

Dear colleagues,

EHRN is starting to implement the UNODC funded project “**Ensuring relevant authorities act to contain the HIV/ TB/Hepatitis C epidemics among drug users and in prison settings in Albania, Serbia and the FYR of Macedonia**” and is looking for an expert/ consultant knowledgeable in issues of harm reduction in prisons to lead and implement some of the project activities.

Below is a more detailed outline of the project. Activities that will be lead and/or implemented by a hired consultant are highlighted in grey.

The project will start immediately and will be finalized by end of February 2012. The working days and daily rate for the consultant will be agreed upon between EHRN and consultant based on the Terms of Reference (to be developed together with the consultant).

Everyone interested in this assignment is invited to submit their candidacies by the end of December 11th by email hub@harm-reduction.org. The project needs to start immediately therefore please excuse us for the short timelines.

For more information please contact:

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----- **Project outline** -----

ASSESSMENT OF HIV/TB/HBC POLICIES

1. Preliminary situation assessment

EHRN will provide rapid assessment of the state of harm reduction (including estimates of the coverage of available HIV/TB/HBC prevention, treatment and care services among injecting drug users and in prisons settings) and drug policies in each of the three countries to develop country profiles and to identify key stakeholders from Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice, Health and Welfare/Social Protection sectors among other to participate in further project activities.

Consultant responsibility: suggest template/ format, methodology; conduct preliminary situation assessment; develop 3 country profiles.

2. Project tools development

ERHN will adjust its *IDU Policy Assessment Toolkit* and *Training Module on Harm Reduction in Prisons (both materials available)* and develop a special tool to assess training needs of service providers including program managers, field staff, prison staff, law enforcement staff, counselors, outreach workers and peer educators and needs of NGOs to deliver HIV/TB/HBC prevention among IDUs.

Consultant responsibility:

- **review IDU Policy Assessment Toolkit and EHRN Training Module on Harm Reduction in prisons.**
- **based on the review prepare tool/ methodology for (1) Policy assessment (next activity, 3) and (2) assessing training needs of service providers.**
- **conduct the assessment of training needs of service providers with support of national partners.**

3. Policy assessment

Assessment will be made based on the IDU Policy Assessment Toolkit adjusted specifically for the current project.

Consultant responsibility:

- **Conduct policy assessment with support of national partners.**

The following issues will be analyzed:

1. *HIV and drug-use stigma and discrimination*
 - General country-wide anti-discrimination policy is inclusive of PWID, prisoners, relatives or associates of PWID and prisoners
 - Prohibits a lower level of services provided in prisons than are available in the community
2. *Legal Environment - Criminal legislation*
 - Criminal law identifies alternatives to prison and non-custodial diversions
 - Gender-based violence policy prohibits non-consensual sex, coerced sex, bullying, and rape in prisons
 - Criminal legislation prohibits isolation, detention or quarantine in community or prison settings solely on the basis of drug use status
 - Criminal legislation prohibits arbitrary confinement in detention centers for drug treatment
3. *Intervention-specific policies*
 - 3a. *Overall services design*
 - Continuity of care between and within community and prison settings
 - Cross training requirements for prison, law enforcement, health care, and narcologist staff
 - 3b. *HIV counseling and testing (HCT)*
 - Policy requires that prisoners are made aware of and offered or recommended voluntary, confidential HIV testing with counseling upon entry and during imprisonment - especially if a prisoner has signs, symptoms or medical conditions that could indicate HIV infection
 - 3c. *Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)*
 - National guidelines on care and treatment of HIV apply in prison settings
 - 3d. *Hepatitis services*
 - Prisoners and prison staff receive information about the risks of HCV transmission
 - Provision of shaving equipment and toothbrushes to prisoners
 - Policy guarantees hepatitis A and B vaccination are available to all PWID, prison staff, and prisoners
 - Voluntary and easy access to testing for hepatitis B and hepatitis C
 - 3e. *TB services in prisons*
 - Prisoners and prison staff are provided screening, contact tracing, completion of effective treatment, and follow up if medically indicated when released
 - 3f. *OST*
 - OST is legal in prison settings
 - Guarantee ability of prisoners to initiate and continue no-cost access to OST in jurisdictions to the same extent that substitution treatment is available outside of prisons
 - 3g. *NSP in prison*
 - Prisoners are informed of the dangers of drug use and the risks of sharing injecting equipment compared with less dangerous methods of drug taking are explained
 - Confidential and non-discriminatory access to sterile needles and syringes
 - Exceptions to security restrictions on sharp and piercing objects for needles and syringes

ESTABLISHMENT AND WORK OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

4. Establishment of the working groups

Under supervision of EHRN staff, national partner organizations will organize National Technical Working Groups on HIV/TB/HBC prevention and care among injecting drug users and in prisons settings.

Consultant responsibility: if needed support national partners in this activity.

5. Country meetings of the working groups

EHRN with UNODC and national partners from among state and non state actors in Albania, Serbia and the FYR of Macedonia will organize meetings of the National Technical Working Group on HIV/TB/ HBC prevention and care among injecting drug users and in prisons settings. 3 meetings in total will be organized – one in Albania Macedonia and Serbia.

Country meetings will be facilitated by the ERHN and UNODC staff and invited experts. During the meetings participants will receive training about best practice approaches in HIV/TB/HBC prevention in prison settings (using updated Knowledge Hub module “Harm Reduction in Prisons”), and training on setting national targets for HIV prevention, treatment and care services for injecting drug users. The interim results

of the situation and needs assessments will be presented and discussed, and the main policy and service level targets and goals will be reviewed and set up for development of the Action Plans.

Consultant responsibility: lead preparation of meetings (agenda setting) and conduct the meetings (with support from national partners).

ACTION PLANS

Action plans will be developed based on the assessment results and outcomes of the national working group meetings. Action plans will provide baseline estimates of the coverage of available HIV/TB/HBC prevention, treatment and care services among injecting drug users and in prison settings, and national targets for scale-up of these services, set relevant and achievable policy change targets and outline of necessary training events and advocacy activities.

Consultant responsibility: develop draft action plans for each country before the meetings (for input/ comments/ approval) and finalize action plans after the meeting (with support from national partners).