

Motivation letter

Dear colleagues! This is a motivation letter for the position of a Steering Committee member of the European Harm Reduction Association from Aleksey Lakhov (St. Petersburg, Russia).

Why me?

I belong to a community of people who use drugs, as well as prisoners from Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

I am no stranger to socially significant infectious diseases: I live with chronic hepatitis B and have successfully treated hepatitis C.

Since 2006, I have been working in the field of the prevention of HIV infection and other socially significant diseases, including substance use disorders. I worked my way up from a volunteer to the deputy director of the largest NGO working in the field of harm reduction in Russia. More information is available in the CV.

I speak and write fluently in English. The native language is Russian.

Personal qualities

Accountability

Critical thinking

Aimed at achieving results

What benefits will I bring to EHRA?

I have extensive experience in developing and implementing advocacy, fundraising and PR strategies for various large NGOs, such as the Association "EVA", "United against Hepatitis" and "Humanitarian Action." I also regularly keep in touch with the "field" – as a peer counselor on the viral hepatitis hotline and outreach worker in the field of harm reduction. This allows me to keep abreast of the latest trends in the field of prevention and access to treatment of viral hepatitis, HIV infection and substance use disorders in Russia.

Another important factor is my desire to receive first-hand experience in such a large and recognized international organization as EHRA. I am sure that this merging of experience and desire will benefit all interested parties.