



Program **Second Regional Consultation on HIV among MSM and Trans People in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

*"New Challenges and Approaches in the Response to the HIV epidemic among MSM
and Trans People in Eastern Europe and Central Asia"*

May 31 - June 1, 2018
Tbilisi, Georgia
Marriott Courtyard, 4 Freedom Sq.

Aim of the Regional Consultation:

Strengthen the regional response to HIV epidemic among MSM and trans people in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Objectives of the Regional Consultation:

- Review the progress in implementation of the recommendations of the 1st Regional Consultation in 2010;
- Present the results of recent research and use them to develop recommendations for improving the quality of strategic information on the HIV epidemic among MSM and trans people in EECA;
- Present the best regional practices and innovations in the response to HIV epidemic among MSM and trans people in EECA;
- Discuss the issues of funding and sustainability of HIV programs in the region;
- Present the regional advocacy strategy for the response to HIV epidemic among MSM and trans people in EECA and develop recommendations for its implementation at the national and regional levels.

Key topics of the Consultation

- Access to high-quality HIV services for MSM and trans people;
- Impact of the legal environment on the HIV epidemic among MSM in the region;
- Innovative approaches to the work with MSM and trans people;
- Community participation in decision making and its impact on HIV epidemic;
- Sustainability and funding of services;
- Trans people and HIV epidemic in the region.

Day 1 - May 31, Thursday

Topic of the day: Challenges. The Dynamic of the Situation in the Region.

8:30 - 9:00	Registration
9:00 - 9:45 <i>Opening Session</i>	<u>Welcome remarks</u> • Zaza Bokhua, Deputy Minister of Labour Health and Social Affairs of Georgia • Michel Kazatchkine, Special Advisor to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) for Eastern Europe and Central Asia • Giorgi Tabagari, Project Manager, NGO "Equality Movement", Georgia • Igor Medvid, Coordinator, HPLGBT, Ukraine • Vitaly Djuma, Executive Director, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM)
9:45 - 11:15 <i>Plenary session 1</i>	<u>Key trends in HIV epidemic among MSM and trans people and in response to it</u> The session is aimed at reviewing main trends in the development of the HIV epidemic among MSM and trans people in EECA, giving a general picture of the response to it, and pointing out main challenges that specialists and community representatives face. The session will also allow to look at the progress in implementation of the recommendations of the 1st Regional Consultation of 2010. Chair: Michel Kazatchkine, Special Advisor to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) for Eastern Europe and Central Asia • <i>How the community can use Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in achieving their own goals, and progress in implementation of the recommendations of the 1st Regional Consultation of 2010 - Rosemary Kumwenda, Regional Team Leader, Regional HIV, Health and Development Programme, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).</i>

	• <i>WHO recommendations on prevention and treatment of HIV among MSM and trans people – Antons Mozalevskis, Medical Officer, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe.</i> • <i>The Global Fund support to prevention and treatment of HIV among MSM in EECA region - Ed Ngoksin, Technical Advisor on Community Responses and Key Populations, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.</i> • <i>Overview of the regional situation: MSM and HIV, gaps in addressing recommendations - Vitaly Djuma, Executive Director, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM).</i> <i>Questions and answers. Discussion</i>
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11:15 – 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 - 13:30 Plenary session 2	<u>Community role in the response to HIV epidemic</u> In order to overcome multiple barriers to social well-being, particularly in the area of HIV prevention and treatment, MSM and trans people should meaningfully participate in the development and management of programs. The session will present the results of the relevant assessments, as well as the experience in direct participation of MSM and trans people in decision-making at national level. Chair: Maksym Kasianczuk, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM) • <i>Historical view of society's attitude to MSM in the post-Soviet space - Alexander Kondakov, Research Fellow, Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.</i> • <i>Presentation of the results of a study on MSM and trans people participation in national decision-making processes - Maksym Kasianchuk, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, ECOM.</i> • <i>The cascade of HIV services for MSM and the Funding Gaps Assessment results – data collection by community and its use to advocate for access to services - Gennady Roshchupkin, Community Health Systems Coordinator, ECOM.</i>
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	• <i>An experience of community participation in the Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) - Daniyar Orsekov, Executive Director, Public Association "Kyrgyz Indigo", Kyrgyzstan.</i> • <i><u>Announcement of the Regional Joint Engagement Strategy</u> - Paata Sabelashvili, Advocacy Coordinator, ECOM.</i> <i>Questions and answers. Discussion</i>
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13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

During lunchtime the participants of the Regional Consultation will be provided with the opportunity to get tested for HIV in the mobile ambulance. For testing, you need to go down to the -1 floor of the Marriott Courtyard Hotel.

14:30 – 16:00 Parallel sessions

Parallel session 1	Parallel session 2	Parallel session 3
<u>Innovative approaches to overcoming the HIV epidemic: PrEP</u> Innovations are expected to make the investments into the HIV response more effective. Pre-exposure prophylaxis is one of the most recognized innovative methods of HIV prevention which already has been introduced in several countries of CEECA region. The session will provide participants with information on the experience of PrEP projects in Western and Eastern Europe, and facilitate discussion on the improvement of the	<u>Advocating for MSM access to services and overcoming legal barriers</u> The right to quality healthcare is often infringed within the gay men, other MSM and trans community due to homophobia, transphobia, and overall societal and/or governmental denial of LGBT community people. The workshop will define the common trends in legislative experience depicting legal barriers for gay men, other MSM and trans people in EECA in accessing HIV-related services and suggest the common practices to overcome them.	<u>Trans people and HIV</u> In EECA, trans people remain one of the most stigmatized groups and, therefore, require special attention with regard to their rights to health and other rights. At this session, status of trans people, issues they face, and approaches to improving access to sexual health services for trans people will be discussed. Chair: Maria Sundin, Member of Steering Committee, MSMGF, Sweden - Actual approaches to HIV and sexual health in trans people - Maria

community leadership in making PrEP available for all MSM and trans people in need. Chair: Gennady Roshchupkin, Community Health Systems Coordinator, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM). - PrEP in Europe: current state and way forward – Gus Cairns, Co-ordinator, PrEP in Europe, UK - Georgia experience of PrEP introduction - Irma Khonelidze, Deputy Director, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), Georgia - Ukraine experience of PrEP program development - Andrii Chernyshev, Head of Advocacy & External Communication Department, PO "ALLIANCE.GLOBAL", Ukraine; Dzmitry Filippau, Head, menZDRAV Foundation, Ukraine - ECOM's technical assistance in promotion of PrEP programs in EECA - Gennady Roshchupkin,	Chair: Yuri Yoursky, Human Rights and Legal Issues Officer, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM) - Overview of the regional legal environment assessment - Yuri Yoursky, Human Rights and Legal Issues Officer, ECOM - Stigma as a barrier to obtaining quality VCT services: monitoring outcomes from the Zaporizhzhia Region of Ukraine - Rostyslav Milevskyi, Director, Gender Z, Ukraine - Integration of LGBT activism and HIV movement – Zoya Matisova, Chairwoman of the Board, Russian Coalition of HIV Service Organizations and LGBT Communities, Russia - Increasing community visibility on a political agenda – Nino Bolkvadze, Legal Specialist, NGO "Equality Movement", Georgia	Sundin, Member of Steering Committee, MSMGF, Sweden - Situation within trans people in Ukraine – Igor Medvid, Coordinator, HPLGBT, Ukraine - Expansion of the rights and opportunities of trans people in Central Asia: a brief overview of the legal and socio-cultural situation - Victoriya Primak, Coordinator on community mobilization and strengthening, Transcoalition in post-Soviet space, Kazakhstan; Daniyar Orsekov, Executive Director, Public Association "Kyrgyz Indigo", Kyrgyzstan - Multidisciplinary approach in working with trans people – Larisa Danilova, Head of the Department of Endocrinology, Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, Belarus
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Community Health Systems Coordinator, ECOM.		
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16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00 Parallel sessions

Parallel session 4	Parallel session 5	Parallel session 6
<u>WORKSHOP:</u> <u>Discussion of a Joint Engagement Strategy</u> Regional Platform for Policy Reform (RPPR) on HIV among gay and other men who have sex with men (MSM) and trans people in CEECA is a new multi-stakeholder dialogue structure initiated by ECOM. The session participants will discuss a draft of the Joint Engagement Strategy developed by RPPR, that will aim at creating a joint vision between various players in EECA on needs, gaps, opportunities and priorities for realization of the right to health and other rights of MSM and trans people. Chair: Raminta Stuikyte, Consultant, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM), Lithuania	<u>Innovative approaches of community involvement into service delivery</u> Considering the new challenges and the continued growth of HIV epidemic, the LGBT community faces the challenge of developing innovative approaches to interventions for HIV prevention. The session will tell about new approaches to testing and working through the Internet. Chair: Evgeny Pisemskiy, Chair, NGO "Phoenix PLUS", Russia - WHO recommendations for community based testing - Antons Mozalevskis, Medical Officer, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe - Internet outreach and national campaign "Get Test" in 20 regions of	<u>Life Quality of LGBT</u> The session will present some of the approaches aimed at improving the quality of life of LGBT community people: working with internal homophobia, involving parents of LGBT community people, as well as addressing specific needs of both younger and older generations. Chair: Sviatoslav Sheremet, Acting President, Gay Forum of Ukraine - Internalized homophobia, presentation of study results - Oleksii Shestakovskiy, Consultant, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM), Ukraine - Engagement of parents in LGBT movement – Vera Khaliauka, LGBT Parents Self-Support Group, Belarus

	Ukraine - Andrew Radetskyi, Project Coordinator of National informative campaign "Get Test", PO "ALLIANCE.GLOBAL", Ukraine - Experience of self-testing in Russia - Evgeny Pisemskiy, Chair, NGO "Phoenix PLUS", Russia - Community based testing in Armenia - Artyom Movsesyan, Project Coordinator, Humanitarian NGO "New Generation", Armenia - Features of the Life4me+ application for HIV-positive LGBT people – Narek Karamian, SMM-manager, Life4me+, Russia	- Young LGBT and health – Dmytro Kalinin, PR-Manager, Gender Z, Ukraine - Work with third age MSM, Moldova experience – Alexei Marcicov, Information Policies Consultant, Information Center "GENDERDOC-M", Moldova
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18:30 – 19:30 Dinner

19:30-20:45	Film projection "Listen to Me: Untold Stories Beyond Hatred" "Listen to me" is a documentary about LGBT community in Armenia. 10 representatives of the LGBT Community agreed to come out of the closet and talk about their experiences in front of the camera. By telling about their childhood, their existence, their self-recognition, their relationships with their families and by making their voices heard, they are cleaning the bad name Society has smeared on the characters of the LGBT Community. The film was produced by Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO "Pink Armenia" with the support of US Embassy in Armenia.
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Day 2 – June 1, Friday

Topic of the day: Opportunities. Responses and Recommendations.

9:00 – 11:00 Plenary session 3	<u>Governments in response to HIV epidemic among MSM and trans people</u> Representatives of government agencies from different countries of the EECA region will talk about the governmental sector's role and experience in setting up and implementing national HIV programs and services tailored to the needs of MSM and trans people. <u>Welcome speech</u> - Amiran Gamkrelidze, Director General, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), Georgia Chair: Naira Sargsyan, EECA Regional Advisor, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) • Macedonia: Funding services for MSM through social contracting mechanism – Milena Stevanovic, National HIV Coordinator; Medical Director, University Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile Conditions, Skopje, Macedonia • Kazakhstan: Reaching MSM through outreach workers employed by local AIDS Centers – Irina Petrenko, Deputy General Director, Republican AIDS Centre on prevention and fight with AIDS of the Ministry of Health, Kazakhstan • Kyrgyzstan: The role of the partnership between community representatives and health professionals in development of quality services - Ulan Kadyrbekov, Director, Republican Centre "AIDS" under the Ministry of Health of Kyrgyzstan • Ukraine: Experience of introducing national program through governmental structures - Ihor Kuzin, Deputy General Director, State Institution "Public Health Centre of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine" <i>Questions and answers. Discussion</i>
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11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Parallel sessions

Parallel session 7	Parallel session 8	Parallel session 9
<u>Standardization of sexual health services for MSM and trans people</u> Standardization plays a significant role in any work on quality, sustainability or coverage of services. The existence of evidence-based standards of services makes advocacy for services accessibility more effective. During the session, participants will learn about existing international recommendations on the comprehensive packages and quality of services for MSM and trans people and discuss the development of national standards. Chair: Kirill Sabir, Head, "FtM-Phoenix" Group, Russia – MSMIT presentation - Gennady Roshchupkin, Community Health Systems Coordinator, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM); Natalia Zakareishvili, Program analyst/HIV,	<u>Human rights in the HIV response</u> Ongoing human rights violations' documenting by ECOM partner organizations concludes that the right to health of gay men, other MSM and trans people is widely violated by public health institutions. The session will examine recommendations for decision-makers and for public organizations to improve the situation with access to right to health for gay men, other MSM and trans people. Chair: Yuri Yoursky, Human Rights and Legal Issues Officer, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM) - Presentation of study results on violation of human rights of MSM and trans people and presentation of legal protection tools - Yuri Yoursky, Human Rights and Legal Issues Officer, ECOM - Building a monitoring network by volunteers	<u>Community mobilization and cooperation</u> The session will discuss the importance of mobilization, community cooperation and cross-sectoral collaboration in the HIV response at the regional and local levels. The available examples will show the effectiveness of such cooperation. Chair: Oleg Eryomin, Chair of Steering Committee, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM), Belarus – Community mobilization in the region - Ganna Dovbakh, Executive Director, Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) - Community mobilization: Ukraine experience - Andrii Chernyshev, Head of Advocacy & External Communication Department, PO "ALLIANCE.GLOBAL", Ukraine

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Georgia - TRANSIT presentation. Kirill Sabir, Head, "FtM-Phoenix" Group, Russia - National standards of services for MSM - Daniyar Orsekov, Executive Director, Public Association "Kyrgyz Indigo", Kyrgyzstan; Adilet Alimkulov, Head of Advocacy & Partnership Department, Public Association "Kyrgyz Indigo", Kyrgyzstan - Elaboration of standards of services by involving community - Nino Tsereteli, Executive Director, Center for Information and Counseling on Reproductive Health – Tanadgoma, Georgia	– Adilet Alimkulov Head of Advocacy & Partnership Department, Public Association "Kyrgyz Indigo", Kyrgyzstan - Experience of human rights protection by community - Volodymyr Kosenko, Director, Human Rights Bureau "We'Re!", Ukraine - Efficient partnership as a key instrument for human rights promotion – Galina Krot, Legal Consultant, Republican Youth Public Association "Vstrecha", Belarus	- Community mobilization: Moldova experience - Veaceslav Mulear, "LGBT Health" Program Coordinator, Information Center "GENDERDOC-M", Moldova - ECUO activities in advocating for PLWH interests - Andy Agafonov, Coordinator of Programmes, East Europe & Central Asia Union of People Living with HIV (ECUO PLWHIV)
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13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

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14:00 – 16:00 Parallel sessions

Parallel session 10	Parallel session 11	Parallel session 12
<u>Sustainability and funding of services</u>	<u>Diversity of LGBT community issues</u>	<u>Workshop: Technical assistance opportunities for civil society through the</u>

Sustainable financing of services is among the main factors determining efficiency of the HIV response for MSM, trans people and other key populations. Due to the transition from the Global Fund to “self-reliance” inherent to a number of countries in EECA region, the role of governments in provision of HIV-services remains critical for the region. This session is going to cover the role of governments in provision of HIV-services, their cooperation with the key populations, and other questions in regard to funding. Chair: Ganna Dovbakh, Executive Director, Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) - Sustainability of services in the transition period, regional experience - Ganna Dovbakh, Executive Director, EHRA - Partnership of state and community in development of services - David Kakhaberi, Project Manager, NGO “Equality Movement”, Georgia - Role of the government in assuring sustainability	LGBT community is diverse, so are the problems it is facing. The session will examine issues of intersectionality with people who use drugs, practice chemsex, involved in sex work and LGBT migrants in the EECA region. Chair: Paata Sabelashvili, Advocacy Coordinator, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM) - Results of a study on Chemsex in Ukraine - Andrei Chernyshev, Head of Advocacy & External Communication Department, PO “ALLIANCE.GLOBAL”, Ukraine - Migration of MSM and trans people – Evgenii Sorokoumov, Deputy Director General, SSIPH Charity Foundation, LaSky Project, Russia - Sex work and MSM – Gligor Chanov, Advocacy Program Assistant, STAR-STAR, Macedonia - Sex work and trans people - Igor Medvid, Coordinator, HPLGBT, Ukraine	<u>Global Fund program “Communities, Rights and Gender”</u> During the workshop the participants will be able to learn more about the Global Fund’s Communities, Rights and Gender (CRG) Technical Assistance Program and the opportunities it provides to ensure the meaningful involvement of civil society and community representatives into the Global Fund related processes at national level. Chair: Ivan Varentsov, Advisor, Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA)
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of services – Ulan Kadyrbekov, Director, Republican Centre “AIDS” under the Ministry of Health of Kyrgyzstan - Improvement sustainability of services for MSM by involving city authorities: Cities project - Erika Tšerkašina, Program Officer, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM); Roman Dudnik, Executive Director, AFEW Kazakhstan; Vladyslav Ostreiko, Independent LGBT Activist, Ukraine; Lina Vrabii, Project Coordinator, Association “Youth for the Right to Live”, Moldova		
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16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 18:00 Plenary session 4	<u>Working together towards sustainable future</u> The session will give a collaborative look at the key highlights and lessons of the Consultation, and outline follow-up actions. The presentation of a Joint Engagement Strategy and Action Plan (JESAP) will show a joint multistakeholders’ vision on opportunities and priorities to counteract the HIV epidemic among gay men, other MSM and trans people in EECA. The panelists will be then asked to share their thoughts on the presented JESAP as well as give feedback on some key learnings from the Consultation discussions that can be translated into meaningful actions. Chair: Vitaly Djuma, Executive Director, Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM)
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	Presentation: regional Joint Engagement Strategy and Action Plan (JESAP) - Naira Sargsyan, EECA Regional Advisor, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Panelists: • Akaki Zoidze, Chairman of Health Care and Social Issues Committee, Parliament of Georgia • Ian McFarlane, Deputy Regional Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Eastern Europe and Central Asia • Irina Petrenko, Deputy General Director, Republican AIDS Centre on prevention and fight with AIDS of the Ministry of Health, Kazakhstan • Evgeny Pisemskiy, Chair, NGO "Phoenix PLUS", Russia
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18:30 – 19:30 Dinner