drug Abuse. Raised problem of funding on different levels.  RC has the best opportunity to bridge the gap between services and those who are in need.  - Mr Lasha explained problems in European countries and why some of the countries are motivated and some are not. ERNA members should be motivated to solve social issues related to communicable deseases.  - Mr Elhan discussed about past, present and future of the ERNA Network. Raised current problems of the network. Offered to sharpen and define concrete objectives in particular areas. What NS/members of ERNA are ready to contribute, who is ready to financially support meetings of ERNA.  - Mr Uldis discussed about problems of ERNA Network and its weakness nowadays. Offered to define aims and have strategic view on the social issues related to communicable deseases.  - Mr Azamat stated that there are not enough expertise in most of the countries-ERNA members to compete with other NGOs and apply for funding in different fields. IFRC might provide these expertise if they have such. In comparison with Disaster Management Department, Health became weak. We should work together and might take model of the DM. One way communication is not effective. Many organizations including IFRC are always requesting information, and NSs don’t have time to reply to all.  - Mr Mauro offered that ERNA members can request expertise in particular fields from other NSs who are member of ERNA Network.  - Mr Azamat discussed about annual health managers meeting, that did not take place last year. Coordination between health managers must be strong as it is between DM managers.  - Mr Mahesh stated that we should work with all networks, since there are same people coming for different health meetings and networks. Strengthen communication between health managers. Another issue is funding, travel costs and others.  - Mr Simon  ERNA will not be alone, network will have support from IFRC, technical and financial. Nowadays there are many other issues rising up. But still IFRC will keep looking for opportunities to help and support ERNA network. To keep going, ERNA network should be revitalized, reenergized or rebuilt. |
| **2. Annual ERNA Meeting 2017** | In coming weeks it is necessary to start working on the organization of the Annual Meeting.  Below the main items:  -When: around spring time (between April and June)  -Where: Secretariat need to make an open call to check availability of NSs to host the Meeting and then identify the Venue  -Length: 4 days (2 and half working days) - Format:  a) One day of PPP training from IFRC Region b) Working groups to share good practices & activities to improve NS to work with key population, by inviting experts from: Villa Maraini, Irish Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, ICRC, etc. c) Involvement of IFRC | -The President Dr Barra asked to prepare a draft Agenda for the Meeting. It has been also remarked that the ToR says that if no NSs apply to host annual meeting, it should be done at the Secretariat’s NS  - plan B: Kyrgyzstan - plan C: Latvia.  - Azamat stressed the importance to use the expertise of NS during the meeting like HIV Capacity Building of Spain, LGBT shelter or Drug User experience of the Italian Red Cross etc.  - All participants agree to organize a different format for this new Annual Meeting, where NSs can share methodology and provide good practices for a more dynamic and participative environment |
| **3. ERNA Secretariat Funds** | Availability of funds from Italian Red Cross has been confirmed by Massimo Barra. Should be transferred in few weeks to Geneva, after that, money can be transferred to Bishkek to pay Secretariat within the end of the year.  Lasha pointed that 20.000 CHF are available for 2017 secretariat budget.  Probably if the UN Project applied by VM and Kyrgyz RC will get the funds, more money for regional training/meeting will be available in 2017.  -New fundraising activities within the ERNA Members and with external donors are a priority task for next months. | -The President Barra underlined that is not sustainable that the Network is supported just with Italian RC funds.  -Lasha remarked that Norwegian Red Cross still support indirectly the Network: i.e. WAD activities budget belong to them.  -Uldis remarked the importance of reinforcing the management working production of the Secretariat. The daily work seems to not correspond with the regular 8 working hours a day:  - i.e. no updated list of contact, scarce inputs and initiative from the secretary, not sufficient results related on communication strategy and tools, advocacy and other tasks related to the improvement of Network working plan. |
| **4. Project Funding for WAD 2016** | **To do: -** The assessment template of Projects still need to be collected : Mahesh, Lasha, Uldis have to send it to Secretariat.  -Secretariat needs to send soon an official email to the NSs who got the grants, requesting them to sign the MoU Paper for money transfer. Money should be sent from Bishkek to NSs within the 22 of Nov.  **-** 1 general report template paper for Projects will be send by Mr Lasha Goguadze to Secretariat  -Secretariat have to send this template to NSs so they can provide the activity and financial reports within the end of December | -General satisfaction has been showed by the board members about the improvement of the WAD projects proposals of NSs compared to last year. Members still need to improve the Project development and the involvement of key population.  -Lasha and Mahesh regret for non response of key NS like Ukraine and Russian Federation. |
| **5. Updates on HIV/TB/HepC** | -Key messages on Regional updates about HIV/TB/HepC and Drug Abuse by WHO and other IO has been delivered by Lasha  - Key messages and info on IFRC Europe Regional Office on HIV/TB/HepChas been delivered by Mahesh, divided on 4 health programmes: Aging; Tb; Prevention on communicable diseases and PSS  General satisfaction was expressed for the efforts put in practice by NSs during the World Days of 26 of June, 28 of July and 1 of December .  -Everybody agree that we should identify a list of some RC/RC internal trainer/experts for each ERNA Topic to give support to NSs for PPP and for acknowledgment purpose. | The reports in power points will be sent by email to all by Lasha and Mahesh.  Lasha: From the IFRC side we need to check the HIV Knowledge and better know how informed and updated are the NSs about HIV and key population needs  **HIV and Hepatitis C Advocacy & Activities:  -**work more with key populationfor risk reduction programmes, using the auxiliary role of RC engaging volunteers in health activities. Importance of training them on communicable diseases to drive project also with local NGOs for *saliva quick test*, facilitation of access to health centres for treatment. Especially during the public activities of the 3 World Day identified.  **TB programmes:** Azamat will **c**ollect informations and report of NSs activities on TB so we can better explain what we do on external and internal level.  **Migration programme:** is part of the main topics mentioned in the ERNA ToR  **Prisoners:** interaction with ICRC for potential activities in prisons. Involving Irish RC in next ERNA Meeting.  Massimo reminds that “*advocacy is on safer ground when supported by activities*” (Strategy 2010). That’s why we should insist more in projects developments and activities exercises. |
| **6.Evaluation of ERNA 2011 - runned by British RC** | The 2011 survey has been considered a still valid research about the perception and visibility of ERNA within the NSs. | Among the Members it has been noticed that some confusion took place about the difference between IFRC Secretariat and Federation in its whole, and what is ERNA in general. We should work more to earn credibility and visibility within the Europe Region if we want to become a Reference Network on HIV/HCV, TB and Drug Abuse. |
| **7. Info on NSs activities on ERNA topics**  **and**  **Database presentation** | Everybody agree Network urgency to improve communications and sharing information:  -IFRC Regional Office will provide to Secretariat updated emails and phone numbers of NSs Management to increase the bilateral communication  - The updated list of focal points contacts need to be shared when the Secretariat will receive it  - Sending more emails is better than just using ERNA website -Erna website need to be improved and advertised on official headed letter and on Fb - A public FB Profile of ERNA need to be done soon, adding volunteers and NSs profile. Should be done a weekly work of adding information of our activities and also previous activities in those days when we have no messages to deliver, linking also our website.  - Newsletter 2016: a final general report (2-3 pages) should be prepared (with annexed pictured of activities) and sent by email to all the Network contact list as a Newsletter to show our improvements and results.  -IFRC Bulletin and Fb: Budapest Office will provide a brief report of ERNA Budapest meeting on FB and on next Health Bulletin  -The Secretariat should make a draft for a new brochure with clear explanation about who we are, our mission and vision. | -Everybody agreed about the urgency to improve the Network visibility within the Movement, within the Secretariat Staff Memebers and outside the Movement.  This is considered as a shared task for both ERNA Board and for IFRC Secretariat:  - to favorize the visibility we should provide some case study for each topic about the domestic activities done, in order to share knowledge and capacity building.  - Kosovo RC (observer status) should be contacted and updated.  - Iceland and Irish RC should be involved and contacted for potential cooperation with our Network. Irish RC is considered a good partner due to the outstanding project they run for prisoners.  -Lasha stressed the importance to improve the focus of activities on the key population such as: drug users, sex workers, prisoners, PLWHIV-HCV. That’s why NSs need to be trained on Project Programme Planning. |
| **8.ERNA Strategic Plan Development 2017-19** | -The template of the Strategic Plan has been presented by the Secretariat to share the contents and add suggestion for each strategic activity to implement in next 2 years.  -A draft Agenda of annual high level Meetings and Fora should be provided to ensure the participation at least of one of the ERNA Board Members to represent the Network. For example, someone should participate to IFRC Health Managers Meeting in Minsk (Belarus).   -The Strategic Plan, when finalized, should be published and shared on official website, sent to NSs emails and announced by FB.   -The SP is annexed to these Minutes for further inputs by all participants. |  |
| **9. Working in Partnership** | Inside the Movement:  -we should improve the cooperation with other RC/RC European networks such as: PSS Network, First Aid Network, Youth etc.  In this regards, we need IFRC Health Managers to:  - make a crosscutting discussion on Communicable Diseases during their Meetings and make a linkage with us,  - facilitate a linkage of ERNA with the others RC Networks.  Outside the Movement:  - Hiv NGOs, Harm Reduction Network, TB Alliance etc.  A list of potential NGOs and Network should be provided with contact and email address.  Youth involvement**:** a RC/RC youth representative from Armenia has been identified during the 2016 Youth Meeting, but until now there’s no inputs from him. | The board Members shared some key issues:   - cooperate with the Network of PSS could be helpful according with the HIV/HCV testing activities.  -The involvement of Youth Network can be supportive to coordinate activities on Communicable Diseases among Youth NSs groups.  -Azamat underlined that after the Youth Meeting 2016, Communicable Diseases are not mentioned in the list of priorities.   -The First Aid Network should cooperate with us about the guidelines for the use of Naloxone in case of Overdose.  -Uldis stressed the importance to make clear that there’s no competition between RC and other CSOs – we should not compete, but we need to work together. |