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The Dianova International Manifesto

Edition: January 2021

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Introduction

Building a society that ensures the inclusion of all

Dianova International (an NGO with Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, Registered Civil Society Organization to the Organization of American States) and its member associations and foundations mutually commit to accepting this Manifesto.

We, as signatories of this Manifesto, represent non-profit organizations working globally to advance human rights and sustainable development, through our commitment in the areas of education, youth, addiction, migrant aid and social development.

Our mission: *"Developing Initiatives and programmes with the objective of promoting self-reliance and social progress,"* from a more equitable and sustainable human development perspective.

We are proud and privileged to work in many countries, with people and within cultures and social environments that are very diverse. We are proud of our values of tolerance, commitment, solidarity and internationality. Promoting these values is the basis of our right and duty to act, as well as our contribution to the democratic process.

Our legitimacy rests on the quality of our work, as well as the recognition and support from those with and for whom we work such as our service networks, partners, donors, general public and fellow NGOs. We believe that the Dianova Network and other third sector stakeholders can complement, but not replace, the role and primary responsibility of governments to promote equitable human development, defend the rights and well-being of their people and protect ecosystems.

Dianova is a secular and independent network, without any political, corporate or ideological ties – solely devoted to public interest and human development.

The Dianova Organization was founded in the 1970s to help those struggling with addictions. In more than four decades of existence, the organization has managed to mature and evolve. Dianova has thus been able to develop a broader view of social issues. Dianova today is a transnational network operating on four continents. Its network is characterized by openness, connections to partner organizations, and a historical commitment to mutual aid and to supporting the most vulnerable. These qualities form a critical mass and give Dianova a visible platform for communicating its message.

The Dianova network's mission is to effectively influence social policies to promote health, quality of life, development of people and communities. That mission places a strong emphasis on people in the aim of empowering them to act as key drivers of a sustainable development that is socially, economically and environmentally balanced.

In this spirit, our organization has decided to develop this Manifesto, with the participation of all its members. This Manifesto aligns with the Charter of Accountability approved by the network in 2010. It also primarily intends to highlight our main positions on issues that concern us as well as those we wish to emphasize.

We firmly believe that our organization's future and raison d'être lie in a fair balance between our roles as providers of quality service and our ability to promote social change. We believe that this balance will help us to build a responsible and equitable society, reflecting complex and diverse realities and guaranteeing the inclusion of all people.

Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an initiative to enhance cooperation between governments and other stakeholders striving to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. The Agenda's 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and their 169 specific targets have thus become symbols of this ambitious project.

The mission of Dianova and its fulfilment thus appear significant in the context of the 2030 Agenda. By implementing various local and international practices and initiatives, Dianova can have a significant impact on the implementation of SDGs. In joining global efforts to build a better world for everyone, Dianova has incorporated the language of the Agenda 2030 SDGs into its work. Moreover, by issuing this Manifesto, Dianova is demonstrating its commitment to achieving SDGs.

Finally, we must emphasize that the 2030 Agenda is holistic and intersectional: all SDGs are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Each section of the Manifesto therefore includes logos representing various closely related SDGs, without excluding other goals not illustrated.

Dianova and sustainable development

A sustainable society is a society that thrives whilst providing, fairly and equitably, a good quality of life to all its citizens. It is a society where everyone's present and future needs are met without exceeding the limits of the ecosystems and natural resources on which all life depends.

We can justify implementing sustainable development only by recognizing that our natural resources are limited and that we are depleting them. We must also recognize that environmental damage is accelerating and inequality is growing.

To respond to these challenges in an increasingly complex world, all members of society must adopt a comprehensive approach. That approach must simultaneously and harmoniously address the three dimensions - economic, social and environmental - of sustainable development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with UN support, proposes five main themes for humanity and the planet, or the 'five Ps': people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.

People: guarantee the well-being of all of society's citizens. This means universal access to basic necessities, regardless of standard of living: food, housing, health, equal access to work, education, security, human rights, culture, etc.

The planet: prevent damage to and protect the planet, specifically by responsible consumption and production, sustainable natural resource management, and implementing urgent measures to address climate change.

Prosperity: guarantee all human beings the chance to lead dignified and prosperous lives and ensure that technological, economic and social advances work in harmony with nature.

Peace: promote the development of peaceful, just and inclusive societies, supported by transparent, responsible institutions driven by a desire for the common good.

Partnership: promote global solidarity to address the many and interrelated sustainable development issues, with the participation of all countries and stakeholders.

Dianova's position

Dianova fully supports the following definition of sustainable development: *"a form of development that meets the needs of present generations without jeopardising the capacity of future generations to meet their needs."*

We believe that the current situation is largely due to the consequences of globalization. Moreover, we feel that globalization has gone far beyond an economic phenomenon linked to the development of world markets, and now affects all aspects of life in our societies. Dianova believes that whilst economic globalization has had positive effects for several countries and their populations, it has also profoundly altered the social and political balances of power within every country. Corporate power has increased whilst that of workers' organizations has diminished, increasing regional, national, and global inequalities. Unfortunately, far from shrinking, these differences are becoming more pronounced.

The concept of sustainable development has gained rapid and universal acceptance since the Earth Summit in Rio (1992). It has also fostered a greater awareness of major environmental issues and global disparities. Sustainable development has therefore extended the scope of global problems to include environmental, health, trade and poverty issues.

In recent years, however, two trends have emerged in the interpretation of sustainable development. For some, specifically manufacturers, sustainable development has become an opportunity to open new markets and achieve fast economic growth. These actors justify their actions as helping to reduce poverty. Others have incorrectly reduced the concept to a strictly environmental dimension.

The view of Dianova is that it is essential to rebalance this situation by introducing a people-centred form of sustainable development. People-centred sustainable development can be defined as the capacity of human communities to meet their long-term basic needs. Those needs involve the environment, housing, drinking water, food, sanitation, hygiene, democratic participation, social cohesion, cultural and spiritual expression, etc. Meeting this

challenge will only be possible if it is based on the social, economic and ecological potential of each region and on respect for the biosphere.

We believe that people-centred sustainable development requires a thorough review of how our societies function. We must also examine our assumptions and our lifestyles, particularly how we produce and consume goods. This objective involves implementing a transition that will shift attitudes and behaviours, fostering awareness of the shared space we inhabit. We must prioritize social justice, solidarity and equality of opportunity, and ensure that current and future generations respect the great ecological balances and the importance of democracy.

We believe that promoting economic solidarity currently provides a good model of economic and human development. This model includes aspects of production, distribution and consumption whilst maintaining citizens' involvement, responsibility and social cohesion.

Finally, **we recognize** that starting this process, requires us to promote long-term partnerships between all parties. These partnerships must reach across the world and include international organizations, governments, businesses, NGOs and civil society.

Part 1: Dianova and its environment

International Organizations

WHAT IS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION?

Since the second half of the nineteenth century, States have established specialized or regional international organizations to provide a formal framework for their cooperation. The scope of international organizations, initially technical assistance (the second oldest is the Universal Postal Union), has since expanded into policy areas - ranging from trade to collective security - through regional integration. International organizations serve governments, which fund and oversee them. They thus represent one aspect of the collective sovereignty of those governments. Sometimes, however, the actions of organizations clash with the sovereignty of individual governments.

> *International organizations represent partnerships between sovereign states. They are created by international treaties, multilateral agreements or agreements between governments to coordinate actions in specific areas based on a charter.*[1]

THE PRINCIPLE OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY

[1] Emploipublic.fr – What is an international organization?

Individual states remain sovereign when they are involved in international organizations. The United Nations, for example, recognizes the principle of sovereign equality of its member states. The UN thus refrains from intervening in matters within the jurisdiction of each member state. The decision-making process that international organizations follow reflects the principle of sovereignty. That process combines the principles of making decisions by consensus and "1 state equals 1 vote."

In practice, however, international organizations are becoming more independent, in part because of their leadership. More importantly, international organizations are developing expertise that governments lack (i.e., the nuclear expertise of the IAEA, the health expertise of WHO, the expertise of UNHCR in international refugee law, etc.)

Operations

International organizations are legal entities under international law, and use their own systems for determining their actions. They are, however, subordinate to their member states, established by them with the goal of serving state objectives and facilitating cooperation between states. There are currently more than 250 international and intergovernmental organizations (including regional organizations) that perform various roles in the international system.

RELATIONS BETWEEN NGOS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Transnational associations, commonly called international NGOs have since the mid-1970s gradually become full members of the international community. Today, international NGOs represent a force wielding influence rivalling that of intergovernmental organizations. International NGOs are transnational manifestations of what we call "civil society" or a set of social movements organized around common objectives and interests.

International NGOs wield greater influence in part because national governments recognize their own limitations. Governments cannot independently solve increasingly complex social problems that cross borders and can threaten the health, well-being or security of their populations. The need to preserve the environment, eradicate certain diseases or to control drugs are examples of such problems.

Faced with these challenges, various international organizations such as the UN have been asked to take on new responsibilities. International organizations manage these burdens by investing in relationships and closer partnerships with non-governmental organizations. As Mr. Nitin Desai, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (1992-2003) observed: *"NGOs are no longer mere clients of the United Nations. They bring new ideas, alert the global community about emerging challenges and bring their talents and critical expertise to the work of the United Nations (...)"*

Dianova's position

One of the great challenges of the 21st century is managing globalization. Governments and international organizations must be able to adapt regulations and check the excesses of private interests more effectively. Only then can we ensure that a long-term view, compatible with the general interest, will drive globalization. Globalization is not merely the joint manifestation of governments and markets, of the public and private sectors, or of national and transnational logic. We must understand the growing global influence of a wider set of actors and transformative mechanisms. Specifically, we must examine the role that non-governmental organizations and the volunteer sector play in ensuring social vision and solidarity.

Dianova **wants to be** involved in this movement and play an active role within international organizations so that it can exercise significant influence. We want to be closer to the decision centres of international organizations so that we can work effectively to realize our vision.

Dianova **strives** to participate as much as possible in the development of proposals, actions and concrete programs to strengthen the role of these institutions. Dianova also ensures application of their policies and recommendations in the countries where it operates. Ultimately, Dianova believes it is not only possible, but essential, to think globally and act locally.

Relations with governments

For over two decades, the volunteer organizations are increasingly involved in areas traditionally under the jurisdiction of the state and in many countries. This volunteer sector commitment and how it is implemented can vary widely. For example, in some countries, the field of local and community development has become a space where representatives of the public and volunteer sectors can meet and exchange ideas. In other countries, however, the role that NGOs play is more that of an opposition than acting on genuine operational commitment. Consequently, governments in those countries view these NGOs with suspicion. Between these two extremes, naturally, we can see all the nuances of governmental-volunteer sector relations.

Countries with the most active civil societies have many active local and community stakeholders. These actors may focus on social economy and solidarity, community action, or social entrepreneurship. Whatever their focus, these stakeholders are the source of many innovative and practical initiatives to help the most marginalized populations. Such initiatives appear remarkable and benefit the communities they serve. But collaboration with the public sector to carry out these initiatives multiplies the contributions to building global development expertise. In this context, the challenge is to determine the precise relationship between the volunteer sector and the state that will achieve the greatest development benefits.

REASONS TO COOPERATE

Governments and volunteer organizations have many reasons to cooperate, which can vary by country. Generally, however, two kinds of factors may play a role: *economic or social-political*. For example, national and local governments may reduce budgets despite increased needs, knowing that NGO operations cost less than those of the private sector. Government may also hope to strengthen civil society, or even to take advantage of the social consensus that some prominent NGOs generate.

COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Collaborative mechanisms include *contractual approaches* (governments "buy" services that NGOs provide to populations, according to precise terms: duration, financial conditions, results, accountability); and *partnership and cooperation approaches*, in which two fundamentally different entities agree to jointly address certain social issues or jointly implement specific projects (trans-sector cooperation). Partner cooperation ideally involves methods that are very different from the contractual approach, including:

- Objectives determined jointly by the NGO and the governmental institution
- Decisions made in collaboration and by consensus
- Formal/informal relations based on trust
- Horizontal and non-hierarchical processes
- Interactions and synergy between the two partners
- Reporting joint accounts

Dianova's position

Volunteer sector organizations strive to provide responses to the many challenges posed by current changes, from social, economic and environmental crises to the growing divide between rich and poor. These organizations have produced a great variety of initiatives to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations. These initiatives include encouraging people to change attitudes and implementing practices to combat discrimination, identify threats to the environment, etc.

Given the scale of the task, Dianova **deems** it essential to implement mechanisms for collaboration or partnerships between civil society organizations, governments and the private sector. We feel that these mechanisms are the best way to address increasingly diverse and complex socio-economic problems. Collaborations can design and implement better, more efficient services based on a detailed understanding of the needs of local communities.

Collaborations between governments and the volunteer sector can also provide solutions to the chronic funding shortages that plague some areas. However, we **believe** that these collaborations should not replace the critical involvement of governments, which bear primary responsibility for promoting fair and sustainable human development.

Therefore, as actors complementing the work of public authorities, **we ask** governments to implement measures and provide financing adapted to providing quality services, while respecting the sustainability of social organizations.

Organized civil society

Since 1945, NGOs have enjoyed a form of official recognition for international organizations. Under Article 71 of the UN Charter, NGOs can be granted consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN. To meet the diversity, range of competencies and the growing capacity of NGOs, in 1996 ECOSOC adopted a resolution updating the provisions of Article 71. This resolution made the closer partnerships with NGOs possible. ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31 is the current legal basis governing *"consultative relationships between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations"*

Today, more than 3,700 NGOs have consultative status with ECOSOC, and their number doubled between 2000 and 2010. We should also note that, in addition to their growing numbers, NGOs use various methods to exercise active influence on the operations of international organizations. These NGOs can thus be consulted or involved in the deliberations and the implementation of specific decisions made by international organizations. For example, The World Health Organization (WHO) or the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) collaborate with several hundred NGOs.

For a long time, NGOs held a merely advisory and/or operational role in the operations or decision-making of international organizations. Today, however, many NGOs are helping to define program policies and priorities of international organizations.

THE ROLE OF ORGANISED CIVIL SOCIETY

Some NGOs have gained a working knowledge and mastery of different sectors of activity. This experience has generated technical expertise that is essential to a well-informed debate and effective counterarguments. These NGOs play a *non-governmental diplomatic* role, which broadens their scope of international operations (roles traditionally reserved for sovereign actors), such as conflict mediation, humanitarian actions, and others.

This role that NGOs have assumed is irreversible. Civil society and public opinion are growing more influential through their organized international stakeholders (NGOs). This influence relies on increasingly efficient means (technical resources, expertise, education and communication). Organised civil society demands to participate in the resolution of international problems, which have become regional, national and local as globalization progresses.

For Dianova, these developments represent an opportunity for greater international integration and a chance for democracy.

Dianova's position

NGOs and the third sector are generally born with the aim of eradicating the problem they confront: "drugs, AIDS, poverty or social exclusion." That purpose characterizes a developmental and growth behaviour specific to organizations, which need to continually adapt to their own raison d'être and their feeling of *being useful*. That is why we believe that the very nature of our organizations is in development, meaning the set of maturation and learning processes by that comprise an organization's life cycle and renew its potential. Those processes allow organizations to evolve and adapt to new needs instead of falling into meaningless organizational development.

After a beginning marked by spontaneity and pioneering spirit, many of these organizations have experienced significant professionalization and institutionalization. This process has allowed them to move gradually from the culture of heroism to that of social responsibility and to position themselves as reliable and credible interlocutors.

In this context, Dianova creates joint projects and implements partnerships with other third sector organizations, promoting openness and collaboration. **We are convinced** that these practices represent the best guarantee of a consistent development. They help organizations avoid the self-referential behaviour or too much fragmentation that too often impede the unity of third sector action. That unity is essential to obtain credible results in the pursuit of social change goals. Ultimately, we aim to achieve diversity and complementarity rather than competition.

We live in a period of historical transition between the excesses of the 20th Century and the moderation of the 21st. Now that the myth of infinite growth has shown its limits, we must now learn to live differently.

An immense challenge awaits us: to ensure a fair, supportive and *sustainable* health and social safety net in a different economic context. **We feel** that this is where organized civil society, the third sector in general, comes into play. It can mobilise resources and means with less dependence on money because it knows how to compensate (and sometimes replace) with passion, competence, generosity and commitment. The synergy of the public and third sectors is an essential response to the challenge that we face, that of the sustainability of health and social safety nets.

Dianova **wants** to promote greater unity across the third sector as a fundamental actor in the evolution and development of communities. We want to help maintain the bond of solidarity between States and their populations with the aim of building a more inclusive, fairer and more balanced society.

The academic and scientific world

For Dianova, investigation, innovation and evaluation are of paramount importance. That is why we view the academic world as a natural and essential ally in the pursuit of our goals.

Academics can also to deal with a lack of resources and skills that can hinder our development.

Cooperation between NGOs and the academic and scientific world can produce advances and development opportunities. This cooperation can improve the ability to advocate and intervene in the field by disseminating scientific innovations, benefiting both parties.

PARTNERSHIP GOALS

Knowledge exchange or enhancement

For the academic and scientific world, partnerships with NGOs generally represent the possibility of accessing geographical areas of research. Partnerships with NGOs allow researchers to put their theories into practice by taking advantage of NGO logistics and local knowledge. Researchers can also benefit from NGO experience in participatory approaches, understanding of context and local realities.

For NGOs, the presence of a scientist can enable them to have an overall vision and an important external view for analysing the organization's actions. This type of partnership also provides access to rigorous scientific tools that help to validate the relevance of the organization's actions. Partnerships also encourage their replication in other fields, thus contributing to a greater professionalization of NGOs.

Exchanges for training of future professionals

Dianova recognizes the importance of real environments in the production and testing of knowledge. Dianova thus offers opportunities to reconcile various research and study activities with their respective applications in a real environment, consistent with applicable codes of ethics.

Improved advocacy activities

In addition to these exchange and knowledge-building objectives, partnerships between NGOs and the academic and scientific world can also be used to improve the relevance and quality of advocacy activities carried out by NGOs. Whatever their quality, national or international solidarity actions are not sufficient to bring about real changes in terms of social assistance or development aid.

This is why so many more NGOs have invested in advocacy activities aimed at influencing policy and decision-makers. In this context, an effective partnership with scientists can be useful in improving the quality, relevance and legitimacy of NGOs' arguments. The use of databases or studies specific to activity areas or sectors, or other methodologies that NGOs cannot implement are especially valuable.

Dianova's position

Implementing partnerships between NGOs and the academic and scientific world is challenging because of their different functioning and objectives. NGOs seek to implement programs to meet the needs of a specific population in the contexts of emergencies and/or development. The work of researchers, however, is above all the production of results related to the analysis of knowledge.

We **feel** it is essential nevertheless to mobilize the energies in order to lead the academic and scientific world to collaborate with NGOs. New trends are supporting the development of practical curricula within higher education. NGOs can benefit from this through the work of interns, researchers and trainers who can make an essential contribution to their development. This type of partnership can generate innovations in NGO work. More importantly, it can help create a new organizational culture that enhances the concepts of transdisciplinarity and interconnection between theory and practice. Finally, higher education is increasingly seen as much more than an institution employing an assembly line of researchers whose only interest is seeing their work published. Many researchers now wish to play a more active role in the process of human development and the establishment of active citizenship, capable of holding governments accountable.

Dianova therefore **wants** to position itself as an experienced organization that can offer students the training they need. Dianova also strives to provide an atmosphere combining technical capacity and social commitment - an ideal that many academics don't find during their training process. Dianova also proposes an interventional environment which we believe facilitates experimental or descriptive research. Dianova also proposes evaluating programs and other experiences. This is why Dianova **opens** the door to all researchers and academics eager to take advantage of concrete experiences in their work.

Finally, Dianova **commits** to social change and innovation in the field of knowledge, an area that is largely an academic endeavour. Collaborative work with academic and scientific institutions thus becomes a condition for the progress of the organization.

The world of business

Traditionally marked by ignorance or antagonism, relations between companies and non-governmental organizations have evolved. A dialogue began in the early 1990s, followed by the rise of new ethical concerns in the corporate world. These developments led to the implementation of various forms of cooperation between companies and NGOs. The consequences of globalization and financial scandals have led to economic, social and environmental crises that pose deep challenges to the legitimacy of companies. Consequently, companies have been forced to integrate social, ethical and sustainable development issues into their economic development strategy. These changes are the origin of the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): a voluntary approach to integrate these issues into the day-to-day operation of companies.

In order to build this link with society, now perceived as essential, companies turned to non-governmental organizations. Companies recognized NGOs as key actors in the international system and enjoying a capital of sympathy in public opinion.

COMPANY MOTIVATION

Many NGOs have by now become indispensable representatives of companies, publicizing CSR policies internally or externally. NGOs bring to these relationships an understanding of the determinants and fields of action of sustainable development and social engagement. Partnerships with NGOs provide companies access to training and learning opportunities, enhancing their expertise in social and sustainable development areas. This greater expertise contributes to the integration of new responsibilities in company management. These partnerships also enable companies to reduce the risks of financial impact following a social or environmental crisis. Partnering with NGOs also allows companies to improve their image through responsible positioning.

MOTIVATION OF NGOS

It is also important to consider the motivations of NGOs that partner with companies and to view them as actors in these partnerships. NGO/business relationships are the result of a strategic choice of NGOs. Once in a partnership, an NGO can cooperate with a company or challenge and pressure it to cooperate. Companies are important players in society because they have leverage that allows them to address social and environmental issues. Through their partnerships with businesses, NGOs show that they want to meet the expectations of their own stakeholders and be seen as capable of delivering solutions. NGOs want to extend their field of action and influence; they also want to broaden their sources of funding and dissemination networks.

CONDITIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

Three types of conditions must be met to ensure the success of relationships between NGOs and companies:

- *Human conditions*: Clear motivations on the part of each party, mutual trust and understanding,
- *Structural conditions*: A rigorous contractual and financial framework, a transparent organization, the development of common working practices,
- *Material conditions*: Geographic proximity, mastery of communication policies and tools, transfer of knowledge and skills, equitable investment (time, tools, resources)
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Dianova's position

Dianova **feels** that the NGO/business relationship must represent more than a mere framework for participatory collaboration between the two parties, *"give and take"*. This can and must also be a strategic vision that facilitates building a sustainable society where social justice and environmental preservation are a priority. New social business models have shown that companies can be significant engines of trade while preserving a commitment to the environment. Companies can thus pursue the common good instead of private profit.

Dianova **believes** that the success and positive results of these new business models may be greater when companies implemented them in partnership with local, national or international NGOs, and even with government authorities. The development of a sustainable and inclusive social project is, by definition, only possible when all stakeholders and citizens participate in management processes.

The business world is thus a major area of interest for Dianova. We **favour** of a specific business model that combines the values of respect, sustainability, transparency, justice and development with profitability, excellence and innovation.

We **believe** that companies are an integral part of society and that, as producers of wealth, they have a social responsibility. We are **committed** to building alliances to encourage authentic and fruitful exchanges of expertise, not just donations, as part of a shared social responsibility.

We **want** to build bridges between business and the volunteer sector to combine the best of both worlds: corporate efficiency and professionalism plus our motivation, resilience and solidarity. Our experience highlights the effectiveness of this synergy for our two sectors and for society as a whole. We have seen its positive impact on the quality of life and work of everyone.

Part 2: Dianova's commitment

Addictions

GENERAL VIEWS

Addiction is characterized by a person's inability to stop a repeated cycle of behaviours aimed at providing pleasurable feelings or at reducing discomfort, and the persistence of such behaviours despite harmful consequence (health and financial problems, isolation, loss of employment, etc.)

The concept of addiction not only refers to licit or illicit psychoactive substances. Addictive disorders may also be triggered by such compulsive behaviours as pathological gambling, addiction to sex or pornography addiction, or Internet-related addiction.

IS ADDICTION A DISEASE?

Dianova adheres to the definition of addiction proposed in 2019 by the *American Society of Addiction Medicine* (revision of the 2011 definition): “Addiction is a treatable, chronic medical disease involving complex interactions among brain circuits, genetics, the environment, and an individual's life experiences. People with addiction use substances or engage in behaviours that become compulsive and often continue despite harmful consequences”. "According to this model, people with addictive disorders need similar level of care as people with other medical conditions.

Dianova believes that this view of addiction as one pathology among others helps to reduce the stigmatization of people with substance use disorders or other addictions. On the other hand, in Dianova’s opinion, the explanatory model of “addiction as a disease” should not overshadow the multifactorial nature of the problem (see below: *vulnerability and protection factors*). Similarly, although advances in neurobiology and brain imaging make it possible to take a fresh look at the problem and develop promising treatments, they should not call into question the value of biopsychosocial approaches in the treatment of addiction.

VULNERABILITY AND PROTECTION FACTORS

Addiction is a multifactorial problem, which means that a set of factors (associated with each other and not taken separately) constitute **a vulnerability to the onset of an addictive disorder**. These factors are of four types:

- *Factors associated with substances or behaviours:* toxicity and neurotoxicity (short or long term), physiological and psychological addictive potential (the ability of a given substance to produce dependence).
- *Individual factors:* genetic and neurobiological factors, temperament and personality traits ('sensation-seeking', 'boredom proneness’, 'novelty seeking'), lack of interest in school or school dropout, disturbance of emotional responsiveness, mood disorders, anxiety disorders and other psychiatric disorders, early age of initiation to drug use, positive first experiences.
- *Factors related to the living environment:* unstable social situation, poor housing, stressful life events, poor working conditions and stress ; within the family: lack of reference person, conflicts, inconsistent rules, neglect or abuse, parents' attitudes towards substances, substance use by parents or siblings, and early exposure to substance use; in the circle of friends: peer pressure.
- *Environmental factors:* socio-cultural factors (immigration, acculturation, marginalisation), permissive norms, valuation of certain consumption patterns, policies or legislation, availability and accessibility of substances, exposure to advertising and marketing (cannabis, alcohol, gambling, etc.); lack of leisure facilities, disintegration of neighbourhoods.

Protective factors are those factors which **contribute to reducing the likelihood of people developing addictive disorders**; they may also stimulate people's ability to adapt to stress and personal difficulties.

- *Individual factors:* positive temperament, problem-solving ability, self-efficacy, using one's own resources while being able to seek external help, self-esteem, self-confidence, self-reliance, resilience (development process despite difficult circumstances).
- *Factors related to the living environment:* good parent/child relationship, presence of a peer helper or adult role model, positive family environment, adequate social skills; at work: good work environment and quality of life, support from colleagues and hierarchy.
- *Environmental factors:* good social integration, sense of usefulness to the community, sense of belonging to the community and adherence to its values.

Addiction Prevention among Young People

Adolescence is most often characterised by a period of integration into the circle of friends and a distancing from parents. It is also a phase of curiosity, risk-taking and challenge. For many, it is also the age of initiation of legal and illegal psychoactive substances, including alcohol, tobacco or cannabis.

SOCIAL AND HEALTH RISKS

At this age (as in intrauterine life and childhood), the brain is very sensitive to stress and psychoactive substances. Research has shown that in adolescence, the brain is in a unique state of transition and shaping that makes it more vulnerable to the neurotoxic effects of substances and the onset of mental illness.

Regular use of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis during adolescence is associated with a wide range of health and social consequences, both short and long-term (when reaching adulthood):

- **Alcohol** - short term: risk of alcoholic coma, interpersonal violence, unwanted sexual relations and pregnancies, traffic accidents; long term: gastrointestinal diseases, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic alcoholism or addiction.
- **Tobacco** - regular consumption often marks the beginning of long-term use, associated with long-term health damage: addiction, cancers (lungs, upper aero digestive tract), chronic bronchitis, cardiovascular disease, etc.
- **Cannabis** - short and medium term: *see below*; long term: health consequences similar to those associated with tobacco.

Cannabis and mental health

Despite being less dangerous than other substances, cannabis is far from being harmless. **In adolescence, frequent and regular use can in particular harm the development of the brain,** especially for those who start using at an early age. Studies report cognitive difficulties related to memory, concentration, and literacy and numeracy skills. People who use cannabis are also more likely to have difficulties or experience school failure than those who do not use it.

Several studies have linked **regular cannabis use to increased risk for psychiatric symptoms or disorders** (e.g. schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, depressive and anxiety disorders, suicidal thoughts). **The risk of developing a mental health disorder increases particularly among people who started using in adolescence** and among users with a personal or family psychiatric history. Daily use is associated with a greater frequency of these mental illnesses in adulthood, including schizophrenia. On the other hand, it should be noted that the link between cannabis use and mental health disorders does not imply that cannabis is the direct or sole cause.

Behavioural addictions can also have detrimental consequences for adolescents. Gambling for example, which is a popular and prevalent behaviour among adolescents, may lead to a loss of control, a greater propensity to use substances, depressive symptoms, suicidal risk, financial losses, reduced school performance, crimes and offences, etc.

IMPORTANCE OF EARLY PREVENTION

The prevention of addictive disorders in adolescence is a major challenge for society as a whole. However, prevention activities are often poorly designed and, more often than not, grounded in beliefs and ideologies rather than scientific evidence. Moreover, these activities usually lack consistency, both in terms of lines of intervention and funding, and are not adapted to the specific characteristics of their target groups.

Dianova believes that addiction prevention among young people must integrate societal changes (new drugs, new consumption patterns, changes in legislation, etc.) and use science-based intervention strategies relying on a set of standards and methodological guides. These strategies are based on:

- The acquisition of psychosocial skills (problem solving, decision-making, interpersonal skills, stress management, etc.).
- Interventions aimed at developing parenting skills (communication skills, conflict management, ability to set limits, etc.).
- Prevention strategies tailored to vulnerable young people (e.g. those whose parents suffer from substance use disorders)

The different types of prevention strategies

Universal: approaches designed for an entire population without regard to individual or collective risk factors.

Selective: approaches targeting subsets of the population that are considered at-risk for substance abuse

Indicated: interventions targeting those already using or engaged in other high-risk behaviours to prevent heavy or chronic use

In this regard, **Dianova recommends the development of comprehensive, early prevention strategies** involving not only the target audience (e.g. students at school), but also parents and community stakeholders. Such programmes should include not only in-school modalities (e.g. development of psychosocial skills), but also out-of-school modalities, such as programmes targeting parents, while at the same time ensuring that young people are provided with broad and worthy public spaces for leisure and healthy recreation.

Finally, it is essential that programmes be not only **flexible and diverse, but also adapted to the characteristics of the target population**. In particular, the design and implementation of these programmes must be based on a **gender perspective**, i.e. capable of responding to gender-differentiated needs, and taking into account the differences between men and women or boys and girls, both in terms of consumption behaviours and social representations, or, for younger people, the psychological or physical development during adolescence.

Dianova: Respect for Human Rights and Autonomy

Addiction leads to a considerable loss of autonomy; nevertheless, the people concerned are still capable of making a number of choices with regard to their substance use (achieve abstinence, cut down, switch to substitution treatment, etc.), and their expectations of treatment.

Dianova's approach therefore recognises people's ability to decide for themselves, change their practices, and choose what seems to be best for their own health and quality of life. This approach is based on fundamental human rights and on the principles of respect for the individual, human dignity and the protection of people in vulnerable situations. This is why any intervention, whatever it may be, implies a duty to create a caring, safe and supportive environment for people with addictive disorders, while respecting their expectations and needs.

CONCEPT OF GREATEST POSSIBLE LEVEL OF SELF-RELIANCE

When a person enters one of our programmes, we must first limit ourselves to listening to their suffering and distress. We cannot try to implement an optimal and definitive solution right away. We must instead accompany them through a process of risk limitation with regard to their substance use or other addictive behaviour. We must seek to understand what may cause or trigger these problems.

This is why Dianova's addiction counsellors do not seek to impose a single treatment goal for all – for example abstinence from substance use – but rather to adapt these objectives to each person's expectations, abilities, social situation and personal history. This approach also implies to consider the ambivalence that many people feel, especially at the beginning of treatment. Within this framework, **Dianova's counsellors endeavour to lead people, with their active participation, to the greatest possible level of self-reliance***,* so that they become able to make responsible and informed choices about their use of substances or other addictive behaviours.

MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Men and women are physiologically unequal as regards their use of substances, but they are also unequal in terms of social representations and expectations: men use more substances and more often than women, but society takes a much harder line on women who use drugs. This social sanction has concrete consequences: less social and family support, financial insecurity, social isolation, obstacles to accessing services and invisibility of the problem.

The gender-sensitive perspective is a comprehensive analytical framework that enables an analysis of the current situation. It analyses the cultural and social constructs that have historically been attributed to the masculine and feminine notions, and therefore, what is considered masculine and feminine.

Addressing substance use disorders from a gender-sensitive perspective implies to consider gender differences and specificities as factors that may condition the motivations to use drugs and the various consumption patterns, as well as their social and health consequences. It further entails eliminating the disadvantages or inequalities that women face in women's access or adherence to treatment or prevention programmes or services.

Gender equality is a fundamental right, which is why Dianova believes it is essential to mainstream the gender perspective into the DNA of organizations, programmes and services dedicated to treating substance use disorders and other addictions.

It is especially critical to adopt positive measures around some of the starting points of women's social disadvantage, and to carry out specific actions for specific needs, for both men and women. These measures must be based on a comprehensive reflection process, prior training of professionals (counsellors and programme managers), as well as adequate and effective programme design.

INTERSECTIONALITY

In order to respond adequately to the needs of different groups and populations (LGBTQI+, homeless people, people with disabilities, migrants and refugees, etc.), **Dianova believes it is useful to use an intersectional analysis framework**, based on the principle that social differentiations such as gender, ethnicity, class or sexual orientation are not compartmentalized and should therefore be analysed based on their multiple mutual influences.

The International Drug Control System

The international drug control regime was first implemented more than a century ago with the signing of the first international conventions. At the time, these conventions were primarily aimed at controlling the unregulated drug market rather than prohibiting it. Subsequently, the United States began advocating increasingly restrictive international measures based on the prohibition and criminalization of the use, trade and production of the plants used in the production of narcotics, except for scientific and medical purposes.

Over the past fifty years, the pillars of the international drug control system have been embodied in three international conventions adopted by the United Nations member states:

- ***The 1961 Convention on Narcotic Drugs,*** also called *Single Convention*, which combines previous legislation and constitutes the legal basis of the regime.
- ***The Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971*** on the control of psychoactive substances.
- ***The Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,*** aimed at strengthening cooperation among the international community in order to combat drug-related problems.

CHALLENGING THE SYSTEM

The negative consequences of a regime based mainly on prohibition are being voiced by a growing number of governments, NGOs and international agencies. The same argue that this regime has proven ineffective in containing supply and demand. Moreover, prohibition has also stimulated the growth of the global illicit drug trade.

As a result of a thriving black market, funds initially allocated to public health have been redirected towards funding law enforcement. This shift blatantly contradicts one of the goals stated in the Preamble of the 1961 Single Convention: *"The parties, concerned with the physical and moral health of mankind (...)".* As the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the main UN body involved in drug control, acknowledged it itself in its 2008 report: *"Public safety has taken the place of public health as the first principle of drug control."*

The 2011 report of *Global Commission on Drug Policy* paints a daunting picture of the current situation. As noted in the report, the public safety and repression approach has resulted in extravagantly high public spending and devastating health consequence. In addition, this approach has utterly failed to curb drug trafficking and organized crime, created obstacles to development in producing nations, and generated multiple human rights violations, stigmatization of people who use drugs, pollution and deforestation, etc.

Finally, it should be emphasized that in spite of these policies, drug use around the world has been on the rise, in terms of both overall numbers and the proportion of the world's population that uses drugs. In 2009, the estimated 210 million users represented 4.8 per cent of global population aged 15–64, compared with the estimated 269 million users in 2018, or 5.3 per cent of the population[2].

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF DIANOVA

The international drug control system lays the foundation for most of the policies implemented by UN member countries in their objective of bringing "the world drug problem" to an end, with approaches essentially based on prohibition and repression. These approaches have not only failed to achieve their objective of significantly and sustainably reducing the world drug market, but have also had dramatic consequences for public health, security and development, while perpetuating risky forms of substance use and, in a number of countries, punishing people disproportionately.

Despite these failures, however, the efforts of NGOs and other organizations have improved the overall situation of people who use drugs. As a result of these efforts, we have been able to better address the ongoing problem of stigmatization and discrimination, and to persuade authorities to adopt vital public health-based measures and services, including harm reduction policies and adequate treatment and reintegration services.

Dianova believes it is essential to build upon these achievements a continue efforts to review the current international drug control system. It is vital, for example, to end the criminalization of drug users and emphasize a balanced and complementary public health approach, utilising science-based interventions.

A number of treatment and rehabilitation approaches, such as professional therapeutic communities, are part of these methods. Harm reduction policies are effective, low-cost solutions, but they cannot serve all needs. Rehabilitation programmes, both residential and outpatient may seem more costly, however in the longer term they represent cost-effective investments because they help reduce healthcare costs, work absenteeism and crime. This is why Dianova urges governments to implement a complementary set of policies without favouring one approach to the detriment of another.

[2] World Drug Report 2020, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Dianova's Position Statement in the Addiction Field

1) **Dianova notes the limits of an international drug control system centred mainly on prohibition and repression.** The ideal of a drug-free world was credible fifty years ago but does not seem realistic given the data we have today. The inability to stop the increase in trafficking and the consumption of psychoactive substances, especially among young people, shows the need to revise the current approach.

2) **Dianova supports reforming the general framework of United Nations drug conventions and agencies towards a public health approach.** This framework must shift from a primary focus on prohibition and criminalization to a public health approach that respects human rights and utilises medical research to implement effective rehabilitation programmes. The reform should encourage innovation, solutions adapted to a constantly changing problem and enhanced treatment opportunities. Moreover, we expect United Nations agencies to play a leading role in this shift in thinking by encouraging governments to implement a set of appropriate and complementary solutions.

3) **Dianova supports the establishment of major debates on dependencies on a national level.** It is urgent that attitudes towards dependence evolve in each country and, therefore, we support holding interdisciplinary political, scientific and societal debates to formulate recommendations for reducing the damage caused by the use of various substances while taking account the comparative dangerousness of each of these substances.

4) **Dianova advocates decriminalizing the use of all psychoactive substances, within the limits established by law.** Hundreds of thousands of people with substance use disorders are prosecuted and punished with long prison sentences, and may be executed in some countries, for having used illegal drugs. Even democratic states impose the burden of criminal records upon users which denies them certain rights and access to jobs. Dianova supports implementing policies based upon public health and human rights and calls for ending ineffective and repressive policies that serve only to marginalize people who use drugs and reduce their access to the care that they need.

5) **Dianova supports the implementation of measures based on scientific data and evidence.** We must limit the influence of ideologies and subjective representations. We must instead promote approaches and programmes that are validated by scientific data and regularly monitored and evaluated.

6) **Dianova supports the implementation of complementary measures and innovative alternatives to prevent and treat addiction.** Focusing on a single approach or category of programme (e.g., residential/outpatient treatment or harm reduction strategies) cannot meet all of the specific needs of people with substance use disorders. Dianova, therefore, supports implementing a holistic approach based upon the needs of individuals and their fundamental rights.

7) **Dianova supports universal patient access to essential medicines and pain relief.** The international drug control system does not provide equitable access to medicines such as opioid analgesics, which are essential for managing pain and suffering. Access to pain control medicines is a fundamental human right and Dianova calls for the elimination of all political obstacles that prevent some low- and middle-income states from ensuring adequate supplies of these medicines.

8) **With regard to cannabis, Dianova defends each country's right to implement legal regimes adapted to their situation and respectful of human rights.** Cannabis is one of the most widely used substances worldwide and each country faces specific problems in this regard. Dianova believes that the international drug control system should allow all countries to regulate cannabis use based on legal regimes adapted to their needs and respectful of individual rights and interests. In the case of countries having opted for legalization, Dianova advocates the implementation of strict regulatory policies grounded on efficient control measures *(see section: Legality of Cannabis).*

9) **Dianova opposes the legalization of any other internationally controlled psychoactive substance.** Reducing the consumption of frequently used substances such as tobacco, alcohol and cannabis, and preventing their use by minors is already a very difficult task for governments. For this reason and in the light of current knowledge, Dianova believes that legalizing these substances could lead to a drastic increase in their consumption with serious consequences for public health.

Legality of Cannabis

Cannabis is by far the most widely cultivated and consumed illicit drug worldwide, despite international treaties that restrict its use to medical and scientific purposes. It is also the drug that has been most subject to repressive efforts since its inclusion in the international drug control system.

BRIEF HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Cannabis is classified alongside cocaine and heroin in the Single Convention (see section: *International drug control system*). These treaties were drafted and negotiated at a radically different time, when drug-related issues were only a marginal concern for most countries, which led a small number of these countries to steer the development of the international control system in their chosen direction: prohibition.

It is now established that some key individuals and the most activist delegations in the international drug control bureaucracy were able to favour certain sensationalist research findings in order to impose cannabis as a particularly dangerous substance, which should therefore be subject to the strictest multilateral control.

These conclusions, now discredited, were based on views that were racist oftentimes and alleged preposterous links between cannabis use and insanity, crime, or moral decline, or its role as a gateway to 'hard drugs'. This was more than enough to demonise cannabis and the people who use it.

THE FAILURE OF REPRESSION

After fifty years of prohibition and repression, the results are overwhelming. Prohibition has proved ineffective in reducing the spread of the illicit market or the health damage caused by cannabis. Conversely, cannabis prohibition imposes heavy burdens on criminal justice systems, leads to adverse public health consequences and creates criminal markets that only reinforce organised crime, violence and corruption.

Moreover, the criminalization of people who use cannabis can have devastating consequences for their lives: imprisonment, revocation of a professional licence, denial of access to public jobs, etc. Finally, prohibitionist policies promote the stigmatisation and discrimination of people who use cannabis and make their access to treatment more difficult.

Some definitions

Decriminalization: this involves no longer considering the use or possession of small quantities of cannabis as an offence punishable by a prison sentence. Nevertheless, even when decriminalized, cannabis remains illegal: traffickers remain prosecuted and cannabis users may be subject to minor penalties.

Legalisation: it means to make legal the consumption, distribution, ownership and sale of cannabis, when they were previously illicit. Cannabis legalisation can be carried out in an open market, simply governed by supply and demand and with little or no state intervention, or it can be state-controlled via a regulatory strategy.

Regulation: a complementary process to legalisation, regulation is defined as compliance, under state control, with a number of obligations and prohibitions covering the entire value chain of the substance, including its cultivation, production, distribution, sale and consumption (e.g. prohibition of sale to minors and of advertising, restricted sale to certain places, production licences, register of people who use, price controls, etc.). Depending on the legislation, the levels of regulation can vary widely

MOVEMENTS AGAINST PROHIBITION

The status of cannabis in the international drug control system has long been disputed. The movement began as early as the 1970s; while the United States was on the brink of its 'war on drugs', several of its states officially decriminalized the possession of cannabis for personal use. At the same time, the Netherlands re-evaluated its cannabis policy, leading to

the development of coffee shops, a system that has been repeatedly criticised by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) as exceeding the limits of the Conventions.

At present, the movement is intensifying in favour not only of decriminalization, but also of legalisation of cannabis, through varying degrees of regulation. As of October 2020, the recreational use of cannabis has been decriminalized in several countries of the American continent and the European Union, and it has been legalised and regulated in Uruguay, South Africa, Georgia and 11 states of the USA. Worldwide, the trend towards decriminalization and even controlled legalisation of the recreational use of cannabis is definitely on the rise.

International treaties give nations a certain amount of latitude with respect to the decriminalization for personal use or therapeutic purposes, or the provision of harm and risk reduction services. Nevertheless, some 'red lines' should not be crossed, and giving people a legal access to recreational cannabis use, as well as for the 250 other substances under international control, is clearly out of bounds.

In order to address discrepancies between the international drug control system and the worldwide trend, we believe that civil society organizations and other stakeholders should assume a leadership role and make their opinions known so as to shed more light on this issue.

THE MEDICAL USE OF CANNABIS

A cannabis plant contains more than 500 chemical compounds of which about 100 are cannabinoids, which is why its therapeutic applications are very difficult to classify and study.

Despite these difficulties, the therapeutic use of cannabis is increasingly accepted, and even legal in many countries. At present, many patients report that cannabis use has proved effective in relieving a number of symptoms (see framed text). However, despite this popularity, the evidence remains anecdotal and **research has yet to validate the medical benefits of cannabis.** This is due to two main reasons: firstly because research studies are methodologically difficult to implement, and secondly because many scientists are discouraged by the regulatory burden imposed on them by the restrictive laws still in force in many countries and derived from the classification of cannabis in the international drug control system.

CBD, THC and forms of therapeutic cannabis

The two main cannabinoids that may be used for therapeutic purposes are tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD). THC is the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis while CBD has no such properties. Cannabinoid drugs may be helpful in treating **certain forms of epilepsy**, chemotherapy-induced **nausea and vomiting**, and **loss of appetite**

and weight loss associated with HIV/AIDS. In addition, some evidence suggests modest benefits of cannabinoids for **chronic pain** and **multiple sclerosis** symptoms.

Scientists generally consider medications that use purified chemicals derived from or based on those in the cannabis plant to be of therapeutic interest. However**, they do not recommend the use of the cannabis plant as a medicine** as it poses other problems associated to the hundreds potentially harmful chemicals it contains, in addition to known adverse health effects of smoking and THC-induced cognitive impairment.

Cannabis used for therapeutic purposes can take three main forms:

Pharmaceuticals: synthetic or natural products with standardised ingredients, e.g. *dronabinol* and *nabilone* (synthetic THC), *nabiximol* (50/50 mixture of THC and CBD, natural and chemically pure);

Medical grade cannabis: produced and processed under standardised conditions, without adulterants, high levels of CBD, reduced levels of THC (form: herb, oil, tablets);

Uncontrolled cannabis (illegal or poorly regulated market): THC and CBD levels often unknown, presence of adulterants possible – *use not recommended*

These substances must be submitted for approval to national or regional health authorities, such as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Currently (2020) a cannabidiol solution (Epidyolex®) has been approved by both the FDA and the EMA for the treatment of a severe and rare form of epilepsy.

Dianova's Position Statement on Cannabis Policies

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Dianova considers it essential to adapt the international drug control system so that countries can implement legal regimes adapted to their situation and respectful of human rights.

The prohibitionist and repressive cannabis policies still in force in many countries are directly derived from the international drug control system. These policies fail to achieve their objective of reducing demand and only reinforce an illegal market where the health-related impact of cannabis cannot be monitored.

For this reason, Dianova supports the decision taken in December 2020 by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs to follow the recommendation made by the World Health Organisation to reclassify cannabis and cannabis resin in the international conventions, thus paving the way for easier scientific research on the therapeutic applications of cannabis and cannabinoids -- although this substance remains under international control.

With this landmark decision, the therapeutic interest of cannabis is de facto recognized by the United Nations, thus reflecting the reality of the growing market for cannabis-based

medicines. Dianova therefore believes that the United Nations decision is a very important step, but considers it essential to examine the subject matter further in order to reach an international consensus based on scientific evidence.

DECRIMINALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL USE

Dianova advocates the decriminalization of the recreational use of cannabis in all countries as well as limited self-cultivation despite its potential abuses.

Punitive prohibitionist policies against people who use cannabis only serve to reinforce illicit cannabis markets with no interest for public health whatsoever, while adding to the stigmatisation of people who use cannabis and having no positive impact on consumption levels, safety or public health.

Dianova considers it essential that countries in which recreational use is still a crime make the necessary legislative changes toward decriminalization. Dianova also recommends that any fines that may be imposed as a result of decriminalization be replaced by voluntary prevention or treatment sessions.

Dianova recommends decriminalizing cannabis self-cultivation limited to a few plants but stresses that the abuses are potentially numerous and difficult to control. In several countries, various collectives have succeeded in genetically modifying cannabis in order to obtain more annual harvests, as well as a THC level of up to 50%, resulting in higher risks for people who use this substance.

LEGALIZATION OF RECREATIONAL USE

Dianova believes that each country has to face specific problems regarding the recreational use of cannabis, which is a psychotropic substance whose use may cause significant health problems, particularly among children and adolescents. For this reason, **Dianova recommends initiating major national debates involving civil society, the academia, associations of cannabis users, prevention and treatment professionals, and other interested parties, on the various uses of this substance, in order to reach a consensus position.**

Whatever form the legal framework of cannabis recreational use may take – decriminalization or regulation – dianova believes that it should first and foremost ensure that the rights and interests of people who use cannabis are respected, while combating all forms of illicit trafficking.

In the event of legalization, Dianova advocates the implementation of strict regulatory policies grounded on stringent control measures on cultivation, production, transport, and sale, in particular by prohibiting its sale to minors, as well as all forms of advertising or marketing.

In the event of legalisation in an open or poorly regulated market, Dianova believes that there are much greater risks of trivialisation of consumption and a reduction in the

perception of risk, particularly through advertising, marketing and the sale of by-products and cannabis-derived substances

THERAPEUTIC USE

Dianova is in favour of the therapeutic use of cannabis provided that it is authorised by health authorities. Dianova also recognises the right of patients to have access to standardised quality products under medical prescription, but recommends that quality studies on the safety and efficacy of therapeutic cannabis be pursued.

The therapeutic applications of cannabis (in particular the CBD and THC cannabinoids) seem quite promising, especially in treating chemotherapy side effects, chronic pain and for its appetite stimulating effects. Nevertheless, the validation of the therapeutic value of cannabis through quality scientific studies has been long hindered by its prohibition in the international drug control system.

Dianova recommends to pursue quality research studies on the therapeutic value of cannabis and cannabinoids and, to this end, approves the reclassification of cannabis in international conventions because it will give researchers easier working conditions.

Despite scientific uncertainty, many patients report that their symptoms have been relieved by the therapeutic use of cannabis, either in the form of herbs, resins, etc. or pharmaceutical specialities. Dianova believes that these patients should be supported and listened to, and that they should be able to access, upon medical prescription, standardized and medical grade quality products (cannabis plant and derivatives, natural and synthetic pharmaceutical products) distributed in pharmacies or specialized centres upon approval by health authorities.

EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Whichever legislation model is adopted, Dianova recommends the implementation of a human rights-centred public health policy that promotes recognised education, prevention, and treatment approaches.

Dianova believes that despite their patent advantages, policies based on decriminalization or regulation of recreational and therapeutic cannabis are likely to trivialise its use and thus decrease the perception of risks. For this reason, Dianova believes it is essential to base all policies on a public health approach attentive to the needs of people and respectful of their rights, in particular in the following areas:

In terms of education, Dianova recommends that reliable information be provided in order to reduce the perception of cannabis as a "natural and harmless" substance and to highlight the risks associated with its use, particularly during adolescence.

In terms of prevention, Dianova recommends investing in science-based, diversified programmes, particularly among young people, aimed at preventing the use of cannabis or at

least delaying its onset at an age when the risks are lower. These programmes must be tailored to the needs of each population and include a gender-oriented perspective that takes into account the differences between men and women or boys and girls, with regard to consumption patterns and social representations.

In terms of treatment, Dianova also recommends investing in science-based, diversified programmes tailored to each group of people, including the most vulnerable. Treatment networks should consist of recognized modalities including outpatient and residential treatment programmes (e.g. therapeutic communities) and harm reduction approaches.

Overview of the legal status of cannabis use in some of the countries where the Dianova network operates (October 2020)

Uruguay: *recreational use* has been legal since 2013 (first country to legalise), under state control and highly regulated: accessible only to citizens or permanent residents aged 18 and over, previously registered; standardized products available in pharmacies only (9% THC max., 10 g. per week); authorised self-cultivation (6 plants max., harvest 480 g. per year, max.). *Therapeutic use:* legal, under medical prescription.

Portugal: *Recreational use* - drug use remains illegal, but the use/possession of illegal psychoactive substances has been decriminalized since 2000 (without exceeding the individual average quantity of 10 days' consumption); the offence is administrative and sanctioned by *Drug Abuse Deterrence Committees*. Trafficking and cultivation of cannabis remains a criminal offence. *Therapeutic use* - the prescription of cannabis medications, preparations and substances for medical purposes is permitted on condition that conventional medicines do not produce the expected results or have adverse side effects. Sale is authorized in pharmacies and on medical prescription only.

Nicaragua: *recreational use:* consumption, possession, distribution or transport is considered an offence punishable by imprisonment. *Therapeutic use:* illegal.

Italy: *recreational use*: consumption and possession are decriminalized and considered a mere administrative offence punishable by a fine, with no entry in the criminal record. However, trafficking or transfer, even for free, is a criminal offence. Cultivation and sale of *light cannabis*, i.e. with a THC concentration of between 0.2 and 0.6%, is permitted. *Therapeutic use:* herbal preparations, extracts and tinctures based on cannabis are authorised under medical prescription when conventional or standard therapies have proved ineffective.

United States of America: federal law prohibits the recreational and therapeutic use of cannabis, however various CBD-based derivatives are authorised under medical prescription. At state level, policies vary widely: *recreational use* is legal in 11 states (lightly regulated generally) and decriminalized in 16 additional states. *Therapeutic use* (under medical prescription) is permitted in 33 states, while 14 additional states impose a limit on the THC level of products.

Spain: *recreational use* of cannabis is decriminalized (consumption, possession and cultivation), except for profit and trafficking purposes. *Therapeutic use*: the penal code does not distinguish between therapeutic and recreational use, but in practice this distinction is increasingly taken into account, and patients can obtain, on prescription, cannabis products (CBD) not exceeding 0.2% THC. Note the presence of *cannabis social clubs* (private, not-for-profit) which allow their members to acquire cannabis for therapeutic or recreational purposes (legal situation unclear).

Chile: *recreational use* has been decriminalized since 2016; self-cultivation is authorised in private places for 'personal and close in time use'; consumption in public places is punishable by a fine, community work, suspension of licence or compulsory participation in a prevention programme. *Therapeutic use:* authorised; derivatives available in pharmacies under medical prescription.

Education

EDUCATION IN THE DIANOVA MODEL

In the Dianova model, education lies at the heart of our mission. It is an inter-disciplinary practice that affects each area of intervention. For Dianova, contributing to the development and autonomy of people requires creating spaces for formal, informal, and non-formal education.

Formal education consists of the official components of the education and training system (schools and universities, adult education). In the Dianova model, these elements include diploma courses, apprenticeships and adult education courses. Informal education represents all the learning that we do every day without even realizing it: reading an article, talking with friends, or integrating opinions of others that influence our own.

Situated midway between formal and informal education, non-formal education offers clearly defined learning spaces and times. It doesn't validate learning by granting a diploma or assessing what we've learned. Non-formal education seeks to encourage participants to take initiative and act autonomously in an open, participatory and inclusive format.

At Dianova, these non-formal learning spaces can be based, for example, on the methods of experiential education. For example, an individual can acquire cognitive and social skills through non-formal direct experiments. That person can then transform these skills into acquired knowledge through self-assessment and reflection with the help and guidance of an experienced educator or facilitator.

CHARACTERISTICS OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION:

- It is an organized process intended to educate,
- It is participatory and centred on the individual,
- It aims to develop people's abilities and skills and prepare them for active citizenship,

- It emphasizes action, experience and initiative, based on the needs of the participants,
- It is based on individual and group learning, within a participatory and inclusive approach.

DIANOVA AND EDUCATION: PERSPECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Within its programs and educational or training spaces, Dianova advocates an approach to formal, non-formal or informal education that involves participants actively in the learning process. Regardless of the content of the training or the knowledge or skills to be acquired, Dianova favours spaces that promote autonomy and participation. These spaces allow participants to get to know themselves better, to self-analyse and to take stock of their abilities and skills. Participants also gradually become accustomed to taking initiative within a group and to assessing the resulting impact.

The educational initiatives proposed by Dianova must enable participants to reconnect with a formal education project (studies, universities, training). Initiatives must also use the strength of this participatory and inclusive approach to promote learning about citizenship, living together and respecting others and the environment. These goals do more than stimulate the transmission of knowledge. They allow participants to acquire skills and a spirit of innovation and autonomy that they will bring to their roles as professionals and citizens.

Dianova puts implements diploma courses (for its employees, users and other specific audiences), ensuring equal opportunities for access to education and training. These programs are designed specifically people at risk of social exclusion or other vulnerable individuals. They also emphasize the acquisition of social and technical skills that can facilitate social and occupational integration.

Dianova's position

Dianova believes that education is a right that must be guaranteed by the state and strengthened by civil society as a whole. The right to education must apply to the entire population: children (boys and girls), adolescents and adults.

The primary objectives of education should be:

1) To allow individual personalities to thrive, to develop talents and mental and physical abilities to their full potential;

2) To instil respect for human rights and freedoms;

3) To instil respect for the identity of individuals, their language, cultural values, national values specific to their country of residence or origin, and respect for civilizations and cultures different from their own;

4) To enable individuals to assume their life responsibilities in a free society in a spirit of peace, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among peoples;

5) To instil respect for natural environments and ecosystems.

Dianova implements formal (organized and certified), non-formal (organized but non-certified - therapeutic and prevention programs, marketing and social advertising campaigns, etc.) and informal (spontaneous) education, with the aim of contributing to the achievement of the identified objectives.

Dianova is also lobbying and advocating for everyone to have access to education throughout the world. From this perspective, the Dianova network intervenes vis-à-vis international organizations and states in order to promote education for all and with all and to remove the barriers that prevent them from accessing it, such as:

Lack of funding for education- money is not everything, but it remains the essential element of a valid and effective educational system. From 2008 to 2012, global funding for aid to education in the 59 developing country partners of the Global Partnership for Education fell by $34 billion.

Lack of teachers or competent teachers- there are not enough teachers to achieve the goal of primary education for all. Moreover, many teachers lack adequate training, and many of their students suffer from learning deficits. The United Nations estimates that an additional 5.1 million teachers are needed to achieve the goal of a basic secondary education for all by 2030.

Lack of classrooms and equipment - The lack of a decent classroom and learning environment (school materials, drinking water, and toilets) is an obstacle for millions of children, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

Exclusion of children with disabilities - education is a universal human right, yet nearly 93 million children with disabilities do not have access to the education system. In the poorest countries, up to 95% of children with disabilities do not attend school.

Being a girl - belonging to the 'wrong' gender is one of the major reasons girls are denied the right to an education. Entire generations of girls have been shut out of education, and currently more than 100 million young women cannot read or write. Even today, despite recent progress, one in five girls does not go to school because of poverty (families make educating boys a priority, and keep girls at home to do housework).

Living in a country at war - education systems are one of the first victims of conflict: governments can no longer provide essential services and population displacements disrupt the continuity of learning. Moreover, sustaining education is not a priority objective for humanitarian aid (only 1.4% of the world's humanitarian aid was allocated to education in 2012).

The distance between home and school - because of a lack of facilities, many children have to walk up to six hours a day to get to or from school. Distance is thus an insurmountable obstacle for disabled or malnourished children, and for girls, who are at risk of violence on dangerous routes.

Hunger and malnutrition - The impact of hunger on education remains understudied but, malnutrition is believed to have a significant negative impact on the developing brain and

cognitive skills. Hunger thus limits learning at school, specifically reading skills. Hunger and malnutrition affect more than 171 million children.

Costs related to education - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that free education is a universal right. However, despite recent progress, attending school involves excessive formal and informal costs. These expenses are especially burdensome for the poorest families, who are condemned to repeat the cycle of poverty.

Young People

Young people are those aged 15 to 24 years, or 18% of the world's population. Young people represent a fundamental social capital. They are the drivers of social change; economic development and technical, social and cultural progress. No society can prosper without relying on the vision, ideals, energy and commitment of youth.

Dianova believes in making the utmost efforts to ensure the development of programs, initiatives and policies dedicated to young people. Efforts are now underway to harness the potential of your people and address the problems and challenges they face. These efforts will have crucial implications for the well-being and prosperity of future generations.

PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE

Social pressure

The cultural, political, economic and social upheavals in today's society present enormous challenges for young people. Societies in many developed countries require young people to train and prepare for a highly competitive professional life. Finding a place in these societies can be difficult, and we must support efforts to help young people thrive.

Abuse and Dangers

Young people may be exposed to dangerous situations that delay their development or prevent them from obtaining a normal education. These risks include armed conflicts and forced labour in some countries and, more generally, abuse and ill-treatment of young people. To respond to these problems, Dianova implements programs and activities that foster youth development and engages in advocacy initiatives. Dianova thus helps encourage international organizations and governments to ensure the social integration of young people following conflicts. Dianova also works for implementation of laws that protect young people and compliance with those laws.

Conflicts among young people

Adolescence and the ensuing years represent an era of conflicts, real or imagined, that can lead young people to follow dangerous paths (substance abuse and other dangerous

behaviours, extremism, etc.) That is why, Dianova, through its various initiatives, seeks to prioritize working with young people: to help them solve such problems when they appear.

Young people's health

Most young people in the world enjoy good health, but a number of problems and illnesses can hinder their development: tobacco and alcohol consumption, lack of exercise, unprotected sex, exposure to violence, etc. Promoting healthy practices during adolescence and taking measures to prevent health risks will be key issues in the future.

PROMOTING EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people today enjoy an unprecedented level of education, but promoting the education of children and young people around the world still requires enormous efforts. Educated young people can gain access to decent work and an adequate standard of living. Priority actions include:

- *Addressing gender disparities:* The education of girls is an essential part of their development, but also promotes development of their families and their communities. Yet, while the literacy rate of girls has increased in recent years, it still lags behind that of boys.
- Helping young people in developing countries access education and training at all levels (see Education chapter).
- Developed countries need to make major efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of educational and training programs. These programs should encourage creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship at all educational levels.
-

PROMOTING THE PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Most industrialized countries have aging populations, and the education and professional integration of young people into these societies is an immense challenge. Withdrawing from school and high unemployment leave many young people socially excluded. In the European Union, for example, one in three young people are unemployed one year after leaving the education system.

Dianova's position

Dianova believes that it is essential to implement interdisciplinary strategies to ensure that young people have the means and conditions to attain professional and social integration. These strategies must increase the participation of young people in civic life and requires

financial, social, and political investments to help youth. Strategies to help young people must also include the civil society organizations, families, teachers and employers as active participants.

Dianova therefore **supports** UNESCO's Youth Strategy (2014-2021), which involves three implementation strategies:

1) Policy formulation and review with the participation of young people;

2) Capacity building for the transition to adulthood;

3) Civic engagement, democratic participation and social innovation.

Inequalities, poverty and social exclusion

WORLD POVERTY

The number of people living below the extreme poverty line (less than $1.90 per day) has fallen from 2 billion in 1981 to 900 million in 2012. The rate of extreme poverty has thus been reduced threefold when we consider global population growth (4.5 to 7 billion). Today, 12.8% of people in developing or emerging countries live in extreme poverty, compared with 44% thirty years ago.

Despite enormous demographic pressure, extreme poverty has declined and living conditions have improved across the world over the past thirty years. Yet, these global data represent only a general trend that masks the persistent, widespread poverty. Moreover, the threshold of $1.90 is very low, and ignores the growing wealth in countries that only benefits a tiny minority.

INEQUALITIES WITHIN COUNTRIES

It is true that inequality between countries has fallen significantly, but internal inequality, within developed countries, has been growing since the 1980s. In recent years, this problem has also begun to affect developing countries.

The standard argument explaining this increase in inequality cites globalization, technological advances and public policies. The last factor partially explains the enormous differences in inequality and poverty levels in different countries.

Today, the most unequal countries within the OECD are Mexico, Chile and Turkey, followed by the United States. The Gini coefficient (a statistical measure that is 0 if all individuals have the same income and 1 if only one person holds the total disposable income) exceeds 0.40 in the US, a threshold often considered significant. The Gini coefficient exceeds 0.48 in both Chile and Mexico. The countries of northern Europe, such as Denmark and Norway, and some Central European countries, such as Slovenia and the Slovak Republic, are the most

egalitarian. Inequality data from non-OECD countries are not fully comparable. Nonetheless, we can still conclude that inequalities in emerging countries are higher on average than in the OECD area, especially in certain non-OECD countries[3].

Most developed countries have established social safety nets and assistance schemes that still protect their citizens. The vast majority of people in those countries now have access to basic goods such as potable water, and deadly diseases that still affect poor countries have disappeared. In addition to basic necessities, everyone can access a set of public services, though service levels vary by country.

We cannot apply standards of absolute poverty to a growing segment of populations in developed countries. It would be absurd to apply the measure of extreme poverty (less than $1.90 per day) to these countries. However, growing inequality adds to the weight of problems that the poorest people face: housing, employment and training, education, health, illiteracy, access to leisure and culture, etc. These problems create the potential that poor people in developing countries can become socially vulnerable.

In the wealthiest countries, hundreds of thousands of people are homeless and face the dangers of the streets every day. Foreign undocumented workers are exploited in makeshift jobs and housed in slum dwellings paying excessive rents. Millions of people live in substandard housing and are unable to feed themselves properly. They cannot provide clothing or recreational opportunities to their children, or take time off from work. People in these circumstances do not suffer the extreme poverty that afflicts people living in emerging countries. Nonetheless, they live in a social vulnerability that is destructive and threatens social cohesion.

Dianova's position

Dianova **believes** that it is essential to consider the extent of inequality across the world we all share. We also believe that all human beings, in every country, "have the right to life, liberty and personal safety". We believe that this principle is the most important one we uphold.

That is why we **believe** that improving the living conditions of the world's poorest people should be an ongoing concern of wealthy countries. Unfortunately, this is not the case today, as indifference to the plight of developing countries shows. We believe that our role as civil society stakeholders is to support the economic, democratic and social development of countries. We also believe we need to influence our governments to do the same.

Developing countries desperately need more attention. We also **believe** there is an urgent need help the growing number of people in socially vulnerable situations linked to growing inequality.

Dianova **finds** such poverty and exclusion unjust, and unworthy of societies that have the means to address these problems. Moreover, we **believe** that providing support to

[3] OECD (2015), *In It Together: Why Less Inequality Benefits All*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

vulnerable people to facilitate their inclusion could bring significant social, economic and public safety benefits.

This is why, for both ethical and practical reasons, we **support** efforts to find and implement solutions. Those solutions must promote the inclusion of people with high social vulnerability and to effectively address the causes of poverty and exclusion. This is a fundamental objective for achieving a peaceful society.

Community Development

Community development is a process that a community implements to solve a problem or improve living conditions. It often focuses on the most vulnerable or socially disadvantaged. This process involves the active participation of members of the community, but also institutions and NGOs.

The term "community development" is a generic term that can include similar approaches such as social development, local development, participatory projects, collective action, etc. What these community development approaches have in common is that they do not impose a solution on communities to improve the lives of their citizens. Rather, they propose ways of doing things and acting **based on three principles**: citizen participation, consultation and partnerships, and increased individual and community empowerment.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

In the context of community development, participation is about engaging citizens in the various actions related to the life of their community. It is about making their point of view heard, and participating in decision-making and action. Citizens are not seen as mere users of the services available to them, but as actors with their own collective responses. Community development is about working with, not for, the population.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The principle of consultation and partnerships rests on the idea that the determinants of a community's health and living conditions are often external. The principle is based on the community's awareness of the economic, political and social mechanisms that influence the living conditions of its citizens. Consultation and partnerships also require commitment to work with local actors and professionals but also with public authorities. These collaborations aim to innovate and create new ways of organizing, functioning, and producing lasting results.

INCREASING THE POWER TO ACT

Strengthening the power to act happens at the individual, organizational and community levels. At the individual level, the goal is to get people to exercise greater power over their lives and health. At the organizational level, the power to act can take the form of a structure to support and evaluate individual initiatives and collective actions. Finally, the collective dimension aims to increase the community's ability to improve the living conditions of its citizens while reducing inequalities.

Dianova's position

Like all social work, community development carries a set of values that serve as a common frame of reference. These values are the pursuit of greater social justice and the defence of fundamental human rights and the values of equality and equity. These ideals ensure the same opportunities for all, and especially the defence of the most vulnerable. They by creating spaces for fostering or strengthening the social bond and cohesion of population groups in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity.

Dianova **believes** that quality community work must promote a balanced exchange among the different stakeholders. The basis of these exchanges is the values of social justice, rights, equity, equality and assistance to the most deprived. Community work must consider the needs and interests of each member. Finally, it must give priority to existing and potential forces, within the framework of a global approach. For Dianova, community development beneficiaries must be actively involved in the decision-making process and in the implementation of measures affecting them. This is the notion of *empowerment* applied to community development.

Migrations

There has always been migration. From Africa to Mesopotamia, from the heart of Asia to the Americas, all regions of the world have experienced large migratory movements. The reasons for these migrations were varied: climate change, trade relations, military, religious or political motives. The very first steps of economic globalization, from the 15th Century, began with the conquest of large territories and large movements of populations. For example, the slave trade removed nearly twenty million people from the African continent and deported them to the Americas. Even today, some countries have so little to offer to their citizens, or are so ravaged by war, corruption or oppression, that citizens see emigration as the only way to improve their situation.

Fewer people are migrating now than in the past, but they are drawing more criticism. Others often point a finger at migrants and refugees, blaming them for all of their society's evils. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the right to leave a country, including one's own. Yet this right is increasingly being questioned throughout the world, with countries creating greater obstacles to immigration and entry.

The situation has even worsened since 2013, with the exodus of hundreds of thousands of people from Syria, Sudan, Eritrea and Iraq. These migrants are fleeing war, chaos and violence to seek asylum in neighbouring countries, or for some of them, to enter Europe and other countries of the North.

In the Americas, a country like Venezuela - which fifty years ago was stable and prosperous and drew tens of thousands of migrants from Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal - has seen a reversal of fortune over just a few years. Today, to escape a tattered economy inherited from Bolivarian socialism, nearly 60 percent of Venezuelans want to leave the country[4]. Those who can actually emigrate, mostly skilled workers, will join the oil industry in Colombia, set up businesses in Uruguay or Panama, or open clinics in Miami or Toronto.

It remains to be seen, however, whether the rest of Latin America is ready to start taking advantage of these migration movements, whether they come from Venezuela or elsewhere. Indeed, Latin America is one of the regions of the world that receives the least number of migrants or refugees, who accounted for only 1.5 per cent of the population in 2015[5].

PREJUDICE AGAINST IMMIGRATION AND MIGRANTS

To respond to these migratory crises, many European countries are tempted to withdraw into themselves: building walls, reinforcing immigration controls at European borders (and even re-establishing controls in the Schengen area), refusing to welcome migrants and/or refugees despite European Union directives, etc. At the same time, some politicians are pandering to voters, echoing the worst prejudices against migrants or refugees.

In the United States in early 2017, the President signed a decree authorizing a project to build a wall along the immense border with Mexico. Many consider such a wall unnecessary (the number of Mexican immigrants has been declining since 2007), and harmful to US-Mexican relations. Another example is Argentina, which in February 2017 adopted legal measures to restrict immigration from the poorest South American countries.

Dianova's position

Dianova recognizes a duty to solidarity, citizenship and social justice

In general, migrants and/or refugees give far more than they receive. They are consumers of the goods and services of the countries that welcome them. Many migrants are already well qualified, and they work, pay taxes and create wealth. They contribute to national pension systems and add energy and demographic diversity to their host countries. Dianova therefore **believes** that migration plays a vital positive role in the cultural wealth and development of host countries. OECD studies have shown the positive impact of immigration on public finances, economic growth and labour markets.

[4] Source: Datincorp - Caracas

[5] UN DESA | United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs - International Migration 2015

However, the current migratory crisis poses a new challenge, particularly for European countries. To meet this short and long-term challenge, coordinated reception and integration policies for migrants and refugees must be implemented. Countries must also work to counter the rising popular opposition to immigration within host populations. We need to **counter** more precisely the extremist arguments that immigration threatens employment, social protection, and the national identity. We also cannot deny the local problems that result from excessive concentrations of newly arrived populations.

We **believe** people must first recognize the interdependence of nations. They can then understand that migration is inherent in human societies and enriches all countries, including the ones hosting migrants today. Dianova believes that all of us, at every level (acting as citizens or organizations, advocating to governments, welcoming migrants, or supporting development projects in their home countries), can help build a world in which migration is no longer considered a threat, but as a resource and an opportunity for development.

Finally, we **understand** that migratory flows **must be** controlled by regulatory policies. These policies must, however, complement development aid to countries that migrants are leaving. Governments must apply migration policy with discernment and humanity, and avoid stigmatizing immigrant populations. Finally, governments must ensure that migrants are received and integrated in the best possible conditions.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

GENDER EQUALITY

The use of the term "women and girls" in this text refers to perceived sexual identity, regardless of sex at birth, sexual orientation or expression.

Gender equality encompasses the notion that all human beings are free to develop their personal abilities and make their own choices, without being constrained by stereotypes, rigid division of roles or prejudices. Gender equality means that people's different behaviours, aspirations and needs are equally valued and encouraged.

Gender equality is usually seen as the achievement of equal opportunities for men and women, but a contemporary concept of gender equality goes beyond this binary model. Our concept of gender equality must respond to specific nuances, challenges and different levels of vulnerability associated with the various forms and expressions of individual gender identity. Promoting gender equality in this context also means combating all forms of discrimination based on sex, gender roles, gender identity and sexual orientation. This means that all individuals have equitable access to opportunities, rights, obligations and possibilities, but this access is not determined by individuals' sex at birth or how they express their identity.

Historically, women and girls have been systematically affected by prejudice and discrimination, jeopardizing their freedom, security and potential and perpetuating widespread gender inequality. To counter historical prejudice and discrimination, disadvantaged groups must be given the means to achieve equal opportunities. Equality between the sexes, which involves supporting the disadvantaged in order to create the conditions for equal opportunity, is then the means of achieving gender equality.

On the path to gender equality, Dianova acknowledges and endorses the efforts of women's rights movements and LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) movements to ensure universal access to education, the labour market and sexual and reproductive rights. Our network is also committed to ending sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence. We strive to help create a world where women and girls are active decision-makers and equal partners in personal, family and community development.

INTEGRATION OF GENDER EQUALITY

To build a world where all individuals have the opportunity to fully develop their potential, governments, the private sector and civil society must analyse and address the impact of programs and policies on population groups based on their type and in specific contexts. To this end, it is necessary to invest in data disaggregated by sex. A gender-specific analysis of this information will help to formulate appropriate responses to the needs of women and girls in education, the labour market, or decision-making positions, as well as end gender-based violence and discrimination.

Only by integrating the gender equality perspective into all actions, both organizationally and programmatically, will we have the chance to achieve a more just and equitable society. In fact, when we work for gender equality, we are helping not only sustainable development, but also empowering women. These two complementary concepts, gender equality and empowerment of women, have the power to transform human relationships at all levels.

WOMEN'S ROLE IN POST-WAR SOCIETIES, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Empowering women is the process of helping them to become agents in their lives and choices. Moreover, women's economic empowerment creates the conditions for their freedom and independence and gives them the ability to transform their choices into actions. Everyone, both men and women, must participate in efforts achieve gender equality, which requires a change of mentality across society. Women, however, are the main target of policies and programs.

Women's empowerment, like gender equality, is an inter-disciplinary dimension of Dianova's policies. Our network is engaged in activities that give women the opportunity to develop their professional capacities. We also help women achieve the means to participate in all aspects of economic life. We imagine a world in which women and girls participate equally in education, work and decision-making, at home and in their communities.

Dianova's position

Empowering women for global development

Empowering women is a prerequisite for nations to achieve full and sustainable development. Women and girls represent half the world's population. Their access to quality education and their participation in the working world are closely linked to economic, social and cultural development. The World Bank has stated that without equal participation of women and men "no country, no community or economy can achieve its potential and meet the challenges of the twenty-first century".

Dianova therefore **believes** that it is essential to reorganize labour markets and redistribute resources equitably in order to achieve women's empowerment and equality. These steps are also required to end poverty and engage in sustainable development that benefits everyone. Such measures include ensuring equal pay for equivalent work, decent maternity leave, flexible working arrangements for mothers, and accessible childcare. We must also achieve gender parity in management positions.

Empowering women empowerment can effectively protect them from informal, unstable and underpaid jobs. Ultimately, given its essential role in achieving gender equality, women's empowerment is also one of the foundations of stable economies. It is also way to meet international commitments in to promote development and human rights. Moreover, empowering women also improves the lives of everyone - women, men, families and whole communities.

Women and addictions

Substance abuse is one of the major causes of violence against women. Addictions make women more vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse, exploitation and psychological abuse. Similarly, the public health implications of drug abuse affect vulnerable women more. Providing basic education in public, sexual, reproductive and maternal health can reduce the vulnerability of women in the face of addictions. Promoting addiction prevention programs also serves to protect women.

We know that access to information and education, as well as community support is critical to preventing addictions. This access and support promote gender equality, reduce violence against women and enhance their contribution to their families, communities and society. These measures by extension can directly help vulnerable women who suffer abuse or lack access to educational and employment. Information, education, and support keep women from becoming addicts or resorting to selling drugs.

Treating addictions: Dianova **considers** it essential to combat discrimination and facilitate access to women's rehabilitation programs. Programs must consider the specific needs of women - for example, those with dependent children. Mothers should be offered individualized treatment, monitoring and reintegration programs. Finally, it is important to **promote** research on issues related to women, addictions and development. Such investigations will help us achieve an up-to-date view of the connections between these themes and to address increasingly difficult challenges.

Women and migration

The world is currently confronting upheavals and numerous challenges posed by the largest flow of forced migration since the Second World War. This is a difficult situation for all migrants, but especially for women and other minority groups.

Pre-existing vulnerabilities reach unbearable proportions for women who live in conflict zones and are forced to flee. Women are at risk of violence, human trafficking, exploitation and sexual assault, abuse and discrimination in their home countries. They then face many additional challenges when conflicts force them to undertake dangerous passages or to settle in transit or refugee camps.

Despite current efforts to meet the specific needs of female migrants, it is crucial to invest more in these efforts. It is also essential to invest more effectively in protecting and empowering women and girls. Dianova therefore believes that governments, the private sector and civil society organizations should work together to identify needs. These stakeholders should then implement national and bilateral policies and measures to protect women and ensure more effective management of female migration.

Part 3: Communication

Communication is a term that can be interpreted differently depending on the role it plays within an NGO. For a specialist in preventing risk behaviours, it may mean, for example, educating a vulnerable group. Communication would thus be encouraging the audience to protect themselves from sexually transmitted and blood-borne diseases (interpersonal communication). A liaison with international organizations and public authorities might communicate by encouraging those bodies to adopt specific policies or practices focusing on the health of drug users (organizational communication). Finally, administrators and managers can communicate by promoting the NGO's values to the general public. They can present annual results in order to hold the NGO accountable and keep donors informed (institutional or administrative communication).

DIFFERENT COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES

Advocacy is the process of influencing those individuals, groups or institutions with decision-making authority in order to achieve policy, legislative or practical changes.

Communicating to change behaviours is the strategic use of communication to effect a voluntary change of individual behaviour or social norms. This form of communication aims to improve the well-being of the individual, the community or society.

Organizational communication is the global, continuous and dynamic process of information exchange with all of the organizations internal and external stakeholders (internal, external and intermediate communication, crisis communication, etc.)

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION

Communication is *"The central nervous system of organizations, their lifeblood"* (Costa, 1995). Communication is product of all interpersonal relationships and messages within the organization and with its environment, i.e. interest groups and the general public. Communication might even be more vital for NGOs than it is for businesses. For NGOs, communicating also means raising awareness, calling out, denouncing, educating, changing, and fighting, i.e.: becoming influential actors in society.

> *"If companies communicate to exist, volunteer sector organizations exist to communicate, to transmit their values to society." We can say that communication is part of the essence of these organizations (...) they do not limit their mission to providing quality services. Rather, their raison d'être is spreading defined values across societies to make them more democratic, liveable and more human.* (NGOs) *exist fundamentally to enrich society with their ideas. The challenge is to do so with ever greater professionalism, creativity and efficiency. "(*Vicente Vidal, 2004)

Dianova's position

Dianova network members **strive** to make communication a primary strategic resource, providing sufficient resources to develop and disseminate communications. As an organization, Dianova does not limit communication to marketing initiatives related to fundraising or advertising. This is why, as an NGO, we prefer *informative communication*, which aims to serve a purpose and add value, to *persuasive communication*. The latter aims to charm the audience and elicit a conditioned response to various stimuli.

The Digital Challenge

Digital technologies such as the Internet and social networks play a growing role in NGO communication. Every day, new Facebook pages are created to call for mobilization; online petitions are launched, and Twitter hashtags seek to attract the attention of popular opinion, the media and opinion leaders. Amid these never-ending calls to action, it is difficult to chart a path and there is no magic formula.

In a highly competitive world overflowing with information and stimuli, it is crucial that each network member organization **develop** a concept on the proper use of the Internet and social networks. We must remember that we are building an identity and an online reputation every day. We must take care to use the right tools, such as *content marketing* and s*torytelling* (what could be better than a good story to tell?). We **sustain** our online communities by regularly posting to social media and issuing and calls to action. We cannot, however, dilute our efforts by posting social media content unrelated to our projects or commitments. Lastly, we **inform** our interest groups by highlighting what we do and how we do it, showing them that we have actually implemented our projects. Only by following this strategy can we build our online reputation in the era of communication 2.0.

Communication with our interest groups

Organizations do not exist on their own, but must include and interact with other people. Dianova's raison d'être **lies** in the people who constitute its network, i.e. the people we serve and we who serve them. People **are** at the heart of our organization. Our interest groups are

the people who work in our network, those who participate in our actions, the people who benefit from our **work**, whether individuals or their families or communities. Finally, our interest groups **are** the citizens who support us and fund us, as well as all those with the potential to do so. People are the human face of Dianova, the ones who generate trust in our network and establish its legitimacy.

Dianova **is people**: this is the essential truth we must remember when we want to communicate and be transparent. Creating trust in Dianova **is** thus everyone's role, and each of us becomes an audience for communication. At the same time, we represent Dianova and serve **examples** of communication and transparency. In other words, every one of us is a Dianova *ambassador*.

Dianova network member organizations **manage** three separate organizational communication streams: *internal communication*, *external communication* and *intermediate communication* (to the social base of our NGOs: partners, donors, external collaborators, etc.) The organization's communications follow these **three** streams, aiming to provide substance and reality in order to build confidence in Dianova. Communications **are** thus not only part of the mission, vision and values of Dianova; they must be consistent regardless of the intended audience.

In practice Dianova **plans** short and long-term communications, providing the necessary material and human resources. Internally, this commitment enables our employees to be united, and sustains their confidence in the organization's achievements. Employees can then disseminate a culture that serves as a basis for integrating Dianova's values, mission and philosophy. Intermediate and external communication helps build confidence and, in the longer term, reputation.