



***ECUO regional program
«Partnership for equitable access to
HIV-care continuum in Eastern
Europe and Central Asia»***



Focus of the regional program

The program addresses two important issues influencing lives of PLHIV in the EECA region:

- The fallout of PLHIV from different stages of HIV treatment cascade and, as a result, late initiation of ARV treatment, particularly among key population groups;
- Absence of strategic investments and plans for transition to domestic sources of funding for access to the continuum of HIV care.

Situation with access to ARV

- Treatment coverage in the region is one of the lowest in the world.
- Estimated number of PLHIV in the region is about one and half millions.
 - Less than 300 000 people receive ARV treatment in EECA region.

The reasons for the low level of involvement of vulnerable groups in the treatment program:

- Lack of low-threshold prevention programs;
- HIV testing programs are not fitted for key groups;
- Poor linkage between testing and treatment programs;
- Absence or low effectiveness of interventions on maintaining adherence to ARV treatment.

As a result:

- Late diagnosis of HIV infection;
- Low level of retention in follow up care;
- High rate of mortality.


What is happening with funding?

- Different countries of the region are at different stages of transition to domestic funding;
- Prices for ARV procured for state funds are comparable with West European prices;
- State usually funds only procurement of ARVs and tests. There are no resources allocated for other services.

The goal is to enhance the:

- ***Effectiveness,***
- ***Accessibility,***
- ***Sustainability,*** and
- ***Scale up***

of HIV treatment programs in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) region with ***special emphasis*** on key populations.



Geography of the program

- Some components the program will cover 15 countries of the region.
- Consortiums from 7 countries will be able to apply for the support for implementation of National Advocacy Plans and 5 will get financial support
 - Azerbaijan
 - Belarus
 - Estonia
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kyrgyzstan
 - Russian Federation
 - Uzbekistan

ECUO Regional Program Interventions

- Build capacity and provide tools to community based organizations for:
 - Monitoring the continuum of care and barriers to it;
 - Monitoring of provision of ARV medicines:
 - Quality
 - Quantity
 - Price
- Social mobilization, building community linkages, collaboration and coordination
- Advocacy on national and regional levels:
 - For ARV price reduction
 - Removing barriers to the continuum of care

Social mobilization, building community linkages, collaboration and coordination

- Regional community networks: SWAN, ECOM, EWNA, ENPUD, TB Europe Coalition are invited to provide their expertise on advocacy, finance, legislation, public health, etc.
- Creation of the national consortia of communities (PLHIV+PLHIV/TB+MSM+PUD+SR) for development of NAPs in 7 countries.

Barriers for adequate funding in EECA region

- The link between growth of GDI and reduction of the level of poverty is not quite direct;
- In EECA countries size estimation of key population groups often is not properly done and international donors do not consider that as a criteria for funding;
- Governments in EECA are not ready / do not have political will to fund HIV prevention and testing programmes for key population groups, also considering that certain behaviors are criminalized;
- Medicines' prices are high for countries in EE. New members of EU and the countries which are in the process of association with EU suffer from strict patent protection;
- There are competing challenges which also require funding both within health care and outside.

Thank you!!!

