

# STRATEGIC AREAS OF INTERVENTION

The European Platform intervenes primarily in two areas:

**1 - Universal access to treatment and price of HIV/HCV medicines:** HIV and HCV treatments are becoming more effective, both from a curative and preventive point of view. HCV can now be cured by the latest treatments. On the other hand, high prices of innovative medicines, in particular for hepatitis C treatment, led the Platform to look at universal access to therapeutic innovation, intellectual property protection mechanisms and their misuse. In particular, the Platform seeks to:

- **STRENGTHEN** the capacity of its members to develop and campaign in the areas of drug pricing.
- **CONTRIBUTE** to efforts with partners aimed at the sustainability of European health systems and therapeutic innovation.
- **GUARANTEE** to everyone in Europe the conditions required to achieve and maintain the best state of health.
- **IMPROVE** real and effective access to treatment, especially HIV and HCV treatment.

**2- Drug Policy reform:** Drug Policy has been based on repression and a war against narcotics for over thirty years. Far from reducing consumption, this policy results in stigmatising and pushing people who use drugs to the margins, putting their health, even their lives, in danger. In the names of personal and public health, we need to change paradigms and promote best practices in terms of Harm Reduction. Consistent with this method, Platform

members and their partners and allies advocate for a non-discriminatory and non-criminalising approach towards drug policy, respecting the rights of consumers and putting forward their experiences and needs in terms of harm reduction. As part of the Eurosider project, financed by the European Union, three members of the European Platform (AIDES, ARAS, and GAT) contribute to disseminating innovative, educative and supportive

interventions for people who inject drugs. They also contribute to reinforcing Harm reduction skills, including with partners in Bulgaria (Initiative for Health Foundation) and in Greece (Praksis). The research and advocacy components of this project are coordinated by Inserm and Correlation Network respectively.

# OUR FIGHTS

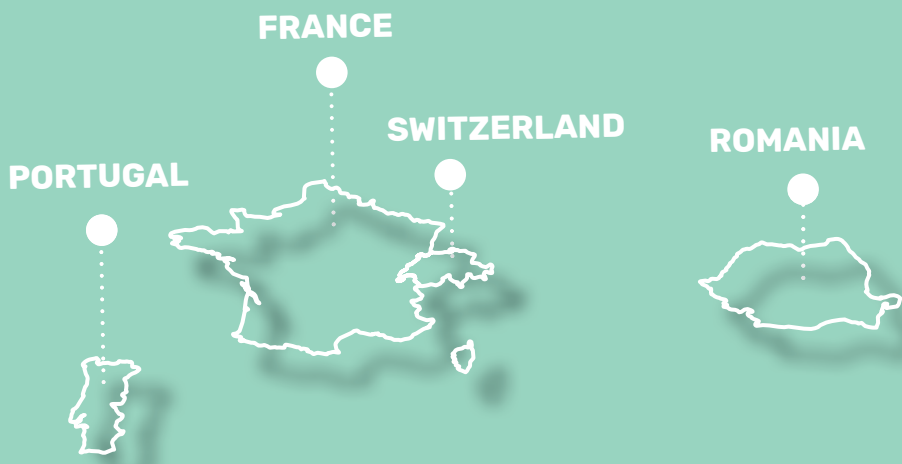


Eurosider: Participants at the Training of Trainers session in Bucharest. April 2018

**PROMOTE COMMUNITY OUTREACH** through mobilisation and capacity building, community-based research and advocacy.

**DEFEND ACCESS TO HEALTH AND RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS** most exposed to HIV, HCV and TB, and influence European public policies, including through participation in the Civil Society Forums on Drugs and HIV, Hepatitis, and Tuberculosis.

**IDENTIFY, IMPROVE AND SHARE GOOD PRACTICES AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES** between European partners.



# COALITION PLUS PLATFORM EUROPEAN PLATFORM

*Strong civil societies to build a world without AIDS*

# AIDES, Coordinating association of the European Platform

AIDES, a French community-based association, has been fighting against HIV and viral hepatitis since 1984. Its mission is to improve the lives of infected and affected people through changes in society, based on the mobilisation and empowerment of communities in France and abroad. With 76 centres in France, 1,500 voluntary and salaried activists, mobilised from the communities concerned, and 230,000 donors, AIDES innovates and implements and innovates prevention and support programmes and activities. This basis

of activities and programmes, broadened by community research projects, reinforces and buttresses the demands and the advocacy for social transformation, AIDES affirms and safeguards its autonomy. The decisions and political orientations are taken by voluntary members elected to the board of directors via the general assembly. AIDES is a founding member of Coalition PLUS and has been coordinating the European Platform since its creation.

# Coalition PLUS Network Directorate

In order to continue structuring civil societies in the fight against HIV/AIDS and promote its development, Coalition PLUS has created a Networks Directorate in 2017, managed by Aliou Sylla, Networks Director based in Dakar (Senegal). Today, this Directorate brings together existing partnerships, including the six sub-regional platforms of Coalition PLUS, on the African continent but also in Europe and the Americas. It aims to develop relations with civil society organisations in three areas: geographic, thematic, and linguistic. In

parallel, the Networks Directorate aims to mobilise the financial resources needed to achieve the UNAIDS 90-90-90 goals to end the HIV epidemic.



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## COALITION PLUS

**AIDES** is the leading association fighting HIV/AIDS in Europe. It was created in 1984 by Daniel Defert. AIDES actively contributes to the development of prevention, screening, and access to care, the rights of those infected and the fight against all forms of discrimination or stigmatisation against the most vulnerable people and communities exposed to the risks of contamination.

**CREATED IN 2001, GAT** is a major player in social transformation in Portugal. Based in Lisbon, its mission is universal access to HIV prevention, testing and care to control the epidemic, based on the best available scientific evidence, as well as the promotion of human rights.

**ARAS** was founded in 1992 in Bucharest. Among the first Romanian non-governmental organisations, its objectives are HIV prevention and the material, psychological and social support of people affected by the disease and their families.

Active in the field of harm reduction for people belonging to vulnerable groups, it offers psycho-social assistance. It also advocates for human rights and access to medical and social services.

**FOUNDED IN 1987, GROUPE SIDA GENÈVE** strengthens and develops projects to fight against AIDS and provides services for the general population of Geneva, and more specifically for people living with the disease. Its mandate includes the prevention of new infections, support for those affected, the fight against discrimination, and the dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS.

Founded in 2008, Coalition PLUS is an international coalition of community-based organizations fighting AIDS and viral hepatitis. Coalition PLUS is now present worldwide with 100 partners in 40 countries. Through the 14 member organizations of our Board, the decision-making process involves associations from both the Global North and Global South. With our community-based approach, we advocate for people who live with HIV / viral hepatitis and key populations to be systematically involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of the healthcare programs that directly affect them.

Learn more:  
[www.coalitionplus.org](http://www.coalitionplus.org)

## 6 regional and subregional Platforms

**MENA Platform:** Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania

**Indian Ocean Platform:** Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar, Rodrigues, Mayotte, La Réunion

**Americas-Caribbean Platform:** Ecuador, Bolivia, Quebec, French Guyana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Saint-Martin

**Central & East Africa Platform:** Burundi, Rwanda, Cameroon, Tchad, DRC, Congo-Brazzaville, CAR

**West Africa Platform:** Mali, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal

**European Platform:** France, Portugal, Romania, Switzerland

Coalition PLUS Platforms work with their members and partners on capacity building, community-based research, and advocacy. The first Platforms emerged in 2014 in the Maghreb, in West, Central and East Africa and in the Indian Ocean. The European and Americas-Caribbean Platforms followed. Within each Platform, strategic axes are jointly built with member associations mobilising expertise throughout the

region. Through the principles of civil society leadership and shared governance, these Platforms bring together community stakeholders around the same desire to impact on epidemics, responding as closely as possible to the challenges of each region.

## PRESENTATION

Despite the progress made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Europe faces today numerous challenges :

- In the West, despite developed health systems offering multiple strategies for prevention, testing, access to care and rights, there are marked territorial differences and new HIV infections remain persistent, and there are differences between territories. Access to Prep is uneven, drug consumption rooms are scarce and screening and access to innovative HCV treatment requires scaling-up.

- In Central Europe, prevention activities and access to care and support for people are compromised by a lack of funding and a lack of real political commitment at national level. New HIV infections are soaring in key and vulnerable populations. Continuity of care is compromised by stock-outs, while access to hepatitis C treatment needs to be made widely available to all populations.

- In the East, the most affected populations face significant difficulties in accessing rights, prevention tools and care. Screening and treatment are a long way from reaching international targets (especially those of UNAIDS: 90% of people living with HIV should know their status, 90% of these people should receive treatment, and 90% of them should have viral suppression). The explosion of new HIV infections is still accompanied by significant death rates.

It is in this context that in 2014, the four European Coalition PLUS associations (AIDES - France, ARAS - Romania, GAT - Portugal, and the AIDS Group Geneva - Switzerland) launched the European Platform. Carried by AIDES, the European Platform brings together the West, South and Centre of the continent. It is rich and complex, including EU countries, but also Switzerland, countries of emigration and immigration, countries with a long history of democracy, and countries that are building democracy now.

The configuration of the European Platform gives it a global vision of the situation in Europe based on lived experiences of human rights' infringements, of difficulties, even refusals, accessing services and care and on the needs of most affected vulnerable populations.

Europe has a rich landscape of civil society organisations on HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, as well as on drugs and harm reduction. The European Platform moves in this landscape, offering many opportunities



to promote its community approach, individual and collective empowerment and social transformation. Each of the four members works directly with other local and European partners (e.g. European AIDS Treatment Group and AIDS Action Europe) sometimes contributing together in joint projects.

In addition, AIDES, GAT and ARAS are part of two advisory bodies of the European Commission: the Civil Society Forum on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and Tuberculosis, and its counterpart on Drugs. Thus, they carry both the concerted advocacy voice of the European Platform and that of civil society in their own country.

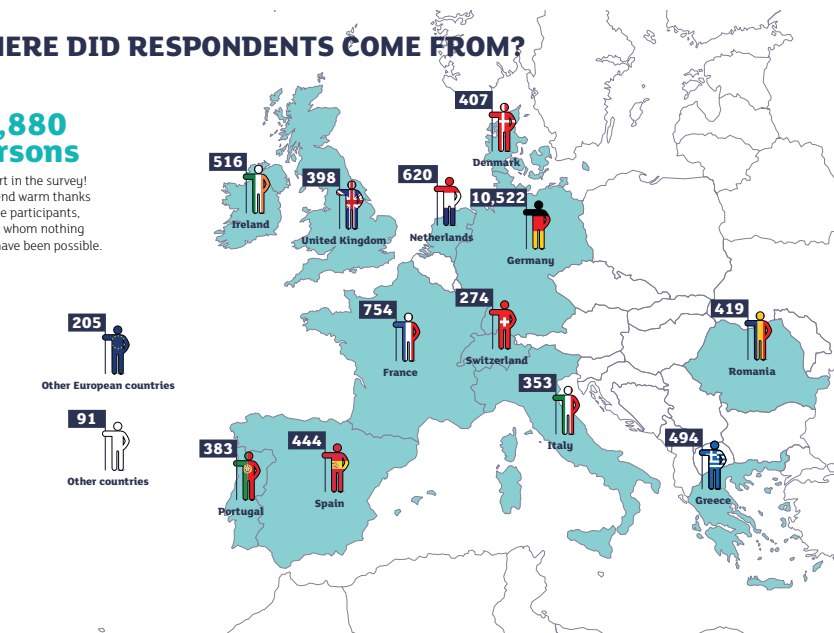
While joining other members of civil society and institutions, the European Platform conducts its own community research, capacity building and advocacy

## THE "FLASH! PREP IN EUROPE" STUDY

### WHERE DID RESPONDENTS COME FROM?

Overall,  
**15,880**  
persons

took part in the survey!  
We extend warm thanks  
to all the participants,  
without whom nothing  
would have been possible.



In 2016, pre-exposure prophylaxis (Prep) was still not available in Europe. Thus, with the aim of strengthening advocacy efforts for wider access and highlighting the needs of the people concerned, the European Platform launched a survey that mobilised 17 associations in 12 countries in Europe and was supported by two Universities, UNAIDS and Dating Apps for Men Who Have Sex With Men.

The "Flash! PrEP In Europe" study helped determine the level of knowledge of Prep among different target populations in Europe, the level of interest and intention to use Prep, the desired delivery conditions for Prep and describe the level and modalities of 'informal' use of Prep in Europe.

Nearly 16,000 people responded to this survey. The results have been widely presented, in particular at international conferences such as IAS, AIDS Impact, and Afravivh.



**MIHAI LIXANDRU**, Programme Coordinator at ARAS :

*"Taking part in the Flash PrEP survey was, for ARAS and for Romania, a means by which, for the first time in our country, we talked about Prep and we could see and measure the interest of the communities to have access to it."*

### REPARTITION OF PARTICIPANTS BY GENDER

