

plan:g ends ILEP Membership Why? And what's next?

- plan:g will review the decision to leave ILEP within three years
- We note that as of 2018 with ILEP, ILA, IDEA and the zero leprosy initiative we got several umbrella organizations that are concerned with overcoming leprosy. plan:g agrees that a strong civil society voice is needed when it comes to talking to WHO, or the pharmaceutical industry. Plan:g regards IDEA as the voice of people affected as especially important. However, coordination would mean to unite most civil society players under one umbrella – not opening new ones.
- plan:g believes that umbrella organisations are most efficient and cost effective if they limit communication work to concrete, hands- on lobbying objectives.
- plan:g is a member of Health Action International (HAI) and therefore quite reluctant when it comes to engaging with the pharmaceutical industry.
- plan:g feels uncomfortable with chemo-prophylaxis for leprosy, and with vaccine development. Instead, plan:g favors PHC strengthening and full integration of vertical NTD programs.
- Although we appreciate the contribution of the Novartis Foundation in overcoming leprosy, plan:g does not intend to serve as a fig leaf covering some of Novartis' rather problematic activities in partner countries of development cooperation.
- plan:g feels strong about the CONCORD/Dochas code of conduct on images and messages.
- plan:g will continuously provide change-management support for institutions working to overcome leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases. We are convinced that we need new procedures – today, training of additional leprosy technicians became part of the problem, not part of the solution.
- plan:g will continuously seek to advance partnership with like- or similar-minded ILEP member organizations.
- Also, and on the small scale as of today, plan:g will continuously fund Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) projects (with the notable exception of chemo-prophylaxis and vaccine development), and others
- plan:g shall continuously support innovations such as funding smartphone applications such as the “RehApp”-project (if independent evaluation is included).

plan:g, 18.3.2018