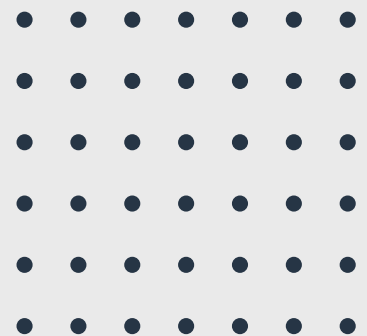
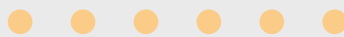




ANNUAL REPORT 2021

*ECOM — the Eurasian Coalition on Health,
Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity*



Dear friends, ECOM members, colleagues, partners, and like-minded people!

It has been 10 years since an initiative group of activists decided to establish a regional network called Eurasian Coalition on Male Health. During this time, the initiative group has grown into a serious organization that has weight and significance throughout the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and communicates with the community, members, partners and donor organizations.

2021 has once again confirmed the importance and necessity of our work. Over the past year, ECOM's strategic plan was successfully implemented, and the Fourth Regional Consultation on HIV among MSM and trans people in Eastern Europe and Central Asia was held in a new, hybrid format. We regularly carry out unique studies, continue to monitor violations of rights and submit reports to UN committees. Last year, the Leadership School for Trans* Community Activists was also launched.*

The first 10 years of ECOM's existence has brought many revelations and results to the organization and the community, and we believe that the next decade of the Coalition will also be successful in overcoming the HIV epidemic for all of us.

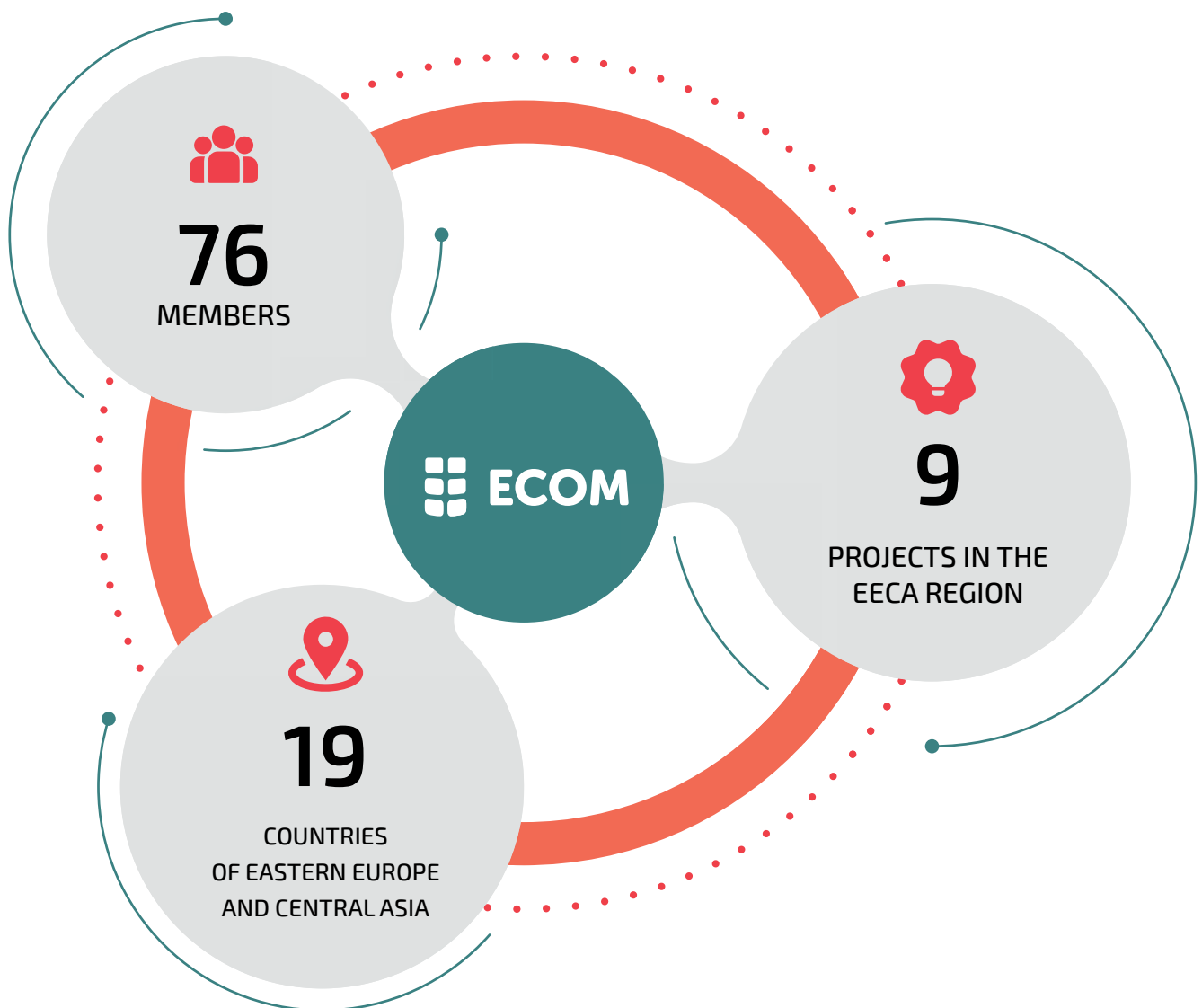
Vitaly Djuma,
Executive Director

We are all different and we are all equal. Each of us takes steps — small or large, depending on our ability — to improve our quality of life, health or human rights. Our joint work through ECOM allows us to join hands and move towards our goals in spite of current challenges.

Vitaly Vinogradov,
Chair of the Steering Committee

ECOM — the Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity — is an international non-governmental association open to non-profit organizations and activists working in the field of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevention, treatment, care and support for men who have sex with men and trans* people in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA).

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



ECOM IN 2021 — OUR MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

«We organized three national consultations on PrEP in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia; and conducted an educational course for doctors in Kyrgyzstan attended by 92 doctors».

Nikolay Lunchenkov,
ECOM LGBT Health Coordinator

3 CONSULTATIONS ON PREP

92 DOCTORS

2 STUDIES

ANALYSIS OF THE CASCADE OF SERVICES

«We completed two unique studies in the region on internalized transphobia, and digital and remote HIV prevention services during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also developed the region's only analysis tool for the cascade of HIV services for trans* people, which was piloted in four countries».

Elena German,
ECOM Capacity Building Coordinator

«We have developed a unique leadership school on HIV. It was created for the region in collaboration with the Regional Group of Trans* People and will now be run by partners in five countries».

Daniyar Orsekov,
ECOM Advocacy Coordinator

LEADERSHIP SCHOOL FOR TRANS* PEOPLE

84 CASES OF RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

9 ADVOCACY REPORTS

«Over the past year, we collected more than 80 cases of human rights violations, submitted nine advocacy reports on the violation of the rights of LGBT people, as well as the first report on the violation of the rights of LGBT people to the OSCE, where most of the cases were accepted and published! We held more than ten webinars on human rights for LGBT people, where we improved the level of legal literacy of more than 500 people».

Yuri Yoursky, ECOM Human Rights and Legal Issues Coordinator

«We held the fourth Regional Consultation on HIV in a new hybrid format!»

ECOM team

4TH REGIONAL CONSULTATION

ECOM'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2017-2021

01

FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVISM, LEADERSHIP,
AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION IN THE FIELD OF HEALTHCARE

02

ENSURE RECOGNITION OF THE ISSUES OF COMMUNITIES OF GAY, BISEXUAL,
AND OTHER MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN, AND TRANS* PEOPLE
AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF DECISION-MAKING AND ALLOCATION
OF FUNDING THROUGH HIV AND HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

03

CONTRIBUTE TO THE FORMATION OF LEGAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS
CONDUCTIVE TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

04

DEVELOP THE CAPACITY OF ECOM

01

FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVISM, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION IN THE FIELD OF HEALTHCARE



COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

ECOM's new communication strategy was developed in 2021, as well as a preliminary communication plan for activities.

The aim of the new strategy is not only to improve internal communication between members, the Steering Committee and ECOM's Secretariat, but also to make the organization's activities more visible to stakeholders, including civil society organizations and key populations, including youth.

The main focus in 2021 was on expanding our social media presence. **We have become brighter, more informative and more efficient!**

ECOM'S INFORMATIONAL CHANNELS



MEDIA CAMPAIGNS



Video clips of 4 LGBT allies and allies from the EECA region in support of various community rights. Bloggers and influencers joined the #RightTo campaign to raise public awareness of the rights and health of gay people around the world.

- «Every person, regardless of their orientation, has the right to a fair, equal and safe life» ([Nura, singer, Kazakhstan](#)).
- «I want to believe that I live in a country where human rights are respected!» ([Viktoria, actress, Moldova](#)).
- «We all have the right to safety and security!» ([Lada Holly, blogger, Ukraine](#)).
- «In this lifelong race, it is important to reach the finish line, supporting each other despite differences» ([Eldana, influencer, Kyrgyzstan](#))

The video clips were viewed by 260,300 people

- By December 1, six LGBT bloggers in EECA released community-oriented [video clips](#), calling upon people to take care of their health.



MOBILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRANS* COMMUNITY

In terms of the achievements of 2021 in relation to the trans community, we can highlight several key points. First, there have been concrete steps to designate trans* people as a separate key population in national HIV programs. Secondly, community representatives became part of decision-making structures at the national level. Third, there was an increase in funding for trans* issues in the region thanks to developed strategies, ECOM's technical assistance and community capacity-building.*

Daniyar Orsekov,
ECOM Advocacy Coordinator

● REGIONAL WORKING GROUP OF TRANS* PEOPLE ON HIV AND SEXUAL HEALTH IN EECA (RGT)

The working group was established with the support of ECOM in May 2019. This is the only group at the regional level whose **members and experts are exclusively trans* people**. The mission of the group is to improve the quality of life of trans* people by increasing visibility, mainstreaming the needs of trans* people in the context of HIV prevention and trans* health in general, broadcasting the vision of the community to medical professionals and government institutions, and by providing access to trans*-competent and trans*-sensitive public healthcare services.

Activities in 2021:

- A «vision of possible development» was created, which makes it possible to state without a doubt that the RGT is currently a unique platform, bringing together trans* leaders at the regional level on issues of HIV and sexual health.
- Recommendations were developed for the study of the level of internalized transphobia in the region.

The RTG is the only group in the region that includes trans people not as a vulnerable group, but as experts, which brings the entire community to a new level. This group places expertise directly in the hands of trans* people who understand their lives and the problems of the transgender community much better than anyone else.*

Elena German,
ECOM Capacity Building Coordinator

● SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES IN NATIONAL HIV COORDINATING BODIES

Representatives of national partners from Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Ukraine continue to be part of country coordinating committees – decision-making bodies – Trans* Forum (Russia).



Thanks to the representation of the trans community of Ukraine in the country coordinating committee, we managed to mainstream the trans* agenda in the work of the National Council on HIV and TB, and establish a working group under the Program Committee, which focuses on the inclusion of the interests and rights of trans* people in legal regulations in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.*

Anastasia Domani,
Director of the HO «Cohort», Ukraine



● COMMUNITY ADVOCACY PLANS



*In 2021, as part of the «Trans*Map in EECA» project, Ukrainian trans* activists developed the National Advocacy Plan for 2021-23 for three key areas: socio-economic, medical and legal blocks, on which the leading trans* organizations «Cohort» and Trans*Generation began working. At the November Trans*-Forum in Kyiv, about 20 representatives of various trans* organizations, initiative groups, and individual activists came together for the first time to discuss the Advocacy Plan and develop a strategy for joint action, in particular in relation to trans*-competent medical care, the implementation of the ICD-11 at the national level, the creation of a network of paralegals, as well as for the greater involvement of activists in monitoring violations of the rights of transgender people in Ukraine.*

Anastasia Domani,
Director PO «Cohort», Ukraine

● LEADERSHIP SCHOOL FOR TRANS* PEOPLE

The Leadership School for Trans People is a unique tool for the region, which was created by communities for communities and provides practical and regionally realistic training information related to human rights and advocacy opportunities, gender issues and depathologization, HIV, and decision-making tools.*

Daniyar Orsekov,
ECOM Advocacy Coordinator

GOAL

Involvement of trans* communities in decision-making processes related to HIV programs in the countries of the EECA region

OBJECTIVES

- Promote the formation of leadership qualities
- Inform activists about national mechanisms and tools
- Provide training on methods and tools for advocacy, community mobilization, and for countering stigma and discrimination
- Develop a strong community training team

METHODOLOGY

- 14 developed training sessions lasting from three to five hours (training module)
- Possibility of using them in different combinations so the activities best meet the needs of the community at the current moment
- Ability to conduct classes online

The training module was handed over to six national partners with general recommendations on holding the school. National rollout scheduled for 2022.



SUCCESS STORY: EXPERIENCE OF «QUEER ASSOCIATION – TEMIDA» (GEORGIA)

In 2021, as part of the «Trans*Map in EECA» project, a country advocacy plan on trans* issues was developed. LGBTQ organizations operating in Georgia and trans* activists were involved in the process. «In carrying this out, we were greatly helped by an excellent module created by ECOM, which brings together the topics of HIV, gender-based violence, stigma and discrimination, leadership development, burnout prevention, etc.,» said Lana Miruashvili, project coordinator in Georgia. «Appropriately qualified trainers from the trans* and queer community were selected. In total, 5 trainings were held, which were attended by representatives of the trans* and queer community».

In 2021, advocacy on trans*-sensitive health issues was actively implemented to ensure that important community issues and needs are reflected in the national policy of the country and that appropriate services are provided to the trans* community. **Two recommendation documents for the new national plan** were developed. «Based on these documents, we already know about the designation of trans* communities as a target group in the new national plan», notes Lana Miruashvili. «This means establishing an expanded HIV prevention package for transgender people. As part of the program, a pilot hormone therapy program for 50 people will be established. Thanks to this advocacy project, these needs will be reflected in Georgia's application to the Global Fund».



SUPPORT FOR NEW LEADERS

STUDY «ASSESSING THE NEEDS OF LGBT+ YOUTH IN THE EECA REGION»

90% of respondents face problems in the political sphere

The primary needs expressed by LGBT+ youth in EECA are related to political rights and freedoms

Young LGBT+ people need guarantees to exercise their rights to participate in political and civil life in their countries

LGBT+ youth are a resource for active social and political work on human rights issues in the countries of the region

A methodological guide*, «**Training module for LGBT youth on national decision-making processes on HIV**», was developed, which will facilitate the involvement of relevant young community members in decision-making processes at the national level



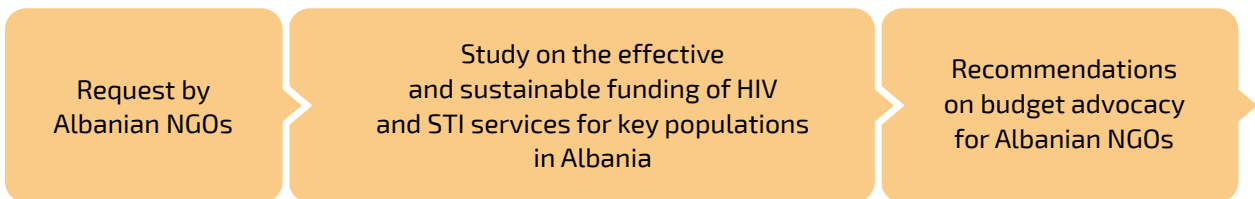
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Providing technical assistance is an important aspect of ECOM's work, because in this way we can provide concrete assistance to coalition members and partners to resolve specific problems. 2021 was quite successful in this area, and its end was marked by the signing of a contract with ITPC-global as part of their joint community-led monitoring activities with the Global Fund. Thus, we will continue to work as prequalified technical assistance providers.

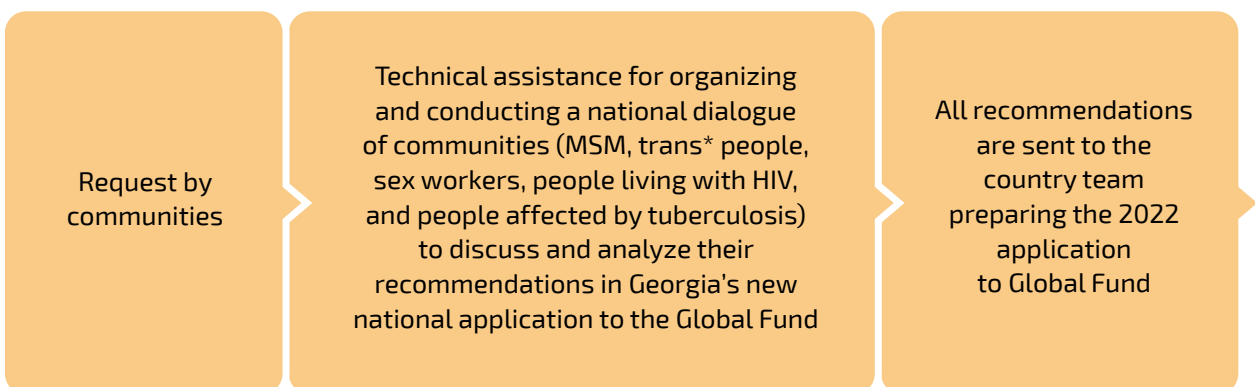
Elena German,
ECOM Capacity Building Coordinator

● TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS PART OF THE GLOBAL FUND'S COMMUNITY, RIGHTS AND GENDER (CRG) PROGRAM

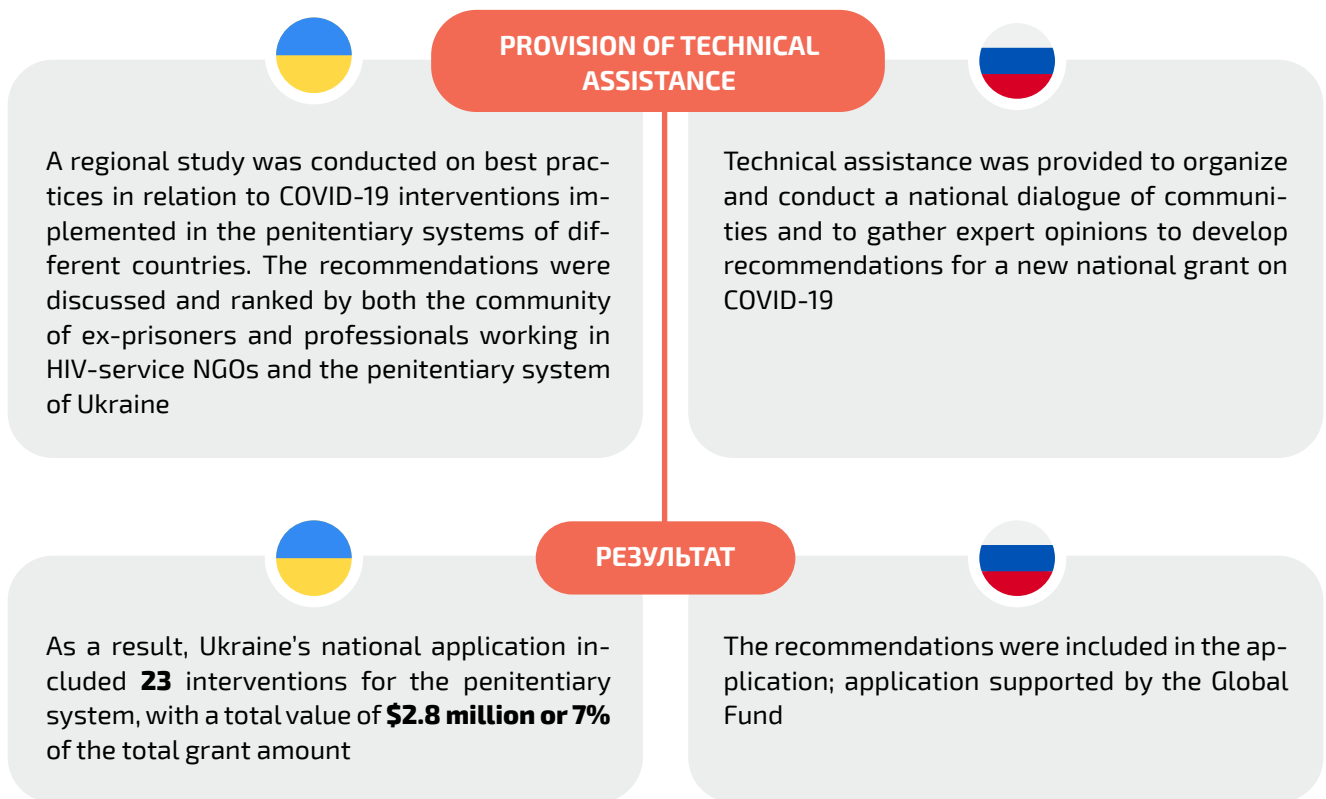
CALCULATING THE COST OF SERVICES IN ALBANIA



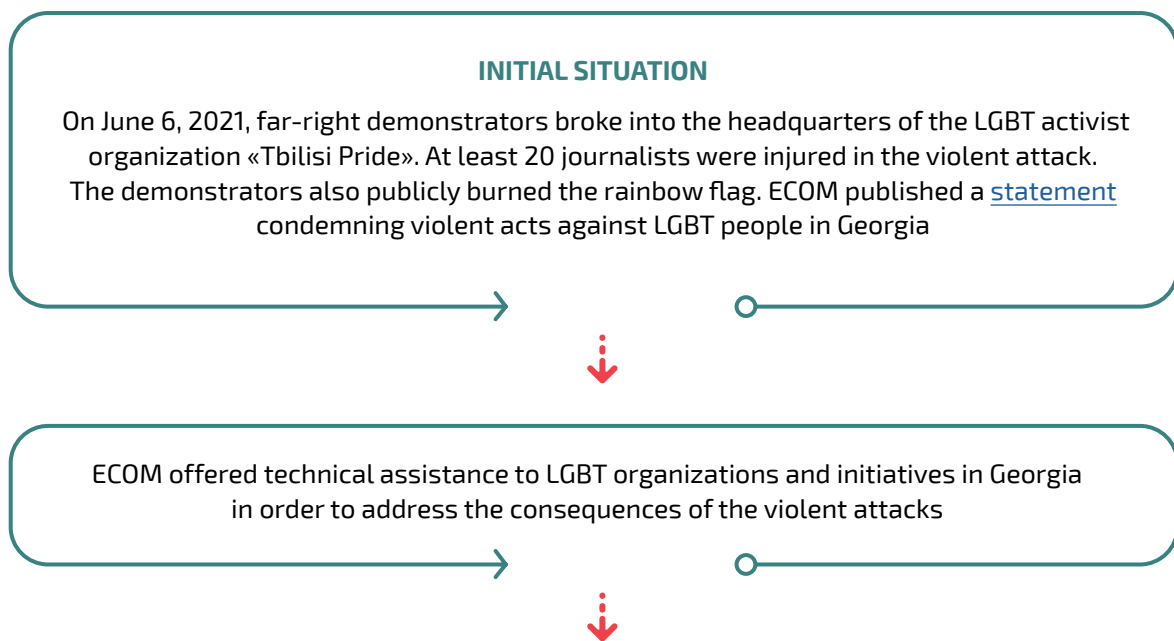
NATIONAL DIALOGUE OF COMMUNITIES OF GEORGIA CARRIED OUT

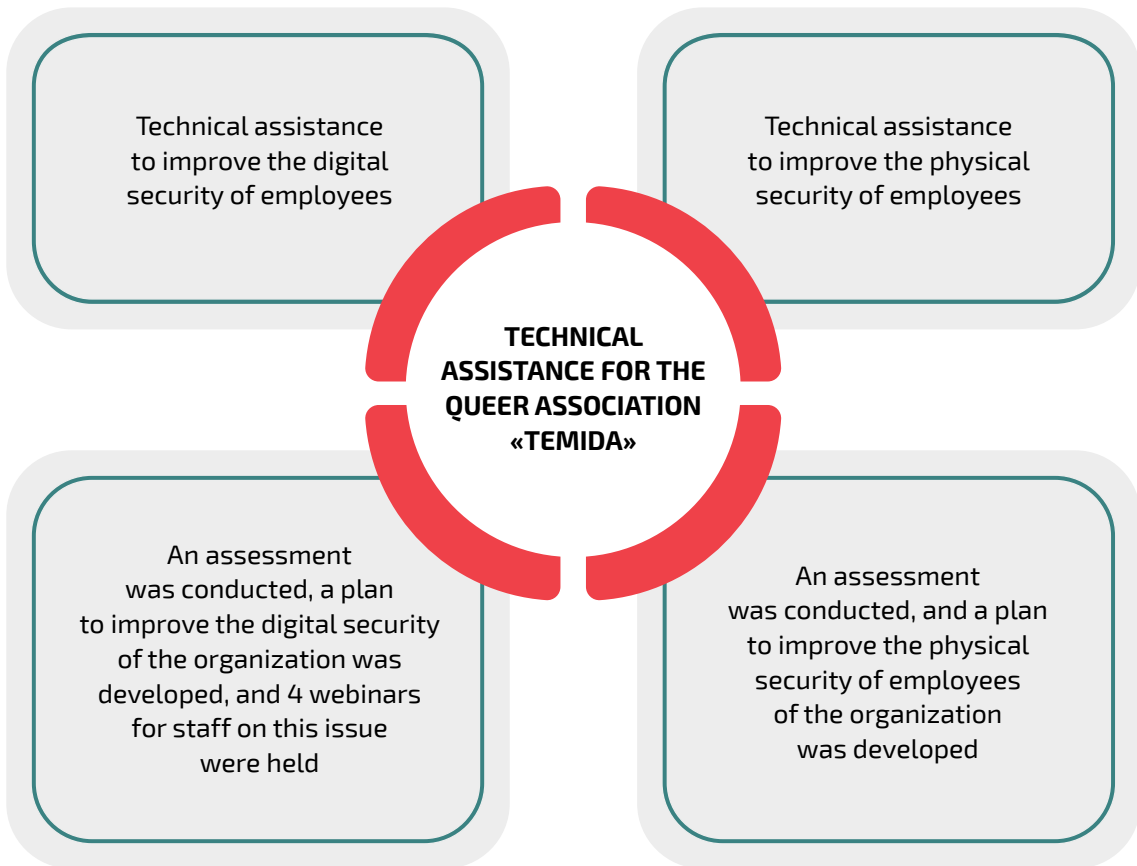


**ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL APPLICATIONS OF RUSSIA AND UKRAINE
AS PART OF THE GLOBAL FUND'S C19RM INITIATIVE**



● **IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL SECURITY OF STAFF (GEORGIA)**





02

ENSURE RECOGNITION OF THE ISSUES OF THE MSM AND TRANS* COMMUNITIES AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF DECISION-MAKING AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDING THROUGH HIV AND HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS



ECOM REGIONAL CONSULTATION

ECOM'S 4TH REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON HIV AMONG MSM AND TRANS* PEOPLE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

14-15 December 2021

«Unity, support and renewal in a period of transformation»

Innovative hybrid format that combines online and offline formats

More on the Regional Consultation — [here](#).



5 national hubs
(Almaty, Bishkek,
Yerevan, Kyiv, Tallinn)



11 participating countries
(Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan,
Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan,
Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Estonia)



More than **100**
participants



REGIONAL CONSULTATION SESSIONS

● HEALTH, SEX AND WELL-BEING OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Discussion of changes to the health and well-being of the LGBT community during the COVID-19 pandemic, key service delivery challenges and complications, and a presentation of best practices for adapting work to the new environment.



5 reports



12 discussion participants

The crisis forced us to develop.

Svyatoslav Suslov,
President of the Public Foundation «Community friends» (Kazakhstan)

The pandemic taught us to take care of our health, and to understand that prevention is better than treatment, and that online outreach is the gold standard of work, which may replace traditional forms in the future.

Gennady Ustinov,
Sexual Health Consultant. LaSky Project (Russia)

● TRANS* PEOPLE IN 2021 — REGULATING CHAOS AND BECOMING STRONGER

Challenges faced by trans* people during the pandemic, and a presentation of best practices in the context of protecting rights and improving access to healthcare services.



4 reports



8 discussion participants

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the sense of chaos in the modern world, deepened the feeling of uncertainty about whether some conditional goodness is present and whether it has power. For trans people, COVID-19 has reduced the already small number of safe spaces and has worsened the mental health of communities as a whole. But chaos actually has very specific causes and effects. The starting point for the problems of trans* people is patriarchal gender principles and transphobia.*

Daniyar Orsekov,
ECOM Advocacy Coordinator

● INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH TO OVERCOMING LEGAL BARRIERS TO ACCESSING HIV SERVICES



3 reports



8 discussion participants

MAIN CHALLENGES FACING EECA COUNTRIES



KYRGYZSTAN

Worsening of legislation (*copy of Russian homophobic laws, norm that made it possible to change one's gender marker was removed from legislation*), attacks on LGBT activists



UKRAINE

Attempts to introduce the concept of «crimes based on homophobia and transphobia» in legislation



RUSSIA

Tightening the screws on LGBT organizations (*law on the prohibition of the so-called «gay propaganda», law on foreign agents*)



BELARUS

Repression of MSM organizations



TAJIKISTAN

Main need of the community is safety and the observance of rights



MOLDOVA

Attempts to decriminalize HIV transmission



KAZAKHSTAN

Restrictions on the registration of organizations



GEORGIA

Attempt to hold Pride in Tbilisi, attacks on participants and organizers



UZBEKISTAN

Criminal liability for same-sex sexual contacts between men (*in 2021, there was a revision of the Criminal Code, but the article on «sodomy» was not removed*)

Previously trans* women were shown in a negative context, however, we are now trying to get out of our comfort zone and give interviews despite a radical society. Changes are visible, which can be observed by the likes and comments under articles. We also have the unique experience of the father of a trans* guy who wrote a book about the experience of accepting his child as a trans* person. This greatly affects society - after all, in a patriarchal, binary society, the voice of a man is more significant.

Kanykey Kyzy,
Kyrgyzstan

● EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AS AN ADVOCACY TOOL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



3 reports



6 discussion participants

Recommendations from speakers and discussion participants:

- Internet presence should be permanent and should use the most popular platforms.
- An online informational portal reduces the risk of blocking and the loss of content on social media.
- Targeting bloggers as new media.
- An informational component increases coverage.
- A successful form of communication can be direct access to politicians on social networks.
- Public campaigns can really be carried out online.



PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PREP)

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON PREP



KAZAKHSTAN



KYRGYZSTAN



ARMENIA

- Participants — community representatives and medical staff from AIDS centers.
- Goal — assess the current situation in countries, identify problematic areas and priority needs. Determine the role of ECOM.
- Conduct training events to provide up-to-date information about PrEP.
- Establish systematic work.

4-day online training on the use of online technologies for providing counselling on PrEP (30 participants from Almaty and Nur-Sultan)

Two-day training on PrEP focused on mental health and helping people who have experienced trauma (92 participants). Development of a methodological manual

Two two-day trainings on prescribing PrEP in Armenia for doctors and staff of the «New Generation» Humanitarian NGO (40 participants)

Positive experience of Kazakhstan

Establishment of a resource center on PrEP issues in Central Asia (exchange of experiences on the provision of PrEP); working group established

Online course that can be used in any EECA country
(in progress)

Technical guide on using digital technologies to attract clients to PrEP services
(in progress)

An innovative approach was the use of mental health issues. Our logic was that PrEP is often the gateway for people seeking services. It is quite possible that a person who comes for a consultation may also reveal certain experiences and difficult life situations, and will perhaps first need psychological assistance. It is for this reason that NGO staff should be trained in the minimum set of tools that absolutely anyone involved in the health system as a healthcare provider can manage. This is a completely new area, we did not expect that the first trainings would show how much work lies ahead. This provides us with greater understanding of what we will do in the future.

Nikolay Lunchenkov,
ECOM LGBT Health Coordinator

● RESEARCH ON PREP

- An **economic study was initiated in Kyrgyzstan**, to analyze the cost of PrEP services in comparison to HIV treatment services.
- A cross-sectional study was launched in Ukraine on the **impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and well-being** of individuals receiving PrEP. This will be the first study to collect quantitative data on the impact of the pandemic on quality of life.

COVID-19: IMPACT ON WORK

In 2021, we have seen how organizations that we and various donors have invested in over the years have learned to adapt very well to rapidly changing conditions. COVID-19 has certainly hit a lot of services hard, but the employees of the organizations have a very good understanding of the situation, which has helped them to quickly adapt their services, and make them mobile and suitable to the new conditions. There was a problem with access to services, but where services were not very well developed, it got worse, and where services were sufficiently developed, it did not get worse. The epidemic also actualized the importance and necessity of involving the state in helping such organizations, and where state bodies provided help (for example, they allowed movement around the city during the lockdown), this combination had a positive result.

Nikolay Lunchenkov,
ECOM LGBT Health Coordinator



SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO ADVOCATE FOR COMPREHENSIVE, QUALITY HIV SERVICES: GRANTS

- Activities as part of the **Eurasian Regional Consortium** (final year of the project).
- **Goal:** advocacy for the implementation of quality standards for services provided in countries in accordance with international instruments.

Development of an informational and training block — a video presentation and a methodological guide «**The ABCs of Quality: Quality Management Models and Standards for Non-Medical HIV Services**»



Online training on HIV services quality standards (38 participants)



CLOSED SMALL GRANTS COMPETITION FOR THE PARTICIPANTS

Objective for ECOM members: analysis of the implementation in the country of WHO recommendations on services for MSM based on the MSMIT using a tool developed by ECOM, and on previous analyses of the cascade of HIV services for MSM.

Objective for EHRA members: assessment of existing standards for harm reduction/HIV prevention services for people who use drugs in comparison with IDUIT recommendations, and trainings with community experts for specialists developing services.

Objective for EWNA members: analysis of the integration of sexual and reproductive health services into existing HIV programs, monitoring of violence against women living with HIV and representatives of key populations.

FUNDED

- PO «LGBT Association LIGA» (Ukraine)
- «Kyrgyz Indigo» (Kyrgyzstan)
- «Gender and Development» (Azerbaijan)
- «Vstrecha/BelSet Anti-AIDS» (Belarus)
- «New Generation» (Armenia)

- Public Association «PULS Comunitar» (Moldova) — assessment of the work of syringe exchange points for PUID through 7 NGOs in Moldova.
- «SPIN+» (Tajikistan) — assessment of the needs of PUID, development of Methodological recommendations for comprehensive service standards in the context of the implementation of comprehensive HIV and hepatitis C programs for PUID in the Republic of Tajikistan».

- Public Association «Women's Network of Key Communities» (Kyrgyzstan) — analysis of the quality of services provided by crisis centers.
- CO «Positive Women» (Ukraine) — assessment of services, monitoring of violations of rights in the field of SRH, a study with an analysis and recommendations for improving the situation at different levels.



BEST PRACTICE: KYRGYZSTAN



The Public Association **«Women’s Network of Key Communities»** as part of the implementation of a grant, adapted the **«Secret Client»** methodology, [used by ECOM](#) with its grantees. Using this methodology, the quality of services provided by crisis centers in the cities of Bishkek, Osh, Cholpon-Ata and Karakol to women under 35 years who use new psychoactive substances (NPS), or who are survivors of physical and/or sexual violence, was analyzed. Women who acted as “secret clients” indicated that there were serious failures with regard to ensuring their privacy during their appointments. For example, counselling was not always carried out in separate rooms; the doors of offices were often left open during counselling; or, in addition to the client and staff members, there were often strangers in the office who were able to hear the conversation with the client. Following analysis, project staff developed an [interactive map of services](#), provided by counseling and prevention centers to women using NPS.



The analysis of the community monitoring that was carried out demonstrated that there are not enough crisis centers in Kyrgyzstan, and those that provide services with the support of international and local donors are not sufficiently prepared to provide services to women from key populations. The number of trained specialists (psychologists, social workers) does not meet existing needs, and low salaries makes it difficult to motivate and retain trained specialists in these positions. This year, Kyrgyzstan received important recommendations from the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in relation to marginalized women, including with the aim of improving the access of women who use drugs to harm reduction programs and institutions. The objective of women’s communities is to regularly monitor services for us, as well as to advocate for the implementation of the obligations and recommendations declared by our states.

Alla Bessonova,
Chairman of the Board, Women’s Network of Key Communities





CASCADES OF SERVICES

● CASCADE OF SERVICES FOR MSM

Regional analysis of the cascade of HIV services (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine — through small grants):

- **Ukraine** demonstrates the best level of access to HIV testing services, however, the quality of service provision needs to be improved.
- **Armenia, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan** have a similar level of structure for the provision of HIV testing services, while Armenia has the most accessible and high-quality services, which results in the best service coverage for the target group — 66%.
- In **Azerbaijan**, the quality of services provided is assessed as below average and needs to be improved.

“The cascade of services shows how well certain services are implemented in the country. Thanks to the cascades, we see the real situation by country and by year, as well as where the biggest gaps are. For example, in Armenia, the cascade showed a decrease in the number of people who are aware of their status. But the reason is that the estimated number of MSM has changed — everyone began to understand this, and most importantly, the community understood this. It is thanks to the efforts of the community that IBBS (Integrated Bio-Behavioral Study) has shown more realistic figures. The biggest challenge is testing and access to testing, which is the primary entry point into the service cascade.”

Elena German,
ECOM Capacity Building Coordinator

● CASCADE OF HIV SERVICES FOR TRANS* PEOPLE

Cascade to reach the 90-90-90 targets among trans* people

Prevention cascade to measure the access of trans* people to prevention services

Cascade on needs, willingness, and access to one of the key innovative prevention services - pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV-negative trans* people

UNFPA regional office approval and disclaimer received





The tool was tested in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Ukraine
(national trans* cascades were analyzed)

All cascades demonstrate a lack of strategic information in relation to trans people in countries, which clearly distorts the cascade data. This requires future work, in particular, to assess the actual population size of trans* people.*

The cascade of continuous HIV care for MSM and trans people in Armenia, conducted by the humanitarian non-governmental organization "New Generation" with financial support from ECOM, is the basis for planning, advocacy and monitoring the availability and accessibility of HIV services. Based on the gaps and barriers identified by the cascades, recommendations and model packages of HIV services have been developed, which must be taken into account when setting priorities for MSM and trans* people. Thanks to cooperation with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia, our organization has opened a drop-in center in the center of Yerevan. Advocacy work continues through the implementation of other recommendations.*

Hmayak Avetisyan,
Capacity Development Coordinator, "New Generation" Humanitarian NGO (Armenia)

Data on the trans cascade showed a high demand for hormone therapy among the trans* community in Kyrgyzstan and the negative impact in relation to discrimination of the inability to change one's gender marker. This data was used during the development of the national HIV program. The draft also reflects activities aimed at access to hormone therapy for HIV+ trans* people and advocacy for the process of restoring the ability to change one's documents.*

Nadira Masyumova,
Consultant, NGO «Kyrgyz Indigo»



STUDY ON REMOTE AND DIGITAL MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF HIV IN THE EECA REGION

- The most popular service is online counseling.
- Results:
 - Online assistance: **Mapping** digital and remote medical and social HIV prevention services for key populations in the EECA region: https://ecom.ngo/library/online-care_rus
 - Online assistance: **Best practices** in the provision of digital and remote medical and social HIV services: https://ecom.ngo/library/online-care_best-practices
 - Development of a training course: https://harmreductioneurasia.org/ru/digi_course_rus/

The researchers, using remote methods and tools, very clearly identified the knowledge and skills that are sorely lacking for local specialists to effectively provide outreach services and online consultations. It was this list that the Eurasian Regional Consortium team used as a basis for developing a basic course for counselors. The course contains tools for choosing the most suitable online assistance tools for clients, modules on developing the digital security of counselors and clients, as well as tools for ensuring the effectiveness of online counseling. Any specialist can take the course free of charge and autonomously. The pandemic has taught us to respond quickly to challenges, as a result of which we already have a training tool to fill in the missing skills and knowledge for all specialists in the region, even though less than a year has passed since the study.

Anna Dovbakh,
Executive Director, Eurasian Harm Reduction Association



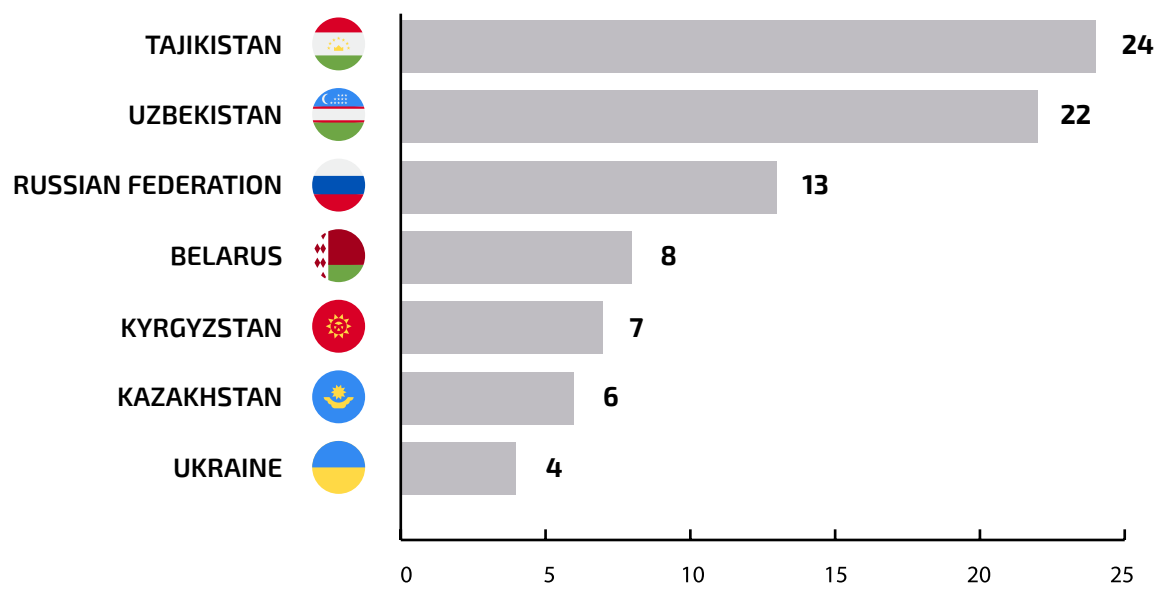
CONTRIBUTE TO THE FORMATION OF LEGAL AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTS CONDUCTIVE TO THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO HEALTH



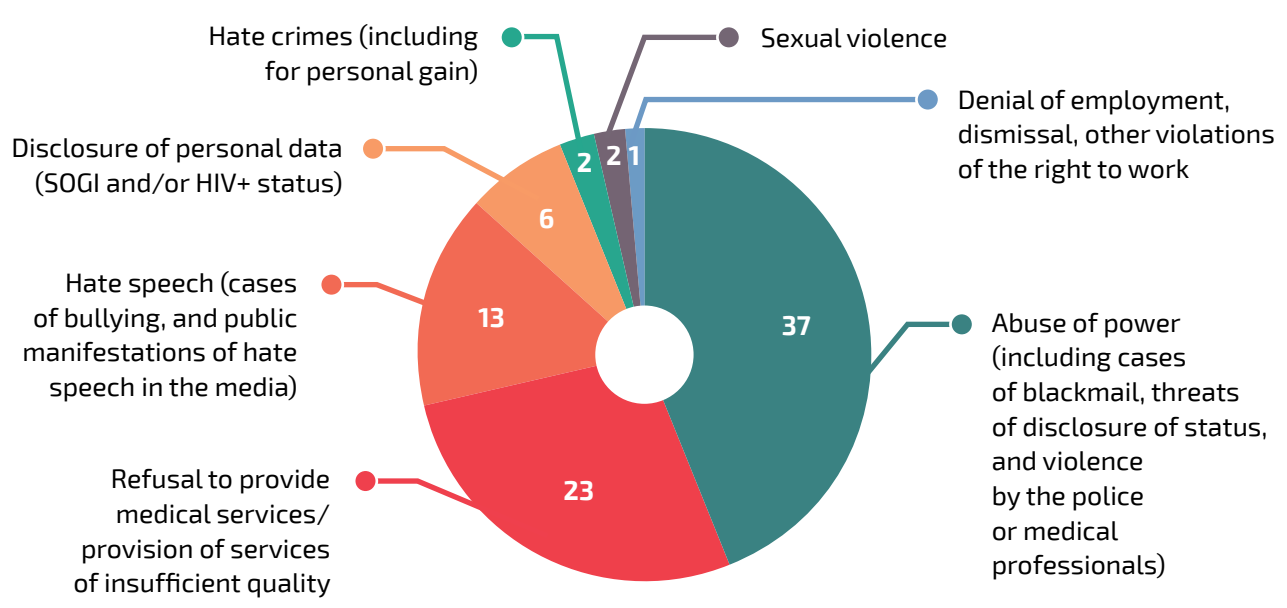
MONITORING AND DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

84

human rights violations in relation to gay and other MSM and trans* people (including those living with HIV) were recorded



PROBLEMATIC ISSUES





ALTERNATIVE REPORTS TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES AND MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

● REPORTS TO THE UN COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

REPORT THEME	MAIN POINTS	RESULTS
<p>Report on violations of the right to health of trans* people in Georgia</p> <p>Partner: Queer Association «Temida» (Georgia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Availability of medical services for trans* people. ● Need for sensitization of police and doctors on SOGI issues. ● Collection of disaggregated data on hate crimes based on SOGI. ● Approval of a non-discriminatory procedure for legal transgender transition. 	<p>The Committee's List of issues includes questions about the measures taken by the state to overcome stigma towards trans* people and the investigation of hate crimes based on SOGI, as well as about problems related to access to medical services for trans* people (item 20a, 20b and 20f).</p>
<p>Report on violations of the right to health of trans* people in Armenia for the procedure of developing a List of issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including SOGI as protected characteristics. ● Development of a progressive national HIV plan, including trans* people as a separate vulnerable group. ● Sensitization of doctors on SOGI issues and access to medical services for trans* people. ● Approval of a non-discriminatory procedure for legal transgender transition. 	<p>The Committee's List of issues includes questions about combating stereotypes against trans* people (item 9), sensitization of doctors on SOGI issues, and access to medical services for trans* people (item 15).</p>
<p>Report on violations of the right to health of trans* women in Kyrgyzstan</p> <p>Partner: «Kyrgyz Indigo» and «Labrys»</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including SOGI as protected characteristics; ● Collection of disaggregated data on hate crimes based on SOGI. ● Decriminalization of HIV transmission. ● Reinstatement of a non-discriminatory procedure for legal transgender transition. 	<p>Recommendations were made to the country on the implementation of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that includes SOGI as protected characteristics (items 51 and 52).</p>

REPORT THEME	MAIN POINTS	RESULTS
<p>Report on violations of the right to health of trans* women in the Russian Federation for the review of the country</p> <p>Partner: NGO «Coming Out»</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Repeal of the law on so-called «gay propaganda». ● Introduction of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including SOGI as protected characteristics. ● Prohibition of hate speech against LGBT people ● Collection of disaggregated data on hate crimes based on SOGI ● Sensitization of police on SOGI issues. ● Approval of a non-discriminatory procedure for legal transgender transition. 	<p>Recommendations were made to the country on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● prohibition of hate speech against LBT people (items 22c and 23c); ● the law on so-called «gay propaganda» (item 47a) ● sensitization of police on SOGI issues (item 47b) ● investigation of hate crimes based on SOGI (item 47c).

In 2020, the Parliament adopted a Law according to which trans people, including trans* women, lost the ability to change their gender marker (passport gender). The “Kyrgyz Indigo” team reported to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as a result of which a recommendation was made to Kyrgyzstan to reinstate this opportunity. However, the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic did not react in any way to this recommendation. With the assistance of a lawyer from “Kyrgyz Indigo”, a memorandum for trans* people was developed, following which you can change your gender marker. Work is underway to submit a petition to the Constitutional Court of Kyrgyzstan to declare that the law restricting the right of trans* people to change their gender marker is unconstitutional. Despite being ignored by the Parliament, the recommendation mentioned above forms the basis of the advocacy work of «Kyrgyz Indigo», and is one of the supporting arguments for its advocacy activities.*

Advocacy and Human Rights Team,
NGO «Kyrgyz Indigo»

● REPORT TO THE UN COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

REPORT THEME	MAIN POINTS	RESULTS
<p>Report on violations of the right to health of LGBT people in Armenia for the procedure of developing a List of issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including SOGI as protected characteristics. ● Development of a progressive national HIV plan, including trans* people as a separate vulnerable group. ● Protection of the confidential data of HIV+ people. ● Approval of a non-discriminatory procedure for legal transgender transition. 	<p>The Committee's List of issues includes questions on the protection of LGBT people from discrimination, the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation (item 7), access to medical services for LGBT people, sensitization of doctors on SOGI issues, protection of the confidentiality of data, and on the decriminalization of HIV (item 23b).</p>
<p>Report on violations of the right to health of gay men and trans* people in Kazakhstan for the Follow-Up procedure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including SOGI as protected characteristics. 	<p>As a result of assessing the progress made on the Follow-Up procedure, the Committee noted the lack of progress on the implementation of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, in particular in relation to including SOGI as protected characteristics.</p>

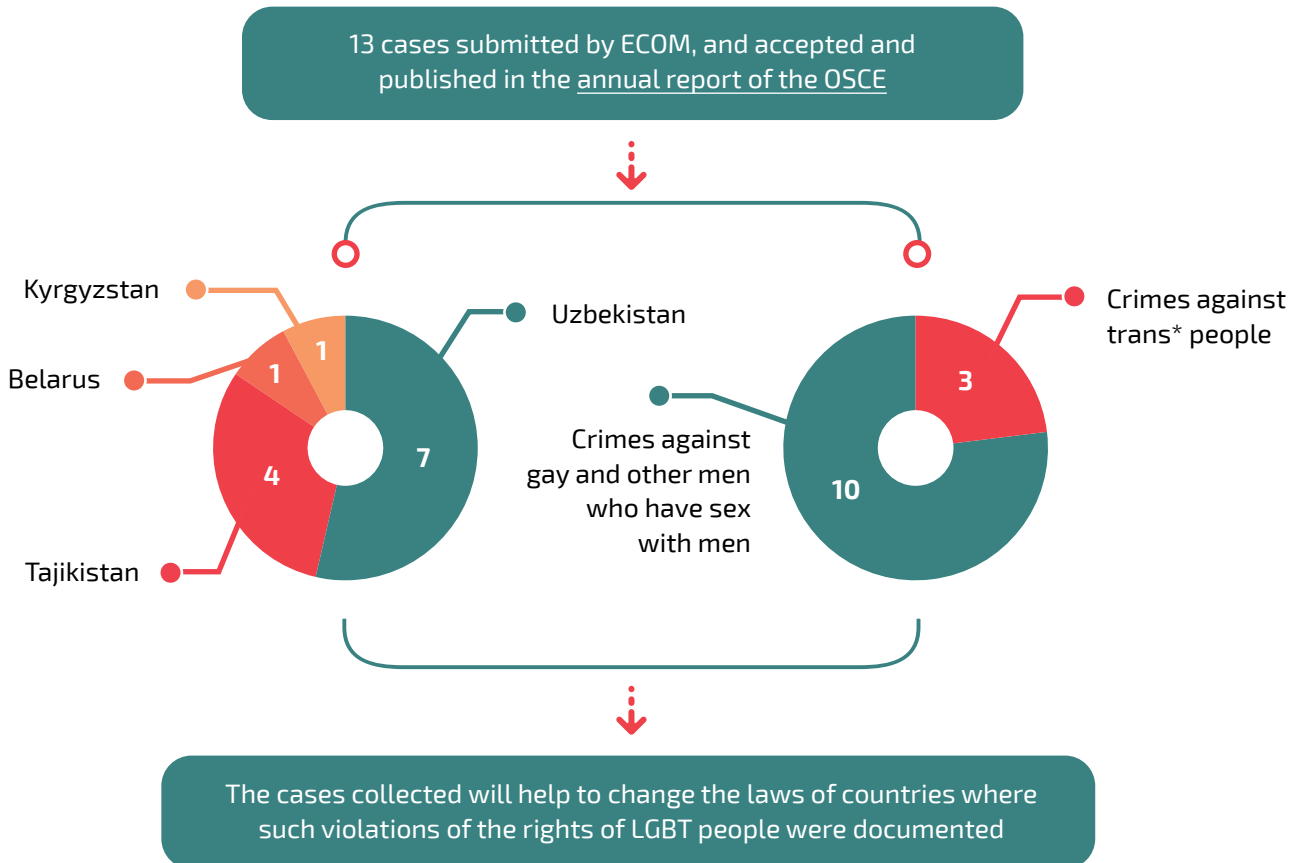
● REPORT TO THE UN COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

REPORT THEME	MAIN POINTS	RESULTS
<p>Report on violations of the right to health of LGBT people in Kyrgyzstan for the review of the country</p> <p>Partner: «Kyrgyz Indigo»</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including SOGI as protected characteristics. ● Collection of disaggregated data on hate crimes based on SOGI. ● Sensitization of police on SOGI issues. ● Protection of LGBT people in prisons from discrimination and access of HIV+ LGBT people to antiretroviral therapy. ● Reinstatement of a non-discriminatory procedure for legal transgender transition. 	<p>Recommendations were made to the country on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigation of hate crimes based on SOGI (item 25a). ● Collection of disaggregated data on hate crimes based SOGI (item 34).



REPORTS ON RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

● REPORT TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE) OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ON HATE CRIMES AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE



● REPORT ON THE RIGHTS OF LGBT PEOPLE IN TAJIKISTAN FOR THE UN UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Speech by ECOM at the 39th pre-session of the UN Universal Periodic Review on Tajikistan, on behalf of the country's LGBT community

The situation regarding the lack of anti-discrimination legislation, discrimination against LGBT people, violation of the right to health of LGBT people, and the lack of a non-discriminatory procedure for legal transgender transition was presented

● STATEMENT ON FORCED ANAL EXAMINATIONS OF GAY MEN IN UZBEKISTAN

From 2017-2021 in Uzbekistan, authorities subjected at least six men to forced anal examinations in order to further prosecute them for same-sex relations. ECOM, the Council for Global Equality, Freedom Now, Human Dignity Trust, the Human Rights Campaign, Human Rights Watch, ILGA-Europe, the International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR), and the Federation of Lesbians and Gays in Germany (LSVD) [stated](#) that such examinations constitute cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and may be considered a form of torture. They called on President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to immediately ban this practice.

Uzbekistan must respect its international human rights obligations and immediately ban forced anal examination. Such an order can be passed by the President with a single stroke of the pen. The government, for its part, should remove obsolete norms on consensual sexual relations from the Criminal Code, which in themselves violate human rights and contribute to other violations, such as the practice of forced anal examination.

Yuri Yoursky,
ECOM Human Rights and Legal Issues Coordinator



BEST PRACTICE: PARTNERSHIP

ECOM and the Public Health Alliance have initiated a strategic cooperation to improve the protection of the rights of key populations through the [online platform REAct](#), created to monitor and respond to violations of the rights of key populations and people living with HIV. Statistical data and an evidence base of violations of the rights of men who have sex with men (MSM) and trans* people, collected through the REAct online platform in seven EECA countries, will be used in the preparation of alternative and shadow reports to UN committees, in the development of recommendations for improving the legal environment, as well as when planning advocacy activities in the EECA region. Starting in 2022, ECOM is planning a full transition to REAct, which will provide a more complete picture of violations of the rights of gay and other MSM and trans* people in the region.



Alliance
for Public Health



REACT
PROJECT



ECOM

Evidence-based data is our baseline. We must step up our strategic data collection through RE-Act.

Yuri Yoursky,
ECOM Human Rights and Legal Issues Coordinator

04

DEVELOP THE CAPACITY OF ECOM



ECOM: PLANS FOR 2022

Together with partners, ECOM will conduct an assessment of the number of transgender people in Georgia and Russia, and will continue training meetings on trans issues for partners.*

Daniyar Orsekov,
ECOM Advocacy Coordinator

We are planning a unique informational campaign among LGBT youth. As well as new online webinars and master classes on PrEP, human rights, and on advocacy with UN bodies. We also planned to expand our informational work with major media outlets in the region. We will continue to collaborate with allies as part of the #RightTo campaign, and also involve celebrities in support of the LGBT community in the region.

Yuri Yoursky,
ECOM Human Rights and Legal Issues Coordinator

We look forward to conducting research on the impact of COVID-19 on the well-being of LGBT people, as well as an economic study on PrEP in Kyrgyzstan.

Nikolay Lunchenkov,
ECOM LGBT Health Coordinator

We are planning a marathon for the prevention of professional burnout, a training for trainers on conducting online trainings, and an informational media campaign to encourage people to get vaccinated. We will also launch a new learning tool, an online hub. 5 courses are already planned for next year.

Elena German,
ECOM Capacity Building Coordinator



REPORT OF ECOM'S STEERING COMMITTEE

Human groupings have one main purpose: to assert everyone's right to be different, to be special, to think, feel and live in his or her own way. People join together in order to win or defend this right. But this is where a terrible, fateful error is born: the belief that these groupings in the name of a race, a God, a party or a State are the very purpose of life and not simply a means to an end. No, no, no! The only true and lasting meaning of the struggle for life lies in the individual, in his modest peculiarities and in his right to these peculiarities. (Vasily Grossman, from «Life and Fate»)

Throughout 2021, ECOM's Steering Committee continued its work, and was comprised of seven diverse people elected in 2019 at the General Assembly. The members of ECOM's SC working in 2021 included: Vitaly Vinogradov (Chair, Kazakhstan), Egor Burcev (Russia), Anastasia-Eva Domani (Ukraine), Evgeny Pisemskiy (Russia), Sergey Gabrielyan (Armenia), Adilet Alymkulov (Kyrgyzstan), and Sviatoslav Sheremet (Ukraine).

ECOM's SC held seven online meetings and one face-to-face meeting near Kyiv, Ukraine in 2021.

The SC reviewed, discussed, amended, and approved all quarterly reports of the Secretariat, as well as the final report for 2021. SC members reviewed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of the organization, assessed the implications for the organization and discussed the lessons learned from operating during the pandemic. The SC discussed how to improve the oversight functions of the executive body in accordance with the provisions of ECOM's Charter. It also approved the work and operational plans for the year, and monitored their implementation.

In 2021, five membership applications were received. All applications were reviewed by the SC and approved.

The new members of ECOM are:

- Socio-cultural, human rights NGO DiverCity, Armenia;
- Initiative group Future, Uzbekistan;
- Initiative group MyrzAyim, Kyrgyzstan;
- Initiative group Vertae, Uzbekistan;
- Human rights NGO «National Trans Coalition», Armenia.

Members of the SC coordinated with ECOM's Ethics Commission in relation to sensitive issues in the Coalition's work involving third parties.

The SC considered the need to revise ECOM's internal documents for compliance with changes in Estonian legislation, as well as the functions of the Board, the management group, the general management structure, and additions to ECOM's Charter. All changes were submitted to the General Assembly of ECOM members, which subsequently approved by them. The changes came into force on January 23, 2022.

The SC discussed how ECOM coordinates responsibility and responds to current and urgent challenges and possible response measures on the part of the Coalition; official messages; and reactions to significant dates or crisis situations. It was decided that documents expressing the position of ECOM should be coordinated with the SC. The Secretariat has the right to take quick steps to respond to crises, while informing the SC about such action.

The SC adopted ECOM's Financial Strategy at its meeting on 2-4.08.2021. It launched the process of developing ECOM's new Strategic Plan for 2022-2027 and an updated strategy and vision for the organization, which are aimed at expanding the goals of activities and community diversity.

On November 15, 2021, the SC initiated a competitive procedure for the appointment of an Executive Director in accordance with ECOM's Charter, and the approval of the candidacy by the General Assembly of ECOM members. As a result of the open competition, Vitaly Djuma was reappointed as Executive Director until 2027.

Working in accordance with the principle of transparency, the SC is always open to appeals from members of the Coalition and other people affected by its activities, and to discuss relevant issues related to the activities of ECOM.

As stipulated by the rules of ECOM, members of the Steering Committee perform their functions on a non-remunerable basis. The term of the current composition of ECOM's SC will end in 2022.



ECOM FINANCIAL REPORT

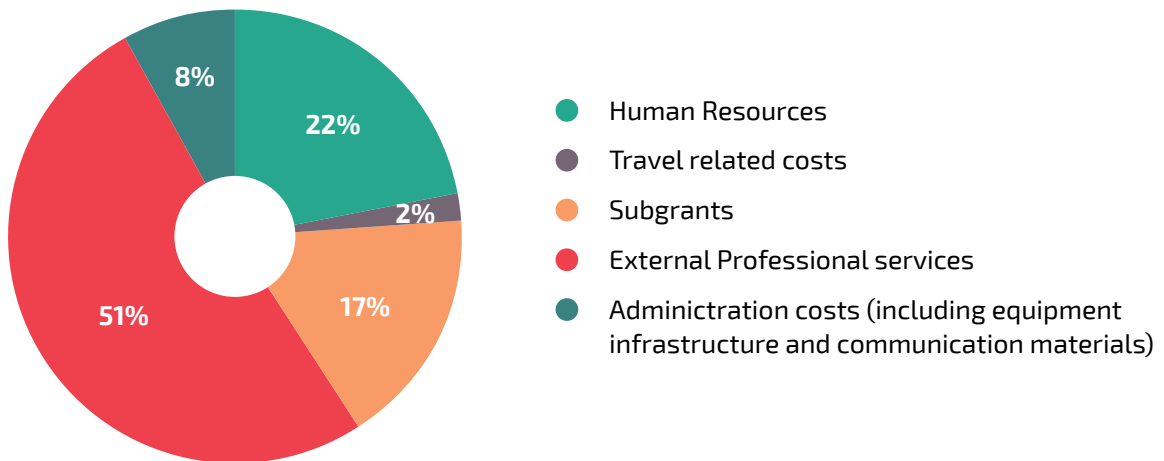
DONOR (PROJECT)	FUNDS UTILIZED, EUR
Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (Eurasian Regional Consortium)*	206,224
Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund (Sustainable Health Advocacy with Gay Men)**	209,909
Open Society Foundations	12,298
Global Fund (Sustainability of services for key populations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia region) ***	115,650
Elton John AIDS Foundation (Trans*Map in EECA)	149,619
UN Agencies (Various projects)	38,038
ViiV Healthcare (PrePare EECA)	42,055
Other Projects	80,095
Total	853,888

* - 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)

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURES BY COST CATEGORIES IN 2021







APPENDICES



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY ECOM IN 2021

- **REGIONAL PROGRAM «THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES IN COMMUNITY ADVOCACY FOR SUSTAINABLE HIGH-QUALITY HIV SERVICES»** 
- **Donor:** Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund
- **Project implementation period:** January 2019-December 2021
- **Project countries:** all countries of the EECA region
- **Implementers:** Eurasian Regional Consortium (ERC) comprised of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA), ECOM, and the Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS (EWNA)
- **Objectives for 2021** (under ECOM's responsibilities):
 - Implementation of a training-grant cycle on standardizing HIV services for vulnerable groups
 - Carrying out and publishing studies on online and remote services for vulnerable groups, as well as on the level of internalized transphobia among trans* people in the EECA region
 - Developing and testing a tool to analyze the cascade of HIV services for trans* people

- **«TRANS*MAP IN EECA»** 
- **Donor:** Elton John AIDS Foundation
- **Project implementation period:** 1 September 2020-31 August 2023
- **Project countries:** Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Russia
- **Implementers:** ECOM jointly with national partners
- **Objectives for 2021:**
 - Mobilization and capacity-building for the trans* community, including national advocacy.
 - Development of strategic information on HIV among trans* people, including bio-behavioral studies and assessments of the population size of trans* people.
 - Participation of trans* people in the development of national HIV responses and in decision-making

● «PREPARE EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA»

- **Donor:** ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action Programme
- **Project implementation period:** 14 April 2020-14 April 2022
- **Objectives for 2021:**
 - Contribute to increasing demand for pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV infection.
 - Advocacy to ensure the availability of pre-exposure prophylaxis for gay and other MSM and transgender people in countries of the region.

● MSMGF CONSORTIUM PROJECT «SUSTAINABLE HEALTH ADVOCACY FOR GAY MEN. (SHAG)»

- **Donor:** MPact Global Action: MPact Home, with the financial support of the Robert Carr Civil Societies Network Fund
- **Project implementation period:** 2019-2021
- **Project countries:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Ukraine
- **Objectives for 2021:**
 - Financial and technical support to national organizations to ensure the continued and meaningful participation of representatives of MSM and transgender people in the work of the CCM, and the interaction of these representatives with the community in relation to how HIV and STI prevention projects are being implemented from the perspective of the interests of gay and other MSM, and transgender people.

● «SUSTAINABILITY OF SERVICES FOR KEY POPULATIONS IN THE EECA REGION»

- **Donor:** 100% Life Network through the Public Health Alliance (Ukraine) with financial support from the Global Fund
- **Implementation period** of the project: 2019-2021
- **Project countries:** Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Uzbekistan
- **Objectives for 2021:**
 - Raise awareness of local communities of gay and other MSM, and trans* people about opportunities for involving international and national human rights mechanisms in interconnected work, and to improve their access to HIV services.



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

COVID-19 Acute respiratory infection caused by SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus

ECOM Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity

EECA Eastern Europe and Central Asia

EHRA Eurasian Harm Reduction Association

Global Fund Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

HIV Human immunodeficiency virus

LGBT Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people

MSM Men who have sex with men

NGO Non-governmental organization

PO Public organization

PrEP Pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV

PUID People using injecting drugs

REAct «Rights-Evidence-Action», a platform that allows you to record violations of the rights of representatives of key populations vulnerable to HIV and tuberculosis

RGT Working Group of Trans* People on HIV and Sexual Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

SOGI Sexual orientation and gender identity

STI Sexually transmitted infection

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

WHO World Health Organization

