

DECLARATION

To whom it may concern

This is to certificate that Mr. Ricardo Fuertes, bearing Identification Card n. 11464324, was working in the Directorate General of Health, National Programme for STI and HIV Infection, from 18-January-2022 to 04-September-2022, as Specialist.

His responsibilities were data collection for the Dublin Declaration Monitoring report, engagement with civil society in the response to mpox outbreak, participation in the drafting of an STI/HIV National Plan.

During this period, his performance and conduct was excellent and much appreciated by the Diretor of the National Programme.

This Declaration is being issued upon his request.

Lisbon, 29-July-2024

**Rita Sá
Machado**

Digitally signed by Rita Sá
Machado
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Saúde, ou=Direção, o=Direção-
Geral da Saúde, sn=Sá Machado
Duarte, givenName=Rita Manuel,
cn=Rita Sá Machado
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Rita Sá Machado

Director General of Health

DECLARATION

GAT Portugal www.gatportugal.org, founded in 2001, is a non-governmental organization for community health, focusing on HIV, HCV, HBV, TB, STIs/sexual health, drug consumption health/risk reduction, and a member of Coalition Plus www.coalitionplus.org.

In 2010, it entered into a permanent contract with Ricardo Fuertes, foreseeing the opening of GAT-CheckpointLX (a sexual health service for the MSM population), with responsibilities including protocols, internal regulations, capacity building, and community research team membership. Ricardo had previously worked at CheckpointBCN (Barcelona).

Ricardo was fundamental to the success of GAT CheckpointLX, which was recognized by the WHO and ECDC with the status of good practices.

In 2012, GAT invited Ricardo Fuertes to be the Coordinator of a new harm reduction service, GAT-In-Mouraria, aimed at people who use drugs and people experiencing homelessness. Ricardo had worked at the Red Cross consumption room in Barcelona.

Under Ricardo's direction (2012-October 2017), GAT In Mouraria became a reference for innovation, peer drug users participation, community health, human rights, research, and results at the European level, also recognized by the WHO and EMCDDA with the status of good practices.

GAT In Mouraria implemented a European education project for injection (AERLI) which continued after the project's end (2014) in a "tolerated" regime by the authorities until it was finally officially legalized as a consumption room in 2023.

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Av. Paris, 4, 1st dto., 1000-228 Lisbon | Tel.: +351210 967 826 | e-mail: geral@gatportugal.org | <http://gatportugal.org>

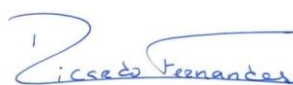
Organization with consultative status at ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council) since 2022.

Ricardo Fuertes was (and still is) one of the best members, "leaders" and responsible figures in the history of GAT. A unique combination of human qualities, professional skills, political advocacy, and teamwork.

Lisbon, June 24, 2024

João Rui de Lampreia Brito

Ricardo Regalado Fernandes



President

Executive Director