

2ND REGIONAL
CONSULTATION
on HIV among MSM and
trans people in EECA

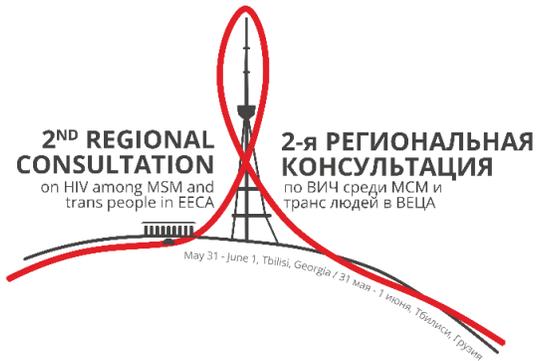
2-я РЕГИОНАЛЬНАЯ
КОНСУЛЬТАЦИЯ
по ВИЧ среди МСМ и
транс людей в ВЕЦА

May 31 - June 1, Tbilisi, Georgia / 31 Мае - 1 июня, Тбилиси, Грузия



Working with Senior MSM: the Case of Moldova





The Background of the Group



- April 2002: **first meeting** of the self-help group for senior gay people. About 20 people attended.
- **Meeting topic:** to remember friends and acquaintances who passed away due to homophobia.
- **Decisions made:** to meet at least once a year a) **to honor the memory** of people who died because of homophobia, b) **to help each other** in emergency
- Since 2003, the frequency and topics of the meetings are specified in the Genderdok-M Center for Information **workplan**
- Since 2013, the meetings are organized on **the monthly basis**
- There are about **50 people** in the group **today**. Not everyone attends the meetings. However at least 15 to 20 people attend each time. Retreats and festive meetings are attended by up to 25 people.

Meeting Formats



❖ Meeting formats:

- ✓ retreats (summer camps, trainings, seminars, excursions to Moldovan historical sights);
- ✓ meetings in the office.

❖ Meeting topics:

- ✓ trainings and workshops on promoting safe sex behavior and testing;
- ✓ meetings with specialists (medical workers, psychologist, lawyer);
- ✓ festive meetings before the New Year's Eve and on the International Day of Older People (within the framework of the LGBT community development program).

Meeting Agenda



- 1) updating on past events;
- 2) discussing emerging issues and looking for solutions;
- 2) main topic (meeting topic). As a rule, we discuss issues related to safe sexual behavior, other health issues and meet specialists.
- 3) celebrating birthdays, handing out presents;
- 4) contests and trivia games;
- 5) watching and discussing a movie with a special theme.

What do we do?



- **We help** senior MSM to overcome loneliness.
- **We promote safe sex behavior** among group members.
- **We provide legal and medical help, and in case of need, we also provide financial assistance.**
- **We involve group members into welfare work** (volunteering, oversight, theater, etc.).
- By doing so we, in fact, **extend their lives.**

RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Senior MSM/LGBT are an invisible part of the community in our region, and that's why we should develop special programs for the 50+ age cohort.

2. Activities for senior MSM should combine awareness raising with entertainment and recreation.

This approach to HIV/STI prevention among senior people allows to keep them motivated to attend events and allows us to receive good outcomes.