

**EHRA in 2020:**

# **Learning to live in crises**



2020 was the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, when we learned words like quarantine, lockdown, self-isolation and curfew became a daily routine for many. Political and military confrontations agitated the countries of our region.

This was the first year of implementation of the new EHRA strategy, and we have much to be proud of. We have learned how to communicate and work online. We worked together to push for innovative services, to be able to get help in difficult situations, we fought for take-home substitution treatment and human rights protection. We have become more resilient and united, despite the impossibility to meet.

**You can call us eternal optimists, but we believe that we will make it through the difficulties, safe and strong!**

# Eurasian Harm Reduction Association STRATEGY 2020-2024



## MISSION

Actively unite and support communities and civil societies to ensure the rights and freedoms, health, and well-being of people who use psychoactive substances in the CEECA region.

## VISION

We envision each CEECA country to have an active movement that advocates for humane policies and access to evidence-based and needs-based harm reduction services for people who use psychoactive substances.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

**Mobilize supporters and movement.** Movement means the collective and coordinated actions of alliances that work to deliver our common agreed-on advocacy goals.

**Attract and develop** resources, expertise, information and tools.

**Change public opinion** through communication and campaigns.

**Strive to ensure the voice of the community is heard and influences decisions.**

## STRATEGIC GOALS



**1. Develop and support national movements of allies advocating for legal regulations aimed at decriminalization, depenalization, and protection of the rights of people who use psychoactive substances.**

- impact on national governments
- documenting cases
- reporting on human rights violations
- humanization of drug policies
- community capacity development
- effective legal regulations and practices
- advocacy against drug propaganda laws



**3. Ensure sustainability of harm reduction services as part of the transition from donor support to national funding.**

- state's sustainability of quality harm reduction services
- international donor investments
- effective transition to domestic funding
- monitoring of quality harm reduction services



**2. Strengthen advocacy for access to high-quality, evidence-based, gender-transformative, non-discriminatory harm reduction services in freedom and in closed settings that have proven to be effective and are based on people's needs and human rights.**

- quality and comprehensiveness of harm reduction services
- new psychoactive substances (NPS)
- changes in the drug scene
- innovative services
- access to quality OST



**4. Ensure efficiency and sustainability of EHRA.**

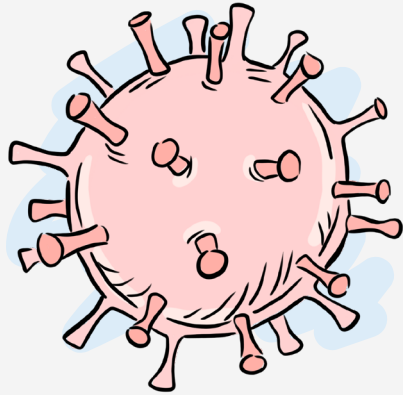
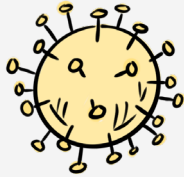
- regional partnerships
- regional and global reputation
- capacity of EHRA members
- sustainability of EHRA and EHRA members



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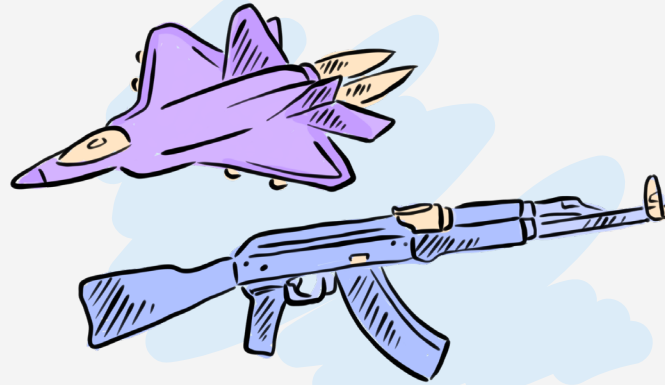
# External factors that have affected our work in 2020

1.



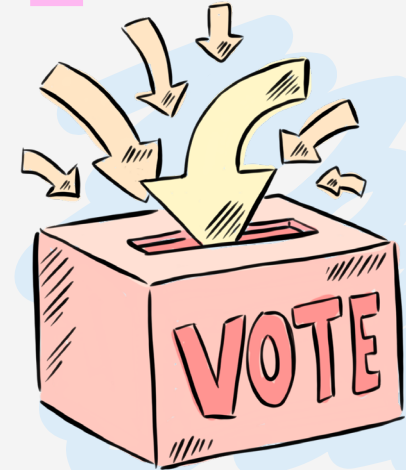
**COVID-19**

2.



**geopolitical tensions and conflicts**

3.



**political developments in EECA countries**



# Key 2020 results in numbers



**27 sub-grants** to support community advocacy on national and local level **in 12 CEECA** countries (234,274 EUR)



**55 advocacy and learning events** with **1,323 people** participated



**2 successful audits** and **2 independent financial management assessments**



**20 publications:** **3 regional reviews,** **2 reports** on legal analysis, **2 research methodologies,** **11 research reports,** research article and case study collection



**16 regional projects** funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Robert Carr Fund for civil society networks, Elton John AIDS Foundation, Open Society Foundations, European Commission, UNAIDS Technical Support Mechanism, Global Challenges Research Fund and other donors

# Financial health of EHRA in 2020

	Budget, EUR	%
All projects' budget	<b>1,704,033</b>	<b>100%</b>
Partners (ECOM, EWNA)	<b>2,224,415</b>	<b>13%</b>
ENPUD	<b>175,418</b>	<b>10%</b>
EHRA	<b>1,304,200</b>	<b>77%</b>

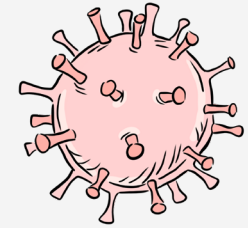
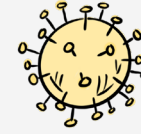
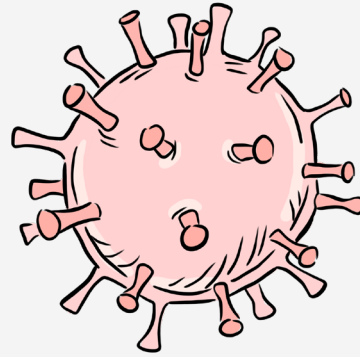
	Budget, EUR	%
EHRA administrative budget	<b>530,385</b>	<b>41%</b>
EHRA program budget	<b>773,815</b>	<b>59%</b>
Total	<b>1,304,200</b>	<b>100%</b>



Full audited financial report approved by EHRA members' General Meeting with statement from EHRA Treasurer you could find published

<https://harmreductioneurasia.org/about-us/reports/>

# Our response to COVID-19 crisis

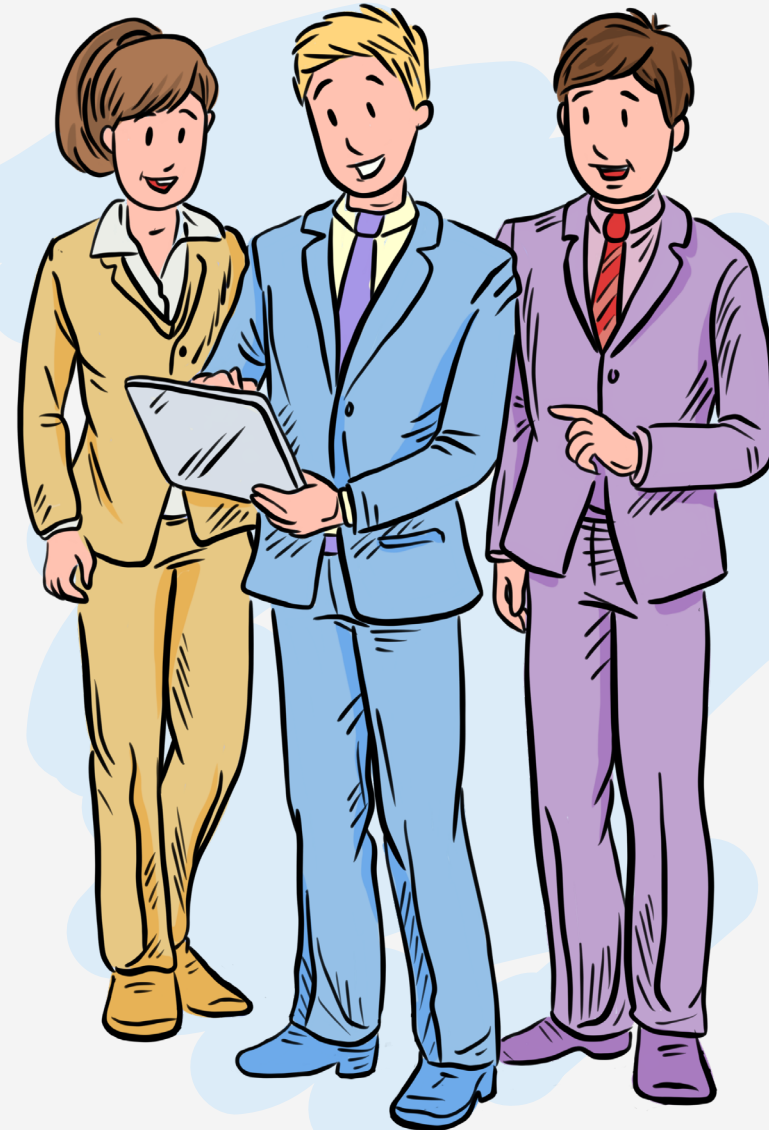


- 1.** Together with “CORRELATION” – European Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) the joint **position** on the importance of continuity of harm reduction services during the **COVID-19** crisis was formulated and widely disseminated.
- 2.** An **overview** of harm reduction programs in 22 CEECA countries during the **COVID-19** crisis was prepared with the support of the SC (Steering Committee) and active participation of 51 EHRA members from 22 countries in the region.
- 3.** Together with international partners, we prepared a **letter** to the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health on the protection and promotion of the health of people who use drugs during the **COVID-19** emergency.
- 4.** The **COVID-19 alert system** of the EECA (Eastern Europe and Central Asia) Regional Platform has been launched to identify risks, problems, disruptions, opportunities and innovations that affect the implementation of programs supported by the Global Fund in countries.
- 5.** We have launched a project to protect women who use drugs from gender-based/intimate partner violence and human rights violations during the **COVID-19** crisis.



## 1. Strategic goal

**Develop and support national movements of allies advocating for legal regulations aimed at decriminalization, depenalization, and protection of the rights of people who use psychoactive substances**



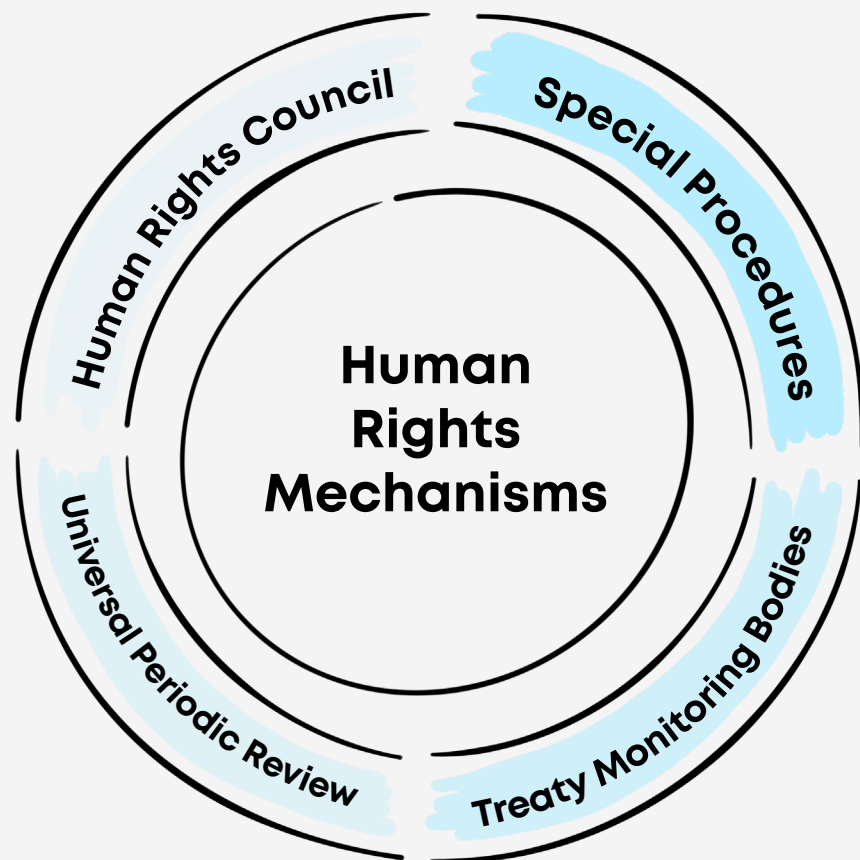


## 1. Strategic goal

- Prepared a **review of legislative initiatives on the liability of drug-related advocacy** (so called propaganda) in Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine. The review analyzes possible risks to social programs aimed at working with people who use drugs.
- **Analyzed the proportionality of fines for drug possession** in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- Carefully selected **11 arguments** for advocacy **in favor** of evidence-based, health and human rights-oriented **approaches instead of criminalization** and published them as a **pocket guide**.
- Prepared and conducted an **online course on gathering evidence on human rights violations** for Southeast Europe.
- Together with the EHRN, “Correlation” organized **sessions on different approaches to decriminalization** (initiated to replace the 5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Harm Reduction).
- The training course for **para-legals** was developed in cooperation with partners (in Russian).



# Human Rights Protection



Legal **analysis** on human rights violations against women who use drugs in Russia was developed.



Together with the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and the All-Ukrainian Association of People Living with Drug Addiction WOLNA the **report** to the UN Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights on the proportionality of punishment for people who use drugs and access to health and social services in Ukraine **was prepared** and submitted.



Together with Russian partners, two reports and a complaint about Russia to the UN treaty bodies were submitted:

- a **report** for inclusion in the List of Issues to the State in connection with the consideration of the 8<sup>th</sup> Periodic Report of the Russian Federation at the 129<sup>th</sup> session of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- a **report** to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);
- complaint to the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

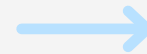
# Chase

the  
virus

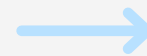
# not people



Campaign in support of Natasha Golub from Belarus



The campaign has expanded by 4 more countries – Armenia, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro



Eurasian Women's AIDS Network conducted informational campaign «HIV is not a crime»



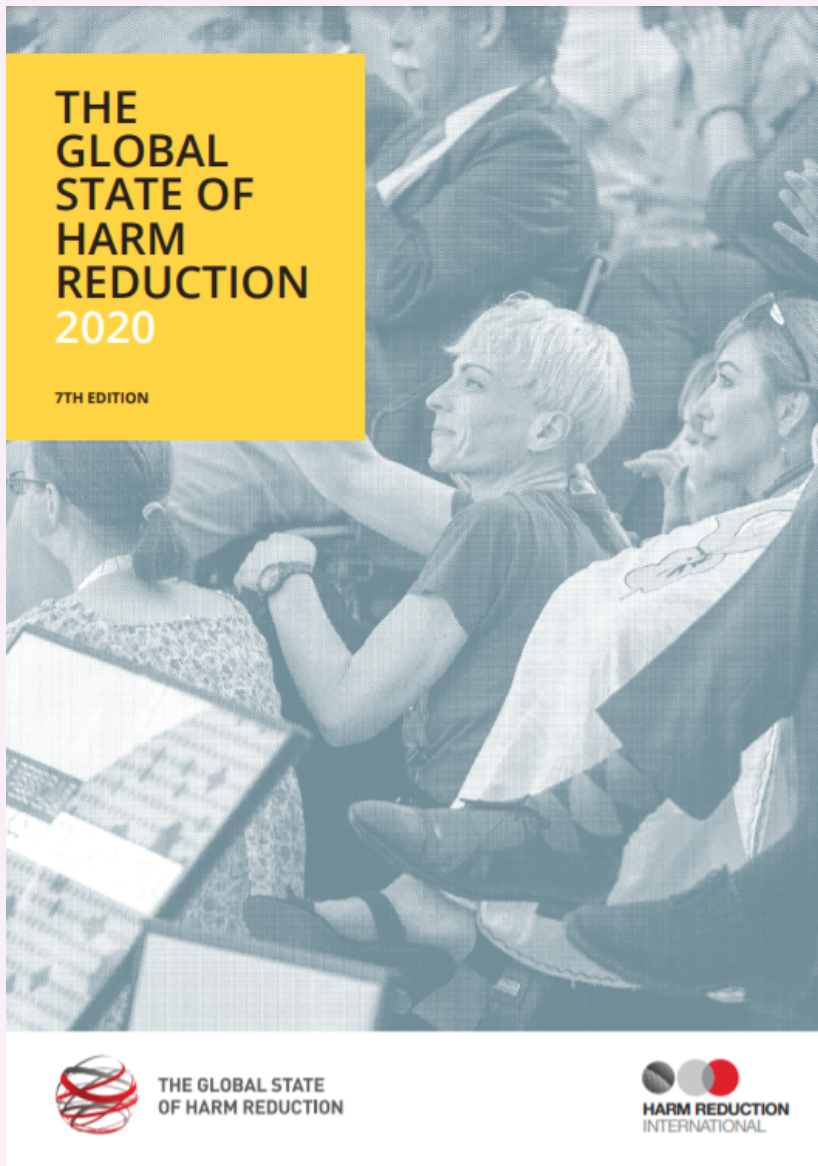
ECOM produced 4 video clips on the International Day of Trans\* People Visibility



## 2. Strategic goal

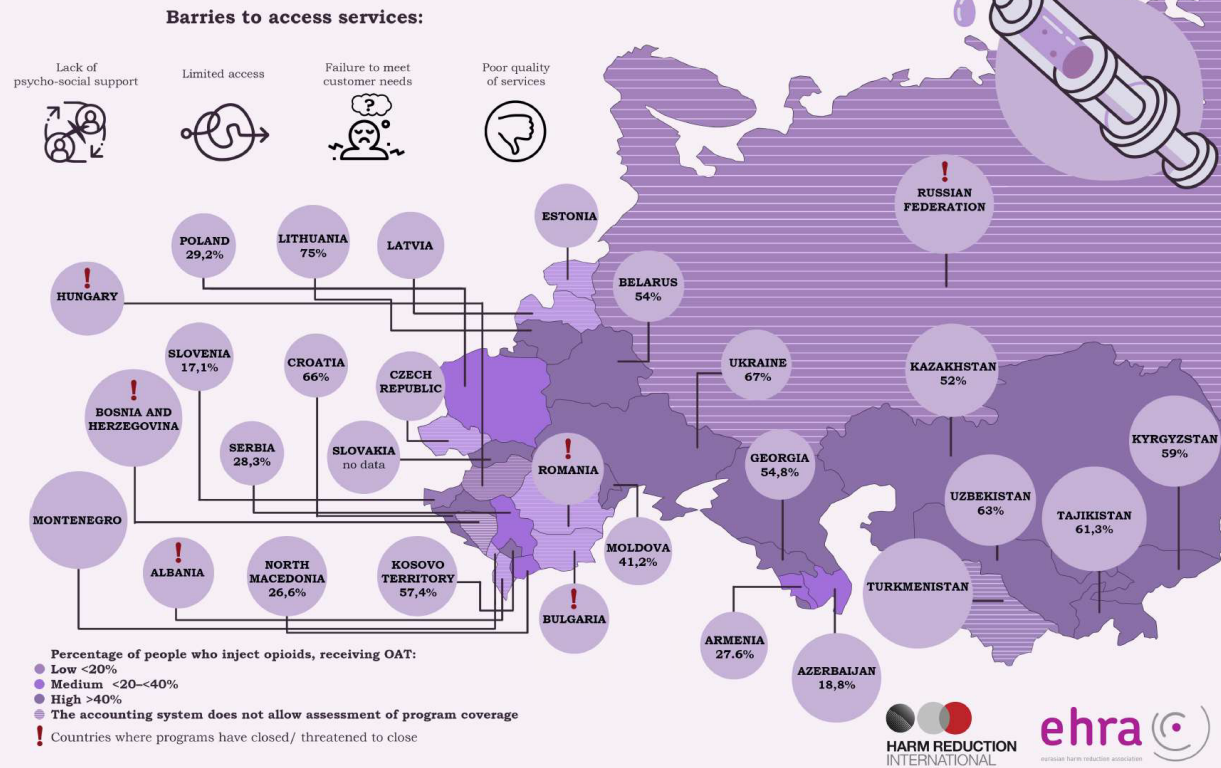
**Strengthen advocacy for access to high-quality, evidence-based, gender-transformative, non-discriminatory harm reduction services in freedom and in closed settings that have proven to be effective and are based on people's needs and human rights**





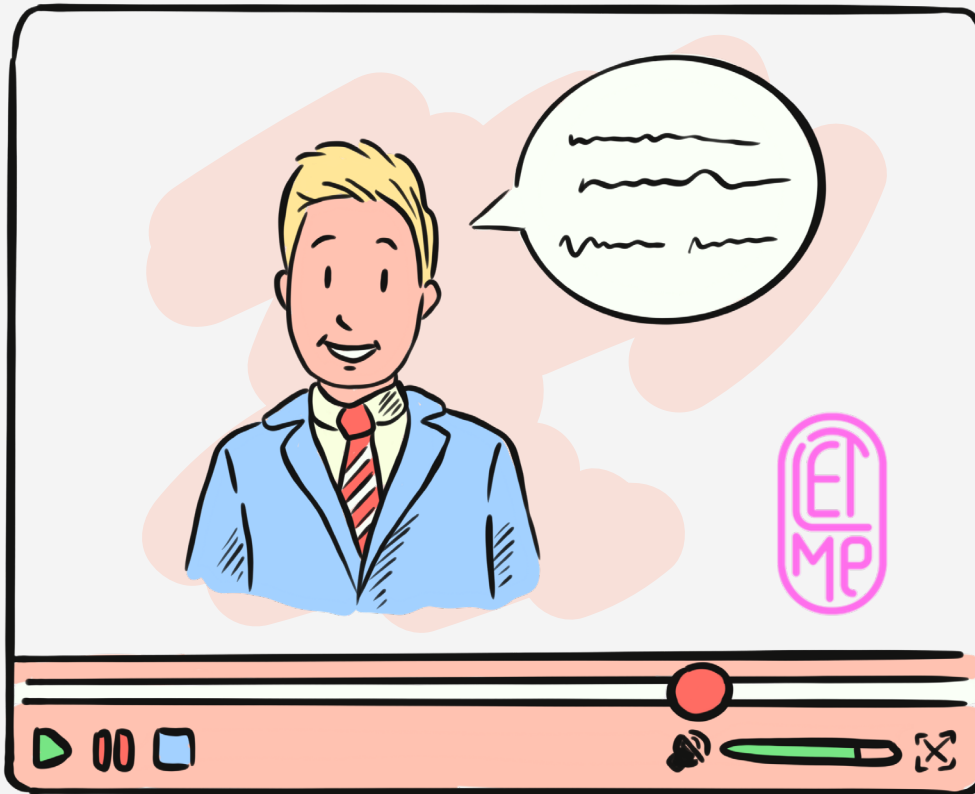
We developed a comprehensive **report** on the state of harm reduction in Eurasia, which became part of the Global State of Harm Reduction Report, which is issued by HRI (Harm Reduction International) every 2 years.

### Needle and syringe program





## 2. Strategic goal



- **Conducted assessment** of situation with **drug education** in 5 countries: Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland and Serbia. The manual will provide an innovative, attractive, and effective way to inform young people about drugs and risks of using them.
- Produced a series of videos on introducing **new approaches to harm reduction** in the CEECA (Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia) region. All **videos** are available in English with Russian subtitles.
- Published the **results** of a pilot study **on client satisfaction with Opioid substitution therapy (OST)** programs in Ukraine. The study was conducted in close partnership with the community of people who use drugs.





## 2. Strategic goal

→ Conducted a discussion forum and training for **“peers”** to strengthen the involvement of “peers” in the provision of harm reduction services in Lithuania.

→ Supported a training event for **peer** consultants and social workers in Kyrgyzstan.

→ Performed a field visit and **provided** harm reduction services at music festival in Lithuania.

→ Promoted access to comprehensive support **for women who use drugs experiencing gender-based violence:**

- Conducted a **two-day online training** for female professionals and activists on organizing comprehensive support for women who use drugs experiencing gender-based/intimate partner violence and human rights violations;
- Supported **small grants** in 5 countries of the region (**Kazakhstan, Moldova, Northern Macedonia, Russia, Serbia**) to organize assistance and provide shelter, psychiatric and legal counselling to women in situations of violence;
- Developing methodological recommendations for specialists.

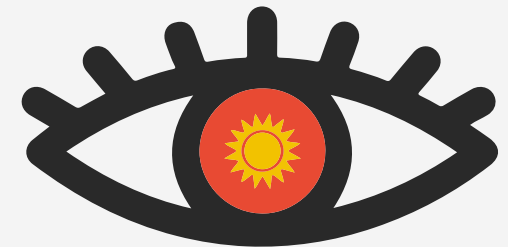
→ Supported the introduction **of innovative harm reduction** services in countries:

- **Croatia** — drug consumption;
- **Kazakhstan** — online peer counselling;
- **Lithuania** and **Serbia** — drug checking.

→ Published **research results on new psychoactive substances (NPS)** in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Serbia in partnership with Swansea University’s School of Law.

→ Conducted **national discussions** on the results of research on NPS in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Serbia, and on further steps to adapt harm reduction package for NPS users.

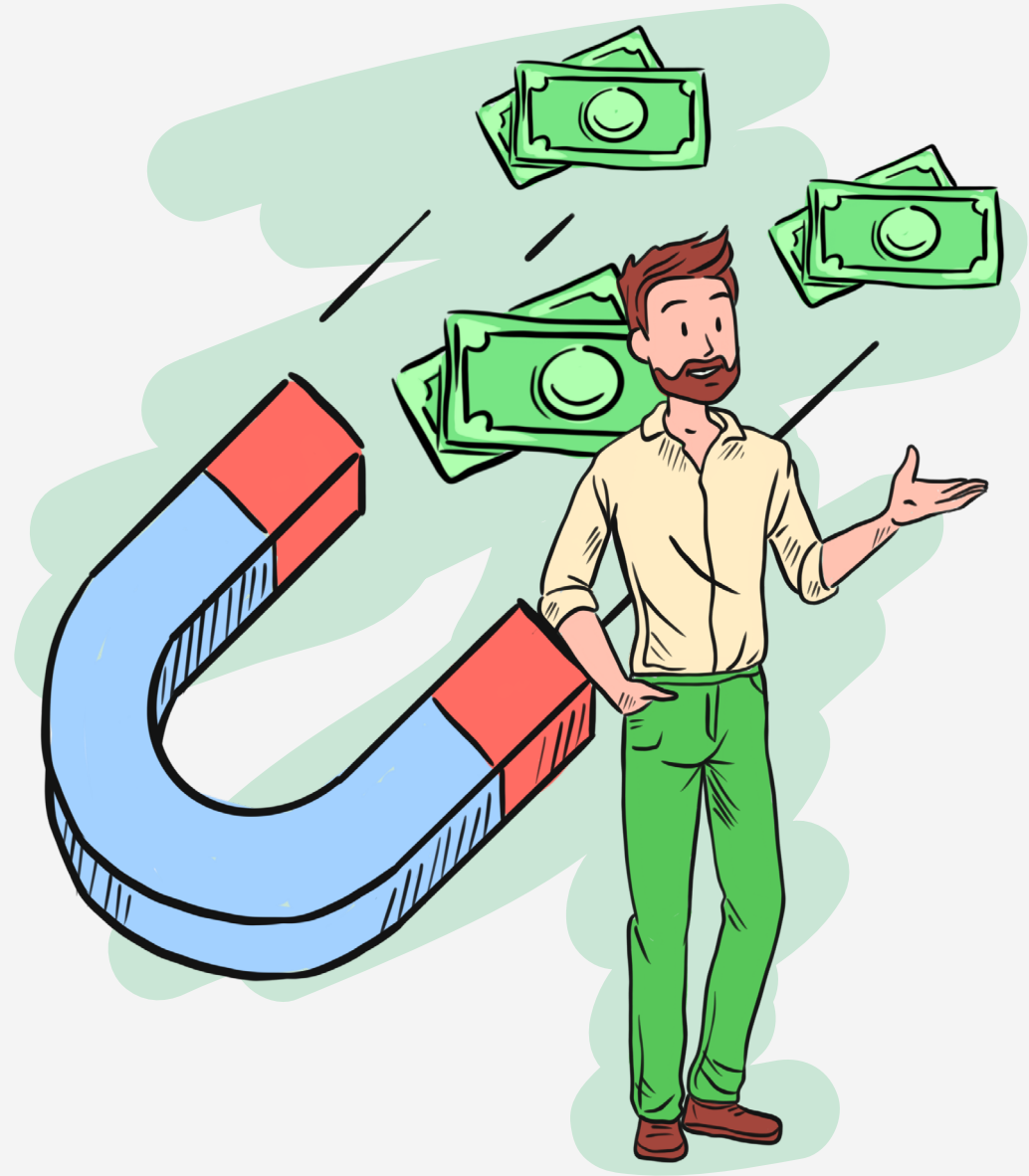
→ Developed an academic paper on NPS, accepted for publication in peer-reviewed Harm Reduction Journal.

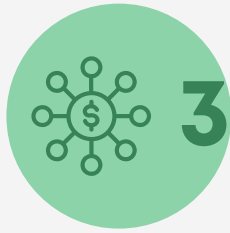




### 3. Strategic goal

**Ensure sustainability of harm reduction services as part of the transition from donor support to national funding**





### 3 Strategic goal

- Developed a **methodology** to assess the **sustainability of opioid agonist therapy (OAT) programs** in the context of the transition from donor support to national funding.
- Conducted an **assessment** of the sustainability of the OAT programs in Belarus, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Results of the assessment were discussed with national stakeholders online.
- Developed an **online toolkit on budget advocacy**.
- Organized a **regional 3-day meeting of partners** to summarize the results of budget advocacy in the region in recent years.
- Finalized a methodology for evaluating the implementation of transition plans from donor funding to state funding.
- Advocated for inclusion of harm reduction funding in EECA in the GF Strategy and the **UNAIDS Strategy**.



### 3 Strategic goal



Regional Platform  
EECA

→ **48 publications / 270 posts in social networks / 66 thematic letters** through listservs with a target audience of about 2,500 people.

→ **2 webinars** with a total audience of **63 participants from 10 EECA countries.**

→ **1 online session** on the GF TA (Global Fund Technical Assistance) Program, attended by **37 representatives from 12 countries.**

→ **National civil society meeting** to develop a new Global Fund HIV grant application in Russia, **71 participants.**

→ **COVID-19 alert system.**

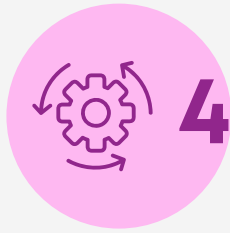
→ **6 Global Fund technical briefing notes,** translated from English into Russian and disseminated.

→ **5 coordination virtual meetings** for regional community networks and key EECA partners.

→ **5 new TA applications,** initiated and submitted under the GF TA Program: 2 from Albania, 1 from Belarus, Georgia and Russia; of these, 3 were approved for TA: Albania, Belarus and Russia.

→ Support was provided to ensure meaningful civil society participation in the processes of development **a new Global Fund proposal in Kyrgyzstan.**

→ **Support was provided to the work of the Civil Society Coordinating Committee** on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control in Russia and its Secretariat.

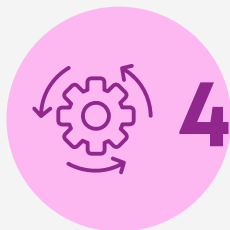


## 4. Strategic goal

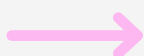
**Ensure efficiency and sustainability of EHRA and its' members**







## 4. Strategic goal



Prepared and published a collection of an “**Alternative Financing: Models of sustainable development for non-profit organizations**”. The **publication** includes 20 cases of various alternative financing mechanisms for nonprofit organizations.



Prepared and conducted an **online course** on **Sustainability and Survival: Resilience for civil society organizations**.



As a financial agent, helping the Eurasian Network of People who Use Drugs to develop a self-sustaining system for managing funds in connection with registration.



Developed, approved and published the **EHRA Code of Ethics**.



All these results could not be achieved without financial and technical support from our donors:





**[harmreductioneurasia.org](https://harmreductioneurasia.org)**



**[EHRAssociation](#)**



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