

Announcement

24 October 2012
Vilnius, Lithuania

Eurasian Network of People who Use Drugs (ENPUD) develops their mission, strategy, and organizational structure

On **July 9th and 10th**, and **September 23rd and 24th, 2012**, as part of the [AIDS Forum](#), Eurasian Network of People who Use Drugs (ENPUD) had two strategic planning sessions, where the core group of drug user community activists discussed and agreed on their organization's mission statement: *"We are a community of people who use drugs and our allies, who unite for the purpose to decriminalize drug use and to achieve personal and social well-being"*. The mission is based on the belief that drug policy can be changed; and drug use should not be a reason for detention, refusal of medical help, social exclusion, or violence in any country.

Established in 2010 with Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)'s support, ENPUD has become a force for positive change in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA). ENPUD's core idea is to protect the human rights of people who use drugs. ENPUD members stand up against stigma and discrimination fueling HIV/AIDS, TB, and Hepatitis C epidemics in the region. At the closing of the AIDS Forum, Aleksey Kurmanaevsky – one of ENPUD's Coordinating Council members – stated: *"I am glad to confirm that now we are capable and ready to speak for ourselves."*

The core group of ENPUD activists (that acts as ENPUD's interim Coordinating Council – the Network's executive body) made a number of strategic decisions related to ENPUD's objectives, advocacy agenda, membership policy, and organizational structure.

ENPUD's Coordinating Council's first formal elections will take place during the [International Harm Reduction Conference](#), which will be held on June 9-12, 2013, in Vilnius, Lithuania. Thereafter, the Council will be elected every 2 years.

ENPUD's interim Coordinating Council requested that EHRN's Secretariat fulfill the role of ENPUD's Secretariat until 2014. EHRN accepted the proposal – *"EHRN and ENPUD are equal partners. EHRN is honored to contribute to strengthening ENPUD's and its members' capacity through the design and implementation of joint EHRN-ENPUD projects,"* said Sergey Votyagov, Executive Director of EHRN. EHRN and ENPUD will sign a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2012.

The Eurasian Network of People who Use Drugs (ENPUD) was established in February 2010. ENPUD is a community of men and women who use drugs and their allies, who are willing to be directly involved in decision-making processes that affect their lives. At the moment, the Network unites people with experience of drug use from 9 countries: Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) is a regional network of harm reduction programs, groups of people who use drugs and their allies from across 28 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEECA), who work to advocate for the universal human rights of people who use drugs, and to protect their lives and health. EHRN's mission is to promote humane, evidence-based harm reduction approaches to drug use, with the aim of improving health and protecting human rights at the individual, community, and societal level.

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