



NEWS DIGEST
December 2009

EHRN NEWS

#1

EHRN yearly note 2009

By: [Larisa Abrickaja, EHRN](#)

Each year [the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network \(EHRN\)](#) issues a yearly note with a review of events in the sphere of harm reduction that took place in Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia. The year 2009 was a challenging one for many harm reduction supporters and services in our region as the economic crisis began to have impact, but it was also a year in which some important progress was made on key issues in harm reduction. In this yearly note [EHRN](#) focuses on the following topics: drug policy, opioid substitution treatment, overdose, stigma, special populations and financing of harm reduction.

[Click here to read EHRN yearly note 2009 in English.](#)

#2

EHRN launches new gender project

By: [Marija Subataite, EHRN](#)

January 5, 2010

[The Eurasian Harm Reduction Network \(EHRN\)](#) together with the Harm Reduction Knowledge Hub is happy to announce the start of the new one year project which will address women, girls and gender equality issues in HIV related and harm reduction services. Goal of the project is to improve the capacity of the Harm Reduction Knowledge Hub and its partners to provide technical assistance to countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to improve access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services by women who inject drugs. It is planned that the results of the project will be accessible for organizations working on women and gender issues in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Tools, reports and guidelines within the project will be developed with the support and coordination of Harm Reduction Knowledge Hub of [EHRN](#). Furthermore two target countries will be selected for the project roll out.

For more information please contact Project coordinator Marija Subataite, at [EHRN](#) Secretariat at marija@harm-reduction.org.

#3

Study visits of experts from Central Asia to Lithuania and Portugal organized by EHRN

By: [Jekaterina Navicke, EHRN](#)

December 18, 2009

In December 2009 [the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network \(EHRN\)](#) with the support of [AIDS Control Project in Central Asia](#) organized two study visits for experts from Central Asia to Lithuania and Portugal. The first visit was aimed at providing health care workers and supervisors of opioid substitution therapy (OST) programs necessary knowledge about methadone pharmacotherapy in the context of a comprehensive treatment of addiction and disease prevention. Visit was implemented in partnership with the Vilnius Center for Addictive disorders. Training was conducted on a base of the training manual "Substitution Treatment" prepared by the [Harm Reduction Knowledge HUB \(EHRN\)](#). During the study tour participants also visited several local agencies and projects, including "Blue outreach bus" and project of the Vilnius government on vocational training for former drug users - cafe "Mano Guru".

Orientation visit to Portugal on December 14-18, 2009 was designed specifically for public officials of the countries of Central Asia. The participants of the visit were members of parliaments, representatives of high-level health officials and staff of [AIDS Control Project in Central Asia](#). Participants were introduced to the Portuguese strategy and practices in the field of drug policy and HIV/AIDS. The approach of the

European Union to harm reduction was presented during a visit to [the European Monitoring Center on Drugs and Drug Addiction \(EMCDDA\)](#). Participants also had the opportunity to get acquainted with the practice of sharing needles and syringes through pharmacies, drug policy and HIV/AIDS programmes in prisons and visited the clinic of integrated care, as well as NGOs, that provide mobile services for substitution therapy programs. Participants noted that exchange of experiences between the various programs within the health system of Portugal (for example, the use of the tuberculosis programs when developing programs for HIV/AIDS) is very important for countries of Central Asia.

At least two Central Asian countries are currently discussing legislation on drugs. Drug policy attracts less attention in comparison to HIV policy. Five areas of the Portuguese drug policy, as well as a systematic approach to combat drug trafficking, including multi-sectoral collaboration and quality monitoring system and the impact of policies, can be used in the countries of Central Asia. Integrated and accessible drug treatment programs may be carried out in Central Asia. This could help to support harm reduction programs, especially programs of opioid substitution therapy, which are about to begin in Tajikistan (and had already begun in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan).

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IN CEE/CA

#1

Polish Government signs recommendations to scale up OST access in prisons

Source: [OSI](#)

December 21, 2009

On December 10, 2009, during the conference co-hosted by the Polish Penitentiary Service, the Social AIDS Committee and [Open Society Institute's Global Drug Policy Program](#) recommendations to improve access to opioid substitution treatment (OST) in Polish prisons were signed by the Polish Government. The recommendations are a follow-up to a round table which took place in May, attended by Poland's Minister of Justice, past and present Penitentiary Service directors, politicians, physicians, and NGO representatives.

The signing of these recommendations represents a major step forward in addressing OST scale up in Poland. Currently, only around 5% of opiate dependent persons in the country receive substitution treatment and in most cases OST is not offered in prison or detention facilities. Earlier in 2009 the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health emphasized the need to improve access to substitution treatment after his visit in Poland. Similar recommendations for Poland were provided last month by [ECOSOC](#).

#2

One more methadone maintenance therapy center opened in Albania

By: [Genci Mucollari, Aksion Plus](#)

December 19, 2009

On December 15, 2009 a new methadone maintenance (MMT) center was opened in the town of Vlora, South-west Albania. Vlora is town heavily affected by drug use and local authorities expressed their support to the establishment of the center. Currently this project is financed by [UNICEF](#) and supported by [GFATM](#). The center will also provide education for young people in high schools, as well as a friendly space where young people can be tested for HIV and other STIs. Break the Cycle intervention, which aims to reduce the number of people who begin injecting, has also been introduced in the new MMT center.

At the moment 17 clients receive treatment in Vlora and their number is expected to grow. A doctor, social worker and psychologist work in the center. Currently there are 4 MMT centers run by AksionPlus across Albania: in Tirana, Durres, Korca and Vlora. Both centers in Vlora and Korca have been opened in 2009. Almost 250 injecting drug users were provided with opioid substitution therapy last year in Albania.

#3

Events on the occasion of World AIDS day in Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia

Source: [AFEW](#), [EHPV](#), [Victoria Ashirova](#)

December 5, 2009

On [World AIDS Day](#), December 1, 2009 throughout Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia variety of events took place with the aim to draw public attention to the spread of HIV in the region and discuss methods for stemming the epidemic and raising public awareness.

Red Ribbon Awards ceremony organised by [UNAIDS](#) and the [World AIDS Campaign](#) to honour some of the most innovative and effective campaigns in HIV prevention and activism took place in Chishinau, Moldova. Nominations were submitted for the best organisations in ten categories.

On December 4, 2009 [AIDS Foundation East-West \(AFEW\)](#) organised a roundtable on the observation of the human rights and personal freedoms of clients when implementing prevention programmes, as well as the implications of this issue for the HIV epidemic in Ukraine. At the same time, an exhibition on the theme 'Living Stories' and a mini-exhibition of informational and educational materials have been held in Moscow, Russia.

Activists of [Estonian Network of People living with HIV](#) organized free HIV express testing in Tallin, Estonia. Together with doctors from the Central Hospital of Infectious Diseases they co-lighted the ribbon of tolerance.

Eventually, in Uzbekistan a high-level Round Table meeting including representatives of Government took place. The reports about HIV/AIDS situation in the country were presented by Minister of Health, Minister of Education, director of the Republican AIDS Center, chairman of the youth movement Kamolot and others.

The estimated number of people living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia is 1.5 million and keeps rising, with severe and growing epidemics in Ukraine and Russian Federation. Estonia, Russian Federation and Ukraine have HIV prevalence that exceeds 1%. Ukraine has the highest prevalence in all of Europe. A number of countries have expanded access to antiretroviral therapy, although according to [UNAIDS](#), the treatment coverage remains quite low.

#4

Russian Drug Policy Strategy: syringe exchange is a risk

By: [Ruta Sulcaite, EHRN](#), [Simona Merkinaitė, EHRN](#), [Asya Bidordinova, consultant](#)
December 30, 2010

On December 28, 2009, the Russian State Anti-drug Committee submitted for adoption to the President of the Russian Federation a [Draft Strategy of the National Anti Drug Policy](#), which includes controversial statements and omissions that threaten the future of HIV prevention among injecting drug users (IDUs) in Russia. Among key objectives the initial draft of the strategy indicated "implementing measures to prevent introduction of harm reduction programs, including substitution treatment", however after consultation with the public this provision has been removed. Nonetheless, the Strategy still considers substitution treatment and syringe exchange a risk and equates the latter with drug propaganda.

The strategy and related feedback from the public was discussed at the meeting of the Government Drug Committee on December 15, 2009. [Eurasian Harm Reduction Network \(EHRN\)](#) and [Russian Harm Reduction Network \(RHRN\)](#) have provided their comments to the Strategy, however interestingly in a number of cases it was not possible to submit them on the website due to "technical problems".

Project of strategy was submitted for approval by the President of Russian Federation and in the first quarter of 2010 governors and heads of anti-drug commissions of subjects of Russia will have to elaborate local strategic plans to be added to the strategy.

#5

Day care centers for HIV+ children to be opened in Uzbekistan

Source: [ECUO](#)
December 2, 2009

In November 2009, the project of day care centers for children and families affected by HIV was launched by National Association of Non-governmental and Non-commercial organizations in Uzbekistan. The project is the continuation of the [AIDS Control Project in Central Asia](#), which has previously supported the opening of the first day care center "Kaldirgoch" for children living with HIV in Tashkent. Regional AIDS centers will provide basis for new day care centers to be opened in regions most affected by HIV in 2010. The aim of the project is to provide non-medical assistance for children living with HIV and their family members. The project is supported by [UNICEF](#).

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IN THE WORLD

#1

Lifting the U.S. Ban on federal funding for syringe exchange is a victory for public health

By: [Simona Merkinaite, EHRN](#)

December 17, 2009

In a major change to the country's drug policy, the United States Congress has reversed a ban on federal funding of needle exchange that was first enacted 21 years ago. The legislation change was signed by President Barack Obama on December 17, 2009 and will allow funding of needle exchange programs domestically, as well as internationally through [United States Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#) and the [President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief \(PEPFAR\)](#), the world's largest single source of HIV/AIDS-related funding.

Starting in 2010, [USAID](#) and [PEPFAR](#) are expected to fund needle exchange internationally as part of programs aimed at comprehensive HIV prevention among injecting drug users. Such funding could bring new money for HIV prevention programs to Eastern European and Central Asian countries where USAID is active.

For more information please read [EHRN press release](#).

#2

UNITAID approves breakthrough plan to make AIDS treatment more widely available at lower cost

Source: [UNITAID](#)

December 15, 2009

On December 14, 2009 [UNITAID](#) Executive Board made a landmark decision to establish a Patent Pool for AIDS medicines. The pool, scheduled to start operating in mid-2010, aims to make newer medicines available in patient-adapted form, at lower prices, for low- and middle-income countries. [UNITAID](#) has committed to provide start-up funds of up to \$4 million USD over the next year. Expected savings exceed one billion dollars a year, which will make more medicines available for more people.

To find more information about [UNITAID](#), please visit: www.unitaid.eu.

#3

WHO issues new HIV recommendations to improve health, reduce infections and save lives

Source: [WHO](#)

December 2, 2009

On the eve of the [World AIDS Day](#), [WHO](#) released new recommendations on treatment, prevention and infant feeding in the context of HIV, based on the latest scientific evidence. [WHO](#) now recommends earlier initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART) for adults and adolescents, the delivery of more patient-friendly antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), and prolonged use of ARVs to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. For the first time, [WHO](#) recommends that HIV-positive mothers or their infants take ARVs while breastfeeding to prevent HIV transmission.

The main challenge lies in increasing the availability of treatment in resource-limited countries. [WHO](#), in collaboration with key partners, will provide technical support to countries to adapt, adopt and implement the revised guidelines.

#4

UN Leaders make statements for World AIDS Day

Source: [IHRA](#)

December 14, 2009

Various leaders from the United Nations marked the [World AIDS Day](#) with statements highlighting the need for sensible policies that protect vulnerable populations, and an urgent appeal for more resources to support them in the face of the global financial crisis.

At the launch of the [Commission on AIDS in the Pacific](#) report on 2nd December, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon [said \(click here for full speech\)](#), that “There can be no effective response to AIDS as long as some parts of the population are marginalized and denied basic health and human rights. This includes people living with HIV, sex workers, men who have sex with men, and injecting drug users”.

Also on the 1st December, Michel Sidibé – Executive Director of [UNAIDS](#) – [warned \(click here for full speech\)](#) that the fragile fiscal situation many governments are facing is no excuse to weaken the international commitment to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. In June 2009, [UNAIDS](#) released a report entitled [The Global Economic Crisis and HIV Prevention and Treatment Programmes: Vulnerabilities and Impact](#), which revealed that programs aimed at HIV prevention among high-risk groups in 34 countries were negatively affected by the global economic crisis.

#5

International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy founded to promote research in the field of drug policy

Source: www.humanrightsanddrugs.org

December 13, 2009

On December 10, 2009 the [International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy](#) was launched. The Centre is dedicated to developing and promoting innovative and high quality legal and human rights scholarship on issues related to drug laws, policy and enforcement. It pursues this mandate by publishing original, peer reviewed research on drug issues as they relate to international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international criminal law and public international law, and fostering research on drug policy issues among postgraduate law and human rights students at universities and colleges around the world.

The Centre’s work is supported by a prestigious International Advisory Committee as well as [IHRA](#) and [Irish Centre for Human Rights](#). Co-founders of the Centre are Rick Lines ([IHRA](#)) and Damon Barret ([IHRA](#)). At present, the [International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy](#) has established two ongoing projects:

- The International Yearbook on Human Rights and Drug Policy
- The Human Rights and Drug Policy Project

For more information, please visit www.humanrightsanddrugs.org.

#6

China executes mentally ill British drug offender

Source: [IHRA blog](#)

December 20, 2009

A British man convicted of drug smuggling has been executed in China on December 30, 2009. The execution took place despite repeated calls from his family and the British government for clemency. Mr A. Shaikh is the first EU national to be executed in China in more than 50 years.

The execution of drug offenders is a violation of international human rights law. One of the main human rights treaties, the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(ICCPR\)](#), clearly states that the death penalty may only be applied to the “most serious crimes”. However, the UN Human Rights Committee and the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions have [stated that drug offences do not constitute “most serious crimes”](#) - making executions for such offences a violation of international human rights law.

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UPCOMING EVENTS & COURSES

#1

Call for Abstracts: XVIII International AIDS Conference

Dates: July 18-23, 2010

Venue: Vienna, Austria
Abstract submission deadline: February 10, 2009

[The XVIII International AIDS Conference](#) now welcomes the submission of abstracts for original contribution to the field in six programme tracks. The full call for abstracts and submission guidelines are available [here](#) and additional information on the programme tracks is available [here](#). Abstract submissions close on **February 10, 2010**. All abstracts must be written in English. Abstracts can only be submitted online via the conference website www.aids2010.org (all information is available in English and Russian).

One of the tracks of the conference is Policy, Law, Human Rights and Political Science. [The Eurasian Harm Reduction Network \(EHRN\)](#) is encouraging to submit abstracts from the region on drug policy with the goal to increase the representation of the region on the track. [EHRN](#) will provide support in submitting abstracts, including translations from Russian to English. All requests and information should be submitted to Simona Merkinaitė at simona@harm-reduction.org.

#2

5th International Conference on HIV Treatment Adherence to be held in Miami in 2010

Dates: May 23-25, 2010

Venue: Miami, USA

5th International Conference on HIV Treatment Adherence will take place on May 23-25, 2010, in Miami, USA. The goal of this conference is to provide an international forum for the presentation and discussion of state-of-the-science HIV treatment adherence research, as well as current behavioral and clinical perspectives in practice.

The Program Committee for the International Conference on HIV Treatment Adherence currently invites proposals for four 2-hour workshops to be held on May 23, 2010. Proposals must be submitted by **February 14, 2010**. For more information please click [here](#). Abstracts for the conference must be submitted online [here](#) by **February 14, 2010**.

Travel **scholarships** will be offered to researchers and community-based providers who are conducting HIV treatment adherence research and/or providing patients/clients with adherence support in countries other than the United States. [Click here to submit an application for an International Scholarship](#).

Working language of the conference is English. For more information please visit www.iapac.org.

#3

2nd Connections European Conference to take place in London, UK

Dates: June 24-26, 2010

Venue: London, UK

Abstract submission deadline: February 14, 2010

The University of Kent announces the Second European Conference on Drugs, Alcohol and Criminal Justice: ethics, effectiveness and economics of intervention, which will be held on June 24-26, 2010 in London, UK. The conference will look at a range of interventions and treatments, from harm reduction to drug free 'recovery' in the criminal justice system.

To submit an abstract please visit www.connectionsproject.eu/conference2010. The deadline for abstract submission is **February 14, 2010**.

The official language of the conference will be English. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in the main auditorium in Russian.

For more information please visit <http://www.connectionsproject.eu/conference2010>.

#4

Call for abstracts for the 6th International Conference on Nightlife, Substance Use and Related Health Issues

Dates: June 7-9, 2010

Venue: Zurich, Switzerland

Abstract submission deadline: February 15, 2010

[Club Health 2010](#) – the 6th International Conference on Nightlife, Substance Use and Related Health Issues – is scheduled to take place in Zurich, Switzerland on June 7-9, 2010. The conference will bring together experts from around the world to exchange information on the latest research, policy and evidence on protecting and promoting health in nightlife settings. In particular, the conference will focus on disseminating the evidence base for effective interventions to protect health in nightlife environments.

The conference is currently welcoming abstract submissions on the following key themes: alcohol use, recreational and non-prescription drug use, violence prevention, sexual health, management and design of nightlife settings, training for staff in nightlife environments, international nightlife tourism, therapeutic and medical aftercare of party drug users, and early detection of drug problems.

The deadline for abstract submissions is **February 15, 2010**.

To submit abstract or register for the conference please visit www.clubhealthconference.com.

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GRANTS

#1

Call for application for the 2010 European drug prevention prize

Application deadline: March 31, 2010

The European Drug Prevention Prize, launched in 2004, is awarded every two years to three drug prevention projects that fully involve young people, either in the development and implementation of activities, decision-making, project management and/or evaluation. [The Pompidou Group](#) awards this Prize every two years in order to highlight good-quality drug prevention projects that have proved success in practice in involving young people. In 2010 each prize-winner will receive a trophy, a diploma and a monetary benefit of €5.000.

To enter your project, please submit the [application form](#) by e-mail to the Secretariat to the following address: preventionprize2010@coe.int. The deadline for submission is **March 31, 2010**.

#2

International AIDS Society and National Institute on Drug Abuse Fellowship Programme encouraging HIV and drug use research

Application deadline: February 10, 2010

With the support of the [National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#), the [International AIDS Society \(IAS\)](#) has established a research fellowship programme, with the goal of contributing to advances in the scientific understanding of drug use and HIV, while fostering multinational research. Applications from a wide range of disciplines including social, behavioral, political, clinical, biomedical, mathematical sciences or others are accepted.

This fellowship programme consists of two awards: \$75,000 USD to be awarded to a junior scientist for 18-month post-doctoral training; and \$75,000 USD to be awarded to a well-established HIV researcher for an eight-month long professional development training, both at leading institutes excelling in research in the HIV-related drug use field.

In 2010, up to four fellowships will be awarded in conjunction with [the XVIII International AIDS Conference](#), to be held in Vienna, Austria on July 18-23, 2010.

Online applications are accepted on www.iasociety.org until **February 10, 2010**.

#3

Funding Available for MSM projects in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Application deadline: February 3, 2010

[AmfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research](#), will provide funding for small awards to support projects that address HIV among men who have sex with men (MSM). Frontline organizations and collaborations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are encouraged to submit relevant proposals.

Individual organizations are eligible for awards of up to \$15,000 USD. Collaborations are eligible for awards of up to \$30,000 USD. Projects may include research or programming targeted towards reaching hidden MSM communities or MSM who do not identify as gay, working with more open GBT communities, and/or engaging allies.

Please send filled [application form](#) to msm.awards@amfar.org not later than **February 3, 2010**.

#4

Nominations invited for 2010 IHRA awards

Application deadline: January 29, 2010

Nominations are now being invited for the 2010 [International Rolleston Award](#), [National Rolleston Award](#) and the [Carol and Travis Jenkins Award](#) – all of which will be presented at [Harm Reduction 2010: IHRA's 21st International Conference](#). Each year, [IHRA](#) presents these awards to leading individuals or organisations in the field of harm reduction.

The [IHRA](#) awards are presented each year to individuals or organisations that have made outstanding contributions to reducing harm from psychoactive substances. These contributions may include work on:

- harm reduction programming
- harm reduction practice
- harm reduction policy
- harm reduction teaching and training
- science, research or critical thinking relevant to harm reduction
- advocacy for harm reduction
- providing funding or resources for harm reduction

Applications should be sent in English to info@ihra.net by **January 29, 2010**.

[Click here for more information on the IHRA Awards \(including nomination forms\)](#)

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VACANCIES

#1

International HIV/AIDS Alliance seeking senior advisor

Application deadline: February 1, 2010

[International HIV/AIDS Alliance](#) offers job position to a Senior Adviser to join a skilled and committed team in the Technical Cooperation Unit of Field Programmes Department. This unit focuses its attention on developing the Alliance model for providing technical support to civil society through regional hubs and in ensuring Alliance-wide knowledge and skills for working with [GFATM](#) grants.

The ideal candidate will have experience with [GFATM](#) grant management and organisational/systems development as well as of providing technical support or training.

For more details on this post, please visit www.aidsalliance.org. Application deadline: **February 1, 2010**.

#2

IHRA invites applications for two new posts in London

Application deadline: February 5, 2010

[IHRA](#) is currently seeking Networking and Advocacy Officer and Human Rights Analyst to join organization in London, UK.

Advocacy Officer will work collaboratively with other staff members to maximise the visibility and impact of harm reduction advocacy activities within key multilateral fora. She or he will be responsible for a challenging and multifaceted programme of work, which will include the coordination of a new European Harm Reduction Network, as well as collaboration with other harm reduction networks. [Click here for details of the Networking and Advocacy Officer post and how to apply.](#)

Human Rights Analyst will coordinate [IHRA](#)'s campaign to restrict the application of the death penalty for drug offences worldwide by implementing an ambitious programme of legal research and analysis, policy development and international advocacy. The postholder will be responsible for monitoring and tracking the status of the death penalty for drugs internationally, as well as multi-lateral donor projects in death penalty states. [Click here for details of the Human Rights Analyst and how to apply.](#)

Deadline for applications for both posts: **February 5, 2010.**

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PUBLICATIONS

#1

After the War on Drugs: Blueprint for Regulation issued by Transform Drug Policy Foundation

Publisher: [Transform Drug Policy Foundation](#)

December, 2009

[Transform Drug Policy Foundation](#) launched its new guide to the legal regulation of drugs '[After the War on Drugs: Blueprint for Regulation](#)' on November 12, 2009. The guide proposes specific models of regulation for each main type and preparation of prohibited drug, coupled with the principles and rationale for doing so. Further, the book demonstrates that moving to the legal regulation of drugs is not an unthinkable, politically impossible step in the dark, but a sensible, pragmatic approach to control drug production, supply and use.

[\[In English\]](#)

#2

Joint WHO/Europe and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) surveillance report on HIV/AIDS in the WHO European Region in 2008

Publisher: [WHO](#), [ECDC](#)

December, 2009

According to [HIV/AIDS surveillance in Europe](#) in 2008, 51 600 cases of HIV were diagnosed and reported by 48 of the 53 countries in the WHO European Region (data from Russian Federation not available). The highest rates were reported from Estonia, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and UK. The report illustrates the wide diversity in the epidemiology of HIV in Europe: while in the West, the predominant transmission mode is sex between men, followed by heterosexual contact - in the East, injecting drug use remains the main mode of transmission.

[\[In English\]](#)

#3

Arrest the Violence: Human Rights Violations Against Sex Workers in 11 Countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, report by SWAN

Publisher: [SWAN](#)

December, 2010

To mark December 17, the International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers, the [Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network \(SWAN\)](#) of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia released its new report, [Arrest the Violence: Human Rights Violations Against Sex Workers in 11 Countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#). The report is based on interviews with more than 200 male, female and transgender sex workers between 2007 and 2009 and chillingly documents widespread violence and discrimination against them, particularly by state actors.

[\[In English\]](#) [\[In Russian\]](#)

#4

United Nations and Drug Policy: Towards a Human Rights-Based Approach

December, 2009

[The United Nations and Drug Policy: Towards a Human Rights-Based Approach](#) is newly published paper that considers some of the normative, legal, policy and institutional challenges posed by international human rights law to the UN drug control system. It is co-authored by Damon Barrett from [IHRA](#) and Manfred Nowak, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.

[\[In English\]](#)

#5

Operational Plan for the Action Framework for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV by UNAIDS

Publisher: [UNAIDS](#)

December, 2009

[The Action Framework \(2009\)](#) was developed in response to the pressing need to address the persistent gender inequality and human rights violations that put women and girls at greater risk and vulnerability to HIV, and threaten the gains that have been made in preventing HIV transmission and increasing access to anti-retroviral treatment. [The Operational Plan](#) focuses on country-level action, capitalizing on the role of the UN Joint Teams on AIDS and fostering country leadership. It is structured around issues, which are accompanied by a recommendation, a set of results and corresponding actions as well as the parties to be held accountable for delivering results.

[\[In English\]](#)

#6

Handbook for people who have injected drugs released by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (UK)

Publisher: [NTA UK](#)

December, 2009

[The handbook for people who have injected drugs](#) has been written for current and ex-drug injectors. It gives information and advice about the hepatitis C virus (HCV), and the tests you can take to see if you have been infected. It also explains how to protect yourself from the virus if you are negative. If you are living with HCV, it explains the medical care you might need and what you can do to reduce health problems.

[\[In English\]](#)

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VIDEOS

#1

HCLU releases films portfolio 2009

Source: [HCLU](#)

December 18, 2009

[Hungarian Civil Liberties Union \(HCLU\)](#) produced 70 advocacy videos in 2009; 26 were Hungarian and 44 were in a foreign language. The vast majority of films deal with drug policy issues, within the framework of the European Drug policy Initiative program. Download the illustrated detailed report from 2009 that features stories, images and a full database with links to streaming video and download content:

<http://drogriporter.hu/en/2009filmportfolioenglish>

In this portfolio you will also find the latest [HCLU](#) video "[After the war on drugs](#)" which tells about the future models of legal regulation of drugs. Video was filmed at the International Drug Policy Reform Conference that took place in November 2009 in New Mexico, USA.

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This information prepared by the secretariat of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network. The news digest is released once per month in two languages – English and Russian and is made available through email listservs and through the Network website. Use of information is allowed on the assumption that the link to the source is provided. All feedback and news are welcomed at e-mail info@harm-reduction.org.