



ECOM

ECOM ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Eurasian Coalition
for Health, Rights,
Gender and Sexual
Diversity

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS – Acquired immune deficiency syndrome

ARV therapy – antiretroviral therapy

CCM – Country Coordinating Mechanism

CO – Community organization

CRG – “Community, Rights and Gender” special initiative

ECOM – ECOM – The Eurasian Coalition for Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual

Diversity EECA – Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Global Fund – Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

HIV – Human immunodeficiency virus

KP – Key population

LGBT(I) – Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (and intersex) people

MSM – Men who have sex with men

NGO – Non-governmental organization

OST – Opioid substitution therapy

PLH – People living with HIV

PrEP – Pre-exposure prophylaxis

PUID – People using injecting drugs

TPWG – Trans*People Working Group on HIV and Sexual Health in Eastern Europe
and Central Asia

SOGI – Sexual orientation and gender identity

STI – Sexually transmitted infections

WHO – World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

Dear Friends!

No one could have predicted that from March 2020 the whole world, and our coalition, would be in a state of force majeure, which has still yet to come to an end.

However, we have coped with the situation very well, not only by continuing our previous work, but also by beginning to develop new initiatives.

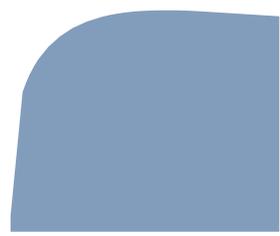
The COVID-19 pandemic has affected both our communities and our partners who represent and work with communities. Our rapid assessment of the impact of quarantine measures on LGBT organizations working in the field of HIV prevention in EECA showed that many organizations stopped offline work with clients, including HIV and STI testing, but transitioned to providing services remotely or online to continue to help our communities stay healthy.

Having restructured its work, ECOM continued to provide technical assistance to partner organizations in the region, develop activism, strengthen the knowledge and skills of partners in the HIV response, monitor human rights violations and submit reports to international bodies, and to advocate for the interests of gay men, other MSM and trans* people at the international level.

An important milestone in ECOM's work was the launch in September 2020 of a new three-year regional project "Trans* Map in EECA", which became the flagship project in our activities focused on trans* people.

The past year has shown the resilience of our communities and organizations. We are again convinced that, despite any difficulties, we will continue to implement our strategy together with you and develop advocacy, activism, and partnerships.

Vitaly Djuma
Executive Director



ECOM's Mission

ECOM brings together all stakeholders in Eastern Europe and Central Asia at an intercountry level to create an enabling environment in which all gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men and trans people have access to health services, including in relation to HIV infection, based on scientific evidence and respect for human rights.*

ECOM's STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2017-2021

1. Facilitate the development of activism, leadership and community mobilization in the field of health care.

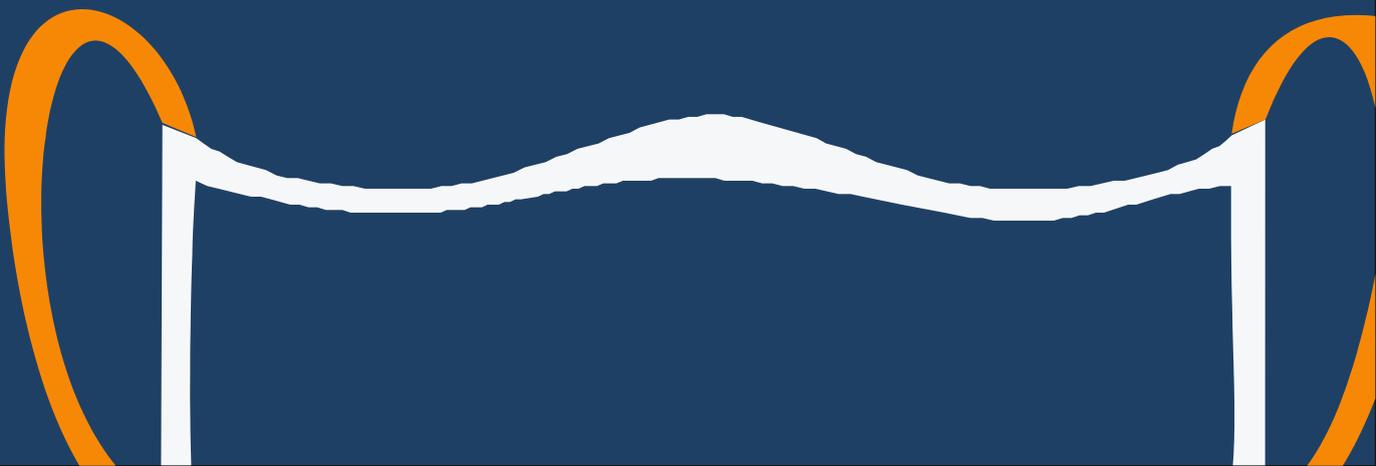
2. Ensure recognition of the agenda of the MSM and trans* communities at different levels of decision-making, and allocation of funding under health care and HIV programs.

3. Contribute to the formation of a legal and social environment conducive to the realization of the right to health.

4. Develop ECOM's capacity.

ECOM against COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic was one of the most influential factors of 2020, both for our communities and for the members and partners of the Coalition. Of course, ECOM could not stand on the sidelines. The organization actively carried out its work, reformatted its plans, and provided various forms of technical assistance to members and partners throughout the year.



Investigating the situation

ECOM has carried out several studies in order to develop an adequate and effective response to the situation, and to determine what has changed, what the needs of communities are, and which methods and tools are most effective.

The study "COVID-19 Situation Assessment: Effect of quarantine measures on LGBT community NGOs working in the field of HIV prevention" was carried out.

Study on online and remote services for vulnerable groups in the EECA region. Many organizations continued to work and look for ways to adapt to the new working conditions resulting from measures taken to combat COVID-19. One of the most important areas for adapting the work of NGOs was the provision of a number of services online or remotely, including support services, training, and the delivery of prevention materials and drugs for OST and/or ARV therapy to the homes of clients.

The first stage of the study, mapping, was carried out in order to review the best practices and advocate for the promotion of digital and remote services in national packages.

The first [report of the initiative group ChemBrothers \(Ukraine\) was translated, in which the members of the group discuss their activities during the COVID-19 quarantine.](#)

Psychological assistance

Activists were most susceptible to burnout during the quarantine period: when helping community members, they themselves needed help as well.

To address burnout, ECOM organized psychological support, during which psychological consultations were organized for ECOM members and the Regional Group of Trans* People.

A [psychological marathon was held to prevent the professional burnout of activists](#). This is an effective tool for individual work, which consists of 6 sessions conducted individually over three weeks.

Digital security and online learning

Online communication, the active use of new services, and the translation of the majority of activities and services to an online format require new knowledge and skills in digital security issues. In connection with this, ECOM organized a series of educational webinars and workshops on digital security issues.

Series of webinars:
["Minimalizing digital risks for NGOs"](#)
["Fundamentals of digital security"](#)
["Protection of mobile devices for activists in the EECA region"](#)

2 online workshops were held on the specifics of conducting online trainings and other training events.

A [special section dedicated to COVID-19](#) was developed on ECOM's website, where you can find the latest news about COVID-19 and HIV, as well as information that will help maintain your health.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN



**Objective 1.
Facilitate the
development
of activism,
leadership and
community
mobilization in
the field of
health care**

MEDIA CAMPAIGN

“CHASE STIGMA, NOT PEOPLE!”

ECOM continues to conduct the media campaign “Chase Stigma, Not People!”, which is part of the regional advocacy campaign “Chase the Virus, Not People!”.

In 2020, the campaign took place in three stages, and its activities were timed to coincide with World AIDS Day, Transgender Day of Visibility, and the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

On the International Day of Transgender Visibility, ECOM published [four video clips, as well as a long read with life stories of community representatives.](#)

Each story tells us that this day is an occasion to remember what the trans* community can be proud of.

On the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia, 17 May, we decided to show the unity of our coalition and declare that “[We are often faced with homophobia and transphobia, but love and support for each other surround us all the time](#)”. It was under this slogan that we published materials on social media. ECOM members expressed their support for one another and declared that there is strength in unity. Only mutual support and love will help us in our daily life and work!

An informational campaign was carried out as part of the events dedicated to December 1, World AIDS day. The main topics of the campaign in 2020 were community protection issues and the impact of COVID-19 on HIV prevention and services.

From November 24 to December 7, 2020, a regional informational campaign was carried out in 6 countries of the EECA region (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Ukraine, and Estonia) with the participation of 10 organizations and initiative groups. The organizations participating in the campaign held discussion meetings, community consultation events, and a photo exhibition, and also prepared materials and videos or told the stories of people and community representatives.



A photo exhibition, "SABOTAGE Project" was held through the Odessa Regional Center for Public Health and organized by the organization "Partner Ukraine".

The photo exhibition presented a "reflection" of representatives of the LGBT+ community, who faced new challenges and crises during the quarantine. More details about the exhibition can be found on Facebook fb.com/partnerodessa



The organization "Coming Out" (Russia) held a "Health Marathon" which included [webinars on the topics of safety and the protection of one's health from STIs, and life with HIV. A set of flashcards was also released with brief information on STIs and HIV.](#)

In Tashkent and Samarkand (Uzbekistan), partners carried out trainings, including on the psychological and legal aspects of social assistance.

Partners in Tajikistan prepared an informational video clip "Myths about HIV", and also organized a performance on the topic of discrimination against people living with HIV.

The informational portal "Parni PLUS" (Russia) prepared a series of informational articles on the topics of the prevention of the spread of HIV, coronavirus, safe sex, etc.

"100% Life. Kiev Region" carried out the campaign "All 100", as part of which informational posters were created and published with the goal of motivating gay men and other men who have sex with men and trans* people to monitor their health. "100% Life" also developed informational and educational materials on "HIV services for MSM under quarantine restrictions".



The community organization "EHPV" (Estonia) conducted a national informational campaign timed to coincide with December 1. Events were held in the central squares of Tallinn, Jõhvi, and Narva with candles, red ribbons, and the distribution of condoms and lubricants to inhabitants. All activities were carried out taking into account COVID-19 safety and social distancing measures.

Representatives of the center "Action" (Russia) held an online event dedicated to creating and maintaining a positive lifestyle for people living with HIV in the LGBT community.

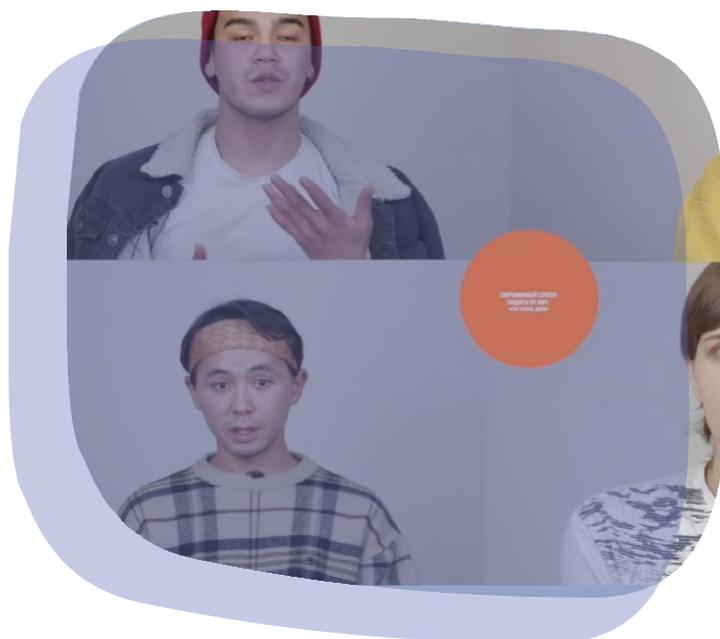
The organization "Cohort" (Ukraine) organized consultations with doctors, specialists, psychologists, and counselors on relevant issues for trans* people.

The organization "Kyrgyz Indigo" (Kyrgyzstan) published [an informational video clip about PrEP](#).

Online marathon held on 1 December 2020

As part of the campaign, [an online marathon](#) was held on 1 December during which the staff of ECOM's Secretariat contacted the participants of the regional campaign.

During 10-15-minute conversations, the participants talked about events held to coincide with World AIDS Day, as well as the overall situation related to HIV among MSM and trans* people in their cities and countries. The marathon was broadcast live on YouTube.



REGIONAL WORKING GROUP OF TRANS* PEOPLE ON HIV AND SEXUAL HEALTH IN EECA



Равные права – равные возможности

ЗАЯВЛЕНИЕ ПО СЛУЧАЮ МЕЖДУНАРОДНОГО ДНЯ БОРЬБЫ ЗА ПРАВА ЖЕНЩИН

ЕКОМ - Евразийская коалиция по здоровью, правам, гендерному и сексуальному многообразию [1], Евразийская женская сеть по СПИДу – ЕЖСС [2] и Рабочая группа транс* людей по вопросам ВИЧ и сексуального здоровья в ВЕЦА [3] присоединяются к Международному Дню борьбы за права женщин.

Для наших организаций женщины - это многообразие женских опытов, идентичностей и социализаций, находящихся на пересечении расы, класса, возраста, сексуальной ориентации, гендерной идентичности и иных факторов, которые отображают самовосприятие и являются правом каждой на самоидентификацию.

В странах региона Восточной Европы и Центральной Азии (ВЕЦА) по причине маргинализации, криминализации, стигматизации и дискриминации страдают женщины, живущие с ВИЧ, женщины, употребляющие наркотики, транс* женщины, секс-работницы, гомосексуальные и бисексуальные женщины. Насилие является ключевым фактором риска инфицирования ВИЧ для многих женщин из ключевых групп. Криминализация влечет за собой дискриминацию и закрепляет восприятие того, что криминализованные женщины могут быть лишены и других прав, включая право на здоровье, свободу от насилия и унижительного обращения, право на правосудие.

Насилие

52% женщин, живущих с ВИЧ, в ВЕЦА подверглись насилию после того, как им поставили диагноз ВИЧ. 71% женщин, которые столкнулись с физическим насилием, не обращались за помощью. Основными причинами отказа от помощи были страх публичности, общественное осуждение и неверие к тому, что помощь будет оказана [4].

Инициаторами «корректирующего изнасилования» лесбиянок и бисексуалок, а порой и его исполнителями, в основном выступают члены их семьи, родственники мужского пола или их знакомые. Такие вопиющие по своей жестокости преступления остаются безнаказанными [5].

Поскольку их профессия запрещена законом, секс-работницы особенно уязвимы к насилию, в том числе со стороны сотрудников правоохранительных органов. Внезаконный статус секс-работниц создает серьезные правовые барьеры для поиска защиты и правосудия в правоохранительных органах, даже в случаях очевидного насилия со стороны клиента. Широко распространены акты насилия с целью вымогательства взятки, шантажа, жестокого обращения, пыток и унижения секс-работниц.

Криминализация

Согласно данным Государственной Судебной Администрации, в 2015-2018 годах только женщины осуждались по статье 130 Уголовного Кодекса Украины «Заражение вирусом иммунодефицита человека либо иной неизлечимой инфекционной болезнью».

Данные официальной судебной и тюремной статистики в России показывают, что женщины, употребляющие наркотики, криминализованы в гораздо большей степени, чем женщины из других групп населения, а также по сравнению с мужчинами, употребляющими наркотики, они сталкиваются с более серьезными обвинениями, что приводит к гораздо более жестким приговорам [6].

Право на здоровье. Сексуальные, репродуктивные и родительские права

В Казахстане, процент женщин, живущих с ВИЧ, которых медицинские работники принуждали к прерыванию беременности (аборту), составляет 24,2%, а 34% женщин, живущих с ВИЧ, никогда не получали консультацию по репродуктивным возможностям [7].

Trans*People Working Group on HIV and Sexual Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (TPWG) continued its work.

Together with the Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS, ECOM and the TPWG released a [statement](#), dedicated to 8 March, International Women's Day.

For the International Transgender Day of Visibility on 31 March, some material was developed about the life of trans* people in our region.

[Mapping of trans* services](#) was carried out, the results of which are presented on ECOM's website.

Activists [held a rally](#) for the of Remembrance Transgender Day on 20 November.

The RGT joined the implementation of the "Trans* Map in EECA" project.



ОБЗОР ИССЛЕДОВАНИЙ:
**РИСКИ ИНФИЦИРОВАНИЯ
ВИЧ И ИППП СРЕДИ
ТРАНС* МУЖЧИН
И НЕБИНАРНЫХ ПЕРСОН**

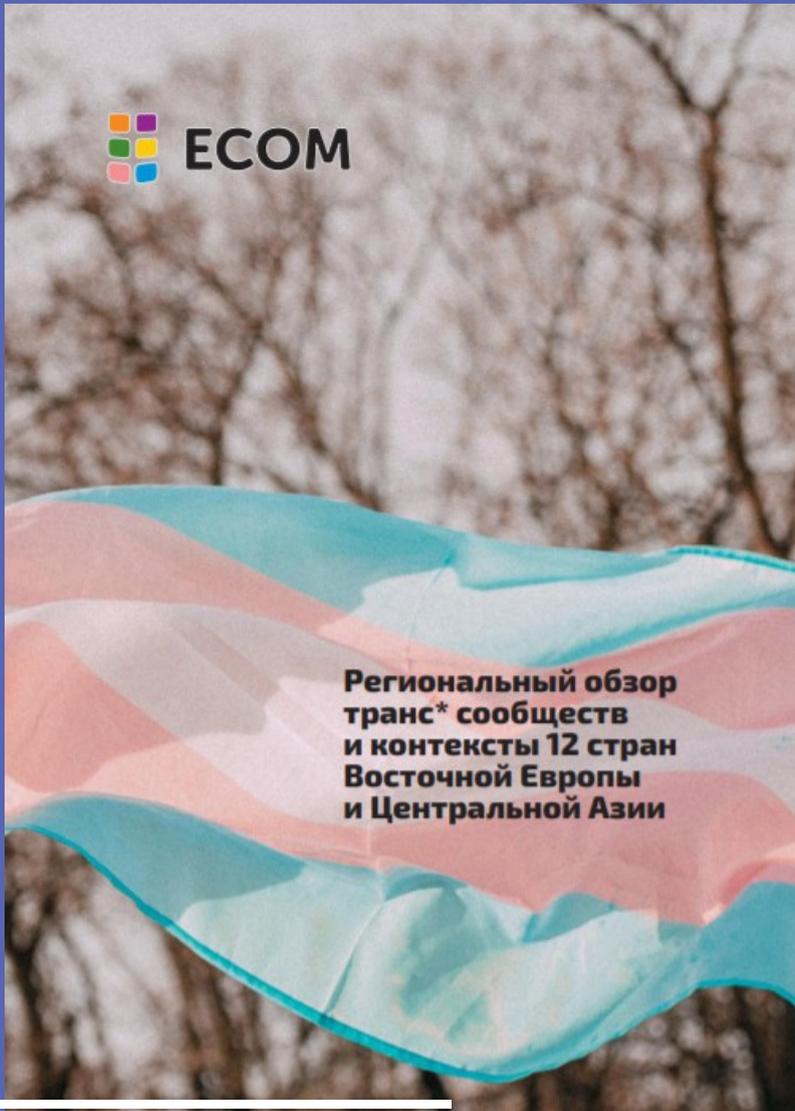
[Link to the document](#)

An analysis of studies and reviews on trans* men and non-binary persons in the context of their risks of HIV infection was released.

This document is the first attempt to systematize information about trans* men and non-binary people in the context of HIV prevention and treatment in EECA.

Some conclusions:

- The stigmatization of the transgender issue makes groups of trans* men and non-binary people doubly invisible. The old policy towards transgender people, by which only transgender women were recognized as a risk group, also contributes to this.
- The lack of information about sexuality, sexual practices, and the risky sexual behavior of transgender people contributes to the false perception that transgender men and non-binary people are outside the risk zone and are not a target group for HIV prevention and treatment.
- Virtually no new research exists or is initiated in relation to subgroups of trans* men and non-binary persons.



The largest unique study on the situation of trans* people in the region was published. This analysis covers various aspects of life of trans* people in 12 countries of the EECA region.

Summary of the study on the situation of trans* people:

- The situation of trans* people in various countries of EECA has common features, including: a lack of data, economic vulnerability and poverty, imperfections in or a lack of legislative instruments for legal transition, social stigma, and harassment by the staff of law enforcement bodies and civil society.
- The EECA trans* agenda currently focuses on basic needs, including the ability to change gender markers in identity documents, safety, food and housing, and responding to urgent requests of communities. There are practically no ideas from the global level on the trans* agenda of the region, for example, that trans* slogans should be based on the sustainable development goals.

The dehumanization of trans* people and the use of manipulative ideas about "traditional family values" and exaggerated depictions of "right" men and women reinforce the institutionalization of transphobia.

- Trans* people are the most vulnerable community within LGBT communities. This is evidenced not only by the recorded number of cases of violence and violations of the rights of trans* people, but also by the sophistication or aggressiveness of attacks, and the severity or fatality of injuries that the perpetrators of crimes seek to inflict on trans* people.

PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS OF ECOM

During the epidemic, technical assistance became one of ECOM's most in-demand activities in 2020. Due to travel restrictions both within and between countries, all technical assistance was provided online:

- An [analysis](#) of the so-called "law on gay propaganda" in Russia was published, including the practice of its application at the federal district level;
- An online training was held for partners from Uzbekistan on the decriminalization of homosexuality in the country. An initiative group of trans* people in the Russian Federation received technical assistance to coordinate work to counter a new legislative initiative aimed at infringing on the rights and freedoms of communities;
- [Assistance was provided to form a national Russian Trans* Forum](#), which represents the interests of transgender people in dialogue with the CCM and other forums during the preparation of Russia's new country proposal to the Global Fund;
- Support was provided for the preparation and publication of the EMIS report, the European Men-Who-Have-Sex-With-Men (MSM) Internet Survey on Russia;
- Strategic planning was carried out for the informational portal "Parni+" (Russia).

CRG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

ECOM is a provider of the technical assistance program "Communities, Rights and Gender" (CRG) and provides support to civil society and community organizations to enhance their participation in Global Fund processes.

At the request of the Kazakh Association of PLH in February 2020, ECOM provided technical assistance to key populations in Kazakhstan to ensure their meaningful involvement in the national dialogue. The result of the work was a report on the priorities and community needs forwarded to the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) for consideration, and included in the country application to the Global Fund.

Key populations in Belarus received similar technical assistance. Despite the difficulties, the national dialogue on HIV and TB was organized with the active participation of all communities and achieved success and mutual understanding. One of the most significant results was that in the new grant from the Global Fund, sub-recipients (NGOs directly implementing activities) will be selected based on an open competition, which will ensure the transparency of the selection processes.

At the end of 2020, the Global Fund [re-evaluated the substantial capacity of our organization](#) by including ECOM in the list of pre-qualified providers of technical assistance for CRG during the next period.

OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Support for the Ukrainian National LGBT Conference

For the first time, the XIII National LGBT Conference of Ukraine (supported by ECOM for the fifth time in a row) was held online under the motto "Time of Restrictions. Age of Opportunities". The conference, in which 58 speakers participated with over 30 thematic presentations, was broadcast live on 5-7 November.

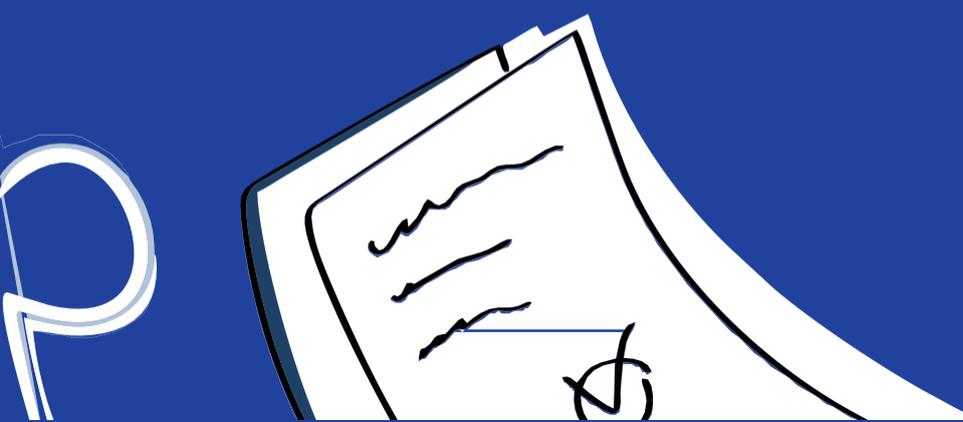
Analysis of the implementation of the MSMIT

The general tool for analyzing the implementation of the MSMIT includes two stages: an analysis of the cascade of HIV services for MSM and an analysis of the implementation of the MSMIT itself. In 2020, we launched the first phase.

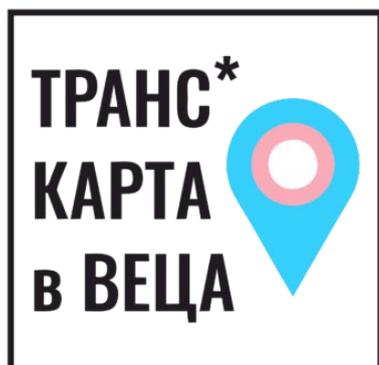
Promotion of PrEP in the EECA region

ECOM continues work to promote pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV for MSM in EECA countries. Four webinars were held in 2020 addressing issues such as [pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV \(PrEP\) for people who use drugs, myths, prejudices and PrEP, client motivation for starting PrEP, and what is PrEP for MSM, and with what should you take it?](#)

Objective 2. Ensure recognition of the agenda of the MSM and trans* community at different levels of decision-making, and the allocation of funding under health care and HIV programs



“TRANS* MAP IN EECA” PROJECT



“Creating our own map of achievements and activism”.

ECOM and partner organizations in 6 cities of 5 countries of the region developed the project “Trans* Map in EECA”, which is supported by the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

The project began on 1 September 2020 and will continue until 31 August 2023.

The goal of the project is to expand and strengthen HIV services for trans* people in EECA through community mobilization and creating an enabling environment.

The project is being implemented in three interrelated and complementary areas:

- › Mobilization and capacity building of trans* communities
- › Developing strategic information on HIV with trans* people
- › Trans* participation in national HIV programs and decision-making

Thanks to the impact of the project, we see trans* people increasing their capacity and being able to benefit from comprehensive trans*-competent services, where HIV response measures meet the needs of trans* people with the support of sensitized decision-makers and trained experts.

During the four months of project implementation in 2020, six organizations underwent self-assessments of organizational capacity and received recommendations on development, as a call to action. Based on the assessments, technical assistance will be provided, including the development of advocacy and fundraising strategies. Staff in five project countries show significant growth in project management. For many of them, this is the first experience managing a project and people.

As part of the project, cooperation was established with international organizations working with communities (GATE, IRGT, Alliance for Public Health). A brief guide to using the [TRANSIT](#) was translated into Russian.

PROMOTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MSMIT AND TRANSIT

Training participant, 22 years old, trans man

I now believe that I can change something. Before, I didn't believe and didn't understand that I could bring about change, I didn't believe at all that something could be done.

Now, I feel strong and want to change things for the better.

With the support of the UNFPA regional office, 2 trainings for trainers on the TRANSIT were held in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. 3 participants from Russia, staff of the "Trans* Map in EECA" project, were invited to the training in Ukraine.

The training in Ukraine was held in partnership with the NGO "Cohort". The training in Kyrgyzstan was organized jointly with the local partner, PO "Kyrgyz Indigo".

The trainings not only provided participants with knowledge and understanding of the international tool, the TRANSIT, but also helped them to develop skills for conducting trainings for the community, doctors, and officials.

Support for MSM community consultations as part of the national dialogue in Russia

For the first time in recent years, Russia was recommended to submit a country application to the Global Fund. In order to prepare the application, overviews of the epidemiological situation and the HIV services-related needs of MSM and trans* people in Russia were developed with the support of ECOM. During the national dialogue, the communities developed their proposals, which were passed on to the group preparing the national application.

Introducing trans* people to Global Fund procedures

With the support of the Eurasian Regional Platform, 7 workshops were held in 6 countries of the region allowing trans* people to familiarize themselves with Global Fund procedures. During the workshops, representatives of the trans* community of the region learned in more detail how they can participate in and influence national processes, prevention, and the formation of packages of services.

Grant competition for building broad coalitions of key populations for budget advocacy

Following a training on building broad coalitions for budget advocacy held in December 2019 by the Eurasian Regional Consortium, a closed small grants competition was announced in early 2020 for the training participants. The goal of this was to build new partnerships and establish effective cooperation with new allies to advocate for the sustainability of services for key populations. ECOM managed the grant competition in 2020. The competition committee supported 6 applications from organizations.



During the short period of implementation of the small grants, the organizations achieved great success:

As a result of the advocacy efforts of the grantors, in Belarus, representatives of the Council of Communities are included in the working group on the development of the sub-program "Prevention of HIV Infection", which is part of the state program "People's Health and Demographic Security for 2021-2025".

Thanks to the advocacy of a consortium of community organizations led by the public foundation "Believe in Yourself!" (Kyrgyzstan), a line was added to the budget of the city program for socio-economic development of Kara-Balta on support for vulnerable segments of the population totaling 400,000 som, and representatives of vulnerable groups were included in the list of those targeted for state material assistance during the quarantine.



Representatives of the charitable organization "Positive Women. Cherkassy" (Ukraine) developed a draft regional social program for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men. The program was twice submitted for approval by the regional council deputies, but was never adopted. The main reason for this is fear of the use of the word "gender" in the program.

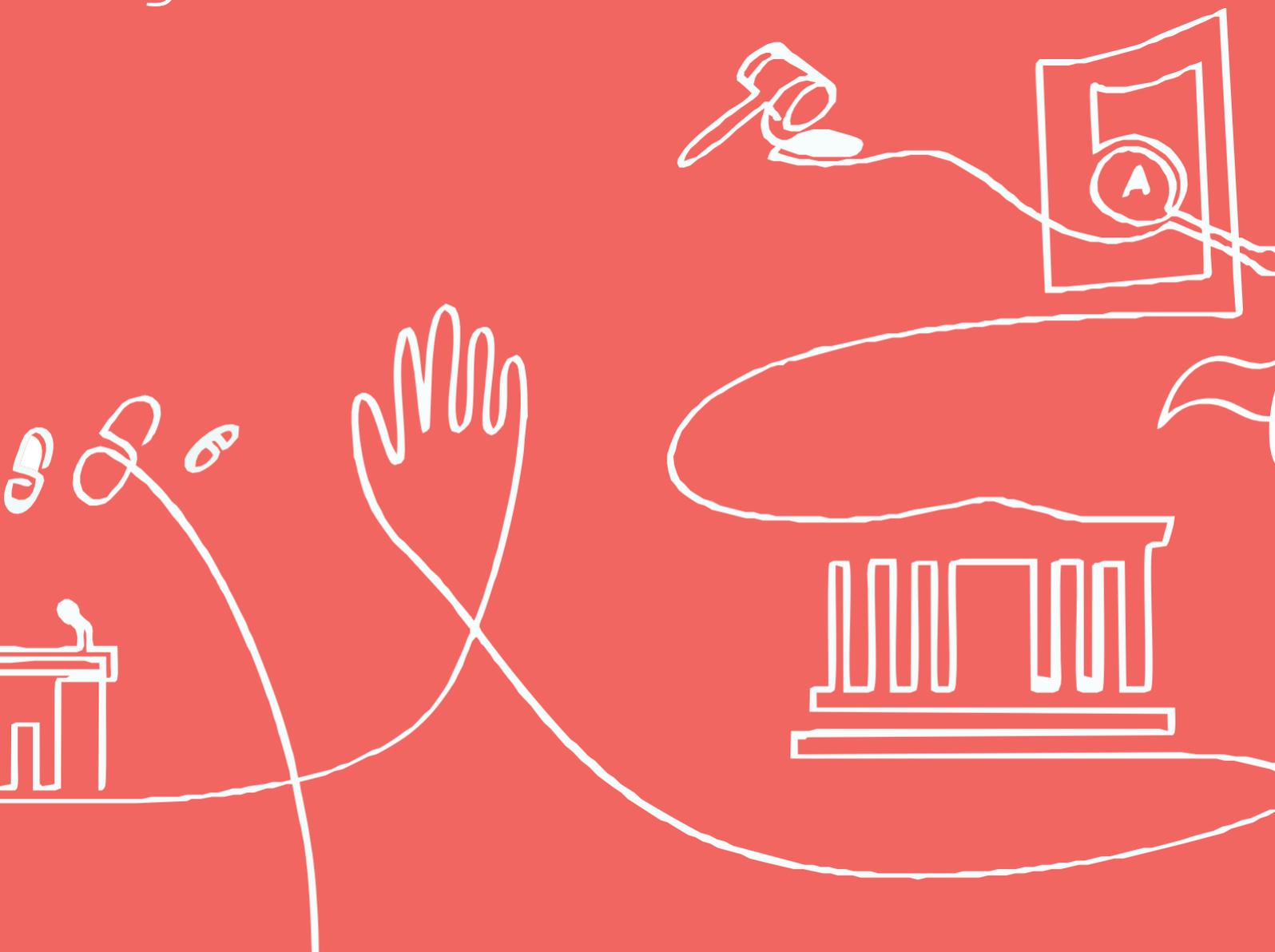
The youth public movement "Partner" (Odessa, Ukraine) developed a one-day training module on sensitizing medical staff and presented it at a meeting of the Intersectoral Working Group of the Odessa Coordinating Council on HIV/AIDS. Based on the results of the discussion, funding for these trainings was included in the Action Plan on implementing the state strategy in the field of HIV, tuberculosis and viral hepatitis prevention.

The Humanitarian NGO "New Generation" (Armenia) conducted joint trainings on budget advocacy for 4 key populations: MSM, trans* people, people using injecting drugs, and HIV+ women. As a result of the training, general priorities and a community action plan on budget advocacy were developed.

The Charitable Foundation "Wave" (Kiev, Ukraine) conducted a needs assessment survey among vulnerable groups in relation to HIV prevention services provided in Ukraine through state funding, including social orders. Based on the study and focus groups, experts developed documents for a minimum and expanded package of services.

Objective 3.

Contribute to the formation of a legal and social environment for the realization of the right to health



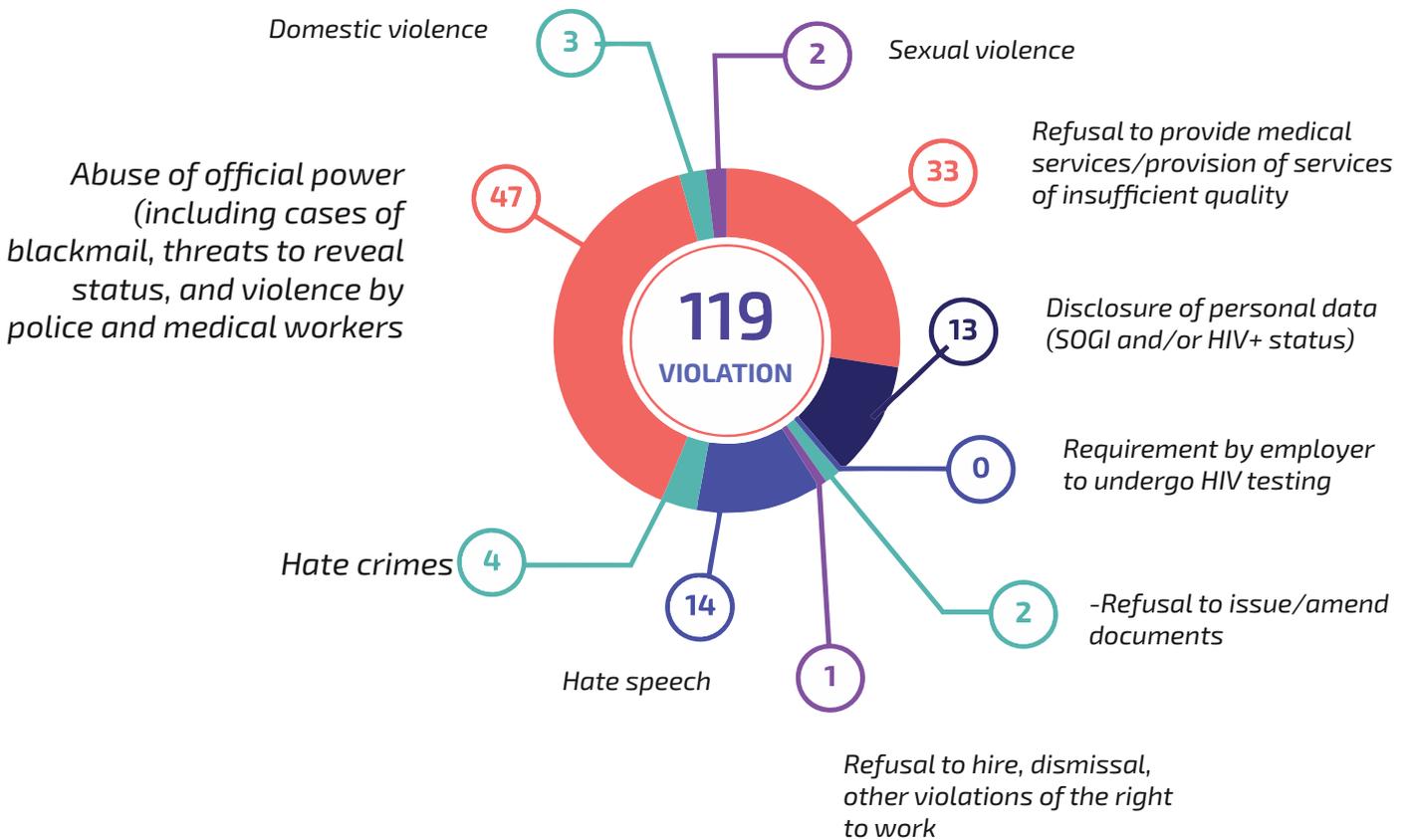
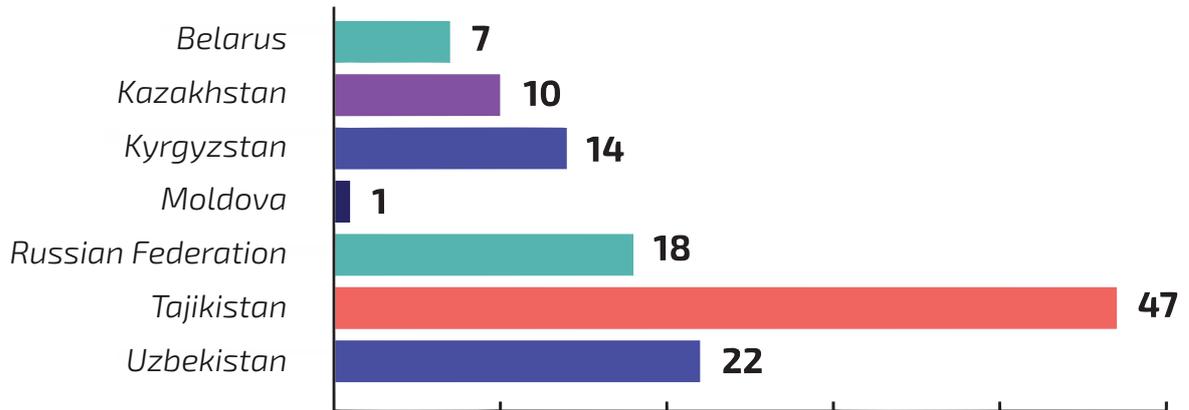
MONITORING AND DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND THE QUALITY OF PROVIDED SERVICES, IMPLEMENTING THE RESULTS OF MONITORING

Monitoring and documenting human rights violations and the quality of provided services, implementing the results of monitoring

ECOM, together with national partners, documented 119 human rights violations against gay men, other MSM, and trans* people (including those living with HIV) in 2020.

As evidenced by the data of the analysis, the nature of violations has changed. In 2020, the "leaders" were the categories of abuse of official power (mainly, but not only, by law enforcement agencies, such as blackmail, extortion, and psychological and physical abuse), as well as the refusal to provide services or the provision of services of insufficient quality. At the same time, there were no recorded cases of employers requiring HIV testing. However, new categories of violations were added, such as "sexual violence" (including by law enforcement officials) and "refusal to issue/amend documents".

In most of the documented cases, all perpetrators share one common characteristic: impunity. Of the 119 violations documented in 2020, there is information on complaints filed in only 12 cases (primarily against the actions of medical workers, 1 complaint to the prosecutor's office against the actions of the police, and 3 unsuccessful attempts to file a complaint).



Data analysis and response system development: advocacy for access to services, and reporting to national and international human rights treaty bodies

In 2020, an analysis of national legislation related to SOGI and HIV was carried out in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan.



[See document](#)



[See document](#)



[See document](#)

Assessment of the needs of gay men carried out in Uzbekistan

The results of the assessment showed that the country continues to be a hostile environment to all forms of sexuality outside of heterosexual relationships. Such an atmosphere is supported by the existence of criminal prosecution for voluntary homosexual relations between adult men, as well as by the extralegal violence against LGBT people committed by police officers and criminals who take advantage of the vulnerable position of their potential victims.

Official reports ignore MSM, and the weak development of civil society and the virtual absence of international non-profit organizations in the country does not allow for full-fledged work with this key population.

ECOM created conditions for preparing reports on violations and improving the advocacy response mechanism based on existing best practices

14 meetings were held with representatives of the LGBT community in Almaty, Osh, Saint Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Chisinau, and Novosibirsk at which information was provided about human rights, the importance of reporting violations, and possible ways to respond to violations at the national level.

A series of open online human rights webinars were held for communities in the EECA region:

20 August – "[HIV and LGBT Rights: Regional Review of National Legislation in EECA](#)"

15 September – online discussion "[Attitudes of medical staff, law enforcement agencies, and government officials towards LGBT people in EECA countries](#)"

8 October – [Online workshop on monitoring LGBTQ human rights violations in EECA](#)

28 October – "[Effective interaction with UN treaty bodies on SOGI and HIV](#)"

Alternative reports to international human rights organizations and monitoring the implementation of recommendations by national authorities

<i>International organization to which report was submitted</i>	<i>Topic of report</i>	<i>Prepared jointly with</i>	<i>Results</i>
UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women	Report on violations of the right to health of trans* women in Moldova	NGO "GENDERDOC-M" (Moldova)	The report was presented in Geneva, and, as a result of successful advocacy, final recommendations were received from the Committee.
UN Human Rights Committee	Report on violations of the rights of gay men and trans* people in Uzbekistan		Thanks to the presentation of the report together with ILGA World in Geneva, final recommendations regarding SOGI in Uzbekistan were received.
UN Human Rights Committee	Report on violations of the right to health of gay men and trans* people in Armenia	NGO "New Generation" (Armenia)	A list of issues addressed to the state was developed , which included the topic of SOGI.
UN Human Rights Committee	Report on violations of the right to health of gay men and trans* people in the Russian Federation and list of issues	NGO "Coming Out", NGO "Phoenix Plus", and an anonymous trans* group from Siberia	Questions on SOGI addressed to the state
UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women	Report on violations of the right to health of trans* women in the Russian Federation and list of issues	NGO "Coming Out"	The report was presented to the committee at its online briefing. After receiving questions about SOGI, a report was drafted on violations of the right to health of trans* women in the Russian Federation
UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women	Report on violations of the right to health of trans* women in Kyrgyzstan	"Kyrgyz Indigo" and "Labrys"	Final recommendations on SOGI received
UN Human Rights Committee	Report with a list of issues on violations of the right to health of LGBT people in Kyrgyzstan for consideration		Questions on SOGI addressed to the state
UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women	Report on violations of the right to health of trans* women in Uzbekistan		Questions on SOGI addressed to the state
UN Human Rights Committee	Report on violations of the right to health of LGBT people in Georgia with list of issues	NGO "Equality Movement"	Questions on SOGI addressed to the state
UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Report on violations of the right to health of trans* people in Tajikistan	Initiative group of trans* people from Tajikistan	Questions on SOGI addressed to the state
UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Report on violations of the right to health of gay men and trans* people in Azerbaijan	Organization "NAFAS"	Final recommendations on SOGI received
Universal Periodic Review (UPR)	Report on violations of the rights of LGBT people in Belarus		Report was presented at the preliminary session of the UN Human Rights Council meeting
Universal Periodic Review (UPR)	Report on violations of the rights of gay men and trans* people in Uzbekistan for mid-term reporting		

Workshops on the relationship between international and national human rights mechanisms for the protection and promotion of the right to health and to combat discrimination against gay men and trans* people

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the previously planned regional workshop was reformatted into a series of national workshops.

The workshops covered topics such as:

- Human rights with a special emphasis on LGBT people;
- Stigma and discrimination based on SOGI;
- Monitoring and documenting SOGI-based rights violations;
- Follow-up advocacy at the national and international levels.

Workshops were held in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, and Russia:



Workshop in Saint Petersburg, Russia

5-6 December 2020 in Chisinau for 13 community members in Moldova; in cooperation with the NGO "GENDERDOC-M".

12-13 December 2020 in Saint Petersburg for 13 members of the community from Kaliningrad, Saint Petersburg, and Novosibirsk; jointly with the NGO "Coming Out" (Russia).

12-13 December 2020 in Osh for 18 community members from Kyrgyzstan; in cooperation with the NGO "Kyrgyz Indigo".

18-19 December 2020 in Almaty for 10 community participants. In addition, 15 people were able to join virtually using videoconferencing.



Workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan

Objective 4.

*Develop ECOM's
capacity*



Map showing the countries in which
ECOM's members are located



New ECOM Members

In 2019, ECOM welcomed 9 new members from 7 countries.

Armenia

NGO "Fearless"

Belarus

Angelica Volkonskaya

Bulgaria

GLAS Foundation

Kazakhstan

Berik Shashtarygin

Uzbekistan

IG Phoenix

Ukraine

"Consulting Center" "Bastion"
"Cohort"

Charitable Organization
Charitable Society "All-Ukrainian Network
of People Living with HIV", city of Kryvyi Rih

The individual membership of Nikos
Marmalidi was restored.



[Full list of ECOM members](#)

REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE



In 2020, the Steering Committee held 6 meetings.

The main change was that Daniyar Orsekov left the SC due to the fact that he began work at ECOM's Secretariat as an Advocacy Coordinator.

In accordance with the SC regulations, by-elections were announced and held in accordance with all ECOM procedures.

Adapting to the new conditions, the entire election process took place online, including the first discussion forum with all candidates.

According to the results of voting by ECOM members, Adilet Alimkulov was elected to the Steering Committee.



Financial Indicators in 2020

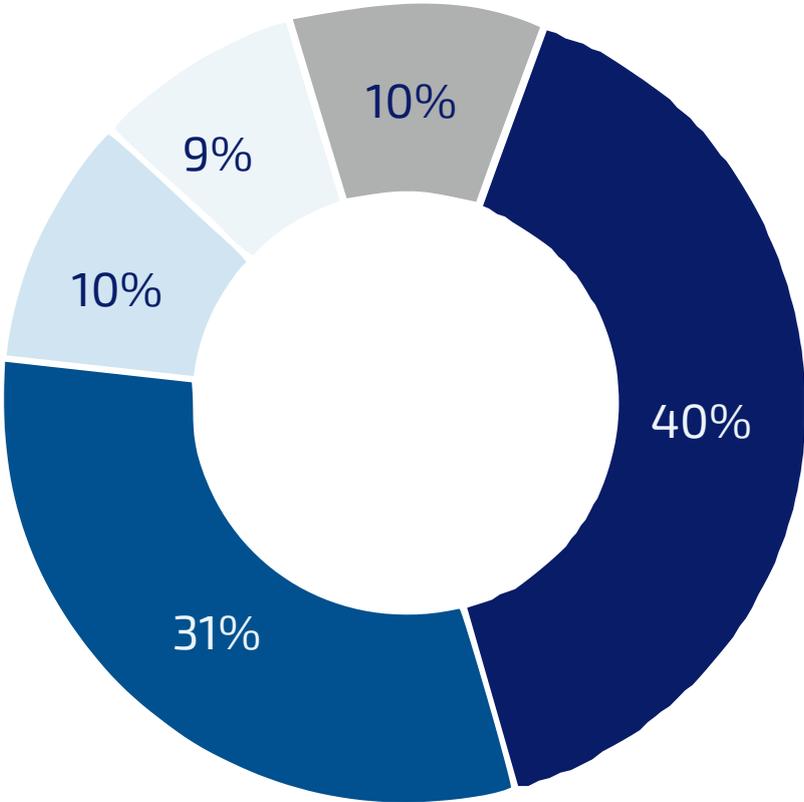
Donor / Project	Funds used, Euros
Eurasian Harm Reduction Association / Robert Carr Fund <i>Eurasian Regional Consortium*</i>	179 882
Robert Carr Fund <i>Sustainable Health Advocacy with Gay Men**</i>	110 368
Global Fund <i>"Right to Health"</i>	95 636
Global Fund <i>Sustainability of Services for Key Populations in the Region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia***</i>	78 709
Elton John AIDS Foundation <i>Trans* Map in EECA</i>	47 402
UN Agencies <i>Various projects</i>	44 419
Global Fund <i>Meaningful Participation and Building Capacity of Key and Vulnerable Populations in GF Processes**</i>	27 672
ViiV Healthcare <i>PrePare EECA</i>	17 057
Global Fund (TA for the provision of services)	24 319
OSF (Discussion on decriminalizing homosexuality through international protection and media outreach)	8 264
WEEPI (Immigrants in Estonia: Risk assessment for involving key populations in HIV and viral hepatitis services)	5 456
EP (EECA Platform)	6 593
M-1 (ECOM Unrestricted)	4 768
AFEW (ChemSex Forum)	2 266
Alliance for Public Health ("Eliminating the AIDS and TB epidemic in cities of Eastern Europe and Central Asia")	431
RCM	6
Total	653 249

* - funded through Eurasian Harm Reduction Association

** - funded through MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights

*** - funded through "All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS" (CO 100% Life)

Distribution of spending by category in 2020



- Services of external specialists
- Human resources
- Sub-grants

- Travel expenses
- Administrative expenses, including equipment, infrastructure, and informational materials