



## Eurasian Coalition on Male Health

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### Call for Proposals

#### **Facilitation of ECOM's Regional Advisory Group on Strategic Information**

Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM) is soliciting proposals from individual consultants to help establish and facilitate Regional Advisory Group on Strategic Information (RAGSI) on HIV among MSM and trans\* people in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia

#### **Background**

Eurasian Coalition on Male Health is an international non-governmental association, located in Tallinn, Estonia. We are a membership based association open for non-profits and individuals acting in the field of sexual health, including HIV issues, for gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender (trans\*) people, in the region of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEECA).

In January 2017, ECOM has launched a Regional Program "Right to Health" supported by the Global Fund which aims at increasing the access to HIV services for MSM and trans\* people in the five target countries: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Macedonia

#### **Description of Services required and Timelines**

ECOM is seeking expert assistance to help establish and facilitate the Regional Advisory Group on Strategic Information (RAGSI) on HIV among MSM and trans\* people in CEECA with a focus on Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Macedonia (the target countries).

RAGSI will include experts representing communities, academia and governments from 5 countries (Armenia, Georgia, Macedonia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine), as well as WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, GFATM, other technical and bilateral agencies and international academia. The total number of RAGSI members is expected to be 15 at minimum.

#### **RAGSI's objectives are:**

- to promote regular gathering of strategic information necessary for insuring high quality national HIV responses in MSM and trans\* people in CEECA;
- to facilitate coordination between various data collection projects and researchers in the region;
- to provide and broker technical support for cost efficient and good-quality data gathering projects;

- to facilitate improvement of community organizations capacity in strategic data gathering and use, that includes development of recommendations and guidelines on community base and client-driven researches.

**RAGSI's tasks are:**

- to assess the quality of existing data about HIV in MSM and trans\* people in the target countries;
- to develop guidelines allowing to achieve progress in quality of existing data about HIV in MSM and trans\* people in the target countries;
- to develop or to adapt existing guidelines for research on HIV in MSM and trans\* people in the target countries;
- to develop a unified tool for gathering epidemiologic and sociodemographic data on HIV in MSM and trans\* people in the target countries, as well as to advocate for implementation of the tool;
- to increase number of peer-reviewed articles on HIV in MSM and trans\* people in the five target countries;
- to participate in baseline/evaluation studies (discussion of protocols, tools, implementation and results).

RAGSI will actively cooperate with national CCMs and National M&E groups (in countries where such bodies exist).

RAGSI will have its FB page and e-mailing list. The Group work results will be published via ECOM communication channels. ECOM Secretariat will assist the Group work.

As part of its work, RAGSI will support ECOM in dissemination of information on best practices, existing possibilities of education and participation in researches and volunteer projects in area of MSM/TG sexual health. The main objective of this work is to engage students, university teachers/lecturers and young medical/social practitioners from LGBT community.

**The Consultant will:**

- (a) propose the algorithm and schedule of RAGSI's work;
- (b) lead the establishment of RAGSI under the supervision of ECOM's M&E Coordinator by proposing members and inviting the group members upon confirmation with ECOM;
- (c) with the help of RAGSI members, conduct expert evaluation of existing strategic information as a part of ECOM Baseline assessment;
- (d) with the help of RAGSI members, collect relevant publications/sources of strategic information;
- (e) manage collected information to have it published on ECOM's web portal and elsewhere.

The consultant will work closely with ECOM's Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator and Technical Support Coordinator.

**Deliverables**

1. Algorithm and schedule of the group work.
2. Members list coordinated with ECOM.

3. Mailing list of the Group and/or closed FB group.
4. Conduction of regular (at least once per quarter) skype or web-conferences of the Group (minutes).
5. Guidelines on Strategic Information, drafted and reviewed by Group.
6. Preparation of and participation in the Group meetings in person (once per year) (development of the meeting agenda, participant lists, minutes etc.).

## Budget

Budget allocation will cover the costs of maximum 20 working days for 3 years.

## Consultant Qualifications

### Essential

- Master's degree in public health, social sciences or other relevant field
- At least 5 years' experience in HIV related M&E, research and strategic information
- Experience in providing relevant technical assistance
- Advanced skills in developing manuals and tools, and delivering training on HIV related M&E and research
- Effective communication skills in English and Russian

### Desirable

- Experience in providing relevant technical assistance
- Working experience with HIV service NGOs and LGBT organizations working on HIV in MSM
- Fluency in language(s) of CEECA countries other than Russian is an asset

This consultancy will be awarded to consultant with a proposal that demonstrates experience in working with advisory group and providing technical assistance to NGOs, competitive rate and timeline.

## Application Process

ECOM will consider applications from individuals.

**Interested applicants must submit their applications by email with a reference 'Facilitation of RAGSI' at [contact@ecom.ngo](mailto:contact@ecom.ngo)**

**Deadline for submission:** 12 March 2017 at 23:59 EET.

### Applications should include:

1. A Cover Letter outlining experience in conducting similar work along with CV
2. Brief proposal (3 pages max.) outlining preliminary timetable and budget (number of days and daily rate).

Application materials are non-returnable.

Thank you for understanding that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

For more information, prospective consultants may contact Maxim Kasianczuk, ECOM Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, at [maxim@ecom.ngo](mailto:maxim@ecom.ngo)