

EURASIAN HARM REDUCTION ASSOCIATION

ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

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1. EHRA strategic goals and objectives

Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) is a non-for-profit organization uniting 342¹ harm reduction activists and organisations from 29 countries² of Northern, Eastern, Central Europe and Central Asia. Our mission is to 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 region.



Objectives and activities in 2021 were driven by the long-term [Strategy 2020-2024](#) which gave emphasis to key areas of advocacy work: for legal regulations aimed at decriminalization, depenalization, and protection of the rights of people who use psychoactive substances; for access to high-quality, evidence-based, gender-transformative, non-discriminatory harm reduction services and to ensure sustainability of harm reduction services³ as part of the transition from donor's financial support to national

funding.

2. EHRA membership

The association is a membership-based networks and its membership is free of charge; no membership fee is required. According to EHRA Statute, all new candidates to become EHRA member shall be approved by the Steering Committee. 30 of individual and organizational applications submitted in 2021 were approved: 1 from Czech Republic, 2 from Kyrgyzstan, 1 from Moldova, 2 from Poland, 10 from Russia, 3 from Tajikistan, 11 from Ukraine.

By the end of 2021 financial year, the EHRA had 342 members. By December 31, 2020, EHRA counted membership 312 organizational and individual members.

¹ As of 31 December 2021

² Countries and territories covered by the organisation's programme activities: <https://harmreductioneurasia.org/countries/>

³ Harm reduction refers to policies, programmes and practices that aim to minimise negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, drug policies and drug laws. <https://www.hri.global/what-is-harm-reduction>

3. Environment and conditions that affected activities

Political, legal and economic environment in countries of Northern, Eastern, Central Europe and Central Asia significantly influences the activities of the association, since we receive most of our funding from international donors to carry out our advocacy internationally, for positive changes in public health, policies and protection of human rights of the socially and economically most vulnerable populations in these countries.

The continuing COVID pandemic exacerbated the situation with human rights and hit disadvantaged and marginalized groups the hardest. People who use drugs have been particularly at risk due to curfews, increased police control, limited access or closure of harm reduction services and decreased funding. Due to COVID-19 related restrictions in many countries, some events, such as thematic meetings, workshops, and trainings, which were originally planned in projects as face-to-face events, ended up being redesigned as virtual events or developed as on-line learning courses.

Strategic and value-based confrontation around harm reduction and human rights, new political environment escalating pressure on activists in Russia, Belarus, Armenia and Azerbaijan impacted program development opportunities the most.

In Russia, legislation was tightened creating significant barriers for non-for-profit organization providing HIV services to key populations⁴ and receiving funding from abroad (laws regulating legal entities as foreign agents, media as foreign agents, individuals as foreign agents, citizen groups as foreign agents, and laws regulating undesirable organizations). The effect of these laws is compounded by prohibitions on information on HIV prevention and/or human rights, which is classified as drug propaganda or non-traditional sexual relations.

In 2021, EHRA received several requests from the Russian Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology, and Mass Media to remove information from the EHRA website that was seen by the Service as propaganda. Otherwise, the services threatened to block access to the website in Russia.

In Belarus there were a risk of repressions against harm human rights defenders and activists who have received funding from abroad.

⁴ Key populations are defined groups who, due to specific higher-risk behaviors, are at increased risk of HIV, irrespective of the epidemic type or local context. Also, they often have legal and social issues related to their behaviors that increase their vulnerability to HIV.

The Nagorno-Karabakh war between Armenia and Azerbaijan started in 2020 temporarily paralysed the work of NGOs in Armenia, negatively affected project implementation and outcomes in joint with EHRA initiatives.

4. Organizational risks and their management

The EHRA's Risk Register is a main monitoring tool to prevent potential risks in governance, decision making, finances, operational planning and program implementation, environmental and political situation in countries of EHRA's operation. The latest assessment and review of organizational risks was conducted by the Steering Committee members during Annual Meeting on October 24-27, 2021. The Risk Register includes potential risks in governance/decision making, finances/resources, operational planning and program implementation, environmental and political situation in countries, risks related to EHRA members and beneficiaries. All the risks are assessed in terms of likelihood and impact and ranked as low, medium and high. For this report only risks with high likelihood or high impact are presented.

GOVERNANCE/DECISION MAKING		
RISK		ACTION
Disengagement of SC members resulting poor and disbalance strategic decisions.	Low likelihood High impact	To keep SC in focus of and inform about EHRA activities; conduct regular on-line and off-line meetings; review SC regulations/policy with clear roles and responsibilities as needed.
Members of SC block decisions resulting inability to conduct operations.	Medium likelihood High impact	Introduction of Ethical code and Ethical Committee. Selection of partners for projects in countries is conducted through open competition.
FINANCIAL		
RISK		ACTION
Weak systems of financial management, budget control and financial reporting.	Low likelihood High impact	Regular review and improvement of financial procedures and policies (operational policy). Following Ethical Code.
Underqualified of financial expertise of the staff Overstretching financial staff due to increase number of projects	Low likelihood High impact	periodic training, self-study, study of new recommendations and donor requirements recruiting additional financial consultants for short-term contracts, specific projects or tasks.
Lack of resources for EHRA activities.	Medium likelihood High impact	Proactive fundraising; informing donors about EHRA's harm reduction activities and development; prudent financial management; remote work; no sub-grants.
Dependency on one-two donors or projects.	Medium likelihood High impact	Broadened donor portfolio; financial planning and forecasting; fundraising strategy which will include "new" donors from human rights, public health and broader areas.
PROGRAMMATIC		
RISK		ACTION
De-prioritization of HIV, virus hepatitis and	High likelihood	To prepare facts and arguments on placing harm reduction in broader health context

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tuberculosis among people who use drugs	Medium impact	including COVID-19 response. Research the situation with HIV, hep C and TB; increase the team expertise in hep C and TB topics for better understanding of potential for development in this direction.
OPERATIONAL		
RISK		ACTION
Remote work of all Secretariat staff	High likelihood High impact	Regular program staff communication is organised. Teambuilding activities.
Poor project management causes postpone delivery of project activities/outputs resulting poor project performance	Medium likelihood High impact	Strengthen supervision and project performance monitoring; analyse challenges in management and conduct training based on learned lessons.
ENVIRONMENTAL / POLITICAL		
RISK		ACTION
COVID-19 crises: advocacy priorities to ensure access to services	High likelihood High impact	To keep harm reduction in the COVI-19 agenda. Contingency plan for all projects is developed.
Changes in government policies in CEECA countries, war conflicts between countries, revolutions within countries.	High likelihood High impact	To monitor the political situation in countries, to be flexible in supporting partners. Identify and maintain key relationships with governments and donors; safeguarding the operations and information sharing through regional mechanisms to mitigate effect of repressive policy; monitor proposed legal and regulatory changes.
Block of operation in any of countries where EHRA has its members. This includes ban of harm reduction info - "drug propaganda" law in Russia.	High likelihood Medium impact	Introducing mutual support between EHRA members from different countries or financial agents to support activities in "closed" for support countries
Including EHRA in list of "undesirable organizations" with criminal liability for organizations and individuals for cooperation with EHRA.	High likelihood High impact	Cutting all information about cooperation with Russia (partners, members, SC members, projects) from EHRA public resources and any reports. Risk mitigation communication with donors. Developing risk mitigation financial procedures to support members and partners in Russia. Development of protection and escape algorithms for activists.
Due to the political status in countries, we cannot disburse money to countries	High likelihood High impact	Introducing mutual support between EHRA members from different countries or financial agents to support activities in "closed" for support countries.
MEMBERSHIP / BENEFICIARIES		
RISK		ACTION
A significant drop in number of organizations/activists working in drug policy field at national level caused by lack of support or repressions	Medium likelihood High impact	Technical assistance aiming financial and operational sustainability of those organizations.

Close down of harm reduction programs in CEECA countries	High likelihood High impact	Strengthen advocacy from regional networks; advocacy for bridging funding; attract attention of donors to the problem; document cases and consequences of funding withdrawal; resource mobilization; encourage alternative funding of services.
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5. Executive summary of performed activities

The year 2021 was rich in various thematic advocacy, capacity building, coordinating and mobilizing events, which were carried out to meet the strategic objectives, as well as in response to COVID-19 crisis.



In 2021, within the workplans of implemented projects we conducted 91 program activities, 38 online and on-site events, provided 28 sub-grants to support community and civil society organizations in their advocacy in 12 countries. In most of the cases, sub-grants were going along with technical support and mentoring from EHRA qualified staff.

The scope of sub-grants included:

- ✓ 4 grants to address human rights violations during Covid-19 in Russia, Belarus, Northern Macedonia, Tajikistan;

- ✓ 2 grants for community-led research on client satisfaction with OST services in Moldova, Montenegro;
- ✓ advocacy grant based on results of community-led research in Georgia;
- ✓ 8 small grants for the campaign "Support, not punish" in Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan;
- ✓ 4 sub-grants for regional community-led organizations - ECOM, FreeZone, ECAT, regional network on migrants' health;
- ✓ 5 grants to build a system for referring women who use drugs in situations of violence and human rights violations to shelters in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Macedonia;
- ✓ grants to ensure meaningful participation of civil society and communities in national C19RM proposals developing processes.

During the year we have developed and published 46 publications including 2 articles to scientific peer-reviewed journals, 8 case studies, 13 analytical materials, 7 shadow CSO/CBO reports or submissions to UN Treaty Bodies, 2 comprehensive guidelines and many other rich content materials.

From the beginning of 2021 we started to implement a new process for organizational monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) to identify impact of our work and guide programmatic and strategic decisions. According to MEL, all the activities categorized by 5 identified structures of work: (1) fact-finding and evidence generation, (2) capacity building, (3) allied mobilization / movement support, (4) evidence-based advocacy and campaigns, (5) communication and dissemination. The MEL approach was used to report program progress to donors or inform EHRA members and partners. For this report, each activity carried out in 2021 attributed to these projects in which the actual costs of the activities were incurred.

6. List of projects implemented in 2021

This chapter provides summary information on the projects⁵ carried out in 2021. Textboxes on each project contain information about project title, name of grantees and donors, project duration, overall budget allocated for the whole project period, list of target countries and project's key activities and results performed in 2021.

6.1 Core funding

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 targeted at the 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.

Outcomes:

- ✓ The 4-year long advocacy campaign “Chase the Virus, not People” successfully [completed](#), its key goal achieved, which is reflected in prioritizing removing human rights barriers and aiming to decriminalize key affected populations and PLHIV in all key global and regional HIV/AIDS [strategies](#).
- ✓ 19 [episodes](#) of “Narco-pragmatic” podcasts have been recorded and aired on Russian language. The podcasts brought together regional experts to discuss topics on drug policy, drug control, harm reduction.
- ✓ We conducted or facilitated the following online meetings:
 - Online discussion: Harm reduction in prisons: illusion or reality?
 - Online workshop for NGOs in Belarus "Gender-sensitive services in health care. What HIV prevention programmes teach us".
 - Joint meeting with the Eurasian Movement for the Right to Health in Prison - discussion on sharing experiences in overdose prevention in prison and immediately on release
- ✓ Conducted a [webinar](#) “Hepatitis C elimination among people who use drugs”

⁵ More information on projects is on EHRA website <https://harmreductioneurasia.org/projects/>

- ✓ Participated in:
 - Regional consultation on the development of global health sector strategies for HIV, viral hepatitis and STIs 2022-2030.
 - Expert group meeting to update joint ECDC and EMCDDA guidelines on prevention and control of infectious diseases among IDUs.
 - Coordination meeting on the establishment and development of Budget Advocacy Hubs in Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova.
 - GF Strategy Working Group meeting with Board delegations.
 - Quarterly meetings of EU Civil Society Forum on HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and Tuberculosis and in consultation for the 2021 High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS.
 - EU Civil Society Forum working group on the Harm Reduction Crisis in Romania and Southeast Europe.
 - Leadership Meeting: Strengthening Global Leadership in Harm Reduction.
 - Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs meetings.
 - Annual meeting of UNODC and civil society group on drug use and HIV.
- ✓ Developed and published 28 country profiles and [map](#) with detailed information on harm reduction and concise overview of laws that form the basis of drug policies in countries of the region.
- ✓ Conducted a consultation with Drug Policy Network in Southeast Europe on sustainability of harm reduction services in SEE countries.
- ✓ Prior to High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS, EHRA together with other community-led regional networks and people living with HIV published a joint [statement](#) with required priorities for the HIV response
- ✓ Conducted a [webinar](#): How to Write a Successful Small Grant Application?
- ✓ Developed 2 communication materials:
 - Sex, Rights, Gender: Bringing Dawn to Us - [Interview](#) with Svetlana Moroz
 - Drug Policy and Harm Reduction in South-East and Central Europe: [Interview](#) with Péter Sárosi

6.2 Thinking outside the box: overcoming challenges in community advocacy for sustainable and high-quality HIV services.

<p>Granted by: Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund to the Eurasian Regional Consortium</p> <p>Target Countries and territories: Eastern Europe and Central Asia</p>	<p>Duration: Jan 2019 – Dec 2021</p> <p>Budget: 1,816,678.00 USD, including 1,029,056.00 USD to EHRA</p> <p>Project Status: completed</p>
<p>Aim / Objectives:</p> <p>To maximize capacity of networks and impact of their advocacy to improve funding environment for sufficient allocation of resources for HIV programs in countries of EECA.</p>	
<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A Code of Ethics and fundraising strategy were developed. ✓ The Steering Committee composition was updated ✓ 2 sub-grants awarded to community-led organizations in Moldova and Montenegro for community-led research on client satisfaction with OST services. ✓ Sub-grant provided to CBO in Georgia to follow-up results of community-led research. ✓ Sub-grants awarded to CBO and research team to conduct community-led client satisfaction assessment in West Georgia. ✓ Online training on service quality standards conducted. The training covered use of IDUIT to ensure quality of harm reduction services. ✓ EHRA participated in outreach work and drug checking service delivery at YAGA. ✓ An online course on effective online services for outreach workers, social workers and psychologists was developed and delivered. ✓ An expert group meeting was conducted in Istanbul to redefine harm reduction and build a recognized professional consensus on a comprehensive understanding of quality in harm reduction programs. ✓ A stakeholder dialogue and online meeting “How to make effective and efficient online and remote HIV prevention, treatment and care services for key populations” was conducted to examine current challenges and priorities for promoting remote HIV services for key populations in the region. ✓ An online regional expert meeting was conducted to summarize the results of budget advocacy work in recent years and to plan joint actions ✓ A regional analysis and country case studies for Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Ukraine were published to summarize the impact of budget advocacy efforts and regional experience over the last three years. ✓ Case studies on budget monitoring and accountability were published to provide lessons learned from the practice of analysing the national/local budget of health and social services for key populations in Armenia, Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, Romania and Ukraine. ✓ A regional report on unit costs was published to analyse collected data from Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Georgia, Northern Macedonia. ✓ A second round of the online course: "Sustainability and Survival: Resilience for Civil Society Organizations Working with Key Populations in EECA" was conducted. ✓ Media materials contest about the life and problems of people who use psychoactive substances was successfully conducted. 	

- ✓ A regional [webinar](#) on community led monitoring (CLM) for community activists and leaders in CEECA region was conducted.

6.3 We Will Not End AIDS Without Harm Reduction

Sub-granted by the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) under a grant provided by the Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund to the Harm Reduction Consortium

Duration: Jan 2019 – Dec 2021

Budget: 419,271.00 USD

Project Status: completed

Target Countries and territories: Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Aim / Objectives:

Within the Consortium, EHRA continues its work for advocacy of progressive drug policy and community-led and scientists mentoring support for and with community of people who use drugs:

- ✓ Upgrade, modernise and communicate the harm reduction approach related to new psychoactive drug use in the region, taking into the consideration gender specific services.
- ✓ Capacity building for civil society on advocacy for harm reduction, human rights and policy reform.
- ✓ Development of a 'Criminalization Costs' database in Eurasia to present compelling financial arguments for harm reduction drug policy reform, by highlighting the costs of current punitive responses in various countries.
- ✓ Strengthening EHRA team and members capacity to advocate for decriminalization and the initiation of alternative punitive approaches. Consortium-wide engagement, advocacy and support for civil society representation at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

2021 results:

- ✓ 4 grants to [Russia](#), [Belarus](#), [Northern Macedonia](#), Tajikistan were provided to address human rights violations during Covid-19.
- ✓ [Provided](#) a small grant and technical support to national community-led organizations in Lithuania to a campaign for decriminalization of possession of small quantities of psychoactive substances.
- ✓ 8 small [grants](#) for the campaign "Support, don't punish" in Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

- ✓ Database on the "cost of criminalization" and penalties for drug-related offences was been updated in 27 countries of the region. Data will be published on a new EHRA website in 2022.
 - ✓ EHRA took part in the international initiative on the [Global Drug Policy Index](#) assessment (Georgia, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Russia) and conducted an online Community Workshop on the Global Drug Policy Index.
 - ✓ A regional [training](#) was conducted in Armenia to learn how to use EHRA developed [materials](#) "Criminalization costs".
 - ✓ Closely cooperated with Lithuanian state departments in development of state programs including drug policy and with Lithuanian Parliament members to organize national conference on drug policy changes (decriminalization of small amounts of drugs without intent to distribute them).
 - ✓ Organized 2 side events at the 64th session of the UN CND:
 - The [first](#) one - "Improving Prevention: Prioritization of Effective Approaches and Secondary Prevention". The session was co-organized with the NZ Drug Foundation, with the support of Canada, and the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation and Youth Organisations for Drug Action in Europe.
 - second [session](#) - "Critical situation regarding violations of the rights of women who use drugs in EECA: urgent action needed"), co-Organized with Alliance for Public Health, Ukraine.
 - ✓ A letter in support of decriminalization of possession of small quantities of psychoactive substances in Lithuania
 - ✓ [Compendium of Practice](#): "Providing harm reduction services to people who use drugs during a public health emergency"
 - ✓ Translation and adaptation [of the IDUIT training manual](#).
 - ✓ First 2 issues of joint EHRA and ENPUD magazine "CHECK" on [NPS](#) and [OST](#) were published online.
 - ✓ EHRA was a main co-organizer and active [participant](#) of the 5th European Harm Reduction Conference.
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6.4 Regional Civil Society and Community Support, Communication and Coordination Platform in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Granted by: The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF)

Duration: Jan 2020 - Dec 2023

Budget: 450,000.00 USD

Project Status: in progress

Target Countries and territories: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Kosovo.

Aim / Objectives:

The EECA Regional Platform for communication and coordination key role is in engaging civil society organizations and community networks in Global Fund processes. It is responsible to foster regional dialogue, exchange knowledge and good practices among civil society actors and networks, as well as to disseminating information on technical assistance opportunities across civil society and community groups across all countries where the Global Fund has grants and/or countries under Global Fund multi-country grants.

2021 results:

- ✓ 4 grants for regional networks - ECOM, FreeZone, TBEC and Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health in EECA were provided to better engage regional community-led networks into the Global Fund related processes.
- ✓ A [Case study](#) of Kazakhstan on Global Fund Technical Assistance on Community, Rights and Gender was conducted.
- ✓ A [material](#) was developed to inform about availability of technical support in the context of HIV, TB and COVID-19 response for civil society in EECA.
- ✓ A regional [review](#) was published to showcase experience of regional civil society and communities in C19RM process and lessons learnt.
- ✓ [Webinar](#) Series “Phase 3 of the Global Fund's Community, Rights and Gender Technical Assistance Program - What's New?” were conducted.
- ✓ Webinar series on C19RM and accessible TA for CS were conducted.
- ✓ A [webinar](#) series: Implementation of activities for communities under Component 2 of the GF LNG strategic initiative was conducted.
- ✓ Webinar series: overview of planned activities under the 2nd component of the GF Strategic Initiative in Moldova and Kazakhstan were conducted.
- ✓ Webinar series: Assessing the implementation of government commitments to ensure sustainability of the HIV response among key populations in [Georgia](#), [Serbia](#), [North Macedonia](#) in the context of the transition.
- ✓ Global Fund Strategy Beyond 2022: Report from the Community and Civil Society Consultation in EECA.

- ✓ Provided [feedback](#) on aspects of the Global Fund Strategy 2023-2028 from community networks and regional platforms
- ✓ Community and Civil Society Forum 2021 "Loud and Clear: Shaping the Global Fund's Next Strategy (EECA and LAC)

6.5 Peer2Peer: Reinforcing Peer's Involvement in Outreach Work

Sub-granted by: Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento (APDES) under grant funded by the European Commission

Duration: Nov 2018 – Dec 2020

Budget: 34,703.00 EUR

Project Status: completed

Target Countries and territories: Portugal, Greece, Poland, Lithuania, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Hungary

Aim / Objectives:

- ✓ To mitigate gaps in scientific literature regarding formal and informal cooperation between key-actors in outreach interventions addressing PUPS;
- ✓ To validate the effectivity of cooperation practices in outreach work, through case studies at local level;
- ✓ To advocate for the upscaling of evidence-based cooperating practices in outreach interventions, especially the integration of PE. The active participation of different key-actors will promote the upscaling of European heritage and the advocacy function of CSO;
- ✓ To develop dissemination strategies targeting the greater audience, maximising the project impact by raising the general public's awareness of the need to develop more effective approaches to support PUPS.
- ✓ Participation in the EU Consultative Group on the fora of peer-to-peer personnel support policies and the establishment of cooperation with public institutions (P2P).

2021 activities:

- ✓ EHRA participated at the European policy dialogue meeting (in the field of policymaking, peer-to-peer staff training/support and cooperation with public institutions).
-

6.6 Sustainability of services for key populations in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region

Sub-granted by: 100% Life under a multi-country program funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF)

Duration: Jan 2019 – Dec 2021

Budget: 200,583.18 USD

Project Status: completed

Target Countries and territories: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan 456 USD

Aim / Objectives:

- ✓ Develop online methodology for monitoring and analysis of the implementation of transition plans, conduct regular monitoring and analysis of the transition plans implementation in countries where transition plans are being developed.
- ✓ Collection and analysis of data on human rights violations and the quality of services for drug users, the development of a system of follow-up reaction, including the submission of cases to international human rights instruments.
- ✓ Conduct seminar for activists and professionals from Southeast European countries to collect data on human rights violations and reaction mechanisms.

2021 results:

- ✓ Methodological [guidance](#) and tool were published to assess the sustainability of the HIV response in the context of transition from donor funding.
- ✓ 8 analytical reports were developed benchmarking sustainability of the HIV response among Key Populations in the context of transition from Global Fund support to domestic funding in [Serbia](#), [Georgia](#), [Northern Macedonia](#), Tajikistan, [Montenegro](#), Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan.
- ✓ The following reports to UN Treaty Bodies / Special Rapporteur were submitted:
 - [Report on Russia](#) to the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, January 2021.
 - [Shadow report](#) to the Committee against Torture for adoption of the list of issues for the Russian Federation at the 70th session, March 2021.
 - [Report on Moldova](#) to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, 15 May 2021.
 - [Report on the Russian Federation](#) to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, 15 May 2021.
 - 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council: [civil society input](#) to the 40th session of the UPR Working Group on the Republic of Moldova "Issues related to drug laws and policies in Moldova and their impact on human rights", 14 July 2021.
 - Criminalization and stigma exacerbate violence against women who use drugs in the Russian Federation, [Report](#) on the 9th Periodic Report of the Russian Federation CEDAW / C / RUS / 9, 80th session, 2 September 2021.
 - [Submissions to the Committee against Torture at its 72nd session](#), 8 November-3 December 2021, on the third periodic report of the Kyrgyz Republic.

- [Submission](#) on Ukraine to CCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) (report was prepared in 2019, but meeting will take place this year)

6.7 LET's Talk about drugs – new MMethods of communication with youth – LET ME

Granted by: Jaunimo tarptautinio bendradarbiavimo agentūra (JTBA) under the European Commission program ERASMUS+

Duration: Feb. 2020 – Jun. 2022

Budget: 195,074.00 EUR, including 54,259.00 EUR to EHRA

Project Status: in progress

Target Countries and territories: Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Serbia

Aim / Objectives:

The aim of the project is to support youth workers, educators (peer educators), street workers, harm reduction specialists working directly with youth who can potentially using drugs or already use them with the innovative approaches and methods on drug education.

The objectives of the project are:

- ✓ to conduct an assessment on the situation with drug education in the project countries,
- ✓ to develop a “Manual on Drug Education” for youth workers and educators, which will provide the innovative, attractive and effective way to reach young people,
- ✓ to produce online videos on selected drug-related issues to educate young people, peers and the public about drug-related risks,
- ✓ to provide training courses, based on the “Manual on Drug Education”,
- ✓ build partnerships among different stakeholders on national level, through organizing 5 multiplier events,
- ✓ to disseminate project outputs on national, European and regional levels.

2021 results:

- ✓ Erasmus + trainings were conducted in Lithuania and Poland to promote innovative approaches in youth drug education.
 - ✓ A series of [blogs](#) were published about drug education for young people.
-

6.8 Overcoming legal barriers for key populations – on the way to 90-90-90

Duration: Oct. 2020 – Sep. 2022

Budget: 729,975 USD

Project Status: in progress

Target Countries and territories: Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova and regional activities

Aim / Objectives:

The project aim is to improve the effectiveness of HIV continuum of care by overcoming legal barriers for the most vulnerable key populations on the EECA city level.

- ✓ Build capacity of paralegals and supporting legal experts to address legal barriers in the access of key populations to HIV continuum of care.
- ✓ Provide legal assistance to people from vulnerable populations to overcome legal barriers to get access to HIV continuum of care.
- ✓ Address cases of systemic legal barriers to decrease stigma, discrimination and criminalization and ultimately to decrease vulnerability of key populations to HIV and improve their access to HIV continuum of care.

2021 results:

- ✓ Created a comprehensive training course on paralegals work algorithms and critical work approaches (together with HLN, ECOM and SWAN). In addition, the course contains lists of links to paralegals guidelines, international and national documents, laws and regulations.
- ✓ Three training courses on paralegals work were conducted for the project partners in Moldova, Kazakhstan, Georgia. Per pre and post-training evaluation, paralegals' knowledge increased by 30% from medium 55-60% to 85-90%.
- ✓ Created a database for documenting beneficiaries' data and tracking changes on essential legal support provisions in providing access to state medical services regarding HIV. The analyzed data accumulated in the database is used for national advocacy and the preparation of shadow reports.
- ✓ 1608 beneficiaries from the vulnerable populations received legal services to overcome human rights-related barriers to access HIV continuum of care.
- ✓ 178 HIV+ beneficiaries from the vulnerable populations started or restarted ART thanks to paralegals support in overcoming human rights-related barriers in access to HIV treatment
- ✓ 818 beneficiaries from the vulnerable populations got access to government health care services thanks to paralegals support in overcoming human rights-related barriers
- ✓ 1416 cases of human rights violations related to access to public medical services and the HIV cascade have been documented.
- ✓ Intersectoral relations with partner organizations have been built at the level of all project countries, which allow providing beneficiaries with a complete package of services, particularly psychological help, peer counselling on HIV treatment motivation, participation in self-help groups.
- ✓ Trainings for paralegals in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova
- ✓ [Training podcasts](#) to support the work of street lawyers and paralegals.

6.9 Access to comprehensive care for women using drugs in case of violence

Sub-granted by: the International Charitable Foundation “Alliance for Public Health” under project funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF)

Duration: 02.10.2020-30.06.2021

01.10-2021-31.03.2022

Budget: 187,920.62 USD

Project Status: in progress

Target Countries and territories: Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Aim / Objectives:

Build or strengthen partnerships on the local and national level between HR services and shelters, psychosocial (including psychiatry) and legal counsel service providers to ensure that health and human rights of WUD who experience violence are protected in the time of COVID-19.

- ✓ Develop recommendations on referring WUD the victims of violence and human rights violations, for getting legal and psychosocial (including psychiatric) support and temporary shelter.
- ✓ Carry out a two-day on-line training for HR service organizations on building systems of referral to provide psychosocial (including psychiatric) support, shelter and legal counsel to WUD experiencing violence and human rights violations.
- ✓ Provide 5 small grants to NGOs in 5 countries on building systems of referring WUD experiencing violence and human rights violations to shelters, legal and psychosocial (including psychiatric) support within HR projects.
- ✓ Share experience regionally on best practices referring WUD experiencing violence and human rights violations to shelters, legal and psychiatric support.

2021 results:

- ✓ 5 community-led organizations were sub-granted to [build](#) a system for referring women who use drugs in situations of violence and human rights violations to shelters: “Revansh”, Kazakhstan, “HOPS - Healthy Options Project Skopje”, Macedonia, “Re Generation”, Serbia, “Convictus Ukraine”, Ukraine, ARF, Russia.
- ✓ A [guide](#): Help Not Ignore: A Guide to Shelter, Psychosocial and Legal Services for Women Who Use Drugs, Situations of Violence or Survivors of Violence.
- ✓ A summarizing [report](#) was published to present lessons learned from practices of accessing women who use drugs in situation of violence to comprehensive care.
- ✓ A [webinar](#) on police response to gender based violence toward women using drugs was conducted.

6.10 Support to Legal Environment Assessment in Armenia on HIV and TB

Granted by: The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF)
Target Countries and territories: Armenia

Duration: Jul 2019 – Dec 2021

Budget: 48,649.00 USD **Project**

Status: completed

Aim / Objectives:

The Armenia Legal Environment Assessment on HIV and Tuberculosis has to review laws, regulations and policies, law enforcement, legal empowerment and access to justice in the context of health, to identify the nature and extent of stigma, discrimination, gender inequality, gender – based violence and other human rights – related barriers to services experienced by people living with HIV and/or affected with TB.

2021 results:

A Legal Environment Assessment report was finalized and approved by UNDP EECA Regional Team and the Global Fund. The findings and recommendations from the LEA will serve as basis for the formulation and advancement of key policy changes to affect and accelerate access to health services, at a crucial time as the country is preparing to take over response to these epidemic s with decreasing donor funding.

6.11 The third regional Dialogue on the Implementation of the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy

Granted by: the University of Essex

Duration: 01.07.2021-31.10.2021

Budget: 18,811.05 USD

Project Status: completed

Target Countries and territories: all countries of the Eastern European and Central Asia

Aim / Objectives:

Host of the Third Regional Implementation Dialogue for the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy Eastern Europe and Central Asia, September 2021 (virtual). The dialogue is organized to support governments, policymakers, lawyers, judges, civil society advocates, health officials and other Stakeholders advance the implementation of the Guidelines, a series of thematic and conceptual technical papers and tools will be produced. The purpose of this work is to establish the foundation for a future flagship report on the global state of human rights and drug policy. This work is organised across three work streams: country best practice development, thematic reports, and mapping compliance.

2021 results:

- ✓ The 3rd Regional Dialogue was successfully [conducted](#) on 2-3 September 2021 with the involvement of more than 86 participants from government, the UN system, international governmental and nongovernmental organisations, national civil society organisations and community leaders as well as academia to discuss how to move forward with the Guidelines in the Eastern European and Central Asia (EECA) region.
 - scenarios and organized filming the pre-engagement videos and development of infographics (communication with speakers, design of infographics, development of the subtitles) were developed
 - infographic for pre-engagement communication on the Guidelines and the Dialogue was developed
 - infographic for pre-engagement communication on the Guidelines and the Dialogue was developed.
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6.12 CRG COVID

Sub-granted by: the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GF)

Duration: 05.05.2021-30.09.2021

Budget: 61,000.00 USD

Project Status: completed

Target Countries and territories: EECA

Aim / Objectives:

To support meaningful engagement of civil society and key vulnerable populations constituencies in C19RM processes in EECA. This funding seeks to leverage existing infrastructure which will enable the GF Secretariat to rapidly deploy support to civil society and communities affected by the three diseases to be prepared to engage in C19RM funding request development processes in a timely manner.

2021 results:

- ✓ Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine were provided with C19RM direct sub-grants or direct consultancy agreements to support civil society and communities affected by the three diseases to convene, coordinate and identify priorities for C19RM funding requests.
- ✓ Dedicated C19RM community focal point provided communications and virtual support to civil society and key vulnerable populations constituencies in C19RM processes in EECA. Supporting documents include all consultation reports, documentation of identified realities, needs and priorities, community-endorsed advocacy agendas developed.
- ✓ Conducted webinars:
 - Webinar for the ENPUD members on C19RM Mechanism (conducted jointly with INPUD) – April 15th, 12 participants
 - Webinar on C19RM Mechanism and available TA opportunities for civil society representatives from Azerbaijan (together with TBEC and Center PAS (Moldova)) – April 21st, 13 participants
 - Webinar “[C19RM 2.0 – What is it, why and how to be involved, and what technical support opportunities are available for Civil Society and communities](#)” (together with GF Secretariat and GATE) – April 21st, 37 participants
 - Series of webinars on C19RM Mechanism and available TA opportunities for civil society representatives from Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Uzbekistan
- ✓ Translation and dissemination of C19RM related materials:
 - Toolkit “[National social dialogues to guarantee the participation of civil society and community organizations and key](#)

- [populations in the preparaton of funding requests for the C19RM 2.0 of the Global Fund](#)” developed by LAC Platform
- Info Note “[Five Steps for Meaningful Community Engagement in the Global Fund’s C19RM](#)” developed by ICASO
 - “Integrating Community-Led Monitoring (CLM) into C19RM Funding Requests” developed by ENNASO
 - Global Fund C19RM [Technical Information Note on Community Systems and Responses](#)
 - Global Fund [COVID-19 Guidance Note: Human Rights in the Times of COVID-19](#)
 - Global Fund [COVID-19 Response Mechanism Information Note](#)
 - [COVID-19 Response Mechanism \(C19RM\) - Funding Request Form](#)
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6.13 New Psychoactive Substance Use in countries of Eurasia

Sub-granted by: Swansea University under a research grant provided by the Global Challenges Research Fund

Duration: Jan 2020 – Dec 2020

Budget: 38,889.84 GBP

Project Status: completed

Target Countries and territories: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Serbia with additional activities in Estonia and Lithuania

Aim / Objectives:

The objective of the project is to generate a more accurate picture of the use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia and Serbia (Estonia and Lithuania were added as additional countries) and harm reduction and law enforcement responses to the emerging NPS in countries.

2021 results:

- ✓ Regional Online [Discussion](#) "Health and Law Enforcement Responses to New Psychoactive Substance Use in the Baltic States: What Can We Learn from Each Other?"
- ✓ Regional and national online [discussions](#) on harm reduction for NPS users were conducted. The discussions were based on research results in target countries.
- ✓ Results of 2 studies: Use of new psychoactive substances in [Lithuania](#) and [Estonia](#) were published.
- ✓ [Regional Report](#): "New Psychoactive Substance Use in Eastern Europe and Central Asia " was published.

7. Partnership

In 2021, EHRA was engaged in partnership or working relationships with Lithuanian and Canadian government agencies, with UN agencies, such as UNAIDS, UNODC, UNFPA, UNDP, with multilateral donors, such as the Global Fund and with academia.

In 2021 we closely cooperated with Lithuanian state departments in development of state programs and advocating for more humane drug policy; with Lithuanian Parliament members to organize national conference on drug policy changes (decriminalization of small amounts of drugs without intent to distribute them). Cooperation with state owned PSYLAB heled us to deliver harm reduction information and drug cheking services at music festivals.

Together with Canadian government we conducted a side [event](#) on topic of “Prioritizing Effective Approaches and Secondary Prevention” at Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

Together with Ministry of internal affairs we conducted a [webinar](#) on police response to gender based violence toward women using drugs for representatives of ministry of Internal Affairs in Ukraine.

Also, we have good working partnership with academia, such as the Swansea University, the University of Essex, the Harm reduction journal. One of EHRA staff is a [member](#) of the Global Drug Policy Observatory.

8. Planned activities for the financial year 2022

Organization-wide events / activities / conferences

- ✓ Participation at:
 - AIDS 2022: the 24th International AIDS Conference, Montreal, Canada, and virtually,
 - Lisbon Addiction, CND 2022,
 - GSHR 2022
- ✓ Submit Scientific articles to Harm Reduction Journal
- ✓ To produce up to 20 podcasts of Narco-pragmatic
- ✓ To produce and publish 2 issues of Check Magazine
- ✓ To conduct General meetings of EHRA members
- ✓ To maintain process of members improvements
- ✓ To conduct survey among members about channels of communication
- ✓ To conduction membership inventory
- ✓ Fundraising activities: EU project proposals, EU4health call for project: strengthening community-based services for HIV, VH, TB, STIs.

A new grant from the Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund to the Eurasian Regional Consortium (grant cycle 2022-2024)

- ✓ Kick-off meeting
- ✓ EHRA Steering Committee meeting
- ✓ 2 field visits to partners
- ✓ Provide co-funding to support participation at the conferences (AIDS2022 and others)
- ✓ EHRA mentorship for participants of the sustainability course
- ✓ 1 sub-grant to conduct CLM on OST in 1 country
- ✓ 2 sub-grants for advocacy activities in countries on CLM results
- ✓ Running of online course on digital services and follow-up on participant in digital course
- ✓ Expert peers mentoring visits to countries: max 2 visits
- ✓ Development of practical tool on quality of harm reduction services based on IDUIT and other international recommendations
- ✓ 2 regional on-line meetings on non-health national funding sources
- ✓ Campaign for HR funding: creation of the visual materials for the campaign including videos, posters etc.
- ✓ "EHRA Cooperation with national media in EECA region: paid articles, reportages on TOP 5 National mass media channels, web banners referring to the campaign material, press-conferences, distribution of press-releases through news agencies, creation of journalists' data base who work in the field of health and social issues, networking with representatives of mass-media.

- ✓ Sharing and exchange of thematic materials related to harm reduction, financial sustainability and HIV budget accountability through EHRA's communication channels: translation/editing up to 150 pager
- ✓ Coordination of STC regional expert group
- ✓ Representing of EHRA in UNAIDS PCB, EU CSF on HIV, TB, hep

RCF exceptional opportunity funding to the Eurasian Regional Consortium

- ✓ Interim evaluation of EHRA strategy in context of COVID and revision of strategic objectives
- ✓ EHRA Steering Committee on-line meeting to discuss strategy interim evaluation report
- ✓ 7 Regional calls with EHRA members to discuss interim evaluation results (+strategy evaluation+ HR quality position)
- ✓ Integration of online systems into EHRA operational-financial accounting system
- ✓ Development of an algorithm of actions for human rights activists to follow in the event of a threat to life and liberty
- ✓ Development of a detailed protocol on digital security and personal data protection for the EHRA secretariat and network members /consultancy fee
- ✓ On-line training on digital and personal data security for EHRA members
- ✓ Training on digital and personal data security for EHRA secretariat
- ✓ Provision of individual psychological supervision for paralegal outreach workers to cope with burn-out effect for EHRA members
- ✓ Develop and promote set of evidence-based advocacy arguments and best practices for improvement of quality of harm reduction programs in EECA, taking into account COVID-19 learnings from national and regional advocacy for quality harm reduction services.
- ✓ Regional expert and service providers meeting
- ✓ Develop self-assessment tool on HR quality for ISP
- ✓ Regional meeting to finalise self-assessment tool on HR quality for ISP

A new grant from the Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund to the Harm Reduction Consortium (grant cycle 2022-2024) and exceptional opportunity funding (until 31 Aug 2022)

- ✓ Online kick off meeting
- ✓ Sub-grants for "Support don't punish" campaign
- ✓ Participation at CND
- ✓ Developing regional analysis of the legal frameworks around drug checking services

- ✓ TA visits to national partners, upon request, to help deliver trainings, meetings, or other actions that further national advocacy work
- ✓ Communication resources and events to tackle the emergence of 'drug propaganda' laws in the region,
- ✓ F2F regional multidisciplinary expert meeting to identify challenges, needs and harm reduction responses to the use of NPS
- ✓ Developing a toolkit for health care providers to respond effectively and compassionately to NPS use, promoting a harm reduction response based on the outcomes of the expert meeting
- ✓ Development of training manual
- ✓ Sub-grants to national ISP partners to implement trainings and subsequent internet outreach activities
- ✓ EHRA participation in national trainings
- ✓ Report on drug scene changes during COVID-19 in EECA region (development of methodology and questionnaire, data processing, translation)

New funding cycle 2022-2024 of the project “Sustainability of services for key populations in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region”

- ✓ Development of compendium of CLM models and tools for health and social program for people who use drugs
- ✓ 5 Sub-grants to community groups to conduct CLM and organize dialogue with service providers and decisions makers
- ✓ 4 M&E/ TS visits and 1 participation in the project related event
- ✓ Regional online training on community-led interventions for quality standards (IDUIT, community-led assessment of existing national quality standards) + quarterly CLM capacity building on-line workshops
- ✓ "Virtual regional meetings of think-tank group (experts, service providers, community, decision makers)
- ✓ Workshop on quality standards"
- ✓ Tripartite National dialogues to find a consensus on comprehensive understanding of quality in harm reduction programs, considering the community needs of people who use drugs.
- ✓ Online course on digital services
- ✓ Development of recommendations for organising and providing harm reduction on-line
- ✓ Regional and national advocacy on institutionalisation of on-line mode of harm reduction provision
- ✓ finalization of the methodology on periodical assessment of the fulfilment of HIV related sustainability commitments given by the national governments in the context of country transition from the Global Fund's support to national funding, based on the results of the previous project

- ✓ Assessment of the sustainability of OAT programme in the context of transition from donor support to domestic funding.
- ✓ "1. development of analysis matrix for analysing trends in human rights violations.
- ✓ 2. supervision of national analysis conduction.
- ✓ 3. development and submission of reports to UN treaty bodies "
- ✓ Analysis of national trends in human rights violations towards people who use drugs based on REACT data and in accordance with developed by EHRA/HLN analysis matrix
- ✓ Sub-grants for the national NGOs capacity building in drug policy reform and suggested changes (selection of countries and development of ToR)
- ✓ Technical assistance for small grantees in advocacy of drug policy reform and suggested changes (selection of countries and ToR)

EECA Platform project

- ✓ Regularly posting and disseminating all relevant information through the Platform accounts in social networks and thematic listservs.
- ✓ Advancing and promoting the EECA Regional Platform website
- ✓ Organization of 3 webinars on the Global Fund related issues
- ✓ Translating the Global Fund Technical Briefs and other relevant technical, policy and informational document into Russian
- ✓ Developing and disseminating the informational materials on the Global Fund related issues
- ✓ regional or sub-regional learning and sharing forums
- ✓ Conducting 3 webinars to highlight the work of the partners under Components 1 and 2 of CRG SI
- ✓ Documentation and promotion of successful cases of CRG TA in the region to motivate other potential TA recipients to apply for it
- ✓ 2 small grants to NGOs/CBOs in Armenia and Kosovo to support the community-led assessment of transition preparedness
- ✓ National F2F workshop for civil society on sustainability and transition related issues in Kazakhstan
- ✓ Supporting the Global Fund related activities EWNA, SWAN, ENPUD, Teenergizer (sub-grants)
- ✓ EECA Partners coordination calls
- ✓ 1 two-days sub-regional meeting of CCM members from non-governmental sectors from 5 EECA countries: Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan
- ✓ To conduct a qualitative assessment among CRG TA providers and recipients to understand the priority needs and options for improving the CRG TA mechanism and demand for it in EECA

- ✓ Conduction of an online survey to better understand the vision of the communities' and civil society representatives of the role of the Platform in the region and what should be improved in a Platform's work
- ✓ Sub-regional focal points to support communities in development and submission of the requests within the GF CRG TA Program.
- ✓ Supporting communities in accessing TA other than those available within GF CRG TA Program
- ✓ Regional Forum to discuss and learn from the results of the implementation of the Global Fund CRG TA Program in EECA region in 2020 – 2022.
- ✓ Supporting communities in development and submission of the requests within the GF CRG TA Program.

ERASMUS + project

- ✓ 3rd training on video and media advocacy, Hungary
- ✓ Finalization of the manual
- ✓ Final meeting of the project in Hungary
- ✓ Multiplier event in Lithuania (EHRA support to Young Wave)
- ✓ Communication/ dissemination of project results
- ✓ TIBERIUS
- ✓ Monitoring visits to countries (Moldova)
- ✓ Final evaluation of the project (consultancy)
- ✓ Legal Analysis of collected and documented cases
- ✓ Submissions to UN treaty Bodies

Access to comprehensive care for women using drugs in case of violence

- ✓ Provide 5 sub-grants
- ✓ law enforcement meeting
- ✓ Online workshop for representatives of ministries of social affairs, social services, and shelters for violence victims on organizing comprehensive care for women who use drugs and experience violence.
- ✓ Development of the regional report with best examples of comprehensive services, an overview of the regional situation, describing achieved results within the project and recommendations for changes in social policy
- ✓ Regional presentation of the final report (online launch event)