

Alert to members and partners:

CEEHRN becomes EHRN After 10 years of work – time for change!

Today, October 10, 2007, the Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network (CEEHRN) is changing its name to the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN). EHRN has a new logo and a new web-address, <u>www.harm-reduction.org</u>, but no changes in its spirit and geographic scope.

CEEHRN was initiated in 1997 by a group of harm reduction pioneers in the region. It has worked for over 10 years in the field of drugs in the region of Central and Eastern Europe and in the countries of Central Asia: Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The need for a new name that more accurately reflects the geographic scope of Network's work throughout the region became obvious. The Network's governing body, its Steering Committee, under initiative of Askar Ahmedov, decided to change the name in 2006 and included this change in the Network's Strategic Plan for 2007-2009.

"It is symbolical, that exactly in the decade we pass to a new level of work, expanding the borders. I would like to thank all of those who worked so hard with us for the sake of our common cause during these years. I hope that the level of work and obvious advantage of joint activity will increase. Uniting our efforts worldwide, we become stronger," said Kaleria Lavrova, the coordinator of the EHRN Steering Committee.

The name change does not reflect any change in the Network's mission, goals, membership and structure. EHRN remains a regional network with a mission to support, develop, and advocate for harm reduction approaches in the field of drugs, HIV/AIDS, public health, and social exclusion by following the principles of humanism, tolerance, partnership, and respect for human rights and freedoms. Any organization or individual from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia who supports this mission and harm reduction principles can become a member and those from other regions are welcomed as supporting members of the Network. The Steering Committee remains Network's governing body and the Secretariat, based in Vilnius, Lithuania will continue its executive work.

EHRN bears a new face with a new logo and a new web-address, <u>www.harm-reduction.org</u>. Email addresses of the Secretariat staff members will also have the suffix @harm-reduction.org. This internet address was generously given to us by the Open Society Institute. For a transitional period of 6 months the Network can be reached through both old and new addresses. For more information please visit www.harm-reduction.org

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