

Motivation Letter for EHRA Steering Committee Member



Vitaly Lavrik, Kiev, Ukraine

An activist, an expert in Harm Reduction Projects and HIV / AIDS prevention programs.

I have been living with HIV since 2006 with an open face. The client of OST program (Methadone). I studied at the Academy of Harm Reduction-2016. Diploma of National Technical University of Ukraine, specialty: "Medical devices and systems".

Representative (co-organizer) of the All-Ukrainian Association of People with Drug Addiction – Charity Fund WAVE, representative of the National Platform of Key Communities. Member of the Eurasian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ENPUD). Partner with COACT (international expertise of drug policy and drugs). I took an active part in advocacy of increasing the availability of treatment and diagnosis of viral hepatitis with in Ukraine at the national and international level.

The need to strengthen the influence of representatives of key communities, IDU / OST activists on the expansion of Harm Reduction programs in Ukraine at the national and regional levels, the start of funding substitution maintenance programs in Ukraine from the state budget; increasing the funding of HIV prevention programs and socially dangerous epidemics at the state level with the launch of the transition program in our country in 2018-2020; need for the formation of adequate policies and legislative changes aimed at reducing the stigma and discrimination of drug addicts and people living with HIV and representatives of other vulnerable groups; advocacy of the rights of key affected populations and HR programs, including HIV prevention, viral hepatitis; building long-term partnerships and sharing experience between community leaders, activists, public organizations, international foundations in our country, Eastern Europe and

Central Asia (EECA) region and other countries of the world, require innovative approaches in work, active participation in management and effective management processes expansion of HR programs, directly by community activists, and especially the role of IDU / OST activists, whose interests I represent in Ukraine and in the EECA region.

Proposals for work in 2018:

Advocacy and program directions. Planning of activities and possibilities of influence of EHRA members on changes at the state and regional levels:

● Searching for joint solutions and developing a common advocacy position in priority areas, including:

➤ Legal barriers to receiving prevention and treatment services.

➤ Decriminalization.

➤ Standardization of key groups in normative and policy documents.

➤ Counteract stigma and discrimination of key populations in society.

➤ Active participation of communities in the reform of the health care system in each country.

➤ Targeted implementation of measures to change the health system within the framework of possible reforms and priority sectors (penitentiary system, reintegration assistance system, etc.).

➤ other co-ordinated directions

● Construction of systematic cooperation of state structures and NGOs from different countries and regions.

● Active assistance and support of regional leaders in different areas of activity (representatives of the EHRA) in 2018-2019.

● Participate in the development of National Programs for the next period, all key communities and ensure that the needs of all vulnerable groups are taken into account, with the needs and capabilities of EHRA members.

● Monitoring the implementation of assigned tasks in projects and National programs.

Strengthening the functioning and empowerment and influence of EHRA:

- Exchange of information and work experience between members, EHRA management and communities.
- A systematic approach to mobilizing the resources of international and national partners.
- Connecting communities in the regions and cities to work and information exchange between members and the EHRA management.
- Representation of EHRA members in government structures.
- Strengthening of solidarity between communities and within communities, mediation support for EHRA if necessary.
- Improve communication between management and EHRA members, as well as key communities and NGO activists from different countries and EECA regions, etc.

Strategic Information

- Collection, consolidation and meta-analysis of research in all key communities, including behavioral research on new trends.
- Initiate new analytics based on the needs and missing strategic information of the EHRA.
- Application of expertise, available to EHRA members to assess current and completed projects, as well as planned projects.