

International expert to conduct advanced training on sexual and reproductive health and rights for NGO personnel working with people who use drugs and people living with HIV

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| Location | Republic of Moldova |
| Application deadline | 13.06.2014 |
| Type of contract | Service provider |
| Languages required | English, Russian |
| Duration of contract | 2 months |
| Expected duration of assignment | up to 6 days |

I. Background:

HIV is a significant public health problem in the world in general and in Moldova in particular. In 2013 the number of people living with HIV (PLWH) came close to 8620, and the real number according to estimations made by UNAIDS for the same period was estimated to be between 12-15 000.

Furthermore, the prognosis for the development of the epidemic show that the number of HIV cases among adults and children will amount to 19 000 in 2015¹.

The problem of psychoactive substance users (PSU), more precisely the inefficiency of the current approach in the system for treatment and care of drug users is connected to the HIV epidemic. According to the latest estimations only the number of injecting drug users amounts to around 31 000, and this group is still the most vulnerable to HIV infection.

PLWH and PSU encounter a whole set of specific problems in different areas of life, in particular problems with employment, access to health and education services, an increased risk of discrimination and violation of their rights. In particular, the social research project «[Socioeconomic situation of people living with HIV](#)», which was implemented by the SOROS foundation in Moldova showed HIV has a very negative impact on the quality of life. PLWH encounter significant emotional, psychological, and material problems. The majority of PLWH live on the poverty line and encounter a number of specific objective and subjective problems which makes access to services more difficult. The research results also confirmed that in the majority of cases it was NGOs working in this sphere that offered legal, psychological and social support services to overcome the specific problems encountered by PLWH.

“Inițiativa Pozitivă” is a network of seven member community organisations and three partner organisations, each with a rich experience in the field of HIV/AIDS and drug use in Moldova, focusing on Most at Risk Populations (MARP). The network is led by people living with HIV, former drug users and women living with HIV and directly affected by HIV. They in turn are members of institutions at country level, regional level, and global level. Based on the experience of “Inițiativa Pozitivă”, civil society organizations offering services to PLWH and PSU, including social workers employed by them, do not have sufficient knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and rights, and there are only limited services in this domain, other than those connected directly to HIV prevention.

As part of the country program for the period 2013-2017, UNFPA will strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to mobilize and empower community networks, deliver interventions aimed at preventing HIV and sexually transmitted infections, and encourage the use of sexual and reproductive health and HIV services.

To contribute to this objective, “Inițiativa Pozitivă” aims to contribute towards improving the services for people living with HIV and PSU in the sphere of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and sexual and reproductive rights (SRR). In 2013, the organisation conducted a study of the needs of people living with HIV and PSU in relation to sexual and reproductive health, as well as of the type of services already

¹ «Оценки и прогнозы эпидемии ВИЧ в Республике Молдова», В Плешка, А. Иофица, Т. Котельник-Харя, Ш. Георгицэ, С. Поповичь, И. Осояну, А. Гончар, Кишинэу, 2012

offered by NGO in this domain, with the aim to identify gaps in service provision². The study found that the NGOs which took part in the study partly covered the range of services in this field, but their engagement was of an uneven character and was not regulated. The level of awareness among the employee staff in the sphere of SRH rights and services is also assessed as incomplete and fragmentary, especially regarding the approach to service provision. It is especially important to note the prevalence of stereotypes which would indicate that only women need information about SRH.

In addition, the study showed a low awareness level among the beneficiaries in the sphere of SRH and SRR, as well as prevalence of a number of stereotypes which limit the rights of PLWH and PSU to freely take decisions in the sphere of sexual relations, on having children and on abortions.

II. Main objectives of the assignment:

Based on the assessment of NGO services and the need of PSU and PLWH in the sphere of SRH and SRR, the assignment will be directed towards the following goals and objective:

1. Improved capacity of NGO personnel in the field of SRH and SRR.
 - a. The self-assessed knowledge of SRH and SRR among NGO staff providing services to PLWH and PSU has increased;
 - b. NGO staff has access to up to date information and guidance for consultation and referral on questions concerning SRH and SRR;
 - c. The NGOs have knowledge on integration the SRH services into existing service package for PLWH and PSU,

III. Scope of work

The international expert is required to design and conduct a four days advanced capacity building training for NGO personnel. The training will be designed and conducted in collaboration with the national expert. The training shall be conducted in Russian language. The training will primarily address the knowledge gaps identified in the needs assessment (to be provided at request) and the training programme will be developed in close collaboration with Iniciativa Pozitiva, UNFPA, and the national expert. Participants of the training are 27 NGO staff working in service delivery for people living with HIV and people using drugs (projects coordinators, outreach workers, social workers, psychologists and other staff working directly with clients).

The international expert will carry full responsibility for the planning and implementation of the training, but shall seek support and input from the national expert, especially concerning issues which relate specifically to the local context. The expert is also responsible for incorporating the manual developed by the local expert into the training. Communication with the national expert before and after the training shall be done online.

² Iniciativa Pozitiva (2013) "Services in the sphere of sexual and reproductive health for PLWH and PSU: availability, awareness and needs" <http://positivepeople.md/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/REPORT-eng.pdf>

IV. Deliverables and time line:

| Deliverables | Timeframe |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Development of the training agenda and training materials | 1 days |
| 2. Implementation of training | 4 days |
| 3. Training report with input from the local expert | 1 day |

The training will take place at the **end of July 2014**.

V. Monitoring and reporting requirements

The consultant will report directly to “Inițiativa Pozitivă”.

VI. Experience and qualifications requirements

- At least 3 years university education in health or a related field;
- Practical experience of planning and implementing NGO services in the field of reproductive health for people living with HIV and/or people who use drugs;
- Thorough experience of planning and implementing capacity building trainings for NGO staff;
- Practical and theoretical knowledge of reproductive health and reproductive rights, especially concerning people living with HIV and people who use drugs.
- Experience of working for or with non-governmental organisations;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Good IT skills;
- Flexibility and ability to work independently

VII. Terms of payment

Payment will be made on completion of the training and the training report.