

R S U S T A I N A B I L I T Y
T D O H U M A N U R I G H T S
C A M P A I G N Z E H R O M P
D N A R C O F E M I N I S M L
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C H A S E U T H E B V I R U S
H A C O M M U N I T Y O K K Z
E E C A Y O L O H R
E M R D H X M B O E

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For me personally, the most important result of 2018 is that the activists and organizations throughout the region united and that the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association has been developing sustainably. The organization was not only able to “get back on its feet” – what’s more important, it continues to cast a critical eye at its activities, which means it’s going to develop further. Another achievement is establishing intersectoral partnerships throughout the region and offering technical support to two budding regional associations of key communities.

Together with the community and experts at the local and international levels, EHRA has been monitoring and documenting violations of the rights of people who use drugs on a global scale, developing partnerships with human rights organizations and experts, promoting access to legal aid, conducting strategic litigation and submitting shadow reports to the United Nations treaty bodies. One of the most important achievements of 2018 is undoubtedly the preparation and approval of the “EHRA Position Paper on Drug Policy”.

MARINA CHOKHELI, Chair of the EHRA Steering Committee,
Coordinator of Harm Reduction and Access to Medicine programs, Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF)

I’d like to elaborate on a global task which EHRA undertook and completed with an excellent result - the development, discussion and adoption of the “EHRA Position Paper on Drug Policy”. EHRA put in an enormous amount of work in virtually every possible direction, geographically and otherwise. That work included engagement and communication with all members of the Association, educational work through webinars, identification of the most problematic areas regarding drug policy in our region and much more. It included Vilnius, Amsterdam, Kiev, etc. It was done by e-mail, mailing lists, Skype, websites and polls... As a result, EHRA Position Paper on Drug Policy was finalised to reflect the common vision of the future drug policy in our region and to outline key avenues for EHRA members to achieve it.

ALEXANDER LEVIN, Co-Chair of the EHRA Steering Committee,
Drug Policy Officer, Eurasian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ENPUD)



In 2018 we learned a lot, did a lot of new things and had a lot of things happening for the first time. We conducted our first advocacy campaign on the global stage and organised our first pickets outside embassies. We jointly developed our message and goals regarding drug policy. New management stepped in along with a strong expert Advisory Board.

We have become stronger and have built new reliable partnerships – and that’s exactly what’s needed to change drug policy in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia and to ensure that harm reduction services are sustainable in the region.

Our collaboration with activists and leaders of the community of people who use drugs has shown that we work very effectively together!

We are not going to stop there.

Join us – and stay with us!

ANNA DOVBAKH, EHRA’s Executive Director

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR EHRA DEVELOPMENT IN 2018–2019

MISSION

creating an enabling environment for sustainable harm reduction services and general well-being of people who use drugs in the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEECA).

- S01** Providing **SUSTAINABLE** and **EFFECTIVE** harm reduction services
- Mechanisms for national funding of harm reduction services
 - Harm reduction services meet PWUD needs
 - Harm reduction services have flexible rules that respond to changes

- S02** Advocating for a **NON-REPRESSIVE DRUG POLICY** that is based on public health and human rights
- Alternative to punitive measures
 - Drug policy index
 - Documenting human rights violations against PWUD
 - Involving community representatives and harm reduction activists

- S03** **DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP** and **EXPERTISE** of civil society and people who use drugs in monitoring national drug policy and harm reduction programs (for accessibility, effectiveness and funding)
- participation of community leaders in national, regional and global advocacy activities
 - monitoring availability and quality of harm reduction services and the situation with drug policy
 - regional partnerships (alliances) between community leaders and stakeholders

- S04** Increasing **ORGANIZATIONAL** capacity and improving **MANAGEMENT** systems, effectively implementing programs and ensuring EHRA's financial sustainability
- open and transparent decision-making
 - exchange of information and knowledge between EHRA members
 - operational procedures and effective management approaches
 - ensuring financial sustainability

In 2018 EHRA carried out 15 regional projects with a total budget of 1 188 736 EUR, which was distributed among four main strategic areas. In addition, EHRA developed or adapted 12 methodological, information and educational materials; eight organizations received support through sub-grants; more than 300 people were provided with training or went on study trips. EHRA also acts as a financial agent for two newly formed regional associations of key communities.

For more detailed information on the projects – please see the Annex.

G E N E R A L

P O S I T I O N

The [EHRA Position Paper on Drug Policy](#), approved in 2018, was an important milestone for our association. It set a strategic direction for regional advocacy which is to change punitive drug policies and use alternative, rights-based approaches instead. The Position Paper reflects our common vision of the future of drug policy in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as well as key avenues for achieving this future through the efforts of EHRA members at the national level as well as joint efforts at the regional and international levels.



P R O T E C T I N G

T H E

R I G H T S

In 2018, we were actively involved in protecting the rights of people who use drugs.

After alarming reports on serious human rights violations against PWUD in Estonia and Kazakhstan were received and documented, EHRA, together with the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and the community of people who use drugs from Estonia and Kazakhstan, submitted [two shadow reports](#) to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. One - on the situation with social rights of women who use drugs and/or live with HIV in [Estonia](#), and the other on access to drug addiction treatment for people who use drugs in [Kazakhstan](#). The [“Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Estonia”](#) published by the UN Committee contain, inter alia, the recommendation for Estonia, as a UN member state, to “Combat the social stigma against drug users and guarantee the confidentiality of service users by training the police, social workers, child protection officers and



medical professionals and sensitizing the public, especially about their right to health”.

In [“Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Kazakhstan”](#), the UN Committee recommends that Kazakhstan, as a UN member state, “strengthen harm reduction programmes and provide appropriate health care, psychological support services and rehabilitation, including opioid substitution therapy, to drug users”. In addition, the UN Committee recommends that Kazakhstan “ensure the confidentiality of medical records of drug users and consider the decriminalization of drug use”. A result like this can lay a solid foundation for further advocacy for the protection of rights of people who use drugs.

HERE'S OUR ACTION PLAN TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS



STEP 1: Monitor and **document** the cases of violation of rights of people who use drugs, together with communities and experts.



STEP 2: Seek and develop partnerships with human rights organizations and experts on national and international levels.



STEP 3 (on national level): Facilitate access to legal aid and conduct strategic litigation.



STEP 3 (on international level): Submit shadow reports to the United Nations treaty bodies.



STEP 6: Together with the national community, monitor whether governments follow the recommendations given by the UN treaty bodies.



STEP 5: Provide technical and advisory support to the community in interpreting and following the recommendations put forward by the United Nations treaty bodies for advocacy at the national level.



STEP 4: Provide technical and advisory **support to communities** on advocacy at the national level and on how to present the shadow reports at face-to-face meetings of the United Nations treaty bodies.

S T R E N G T H E N I N G

T H E C O M M U N I T Y

We systemically invest resources in organizations and civil society groups thus ensuring a meaningful participation of the PWUD community and recognising the key role that national leaders and community experts play in advocacy for a change in drug-related policies and practices, re-establishing rights, redistributing resources and improving quality and accessibility of social and medical services.

We invest organizational resources in ensuring a meaningful participation of key communities in shaping the national priorities and strategies that should in the long run become policy. We provide leaders of civic initiatives with relevant skills, knowledge, contacts and opportunities for their advocacy effort to succeed.

We [create new](#) and strengthen existing [partnerships](#) with expert organizations of communities and civil society from Central/Eastern European and Central Asian countries as well as with civil movements from other regions.

We develop the leaders' ability to unite and mobilize movements by [mentoring](#) them, providing targeted sub-grants, organizing [internships](#) and joint activities to support the advocacy for initiatives such as [#Narcofeminism](#), [Narconomy: from street to government](#),



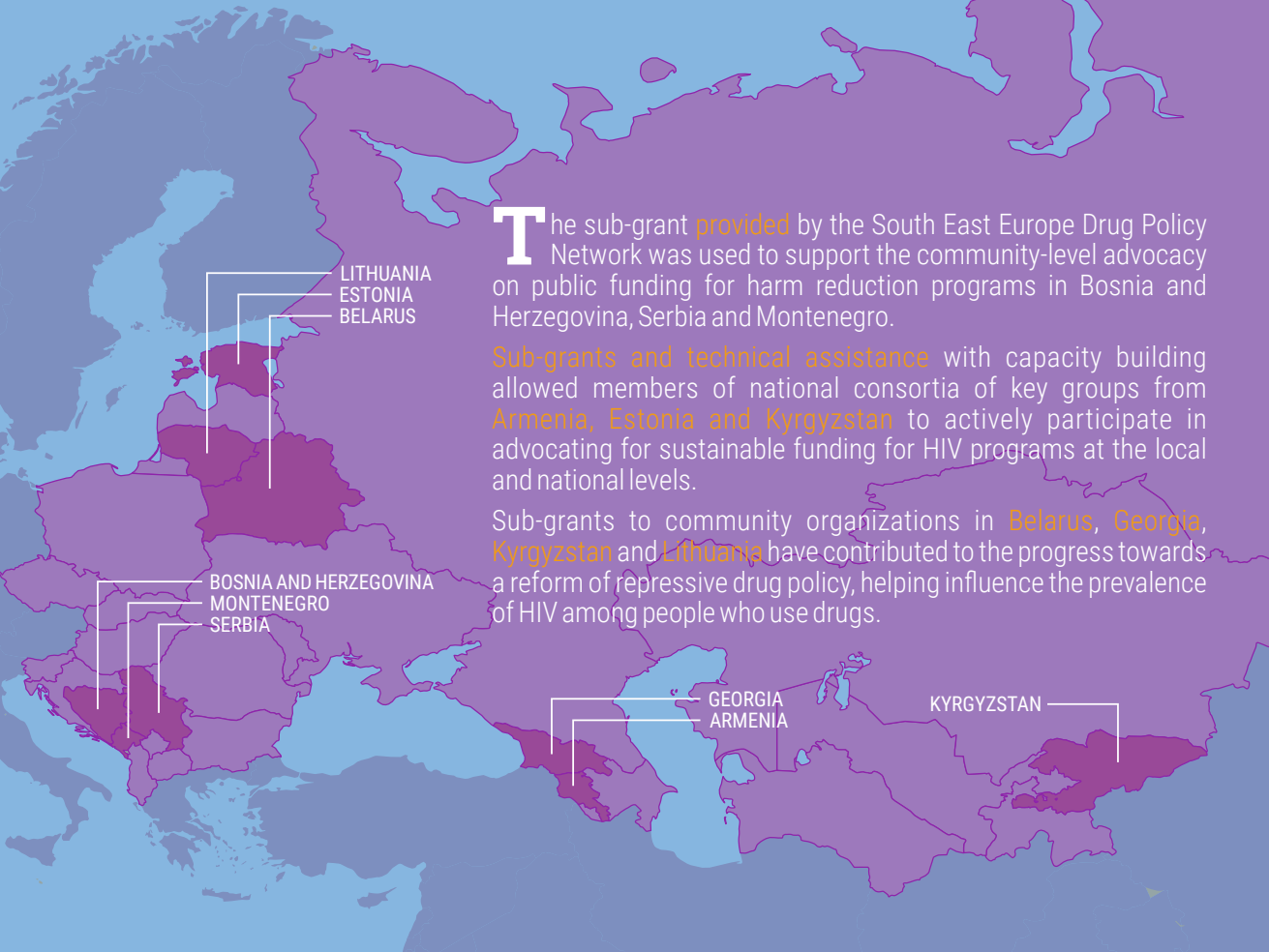
Save OST in Kazakhstan.

We organize [hands-on training](#) for experts from the community of people who use drugs.

Our expert and technical support helps develop the [expertise and skills](#) that communities need in [planning](#), [reviewing](#) and [developing](#) national and local drug policies and funding programs for people who use drugs.

We assist and foster development of regional networks of key communities as they play a crucial role in advocating for the best policies and practices related to healthcare and human rights protection. We act as a fiscal agent, thereby supporting financial and administrative management of these networks.

In 2018, EHRA acted as a fiscal agent for four projects of the [Eurasian Network of People who Use Drugs \(ENPUD\)](#) and for a project by the [Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS \(EWNA\)](#).



LITHUANIA
ESTONIA
BELARUS

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
MONTENEGRO
SERBIA

GEORGIA
ARMENIA

KYRGYZSTAN

The sub-grant provided by the South East Europe Drug Policy Network was used to support the community-level advocacy on public funding for harm reduction programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro.

Sub-grants and technical assistance with capacity building allowed members of national consortia of key groups from Armenia, Estonia and Kyrgyzstan to actively participate in advocating for sustainable funding for HIV programs at the local and national levels.

Sub-grants to community organizations in Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Lithuania have contributed to the progress towards a reform of repressive drug policy, helping influence the prevalence of HIV among people who use drugs.

C A M P A I G N S

We actively participated in the development, coordination and running of the “Chase the virus, not people!” campaign. Nine regional networks came together to mobilize and coordinate key communities and civil society representatives at regional and global levels in order to draw the attention of governments and the public to the catastrophic effect that criminalization has on the provision of HIV-related services to most vulnerable groups.



After the campaign was launched at the international AIDS conference in Amsterdam, we supported it at the regional level. One of the significant results was that the problem of criminalization of key populations and legal barriers related to HIV were made a priority by international research organizations and UN agencies.



As a result of the advocacy and mobilization work of EHRA, 48 international, regional and national organizations [signed](#) a joint statement on the change of the Eligibility Policy. The [Position paper](#) was sent to the focal points of all Delegations to the Global Fund Board as well as to GF Board Leadership and GF Executive Director.



In 2018, a situation emerged in Kazakhstan that threatened to disrupt opioid substitution therapy programs. [EHRA conducted a series of advocacy campaigns](#) and as a result more than 60 organizations around the world came out in support of people who use drugs in Kazakhstan and their access to OST.



Thanks to those [advocacy activities](#) and the subsequent [joint submission of a shadow report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), opioid substitution therapy programs continue to operate and their coverage has increased.

I N N O V A T I O N S

Developing leadership and expertise of civil society and PWUD community is a strategically important activity for us. We produce educational materials and practical tools, prepare reports and actively apply modern teaching methods to increase capacity and awareness, improve skills and knowledge of EHRA members, PWUD community representatives and civil society in general.



Budget Advocacy. A guide for community activists:
<http://bit.ly/2XRMjJA>



Budget advocacy webinar:
<http://bit.ly/2XIT077>



Internship for CEECA community activists in the Czech Republic and Portugal to study how those countries changed/reformed drug policy:
<http://bit.ly/2FKMWKs>



8 webinars on community issues, advocacy, gender and other issues related to the Global Fund:
<http://bit.ly/2XQ90mf>



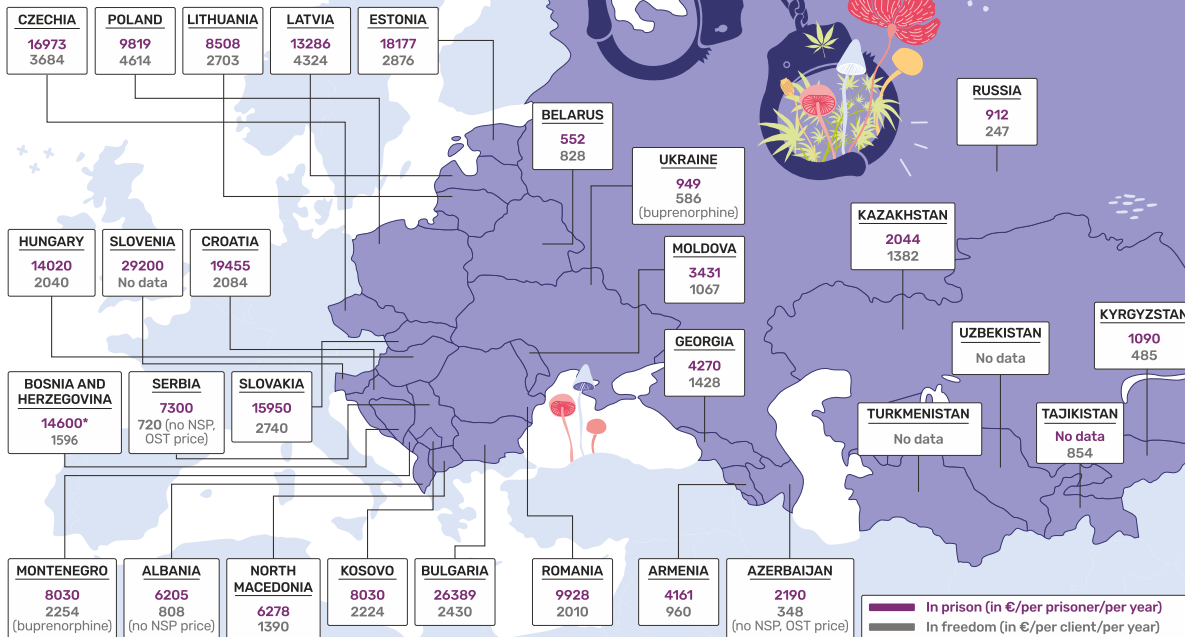
Infringement of the human rights of women who use drugs in Estonia:
<http://bit.ly/2xopezh>



4 webinars on drug policy:
<http://bit.ly/2J4oENB>

CRIMINALIZATION COSTS MAP

in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEECA)



The “Criminalization Costs” tool compares the cost of keeping those convicted for drug possession in prison with the cost of providing social and medical services to people who use drugs (in CEECA countries).

A tool to study and compare penalties and other important legal aspects of drug use-related offenses, distribution and possession for personal consumption. There’s a [calculator](#) and a [table](#) for determining legal threshold amounts for drugs most common in EECA.

A VOICE IN THE WORLD

EHRA sees international conferences as an opportunity to highlight at the international level the problems associated with sustainability of harm reduction programs, consequences of repressive and discriminatory drug laws, the effect stigma and discrimination have on people who use drugs. In 2018, the [XXII International Conference on AIDS \(AIDS 2018\)](#) and the [4th European Harm Reduction Conference](#) were the largest international platforms.



We did a lot of preparation and took an active part in the [XXII International Conference on AIDS](#). We spoke at or organised [25 sessions and events](#) related to harm reduction, drug policy and human rights protection for people who use drugs. Together with our partners, our team coordinated the activities at the “ActivEast” pavilion dedicated to communities in the EECA countries. The pavilion became one of the most visited venues at the conference. It hosted more than 50 events with 120 speakers. We also contributed to developing, coordinating and launching the [“Chase the virus, not people!” campaign](#) at the conference.

PARTNERSHIPS

We create partnerships based on fundamental values and principles of civil society. New partnerships open up new horizons for development.

Strengthening the existing strategic partnerships – for example, through participation with seven leading international and regional networks for harm reduction and drug policy at the [International Harm Reduction Consortium](#), or with networks of men who have sex with men and people living with HIV in the [Eurasian Regional consortium](#) – created synergies in implementing programs and helped us effectively conduct advocacy activities at the regional and global levels.

Long-term cooperation with [Harm Reduction International \(HRI\)](#) in collecting harm reduction data at the national and regional levels helps us spread high-quality scientifically-based information on harm reduction both in [CEECA countries](#) and [globally](#).



A new partnership with the international feminist organization – the [Association for Women's Rights in Development \(AWID\)](#) – gave rise to a [feminist movement](#) that focuses on the problems of women who use drugs. A [group of drug feminists](#) was formed, tasked with changing the situation with policies and practices related to women who use drugs in ECEA countries.

COORDINATION

EHRA, being a regional association with an active position, has undertaken the initiative to involve regional and national civil society organizations and key communities in the work to set and coordinate the main directions of advocacy that would consider interests of all key communities and civil society organizations.

This is our common cause. The agenda relevant to the CEECA region and the goals that we set together are important for all key communities. We urge action from all stakeholders in the region.

We mobilise available resources to advocate for a [transition](#) to national funding, for an improved access to life-

saving services for key populations and for a [change](#) in repressive laws and practices.

The five leading regional networks of EECA communities – the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA), the Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM), the Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA), the Eurasian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ENPUD) and The Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN) – united and outlined the common advocacy priorities in counteracting the HIV epidemic. They held an inclusive consultation involving all key communities in the region and established the main goals for advocacy, which formed the basis for a [multi-country funding proposal](#) for 2019–2021.



Regional Platform EECA

EHRA hosts the Regional Civil Society and Community Support, Communication and Coordination Platform in Eastern Europe and Central Asia ([Regional Platform EECA](#)), which plays an important role in ensuring meaningful participation of civil society in the Global Fund processes in the region. Thanks to the coordination, communication and awareness-building work as well as technical assistance provided by the Regional Platform, representatives of key communities covered by the Global Fund can actively participate in Global Fund-related processes at the national and regional levels.



159 publications in English and Russian posted on Platform's website

376 posts made in social networks (Facebook, Twitter) on behalf of the Platform



125 thematic e-mails sent through different listservs with a target audience of about **2500** people altogether

8 webinars on CRG TA and other GF related issues conducted with a total audience of **101** participants



8 face-to-face sessions on GF CRG TA Program conducted with up to **150** participants being covered in total

2 national workshops on sustainability and transition issues conducted in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan with **57** participants being covered



2 Info Notes on technical support related issues developed

11 coordination calls of the regional community networks and other key partners organized



6 requests for TA within GF CRG TA Program developed and submitted from the region with support of the Platform (**3** approved)

O P E N

M A N A G E M E N T

Accountability and responsibility are our key [management](#) principles. Decision-making is a transparent process, and various communication channels are open to feedback at all levels, from all association members, the Steering Committee, the Secretariat and external partners.

THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED [ADVISORY BOARD](#) INCLUDES LEADING WORLD EXPERTS IN DRUG-RELATED ISSUES, PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL AS LEADERS OF THE HARM REDUCTION COMMUNITY



IN 2018, THE EHRA [STEERING COMMITTEE](#) SAW 70% "NEW BLOOD" COME IN, BASED ON OPINION OF PWUD COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS AND HARM REDUCTION ADVOCATES



EHRA
MEMBERS

0

MARCH
2017

...

236

DECEMBER
2018

EHRA
MEMBERS
HOLD

2

GENERAL
MEETINGS

AND

3

REGIONAL
MEETINGS



EHRA members and partners held an [online discussion](#) to identify the priorities of the CEECA countries regarding drug policy and the rights of people who use drugs. As a result, [EHRA Position Paper on Drug Policy](#) was drawn up and approved.

O N

T H E

A G E N D A

For 2019, we have activities planned in all four strategic areas. This year we are completing the implementation of the 2-year development strategy and, based on the progress achieved, we will begin to map out a new, 5-year strategy for 2020-2024 in the second half of 2019.

The following activities are planned in 2019:

- Assess the patterns and approaches to OST provision used in EECA countries during the transition from the Global Fund to national funding;
- Increase EHRA's capacity for a more effective advocacy for human rights among women who use drugs and for OST programs in EECA countries;
- Promote the "Chase the virus, not people!" campaign at the national level;
- Develop an organizational sustainability training cycle which will promote effective approaches to innovative fundraising and "survival" of NGOs, provide grants for study visits, provide coaching

and technical support to representatives of community organizations;

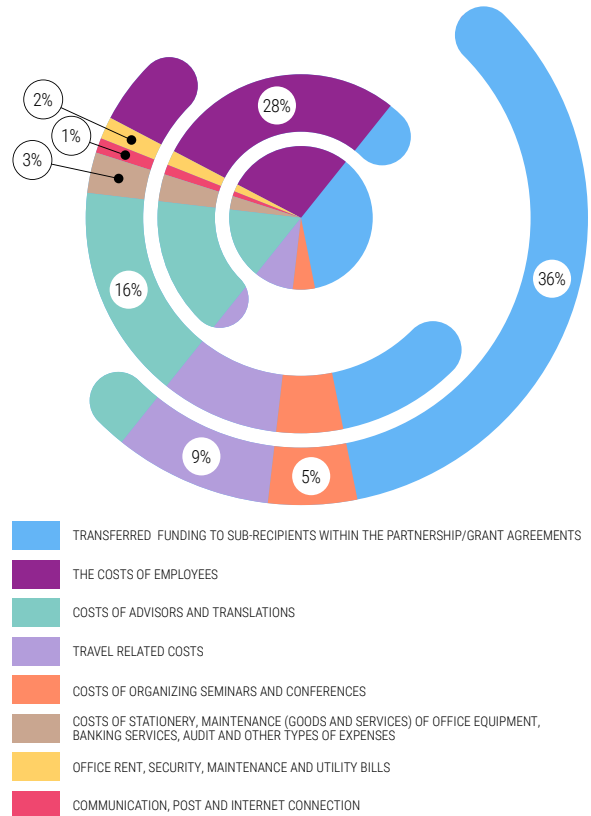
- Conduct case studies and a subsequent advocacy:
 - to increase the use of evidence-based practices of cooperation in outreach activities - especially in involving peer counsellors at the local level in order to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations carrying out outreach work in Lithuania;
 - on the use of new psychoactive substances in Belarus and Moldova;
- Develop mechanisms for monitoring and analysing the implementation of transition plans; regularly monitor and analyse the implementation of transition plans in Global Fund grant countries;
- Continue to collect and analyse data related to human rights violations and the quality of services provided for drug users; develop a follow-up system, including submitting cases to international human rights bodies;
- Hold a seminar on recording human rights violations and response opportunities for activists and specialists from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro.

O U R

F I N A N C E S

OPERATING COST ITEMS	FINANCIAL YEAR
THE COSTS OF EMPLOYEES	334 539
OFFICE RENT, SECURITY, MAINTENANCE AND UTILITY BILLS	17 609
COMMUNICATION, POST AND INTERNET CONNECTION	11 459
COSTS OF STATIONERY, MAINTENANCE (GOODS AND SERVICES) OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT, BANKING SERVICES, AUDIT AND OTHER TYPES OF EXPENSES	38 815
COSTS OF ADVISORS AND TRANSLATIONS	186 607
TRAVEL RELATED COSTS	105 916
COSTS OF ORGANIZING SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES	61 235
TRANSFERRED FUNDING TO SUB-RECIPIENTS WITHIN THE PARTNERSHIP/GRANT AGREEMENTS	432 556
TOTAL:	1 188 736

EHRA 2018 BUDGET STRUCTURE



A N N E X

LIST OF THE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2018

This table provides summary information on the projects carried out in 2018. Sections on each project contain basic data: project title, name of the donors, project duration, overall budget allocated for the whole project period, list of target countries and project's delivery status. Key results achieved in 2018 are provided in the text box with brief summary of the project's progress. More detailed information on projects outcomes and achievements completed in 2018 are provided in program reports and published on EHRA website:

<https://harmreductioneurasia.org/projects/>.



1 JOINT ADVOCACY FOR ACCESS, SUSTAINABILITY AND QUALITY OF HARM REDUCTION SERVICES AND FOR PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION

DONOR: Open Society Foundations (OSF).

PROJECT DURATION: Dec. 2017 – Nov. 2019.

BUDGET: \$738 328.

PROJECT STATUS: in progress.

TARGET COUNTRIES: Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries.

AIM / OBJECTIVES:

- Streamline governance and membership structure of EHRA to ensure organizational sustainability, effective decision-making system and joint advocacy efforts;
- Ensure sustainability and quality of harm reduction services in CEECA region;
- Increase regional cooperation aimed at promotion of non-punitive and human rights-based drug policies;
- Strengthen regional and national-level advocacy for the sustainable funding of quality, evidence-based and good practice models of harm reduction and HIV-related programs for PWUD and other key populations by increasing leadership of civil society and people who use drugs (PWUD) community groups.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS:

The grant was crucial for development of the organization and strengthening of EHRA governance. It helped EHRA to strengthen financial stability, fulfil ambitious organizational goals, build strategic partnerships, become a respected and knowledgeable strong player in drug policy debates as well as in regional advocacy for the sustainable funding of harm reduction programs.

Key results:

- membership grew from zero in March 2017 to 236 by the end of 2018;
- 2 General and 3 Regional Meetings of EHRA Members were conducted;
- EHRA Advisory Board was established and composed from leading global experts and honorable leaders in harm reduction, drug policy, human rights and public health;
- EHRA Steering Committee refreshed by 70% bringing diverse perspectives from PWUD activists and harm reduction advocates from different regions of CEECA;
- broad discussion with EHRA members and partners was organized to agree on EHRA drug policy position;
- EHRA Secretariat team composed of 13 highly-skilled professionals developed 11 regional funding proposals to ensure financial and programmatic sustainability of EHRA;
- community-led advocacy for domestic funding of harm reduction programs in Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro was supported through sub-granting of South East Europe Drug Policy Network.

DONOR: The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF).

PROJECT DURATION: Dec. 2017 – Apr. 2020.

BUDGET: \$450 000.

PROJECT STATUS: in progress.

TARGET COUNTRIES: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

AIM / OBJECTIVES:

- To increase the meaningful engagement of civil society and community groups through regular bi-directional communication and provision of accurate and accessible information to enhance the knowledge and participation of these actors in Global Fund-related processes.
- Improve the overall impact of GF programs and interventions and disease responses more globally through strengthened engagement of civil society and communities affected by HIV and tuberculosis.
- Expand access to technical assistance for civil society and community groups through greater coordination with the CRG Strategic Initiative short-term TA component, as well as key national, regional and global technical assistance partners.
- Support strategic civil society and community capacity development initiatives through fostering spaces for engagement and collective participation in key decision-making processes, as they relate to community, rights and gender.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS:

In 2017 EHRA was selected by the Global Fund to host the Regional Platform EECA.

Key results:

- 159 publications in English and Russian posted on Platform's website;
- 376 posts made in social networks (Facebook, Twitter) on behalf of the Platform;
- 125 thematic e-mails sent through different listservs with a total target audience of about 2500 people;
- 8 webinars on CRG TA and other GF-related issues conducted with a total audience of 101 participants;
- 8 sessions on GF CRG TA Program conducted with up to 150 participants being covered in total;
- 2 national workshops on sustainability and transition issues conducted in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan with 57 participants being covered;
- 2 Info Notes on technical support related issues developed;
- 11 coordination calls of the regional community networks and other key partners organized;
- 6 requests for TA within GF CRG TA Program developed and submitted from the region with support of the Platform (3 approved).

DONOR: Levi Strauss Foundation.

PROJECT DURATION: Nov. 2017 – Nov. 2018.

BUDGET: \$50 000.

AIM / OBJECTIVES:

The long-term goal of the project is to improve the situation with human rights for women from vulnerable communities and their access to health care and social protection in areas with high prevalence of drug use and HIV infection.

OBJECTIVES:

- To develop skills of women from vulnerable communities (women who use drugs and women living with HIV) to document and analyze typical human rights violations and structural violence as well as build cooperation with local and national governments;
- To initiate and sustain regular communication and cooperation on the cases of human rights violations and structural violence with national and local governments and in-country human and legal rights protection mechanisms;
- To build an alliance with international human rights, gender, and harm reduction organizations in order to strategically work with the UN and Council of Europe human rights protection mechanisms.

PROJECT STATUS: completed.

TARGET COUNTRIES: Estonia, Russia.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS:

- Based on the data collected in Estonia in 2017, the report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) was submitted in 2018.
- A small grant was provided to LUNEST to produce a detailed report to the Minister of Health and to the Estonian center for Human rights.
- Number of publications were produced in the media, including the TV story, and Estonian Social Security Department requested its staff to conduct a special training on working with women, who use drugs.
- An article was published in the Harm Reduction Journal based on the Report.
- One-day workshop "Documenting cases of human rights violations of women who use drugs and/or living with HIV" was organized for WUD, local NGOs working in harm reduction and other activists by EHRA with Canadian HIV/AIDS legal network in September, 2018 in Saint Petersburg, Russia.
- 27 in-depth interviews were collected to document cases of human rights violations of women who use drugs and/or living with HIV in Russia.
- The results of Estonian and Russian research were presented during the AIDS2018 conference, at the Regional workshop on community-based monitoring in the frames of the «Understanding the Gendered Impacts of Drug Policy» course at the Central European University in Budapest and at 4th European Harm Reduction Conference in Bucharest.
- Safety protocol for conducting human rights research was developed.
- In March 2018 EHRA participated in a workshop on developing reporting guidelines for NGOs to report to CEDAW on the violations of the rights of women who use drugs organized by International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific).

DONOR: Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund.

PROJECT DURATION: Oct. 2017 – Dec. 2018.

BUDGET: \$751 935, including \$344 978 EHRA's budget.

AIM / OBJECTIVES:

The goal of the project is to build the capacity of community-based organizations of key populations, foster exchange and partnership between different KP groups in budget advocacy and HIV resource accountability, help them advocate for national and municipal budgets resources to be allocated to continuum of HIV care for all KP in EECA.

OBJECTIVES:

- Advocate for sufficient and sustainable funding of responses to HIV, which addresses the needs of KP.
- Build the capacity of regional networks and their members who represent PWUD, MSM, TG and PLWH and those who work in their interest in EECA in advocating for sustainable funding of responses to HIV, which addresses the needs of KP.

PROJECT STATUS: completed.

TARGET COUNTRIES: Armenia, Estonia and Kyrgyzstan, other countries of EECA.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS:

In this project EHRA acted as a lead organization in consortium with 2 other regional community networks – ECOM and ECUO.

NATIONAL LEVEL RESULTS:

- 3 small grants to PWUD community organizations in Armenia, Estonia and Kyrgyzstan for budget advocacy at the local or national level.
 - National consortium in Armenia successfully pushed for reform of the drugs schedule by using evidence-based data gathered through community-based research.
 - Community involvement in a national bio-behavioral surveillance (IBBS) in Armenia resulted in more accurate HIV prevalence data, contributing to the state commitment to increase funding for OST and ART programs.
 - National consortium in Estonia continues to engage the National Institute of Health Development on improving access to community-based and low-threshold programs for key populations and has mobilized for national-level advocacy to attract attention to the catastrophic impact of criminalization on resourcing HIV programs for key populations.
 - In Kyrgyzstan, CBOs join the national Budget Advocacy Coalition and make plans to monitor the 1st national procurement plan of the Ministry of Health to ensure that HIV and TB budget lines reflect community needs.
 - CBOs in Kara-Balta, Kyrgyzstan, empowered community members to monitor allocation of social benefits to vulnerable people living with HIV.

REGIONAL LEVEL:

- Budget Advocacy Guide for community activists, based on best practices and experiences of budget advocacy capacity building in EECA has been published.
- National partners trained on budget monitoring and advocacy (EHRA), on gender-based budgeting (ECOM), and on community-based monitoring (ECUO).
- Access to core funding from the RCNF provided the necessary long-term stability to plan for and to implement meaningful governance developments while maintaining programs.

5 STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY ADVOCACY FOR CRITICAL ENABLERS OF THE HIV RESPONSE FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS. INTERNATIONAL HARM REDUCTION CONSORTIUM

DONOR: Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund.

PROJECT DURATION: Oct. 2017 – Dec. 2018.

BUDGET: \$105 588 (EHRA).

AIM / OBJECTIVES:

The goal of the project is to build the capacity of community-based organizations of key populations, foster exchange and partnership between different KP groups in budget advocacy and HIV resource accountability, help them advocate for national and municipal budget resources to be allocated to continuum of HIV care for all KP in EECA. The tools and experience developed within this project will be applicable to the entire EECA region.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Advocate for sufficient and sustainable funding of responses to HIV, which addresses the needs of key populations.
- Build the capacity of regional networks and their members who represent PWUD, MSM, TG and PLWH and those who work in their interest in EECA in advocating for sustainable funding of responses to HIV, which addresses the needs of key populations.

PROJECT STATUS: completed.

TARGET COUNTRIES: Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova and other countries of EECA.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS:

- 4 sub-grants were awarded to community led NGOs in Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Lithuania.
- “From street to government” community movement has been strengthened by collecting and making public factual data for evidence that decriminalization of drug use and possession of drugs for personal use can save money in state budgets and can be used for public healthcare and harm reduction programs such as drop-in-centers, shelters, drug checking and safe drug consumption places.
- The Criminalization costs tool was developed and published to compare state spending on the criminalization of the drug possession in CEECA countries, versus support of person, who use drugs with social and health care services in freedom.
- EHRA organized two study visits to the Czech Republic and Portugal for experts of people who use drugs community from CEECA & Baltic countries. Study visit to Portugal was focused on examining the country’s experience of practical decriminalization, and collaboration of Commission for Dissuasion of drug use, General Directorate for Intervention on Addictive Behaviors and Dependencies (SICAD) and support. In a study visit to the Czech Republic international and national drug policy experts shared their last two decades’ experience on advocacy for drug policy reform.
- Experts of PWUD community attended international meetings (e.g. CND 2018) to gain knowledge on how to be involved in current change of drug policy systems. The project team was effectively involved in international drug policy debates, made new contacts from UN, multilateral donors and other policy and decision-making agencies.
- EHRA in partnership with national PWUD and OST patient organizations provided evidence on drastic situations with drug policy and harm reduction programs in 5 EECA countries to the Global Commission on HIV and the Law for their global report.

DONOR: AFEW International.

PROJECT DURATION: Jul. 2017 – Oct. 2018.

BUDGET: €82 414.

PROJECT STATUS: completed.

TARGET COUNTRIES: countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

AIM / OBJECTIVES:

To mobilize and build the capacity of CEECA community of PWUD for advocacy for effective, evidence-based and rights-based HIV/AIDS policies, interventions and resources, and for the community of PWUD to have a vocal voice in the 22nd International AIDS Conference (AIDS2018).

Outcomes:

- CEECA community of PWUD is mobilized and equipped with necessary instruments for advocacy of effective, evidence-based and rights-based HIV policies, harm reduction programs and their sustainability;
- CEECA community organizations are visible in their advocacy efforts both in their on-going activities in the countries and in the region in preparation to AIDS2018 and at the event itself, the voice of CEECA community organizations with advocacy messages is heard at AIDS2018.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS:

EHRA in cooperation with ECUO and AFEW International coordinated advocacy campaign "Chase the Virus, not People!". The campaign mobilized 9 regional networks representing all key populations and was launched at the 22nd International AIDS Conference (AIDS2018) to attract attention to the impact of criminalization on resourcing HIV programs for key populations. Activities promoting the campaign were held during the conference's opening ceremony, at the Global Village, during plenary sessions which hosted speakers from EECA campaign's participants on stage, during the Fire Ceremony and the CSOs joint action against violence in the Philippines.

EECA delegates have rallied on streets of Amsterdam in solidarity with the international community against discrimination.

- EHRA was involved in coordination of EECA Networking Zone at Global Village and participated in 25 different sessions and events highlighting harm reduction challenges, drug policy issues and promoting human rights of PWUD in CEECA region;
- A video about AIDS2018 and "Chase The Virus, Not People!" campaign was produced and distributed via [YouTube](#) and social media;
- 500 community and NGO representatives from EECA took an active part in the campaign during AIDS2018;
- Over 50 events conducted in the EECA Networking Zone with more than 120 speakers;
- 13,500 AIDS2018 participants visited the EECA Communities Networking Zone in the Global Village, and 1,500 from them took an active part in the Networking Zone events;
- 2000 campaign hashtag mentions in media;
- Review Board Panel initiated by EHRA, AFEW International and Youth Force Amsterdam helped young researchers, community-based organizations, activists, clinicians and young people to increase the quality of the abstracts they were to submit to the AIDS2018 program. 97 draft abstracts were submitted for mentor support. 30 abstracts drafted in Russian were translated into English;
- EHRA and AFEW International awarded additional support to community representatives from EECA to cover their conference related costs. Out of 70 applications submitted, 10 from Georgia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan were selected to cover conference related costs;
- Scientific publication with community involvement titled "Study of human rights violations faced by women who use drugs in Estonia" was developed and published at [Harm Reduction Journal](#).

DONOR: Rights Reporter Foundation.

PROJECT DURATION: Mar. 2018 – Dec. 2018.

BUDGET: \$25 000.

AIM / OBJECTIVES:

To inform PWUD and PLHIV communities about situation with harm reduction, drug policy, community-led advocacy and HIV-program challenges in EECA by producing and distributing movies in Russian language with English subtitles.

PROJECT STATUS: completed.

TARGET COUNTRIES: countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS:

EHRA provided financial and administrative support to the socially significant project of the community-led media channel.

Here are some of the links to produced movies:

- «Национальная Горячая Линия по вопросам наркозависимости и ЗПТ»
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oELBa28hmDE>
- «Снижение Вреда 2.0»
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zr8CGc3G_tg
- «Молчание убивает»
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEIVBxdkDd0>

DONOR: United Nations Population Fund.

PROJECT DURATION: Mar. 2018 – May 2018.

BUDGET: €13 040.

AIM / OBJECTIVES:

The aim is to develop the capacity of Regional Communities Networks Consortium (RCNC) in the process of planning a joint coordinated advocacy effort to be included into an application for HIV multi-country proposal for EECA to be submitted to the Global Fund.

The funded activities:

- development of the performance framework and monitoring and evaluation plan;
- RCNC partners coordination meeting on finalization of the proposal, which took place in Vilnius, 13-14 April 2018;
- on-line survey data analysis and interpretation as part of the Regional Dialogue;
- finalization and editing of the proposal text.

PROJECT STATUS: completed.

TARGET COUNTRIES: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Uzbekistan.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS:

A Consortium of five leading regional community networks (RCNC) was created to develop its capacity in organizing inclusive and participatory approach to formulation of the HIV multi-country proposal to be submitted to the Global Fund.

Key results:

- An expert with extensive knowledge of the Global Fund processes was hired to develop Monitoring and Evaluation framework and plan for the proposal.
- RCNC initiated an on-line survey for community stakeholders as part of the Regional Dialogue to ensure meaningful participation of all interested stakeholders in the formulation of the proposal's goal, its objectives and key activities, so that the proposal meets the needs of key population groups in the EECA countries. The survey has resulted in informative responses from 167 diverse civil society and key population representatives.
- A two-day face-to-face coordination meeting of RCNC partners (16 representatives of all 5 partner organizations of the RCNC and M&E expert) took place in Vilnius, April 13-14, 2018, with the aim to finalize the proposal.

DONOR: Harm Reduction International (HRI).

PROJECT DURATION: Mar. 2018 – Oct. 2018.

BUDGET: £1 500.

PROJECT STATUS: completed.

TARGET COUNTRIES: 29 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

AIM / OBJECTIVES:

Carry out desk-based research to provide HRI with regional and national information on harm reduction developments to inform the development of the 2018 edition of the Global State of Harm Reduction report.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS:

Key results:

- Gathered relevant data from the countries of the CEECA and interviewed key stakeholders at national and regional level;
- Reviewed and commented on a table compiling national data on injecting drug use, HIV and viral hepatitis and key harm reduction interventions;
- Provided in-depth and thoroughly researched responses to a survey on developments in harm reduction policy, funding and practice in countries within the CEECA region since 2016;
- Drafted two key issues/topics for inclusion in the regional chapter of the report: (1) New Psychoactive Substances, and (2) Integration of HCV care in harm reduction programs based on Georgian experience.

10 WOMEN USING DRUGS IN EECA REGION

DONOR: AWID.

PROJECT DURATION: 17 July 2018 – 28 February 2019.

BUDGET: \$4 320.

PROJECT STATUS: in progress.

TARGET COUNTRIES: Estonia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine.

AIM / OBJECTIVES:

- Coordination of research project on the impact of the criminalization of drugs on women using drugs in EECA with project participants.
- Support for a webinar on feminism for women working on drug policy in EECA.
- Coordination of project communications and general administrative support.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS:

Women's and feminist movements and organizations turned out to be very resistant to include the issues of women who use drugs in their agenda. Due to the de facto criminalization of people who use drugs, they are perceived as criminals and failed women who chose this path and deserve the consequences.

- To address this issue in May 2018, the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) in collaboration with EHRA organized the meeting in Berlin for feminist and women who use drugs activists.
- The core team of #Narcofeminism movement was created. The group composed of women from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Estonia and Lithuania.
- A webinar about feminism was organized and EHRA together with activists from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Estonia conducted a survey on gender consequences of repressive drug policies. The results of this research were presented at the second joint convening in February 2019.
- During 4th European Harm Reduction conference, EHRA organized parallel session "Gendered consequences of repressive drug policies".

EHRA AS A FISCAL AGENT FOR REGIONAL COMMUNITY-LED NETWORKS

The Eurasian Harm Reduction Association acknowledges the principle of greater involvement of key communities, including people who use drugs in policy and advocacy work as well as in programs and services that affect their lives at all levels. EHRA encourages development of emerging regional community-led networks, as they play a crucial role in advocacy for better policies and practices in healthcare and protecting human rights of key communities. Among other types of support, EHRA acts as a Fiscal Agent for regional community-led networks, thereby backing up their financial and administrative management.

In 2018, EHRA was a Fiscal Agent of 2 regional community-led networks: for three projects of Eurasian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ENPUD) and for one project of Eurasian Women's AIDS Network (EWNA).

Both, ENPUD and EWNA are strategic partners of EHRA, and the main principles and aims of the mutual work is defined in Memorandum of Cooperation signed between EHRA - ENPUD, and EHRA – EWNA respectively.

More detailed description about projects performance is available on <http://enpud.net> and <http://www.ewna.org>.

11 STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY ADVOCACY FOR CRITICAL ENABLERS OF THE HIV RESPONSE FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS. INTERNATIONAL HARM REDUCTION CONSORTIUM

DONOR: Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund.

BUDGET: \$21 044 (ENPUD).

PROJECT DURATION: Oct. 2017 – Dec. 2018.

PROJECT STATUS: completed.

12 INPUD-ENPUD-BIG

DONOR: INPUD.

BUDGET: €7 500.

PROJECT DURATION: 01 March 2018 – 31 December 2018.

PROJECT STATUS: completed.

13 INPUD-ENPUD-GF

DONOR: INPUD.

BUDGET: \$45 700.

PROJECT DURATION: 01 July 2018 – 30 April 2020.

PROJECT STATUS: in progress.

14 INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV NETWORK

DONOR: Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund.

BUDGET: \$27 164.

PROJECT DURATION: 01 July 2018 – 31 December 2018.

PROJECT STATUS: completed.