

## **Motivation letter**

### **Alexander Levin**

Many years of experience in various harm reduction organizations, both internationally and in Russia, allows me to quickly navigate in the field and quickly collect and analyze information in a variety of areas and activities regarding the community of people who use drugs. This is a good basis for understanding the situation in Russia, searching for and implementing the most effective solutions.

Many years of experience in various organizations in the field of HIV/AIDS - from the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS to the Russian Self-organization of Drug Users "Kolodets", Andrei Rylkov Foundation (FAR) and the Eurasian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ENPUD) allows me to quickly present information at various levels of activity of the community of people who use drugs in Russia: from webinars, visits and trainings to advocacy and actions.

Experience in working as a trainer of Russian harm reduction programs, an expert in assessing the quality of Russian harm reduction programs, an outreach worker in the harm reduction project in FAR, and participation in the Russian PWUD forum allows me to understand the situation with drug policy and the most pressing needs of the community of people who use drugs in Russia.

Experience of an information manager and author of information materials allows me to collect information on various activities of the organization, which can later be used as examples, basic information, advocacy tools, etc. when preparing all sorts of information materials, such as press releases, brochures, reports, studies, etc.

Acquaintance with many experts in harm reduction area and knowledge of the situation related to drugs and drug policy in the world allows me to quickly find a common language with everyone and is the key to effective interaction in preparing any kind of activities and supporting the Russian community of PWUD.

At the moment, I am the information manager of the Eurasian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ENPUD), as well as a participant in the Russian PWUD Forum.

All the accumulated experience in the field of drug policy and harm reduction is the core motivation for me to participate in the work of the EHRA Steering Committee. First of all, this is due to the desire to participate in identifying key opportunities for the association on harm reduction advocacy, public health problems and human rights.

EHRA today is a key partner of organizations involved in harm reduction in Russia. The activity vector chosen in the association, will influence the activities to be implemented in the region and in Russia. This leads to the identification of key priorities in harm reduction, public health and human rights, ensuring the representation of all sub-regions of the CEECA countries and key groups of drug users.

I believe that my experience allows me to participate both in identifying key opportunities and in determining the vector of activities that will most directly affect harm reduction in Russia.

On the other hand, participation as a representative of Russia in the EHRA Steering Committee and, at the same time, participation in the secretariat of ENPUD will allow me to connect the needs of PWUD community of Russia and PWUD communities of our region.

I'm sure I will be able to be useful both for community of people who use drugs in Russia and people who use drugs in our region.