

European Red Cross/Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C



ERNA Newsletter 2018



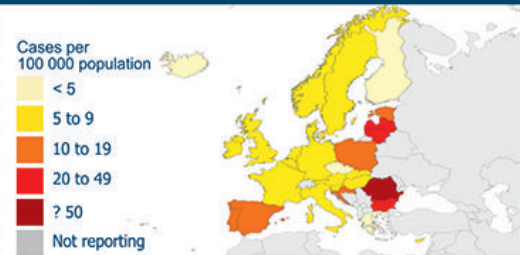
erna.redcrossredcrescent.com

HIV, TB, IDU, Hepatitis C - the main challenge: Large groups of population do not have proper access to basic health and care



The main priority groups:

- People living with HIV and TB, IDUs –due to high stigma and discrimination
- or due to the insufficient state health and care system
- Migrants with non regulated status



Source: ECDC/WHO (2018). Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe 2018–2016 data

TB and HIV remain among the main public health threats in the Region

In 2016, an estimated 323,000 new TB cases, out of it 58,994 cases in EU/EEA countries.

32 000 TB deaths occurred in Europe.

45% of new registered TB cases are among people aged 25–44 years.

9 of the world's 30 countries with a high burden of Tuberculosis are within the Region.

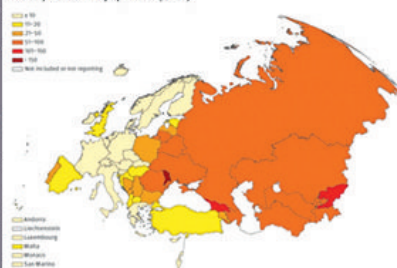
Every day about 900 people sick with TB

Every 20 minute 1 people die from TB or HIV.

TB incidence in the Region is among the lowest in the world, but burden of MDR-TB is the highest.

MDR-TB is one of the key drivers of the TB epidemic in Europe, along with HIV, social determinants and TB risk factors, and limited capacity of health systems.

Estimated TB incidence in the WHO European Region
Rates per 100 000 population (2015)

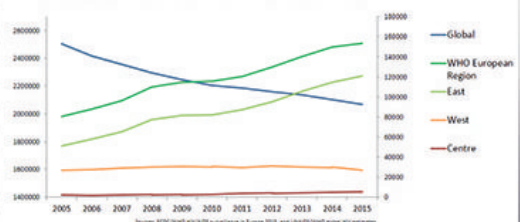


Source: Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe 2017. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control / WHO Regional Office for Europe.

TB notifications, EU/EEA, 2016

HIV is decreasing globally but increasing in Europe

Estimated new infections (global) and newly diagnosed infections (regional)



Source: ECDC/WHO (2018) Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe 2018, and WHO (2016) Global HIV estimates

High stigma and discrimination – the main barrier for effective prevention and treatment – more than 35% people with HIV avoid to visit official health institutions.

HIV in Central Europe and Central Asia



EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

1.6 million people living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

150,000 new cases of HIV infections in 2017

34,000 people died of AIDS-related illnesses last year

30 per cent of people living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia have access to treatment.



Source: ECDC/WHO Regional Office for Europe. Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe 2017. www.ecdc.europa.eu

Red Cross Red Crescent advocate and provide direct support to people with TB

TB notifications, EU/EEA, 2016

58 994 TB cases notified in 30 EU/EEA countries

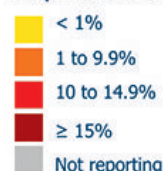
Notification rate of 11.4 per 100 000 population (range 1.8–68.9)

TB/HIV co-infection, EU/EEA, 2016

895 HIV-positive TB cases were notified by 20 EU/EEA countries in 2016

4.5% of TB cases with known HIV status were HIV-positive (range 0–17.4%*)

Proportion of co-infected cases



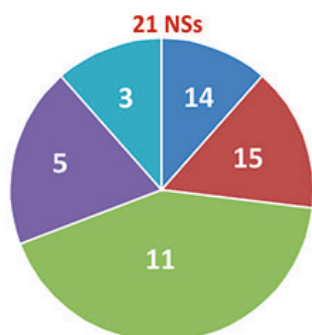
* Among countries reporting more than five TB cases with known HIV status

Source: ECDC/WHO (2018). Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe 2018–2016 data

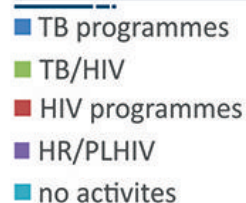
Data mapping for RCRC TB/HIV activities

21 National societies

- Turkey
- Belarus
- Russian Federation
- Ukraine
- Estonia
- Lithuania
- Latvia
- Azerbaijan
- Armenia
- Georgia
- Uzbekistan
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tadjhikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Albania
- Croatia
- **Czech Rep**
- Serbia
- **Montenegro**
- Macedonia



TB and HIV activities



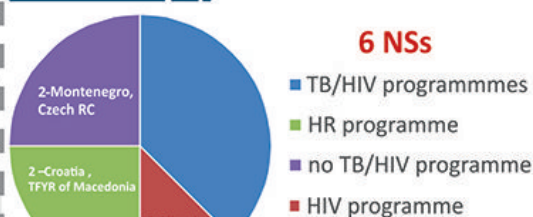
TB and HIV activities Caucasus

Caucasus-3 NSs Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia

- TB /HIV activities
- HIV activities



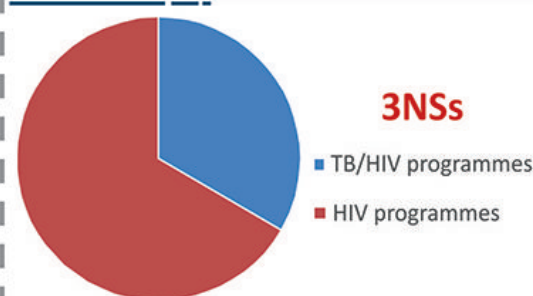
TB and HIV activities – Central Europe and Balkan



TB and HIV activities –Central Asia

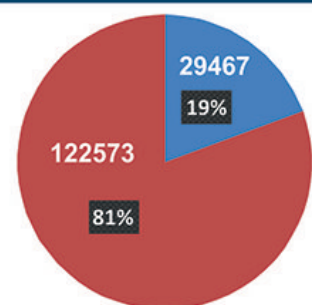


TB and HIV activities –Baltic

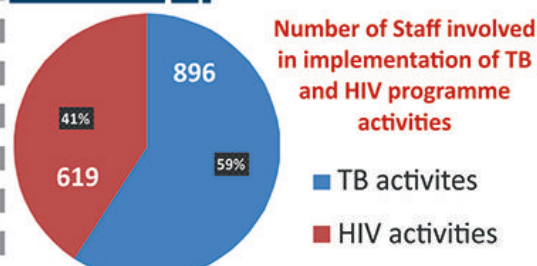


Number of TB and HIV beneficiaries

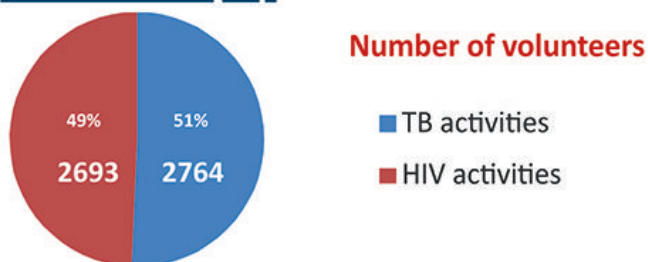
- Number of beneficiaries
- TB beneficiaries
- HIV beneficiaries



Number of staff involved in TB and HIV activities



Number of volunteers involved in implementation of TB and HIV activities

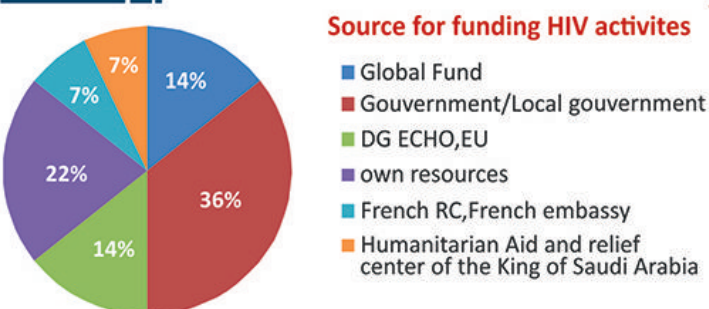


Source of Funding of TB activities

Source of funding TB activities



Source of Funding for HIV activities



Budget for TB/HIV activities

Budget 2018 in CHF



Priorities and achievements in 2018: Strategic Partnership

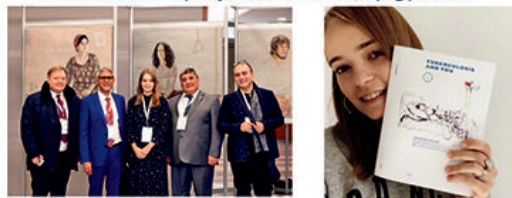
IFRC actively positioned in several global platforms:

- Global Ministerial TB Conference in Moscow, November 2017
- International HIV Conference for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, April 2018
- Global AIDS Conference, Amsterdam, July 2018.
- WHO Regional Committees, 2017 (Budapest), 2018 (Rome)
- Cooperation Council of Ministers of Health of CIS countries.



Priorities and achievements in 2018: close work with the vulnerable communities

- Cooperation with Stop TB partnership
- B people
- HIV Communities
- IFRC positioning at UNGA High level TB meeting
- Innovative TB projects: Belarus, Kyrgyzstan



Evidenced based publications



World AIDS Day



Planning Process 2019: from strategic to operational level

RCRC Europe Regional Conference, Almaty 2018:

All leaders of the national societies of Europe Region committed to mobilize all efforts "to scale up the individual and collective impact of National Societies in Europe to build resilience, provide humanitarian assistance and social care for vulnerable population at regional, national and local levels".

TB and H The main approaches to ensure the better Universal Health CoverageIV activities Caucasus

To build capacity of the national societies of the region by:

Effective community based approach. Innovative instruments of community work and outreach to TB, HIV, IDUs communities;

Capture the scale of current coverage and effectiveness of the RCRC response to health and care challenges in the Region

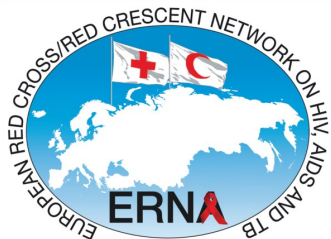
Identify joint and coordinated areas for a scaled up programming in key health and care areas.

To build operational capacity of the NSs across the Europe in priority areas with special focus on:

Community work for effective response to TB spread, HIV epidemic, Harm Reduction, migrants communities, key population.

Working together, we can save more lives and build stronger, more resilient communities.





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Villa Maraini and Italian Red Cross at UN:

Saving lives from overdose is worthwhile both on the human and economic level

At the 61st Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna, Dr. Barra launched his warning in his plenary speech addressed to all UN Member States "during the UNGASS 2016 in NY, the failure of the 'War on Drugs' was recognized together with the need for new approaches based on scientific evidence [...] but this objective will be reachable only when the States will invest more resources on access to care than on repressive policies".

In this regard, a study named "Reducing fatal Opioid Overdose" was presented during a Side Event. Based on research carried out by a team of experts from Villa Maraini, ItRC and the IFRC to prevent and treat heroin overdoses through the Naloxone life saving drug. The 25-years experience on the street of Villa Maraini demonstrates the success of the use of Naloxone by former drug addicts who, despite not being medical doctors, saved many people lives from death by overdose of heroin. This scientific publication will be useful to make known the effectiveness of this drug (with no side effects) in the world and the implications of economic efficiency for the State's resources.

The Side Event moderated by Massimo Barra, included the intervention of the Ambassador Maria Assunta Accili, Permanent Representative at the International Organizations in Vienna for Italy, of Danilo Ballotta of the EMCDDA (European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction), Lasha Gogvadze, Health Manager at the FICR; Giovanni F.M. Dorenzo, toxicologist at the University "La Sapienza" of Rome.



"We were the first to use the Naloxone drug through non-medical workers which allows us to save over 2,500 people in 20 years". This is what Massimo Barra, founder of Villa Maraini, National Agency of the Italian Red Cross for addiction, declared at the Commission Meeting. "Saving lives is always worthwhile, also with our research we show evidence that the Government can save up to 10 times the amount on emergency intervention costs in cases of overdose, when the interventions are conducted by teams of trained people working in the street without using the emergency units of the hospitals".

June 26, International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Activities - Serbian Red Cross.

22 local branches of the Red Cross of Serbia organized local panel discussions and lectures to talk about prevention of drug abuse. The activity focused on both youth and their parents. The



lectures were done in secondary schools followed the minimum standards package of the Red Cross of Serbia for education on drug abuse (pre-test, presentation, guide for facilitator including workshop description, and post-test). Minimum standards package

were developed due to different levels of development of local branches and the effort to ensure a certain level of quality is achieved. The activities were implemented in partnership with Health Centers, Centers for Social Welfare, primary and secondary schools and the local media. The campaign slogan "Listen First" refers to the need to listen to the children and younger people first in order to be able to help them.

8,417 copies of educational leaflets and other educational materials were distributed through street actions.



"Say NO to drugs" campaign of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent.

On June 22, a running called "Come Into Life" was organized by UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the State Agency for Physical Culture and Sports, where volunteers of the Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent not only facilitated the organization of the event, but also took active part in it!



On June 26 Kyrgyzstan RC held social campaign. Volunteers informed population especially youth on destructive properties of drug abuse.

«We also need to talk about drug abuse with children and parents, admit that this problem exists and warn the children in time»!



Villa Maraini Foundation and Italian Red Cross

A social campaign for free rapid HIV/HCV test, created by Villa Maraini Foundation in partnership with Italian RedCross.

They also offered pre - and post-test counseling also on the road.

457 tests HIV and HCV done in **4** different places in the city of Rome: Tor Bella Monaca suburbs of Rome, Termini Rail Station, Rome Gay Street, Pigneto District. The targets chosen for this occasion were young people on the "Movida" places but also key population and hard to reach groups.



During the event President Massimo Barra and the Italian Red Cross volunteers were interviewed by Italian State TV Rai3 and Private International TV Sky TG24. President of IFRC and Italian Red Cross Francesco Rocca posted, on his official Facebook and Twitter profile, information on Villa Maraini commitment to people who use drugs and about the way to intervene in case of Overdose with Naloxone.

Tajikistan Red Crescent

54 volunteers from the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan have been trained and involved in conducting the actions.

An information campaign was conducted for **2500 people**.

The action was conducted together with representations of the governmental sector (political adherence).

15 outreach volunteers from among former IDUs were involved.



World AIDS Day

The Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan

Branches of the Red Crescent Society of Uzbekistan held educational events, seminars and information sessions in educational institutions of the country – universities, colleges and schools. As part of the campaign, volunteers also provided school-children and students with information sessions on the prevention of tuberculosis and promotion of healthy lifestyle.



Hungarian Red Cross

Volunteers of the Hungarian Red Cross have been providing information sessions on HIV / AIDS prevention for 15 years in order to raise public awareness in this area.

Hungarian Red Cross organized the awareness campaign dedicated to the World AIDS Day. Volunteers held flash mob close to Basilica, information sessions and anonymous HIV testing in Empathy Cafe.



Serbian Red Cross



This year's campaign devoted to the World AIDS Day in the Republic of Serbia was realized under the slogan "Find Your Status". Red Cross of Serbia held various activities in cities and municipalities: trainings, forums, street manifestations and other activities in accordance with the needs of the local community and plans of partner organizations. One of them was a student debate on the theme: "What do you know about HIV and AIDS". In the parks, volunteers of the Serbian Red Cross held an action, telling people about HIV and disseminating leaflets on HIV prevention, treatment and care

Russian Red Cross

Russian Red Cross conducted the month of awareness of HIV and AIDS.

The purpose of the month was to inform the population about HIV, measures to prevent HIV infection. As well as they raised funds for low-income HIV families.

On December 14, the Belgorod Regional Branch of the Russian Red Cross also carried out several activities on HIV prevention.

HIV testing activity was organized in Marfo - Mariinsky, the sisterhood of mercy of Belgorod city, 70 homeless people had HIV test.



Meet Test & Treat campaign



Meet Test & Treat”, an Italian Red Cross and Villa Maraini campaign for quick Hepatitis C and HIV test for vulnerable people, was launched for the first time at national level on the World AIDS Day 2018, with the aim to make 8,000 quick test in one month.



Latvian Red Cross

Within the World AIDS day campaign, from 23 to 30 November 2018 different activities were organized all over Latvia.



In addition, Latvian Red Cross (LatRC) organized activities to raise awareness, invited people to make HIV express tests in order to find out what is their HIV status and also participated in several educational and public events organized by LatRC partners, State institutions and Non-governmental organizations (NGOs).



Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent Society



Various events were held throughout Kyrgyzstan to commemorate world AIDS Day. Our volunteers together with the staff organized round tables, competitions among schoolchildren and students, information sessions in educational institutions, etc.

The main objective of all activities is to prevent HIV/AIDS by informing the population about HIV infection.



Red Cross of Montenegro in the field of HIV, TB, Hepatitis C and Drug Abuse, in 2018 held the following activities:

Workshop for Red Cross Youth Club – 1 workshop for around 30 new volunteers who didn't have opportunity to learn more about AIDS.



- Workshop for asylum seekers Podgorica – for at least 50 asylum seekers.
- Distribution of educational material and condoms – material was distributed on December 1st in all Red Cross local branches and in Podgorica (in shopping malls and café bars).
- Workshops for high school students about HIV/AIDS – workshops was held in schools in 7 local branches (around 350 students).

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, with the financial support of the German Red Cross and with technical support of several partner organizations, held a series of events dedicated to the World AIDS Day under the slogan "Know your status". The start of the event was the holding of information campaigns in the universities of Dushanbe (Russian-Tajik Slavic University, national and Pedagogical universities). 500 students of the listed above universities conducted information campaigns on the prevention of HIV infection.



Within the framework of the world AIDS Day, **the Red Crescent of Azerbaijan** held a round table with the participation of the Ministry of Health, Republican AIDS centers, students and teachers of universities, as well as volunteers and staff of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan. At the event, it has been noted that it is very important to provide activities on HIV/AIDS prevention in educational institutions. After the roundtable, the experts of the AIDS center held a free testing among students.



The **Albanian Red Cross** Branch Tirana has organized a massive activity each year with the participation of volunteers in the branch, high school students of Tirana and the cooperation of the Institute of Public Health and Associations working in the field of HIV / AIDS. About 500 participants in this activity sensitized the community in "Skenderbej" Square, raising awareness among the citizens and inviting them to be tested as the best way to protect themselves from HIV.



Slovak Red Cross

Flashing marches was organized by our youths in Bratislava, Košice, Rožňava, Nové Zámky, Levice, Snina and Liptovský Mikuláš to raise public awareness on HIV / AIDS and to show solidarity to people living with HIV.

Moreover, 18 teams of young people from all over Slovakia competed at the National HIV / AIDS Prevention Campaign for Secondary Schools.



Red Cross of Monaco

HIV COMMUNICATION: Launch of the "I = I Campaign"

On Saturday 1st of December on the occasion of the World AIDS Day and in the context of "Towards Monaco without AIDS", HSH Princess Stéphanie launched the I = I Campaign, surrounded by 6 signatories involved in the project: M Gamerdinger Ministerial Advisor, Mr. Marsan Mayor of Monaco, Mr. Platini Secretary General of the Monaco Red Cross, Mr. Froissart Secretary General of AMADE Mondiale, Mr. Dionne Researcher Emeritus and Dr. Taillan Internist physician, hematologist.

This communication campaign aims to change the public's view of the transmission of HIV.

The campaign has already been visible in different parts of the Principality, in particular in the tunnels of the SNCF train station, the avenue of Ostend, the Place d'Armes as well as on the placemats of the Market of the Condamine and the Princess Grace Hospital.



During 2018, the HIV Berodung of the **Luxembourg Red Cross** has celebrated its 30th birthday. Over time, the service has become a national public health actor in HIV

prevention and care. Today, it is in charge of national prevention campaigns together with the Ministry of Health and offers screening and psychosocial counseling for HIV, sexually transmitted infections and viral hepatitis B & C, socio-therapeutic counseling and treatment services for infected and affected people as well as housing for people suffering from various psychosocial and medical problems related to acquired diseases, including addiction.



A series of events was organized in order to commemorate the vic-

tims of the infection over the past 30 years and to celebrate the courageous work of employees and volunteers involved in the service. For this occasion, a new prevention campaign with positive messages was developed under the slogan "sécher ënnerwee" (meaning to be safe in every situation) in order to attract attention to the different prevention tools existing today: condoms, PrEP, PEP, TAsP, Testing and Risk reduction. Like using sunscreen in summer or a belt in the car, HIV prevention should be part of daily life. Prevention messages were thus printed on water bottles, sunglasses, security vests, ponchos and distributed to the public, along with information and counseling.





From the Middle East and North Africa countries to Villa Maraini, to address the issue of drug addiction and infectious diseases

At Villa Maraini Foundation has take place a training course for the MENA countries with leaders and managers of the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies of Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Syria and Tunisia.



1 week-training to understand how it is important and possible to deal with drug addiction and infectious diseases in their countries.

The data coming from this geographic area indicating a growing and constant increase of both the consumption of drugs and Hepatitis and HIV infections. Moreover, data underlines a lack of health and social policies aimed at containment and management of the problem. A lot must be done to decrease the high level of stigma and discrimination in this area, about these problems that affect a part of the population.

Social workers, psychologists and medical doctors of Villa Maraini, showed the approach and the experience of Villa Maraini, gained in more than 40 years in saving people lives. During the training, human rights and cooperation experts from the United States and Colombia, involved participants on advocacy strategies in order to address to politicians and religious leaders the humanitarian need to start to support activities on drug addiction and risk reduction by influencing national agenda on health and social rights.

In the countries, where armed conflicts are taking place, the use of drugs and the spread of infectious diseases has increased, as evidenced by the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). It is known that in some cases soldiers are drugged with amphetamines to make them even more ruthless, and of course this leads to an increase number of addicted people.

At the end of the training the participants identified the spread of infectious diseases and the access to treatment for drug addicts as priorities in their countries. In order to deal with this, they decided to work together with other local humanitarian NGOs, to implement advocacy actions. Furthermore, in countries where war is taking place, they've interested into try to start intervention programs in prisons, where the presence of drug addicts and PLWHIV is high.



Villa Maraini, the National Agency of Italian Red Cross for drug addiction, is taken as a model on how to develop the concept of humanitarian drug policy, launched by Massimo Barra, founder of Villa Maraini, since 1976.

Candlelight Memorial Day

TESTING ACTIVITY in Piazza di Spagna - Roma

628 free HIV and HCV quick testing done in support of the ICAR (italian conference on AIDS and Antiviral Research) where Villa Maraini, the Italian RC Agency on substance abuse, presented a scientific publication with the Meet, Test and Treat Campaign results.



International Day against Drug Abuse: the humanitarian challenge of the opioid epidemic.



The 26 of June the international community commemorates the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. In 2018 Red Cross and Red Crescent Partnership on Substance Abuse focuses on the global opioid epidemic and increasing rates of opioid overdose-related deaths.

The opioid epidemic has become one of the greatest threats to public health all around the world. UNODC estimates more than 207.000 annual drug-related deaths worldwide, most of those are caused by opioid overdose. The most recent WHO recommendations and the report by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Partnership on Substance Abuse recommend to expand naloxone access for persons likely to witness an overdose in their own community, such as friends, family members and partners of people who use drugs, along with social workers.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies globally shall contribute to reduce fatal overdoses and save lives through prevention, treatment and harm reduction strategies, as recommended by the Group of Red Cross and Red Crescent Experts of Drug Abuse already in 1980.

In the occasion of 2018 International Day against Drug Abuse, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Partnership on Substance Abuse, and its technical hub - Villa Maraini Foundation encourages all the volunteers and staff around the world to make the difference in "saving lives and changing minds" and in sharing its best practices through the video tutorial on life-saving intervention in case of overdose. Video was created by the staff and the former drug users of Villa Maraini.



ERNA participation on 10th Red Cross/Red Crescent European Conference



During the 10th European Regional Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, hosted by the Red Crescent of Kazakhstan which took place in May 2018 in Almaty, leaders of 53 National Societies in the region discussed together the strategic issues, common concerns and learn from each other's diverse contexts. Also RCRC networks were admitted to join the Conference. ERNA was represented by its President Barra and Vice President Baialinov, and delegates from Irish, Spain, Portugal, Luxembourg, Italy, Turkey and Kyrgyzstan RCRC National Societies which participated to the Conference and workshops, sharing their activities and good practices on how they tackle with the HIV/AIDS, communicable diseases and drug abuse issue.

During the Conference, ERNA members held an open-door meeting where the participants planned activities and showed commitment for future steps and strategies. Luxembourg RC and Turkey RC showed the interest in hosting next ERNA annual meeting. During the Plenary session, was presented a survey on RCRC European networks, where ERNA was positioned as the second most known and appreciated network, confirming the good work done during the years.



Facts and Statistics

In 2017 (the latest data available on the UNAIDS website)...

- 36.9 million [31.1 million–43.9 million] people globally were living with HIV in 2017.
- 21.7 million [19.1 million–22.6 million] million people were accessing antiretroviral therapy in 2017.
- 1.8 million [1.4 million–2.4 million] people became newly infected with HIV in 2017.
- 940 000 [670 000–1.3 million] people died from AIDS-related illnesses in 2017.
- 77.3 million [59.9 million–100 million] people have become infected with HIV since the start of the epidemic.
- 35.4 million [25.0 million–49.9 million] people have died from AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the epidemic.

People living with HIV

In 2017, there were 36.9 million [31.1 million–43.9 million] people living with HIV.

- 35.1 million [29.6 million–41.7 million] adults.
- 1.8 million [1.3 million–2.4 million] children (<15 years).
- 75% [55–92%] of all people living with HIV knew their HIV status in 2017.
- About 9.4 million people did not know that they were living with HIV.
- In 2017, there were 1.8 million [1.4 million–2.4 million] new HIV infections, compared to 3.4 million [2.6 million–4.4 million] in 1996.
 - Since 2010, new HIV infections among adults have declined by an estimated 16%, from 1.9 million [1.5 million–2.5 million] to 1.6 million [1.3 million–2.1 million] in 2017.
- Since 2010, new HIV infections among children have declined by 35%, from 270 000 [170 000–400 000] in 2010 to 180 000 [110 000–260 000] in 2017.

The ERNA Network expresses its gratitude for the cooperation and support of activities on HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis and Hepatitis C to the following partners:

- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,
- Italian Red Cross,
- Spanish Red Cross,
- Villa Maraini Foundation,
- UNDEF project,
- Turkish Red Crescent.



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E-mail: erna.secretariat@gmail.com

Website: erna.redcrossredcrescent.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ernanetwork