

Assessment of investments in harm reduction services

a tool designed by the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network

EHRN is a regional network of harm reduction programs and their allies from across 29 countries in the region of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Together, we work to advocate for the universal human rights of people who use drugs, and to protect their lives and health.

Established in 1997, the Network unites over 600 institutional and individual members, tapping into a wealth of regional best practices, expertise and resources in harm reduction, drug policy reform, HIV/AIDS, TB, HCV, and overdose prevention.

- ✓ Saves people time and organizations money
- ✓ Provides evidence to justify expenditure

Using this tool, you can:

- ✓ assess the total costs and unit costs of **needle and syringe programs** and **opioid substitution treatment programs** in a country for two financial years;
- ✓ **study the opinions of program clients** about the accessibility of and demand for services;
- ✓ identify harm reduction **funding gaps** to develop arguments for advocacy;
- ✓ **demonstrate the efficiency** of investments in harm reduction.

Methodology

You submit a request and define the main tasks – this will determine the cost of the work. EHRN experts and experts from your country or organization establish **two working groups**:



The Working Group on Financing requests information on current spending and analyzes the data using the assessment tool. Execution period: from 4 months.



The Working Group on monitoring the availability and quality of services works with clients of harm reduction programs to produce lists of services prioritized by harm reduction program clients and those that the clients consider unnecessary. These lists help to adjust the budget, to ensure it is spent effectively. Execution period: 3 months. Link to methodology [here](#).

This tool will help:

- ✓ **policymakers** make decisions on funding harm reduction services;
- ✓ **finance experts** develop an appropriate budget;
- ✓ **clients** receive services that improve their health and even save their lives;
- ✓ **civil society** influence the level of funding for harm reduction.

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Feedback from our partners

Belarus

"The tool was used in the planning of government programs for 2016–2018. In such a rapidly changing environment the list of services should be regularly updated. Monitoring data on the use of materials in needle and syringe exchange programs helped establish the need to purchase more 2 ml syringes and reduce the volume of 5 ml syringes. The methodology helped define the budget for services that reflect the real needs of people".

(National Report "Harm reduction: evidence for strategic investments. The Republic of Belarus", 2015)

Kazakhstan

"This methodology was used to compile the state public health development program for 2016–2020. Based on the needs of people who inject drugs, rapid tests, naloxone, thin insulin needles and larger-volume (10 ml.) syringes were included in the national needle and syringe exchange program.

To ensure that consumable materials meet the needs of clients in the future, civil society representatives and clients of harm reduction programs reached an agreement with the regional health departments that they will participate in the formulation of procurement auctions."

(National Report of the Republic of Kazakhstan: "Harm reduction works. The arguments in favor of financing", 2015)

Moldova

Alla Iatco, President of the Union for the Prevention of HIV/AIDS and Harm Reduction in the Republic of Moldova:

"We used the results of the assessment in the development of the national program. Prior to that the budget was developed only on the basis of the previous year, when no systematic review was in place. Based on the results of the assessment, we proposed new budget calculations or verified that the initially budgeted funds were correct. Now the numbers in the budget for harm reduction programs are actually agreed and justified."

Contact us to learn more about your options:

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