

**The European Commission has selected the Rome Consensus for a Humanitarian Drug Policy as a privileged partner to promote a public health based drug policy in Europe.** With the support of the European Commission, The Rome Consensus has established the *Rome Consensus Europe* initiative to bring together Red Cross National Societies and European institutions to promote health-based responses to one of Europe's foremost humanitarian challenges: drug-related suffering.

By participating in *Rome Consensus Europe*, National Societies will have the opportunity to engage with the European Commission regarding key drug legislation, exchange best practices and receive training and assistance in programme implementation such as drug prevention and treatment. Through this unique opportunity presented by the European Commission, the Red Cross-Red Crescent Movement can make a very real and direct impact on reducing the suffering of the vulnerable people affected by drug use in Europe.

### **The Rome Consensus**

The Rome Consensus for a Humanitarian Drug Policy is a joint project of the Italian Red Cross and ICOS (International Council on Security and Development), formerly known as The Senlis Council. The Consensus now comprises 114 national societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent worldwide and acts as a catalyst for the Red Cross-Red Crescent Movement to promote public health oriented drug responses and implement corresponding programmes. To obtain a tailored response in each region, a three-pronged approach has been developed:

**Research and Knowledge Development:** To assess the drug consumption landscape and drug policy issues in the different regions, the Rome Consensus Coordination conducts research and develops publications.

**Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building:** To foster exchanges of knowledge and know-how in different regions and strengthen capacity among health practitioners The Rome Consensus Coordination organises conferences, seminars and training courses.

**Humanitarian Drug Policy Implementation:** To implement public health based, humanitarian approaches to drug policy, the Rome Consensus Coordination implements, in cooperation with local partners, a series of pilot projects in different regions.

### ***Rome Consensus Europe***

The European Union acknowledges the major threat that drugs cause to the health and security of European citizens, in particular young people. To tackle this threat, the EU has elaborated a strategy to achieve a high level of health protection, wellbeing and social cohesion in preventing and reducing drug use, dependence and drug related harm. This objective strongly resonates with the Rome Consensus for A Humanitarian Drug Policy's key aim, to mobilise National Societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent to promote healthy lifestyles among individuals and communities, providing treatment and fostering reintegration of users. The *Rome Consensus Europe* initiative was established to maximise synergies between the Red Cross - Red Crescent and the European Union to relieve drug related suffering.

*Rome Consensus Europe's* activities will focus on bridging the gap between the European Drug Strategy and the Red Cross - Red Crescent engagement drug policy. To achieve this goal the *Rome Consensus Europe* will carry out the following activities:

- Research, publications and dissemination of information
- A European drug policy conference

By becoming part of the Rome Consensus, National Societies in Europe can help the Red Cross-Red Crescent Movement and the European Union to strengthen, reinforce and promote a humanitarian response to Europe's drug crisis for the generations to come.

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