



ERNA General Meeting 2017

The 19th General Meeting of the European Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/ AIDS and TB has been held in the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic and brought together representatives of more than 20 national societies in Europe and Asia, as well as representatives of local NGOs and international organizations. ERNA General Meeting and UNDEF project workshop “Youth Engagement in Drug Policy Development” took place on 17-21 July 2017 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Agenda of the meeting and workshop was “Everywhere for everyone – Leave no one behind. Regional training workshop on youth engagement with hard-to-reach population”. In the framework of UNDEF project there were volunteers from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. During this days many vital topics in the framework of work with vulnerable population were covered. Speakers from different countries with different context of the situation presented different strategies and practices. Topics covered: prison health, work with drug users, work with migrants, HIV and TB programmes, sex workers, youth at risk, engagement of youth and many other. One of the important topics was role of CSOs in work with hard-to-reach population.



5

Days of work

20

National Societies

24

Speakers



In the field of drug abuse outreach work contact was established with 153 new drug users in Tbilisi; 80 clients among them remained to be regular.

All 153 beneficiaries received one-time individual psychological consultations; regular individual psychological consultations were offered to the GRCS 80 beneficiaries and 60 co-

dependent clients. In total 21 group sessions were organized for the GRCS and 2 partner NGOs' beneficiaries.

Volunteers of GRC raised awareness on principles, goals and main activities of the Harm reduction; safe injecting methods; simultaneous using of drugs and alcohol - harm and prevention methods of diseases caused by injecting drug usage, such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, Sexual Transmitted Diseases; overdose symptoms and First Aid in case of overdose.

In 2017 GRCS has reached:

3 PLHIV – open status

153 - Drug Users (almost all of them have hepatitis C and approx. 15 IDUs -MDR-TB)

Not specified number - Men who have sex with Men (MSM), the sex workers (SW), prison population.

1957 – youth

7470 general population (youth and adults).

During the events dedicated to the World TB Day together with other key stakeholders the GRCS had possibility to disseminate the important messages through social - and mass media with the objective of raising awareness, changing public attitudes and behavior towards TB.

GRCS together with the Georgian Network of People Use Drug (GeNPUD) and the Georgian Harm Reduction Network (GHRN), with the support from National Drug Policy Platform held the event involving community representatives, expert groups, and state executive and legislative sector representatives. The main highlights of the event: Georgian drug policy situation assessment; the substance dependent peoples' medical programs improvements, the needs during the transitional period and the challenges; National Drug Policy Platform initiated legislative drafts and other important issues which is related to the fruitful and efficient implementation of the partnership in the field between the state and non-governmental organizations.

Also Georgia Red Cross is providing workshops and information sessions to disseminate knowledge about HIV/AIDS, TB and Hepatitis C on a regular base.





Villa Maraini Foundation is committed in HIV prevention with its HIV Unit and the goal is to reach and support People Living With HIV (PLWH), mostly drug users Out Of Care (OOC), not included in the health care network and who live in a state of social marginality (Hard To Reach). With the introduction of the new Direct-Acting Antivirals (DAAs) in 2015, which significantly improved tolerability and manageability of the hepatitis treatment, Villa Maraini extended its activities to this other viral infection to help the key population of drug users to gain access to the cure.

Currently, the Foundation has created, in collaboration with the Infectious Diseases Clinic of Tor Vergata

Hospital in Rome, an assisted and easier care path for HIV and/or HCV positive drug users.

ERNA Board meeting has been held in Villa Maraini Campus, Rome, Italy in March 2017. Attendees are Secretary General of the Italian Red Cross Mr. Francesco Rocca, who is currently president of the IFRC, IFRC representatives and ERNA Board Members. Board meeting was aimed to solve and discuss operational issues before conducting General Meeting of the network. At the same time updates been shared in the field of HIV and TB.

Training for Red Cross and Red Crescent Volunteers

Training courses performed in Italy for the implementation of HIV/HCV rapid test: 4 trainings for the Foundation staff and Italian Red Cross volunteers in total 270 participants. Training courses performed outside for the implementation of HIV/HCV rapid tests: 3 trainings for the Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers in Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in total 120 participants.



In Tajikistan, Khujand City, Villa Maraini, the IFRC Reference Centre for drugs, has held the 3rd training course financed by the UNDEF on the "Youth Engagement in the field of substance abuse". The 30 participants showed a big motivation, engagement and made a final declaration to share with their national leaders. The NSs involved came from the Red Crescent of Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey. Local NGOs representatives from Tajikistan and Turkey has also participated in the meeting.

5 days of lessons, workshops, working groups, peer education, witnesses of former drug users enriched the experience of this young volunteers. Massimo Barra, the Villa Maraini founder declares: "it's always a great success to work with youth. This new generation shows us that despite the general stigma and lack of courage to work for the drug users in their NSs, they have no problem to face this big challenge and to consider drug addicts as sick person which need all our support, according with the Strategy 2020.



Meet Test & Treat Campaign

Campaign created by Villa Maraini Foundation in partnership with Italian Red Cross: free test activities on HIV and HCV with pre- and post-test counseling combined with outreach work.

The rapid HIV/HCV tests can be done:

every day, H24, at the ambulatory of Villa Maraini Foundation on the Camper (Street Unit) placed in two strategic areas of Rome:

from Monday to Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Tor Bella Monaca

from Monday to Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Termini Railway Station

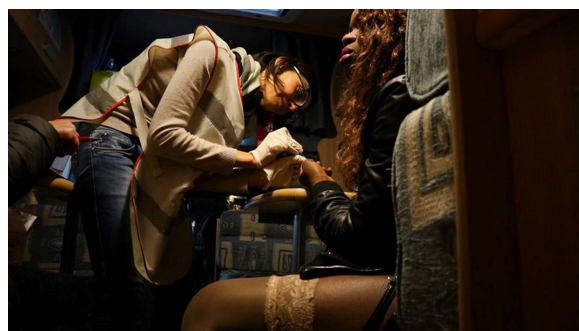


- ♦ 25 of June in Piazza di Spagna Rome more than **300 tests** done
- ♦ Working with sex workers on the streets: **503 tests** done.
- ♦ Working with LGBT community: **512 tests** done.

Working with sex workers

Villa Maraini extended its activities to HIV and HCV viral infections to help key population of sex workers to gain access to the cure

Results: 20 evening outings for Sex Workers HIV/HCV testing activity thanks to the HIV and Street Unit 503 tests done so far.



Working with LGBT community

Villa Maraini extended its activities to HIV and HCV viral infections to help key population of gay people to gain access to the cure.

Results: n°10 evening outings for LGBT Community HIV/HCV testing activities thanks to the HIV and Street Unit 512 tests done

Volunteers of Hungarian Red Cross commemorated WAD



MAGYAR VÖRÖSKERESZT
HUNGARIAN RED CROSS
ORSZÁGOS IGAZGATÓSÁGA

The Hungarian Red Cross Youth has been organising the national HIV/AIDS prevention competition and World AIDS Day for the 15th time. The final round of the competition was being held in the capital of the country (Budapest) in the Corvin Plaza, providing a great opportunity to reach out to as many people as possible.

The competition itself was organised in two categories, one for high school students and one for young adults. All together there were 16 teams competing in the final round. During the competition the teams had to solve puzzles and answer questions about the HIV/AIDS and other STDs as well as present the proper usage of a condom. The teams prepared posters about the discrimination that HIV positive people have to endure once they are diagnosed being infected. They were wearing their handmade and designed T-shirts fitting the topic.



Simultaneously to the competition the WAD was being held in co-operation with the Civil AIDS Forum, the Budapest Medical Students Organisation and the Company For Human Rights. Each NGO had their own stands helping people to get to know the topic better and to reduce the misbeliefs about HIV. They also discussed about the rights of a person that is being diagnosed with HIV, explaining the legal steps that are necessary to take and many other human rights related topics. The Civil AIDS Forum provided the chance for taking anonym tests for HIV. By the end of the event a total number of 99 people got tested. During the whole day approximately 40 volunteers were working actively from the Red Cross.

Peer-to-peer education camp in Eger



Each year we organise a youth camp for volunteers where we train them in certain topics. These topics included the sexual education and the drug prevention group.

Sexual education group

This group not only focuses on how to live a healthy sexual life but also discusses numerous STD's including AIDS. This group focuses on educating young volunteers to help them to be able to present in this topic to their peers in their schools, local branches. The training consists of communication skills improvement, interactive games that

helps to get used to say out words connected to sexuality and to feel comfortable talking about them as sexuality is rather a taboo topic within nowadays society.

Drug prevention group

Similarly to the sexual education group the aim of this group is to educate young volunteers on drug prevention so they can share their knowledge within their schools/local branches. This year they focused on giving the volunteers a complex understanding of the topic so they will be able to work with any age group in many creative ways. The participants got an overall view of Hungary's situation of drug consumption. Their training included social awareness, the creation of a drug-map, effect mechanisms, some healthcare knowledge, information on certain drugs.

World AIDS Day 2017



During one week, the **Latvian Red Cross** organised several activities in different cities of Latvia.

Latvian Red Cross Youth hosted an event “Knowledge enhances understanding” (Zināšanas vairo sapratni) in Riga, which included watching a movie and afterwards having a discussion with a HIV prevention specialist; during the event condoms and informative materials were distributed to all participants.



On 1 December, Latvian Red Cross launched informative social network campaign inviting everyone to wear a red ribbon on their clothes, to take a

photo of themselves and to post it on facebook.com (and other social network) timeline by adding this message: “Today I am wearing a red ribbon. Why? Because I am aware, I am responsible for health of my friends and I invite YOU to do the same! Pin the red ribbon to your clothing today, on 1 December, on the World AIDS Day! #WorldAIDSday #RedCross RedCrossYouth #knowledge_awareness #PasaulesAIDSdiena ”



Latvian Red Cross Youth of Daugavpils city branch participated at the event „Rock Marathon against AIDS”. During the event LatRC youngsters distributed condoms and informative materials about HIV/AIDS, its impact on person's life, risks etc. to around 200 participants of the event. Also Latvian Red Cross Youth of Daugavpils city branch visited Daugavpils Secondary school's 60 students of the 9th grade. During the visit, they organized a knowledge competition in three parts: theoretical knowledge, case analysis, practical exercises. The main topics were spreading of the AIDS/HIV viruses and where to get help in case of being infected.



On 1 December a non-governmental organization AGIHAS (support group for those affected by HIV and AIDS) organised a charity concert in Riga in regard to the World AIDS day, where Latvian Red Cross volunteers and youth members assisted the organisers of the concert.

World AIDS Day 2017



Crveni krst Crne Gore

Montenegro Red Cross

Workshops for high school students about HIV/AIDS – workshops were held in schools in Podgorica (in total 6 schools for around 400 students) by trained Red Cross volunteers and staff and in cooperation with MoMSIC (Montenegrin Medical Students International Committee). Besides Podgorica, at least 5 more Red Cross local branches organized workshops for students of high schools (around 250 students).

Montenegro Red Cross organized workshop for 50 new volunteers to learn more about HIV/AIDS. Another workshop was organized for asylum seekers in Podgorica, at least 30 asylum seekers participated.

Distribution of information material about HIV/AIDS been done on 1st December as well as many other workshops around the country in Red Cross branches and public places.



Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent

On World AIDS Day volunteers conducted information sessions with AIDS center at universities, where students could be tested on HIV. Also information leaflets and red ribbons, made by volunteers, were distributed. In the regional offices flashmob activities conducted, as well as information campaigns on World AIDS day. Also in honor of

the World AIDS Day a video interview was filmed about the HIV-positive person. The goal of the video is that PLHIV have the same rights as all of us, that we must not discriminate them.

Staff and volunteers of the Red Crescent Society went to "Kolomto" crisis center for homeless people. Volunteers held information sessions about HIV/AIDS, and medical officers from AIDS Center provided express tests for homeless people. At the end of the event lunch was provided to all homeless people who were present at the crisis center-Kolomto.

In addition:

Information sessions in public transport have been held on 24th of March to commemorate World Tuberculosis Day, where volunteers talked to passengers and explained TB-prevention and made interview among them on how much they know about TB.

On World Hepatitis Day volunteers of Red Crescent conducted public event - an interview among the population on the knowledge of Hepatitis C. People were asked to pull out one leaflet with a question and answer the question written on it. Right answers were encouraged by small gifts.



Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society's Activities dedicated to 1 December - World AIDS Day.

Throughout the year, within the framework of "Community based health" program the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society held activities dedicated to 1 December- World AIDS Day. Events and seminars organized in Baku and regions of Azerbaijan. This year's theme is "My health, my right". The events conducted under this theme are aimed at attracting attention

to the right of everyone to be healthy. Everyone regardless of who they are or where they live, has a right to health.

The seminar was carried out on November 29, 2017 as a result of the cooperation of the Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society Youth Committee, Youth and Volunteers, Disaster Preparedness and Response, Health and Care Departments, AzRC Gusar Local Branch and National AIDS Center in the vocational lyceum of Gusar district. The event was also attended by Mr. Max Santner, HoCCT/Head of IFRC Delegation in Tbilisi for South Caucasus.

Within the framework of "Community based health" program conducts regular promotional events and meetings with seminars for migrants from different countries living in Baku city. Topics of these seminars include: healthy life style, first aid, psychological assistance, infectious diseases, breast feeding and etc.

AzRC conducted many information sessions and seminars to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. Participants of all seminars were informed about statistics on HIV infected persons and people living with HIV around the world including the Republic of Azerbaijan, the ways of transmission of HIV/AIDS, preventive measures for HIV/AIDS, treatment programs on HIV by the specialist of the National AIDS Center and coordinator of "Community based health" program of the AzRCS.



In addition: AzRC has activities that are carried out within the framework of close cooperation with Regional Centers and District Committees of RCSA with many state and non-governmental structures. These activities include the organization of activities aimed at informing the public about a healthy lifestyle, including a warning prevalence of such infectious diseases as HIV / AIDS, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis.

Thus, on July 27, 2017, the Sabunchu District Committee of RCSA in cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan, the Center for Public Health and Reform, the regional Department of the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan held an event (seminar) dedicated to World Hepatitis Day. The coordinator of the Public Health Program of RCSA, Matanat Karakhanova, presented to the seminar participants (30 people) WHO information on hepatitis and the purpose of carrying out activities to combat this disease. Further, the representative (infectious disease specialist) of the Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan and the Center for Public Health and Reform, Hafiz Ibrahimov acquainted participants with the medical aspects of hepatitis, which included information on the prevalence, prevention, treatment and diagnosis of hepatitis. In the speech of the doctor, a special place was given to information about the situation in the country and the provision of medical care, hepatitis patients, in particular hepatitis C.

Scientific activities and projects

Presentation at Hepatitis C Community Summit 2017, Amsterdam, Holland: “Villa Maraini Foundation’s HIV/HCV Continuum of Care Model Among Hard to Reach Drug-Addicted People in Rome: Meet, Test and Treat.”

Presentation at ICAR (Italian Conference on Antiviral Research) 2017 – Siena: “Villa Maraini Foundation’s HIV/HCV Continuum of Care Model Among Hard to Reach Drug Addicts and Sex

Poster Presentation at 16th European AIDS Conference, 2017, Milan, Italy: “New Challenges for DAAs in Real-Life: Active Drug Use is not a Barrier for HCV Cure.”

Gilead Community Award Program 2017 “Validation of an effective Hepatitis C diagnosis strategy in hard-to-reach drug users which involves the use of rapid testing within the Needle Exchange Program (NEP)”.

“Provision of voluntary and free of charge combined HIV/HCV rapid testing in outreach services for PWID, sex workers, MSM and LGBT” funded by Europe Positive Action & Viiv Helthcare

Joint Action “Quality of HIV/AIDS/STI, viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis prevention and linkage to care”, European Commission;

MAC Project “Comprehensive program for HIV and HCV prevention, treatment and care among hard-to-reach groups”

Facts and statistics

- 76.1 million [65.2 million–88.0 million] people have become infected with HIV since the start of the epidemic.
- 20.9 million people were accessing antiretroviral therapy in June 2017.
- In 2016, there were 36.7 million [30.8 million–42.9 million] people living with HIV.
- 34.5 million [28.8 million–40.2 million] adults
- 17.8 million [15.4 million–20.3 million] women (15+ years)
- 2.1 million [1.7 million–2.6 million] children (<15 years)
- Tuberculosis remains the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, accounting for around one in three AIDS-related deaths.
- AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 48% since the peak in 2005.
- In 2016, 1 million [830 000–1.2 million] people died from AIDS-related illnesses worldwide, compared to 1.9 million [1.7 million–2.2 million] in 2005 and 1.5 million [1.3 million–1.7 million] in 2010.