



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**ECOM – EURASIAN COALITION ON HEALTH,  
RIGHTS, GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY**



*Dear Friends!*

*We are pleased to present ECOM's next annual report.*

*We did a lot in 2019, and have much to be proud of.*

*The regional program "Right to Health", which we have been implementing for three years since 2017, was successfully completed. A large amount of strategic information was collected, national partner organizations were significantly strengthened, communities gained access to decision-making processes, and a system for monitoring violations of the rights of gay and bisexual men, other MSM, and trans\* people was established in the region.*

*The Third Regional Consultation on HIV among MSM and Trans\* People was a large-scale regional event devoted to prevention and treatment issues, and the use of new tools and innovative technologies.*

*The Working Group of Trans\* People on HIV and Sexual Health began to actively operate. This is the first expert group of its kind in the region. It was established by representatives of the trans\* community with the support of ECOM. Its mission is to improve the quality of life of trans\* people in the region.*

*ECOM published more than 30 publications on various aspects of the HIV response in our communities: epidemiological overviews of each country in the region, guidelines and manuals on human rights work, studies on hepatitis among MSM in the South Caucasus, and on the needs of LGBT migrants, as well as many other documents.*

*An interim analysis of the implementation of ECOM's Strategic Plan for 2017–2021 showed that we had already achieved 83% of our objectives by the mid-point of the plan (end of 2019). This is due both to ECOM's Secretariat and Steering Committee, as well as to all members and partners of the Coalition.*

*We are grateful to everyone who supported us and our ideas, and who worked with us. Your help and participation are invaluable, as they are the resources that allow us to move forward with confidence.*

*The results of the last year not only included the success of our projects, but also important changes to the Coalition itself: a General Assembly was held at which ECOM members selected the new Steering Committee, which will guide the implementation of the organization's strategy over the next 3 years. An Ethics Commission was also established within ECOM with the function of resolving ethical conflicts between members and partners of the organization.*

*The name of the organization also changed to "ECOM—Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity".*

*The new name more accurately positions the Coalition both in terms of representing our communities, as well as reflecting our work aimed at protecting health and human rights.*

*We sincerely hope that the next year will be equally successful in achieving our plans and cooperating with partners!*

*Executive Director,  
Vitaly Djuma*

## ECOM's Mission

ECOM unites the efforts of all stakeholders at the cross-country level in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to create favorable conditions for all gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men and all trans\* people to have access to evidence-based and human rights-oriented health services, including HIV prevention and treatment

## Strategic Plan

Progress in the implementation of ECOM's Strategic Plan  
ECOM's Strategic Objectives for 2017-2021

1. Promote the development of activism, leadership and community mobilization in relation to health.
2. Ensure recognition of the problems that gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men and trans\* people face at various levels of decision-making, and the allocation of funding to HIV and health programs.
3. Promote the formation of the legal and social environment necessary for the realization of the right to health.
4. Develop ECOM's capacity.

*ECOM's main focus is overcoming the HIV epidemic in the EECA region. There have been many changes in the region, but not always for the better: human rights are still being violated, and the number of cases of HIV infection among MSM and trans\* people is constantly growing.*

# 01

## Promoting the development of activism, leadership and community mobilization in relation to health

- Community mobilization and organizational capacity development through small grants
- Regional and national media campaigns
- 3rd Regional Consultation on HIV among MSM and Trans\* People in EECA
- Support for the participation of MSM and trans\* people in national HIV coordinating mechanisms
- Support for MSM initiatives in cities
- Technical support for ECOM's partner organizations
- Working Group of Trans\* People on HIV and Sexual Health in EECA
- Success story

## Community mobilization and organizational capacity development through small grants

In 2019, as part of the regional program "Right to Health", ECOM continued to support 7 small grants, which began implementation in 2018.

In 2019, a new, separate small grants competition for trans\* initiatives was held. 9 organizations and initiative groups took part in the competition, and 6 project applications were supported.

Organizations and initiative groups from Macedonia, Armenia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Russia carried out research, developed informational materials, conducted trainings, fought stigma and discrimination, and protected the rights of MSM and trans\* people.

Trans\* people in Armenia received training on the "right to health" issue. Based on an analysis of their needs, recommendations for the Ministry of Health were developed in relation to legislation on gender-affirmative procedures.

In Moscow, a seminar was held for relevant professionals on the specificities of working with trans\* people. Based on the results of the seminar, a series of video-clips and a collection of materials were released for those who could not take part in the seminar.

In Kyrgyzstan, a camp was held for trans\* people. One of its results was the appearance of a trans\* activist, the famous Kyrgyz singer Zere Asylbek, in a video about corruption in the country.

For the first time in the history of Moldova, a separate package of services for transgender people was included in the standards on HIV prevention services for vulnerable groups. The package described special services for this target group, their correctness and relevance, used correct terminology, and detailed the importance of the qualification of employees.

In Saint Petersburg, together with the Kashchenko Hospital, a study was conducted on the needs of trans\* people and their main barriers to accessing medical services. Based on the research, the initiative group "T-Action" and the Kashchenko Hospital developed and tested a simplified procedure for admitting transgender people.

Peer counselors from the Trans\*Coalition in the Post-Soviet Space carried out 246 consultations for trans\* people in the EECA region on trans\* health and rights



**6** ECOM provided 6 small grants in 2019 for the implementation of trans\* initiatives



## Regional and national media campaigns

In 2019, as a continuation of the campaign "Chase the virus, not people", which began a year earlier, ECOM began conducting a new campaign "Chase stigma, not people" aimed at supporting gay men, MSM, and trans\* people in issues related to health and the right to health.

At the general meeting before its launch, representatives of MSM, trans\* and HIV-service organizations of the region planned the regional and national campaigns "Chase stigma, not people" and developed the goals and objectives of the campaign, as well as plans for national activities.

Country campaigns were conducted in Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, and North Macedonia. As part of the campaign, ECOM's partner organizations sought to show the need for sustainable, high-quality, and accessible services for LGBT people in the CEECA region, to emphasize the importance of mutual assistance to community members, and to understand the mechanisms related to the formation and reduction of stigma and self-stigma within the community.

In Armenia, the informational campaign "Chase stigma, not people" was aimed at community partners and government officials, and spoke about the unacceptability of discrimination towards MSM and trans\* people. Our partner in Armenia, the Humanitarian NGO "New Generation", held round tables, and published informational and promotional materials in Armenian.

In Georgia, billboards on health- and rights-related issues were created for Tbilisi Pride, however, they were not used due to their prohibition by local authorities.

In Kyrgyzstan, as part of International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, a national conference and informational events were carried out for community members, the purpose of which was to address health issues and the right to health, advocacy, and activism.

### **On March 1, 2019, ECOM together with partner networks launched the information campaign "Zero Discrimination"**

*We called for the importance of and need for changes in relation to key populations in ECEA, while also advocating for justice and equal rights for each and every person.*

*We wanted to draw the attention of everyone to the problems of key populations in the wake of the disastrous HIV epidemic in a region where discrimination is the main barrier to effective measures.*



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Consultation on HIV among MSM and Trans\* People in the EECA Region

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Consultation, which took place on November 18-19, 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia, was the largest event in the region in the field of HIV prevention and treatment for MSM and trans\* people.

The Consultation provided an opportunity to assess the current status of the HIV response in EECA countries and the progress achieved in relation to response measures, as well as to develop the main strategic direction for future work, taking into account the interests of MSM and trans\* people themselves. During the Consultation, the work of country teams was organized, and they were able to develop "[roadmaps](#)" for future work on HIV prevention with the involvement of national non-governmental and governmental representatives and international partners.

- > Report on the Consultation: [ecom.ngo/en/library/3rcreport/](https://ecom.ngo/en/library/3rcreport/)
- > All materials including the presentations of speakers: [ecom.ngo/regcon/3rc\\_materials/](https://ecom.ngo/regcon/3rc_materials/)
- > [ecom.ngo/en/regcon/info/](https://ecom.ngo/en/regcon/info/)

### Consultation in Numbers



**More than 170 participants from 22 countries of the world**



**70 speakers**



**15 sessions held**



**4 workshops organized**



**11 country teams worked in break-out groups**

## Support for the participation of MSM and trans\* people in national HIV coordinating mechanisms

Participation in decision-making processes is an opportunity to directly influence HIV policies in one's country. Most often, in countries of the EECA region, activities at the national level are coordinated by national coordinating mechanisms (country coordinating mechanisms), which, since 2015, have been recommended to include representatives of all major key populations in the country.

Last year, ECOM supported the election of MSM representatives to the Coordinating Council for Public Health of the government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In addition, with the support of the Coalition, proposals were made to amend the rules of the Country Coordinating Mechanism of Belarus. Thanks to this, a separate seat in the CCM was allocated to trans\* people, who were previously only involved in the work of the CCM as alternates.

Armenia remains the only country where key populations are not included in the country committee. However, with the technical assistance of ECOM, a package of documents was developed that regulates mechanisms for electing community representatives.

Throughout the year, support was given for the participation of MSM representatives in the national coordinating committees of Moldova and Kazakhstan.

## Support for MSM initiatives in cities

The main idea for this project is to support the active participation of MSM in the development and work of urban HIV prevention programs in Almaty, Balti, Sofia, and Odessa.

In Almaty, activists involved in the project, together with AFEW Kazakhstan, held 73 events aimed at mobilizing the community, building the capacity of the community, and at HIV prevention and the provision of HIV services.

In Balti, the most important issue was the provision of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) by the community, as prescribing it only through medical institutions was too high a threshold for MSM in Moldova.

In Odessa, 116 consultations on health issues were held for MSM and transgender people.



# Technical assistance for ECOM's partner organizations

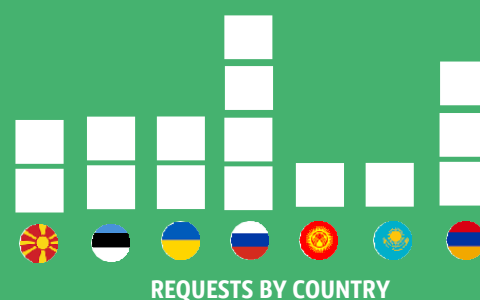
ECOM remains a pre-qualified provider of the technical assistance program "Community, Rights and Gender" (CRG), and provides support to civil society and community-based organizations for their participation in Global Fund activities. In 2019, we provided technical assistance to the Country Coordinating Mechanism of Armenia, and helped them to develop a three-year plan for the involvement of the community in the work of the National HIV Program.

In 2019, ECOM provided assistance for two Pride festivals (Tbilisi Pride and Baltic Pride), and included health issues in the agenda of the two events. It also provided assistance to two national conferences on LGBT issues (in Ukraine and Estonia).

We conducted [5 webinars](#) on the organizational development of partners (recordings and webinar materials; 12 requests for technical assistance were fulfilled, including a [study on the needs of MSM and trans\\* people](#) who recently found out about their HIV status; a leadership school for MSM in Kazakhstan; the development of documents on the mechanism for electing community representatives (MSM and trans\* people) to the CCM of Armenia; election of LGBT people to the CCM in Kyrgyzstan and election of MSM and trans\* people in Belarus; development of a draft law on gender-affirmative procedures for trans\* people in Armenia; development of a [manual on safety issues for LGBT activists](#).

## Types of requests

- 2 - assistance for Prides
- 2 - national conferences
- 7 - organizational development
- 12 - program technical assistance





## Working Group of Trans\* People on HIV and Sexual Health in EECA

In 2019, with the support of ECOM, a unique Working Group of Trans\* People on HIV and Sexual Health in EECA began operating. The group currently includes more than 20 people, including trans\* women, trans\* men, and non-binary people from 9 EECA countries. The group's mission is to improve the quality of life of trans\* people by increasing visibility, highlighting the needs of trans\* people in the context of HIV prevention and trans\* health in general, translating the vision of the community for medical specialists and government institutions, and ensuring access to trans\* competent and trans\* sensitive healthcare services.

During the six months of its existence, the Group developed the "Trans\*Glossary", a guide to using terminology related to trans\* people, issued a statement on the unacceptability of violence on Transgender Day of Remembrance, and, for the first time, collected and described best practices in relation to services for trans\* people in the EECA region. This is the first expert group in the region comprised solely of trans\* people and advocating for the interests of the trans\* community in the HIV response.



"Trans\*Glossary", guide on using terminology related to trans\* people  
 > [ecom.ngo/trans-glossary](http://ecom.ngo/trans-glossary)



Statement on the unacceptability of violence on Transgender Day of Remembrance  
 > [Link](#)



Best practices in services for trans\* people in the EECA region  
 > [ecom.ngo/library/best-practices-trans-people-eeca](http://ecom.ngo/library/best-practices-trans-people-eeca)



## Success story

ECOM, together with the LGBT Association of Estonia, organized the educational conference "Fight for Education: The Well-Being of LGBT+ Students".

Issues such as psychological and physical violence, the health and rights of LGBT+ people, poor and negative attitudes towards LGBT+ issues, and the lack of support from school staff, were addressed at the conference. Participants included representatives of school and student organizations, teachers, and representatives of the government and NGOs.

Using the example of the program Y-Peer Belarus, ECOM demonstrated the importance of cooperation between all those working in the field of sexual education and HIV prevention among adolescents, and of the peer education system.

Yuri Yoursky, ECOM's Human Rights and Legal Issues Coordinator, presented the situation of LGBT people in Estonia and the Baltic countries to the conference participants, and spoke about the importance of collecting and providing information on rights violations, and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Kristi Ruuttel, an expert of the National Institute for Health Development of Estonia, presented participants with the latest information about HIV prevalence in Estonia, in particular among MSM.

# 02

## Ensuring recognition of the problems faced by MSM and trans\* communities at various levels of decision-making, and the allocation of funding for HIV and health programs

- Promotion of the MSMIT practical guide
- Analysis of the cascade of HIV services for MSM
- Support for the Ukrainian Expert Group on the Health and Rights of Gay Men and Other MSM
- PrEP and Get PrEP
- Research and advocacy strategy to ensure the sustainability of national and regional HIV response measures
- Regional training on creating partnerships and coalitions for effective community participation in budget advocacy
- Regional Advisory Group on Strategic Information (RAGSI)
- Completion of the regional program "Right to Health"
- Overall progress in five assessment countries
- for 2017 -2019
- Success stories

## Promoting the MSMIT practical guide

The MSMIT, a practical guide for implementing comprehensive HIV and STI programmes for MSM, is an extensive, universal tool, which provides a description of the complete package of services for MSM as recommended by international institutions.

ECOM developed a training module for teaching the MSMIT in order to ensure an optimal presentation of the information contained in it and its effective use in advocacy. With the support of the GF and UNFPA, we carried out trainings for MSMIT trainers with 18 of the best specialists from 9 countries of the region. Throughout 2019, they conducted trainings and informational sessions in their countries, and, based on the tool, advocated for the interests of the community in relation to HIV prevention.

In addition, with the support of partners from Macedonia and Georgia, ECOM tested an additional cascade analysis tool, based on the MSMIT and developed with the participation of "Kyrgyz Indigo", and collected national reports on the cascade of HIV services for MSM. Testing showed that this tool allows you to analyze both the situation and its causes in detail.

### Analysis of the cascade of HIV services for MSM

An analysis of the cascade of continuous HIV care for MSM allows us to evaluate the effectiveness of national HIV response measures and clearly shows the coverage, availability, and quality of individual HIV prevention and treatment services by comparing the percentage of those who need services with those who have seen positive changes as a result of receiving these services.

Based on data from national studies, it can be said that, in relation to the first "90" target (90% of HIV+ MSM have been tested for HIV and know their status), the situation is better in Armenia and Macedonia, where 54% of HIV+ MSM know their status. In other countries, this stage of the cascade is the most problematic: in Belarus, only 6% of the estimated number of HIV+ MSM know their status, 19% in Kyrgyzstan, and 26% in Georgia.

Such a large number of MSM who are not aware of their HIV+ status indicates the lack of access to testing. Obviously, existing prevention programs, the methods, and/or the amounts of funding for these programs, do not correspond to the needs of MSM and trans\* people. This leads to the fact that many MSM and trans\* people living with HIV in EECA still do not have access to ARV-therapy, which threatens their health and life, and also contributes to the further spread of HIV infection in countries of the region.

## Support for the Ukrainian Expert Group on the Health and Rights of Gay Men and Other MSM

The work experience of colleagues from Ukraine has become a valuable source for describing best practices and interventions, which the Expert Group has shared with specialists from the EECA region. They developed the following materials with the support of ECOM:

- Overview: Social and medical problems of lesbians, bisexuals, and other women who have sex with women.
- "Safe space for the provision of HIV prevention services for MSM" – a description of the methodology for establishing drop-in-centers or community centers for MSM
- "Technical guidance for the organization of national LGBTI-conferences", using 12 national conferences held in Ukraine as examples.
- "Online outreach: HIV prevention model for men who have sex with men" – a description of an approach to organizing outreach work for MSM and trans\* people using online communication – social networks, dating sites, mobile applications.



**ВСЕ БУДЕТ PrEP!**

**getprep.social**

**It's gonna be PrEP!**



## PrEP

ECOM became a member of the program organizing committees of the PrEP in Europe Summit and the European ChemSex Forum. With the assistance of ECOM, approximately 20 representatives of community organizations from the EECA region were involved in both events.

1. Together with partners such as "AFEW International", "PrEP in Europe" and "IHP", ECOM provided scholarships for 20 representatives of LGBT and MSM-service organizations from the EECA region for their participation in the 3rd PrEP in Europe Summit (October 2019, Warsaw) and the 3rd European ChemSex Forum (November 2019, Paris). ECOM was a member of the fundraising groups and the scholarship commissions for both events.

In addition, with the support and mediation of ECOM, funds were raised that allowed for the interpretation of all plenary sessions of both events into Russian.

2. With the support of ECOM, representatives of Ukrainian LGBT organizations were involved in a UNODC training on new types of narcotics, which took place in Kiev on October 28-30, 2019.

## GET PREP

As part of the regional, informational campaign "Get PrEP", ECOM helped to raise the awareness of gay men and other MSM about pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV (PrEP), particularly in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia where there is currently insufficient or a lack of national informational resources.

During the campaign, a video clip distributed on social networks was created that focuses on the simplicity of taking PrEP. In addition, the website, [getprep.social](https://getprep.social), began operating, explaining in Russian and English what PrEP is and how to take it, and providing other materials that are designed to provide potential PrEP users with concise and correct basic information about what PrEP is and why it is important for MSM.

> [Assessment of the Availability of PrEP, the Main Barriers to Implementing PrEP, and Scaling Up PrEP in the EECA Region](#)

# Regional Advisory Group on Strategic Information (RAGSI)

A meeting of the Regional Advisory Group on Strategic Information (RAGSI) took place in Yerevan in September 2019, at which the results of the final assessment of the regional program "Right to Health" were presented.

Studies showed that the state of strategic information has clearly improved over time, while countries have identified their next needs in relation to strategic information and services.



## Regional training on creating partnerships and coalitions for effective community participation in budget advocacy

Continuing its budget advocacy activities, ECOM, in cooperation with the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association and the Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS, developed a support manual for building broad coalitions for budget advocacy.

In order to test the manual, a training was held in Tbilisi on December 11-13, 2019, where participants developed roadmaps, in which they wrote down existing problems in their countries, methods to resolve them, and potential partners that could assist them in budget advocacy processes.

A small grants competition was announced for those participating in the training, as a result of which 6 applications will be funded in 2020.

## Research and advocacy strategy for ensuring the sustainability of national and regional HIV response measures

At the end of the implementation of the regional program "Right to Health", we conducted studies in the five target countries, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and North Macedonia, on how states support the HIV response. The studies showed which activities are already funded through the state budget, and which gaps still remain.

The research results formed the basis of the Joint Engagement Strategy (JES) for ensuring the sustainability of national and regional HIV responses among MSM and trans\* people in the post-grant period with the wide involvement of ECOM members. The related action plan is based on predetermined aspects of sustainability: funding, policies/management, programs/evidence, human rights, and related indicators.

# Completion of the regional program "Right to Health"

The regional program "Right to Health", implemented in the EECA region from 2017 to 2019, was successfully completed.

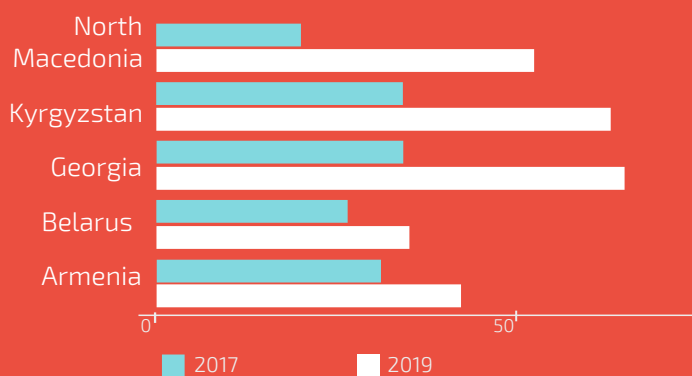
The final assessment demonstrated the effectiveness of the activities of ECOM and its partners from five target countries: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and North Macedonia

Five studies were carried out as part of the assessment of the regional program:

- Study on the quality of strategic information
- Attitudes of the staff of key services towards LGBT people
- Participation of MSM and trans\* people in decision-making processes

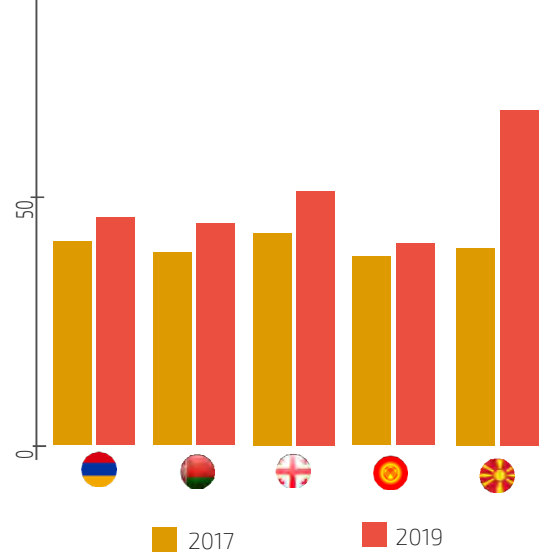
➤ [Финальный отчет о работе программы](#)

## Overall progress by country (%) according to the results of assessments carried out in 2017 and 2019

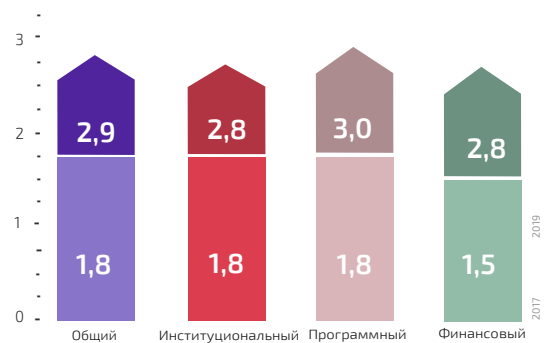


The study was based on the presence or lack of data on the involvement of MSM and trans\* people in decision-making processes in their countries. Each section of information was scored in points: "0" = generally not true, not achieved; "1" = substantial progress achieved, however, significant gaps remain; "2" = generally true. Thus, a maximum score of "2" and a minimum score of "0" could be assigned for each question. The maximum total score that a country could receive is 70 (35 questions, 2 points per question). The points were converted to a percentage (out of 100%) for an objective comparison.

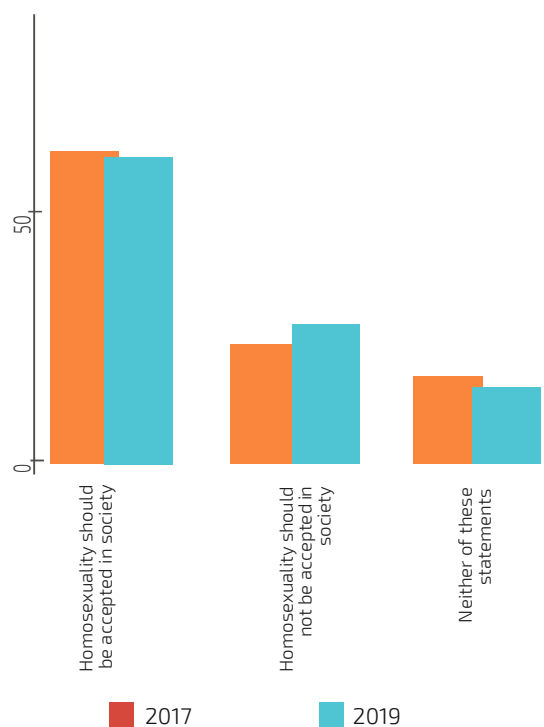
➤ For more details about the results of the study [ecom.ngo/en/library/participation\\_study-2019](https://ecom.ngo/en/library/participation_study-2019)



Progress in relation to strategic information on HIV among MSM and trans\* people by country in %.



Assessment of changes in the organizational capacity and the level of development of ECOM sub-recipients. (in points out of a maximum possible score of 4)



Overall attitudes of medical workers, social workers and police towards LGBT people in the project countries in %.



## Success stories

### Participation of an ECOM representative in the Developed Country NGO Delegation to the Global Fund Board

ECOM's Executive Director, Vitaly Djuma, was selected as a member of the Developed Country NGO Delegation to the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

For communities of gay and bisexual men and trans\* people, this means sustainable support for the comprehensive package of human rights-based services that are needed to stop the HIV epidemic that is rapidly developing in our communities around the world. ECOM will work on this issue in close cooperation with the Developed Country NGO Delegation, as well as with two other civil society delegations to the Global Fund Board.

### Participation of an ECOM representative in the Advisory Board of the Emergency Support Fund for Key Populations in EECA

Vitaly Djuma joined the Advisory Board of the Emergency Support Fund for Key Populations of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), financed by the Elton John AIDS Foundation. The Fund provides assistance to registered and unregistered public non-profit organizations and associations in EECA that represent the interests of vulnerable key populations in order to survive in the difficult situations they face due to legal restrictions on vulnerable key populations, stigma and discrimination, as well as to financial and political difficulties. The Advisory Board provides advice on the political, economic, and epidemiological situation in countries of the region, and makes recommendations to the management team for the strategic development of the Fund.

### Participation of an ECOM representative in the WHO Regional Collaborating Committee

ECOM Coordinator, Gennady Roshchupkin, is a member of the RCC-THV, the WHO Regional Collaborating Committee on Accelerated Response to Tuberculosis, HIV and Viral Hepatitis. More information [here](#)

RCC-THV is a European platform for the mutual exchange of information and for strengthening the participation of national and international partners, including civil society organizations, in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care of the three diseases. Gennady raises and promotes the interests of MSM and trans\* people of EECA in the group's discussions.

### Participation of an ECOM representative in the Board of IGLYO

Legal Issues and Human Rights Coordinator, Yuri Yoursky, actively participates in the [Executive Board](#) of IGLYO, a large international association of LGBT youth.

IGLYO works to strengthen the opportunities of its members to actively represent the interests of LGBTQ youth and students. Yuri's main goal as a board member of the Association is to promote health issues when working with LGBTQ youth.

### Participation of an ECOM representative in the CC of the Russian Federation

ECOM is one of the regional community networks participating in the activities of the Coordinating Committee (CC) for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in the Russian Federation (RF). ECOM and the interests of MSM are now represented by Evgeny Pisemskiy, who was elected to the Coordinating Committee.

The main objective of ECOM's participation in the CC of the RF is to promote the interests of gay men, other MSM, and trans\* people in the activities of the CC of the RF, including overseeing Global Fund programs in Russia.

## Compendium

# Tools for strengthening the HIV response among MSM and trans\* people

During the implementation of the "Right to Health" program, ECOM developed and published informational materials and tools that will facilitate work on various aspects of the HIV response among MSM and trans\* people.

All materials, reports, and manuals are compiled in the Compendium, which can be downloaded from ECOM's website

> [ecom.ngo/en/library/compendium](http://ecom.ngo/en/library/compendium)



# 03

## Promoting the formation of the legal and social environment necessary for the realization of the right to health

- Regional trainings for community representatives on documenting cases of rights violations and on drafting reports to UN committees
- Training manual on legal literacy for community activists
- Toolkit on social accountability for government officials
- Database of organizations providing legal services
- On-going monitoring and documentation of violations of the rights of MSM/LGBT people, especially the right to health
- Reports to UN Treaty Bodies



## Regional trainings for community representatives on documenting cases of rights violations and drafting reports to UN committees

10 community representatives from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and North Macedonia participated in a training on legal literacy and activism on April 9-11, 2019 in Yerevan. They received key information on international human rights monitoring standards.

Another event, an intensive training on legal literacy and activism (July 9-11, 2019, Almaty), brought together 18 participants from 7 EECA countries. One innovation in the training process should be highlighted: after receiving basic theoretical knowledge about human rights, standards for monitoring violations, and ECOM's new manual on monitoring and documenting cases, participants were able to apply their new skills to real cases. This helped to strengthen knowledge, and to see, in practice, what details you need to pay attention to, and to understand how data can be used in subsequent advocacy.

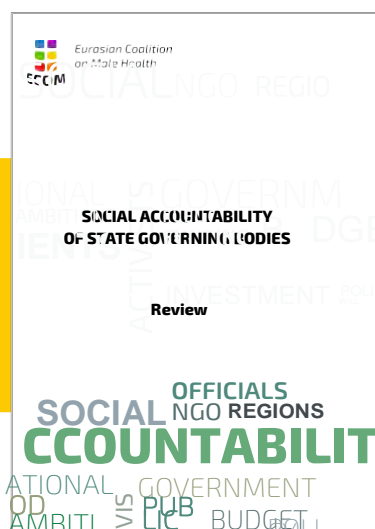


## Training manual on legal literacy for community activists

The active work of ECOM and national partners at the UN level in advocating for the health issues of LGBT people and people living with HIV has already yielded the first results in relation to Armenia, Belarus, North Macedonia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and several other countries of the EECA region.

A manual was developed in order to continue this activity and advance its results. The manual is a collection of information on working with UN treaty bodies with practical tasks for training groups and/or for the self-training of activists on this topic.

> [Full version of the training manual](#)



## Toolkit on social accountability for government officials

The toolkit on social accountability for government officials, developed by ECOM, was a part of the regional media campaign, #InYourPower, launched on October 2 as part of the SOS\_project, together with the Alliance for Public Health and the Network "100%life".

> [Recording of a webinar with a presentation of the toolkit](#)

> Download the toolkit at [ecom.ngo/en/library/social-accountability](http://ecom.ngo/en/library/social-accountability)



## Database of organizations providing legal service

ECOM compiled a [database of legal service providers so that any gay, bisexual, other MSM, or trans\\* person](#) is able to seek legal assistance as soon as possible in the event that their rights are violated. The database provides information about which services are provided by organizations and how you can contact them.



## On-going monitoring and documentation of violations of the rights of MSM/LGBT people, in particular the right to health

Monitoring violations of the right to health of MSM and trans\* people was carried out by country monitoring networks. National reports, prepared by partners on the basis of collected cases of human rights violations, were the basis for a consolidated regional report, and are used for country advocacy with UN treaty bodies in order to receive recommendations.

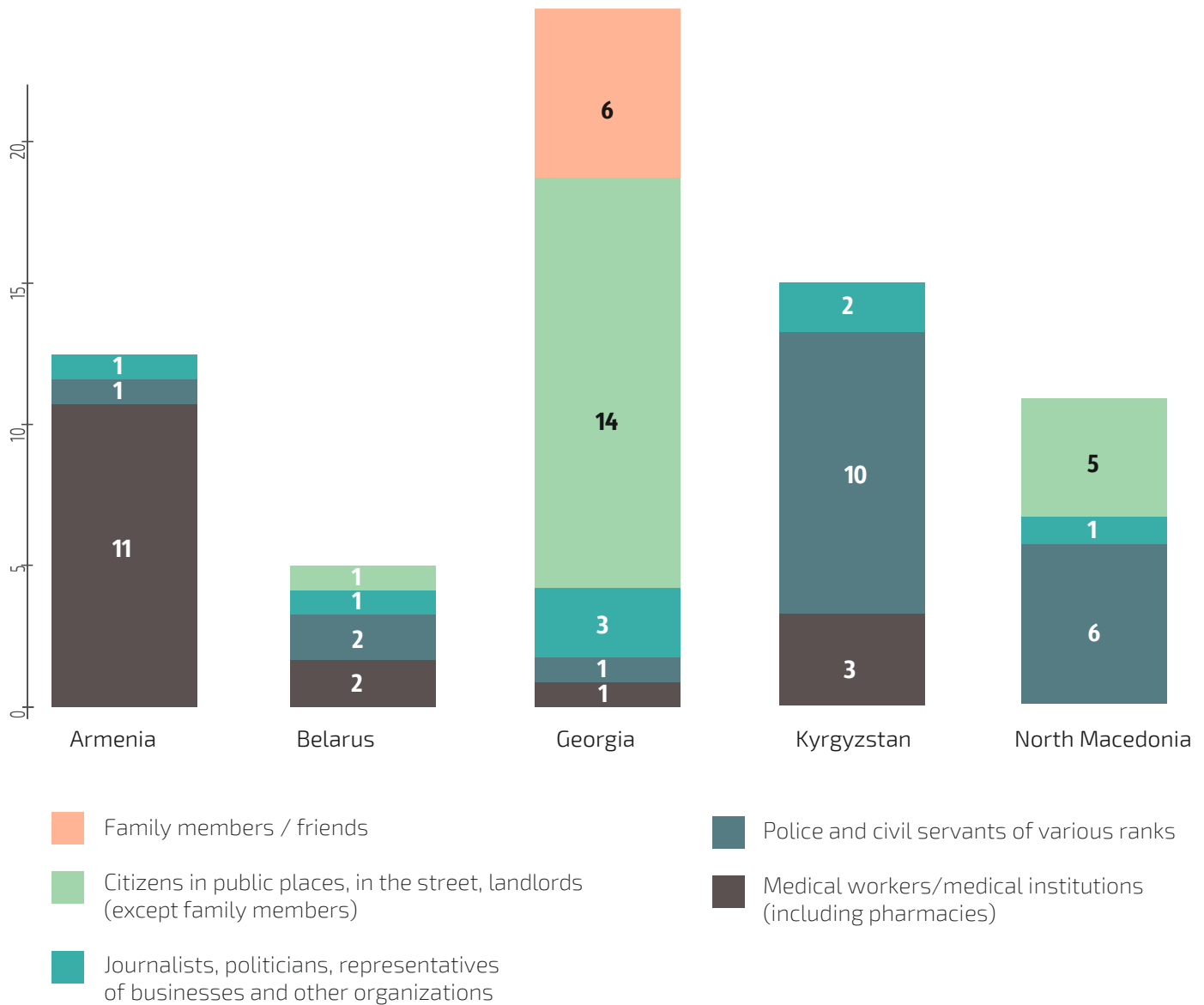
> [Download the Regional Report](#)



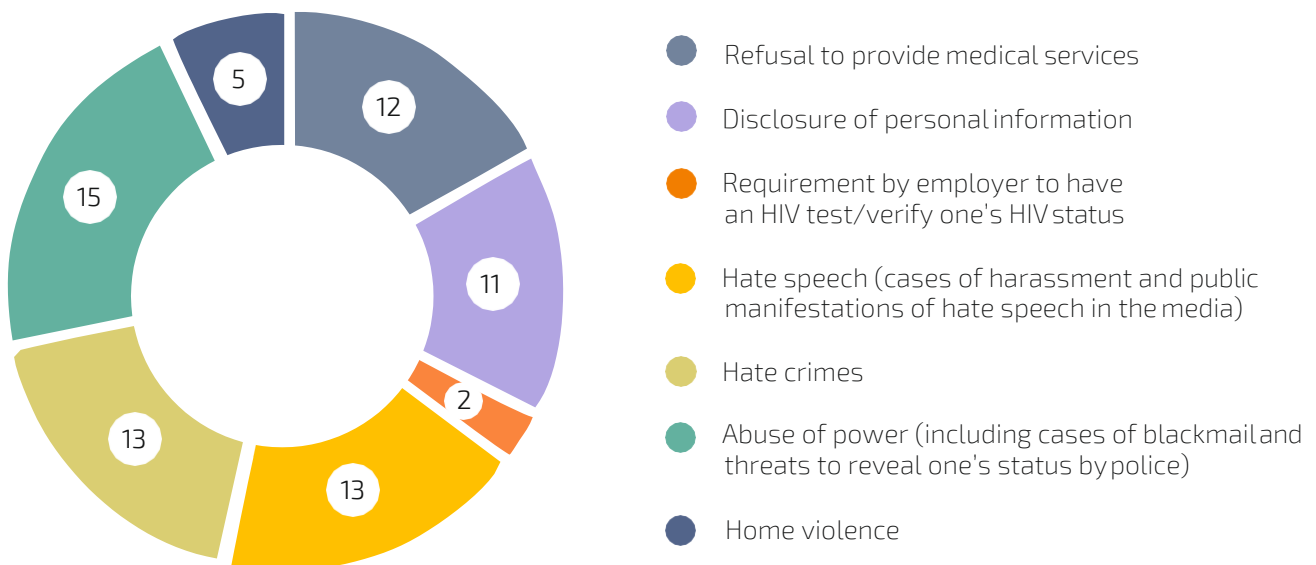
## Reports to UN Treaty Bodies

1. Report to the UN Committee Against Torture on the list of issues on Armenia, which was prepared by colleagues from the HNGO "New Generation";
2. Report to the UN Human Rights Committee for the country review of Tajikistan;
3. Report to the UN Committee Against Torture for the country review of Uzbekistan, and the list of issues;
4. Report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women for the country review of Kazakhstan;
5. Report to the Human Rights Committee—country review of Estonia;
6. Report to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Kazakhstan;
7. Report to the Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights on the list of issues for Azerbaijan;
8. Report to the Human Rights Committee on the list of issues for Uzbekistan.

## Number of cases in 2019 by category of violator



## Total number of cases in 2019 by type of violation in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and North Macedonia



# 04

## Developing ECOM's capacity

*During the implementation of the "Right to Health" program, we not only provided support to strengthen our partners, we also strengthened our own capacity. By helping others, we strengthened ourselves!*

*Vitaly Djuma*

- General Assembly of ECOM members
- Consolidated report of the previous Steering Committee for 2017-2019
- New Members

## ECOM General Assembly

The in-person General Assembly of ECOM members took place on November 20, 2019, in Tallinn, Estonia. It was attended by 57 members.

The most important and relevant issues were:

- Amending ECOM's "Membership Regulations"
- Changing the name of the Coalition
- Electing the new Steering Committee
- Electing the Ethics Committee

13 people were nominated for 7 positions on the Steering Committee.

At the General Assembly, members of the Ethics Committee were also elected, including:

- Oleg Alyokhin, Ukraine
- Kirill Barskiy, Russia
- Andrei Zavalei, Belarus
- Mamikon Hovsepyan, Armenia
- Sviatoslav Suslov, Kazakhstan

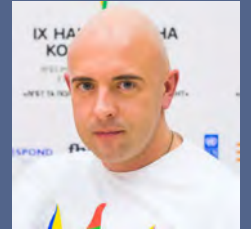


Anastasia Eva Domani  
Ukraine



Vitaly Vinogradov  
Kazakhstan

## ECOM Steering Committee



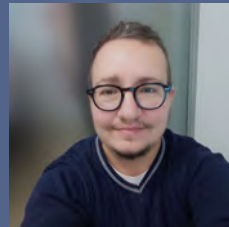
Sviatoslav Sheremet  
Ukraine



Sergey Gabrielyan  
Armenia



Evgeny Pisemskiy  
Russia



Egor Burcev  
Russia



Daniyar Orsekov  
Kyrgyzstan





# Consolidated report of the previous Steering Committee for 2017-2019

During its tenure, the previous Steering Committee (SC) carried out six in-person meetings:

- February 19-21, 2017
- July 6, 2017
- April 5-6, 2018
- November 8-9, 2018
- April 15-16, 2019
- September 26-27, 2019

In addition, during the reporting period, seven SC meetings took place via teleconference (in 2017: January 12, April 21, August 24, October 23; in 2018: August 3, October 3; in 2019: February 12). Twelve meetings took place by exchanging messages and voting by e-mail. In accordance with the main responsibilities established in the "Regulations of the SC", ECOM's Steering Committee carried out the following activities:

## 1. Review and approval of ECOM membership applications

12 organizations and 15 individuals were accepted as ECOM members. One organization was not accepted as an ECOM member; it was asked to submit information about its activities during the year and submit a second application. When submitting a second membership application a year later, the organization was admitted to ECOM. Another organization was not admitted to ECOM due to doubts about the ethnics and professionalism of the organization's representatives in the LGBT movement. An application by a coalition not registered as a legal entity was also not approved. The applicant was advised to submit a new application as an initiative group. At the initiative of the SC, an audit of active ECOM members was carried out annually. During the audit, each member was asked to confirm their membership and update their contact information.

Several additional requests were sent to ECOM members who did not respond to the initial request. According to the results of the audit, 25 members of the Coalition had their membership suspended. 4 ECOM members had their membership reinstated.

## 2. Search for candidates for Board—Management Group positions

The SC nominated Latsin Alijev and Vitaly Djuma for positions in the Board—Management Group. As a result of voting by ECOM members, both nominations were unanimously supported and they began to represent the Board—Management Group. At the initiative of the SC, members of the Board—Management Group began to participate in in-person meetings of the Steering Committee.

## Steering Committee 2017 - 2019

### Chair:

Oleg Eryomin, Belarus

### Committee Members:

Sergey Gabrielyan, Armenia  
Igor Mevid, Ukraine  
Daniyar Orsekov, Kyrgyzstan  
Evgeny Pisemskiy, Russia  
Andrey Chernyshev, Ukraine  
Sviatoslav Sheremet, Ukraine

## 3. Supervision of program implementation

The SC accepted quarterly interim reports from the Secretariat on the progress in the implementation of the Operational Plan within the framework of ECOM's Strategic Plan, and approved and presented annual reports on the work of the organization in 2016, 2017, and 2018 to the General Assembly.

In 2018, the SC conducted a survey of ECOM sub-recipients on their interaction with the Secretariat during program implementation. During the survey, the sub-recipients rated the procedures and interaction with ECOM at 3.77 points (a 5-point average point system), and the work of ECOM's Secretariat at 4.15 points. The SC adopted and approved the methodology for the mid-term evaluation of the implementation of ECOM's Strategic Plan for 2017-2021.

## 4. Approval of the organization's strategies, guidelines, and policies.

The SC participated in the development of a number of documents, such as "ECOM's Strategic Plan for 2017-2021", "ECOM's Operational Plan", "ECOM's Code of Ethics", "ECOM's Communication Strategy", "Security Manual for ECOM and Partners", and ECOM's Position Paper on HIV infection among gay men, other MSM and trans\* people in Russia: "Protection and Cooperation".

In 2017, the SC approved the "Regulations on the Secretariat", "ECOM's Operational Plan", ECOM's budget for 2017, and ECOM's position paper on trans\* people.

In 2018, the following documents were approved: "Changes to ECOM's grant procedures", ECOM's budget for 2018, and "ECOM's Position Paper on HIV among Gay Men, Other MSM, and Trans\* People in Russia: Protection and Cooperation". "Regulations on ECOM's Steering Committee", "Regulations on ECOM Membership", and "ECOM's Code of Ethics" were put to a vote (June 2018) and approved by the General Assembly.

In 2019, the Steering Committee approved the "Procedure for Reinstating ECOM Membership".

ECOM's SC considered the need for rebranding the organization and suggested that the issue be raised with the General Assembly.

## **5. Approval of applications for project support based on the recommendations of the Selection Commission**

The SC approved the following applications for the period 2016-2019:

- 2017: applications according to recommendations of the expert commission: 3 consortia under the project "Money Can Buy Health If You Budget For It", 5 applications as part of the small grants competition "Together For Our Rights", and 9 applications for the small grants competition of the regional program "Right to Health". As part of this program, the recommendations of experts on supporting the Ukrainian Expert Group on the Health and Rights of Gay Men and Other MSM were also approved.

- 2018: The SC approved funding for a small grant under the project "Together For Our Rights". The SC approved sub-recipients of the regional project "Strengthening the participation of MSM and trans\* people in Global Fund processes" with the support of the Global Forum on MSM and HIV.

- 2019: The SC approved the results of the small grants competition for trans\* initiatives as part of the regional program "Right to Health" with the support of the Global Fund. 5 applications were approved.

The SC approved the results of the small grants competition under the project "Strengthening the Advocacy Capacity of LGBTQ Organizations and Initiative Groups from the Countries of Central Asia and the South Caucasus"; an application from Uzbekistan was approved.

- The SC approved an application made outside the competition from the Trans\*Coalition in the Post-Soviet Space for a small grant.

## **6. Maintaining strategic partnerships with key organizations and institutions at the national and international level**

On August 21-23, 2017, SC Chair, Oleg Eryomin, held meetings with ECOM members in Armenia, as well as with representatives of the transgender community, other NGOs, and initiative groups in Yerevan.

On August 28-30, 2018, SC Chair, Oleg Eryomin held meetings with ECOM members in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), as well as with other NGOs and initiative groups in Bishkek.

On September 14, 2018, SC Chair, Oleg Eryomin, held a meeting in Odessa with activists from ECOM member organization YPM "Partner". Members of the SC held meetings with ECOM members in Armenia and Ukraine.

On April 18, 2019, SC Chair, Oleg Eryomin, held a meeting in Moscow with the staff of the Charitable Foundation "Support of Social Initiatives and Public Health" and with individual ECOM member, Kirill Barskiy.

SC members held meetings with ECOM members in Armenia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia.

ECOM's SC approved the country selection criteria for a regional application of the Regional Consortium of EECA Community Networks.

### **The SC delegated:**

Evgeny Pisemskiy to participate in a regional consultation on presenting the next round of regional projects funded by the Global Fund, and on discussing their terms of reference (November 13-14, 2017, Minsk);

Sviatoslav Sheremet to participate at the Forum of the National Platform of Key Populations (December 11-12, 2017, Kiev).

## Countries with ECOM members



## New ECOM Members

In 2019, ECOM welcomed 15 new members from 8 countries.

### Azerbaijan

- Initiative Group "LGBT Rights in Azerbaijan", representative Ruslan Balukhin

### Armenia

- NGO "Equality For All"

### Belarus

- Anna Gaizer

### Poland

- Michat Pawłęga

### Russia

- Egor Gor
- Mikhail Romanov
- Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice
- Autonomous non-commercial organization "Russian Social Project "For Live"

### Tajikistan

- Alina Kolosova

### Ukraine

- Oleg Belov
- Public organization "Protego"
- Andrey Radetskiy
- Damion Hort
- CO "100%Life.Kyi Region"

### Czech Republic / Kazakhstan

- NGO «Kok.team»

### Reinstated as members

- Oleg Alyokhin, Ukraine
- Public Foundation "Community Friends", Kazakhstan



Full Membership list

[https://ecom.ngo/en/about/ecom\\_member](https://ecom.ngo/en/about/ecom_member)



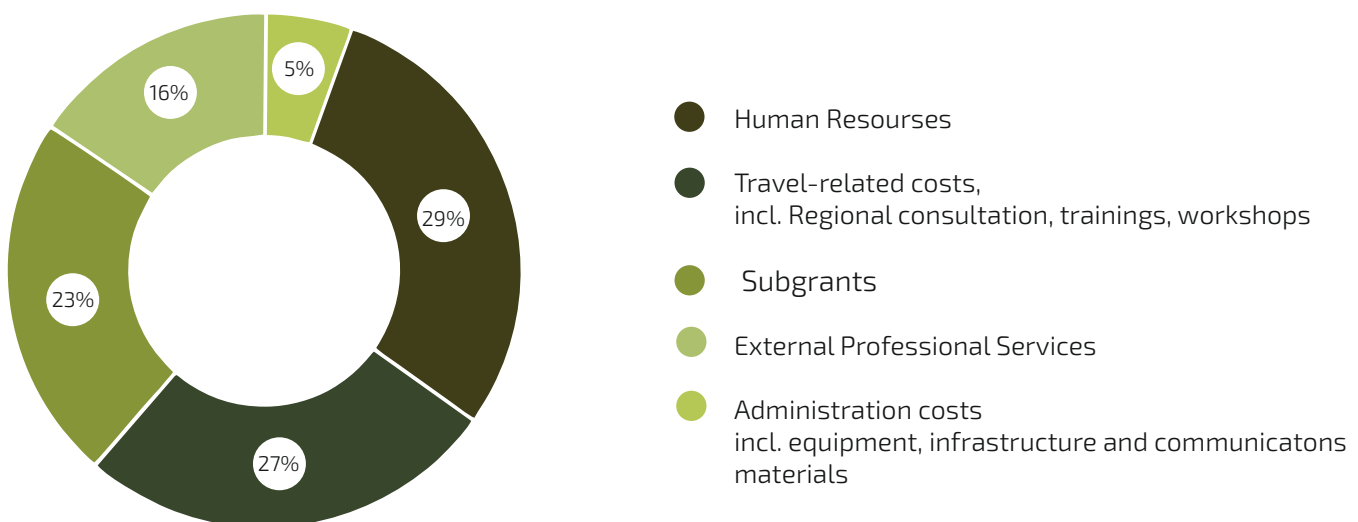
# Financial report

- Financial results
- Distribution of expenditures by category
- Financial costs of the Global Fund program "Right to Health"
- Structure of expenditures of the "Right to Health" program

# Financial results of 2019

Donor / Project	Funds Utilized, EUR
Global Fund <i>Right to Health</i>	1 112 315
UN Agencies <i>Various projects</i>	68 717
Eurasian Harm Reduction Association / Robert Carr Fund <i>Eurasian Regional Consortium</i>	63 073
"All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS" (CO 100% Life) <i>Sustainability of services for key populations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia region</i>	61 347
MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights / Robert Carr Fund <i>Sustainable Health Advocacy with Gay Men</i>	57 099
ViiV Healthcare <i>PrePare EECA</i>	52 510
MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights <i>Meaningful Engagement and Capacity Development of Key and Vulnerable Populations in GF processes</i>	51 824
Other Projects	59 174
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 526 059</b>

## Distribution of expenditures by category in 2019



# Financial results of the Global Fund program "Right to Health" in 2019 году

Global Fund module	Global Fund intervention	Funds Utilized, EUR
Community systems strengthening	Community led advocacy	238 778
	Community-based monitoring	45 810
	Social mobilization, building community linkages, collaboration and coordination	51 544
	Institutional capacity building, planning and leadership development	175 515
Removing legal barriers to access	Policy advocacy on legal rights	30 559
	Legal and policy environment assessment and law reform	28 545
	Legal aid services and legal literacy	51 933
	Training on rights for officials, health workers and police	27 578
	Community-based monitoring of legal rights	26 289
Program management	Grant management	60 132
	Policy, planning, coordination and management	375 634
Total		1 112 315

## Breakdown of Expenditures for Program "Right to Health" in 2019

