

Memorandum of Understanding

The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia

and

Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)

in collaboration with its country partner Georgian Harm Reduction Network (GHRN) and the Organizational Committee with the financial support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

state their intention to work together in preparation, organization and conduction of Regional High Level Dialogue on Successful Transition to Domestic Funding of HIV and TB Response in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, held in Tbilisi on September 29-October 1, 2015.

Introduction

In the decade of post global economic crisis and the domination of non-health global development priorities on the international agenda, the reduction of international donor resources allocation to HIV response in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) countries and New Funding Model, introduced by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, there is a need for the governments of EECA countries to develop and adopt principles of successful transition from international to domestic funding and start the development of relevant action plans, which would identify donor and public funding and technical commitments in the 5-years perspective to mitigate the transition effect. It would ensure that HIV and TB prevention and treatment services, including harm reduction, continue to be effectively delivered until they and their funding fully integrated into the national systems.

EECA countries have a unique opportunity to demonstrate their responsibilities and commitments that would lead to the success of such transition in a process of transparent negotiations with donor states and international organizations. These regional negotiations would start in September, at the high-level policy meeting "Regional High Level Dialogue on Successful Transition to Domestic Funding of HIV and TB Response in EECA" to be held in Tbilisi on September 29 – October 1, 2015 and will become a milestone in demonstrating the leadership of EECA governments and public leaders in addressing HIV and TB epidemics in the region.

High-level policy meeting description

The event will consist of a number of policy and technical dialogue sessions to arrive at the consensus on the principles which would make the transition to national funding successful, and initiate the development of action plans, which would ensure that effectiveness of HIV and TB response is not undermined by changing funding landscape for important prevention and treatment programs.

The first two days of the event will be dedicated to technical discussions on prospects and challenges of various scenarios of transition from international to domestic funding for HIV response and to sharing the results of recent UNAIDS, World Bank, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and EHRN studies. During these discussions countries and donor and technical agencies will start developing the above-mentioned actions plans, which would help coordinate sharing of transition costs and technical support required for such transition. The last day of the event, October 1, 2015, will gather high-level representatives from Ministries of Health and Finance from recipient states and from donors and development agencies for a political dialogue on transition and resource allocation for harm reduction.

The meeting is expected to engage EECA member states to produce and endorse a resolution, which will promote key principles of successful transition to domestic funding on HIV and TB response in EECA.

The Organizational Committee:

Together with the representatives of the Georgian Governmental institutions and EHRN, the Organizational Committee includes, GHRN, The Global Fund, United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNAIDS and World Health Organization (WHO) acting as the event co-organizers, and UNDP and World Bank as supporting agencies.

Objectives of the high-level policy meeting:

The main objective of the high-level policy meeting is to provide a regional platform for the representatives of the government, donors and civil society to agree the terms and the timeline of a transition to government funding of HIV and TB response activities, and namely the harm reduction programs and ensuring their sustainability. Among others, wide representation of stakeholders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan is expected.

The specific objectives of the Meeting are to:

- (1) Arrive at the regional consensus on the major principles of successful transition;
- (2) Negotiate donor and government funding and technical commitments for HIV prevention programs for PWID in the medium term of transition;
- (3) Adopt draft action plans ensuring the major principles of successful transition in accordance with the financial and technical commitments of donors and government.

The Sides have reached the following understanding:

The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (the Ministry) and Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) will work in collaboration to prepare, organize and conduct Regional High Level Dialogue on Successful Transition to Domestic Funding of HIV and TB Response in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia to be held in Tbilisi on September 29-October 1, 2015. In particular:

The Ministry and EHRN will work jointly over the event agenda, slogan and key messages, speakers and high-level participants lists, and event final resolution;

The Ministry will present this MoU to the Cabinet of Ministers of Georgia to secure help in preparation and conduct of the event and arrange the official invitations to government officials from the EECA countries and high-level representatives from international organizations and donors on behalf of the host country government, and will organize the reception of high-level representatives according to diplomatic protocol;

The Ministry will endeavor to send respective official invitations by July 15, 2015;

The Ministry will promote the dissemination of the event's Resolution to EECA states and collect the feedback;

The Ministry will assist in arranging the event media coverage in national mass media, including printed press, TV, radio, on-line media and in attracting international/regional mass media representatives;

The Ministry will assist in organizing site visits for the event participants to state-owned institutions, which provide harm reduction services;

EHRN will arrange the invitations to civil society leaders, community activists and representatives of affected populations by July 15, 2015;

EHRN in partnership with the Ministry will ensure the timely creation of the Organizational Committee and arrange its meetings;

EHRN in partnership with the Ministry and the Organizational Committee will work out the drafts of all necessary documents and confirm final versions thereof, including participants' lists, event agenda, and the event's resolution by July 10, 2015;

EHRN will arrange the venue and all technical services needed for event preparation, including event's logistic arrangement, printing materials, etc.;

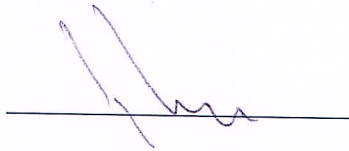
EHRN will cover all the costs of the event organization and conduction through the Global Fund and co-organizers resources, among others using funds of its Regional Program "Harm Reduction Works: Fund It!".

For the purpose of effective communications between the Sides, the focal points from each Side shall be communicated upon signature of this MoU.

The prevailing language of the present Memorandum of Understanding is English.
The present Memorandum of Understanding comes into effect upon signature of the Sides.

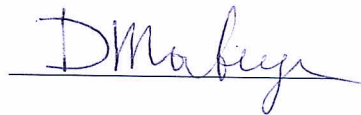
June 16, 2015

June 16, 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Sergeenko', written over a horizontal line.

David Sergeenko

For Ministry of Labour, Health and
Social Affairs of Georgia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Matyushina', written over a horizontal line.

Daria Matyushina

For Eurasian Harm Reduction Network