

DECLARATION ON YOUTH DRUG POLICIES

During the 19th ERNA General Meeting and the Regional Training Workshop on “Youth Engagement in the work with hard-to-reach populations” held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 17th to 21st of July 2017, we the youth volunteers of RC from Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and the representatives of RC/RC NSs from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, became aware of the importance of engaging ourselves in the drug abuse issue that all the countries in the world are facing.

For this reason, we commit ourselves to improve the work of youth volunteers in the field of drug addiction, HIV, TB, hepatitis and other infectious diseases.

Therefore, our **recommendations for our NS’s management** are the following:

1. Follow the general frame of the Volunteers Management and Peer Education guidelines:
 - Plan** – in accordance with the age diversification
 - Recruit** - Identify the proper volunteer for each activity
 - Prepare** - Clear identification of the needs and available resources – what we have to do, when, how, with whom
 - Implement**
 - Secure** – guarantee the safety of volunteers
 - Evaluate** - Prepare evaluation and quality measure of the results based on quality standards
 - Follow up**
 - Measure**
2. Advocate with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health to better position the Health programs of the RC/RC in the government plans.
3. Empower the youth and make them part of the process of planning and decision making.
4. Make young people feel as part of Movement through a collective action to reinforce the visibility of ERNA network.
5. Share good practices of the NSs in working with youth – build network and partnerships with the experienced NSs and NGOs.

In particular, for the work with prisoners we recommend to:

- 1) Conduct training on HIV and TB inside prisons for prisoners and staff
- 2) Provide medical consultation and services
- 3) Provide psychological support

- 4) Provide vocational skills for job and social reintegration after release
- 5) Reinforce collaboration between NSs and the prison administration, in order to improve the work and image of RC/RC and other NGOs
- 6) Develop a system of referral for prisoners after release

In particular, for the work with drug users we recommend to:

- 1) Create an online platform with information on how to work with drug users
- 2) Train volunteers on how to conduct rapid testing and counselling and referral to medical services
- 3) Do information campaigns on drug addiction and HIV prevention
- 4) Provide harm reduction activities (needle and syringes exchange, condom distribution, etc.)
- 5) Make partnerships with other NGOs to have access to hard-to-reach populations

The recommendations for our Government structures are the following:

1. Include in school curricula programmes on healthy life styles, HIV, TB and drug abuse prevention
2. Develop training methodology for teachers and parents
3. Involve youth leaders from local communities as peer educators
4. Develop awareness campaigns through Mass Media
5. Create anonymous “help line” for teenagers and their families

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