

## Cirion foundation policy plan 2019-2022

### Knowledge as Antivirus



In our rapidly changing world, infectious diseases, old and new, have an ever greater impact on our society. The rapid spread of infectious diseases is seen as a serious threat to the modern world in which we live. We find solutions to combat these diseases in modern technical innovations. Consider the development of new, safe and effective vaccines. But prevention is and will remain of vital importance to prevent the further spread of infectious diseases - especially for vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly. Public information and education are the cornerstone for this.

Cirion was founded on the belief that knowledge is the best antivirus. With our communication and education programs we contribute to the formation of a creative, self-aware and socially critical new generation. A generation that knows how viruses develop and how to prevent diseases as effectively as possible. Only in this way can we live in harmony with our environment and remain "in control".

Cirion's ambition is to further develop and innovate our programs in 2019-2022 in order to increase the reach and thus the effect of knowledge as prevention. In addition, we want to boost research into virus infections when it is needed quickly ["emerging" and "outbreak" situations].

#### 1. Communication and Education Programs

Cirion develops and implements communication and education programs that contribute to the prevention of infectious diseases. Our main programs are now the education module for general practitioners 'All Bugs' [Allemaal Beestjes] and the youth program 'Viruskenner'.

##### Allemaal Beestjes/ All Bugs

The Allemaal Beestjes program [since 2008] is our independent education program for primary care professionals (GPs). With Allemaal Beestjes, we want to involve general practitioners in important developments in the field of infectious diseases and update them on current topics and challenges. We do this in a dynamic and interactive program.

##### Viruskenner/ Virusexpert

With Viruskenner [since 2009] we want to reach, teach and involve as many young people as possible in a creative and interactive way in a creative and interactive program [Viruskenner] dealing about the importance of infectious diseases and how to prevent them. We want to make young people between the ages of 12 and 15 aware of infectious diseases and teach them how to prevent infection. The goal we strive for is "a world in control". Viruskenner must be a name in youth communication about the fight against infectious diseases.

Viruskenner is currently running in a number of countries (the Netherlands, Italy and Surinam).

## **2. Research**

Cirion foundation wants to play an important facilitating role in setting up and conducting research into infectious diseases, especially at times when rapid action is needed, in emerging situations, as a result of an outbreak. We do this in the Netherlands, but especially also in our partner countries outside Europe (Surinam, Indonesia). These are countries where research resources may be limited. In the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease (think Ebola, Zika, yellow fever), Cirion can facilitate important first steps that must be taken quickly. We do this by making the first funds available or by guaranteeing the first investments that are necessary. We would like to continue to play this facilitating role in the coming years, where necessary and where possible.

Cirion wants to be a sounding board and source of inspiration for a new generation of researchers. We want to inspire them to adopt a socially engaged attitude, necessary to initiate new developments and new research.

Cirion has a broadly composed Advisory Board that thinks creatively with young doctors and researchers. We aim to make the development of knowledge about infections and antiviruses as contagious as possible.