

Marios Atzemis was born in Athens on 6 December 1974. He graduated from Athens College in 1992 and from the American College of Greece in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts (Sociology).

He has been a substance user for many years. In his social reintegration of the rehab unit18Ano, he actively participated in the activist group "Collective Actions of Social Solidarity" with his peers but also with the therapists of the unit. At that time he began to publish his texts on websites and scientific publications, but also to make webradio and webtv broadcasts by communicating his experience as a former user and also a seropositive person. Marios is one of the incidents that were recorded in the collective consciousness as the HIV outbreak in Injecting Drug Users in the center of Athens between 2011-2013. An outbreak that changed many things in the way the average Greek views and understands harm reduction techniques.

Since the summer of 2014 Marios has been working for the Greek Association of People Who Live with HIV "Positive Voice" in harm reduction actions for people who use drugs but also in the field of advocacy taking part in numerous committees. From 2016 he is an ordinary member of the EATG (European AIDS Treatment Group) representing the organization in the Civil Society Forum in Brussels and also and in the Board of Directors of DPNSEE (Drug Policy Network of South East Europe). He has attended and has participated as a speaker in numerous sessions, meetings, workshops and conferences both in Greece and abroad. He speaks openly about his history as a user as well as about his HIV status because he thinks that it breaks the invisibility and silence

surrounding his community of origin. The invisibility kills faster than any retrovirus, and any substance and the goal is to minimize it. Therefore the ultimate goal is to become visible and throughout emancipation to state a concrete speech towards stigma and discrimination. It's of major importance for this stigmatised and marginalised community-the community of seropositive people who use drugs- to stand up and fight for its own rights because it's the one directly affected from the drug policies. The people should have the right to participate as active members and not as spectators towards the word of the 'specialists' and the policy makers. The old slogan "Nothing for us without us" it's more topical than ever. The community voices must not only be heard but also their insights should be included in various aspects of decision making groups.