

Annual coordination meeting, 1-2 march 2017, Kyiv

Brief summary of the discussion of the progress of “Regional Platform-EECA” project in 2016 and recommendations for 2017-2019

Issued by:

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Introduction

The project Regional Civil Society and Community Support, Coordination and Communication Platform – EECA (hereinafter – Regional Platform-EECA) is realized within The Community, Rights, Gender (CRG) Strategic Initiative, which is working to support inclusion and engagement of civil society and communities in key Global Fund processes (hereinafter – GF).

In EECA region from June 2015 to March 2017 the project was realized by a Consortium of regional key TA providers and key populations networks with the lead of Alliance for Public Health. Consortium members include East Europe and Central Asia Union of People living with HIV - ECUO, Eurasian Harm Reduction Network - EHRN, Eurasian Coalition on Men’s Health - ECOM, Sex-Workers Advocacy Network - SWAN, Eurasian Network of PUDs - ENPUD, and TB Europe Coalition - TBEC.

On 1-2 March 2017 in Kyiv, a working meeting of the project participants was held to summarize the work of the project. 55 participants from 14 countries, representing key communities organizations and networks, technical support providers, UN organizations and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria were present on the meeting (**see Annex 1: List of Participants**).

On the meeting, participants considered results of Regional Platform-EECA annual work on significant involvement of civil society, communities and key populations into national processes of responses to HIV and TB epidemics, presented tools, guidelines and best practices of significant participation of key communities groups in responses to HIV and TB epidemics, developed and piloted within Regional Platform-EECA. Besides, information on the Global Fund plans on continuing The Community, Rights, Gender (CRG) Strategic Initiative (SI CRG GF) in 2017-2019 was presented. Representatives of civil society and communities were also informed about actual policies of the Global Fund, in particular, about the Global Fund Strategy 2017-2022 and transition and sustainability policy (**see Annex 2: Meeting agenda**).

On the meeting, a lot of attention was given to improving understanding of such important aspects of response to epidemics as level and quality of involvement of civil society and key

communities into processes connected to national strategic planning and country dialogue, and needs of civil society and communities in technical assistance for more effective involvement into decision-making processes in countries. ([Video of the meeting](#)).

The meeting resulted in development of recommendations for technical assistance initiatives, including The Community, Rights, Gender Strategic Initiative, targeted to strengthening of significant participation of civil society and key communities groups in responses to HIV and TB epidemics in EECA region countries, and recommendations for work of Regional Platform-EECA in the next period.

One of the sessions of the meeting was devoted to coordination of technical assistance initiatives and capacity building in the context of involvement of civil society and key communities in the processes connected to transition to national funding of responses to epidemics. This session resulted in a separate document: [Overview of the 2017 projects and advocacy initiatives aimed at ensuring sustainable transition from donor to domestic funding in EECA](#).

Assessment of the work of Regional Platform-EECA, 2016

On the first day of the meeting, participants heard short reports from the partners who took part in realization of the project, and information on the Global Fund plans to continue The Community, Rights, Gender Strategic Initiative (SI CRG GF) in 2017-2019. During the presentations, participants could ask questions and give comments based on their experience of participation in the project.

After discussions of the presentations, participants were offered to summarize their experience and points of view in group discussions on 4 tasks on the Regional Platform:

1. Increase awareness of civil society and key communities in GF and access to TA.
2. Coordinate TA initiatives in EECA region.
3. Improve understanding of needs in TA and work on civil society and communities' capacity building.
4. Promote significant participation of communities in GF processes.

Discussions were structured in each group: participants had to answer three questions:

- What should have been done the way it was?
- What should have been done differently?
- What else could have been done within the project?

Below, in Table 1 you can see the results of group discussions.

Table 1. Results of group discussions: Work of Regional Platform-EECA, 2016.

What should have been done the way it was?	What should have been done differently?	What else could have been done within the project?
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Task 1. Increase awareness of civil society and key communities in GF and access to TA.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue thematic publications. - Develop e-learning. - Present existing tools for involvement of communities into decision-making, including such tools as IDUIT, SWIT, MSMIT, TRANSIT, and other similar tools - Translate materials necessary for communities on national languages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearer explain benefits of the project to communities, how they can use it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct more regional meetings to share experience.
Task 2. Coordinate TA initiatives in EECA region.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote coordination between key communities' networks. - Promote coordination between regional projects. - Facilitate accessibility of TA, provided through regional networks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss and develop plan of risk reduction of conflict of interest, when assessment of needs and accessibility of TA mostly depends on providers, not on the recipients. - Involve donors in TA coordination more actively. - React on TA requests more quickly, including creation of pool of experts for these purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider specific work tasks in the area of TB. - Promote advocacy on allocating more resources on TA for partners working in the area of TB. - Coordinate activities with the developed plan of activities for communities and regional organizations. - Promote coordination of technical assistance initiatives work on country level, including on the level of CCM by providing information on available opportunities to civil society.
Task 3. Improve understanding of needs in TA and work on civil society and communities' capacity building.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect and analyze communities' needs in TA. - Conduct mapping of existing NGOs, communities' groups, donor opportunities, TA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote community-driven research. - Pay more attention to assessment in certain countries. - Pay more attention to assessment of needs for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct "alternative assessment" of participation of communities in decision-making processes, including representation and efficiency in CCMs, country dialogues and oversight mechanisms.

<p>initiatives, leaders and experts from communities.</p>	<p>participation of communities in national strategic planning of responses to epidemics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create country profiles, describing stakeholders in the country, current situation and ongoing processes, funding, other resources and identify gaps.
<p>4. Promote significant participation of communities in GF processes.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educate communities on issues of involvement in GF processes, opportunities to participate actively. - Develop and disseminate necessary documents, procedures, policies, guides (adapted for communities). - Support work on participation of communities in oversight of programs realization by preparation and submission of “shadow reports” in countries (it was suggested to change the name to “communities’ reports”). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand geography and range of support for preparation of “shadow reports”. - Include new communities in work, such as people who experienced tuberculosis, for example. - Conduct more events, which unite different communities. - Strengthen exchange of best practices between communities’ organizations. - Pay more attention to development of dialogue and achieving compromises between communities’ organizations and other stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop cooperation with CCMs. - Fund participation of communities’ representatives in key international meetings (both in working meetings of international organizations, and in conferences). - Promote participation of communities representatives from regional centers in the work of national CCMs. - Advocate including preparation and presentation of annual national report from communities in CCM agenda and budget. - Include wider range of organizations and communities initiative groups into work. - Promote quality of information on communities needs on national level, so that the work would not be limited to collecting data from medical institutions and governmental bodies only. - Develop coordination of communities and SCOs efforts on national level to support advocacy events targeted to development of social contract.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop strategies of involvement into country dialogues, adapted for specific characteristics of each community. - Support capacity building of communities on national level, including expert capacity of communities and capacity of communities' representatives in CCMs in countries.
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Recommendations for the next period of Regional Platform work, 2017-2019

On the second day of the meeting, after completion of assessment of the project work in 2016, participants were offered to develop recommendations for the future. The question was the following: «If the project will be continued in 2017-2019, what would you recommend to SI SRG and future Primary Recipient (regardless who it will be)?».

Discussions were conducted in small groups, followed by presentation and general discussion. As a result, the following list of recommendations was developed:

Recommendations for The Community, Rights, Gender Strategic Initiative (SI SRG):

- Develop fundraising plan aiming to increase SI SGR at least to 30 million USD for 2020-2022 and present it to partners from global and regional networks of communities and technical assistance providers.
- Promote adaptation of the Global Fund documents, key for communities, so that they are “friendly” to activists and communities organizations, considering language barrier and absence of special education in the sphere of finance and health management among many people from communities.
- Promote issuance of recommendation from the Global Fund to allocate at least 5-7% of national programs funding to support communities organizations work.
- Promote mobilization of people affected by tuberculosis and their active participation in the Regional Platform.
- Promote further integration of issues of human rights, gender and significant participation of communities into national policies and health care programs.
- Promote new people-centered approaches while providing aid connected to tuberculosis.
- Formulate tasks for realization of the Global Fund Community, Rights, Gender Strategic Initiative in EECA region more clearly, giving particular attention to issues and mechanisms of technical assistance provision.

- Promote exchange of experience on issues of development of communities, human rights and gender equality between platforms and projects from different regions.
- Promote communication between communities in the region and Grant Management Department in the Global Fund.

Recommendations for future Primary Recipient of the project funding:

- Support participation of communities in preparation of national governmental reports on achievement of sustainable development goals.
- Provide technical assistance to create “communities reports” as a tool of oversight of conducting projects, realized with the financial support of the Global Fund and other national projects and programs in a health care sphere. These reports can contain criticism of the projects/programs conducted by governments and highlight successes of this work, important for communities, not described in reports made by national governments and in the Global Fund plans.
- Promote development of knowledge and skills among communities regarding assessment of needs in technical assistance, organization of effective process of its receiving and methods of its quality evaluation.
- Promote appearance of urgent technical assistance provision (for example during 7 days from the moment of receiving a request).
- Provide translation of GF key documents into national languages for wide involvement of those members of community, who do not know English or Russian.
- Promote institutionalization of communities’ participation in key coordination committees and working groups on national level, such as CCMs and consulting groups under ministry of public health, on the first place helping to develop and realize procedures of delegating communities representatives so that these procedures provide transparency, were simple to perform and give possibility to participate for the majority of communities.
- Provide support to communities’ representatives in planning and having a dialogue with global and national partners by informing communities’ leaders and activists on GF procedures and policies. Expected result of this activity will be more active communities’ involvement in the process of decision-making on HIV/AIDS on all levels.
- Involve in its work communities representatives in CCM promoting exchange of information and cooperation between them.
- Create conditions for participation of representatives of all key groups in Platform events regardless how developed systems of these communities are (are there any experienced activists, are there organizations created by communities, etc.).
- Promote and support forming of consolidated position of communities in dialogue with global and national partners.
- Promote development of communities’ expert capacity in issues of national programs planning, oversight, monitoring and evaluation.

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- Actualize problematics of tuberculosis in agenda of all communities, technical assistance providers and donors.
- Pay attention to issue of sustainability and transition to national funding of HIV/AIDS programs as an obligatory component of cooperation between communities, governments, technical assistance providers and donors.
- Provide effective informing of communities on Regional Platform activities and how they can promote communities' capacity development, receiving TA and their involvement into GF processes.

It is important to mention that suggestions and recommendations highlight wide range of needs in the region and not all of them can be realized with the Platform resources only. However, within the Platform it is important to coordinate activities with other stakeholders in the region to fulfil the abovementioned needs with the help of existing initiatives.

Annex 1: List of Participants

#	Country	Name	Organization
1	Armenia	Karen Badalyan	APH
2	Belarus	Kateryna Parfenuk	ENPUD
3	Belgium	Fanny Voitzwinkler	TBEC
4	Estonia, Ukraine	Elena German	ECOM
5	Estonia, Ukraine, RF	Gena Roshchupkin	ECOM
6	Georgia	David Ananiashvili	ECUO
7	Georgia	Konstantine Labartkava	ENPUD
8	Georgia	Davit Kakhaberi	ECOM
9	Georgia	Giorgi Soselia	NCDC
10	Georgia	Nikoloz Mirzashvili	ENPUD
11	Hungary	Stasa Plecas	SWAN
12	Hungary	Ekaterina Vladimirova	SWAN
13	Kazakhstan	Yelena Rastokina	ECUO
14	Kazakhstan	Elena Bilokon	ENPUD
15	Kyrgyzstan	Ulanbek Tursunbaev	Association of AIDS-service NGO in Kyrgyzstan "AntiAIDS"
16	Kyrgyzstan	Madina Tokombaeva	ENPUD
17	Kyrgyzstan	Indira Kazieva	TBPeople
18	Lithuania	Igor Gordon	EHRN
19	Lithuania	Anna Dovbakh	EHRN
20	Moldova	Igor Chilcevschii	ECUO
21	Moldova	Ala Iatco	UORN
22	Moldova	Inna Hilman	ENPUD
23	Russian Federation	Ilya Lapin	ECUO
24	Russian Federation	Mariia Tvaradze	ENPUD
25	Russian Federation	Alena Asaeva	ENPUD
26	Russian Federation	Vladimir Mayanovskiy	ECUO
27	Switzerland	Colleen Daniels	StopTB Partnership
28	Switzerland	Ed Ngoksin	SI CRG, GF
29	Switzerland	Corina Maxim	GF
30	Switzerland	Roman Gailevich	UNAIDS
31	Turkey	John Macauley	UNDP
32	Ukraine	Aleksandra Iatsura	ECUO
33	Ukraine	Nataliya Leonchuk	ECUO
34	Ukraine	Vladimir Zhovtyak	ECUO
35	Ukraine	Igor Medved	HPLGBT

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36	Ukraine	Tatiana Senyk	AC
37	Ukraine	Kateryna Maksymenko	AC
38	Ukraine	Vlasta Brodska	AC
39	Ukraine	Yuliya Chrona	APH
40	Ukraine	Anton Basenko	APH
41	Ukraine	Tetyana Deshko	APH
42	Ukraine	Vyacheslav Kushakov	APH
43	Ukraine	Andrey Klepikov	APH
44	Ukraine	Svitlana Moroz	Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS
45	Ukraine	Aigul Mukanova	Regional HIV rights network
46	Ukraine	Viktor Pylypenko	TB people
47	Ukraine	Alina Yaroslavskaya	Eurasian Women's Network on AIDS
48	Ukraine	Nataliya Isaeva	All-Ukrainian charity organization "Legalife-Ukraine"
49	Ukraine	Alina Shafirova	All-Ukrainian charity organization "Legalife-Ukraine"
50	Ukraine	Velta Parkhomenko	National KP Platform
51	Ukraine	Andrey Poshtaruk	UNFPA
52	Ukraine	Sergey Filippovych	APH
53	Ukraine	Gennadiy Golobokov	ECUO
54	Uzbekistan	Timur Abdullaev	TBPeople

Annex 2: Meeting agenda

1st of March, 2017 - Day 1

Time	Section	Speakers/ Facilitators	Duration
9:00 – 9.30	Registration		30 min
9:30 – 10.00	<p>REGIONAL PLATFORM-EECA ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OPENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome speech - ~3 min each ➤ Core objectives of the meeting ➤ Brief introduction of participants and rules of discussions 	<p>Speakers: Vlasta Brodska, Alliance Consultancy Andrey Klepikov, Alliance for Public Health Ed Ngoksin, GF, SI CRG and Corina Maxim, GF GMD - Anton Basenko, Community Delegation in GF - Vladimir Zhovtyak, ECUO - Anna Dovbakh, EHRN - Kateryna Maksymenko, AC Facilitator: Nataliya Leonchuk, ECUO</p>	30 min
10:00 – 11.00	<p>PRESENTATION on Global Fund Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key aspects of New GF Strategy – 15 min - Implementation of S&T policy in EECA – 15 min - Catalytic funding, including the CRG Strategic Initiative – 15 min - Q&A – 15 min 	<p>Ed Ngoksin, GF, SI CRG Corina Maxim, GF GMD Facilitator: Nataliya Leonchuk, ECUO</p>	60 min
11.00 – 11.20	Coffee break		20 min
11.20 – 11.50	<p>PRESENTATION: Objectives and achievements of EECA Regional Platform in 2016 – 20 min</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q&A – 10 min 	<p>Kateryna Maksymenko, AC Facilitator: - Nataliya Leonchuk, ECUO</p>	30 min
11:50 – 13.00	<p>INFORMATION SESSION: EECA RP and experience of involving civil society and key communities in the Global Fund processes in countries through the work of the regional networks of communities.</p> <p>PRESENTATIONS:</p>	<p>Speakers: Alexandra Iatsura, ECUO</p>	70 min

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development and use of guidelines for community involvement in program planning through participation in country dialogues and in monitoring of programs through a tool of “shadow reporting”, ECUO – 10 min 2. Inclusion of LGBT community into country dialogue through the work of ECOM – 10 min 3. Experience of PUD’s mobilization to self-nominate in CCM through the work of ENPUD – 10 min 4. Development of a video on the involvement of sex workers in the Global Fund processes in EECA countries – 10 min <p>- Q&A, and discussions (facilitated in plenary) – 30 min</p>	<p>Gennady Roshchupkin, ECOM Alena Asaeva/Masha Tvaradze, ENPUD Stasa Plecas/Ekaterina Vladimirova, SWAN</p> <p>Facilitator: Nataliya Leonchuk, ECUO</p>	
13:00 – 14.00	Lunch		60 min
14.00 – 15.00	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION: Country Focus of Regional Platform-EECA</p> <p>TOPICS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Involvement of civil society and communities in a country dialogue in Georgia – 7 min 2. Involvement of civil society and communities in a country dialogue in Moldova – 7 min 3. Experience in the preparation and submission of the "shadow report" in Kazakhstan – 7 min 4. Experience in the preparation and submission of the "shadow report" in the Russian Federation – 7 min 5. Work of PUDs representatives in CCMs in Georgia, Moldova, and Kyrgyzstan – 7 min <p>Q&A and discussions (facilitated in plenary) – 25 min</p>	<p>Speakers: David Ananiashvili, ECUO, Georgia Igor Chilcevschii, ECUO, Moldova Elena Rastokina, ECUO, Kazakhstan Ilya Lapin, ECUO, Russian Federation Madina Tokombaeva, ENPUD, Kyrgyzstan Konstantine Labartkava, ENPUD, Georgia Inna Hilman, ENPUD, Transnistria, Moldova</p> <p>Facilitator: - Gennady Roshchupkin, ECOM</p>	60 min
15:00 – 16.00	<p>WORKING SESSION: Reflections and lessons learned on the EECA Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction: Presentation on the evaluation of CRG Special Initiative, including Regional Coordination and Communication Platform – 10 min <p>GROUP WORK: Synthesis of lessons learned and forward-looking recommendations. Four groups, based on EECA RP Objectives. Groups move from one objective to another every 10 min. Then 10 min for conclusion on one objective for each group.</p> <p>Q &A:</p>	<p>Speakers: Ed Ngoksin, GF, SI CRG</p> <p>Facilitators: Gennady Roshchupkin, ECOM Nataliya Leonchuk, ECUO Kateryna Maksymenko, AC</p>	60 min

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What the EECA Platform has worked to do in the region; challenges and lessons learned? ➤ What could be done differently? or What else could be done? 		
16:00 – 16.20	Coffee break		20 min
16.20– 17.00	REPORT BACK: Key messages on EECA RP evaluation Four presentations from groups – 10 min each	Facilitator: Gennady Roshchupkin, ECOM	40 min
18:00 – 19.00	Social dinner	All participants of the Meeting	

2nd of March, 2017 – Day 2

Time	Section	Speakers/ Facilitators	Duration
9:00 – 9.20	INTRODUCTION: Reflection on core objectives of the meeting and Day1 results – 10 min Q&A – 5 min Day2 tasks: - 5 min <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Focus on S&T TA initiatives coordination ➤ Plans on involvement of civil society in HIV and TB response: What is happening next with the Global Fund processes 	Facilitator: Nataliya Leonchuk, ECUO	20 min
9:20 – 9.40	PRESENTATION: TA needs of civil society and key community groups for better involvement into HIV/TB response. Presentation of the needs assessment results – 10 min Q&A – 10 min	Kateryna Maksymenko, AC Facilitator: Nataliya Leonchuk, ECUO	20 min
9.40 – 11.10	WORKING SESSION (EHRN is facilitating): Sustainability and Transition: “Coordination of TA Initiatives tailored to involve civil society and communities in Transition readiness assessments, planning and monitoring of the S&T plans’ implementation” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview of transitioning process in EECA – 10 min ➤ Country group discussions – 40 min ➤ Summary of group discussions results - 40 min 	Speakers: Ed Ngoksin, SI CRG, GF Corina Maxim, GF, GMD, GF Igor Gordon, EHRN Facilitator: Anna Dovbakh, EHRN	90 min

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11:10	Coffee break		20 min
11:30 – 13:00	<p>DISCUSSION PANEL (EHRN is facilitating): Sustainability and Transition: Coordination of TA Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation of tools and TA approaches tailored on S&T and communities ➤ Presentation of regional projects with focus on S&T and communities ➤ Conclusions and next steps on capacity building with focus on S&T and communities <p>Q&A</p>	<p>Speakers: John Macauley, UNDP Roman Gailevich, UNAIDS Colleen Daniels, Stop TB Partnership Tetiana Deshko, Alliance for Public Health Facilitator: Anna Dovbakh, EHRN</p>	90 min
13:00 – 14.00	Lunch		60 min
14:00 – 14.45	<p>PRESENTATION: Community Delegation on the Board of the Global Fund as an entrance point for groups of key affected communities in EECA to the GF Facilitated discussion - elaborations of recommendations to new strategy of Community Delegations from EECA perspective – 20 min</p> <p>Q&A – 10 min</p>	<p>Anton Basenko, Community Delegation in GF Facilitator: Gennady Roshchupkin</p>	45 min
14:45 – 15.15	<p>PRESENTATION OF ONLINE COURSE "Involvement of civil society and communities to respond to HIV and TB epidemics" as a mobilization tool. – 20 min Q&A – 10 min</p>	<p>Vyacheslav Kushakov/Maria Malakhova/Kateryna Maksymenko, AC</p>	30 min
15:15 – 16.00	<p>GROUP DISCUSSIONS: The situation on the involvement of civil society in HIV and TB response, existing TA needs in countries, future focus on regional and country level in 2017-2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working group on TB-community mobilization into country dialogs - Working group on future coordination tasks on a regional level <p>Working group on future coordination tasks on a country level (Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine)</p>	<p>Facilitators: Gennady Roshchupkin, ECUO Nataliya Leonchuk, ECUO Kateryna Maksymenko, AC</p>	45 min
16:00 – 16.20	Coffee break		20 min
16.20 – 16.40	<p>PRESENTATION OF RESULTS OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS: Needs to move forward in 2017-2019</p>	<p>Facilitator: Gennady Roshchupkin, ECOM</p>	20 min

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	Three presentations 7 min each		
16:40-17:40	RESULTS OF THE MEETING , key recommendations of how we work moving forward of EECA RP in 2017-2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project of EECA RP Annual Coordination Resolution – 20 min - Q&A – 40 min 	Kateryna Maksymenko, AC Facilitator: Gennady Roshchupkin, ECOM	60 min
17.40 – 18.00	Close-out of the Meeting/Wrap-up		