

PREFACE TO ERNA STRATEGY

Many things have happened since 1997, when some Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies, gathered in Villa Maraini in Rome, decided to set-up ERNA as a tool for strengthening and joining efforts to combat HIV, TB, hepatitis and other infectious diseases.

In few years, mankind has been able to cope with what seemed like a divine punishment, turning HIV from an inexorably fatal disease to a controllable chronic infection, even if not completely curable.

In addition, thanks to incredible pharmacological developments, since 2015 hepatitis c, which affects millions of people worldwide, has become a treatable disease. On the other side, TB continues to affect with forms that are resistant to conventional treatment.

During all these years, ERNA has provided regular information and technical support to European National Societies that consider these infectious diseases as a priority of their action in the field of public health and assistance to vulnerable groups such as migrants, sex workers, IVDUs, prisoners, hard-to reach people.

A new start of ERNA is now needed, adapting its strategy to the new manifestations of these infectious diseases. Hence the following document, that we bring to the attention of those who would like to contribute with their experience to regard, improve and make it as their own.

With this document, we encourage a renewed commitment of the European National Societies who have joined the Network as well as of those who have not taken part to our common initiative, yet.

Further, we expect that the finalized strategy will be put in practice with renewed effort in favour of those who suffer the consequences of major infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB and hepatitis C. Thanks first of all to the power of Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems, which are recognized all over the world as a symbol of protection, and to the power of humanity of RC/RC volunteers.

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