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STRENGTHENING OF HIV/STI INTERVENTIONS IN SEX WORK IN UKRAINE AND IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING MEETING ON SEX WORK

**LVIV, UKRAINE
29 OCT TO 1 NOV 2012**

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FIRST DAY

OPENING

After the registration of all the participants, the meeting has been opened with a short welcome speech by Mr. **Yaroslav Bordiyan**, Chief of the Social Services Department of the Lviv Region Administration. He welcomed all the participants in the city of Lviv and wished a fruitful work during the meeting.

After that, Dr. **Licia Brussa**, the Director of TAMPEP International Foundation, has also welcomed everyone to the National Meeting in Lviv. Her main message was that this meeting would take a format of a consultation, rather than a conference. That is why she urged everyone to share their experience and listen to the opinion of others.

The next speaker was Dr. **Oleksandra Sluzhunska**, Executive Director from SALUS Charitable Foundation, who has opened the meeting with introducing logistics and organizational details.



INTRODUCTION TO CONECTA PROJECT

DENNIS VAN WANROOIJ, TAMPEP

The main concept of CONECTA project was introduced by Mr. **Dennis van Wanrooij** from TAMPEP International Foundation. He stated that Conecta is a European project financed by the European Union. **TAMPEP International Foundation** is the regional coordinator of this project. **SALUS Charitable Foundation** (in Ukraine) and **Humanitarian Action** (in Russia) are both national coordinators and the implementing organizations. Irina Maslova (from Silver Rose, Russia) and Natalia Isaieva (from Lega Life, Ukraine) are both representatives of the national sex worker organizations and are very important expert consultants.

He stated that although all actions of Conecta project are based in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation, tools and expertise between the 2 countries are compared and shared. This is possible

because the activities of this project happen simultaneously in both countries. After that, he explained the reasons for Conecta project. The first reason is that Russia and Ukraine account together for almost 90% of all people living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In this context, female, male and transgender sex workers are vulnerable to HIV infection because of structural and environmental factors. Criminalization of sex work, abusive law-enforcement practices, violence, stigma, discrimination, and human right violations against sex workers increase their vulnerability to HIV/STIs and limits sex workers' ability to access vital health and support services, including medical and social care and harm reduction programs.

In this sense, CONECTA was created under the official name of '**Strengthening of HIV/STIs Interventions in Sex Work in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation**' due to the fact that its main aim is to reduce vulnerability of sex workers to HIV/STIs transmission, while developing an example of comprehensive and right-based service approach to HIV and sex workers, based on the experience and knowledge of the sex worker projects and organisations in the region.

The beneficiaries of our activities, he said, are not just the sex workers that our outreach teams are able to reach. If NGOs from Ukraine and Russia are able to

strengthen their capacities, we are able to expand our coverage and ways to involve and respond to the needs of sex workers in the region, he said.

For this reason, Conecta is a **participatory project**. All NGOs/GOs with sex work component and sex workers themselves were invited to take part of our several activities. Conecta respects sex workers' self-determination and autonomy.

The **specific objectives** of Conecta are a) to implement comprehensive and multifaceted services for sex workers in **Lviv** and in **St Petersburg**, by developing tools that can be used throughout the region by other organizations; and b) to strengthen the capacity and skills of service providers, community based organisations, and policy makers in programmatic approach to HIV/STIs in sex work settings in the region.

In order to increase the knowledge on sex work in the region, Conecta developed:

- 2 (two) national prostitution mapping reports (one for Ukraine, one for Russia)
- 1 (one) regional trend report

In order to create a supportive network structure for NGOs that work in cooperation, Conecta developed:

- 2 (two) national capacity building training meetings in the first year of the project

■ 1 (one) regional conference in the second year of the project

■ 2 (two) regional newsletters

In order to achieve a comprehensive model and tools for an interdisciplinary prevention and care projects based on the principle of outreach work, health and social promotion, Conecta developed:

■ Multi-faceted programmes in Lviv and St Petersburg

■ Educational materials and resources

In order to develop peer education and good practices, Conecta developed:

■ Peer education trainings

■ Good Practices Manual

Human rights are also a fundamental issue of this meeting and this project. The idea is to bring in inspirations on **how to advocate for sex workers' human rights**. For that goal, Conecta will develop:

■ 3 (three) policy papers that analyses the laws and their impacts on sex workers lives

■ A booklet on cases of violence affecting sex workers based on the direct sex workers experiences

■ Services that address violence against sex workers

■ Human rights campaigns

Finally, he stated “we, as Conecta team, **oppose criminalization** of sex work and **condemn violence** against them. Our aim

today is to think further and understand better what we can do together.”

He then thanked the participants for all efforts done so far, and reinforced the need of working out their knowledge and experience.



SEX WORK IN EUROPE

SEX WORK IN EUROPE: SITUATION, TRENDS, POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED SERVICES FOR SEX WORKERS

LICIA BRUSSA, TAMPEP



Dr. **Licia Brussa** initially stated that CONECTA project advocates for **enabling policy environments for an increased access to health and rights for sex workers**. But, according to her, to move on

to the basic principles of quality services, it is extremely necessary to first understand the current reality of sex work.

For this reason, Conecta carried out the national mapping and collected posters about sex work projects across the Ukraine.

To elucidate the importance of understanding the context where sex work takes place, she shared with the participants a picture of the actual situation of sex work across Europe. The intention was to provide some **comparison elements** of the **extreme flexibility and complexity of the sex work businesses and the sex workers' situations**. According to her, many findings in Europe correspond to the national situation of sex work in Ukraine.

Key findings in Europe

TAMPEP mapping results: situation and needs

- Increase of persons entering sex work as well as of the number of nationalities
- About 70% of those working in the West European sex industry are migrants
- About 70% of these migrant sex workers come from Central and East European countries
- 65 different countries of origin were found
- Regarding the migrant population, 65% are non-EU citizens

■ Sexual services are predominantly by women; only 7% male and 6% are transgender

Repressive migration laws and policies affect heavily sex workers in Europe, since 2/3 of them are migrants from non-EU countries. This also increases barriers to access health and social care.

Moreover, the **gender** of the sex worker population must be taken into consideration in the development of any health promotion programme. Particularly for sexual and reproductive health issues ones. **The integration of the sexual and reproductive health in the HIV/STIs services is extremely important.**

The gap of service provision targeting male and transgender sex workers in Europe was also mentioned.

■ Mobility

Sex workers are a very mobile population.

About 70% of them said they have already worked in the sex industry in at least two other countries before.

Sex workers' migration is often directed to neighboring countries, either by periodical moving or going frequently back and forth. Within countries there is also a high mobility. About 50% have already worked in other cities in the country they were residing at that point.

Clients have become more mobile. There has been an increase of sex work venues in

the border areas to the new EU countries. There is, however, not enough coverage of adequate services in those border areas for sex workers, she said.

■ The shift from outdoor to indoor settings

Due to increasing repressive policies towards sex work, mainly towards street-based sex workers, Europe has seen, in the last years, a tremendous shift from outdoor to indoor forms of prostitution. Nowadays, about **2/3 are indoor-based**. This fact has made it much more difficult for service providers to establish and maintain contact to these sex workers. TAMPEP estimates that about 30% (only) are covered by information, prevention and care measures. Licia added that, in the Russian Federation, there has also been a shift from outdoor to indoor settings. **The consequence is a big gap in terms of service provision**. She recalled the need to involve sex workers in **peer education** activities in order to reach better sex workers working indoors.

■ Vulnerability

The most significant factor regarding sex workers' vulnerability is the **high level of violence** and abuse by multiple perpetrators.

Violence can be:

- **Institutional** | Police, state authorities
- **Related to exploitative and unsafe working conditions** | Pimps, traffickers or clients

Reasons for vulnerability are: the level of dependency and the weak legal position of many sex workers.

'Sex workers that are independent workers and which are in a relative safe working environment have more possibilities to insist on condom use or refuse abusive clients.'

However, only about 60% among national sex workers and 40% among migrant sex workers have control over their working conditions. This is a strong indication of a high level of vulnerability regarding HIV and STIs, mainly among migrant sex workers.

Escalating state repression of sex work has made sex workers more vulnerable to STIs/HIV in several ways. It has forced them into working in clandestine spaces, reducing their access to health care and prevention measures. Societal

homophobia, laws against homosexuality, and the absence of legal protection from discrimination are serious barriers for transgender and male sex workers to access sexual health services and information. These problems are usually heightened for migrant sex workers, particularly if they are undocumented.

In some countries of Europe, **mandatory HIV/STIs testing and breaches of confidentiality are common**. Laws that criminalize sexually transmission of infections pose a particular threat to sex workers as they can be charged to public health offences. One of the biggest barriers over the last years is the lack of political commitment and governmental responses focused on reducing sex workers' vulnerability to STIs/HIV and the absence of adequate public health approaches that are appropriate for this highly marginalised population.

The need of quality services

To be effective, programs for sex workers must be:

- Dynamic and grounded in **human rights** and what sex workers want. They must address the diverse realities of human sexuality and sexual expression and not moralise or try to push sex workers into other occupations.

- Addressing broader issues such as an **equal access to HIV treatment, social and medical care and access to justice**.

- Involving sex workers in their design and implementation, and the integration of sex workers as **peer educators** and **community leaders** as staff members.

- **Non-discriminatory**, and **accessible** to female, transgender and male indoor and outdoor-based sex workers, including those who are HIV positive.

- Accessible **harm reduction** services are needed for drug users.

'Strengthening the capacity of multi-sectorial services is imperative for reducing the vulnerabilities of sex workers to HIV/STIs.'

Licia recalled that there is no single model for reducing STIs/HIV among sex workers and clients.

But there are some successful initiatives carried out by TAMPEP network organizations:

- Information for male, female and transgender sex workers about STIs/ HIV, human rights, sexual health, condom use, working safely and health services. This information is usually best delivered by peers, although media and health professionals can play an important role.

- Accessible information about HIV, STIs and condoms for clients and others in the sex industry including establishment operators and staff, taxi drivers, police and local authorities.

- Access to a variety of appropriate condoms, lubricants, medication, contraceptives, hormones, nutrition.

- Access to a full range of sexual and reproductive health services for men, women and transgender people including diagnosis, treatment and care of HIV and STIs, and post-abortion care.

- Programmes to promote rights awareness and reduce abuse and discrimination.

- Support to locate safe places to work, live, and care for children.

- Health and social services for mobile and migrant sex workers.

- Sex worker and MSM-friendly drug and alcohol harm reduction programmes.

- Support to access justice and combat violence.

- Cultural, educational and community activities that help sex workers build solidarity and realise personal and collective goals.

- Psychological support, including sexual assault counselling.

- Voluntary access to STIs/HIV testing and follow-up social support, care and treatment for HIV positive sex workers.

Recommendations

The extremely high vulnerability of sex workers to HIV/STIs is accompanied by a growing social exclusion and barriers to accessing social and health care support services.

In order to strengthen HIV/STIs prevention in sex work settings across Europe, it is critical to understand the social determinants and the working conditions of sex workers in the region.

TAMPEP therefore recommends:

- To develop a holistic, coordinated and integrated approach to sex work and STIs/HIV. We need the cooperation of all stakeholders to create a framework that makes this possible, including sex workers.

- To develop national referral mechanisms: a structure that makes recommendations for national policy concerning the reduction of vulnerability among sex workers to HIV/STIs. To ensure that sex workers have access to the services they need, and that their human rights are respected.

- To create national platforms that includes civil society, GOs, and international agencies.

- To create an impact assessment monitoring system regarding policies affecting the health and safety of sex workers and their working environments (e.g. the criminalisation of sex work and impact in public health and prevention policies). In this context, any form of

compulsory or mandatory STIs/HIV testing for sex workers must be abolished.

- To strengthen the networking and sharing of knowledge across countries.
- To ensure universal access to health, and the right of migrants and ethnic minorities to HIV/STIs prevention, treatment and care.

Relevant networks for an effective transnational cooperation and effective advocacy:

NSWP | The Global Network of Sex Work Projects

www.nswp.org

ICRSE | International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe

www.sexworkeurope.org

SWAN | Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia

www.swannet.org

TAMPEP | European Network for HIV/STI Prevention and Health Promotion among Migrant Sex Workers

www.tampep.eu

EHRN | Eurasian Harm Reduction Network

www.harm-reduction.org

**SEX WORK IN UKRAINE: FROM THE SEX WORKERS' PERSPECTIVES
OVERVIEW OF THE UKRAINIAN SEX WORK SITUATION AND MAIN ISSUES**

NATALIA ISAIEVA, LEGA LIFE



Natalia started with the problems that sex workers face. They are the following:

- **Preconceived attitude towards sex workers in general.** Especially because of the level of influence of the church in the country and the moralization of the issue. However, Natalia argued that the majority of the sex workers are adults, who are professionals in their field and who are free to make choices. In order to lower the negative attitudes, she suggested informational interventions via mass media; advocacy campaigns; changes in the

legislation (particularly, to avoid the criminalization of clients since this would bring negative effects for sex workers).

■ Another problem for sex workers in Ukraine is that **police positions** sex workers as disseminators of different diseases and people who suffer; however, in the majority of cases, sex workers are successful people.

■ Sex workers are always in need of **support from partners**- NGOs in particular, especially sex workers are in need of the support for the events organized by them, for instance, the up-coming 17th of December- the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers.

■ Another problem that sex workers face is the **lack of information** about needs and peculiarities of the sex workers' community. That is why Natalia gave an example of the project of Alliance which has published a newspaper and included the articles of sex workers and NGOs.

■ Sex workers accept the existence of the **centers of integrative help**, but not the so-called "rehabilitation centers".

■ Another problem that Natalia mentioned is that many projects are aimed at HIV-positive sex workers; however the so-called "clean", HIV-negative people are not covered by these projects. From Natalia's point of view, they should be **covered by these projects** too in order to safe their health.

■ Sex Workers are tired of receiving condoms, sex workers need **real help in accessing justice** and other legal help.

After listing the problems faced by sex workers, Natalia spoke about the possible **solutions** of these problems. They are as follows:

■ The practice of so-called "social monitoring" should be developed in order to collect evidence of the violations of not only sex workers' rights, but also violations of other person's rights. She said that one of the efficient methods to collect data is the method of filming these violations on the mobile phones.

■ Natalia has also said that she is in a very good contact with the Ombudsman of Ukraine, Ms. Valeria Lutkovskaya.

■ The media coverage of the issue of sex workers in Ukraine is the majority of cases one-sided. As for instance, during the 2012 UEFA European Football Championship there were many negative articles on sex work.

■ Natalia emphasized the importance of trainings on various aspects, including trainings on leadership among sex workers. She mentioned that thanks to the NGOs present at this meeting, she and other members of Liga-Life have learnt a lot and are now ready to share their knowledge with others.

■ While pointing out the importance of trainings, Natalia mentioned the peculiarities of the training conducted with the policemen. She said that many of them were impressed when the training was ought to be conducted by a representative of the NGO, but in the end was conducted by a sex worker. This changed their approach towards sex work in many ways.

■ Unfortunately, currently weak motivation among sex workers themselves can be seen. However, Natalia provided a solution to this problem too. She said that here the exchange of experience between peer educators and sex workers is crucial, so that the latter can then transmit their new knowledge among the sex workers of their regions.

■ Natalia continued with stating that due to the lack of communication and technical skills among sex workers, it is often hard to reach them and to report about the violations of their rights on time. That is why Liga-Life conducts trainings on computer literacy and also trainings on how to use mobile phones and Dictaphones. However, due to the fact that Liga-Life is not officially registered as an NGO, it is often hard to find even premises where to conduct such trainings, so she asked her colleagues from different NGOs to take this into account and as far as possible, provide them with the room or other sort of premises.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Conecta project is an interactive one and the poster section was build up to create some space for organizations in Ukraine to tell more about their experiences, knowledge, and problems faced by sex workers in the region.

Before the realization of the meeting, SALUS Charitable Foundation collected all posters prepared by the organizations present in the meeting. The posters were a condition for attending the meeting and were based on a same structure. The intention, therefore, was to increase the knowledge of what is available – in terms of service provision, resources, tools, etc – for sex workers in the country. The posters stayed at the wall during the whole period of the meeting and were a base for sharing knowledge about their work and organizations.

The following summaries relate to the poster presentation session when each participant could tell more about their work and the situation of sex workers they contact.





■ KHMELNYTSKY REGIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS OF DRUG ADDICTION AND AIDS “VICTORIA” | Khmelnytsky

The main goal of this organization is to address HIV/AIDS and STIs in Ukraine and to reduce the spread of HIV, STIs, and hepatitis through prevention of these diseases among vulnerable groups in the city of Khmelnytsky and the Khmelnytsky region.

The services provided to sex workers by this NGO include the following: providing counselling and medical care (including professional medical care, psychological, and legal support); HIV/STI testing, including hepatitis B; household services (laundry, ironing and shower); distribution of condoms, lubricants; and a self-help group. The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 650.

This organization has been maintaining contact with the transport police that are responsible for the area of the train station. By this, the NGO had an opportunity to provide more protection for

female sex workers. Cooperation with transport police lies in the conduct of trainings for employees, individual psychological advice, and information on HIV, STIs, and hepatitis B. This practice has proven to be successful.

Local situation of sex work- estimated numbers:

- number of female sex workers in the city of Khmelnytsky -1300
- number of female sex workers who work indoors- 70%
- number of female sex workers who work outdoors- 30%
- number of female sex workers who are migrants- 1%
- number of female sex workers who are drug-users- 10%

Female sex workers, who work outdoors, mostly have spontaneous hours of work and do not control their working conditions. Moreover, their wages are low and they are more vulnerable to violence from both police and clients.

Female sex workers who work in areas with pimps are more protected from violence and the police. The payment for their work is higher than the one of outdoor sex workers. They take care of their health and often use the services of private doctors. They usually find their clients through ads in newspapers or online through pimps.

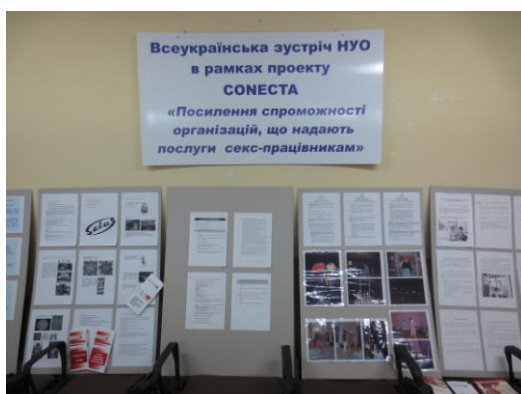
■ CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

“AVANTE” | Lviv

The main aim of this NGO is: HIV/STI prevention among MSM in Lviv region, as well as provision of care and support for people living with HIV and mobilization of groups at risk of HIV/STI. This NGO consists of 12 staff members and 5 volunteers.

The services provided to sex workers by this NGO include the following: medical, social, psychological, legal assistance; testing HIV, hepatitis; distribution of condoms, lubricants, syringes; possibility to attend a self-help group, as well as other trainings organized by the NGO.

The peculiarity of this organization is that it works with MSM by analyzing the differences between the needs of MSM and female sex workers; as well the higher level of stigmatization of the group of MSM and thus, the provision of the adequate psychological assistance to MSM.



■ CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

“SALUS” | Lviv

SALUS is a non-profitable organization which carries out activities aimed at improving health of the people; disease prevention; promotion of a healthy and safe lifestyle; promotion of new diagnostic and therapeutic technologies; HIV/STI prevention among the general population and among vulnerable groups.

Salus Foundation runs a crisis center where women who find themselves in crisis can receive medical and psychological services. Salus also works with representatives of groups at risk of HIV infection – female sex workers.

Services available for sex workers in Salus are as follows: Rapid testing for HIV, STI, hepatitis; distribution of condoms, lubricants, pregnancy tests; consulting services by professionals (doctor, lawyer, psychologists); distribution of information materials; social support etc.

The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 1400, whereas the estimated number of sex workers in the region/ city is 2500.

This organization consists of 40 members (18 of them are staff members, while 8 are volunteers). This organization has a mobile outpatient clinic (since 1998). Moreover, the peculiar projects of this NGO include art events under the name “Art against AIDS”. This NGO has also worked with HIV-positive pregnant women and provided them with psychological and legal assistance.

■ CENTER ON RE-SOCIALIZATION OF CHEMICALLY DEPENDENT PEOPLE “INDEPENDENCE” | Vinnitsya

The purpose of this organization is the re-socialization of chemically dependent people in order to protect their social, economic, creative, age-related, cultural, sports and other interests, promote rehabilitation programs.

To achieve this goal this organization works in the following key areas: promotes the practical implementation of national, regional, local and international programs; assists in the provision of psychological, medical, social, legal and other assistance to individuals who require social support and rehabilitation; encourages former patients as counselors and social workers in the rehabilitation of patients with chemical dependency; promotes the development and implementation of programs to prevent alcohol and drug use among adolescents and young people; promotes the creation and publication of literature on treatment and prevention of mental and substance abuse disorders, and problems of psychology and psychotherapy.

During the entire time of the existence of this organization clients of the project were approximately 2000 persons. During the work of this organization, it was estimated that less than 10% of women use the services of prevention programs.

Therefore, the aim of this organization is to attract more women as our clients in order to give them access to prevention programs, quality health and social services, and social support.

The list of concrete services aimed at sex workers are: distribution of condoms, lubricants, pregnancy tests, syringes; distribution of information materials; consulting by peer educators; rapid testing for HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B; medical/social/legal/psychological counselling; conduct of information sessions on a weekly basis; household services; every Tuesday is the women's day; ability to use the services of a day care center for children; a wide network of partners to whom many of clients are referred. The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 300.

■ CHARITABLE FOUNDATION “WAY HOME” | Illichivsk

This organization provides services for HIV prevention among vulnerable groups in 4 cities: Odessa, Illichivsk, Ismael, Belgorod-Dnestrovskiy. HIV prevention program among sex workers in Illichivsk has worked since January 2012.

The list of services available for sex workers are:

The list of services provided to sex workers is the following: distribution of condoms, pregnancy tests, information materials. There is also a trustful doctor who works

with this organization and is ready to provide testing on HIV/STI etc. There is also the opportunity to receive a professional social and psychologist consultancy. The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 200.



■ **CHARITABLE FOUNDATION “HOPE AND SALVATION” | Simferopol, Autonomous Republic of the Crimea**

The main aims of this organization are the following: promotion of health; implementation of preventive measures to prevent the spread of HIV in Simferopol; provision of access to medical, social and other services to people with AIDS and HIV-positive people. Currently, the fund has become a leading NGO in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention in the Crimea.

The following services are provided for vulnerable groups: exchange of needles, distribution of alcohol wipes, medicines, condoms, pregnancy tests; distribution of information materials; counseling in person and via mobile helpline on HIV and drug

use; consulting with a psychologist, a gynecologist, a lawyer; motivational counseling; social support (if necessary); referrals to other specialists or other organization; self-help groups; anonymous rapid testing for HIV; diagnosis and treatment of STI. This organization also has a mobile unit/clinic.

The number of the sex workers covered by this organization was 1483 according to the estimations collected in August 2012.

The estimated number of sex workers in this region/city is 1700.

■ **ALL-UKRAINIAN CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION “CONVICTUS” | Kyiv**

The mission of the organization is the following: according to its own experience, based on the principles of human rights and equality, to create conditions for the reform of the legal framework of Ukraine in the field of public health, and to provide an integrated, comprehensive assistance to people affected by HIV/AIDS, drug dependency and social exclusion with a view to their successful re-integration into society and improvement of quality of life. The services provided by this organization to sex workers are as follows: legal advice; medical consultation; self-help groups for drug users; rapid tests for HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B and C, gonorrhea and chlamydia; distribution of condoms, syringes, lubricants, female condoms, pregnancy tests, information materials,

humanitarian clothing; issuance of general medicine; support of social workers; Individual psychological support; information and training sessions; watching movies, usage of Internet; rehabilitation program, detoxification, care and support to HIV-positive people; creative workshop for women.

The number of sex workers covered by this organization is about 1500. The estimated amount of sex workers in this region/city is approximately 10.000. The number of sex workers who work indoors is 80 %, while the number of those working outdoors is 20 %.

The representative of this organization has also noticed that they have also worked with male sex workers who provide sexual services to women. The representative of this organization has also mentioned that another closed group is the group of transgender sex workers and that the majority of them have come to sex business in order to get money for medical operations.

■ TERNOPIL REGIONAL BRANCH OF THE LEAGUE OF SOCIAL WORKERS OF UKRAINE | Ternopil

This organization was created in 1999. The purpose of the organization is to meet and protect the legal, social, economic, artistic and other interests of its members, promotion of social and youth policies. The mission of this organization is the

formation and implementation of social development and social support for children, women, youth and families to solve their social problems and education, as well as the implementation of social preventive work to overcome negative phenomena among youth, develop and facilitate the implementation of complex rehabilitation measures in order to restore social functions, psychological, mental and physical conditions of children, women and youth.

The services provided to sex workers by this organization are social and medical services, in particular consultations by social workers and doctors in hospitals on the request of the client.

The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 64. The total number of sex workers in this region is approximately 500, including 300 in the city of Ternopil. Among them, 65 % work indoors, while 20 % work outdoors.

■ CENTER OF SPIRITUAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT “RESOURCES” | Ternopil

The organization was created by a group of women who saw the need to support their close ones who have started using drugs.

Currently, members are engaged in preventive work among 600 drug users. In the course of its work, the organization has expanded its efforts to provide gender-specific services to 218 women and girls

offering sexual services. The organization runs the community center that made it possible to provide a range of services to clients, including social and psychological support. The organization provides support to 160 female drug users.

The services for sex workers provided by this organization include: individual counseling by psychologist, social worker, participation in harm reduction programs, self-help groups, provision of the “empowerment package” while receiving comprehensive health and social services. The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 160. The total number of sex workers in this region/city is about 300. 55 % of sex workers work indoors, while 20 % outdoors.

■ CHARITABLE FOUNDATION “UNITUS” | Mykolaiv

The general aims of the organization are as follows: HIV/STI prevention in Mykolayiv region through improved access of sex workers in the city and region to health care, social and psychological assistance, improve their quality of life and overcome social isolation by providing quality information and educational materials. The organization also expands access of sex workers to quality information and educational materials through their involvement in creating and distributing the magazine “Plantain”.

The list of services provided to sex workers by this organization is: distribution of male and female condoms, personal hygiene products, pregnancy tests; distribution of informational materials (such as magazine “Plantain”, newspaper “Mother and baby”, other booklets, brochures). Sex workers can receive professional medical care, as well as take rapid testing for HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B and C in the mobile clinic. There is a counseling center under this organization, where sex workers can consult a psychologist and a lawyer. The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 2500.

■ CHARITABLE FOUNDATION “ANTI-AIDS” | Lugansk

The mission of this organization is to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS by: organization of support and interventions to prevent the further spread of HIV / AIDS in the Lugansk region; close cooperation with national NGOs and government agencies in order to enhance local capacity and promote the necessary initiatives; an innovative approach to the development, implementation and promotion of methods to effective HIV / AIDS prevention and providing treatment, care and support for people living with HIV/ AIDS; organization and delivery of social and legal assistance to HIV-positive Lugansk area residents and other disadvantaged groups; the formation of public opinion in

the direction of protecting the rights and support for HIV-positive residents.

The list of services provided for sex workers by this organization is: free distribution of condoms, lubricants, needles; distribution of informational materials on HIV / AIDS, STI, safe sexual behavior; consultation on HIV, STI, safe sexual behavior, drug use; forward and support clients to obtain additional services; conduct psychological support groups and provide individual counseling; legal support; conduct of informational trainings to promote safe sexual behavior; outreach work; training of volunteers and advising via peer educating.

The amount of people covered by this organization has been 520 people over the past year.

A peculiarity of this organization is the “school of psychology”, where sex workers are taught how to avoid aggression. There are also classes for sex workers who are mothers.

■ **KHARKIV CITY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION “WELFARE” | Kharkiv**

The main aim of this organization is to prevent the transmission of HIV, STIs and hepatitis among residents of Kharkov by providing charitable assistance to vulnerable groups (drug users, sex workers, MSM, street children); health promotion, prevention of HIV infection and other diseases.

The services provided to sex workers by this organization are as follows: case management system; referral system that forwards the clients of this organization to the partners; testing. On the basis of mobile clinic, there is a provision of express testing for HIV, STI and hepatitis B and C among sex workers. There is also a hotline for sex workers with a call-back system. Center “Orion” is situated in the centre of the city, where sex workers can watch educative films, use internet and computers.

Among the sex workers covered by this organization, 40% are indoors and 60 % are outdoor sex workers.

■ **PUBLIC MOVEMENT “FAITH, HOPE, LOVE” | Odessa**

This organization exists for 15 years. There are 3 teams that consists of 5 members each which does outreach work in 45 points of the city (motels, streets, saunas, center of the city, the zone of the port).

There is a mobile unit/clinic for reaching sex workers.

Other services provided to sex workers by this organization include: rapid testing for HIV, STIs; provision of treatment on the basis of good contact existing between this organization and state medical centers; professional legal and psychological counseling. Subject to customer needs, the organization developed the schedule of the work of these professionals on routes

during outreach work with making sure that sex workers are regularly inform about that schedule.

The number of women covered by this organization is 3266. This organization is a member of such networks: CEE-HRN; ENCOD; ISS; BEARR; PADOR; member of the Ukrainian Council of refugee issues; member of the Ukrainian Association “Harm Reduction” and others.

The estimated number of sex workers in the region/city of Odessa is 10.000. In percentage, 80 % of them work indoors; 20 %- outdoors, while 80 % of them are migrants.

The peculiarities of this organization include: good cooperation relations between the organization and business structures in Odessa that provide humanitarian aid and also in-kind contributions; there is a special baby center within this organization that works 5 days per week from 11 am to 19 pm, where sex workers can leave their babies in safety. There is also another center that functions within this organization and it is aimed concretely at sex workers, particularly teenage sex workers, where they can also pass the rehabilitation course for 3-6 months until they turn 18. Then they are referred to the state institutions (social services etc.).

■ CHARITABLE FOUNDATION “ORCHID” | Mykolaiv

The main target group of this organization is the group of élite sex workers.

The two main services provided by this organization are psychological and social assistance and a group of self-help. There is also a possibility for the sex workers to use a computer and a telephone for their needs.

The problem of the organization is a high completion between more or less 12 HIV prevention organizations.

The number of sex workers covered by this organization is about 137. In total the estimated number of sex workers in the region/city is approximately 600. The amount of sex workers who work indoors is 40 %, outdoors-60 %, 70 % of the total number are drug-users.

■ CHARITABLE FOUNDATION “INSIGHT” | Cherkassy

Foundation "Insight" is a regional charity, which operates in the Cherkasy region since 2001. The main activities of the foundation are aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles, the revival of cultural and spiritual values and prevention of adverse effects among the population.

The majority of the clients of this organization are sex workers who work outdoors, since the organization does not have access to the sex workers who work indoors, as it's a very closed group and the majority of them are students.

■ CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

“TOTAL” | Lviv

This organization has been functioning for the past 4 years. The main aim of this organization is charitable activities for the public interest and certain categories of people.

The main services provided to sex workers by this organization are: facilitation of the practical implementation of national, regional, local and international programs and (or) projects on health; promoting tolerance towards people of sexual minorities in society; reducing discrimination and stigma, promotion of human rights and freedoms.

The estimated total number of sex workers in the region/city is 400. The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 25.

HIV PREVENTION AMONG SWs IN UKRAINE

NATALIA DWINSKIKH, INTERNATIONAL AIDS ALLIANCE UKRAINE

Natalia started her presentation with the fact that the official date of the launch of the Alliance in Ukraine and the beginning of a joint program of the European Union and the U.S. government was in December 2000.

The mission of this project was to reduce the spread of HIV infection and AIDS mortality, as well as to reduce the negative

impact of the epidemic by supporting measures at the community level to combat HIV / AIDS in Ukraine, but also by promoting effective approaches to prevention and treatment of HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. UNAIDS, EU, OSI and others were involved in this.

The coverage of clients by this programme in different years has been different: in 2007- 21330 sex workers, while in 2012- 28636 sex workers.

The basic package of services includes: distribution of male and female condoms; counseling regarding HIV issues, including sexual behavior; distribution of information and reference materials; conducting self-help groups; information and educational trainings; rapid HIV testing; diagnosis and treatment of STIs; rapid tests for syphilis, gonorrhea etc.

Natalia has presented three periods of the development of this programme. She first characterized the development of the programme in 2008. They were as follows: distribution of lubricants; diagnosis and referral for treatment of STIs (syphilis, gonorrhea etc.); training on safe behavior; preventive measures for partners of sex workers; the start of the work of mobile clinics in 14 regions of Ukraine.

Then Natalia provided the audience with the characteristics of the 2010 period. Such steps have been reached during the period of 2010: distribution of female condoms; the start of “peer education” model;

violence prevention programme; consultations on reproductive health and the use of female condoms; testing for hepatitis B.

The last period presented was the period during the years 2011-2012. This period can be described by the introduction of the following steps within the programme: counseling and services on sexual and reproductive health; case management for sex workers on the topic “What woman wants”; online counseling for sex workers; training for the community; improving the quality of counseling for sex workers by conducting trainings for social workers and psychologists; peer education interventions (repeated coverage).

Natalia continued with listing the innovations and new technologies that was introduced by this programme. She listed the following: mobile clinics; peer education model; online counseling for sex workers; case management; prevention of violence; sexual and reproductive health.

The next bloc of Natalia’s presentation was devoted to the mobilization of communities. Thus, in 2007 Charitable Organization "Harm Reduction Association" started the project on the mobilization of the sex workers’ community. In 2008 the first conference on the mobilization of individuals involved in the sex business was conducted. On the 4th of December 2009 self- organization of sex workers, Charitable Organization “All-Ukrainian

League "Lega-life" was registered. In 2010 “Lega-life” created 10 initiative groups in 10 regions of Ukraine and officially took part in the International Conference on HIV / AIDS (Vienna, Austria).

Natalia ended her presentation with the list of the operational research carried out within the programme. Thus, the list looks as follows: Female condoms: research on the international experience of the usage of female condoms (2008); Exploring the ways to improve access of sex workers to STIs treatment programs (2009); Evaluation of the implementation of the pilot projects "Improving the level of effectiveness of prevention programmes for sex workers by introducing female condoms" (2010); The research on factors that influence violence against female sex workers as a factor of the risk increase of HIV infection (2011); Ethnographic research among sex workers in Ukraine (2012).

After that Natalia thanked everyone for attention.

PRINCIPLE OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY SERVICES, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND NETWORKING

LICIA BRUSSA

According to Dr. **Licia Brussa**, strengthening the capacity of multi-sectorial services is imperative for reducing

the vulnerabilities of sex workers to HIV/STIs.

There is no single model for reducing HIV/STIs among sex workers and clients.

Rather, a combination of rights based services and policies tailored to particular settings has proven successful.

Characteristics of effective services

Comprehensive, accessible, acceptable, sustainable, high-quality, user-friendly HIV prevention, treatment, care and support must be scaled up and adapted to different local contexts and individual needs.

Essential actions include:

- Actions to address structural barriers, including policies, legislation, and customary practices that prevent access and utilisation of appropriate HIV prevention, treatment, and care and support;
- Policies and programmes to ensure freedom from violence, abuse, and discrimination;
- Information for sex workers and their clients and others involved in the sex industry;
- Reliable and affordable access to commodities, including high-quality male and female condoms, water-based lubricants, and contraceptives, and other requirements for health, such as food, sanitation and clean water;

■ Access to voluntary HIV testing and counselling, with treatment, effective social support and care and for sex workers who test positive for HIV;

■ Access to high-quality primary health care, TB management, sexual and reproductive health services, especially sexually transmitted infection management and prevention of mother-to-child transmission;

■ Access to alcohol and drug-related harm reduction programmes, including sterile needles/syringes and opiate-substitution therapy; and,

■ Integration of HIV services with all relevant welfare services, including social support mechanisms for sex workers and their families.

Effective delivery of these essential services requires coordinated action by a range of actors operating at different levels. Convening and facilitating collaboration among the government and civil society partners to ensure the delivery of this coordinated action is the responsibility of national authorities. The UN system should promote and support the planning and delivery of this essential combination of actions on the scale required to achieve universal access.

Integrated services increase the number of entry points and expand coverage for a broader range of health and social services.

Service provision should not only address the needs of female sex workers but also correspond to the specific needs of male and transgender sex workers, who are often poorly served by existing providers. Services should provide the best available standard.

More generally, an essential component of any HIV prevention programming is the inclusion of sex workers in the development, implementation and evaluation of HIV programmes for sex workers. Merely consulting sex workers is insufficient; rather, strong programming should be based on the stated needs of the sex workers themselves in the area of the intervention. As needs, experiences and perceptions can change from region to region, local sex workers must be involved in the design of interventions to be implemented in their area.

Effective HIV programming with sex workers and clients also requires non-judgemental services from health care providers. Health systems need to build the capacity of health workers at all levels and strengthen condom programming to make it more effective in protecting and promoting the health and human rights of sex workers.

Condoms should not be the sole focus of HIV interventions for sex workers; they should be provided alongside access to

non-judgemental health care, development of sex worker leadership, economic empowerment, strengthening collective identity, and the elimination of stigma and discrimination related to sex work and sex workers.

What is essential to consider

There are many factors that we have to consider when pretending to offer human rights-based services for sex workers. According to TAMPEP's experience, these are:

■ **Network** – develop a wide, trustful and cooperative network of organisations and institutions offering different kinds of services for sex workers. Services that are respectful towards sex workers, that are acquainted and understand their reality. Such services are very important as referral reference points.

■ **Documentation** – maintain an organised documentation of the outreach work carried out, in order to follow the changes within the scene and be able to act or react. Develop assessment and mapping on the sex work setting and sex work context, in order to develop the knowledge on the situation and sex workers needs.

■ **Continuity** – develop regular and continuous outreach activities to create new contacts and maintain old ones, build up trust and sympathy.

■ **Flexibility** – be able to adapt to sex workers’ realities and needs, respect their spaces and accept their choices.

Below is a list of the services for sex workers that the TAMPEP network organizations carried out and consider to have been successful:

- Information for male, female and transgender sex workers about STIs/ HIV, human rights, sexual health, condom use, working safely and health services. This information is usually best delivered by peers, although media and health professionals can play an important role.
- Accessible information about HIV, STIs and condoms for clients and others in the sex industry including establishment operators and staff, taxi drivers, police and local authorities.
- Access to a variety of appropriate condoms, lubricants, medication, contraceptives, hormones, nutrition.
- Access to a full range of sexual and reproductive health services for men, women and transgender people including diagnosis, treatment and care of HIV and STIs, and post-abortion care.
- Programmes to promote rights awareness and reduce abuse and discrimination.
- Support to locate safe places to work, live, and care for children.

■ Health and social services for mobile and migrant sex workers.

■ Sex worker and MSM-friendly drug and alcohol harm reduction programmes.

■ Support access justice and combat violence.

■ Cultural, educational and community activities that help sex workers build solidarity and realise personal and collective goals.

■ Psychological support, including sexual assault counselling.

■ Voluntary access to STIs/HIV testing and follow-up social support, care and treatment for HIV positive sex workers.

Recommendations

The extremely high vulnerability of sex workers to HIV/STIs is accompanied by a growing social exclusion and barriers to accessing social and health care support services.

In order to strengthen HIV/STIs prevention in sex work settings, it is critical to understand the social determinants and the working conditions of sex workers.

TAMPEP therefore recommend:

■ To develop a holistic, coordinated and integrated approach to sex work and STIs/HIV. We need the cooperation of all stakeholders to create a framework that makes this possible, including sex workers.

■ To develop national referral mechanisms: a structure that makes recommendations for national policy concerning the reduction of vulnerability among sex workers to HIV/STIs. To ensure that sex workers have access to the services they need, and that their human rights are respected.

■ To create national platforms that includes civil society, GOs, and international agencies.

■ To create an impact assessment monitoring system regarding policies affecting the health and safety of sex workers and their working environments (e.g. the criminalisation of sex work and impact in public health and prevention policies). In this context, any form of compulsory or mandatory STI/HIV testing for sex workers must be abolish.

■ To strengthen the networking and sharing of knowledge across regions and countries.

■ To ensure universal access to health, and the right of migrants and ethnic minorities to HIV/STI prevention, treatment and care.

Synergy of resources and policies on national, regional and global levels is essential in this moment. International and national agencies have an important role in the promotion of a human rights-based framework within STI/HIV prevention in sex work.

States need to take responsibility for the provision of appropriate levels of sexual health and social care services to sex workers, if we are to be successful in STIs/HIV prevention programming for sex workers.

INTERIM RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL MAPPING ON SEX WORK

OLEKSANDRA SLUZHYNska

The Executive Director of SALUS Charitable Foundation, **Oleksandra Sluzhynska**, introduced the participants to the background of sex work projects in Ukraine. Based on the experience and knowledge of these organizations, Conecta project was able to collect relevant information about sex workers in several regions of Ukraine.

Foreword

NGO activities for sex workers focused on HIV/STIs prevention in Ukraine started in 1996. Between 1996 and 1997, UNAIDS performed three workshops for NGOs staff members on “How to deal with sex workers”. The aim of the workshops was to mobilize resources and to create the teams of specialists ready to work with sex workers in Ukraine. Due to the support of UNAIDS, at the end of 90s, the first Ukrainian community organization of

women in sex business “Maria Magdalena” was officially registered in Odessa. These activities of UNAIDS created a precedent for development of future services for sex workers in Ukraine.

The first all Ukrainian program directed on sex workers was entitled “Establishment of the Network of NGOs Dealing with Women in Sex Business”. It was created in 2000 with the support of UNAIDS and Ukrainian Institute of Social Research. At that time there were no data about approximate quantity of sex workers in the country, about their situation, their needs, and problems. The aim of this project was, in this sense, to understand what the most important problems of sex workers are; to support the creation of self-support groups of sex workers; and create a supportive environment for sex workers. 11 NGOs from different cities of Ukraine have been involved into this project. Its implementation enabled further development of activities and programs for sex workers in Ukraine.

Starting from 2000 “International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine” became a linking organisation within the global Alliance partnership uniting more than 30 organisations working with representatives of high risk groups – sex workers, drug users, and MSM. Alliance Ukraine cooperates with national partners and stakeholders for overcoming HIV/AIDS epidemic and related public health

challenges. The Global Fund is the main sponsor of the Alliance Ukraine.

In 2003, the first results of the Ukrainian NGOs working with sex workers were published by UNDP and State Committee of Family and Youth Affairs. This report included 21 NGOs from different regions of the country working in the field of HIV and STIs prevention among sex workers.

In 2008, 15 NGOs from 14 cities – Kyiv, Simferopol, Sevastopol, Poltava, Lviv, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kryviy Rig, Luhansk, Vinnitsia, Cherson, Mykolaiv, and Cherkasy have received the special buses, so-called mobile units, for performing outreach work. It was empowering moment for NGOs dealing with sex workers, since it increased the coverage of their services. Outreach services provided includes: spreading condoms and lubricants, spreading leaflets, HIV/STI testing, counselling of psychologist, medical and social workers. Other 5 community centres were also created.

Thus, having described of the sex work scene and NGOs dealing with sex workers in Ukraine, it is possible to conclude that the network of NGOs is well-developed, the NGOs staff usually is experienced and trained during different trainings provided by Alliance, services for sex workers are provided in the frame of the projects sponsored, mostly, but not only, by Global Fund.

Mapping of Sex Work in Ukraine



Map: Number of Sex Workers per City/Region



Map: Coverage of Sex Worker per City/Region

The mapping has been performed with the active participation of the Ukrainian NGOs from the different regions of Ukraine working with sex workers. The mapping questionnaire has been sent to all the HIV-service NGOs in Ukraine. We have received the filled in questionnaires from 24 NGOs working in the 19 regions of the country. Three regions – Lviv, Mykolayiv and Odessa, as well as Crimea have been presented by several NGOs.

The questionnaire consists of four chapters and contains 84 questions.

- Places of localization of sex business
- Situation with sex workers in city/region
- Mobility
- Services and policies

The aim of this activity is the collection of data from the Ukrainian NGOs about situation with sex workers in the country.

In few time the results of the mapping will be described in details and information will be spread among the participants.

In total, 19 regions have participated in the mapping, but Odessa region has been presented by Odessa and by Illichevsk, and Crimea has been presented by Sevastopol and Simferopol.

According to collected data we could conclude that situation with sex workers is different in different cities and regions. The

number of sex workers are from 150 in Vinnitsa to 10 000 – in Odessa.

Depending on the season, the number of sex workers in some cities increases. In summertime, they use to come to the cities from villages and small towns. In Odessa, for example, there are about 10.000 in summertime and in winter much less. Sex workers can also be migrants from other countries, like Moldova and Russia. There is an inner (inside the country) migration of sex workers as well. Sometimes, they travel from city to city inside Ukraine. The most often reasons of mobility are: better salaries, repressive attitude of the police, and violence from clients.

Only one NGO from Lviv has started to work with male sex workers, and only one NGO from Kyiv works with transgender sex workers. Male and transgender sex workers predominantly provide sexual services for men; however, there are a growing number of male sex workers who provide services to women in Kyiv. The group of male sex workers, however, is very small comparatively to groups of women sex workers.

The majority of NGOs working with sex workers deal with outdoor sex workers, who are easier to reach. But there is general tendency, in the country, that step by step sex workers shift their working places to clubs, offices, and hotels (indoor

forms of sex work). Usually, outreach workers don't visit their places, but try to call them and to ask them to come to the bus for receiving services and materials. Some organization started to spread information to their beneficiaries by mail, but not always they are sure if the beneficiaries really read their messages. Such method of spreading information among sex workers is rather new for our country and need to be improved. Sex workers in Ukraine are vulnerable to HIV/STIs and violence. Those working outdoor face violence from the clients, absence of protection, high risk to HIV/STIs, and those who work indoors complain about the high risk to HIV/STIs and discrimination of police. But, in general, those who work indoors are less vulnerable. By means of mapping, some barriers in obtaining services were discovered. Some of them, such as inconvenient time of services, absence of confidence, lack of information about services – are caused by incorrect activities of NGO staff, and could be liquidated by very small efforts of NGO project managers.

Conclusions

Oleksandra Sluzhynska drew some final conclusions to her presentation:

- Thanks to the Global Fund support programs directed to sex workers take

place in Ukraine during last 10 years. During this period, many NGOs improved their work by applying good service to vulnerable groups, including sex workers

- Thanks to outreach projects in the Ukrainian cities, the majority of sex workers have access to services, but nevertheless there are some barriers in obtaining services that should be recognized and changed

- Vulnerability of sex workers to HIV/STIs and violence remain very high, especially of those ones working outdoor

- Access to sex workers working indoors is not sufficient. It is necessary to look for new additionally ways of getting in touch with them

- Thanks to the great work done by Lega Life sex workers in Ukraine can be heard and protect their rights. She called for activities that support the working being done by this sex worker organization

GOOD PRACTICES

Another relevant feature of Conecta project is the collection of good practices across the Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Dennis van Wanrooij presented the principles of good practice for sex work projects.

THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

DENNIS VAN WANROOIJ

After greeting the participants, he said that we call '*good practices*' those actions that have already been carried out, have been evaluated, and proved to have brought positive results for the target group. Briefly, he spoke about the importance of the attitude applied towards the target group. This attitude has to stand for **non-discriminatory, non-stigmatising** and **non-criminalising** ways of dealing with sex workers.

It is essential, for her, to **adapt to sex workers' realities and needs**. At last she claimed that **respect** is the fundamental value in service provision.

■ How is good practice defined?

According to the **WHO**, the **World Health Organisation**, the definition of what is a *good practice* includes attitudes and actions. They are as follows:

- Adopt a non-judgemental attitude;
- Ensure that sex workers' rights to privacy, confidentiality and anonymity are respected;
- Respect sex workers' human rights and accord them basic dignity;
- Respect sex workers' views, knowledge and life experiences;

- Involve sex workers, and, where appropriate, other community members in all stages of the development and implementation of interventions;
- Recognise that sex workers are usually highly motivated to improve their health and well-being;
- Recognise that sex workers are part of the solution;
- Build capacities and leadership among sex workers in order to facilitate effective participation and community ownership;
- Recognize the role played in HIV transmission by clients and third parties. That means: to target the whole sex work setting, including clients and third parties, rather than only sex workers.

UNESCO, the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation**, defines good practice from a more practical point of view:

- Good practice are innovative activities that create solutions to problems that are consequences of immigration, poverty and/or social exclusion;
- They demonstrate a positive impact on the living conditions of the individuals;

- They contribute to the eradication of social exclusion by involving the participants;
- They are models for generating new policies and initiatives.

According to **TAMPEP**, the criteria that consider activities for sex workers as being a good practice are:

- Respect the diversity of sex workers' environment;
- Include the participation of sex workers in the design, implementation and evaluation of the activity;
- Assure that the intervention has been fully evaluated;
- Assure that the intervention is transferable to other situations and countries.

■ What are good practices for?

Firstly: activities which are considered being a good practice can be a useful tool to learn new methods and consequently, to improve our work and services offered to sex workers.

Secondly: activities considered as a good practice can disseminate knowledge and positive experiences, as well as offer the practical means for building up partnerships between communities, organisations or institutions.

Two examples of activities defined as 'good practice' were then presented by him.

Club Underpass | An example from Slovakia

WHAT – The **Club Underpass**, an initiative of the NGO Odyseus, was created in 2003 within the red light district of Bratislava. The club was a low-threshold space for female street-based sex workers. It was a room on the ground floor of a small building, like a shop, but without any sign of what was inside. It offered a safe space where sex workers could spend time the way they wanted, before, during or after work.

WHY – The aim of the Club was to respond to sex workers' needs, to use it for advocacy activities and to encourage the development of self-help groups.

HOW – Two sex workers were involved as peer educators and employees. Different types of activities were carried out through the participation of sex workers: the selling and exchange of second-hand clothes, shoes and cosmetics; self-help groups for sex workers; computer training; English courses; and the preparation of information materials which included a monthly magazine for sex workers.

POSITIVE – The Club was the only place where they could talk freely about positive

and negative experiences in their work. It increased their self-esteem and the solidarity among them. A place where they could also buy condoms, get something to eat and drink. The Club made a significant contribution for the promotion of sex workers integration into society.

Cultural asset | An example from Germany

WHAT – An art exhibition of writings, drawings, collages and photos done by female street-based drug-using sex workers in Hamburg. The exhibition ran for one month, in an art gallery within the red light district where the women worked. It was organised by the NGO ragazza, in 2008.

WHY – There were two reasons to carry out this activity. The first one was to empower sex workers by giving them the opportunity to express themselves in different forms. The second reason was to inform the residents of this area about sex work, in order to change their perceptions and their attitudes to drug-using sex workers, because the local residents often complained and carried out very negative campaigns against the sex workers.

HOW – Sex workers were fully involved in the project. It gave them the opportunity to reflect about their lives, and to share their feelings through different mediums.

POSITIVE – At the opening night, the artists – the sex workers – were at first quite shy.

However, when they saw the interest and the admiration people had for their work, they very proudly presented themselves and interacted with the public. This project gave a stigmatised target group space, credibility and empowerment. It was also a very successful strategy to raise local awareness of the situation of sex workers, in a neighbourhood which had a very negative view of them.

■ Applying good practices

He finished his presentation by summing up that, in order to provide human rights-based services to sex workers, organizations and institutions should consider using the following good practice principles:

- **Promote dignity** – because dignity is a basic requirement to combat stigma and discrimination, and to achieve health and social conditions to develop efficient HIV and STI prevention.
- **Promote empowerment** – because empowerment is the process of gaining confidence, self-esteem, understanding, and power to articulate concerns. Empowerment foresees actions that ensure that people gain control over their own life.
- **Promote peer education** – because peer education encourages sex workers to share health promotion and

personal safety information with other sex workers.

- **Provide support** – because support guarantees the response to sex workers' needs and the provision of appropriate services and/or the referring to other services.
- **Promote campaigns to advocate for sex workers rights** – because advocacy work supports sex workers in the defence of their human and civil rights; their access to justice and health. To advocate for sex workers' rights challenges the society, policy makers and the media to change their views and attitudes towards sex workers.

GOOD PRACTICES IN UKRAINE

MARYANA SLUZHYNKA



Maryana has started her talk with mentioning that she has learned more from the presentations than from the forms that have been sent to her. So she concluded that the experience of all organizations together is huge. Maryana

also mentioned that there are unified practices common for all organizations, as well as different practices. One of such different practices is the practice of dealing with MSM groups in Kiev and the work done by the Kharkiv organization "Welfare" with the groups of MSM and transgender sex workers. The organization "Convictus" from Kiev has also suggested an alternative way of passing the time or earning money for sex workers: according to Maryana, they have organized an art school where sex workers could learn how to do quilling (paper filigree). The particularity of the Odessa organization "Hope, Faith, Love" is that they have engaged a great number of business structures as their partners. Maryana has also mentioned the progress achieved, as well as the specific characteristics of the work of SALUS itself. For instance, she told about the availability of the crisis centre for sex workers, as well as the fact that such organization has been created in the end of 1990s which was a unique fact itself. Moreover, this organization provides services for different categories of women, as well as it grants a complex of medical care for women who find themselves in crisis situations. In conclusion, Maryana emphasized that it is very important to remember that the services provided by the organizations should be accessible. This means they should be easily located for access; working hours should suit sex workers and

the services should have a confidential character. She presented some examples of Good Practice and thanked everyone for attention in the end.

Some examples of Good Practice presented were:

■ Rape Crisis Centre

Rape crisis centre was established in 1995 in Lviv (Ukraine) on the initiative of SALUS Charity Foundation with an aim to assist in providing access to social and medical services for women in crisis situation – female sex workers, women - victims of violence rape and trafficking. The rape crisis centre meets the following requirements: accessibility of a medical institution, acceptability and high quality of services, appropriate logistical support and infrastructure.

- Accessibility of the Centre was ensured by:
- Placing the Centre in the premises of Scientific Medical-Diagnostic center ASTAR situated in city Lviv. The Centre could be easily reached by public transport.
- The Centre is functioning on working days. Women determine their appointment times by prior telephone booking.
- All services are **free of charge**.
- All medical documentation is given to the patient.

Acceptability of services is guaranteed by respect of staff to patients, confidentiality, and respect for women's choice.

Quality of medical services are assured by high qualification of medical and social workers, appropriate material and technical support of the facility (specially equipped office for medical examination, availability of medical laboratory), compliance with the protocols of diagnosis and treatment, appropriate management of the centre.

The following services are provided in the centre:

- consultations of gynecologist and dermatovenerologist
- general and gynecological examination
- taking samples for laboratory investigations
- medical laboratory investigations (bacterial and PCR) for STI's
- VCT for HIV
- instrumental examination (colposcopy and ultrasound)
- pregnancy test
- assignment of treatment and it's monitoring
- psychological counseling

The patients are provided with informational materials for victims of rape,

violence and trafficking, as well as on HIV and STI's prevention.

■ **Art Studio for Sex Worker**

NGO "Convictus Ukraine" (city Kyiv) in 2012 has organized an art studio for sex-workers. Once a week sex-workers have quilling workshops, which provide a good psycho-therapeutic effect.

■ **Self-Support Group for Sex Workers**

Who Have Children

In 2009, the NGO "Stalist" (city Vinnytsia) has organized a self-support group "Responsible motherhood" for sex-workers who have children of school and pre-school age. Mothers can leave their children with specially trained members of NGO's staff, who help schoolchildren to prepare their lessons, play with them educational games, do crafts and drawing. The aim of this self-support group is to prevent termination of parental rights of female sex workers because of inadequate parenting.

■ **Social Centre "Orion" for Clients of Sex Workers and MSM**

In 2009, the NGO "Blaho" (city Kharkiv) has established a Social Centre "Orion", where clients of sex-workers and MSM come in difficult life situations. In a friendly, relaxed atmosphere specialists of the social centre

"Orion" help them to determine the range of problems and their solutions. Through the work of an open network of partner organizations, clients, including sex workers, receive professional psychological, legal, social, medical and other assistance.

■ **Effective Partnership of a NGO and Business Organizations in the Area of Social Support of Sex Work**

In 2010, the staff of the NGO "Vira, nadiya, liubov" (Faith, Hope, Love") in city Odesa started working with business organizations in order to find partners and establish forms of cooperation to provide targeted assistance to sex workers, who need it in directions that were not supported by NGO's projects activities. The NGO has estimated the needs of sex workers, studied business market in the region, and defined socially responsible business organizations in Odessa region, which products and services were of urgent need for the target group. Since 2010, nearly 4 thousand of sex workers and their children have got food, clothes, footwear, and toys as a humanitarian aid and obtained medical services in private medical institutions free of charge.

■ **Cooperation between NGO and Regional Dermatovenerologic Dispensary**

Psychologists and social workers of the Community centre of the NGO “Dzherela” (city Ternopil) motivate sex workers to undergo a comprehensive medical examination at Ternopil Regional dermatovenerologic dispensary. While obtaining the medical check-up at the dispensary, mothers can leave their children in the playroom under the supervision of the Community centre employees. Since 2011, at the request of the client, 52 sex-workers have passed a comprehensive medical examination at Regional dermatovenerologic dispensary, accompanied by a psychologist or social worker of the Community centre.

PRIORITIES IN ADVOCACY STRATEGIES & ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS

LEGA LIFE

NATALIA ISAEVA



Natalia first explained the main purpose of the organization “Lega Life”. She named such purposes as support of the self-

organization of sex workers; support of sex workers in Ukraine (there are already effective action groups in 17 regions); protect civil rights, combat violence and improve the quality of life of sex workers. Then Natalia raised the topic of violence against sex workers and named the problems that sex workers have because of violence against them.

Natalia said that such types of violence as psychological, physical and sexual are predominant. There are also frequent cases of threats, blackmailing and extortion, rude and disrespectful attitude, violations in the proceedings during detention by the police, the humiliation of human rights and freedoms of sex workers. According to the data collected in 2011 by the International HIV / AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, which surveyed 300 sex workers included such information: psychological violence is experienced by 97% of 300 surveyed sex workers, sexual - 86%, physical -84%.

Natalia also mentioned the main sources of violence against sex workers. Among others, she mentioned commercial clients, police officers, employers and intermediaries.

After that Natalia continued her presentation with the reflection on the fight against violence against sex workers. The fight against violence started after the case of a murder of sex worker in Kirovograd by police officers in 2008 and

the violation of rights and freedoms of a member of the organization through intimidation, illegal detention, and the disclosure of confidential health information.

Member of the organization took steps to assert her rights and freedoms, lodging complaint to the prosecutor and the department of internal investigations. Support was provided by international organizations of sex workers and HIV/AIDS, human rights activists. There was a letter written to the President of Ukraine and the Ministry of the Interior, under which signatures at the Vienna Conference on HIV / AIDS in 2010 were collected.

These actions served as an example for other sex workers.

Moreover, Natalia presented the programmes on violence prevention within Lega-Life. She said that currently Lega-Life has completed a project on documenting human rights violations by law enforcement officials against sex workers (in Kiev, Kirovograd), and is expected to be continued in Kirovograd.

Natalia also mentioned a very effective method of collecting evidence of the violation through the audio and video recordings, written complaints of sex workers against unlawful actions of the police in the preparation of protocols etc. She also mentioned the trainings of sex workers on legal basics and the increase of their knowledge on human rights, and on

how / where to appeal about the violation of the rights and freedoms of sex workers.

Natalia also said that they recruit legal defenders to their cases, as well as to hold protests. She has also provided an example of a case, when the government attempted to change the law and toughen the penalties for prostitution, Lega-Life together with the support of the regional organization of sex workers (SWAN) wrote an open letter to the President and deputies, where all expressed their negative attitude towards such actions.

As the result of the above mentioned project, the level of rights awareness among sex workers rose in Kirovograd.

The project was implemented and maintained thanks to the financial support of Open Society Institute, the consulting support of SWAN, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, Kharkov and Vinnitsa Human Rights Groups, the Association of Ukrainian monitors on human rights and other not indifferent organizations.

Moving on, Natalia also spoke about the difficulties of this project and also about the changes that are essential. Among the difficulties she mentioned the fear and concerns of sex workers for their safety, about the impunity of the violators.

Noteworthy, is that the police changes its behavior as soon as information about the project on documentation of violence gets in their area.

The necessary changes that are essential for this project, according to Natalia, are the following: the need for sex workers to be supported by a lawyer who they trust in the courts; in the course of the project members of the organization saw the urgency and the need to train the police as well; there is a need of a more extensive study on the problem of police violence against sex workers; the necessity to conduct this project continuously and in different cities of Ukraine.

In the end, Natalia provided the conclusions and recommendations of this presentation.

Firstly, she said that considering the fact that the sex industry operates in the illegality, and negative public opinion towards sex workers miss the norm, only a comprehensive strategy for the promotion of sexual and reproductive health, prevention of ill-treatment of women in general, and in particular those who work in the sex industry, can provide a remarkable outcomes.

Secondly, Natalia mentioned that organizations should include financial support for the activities aimed at preventing violence, legal literacy trainings and legal support itself. Organizations should also include specialized educational programs for health promotion, prevention of HIV and drug use in schools.

Thirdly, according to Natalia, authorities should implement effective measures to

counter corruption among law enforcement agencies, have a prompt and adequate response to the illegal actions of representatives of the relevant departments and to work closely with NGOs that represent the interests of sex workers.

Fourthly, the UN agencies should support and assist the health authorities and NGOs in the implementation of programs for prevention of HIV / AIDS among sex workers.

Fifthly, intolerant attitude of the public towards sex workers should be changed through the media information campaigns for the population on private and public HIV / AIDS prevention.

Lastly, Natalia emphasized that all the above mentioned activities will be ineffective without the development of national-level strategic programmes and actions aimed at improving access to education, meaningful employment and social housing in order to prevent engaging of minors in sex industry, at least for girls from social orphans or from low-income families.

In the end, Natalia thanked everyone for their attention and time.

ACCESS TO SERVICES AND RIGHTS FOR SEX WORKERS – TAMPEP'S PERSPECTIVES

LICIA BRUSSA

Violence against male, female and transgender sex workers is universal, she said. It occurs in different ways and to different degrees everywhere. It is worst where commercial sex is heavily criminalized, police are ill disciplined and government fails to respect the rights of its citizens.

The scope of violence against male, female and transgender sex workers includes physical violence, rape and extortion by criminals, police, and other uniformed men; arbitrary confiscation of property; structural violence such as registration and mandatory HIV testing; torture including unlawful incarceration and detention, forced medical procedures, deprivation of medications and other extra judicial killings. Lack of protection means that sex workers are more vulnerable to robbery, domestic and other kinds of violence.

■ Vulnerabilities

The most significant factor regarding sex workers' vulnerability to HIV is the high and disproportionate levels of violence and abuse identified across the region. The spectrum of police violations reported

by sex workers in the region is impressive, ranging from verbal abuse and compulsory testing to illegal detentions, sexual exploitation and torture, including rape and multiple assaults. One other common practice of the police, which was reported by sex workers, is the legal and illegal confiscation of condoms. **Condom confiscation is a grave repercussion on sex workers' lives and health.** At times when more police raids are carried out, sex workers opted not to carry condoms because they were afraid it would mean problems with police, she said.

Sex workers often believe the authorities are only there to hurt or harass them, regardless of the circumstances. Therefore, although rape is a crime, many sex workers do not seek justice or otherwise pursue their accusations through the national judicial systems. The police practically do not register raping or robbery reported by sex workers, because by [their] definition sex workers cannot be raped. And be murder is, in many cases, also considered as a risk which is part of the job. The high majority of sex workers reported experiencing physical and psychological violence from their clients.

Violence against sex workers must be understood in a wider context of gender and stigma and as gender based violence.



The main reasons for that vulnerability are the level of dependency and the weak legal position of many sex workers.

Because of that, she stated that, escalating state repression and criminalization of sex work has made sex workers more vulnerable to STIs/HIV in several ways. It has forced them into working in clandestine and unsafe spaces, reducing their access to health care and prevention measures and undermining their dignity. Societal homophobia, laws against homosexuality and the absence of legal protection from discrimination are serious barriers for transgender and male sex workers to access sexual health services and information. These problems are usually heightened for migrant sex workers, particularly if they are undocumented. The discourse merging sex work and trafficking has been used to justify restrictions on migration and prostitution.

Injecting Drug Users sex workers and sex workers with HIV faced the highest level of discrimination when contacting health care providers. Examples of reported discrimination included negative and obstructive attitudes on the part of providers, negligence, high prices, and denial of provision of necessary health care services.

Cases of mandatory STI/HIV testing and breaches of confidentiality are also

common, she said. Laws that criminalize sexually transmission of infections pose a particular threat to sex workers. Sex workers found to be HIV positive can be charged for public health offences.

One of the biggest barriers in the last years is the lack of political commitment and governmental responses focused on reducing sex workers' vulnerability to violence as an important factor affecting the vulnerability of sex workers to HIV/STI and the absence of adequate public health approaches that are appropriate for HIV and violence prevention programmes.

Ms Brussa finalized her presentation presenting experiences of sex work projects that worked out and reached successful goals and some recommendations of international organizations and experts in the field of HIV prevention among sex workers.

What works?

- Train and sensitize police and other law enforcement officers on human rights of sex workers, violence prevention, rights of transgender people and men having sex with men, and proper documenting and processing of cases of violence. They need to be transformed into 'agents of change' who protect sex workers from violence.

- Support sex worker organizations in their capacity building and organizational development in order to ensure mutual

support and solidarity between sex workers and sharing of information and effective strategies.

- Set up drop-in centre for female, male and transgender sex workers that provide trainings on human rights and violence prevention, including practical self defense methods and tips and provide support to address violence. Preventing violence at the personal level requires, first and foremost, that sex workers believe they do not deserve violence and that they can help prevent it.

- Support sex workers who have faced violence, to move from 'victim' to 'survivor' through harm and trauma-reduction strategies including sexual assault counseling, first aid, emotional support, practical support (such as shelter, child care), and support to document, report or take legal action.

- Document cases of violence against sex workers and use them for awareness rising with other civil society organizations, liaison with law enforcement officers, and advocacy.

- Organize warning system of aggressive and dangerous clients is an effective information sharing strategy that sex worker-led projects use to prevent and document violence. Sex workers draw up descriptions of violent clients that are posted at prominent places so that other sex workers can avoid such clients. In some

case the list is shared with the police for further action.

- Train outreach workers on how to prevent and deal with violence.

- Sensitize and mobilize agents in the sex industry (managers, taxi drivers) in violence prevention.

- Complementary programme that target clients of sex workers, through mass media campaigns and targeted behavior change communication activities to address violence prevention. These programs need to be designed to include men and boys in advocacy to end violence against sex workers. They can be funded through allocations for general program addressing gender based violence.

- Is also crucial also to form partnerships and review policies and laws that keep sex workers from accessing HIV services and sexual and reproductive health services. Sex workers must be part of this process.

Final recommendations

- Governments should publicly speak out against violence against sex workers, including from state actors, and include the elimination of violence against sex workers in all HIV prevention programme and include sex workers' vulnerability to violence and HIV in all violence prevention programmes. In all cases, such programmes need to be strengthened and scaled up.

■ Sex work interventions must be central to scaling up the HIV and anti-violence responses and listening to sex workers is crucial. Sex workers experience firsthand the effects of laws and harmful enforcement practices that violate their human rights and hamper progress on HIV.

■ Enabling sex workers to openly access prevention services with dignity must be part of every national HIV programme. Revising and renewing laws and policies and addressing structural response to prevent violence will enhance the effectiveness of HIV prevention, improve access to health services, including reproductive health, and reduce violence against sex workers.

CLOSING OF THE FIRST DAY

The director of SALUS Charitable Foundation, Ms. **Oleksandra Sluzhynska** thanked all for the attention and attendance in the first day of the meeting. The meeting was then closed.

SECOND DAY

Based on the poster presentation and discussions held with the participants, the following results were identified and presented among the participants of the event:

TRAINING SESSION 1

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION: TECHNIQUES AND STRATEGIES



In this training session Ms. **Natalia Isaieva** went straight to the point and provided the participants with the practical advice on effective remedy for sex workers in the cases of violence. She stated that the legal support is essential and very important. However, the organizations should also provide support “on the spot” meaning at the working places of the sex workers. She emphasized that representatives of organizations should not be afraid to intervene especially when the rights of the sex workers are violated.

In such cases it's not obligatory that the sex worker herself/himself should lodge a complaint to the police, the witness can do it as well, and that is why the presence of the organizations is essential.

She also said that it is important for both sex workers and representatives of organizations to know their rights since when the police sees that a person is aware of his/her rights, the police “capitulates”.

After that Natalia gave a practical example on how to react when a person as a member of the organization sees the violation from the part of the police. She described the reaction in the following steps: usage of video cameras on mobile phones or simple video cameras on a distance. When the police see someone filming their actions, their behavior is complete different. However, Natalia noticed that the participants have to take care while filming in the saunas, for example, when the policemen are not on work. That is forbidden. The videos and audios can only be made when the policemen are on duty.

Another important fact mentioned by the presenter is that in order to have the sex workers' right and lodge the complaints in their names; they should be taught and educated on “legal literacy”. They should know exactly the limits of the work of the police in particular. They should also know

that they can record their talks with the police and then send this information to third persons.

Natalia stated that the 2 manuals for sex workers and drug users can be found on the USB sticks provided for the participants at the end of the meeting. Participants could also find information about the current laws on police in Ukraine there too.

Representatives should constantly speak about human rights, according to Natalia. She stated that when in her city (Kirovograd) the police see one of the representatives of Liga Life, they stop to extort money from sex workers and violate their rights, since they know that they will be recorded the very same minute.

After that Natalia mentioned one of the services provided by a Ukrainian National Mobile Operator “MTS”. The latter has a function named “Child under supervision”. She explained that upon activation of this service, a person can track the other person’s locality. Your own mobile shows the approximate location of the person, according to Natalia. Natalia herself uses this method to track and help sex workers. Thus, for example, when the sex workers does not call her back in 30 minutes after she met the client, Natalia calls back and tries to figure out if everything is fine in order to avoid violence cases.

After that, Natalia also mentioned situations in which sponsored articles published in the media put the general public against sex workers.

Natalia concluded with mentioning the help that Liga Life provides for sex workers in cases of violation of their rights.

Representatives of this organization attend the hearings of the court not only in Kirovograd (where the organization is based), but also in Kiev. They also try to find lawyers. Normally, sex workers themselves or the organization pays the lawyer 500 hryvnas (approx. 50 euros) for his services. Liga Life also receives support from Alliance and Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP).

In the end Natalia urged the present organizations to use this practical advice in their work. She thanked everyone for attention.

TRAINING SESSION 2

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES: PERSPECTIVES, TOOLS, AND ACTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN

MARJAN WIJERS

The training was introduced by Ms. **Marjan Wijers**, who made an exercise with the participants.

She asked if people could name some associations they have with Human Rights. The group was very active in responding to her question and in few minutes the chart was full of associations such as freedom, peace, United Nations, etc.

The intentions of this exercise was to reflect upon what represents human rights for them, and find possible links between what they think of human rights, what human rights are, and how they can use human rights in their work.

In sequence, Dennis van Wanrooij from TAMPEP International Foundation introduced the participants to the links between sex work and human rights.



DENNIS VAN WANROOIJ

The presentation dealt with the topic of 'Sex work and Human Rights'.

He started asking: why should we be here today discussing human rights laws? The answer is very simple, he said: because laws matter. Laws can regulate and protect but they can also dispossess people from their dignity. Laws matter in a way that

they can have serious impacts on certain groups of the population.

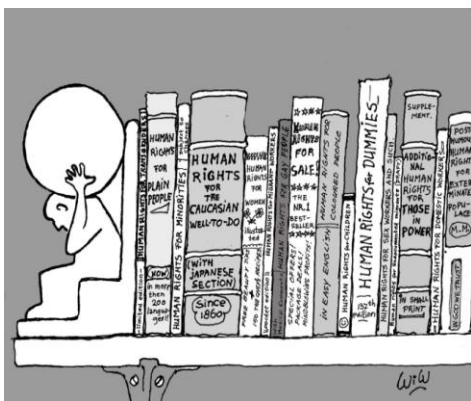
He then introduced the participants to the relation between the topics of sex work and human rights. Sex workers are well-known for being a vulnerable group, which means that their risk to violence and HIV infection is higher than in the general population. Moreover, discrimination and lack of access to health services are other factors that increase this group's vulnerability. Due to their greater vulnerability in society, they are also more vulnerable before the law. Any law against them has potentially higher impacts on their safety and well-being.

Throughout the years sex work has been framed in the context of human rights by sex worker advocates and allies. The story of this movement is not recent and it can be traced back to the 70s.

In 2005, during a European Conference on Sex Work, Human Rights, Labour and Migration in Brussels, Belgium, 120 sex workers and 80 allies from 30 countries came together to formulate the claim: *Sex Workers' Rights are Human Rights*.



Human Rights in the Books



Human Rights in Practice



But which human rights do sex workers claim? Which are the violations of human rights against them? How can NGOs address this issue? These are all questions were addressed by his presentation. To start this discussion, first it must be understood that sex work is by definition consensual sex. Non-consensual sex is not sex work; it is sexual violence or forced labour. “We are talking about a profession, even when it is not recognized as such by national laws”, he said. This is particularly important for the Russian Federation, as

well as the following questions that were answered by him.

■ But why are sex workers entitled to human rights? Is it because they are workers?

No. Because they are human! All human beings are entitled to human rights, no matter their status in society.

■ Are sex workers entitled to human rights anywhere?

In principle they are, but states must ratify human rights treaties first. Governments are only bound to the international treaties that they have ratified. Most states have ratified the major human rights treaties, such as Russia and Ukraine. If they have ratified these treaties they must respect and protect the rights that are in that treaty, for example the right to health or the right to be protected from violence and arbitrary arrest or detention.

In spite of all these international laws, he said, sex workers are often victims of human rights violations; this is due to unsafe working conditions, bad laws, among other reasons, and not because of the profession itself. Sex workers should never be seen as passive and helpless victims, they should be empowered to claim for their human rights as any other citizen. They are capable to act for change and for self-determination.

Violence and discrimination can lead to

human rights violations, he said. Violence against sex worker takes several forms which are physical, economic, verbal and psychological. Discrimination often affects sex workers private life and increases stigma attached to the profession. Not all forms of violence and discrimination, however, may constitute a violation to human rights.

Moreover, although there are multi-forms of perpetrators (client, relatives, friends, co-workers, owner/manager of the setting, traffickers, police, public authorities, service providers, etc); human rights violations against sex workers can only be claimed against states.

The state is responsible to respect, protect, and fulfill the rights in the treaties they ratified. In other words, by ratifying these treaties they made promises and they can be kept accountable to keep these promises. This means that the state may not take measures that violate or undermine the human rights of sex workers. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the state that the police or other state authorities do not violate sex workers human rights, but also to protect people from human rights violations by others.

■ What are the most important international documents that can be used on behalf of sex workers, in order to ensure their human rights?

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR)
- European Social Charter (ESC)

He continued saying that each one of these treaties has a supervisory committee.

States have to report to these committees on how they are putting the rights in the treaty into practice, but also NGOs can report to these bodies, for example by writing a comment on the state report. This is called a 'shadow report'. Human rights committees are very interested in these reports as states tend to present things more rosy than they are in reality. NGOs can inform the committee on how things really are. In some cases one can also make a complaint about human rights violations to these bodies and ask them to investigate this complaint. The European Convention on human rights even has its own court that can make binding judgements in individual cases.

Depending on the form of violation, one can advocate that specific human rights norms are violated.

For example, the lack of counseling for HIV tests would be a violation of a) Right to Equality and Non-discrimination; b) Right to Information; and c) Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health. These rights are all prescribed by human rights treaties. The content of each of these rights deserves special attention of those who advocate for such rights. Advocating for human rights is not an easy task, for different reasons.

The main one is that it is not easy to force states to uphold these rights, even when they are recognized by the state. This means that the process might take long and not all human rights violations will lead to reparation of victim's rights but, in a long-term term, it contributes to change the situation of those who are more affected by violence, stigma, and discrimination.

The role of the NGOs in this process is to support the empowerment of sex workers in order to make them more aware of their human rights, to keep their governments accountable for the human rights promises they made and sometimes directly represent sex workers in human rights bodies that admit forms of investigation. NGOs can also play an active role in reviewing the government's reports on the implementation of the treaties they have

ratified. Shadow reports are often issued by NGOs in response to the real situation faced by certain groups in relation to specific human rights.

He ended his presentation with a wish of improving the situation by promoting human rights among sex workers.

TRAINING SESSION 3

INVOLVEMENT OF SEX WORKERS AND PEER EDUCATION: EUROPEAN EXPERIENCES

PIA COVRE

Ms. **Pia Covre** first presented the experiences of the TAMPEP in peer education programmes. The integration of peer educators and peer supporters is a practice that TAMPEP carried out for almost 20 years, within different projects. She then asked the participants which organisations are familiar with peer education in sex work and who use peer educators. The majority had experience, but it appeared that there was confusion on the definition and target, as well in the use of these methods. Also differences appeared in who employs peers in their outreach program and who doesn't. There was a general consensus on the importance and necessity to involve sex

workers/services user in the prevention activities.

She later presented the main **principles on peer education and peer support**. She stated that within the last 20 years there has been internationally continuing recognition of the fact the sex workers can play an important role in the prevention of HIV and STIs.

Models and projects of peer support and peer education have been activated all over the world within a variety of contexts: self-help organisations, advocacy groups focussing on the rights of sex workers, prevention projects exclusively focused on HIV/AIDS, nongovernmental organisations, as well as within institutionalised agencies.

Peer-based projects involving sex workers are clearly more appropriate and have higher chances of impacting those towards whom they are targeted, and it is a means of encouraging the development of community based prevention and care projects.

While this may indeed represent a basic principle widely accepted on an international level, the concrete application of this concept is not always very clear. In addition, the necessity of implementing prevention activities with only limited human resources and even more limited economic ones has sharply curtailed possibilities of adequately

analysing and evaluating the effects of peer education and peer support.

One of the basic principles which in itself pose a number of problems regarding definition is linked to an understanding of the terms “peer based” and “community based”. These models cannot be easily separated from the cultural and structural context in which they occur and therefore it is impossible to give a univocal definition or reference model which will be equally valid in all countries. In addition, other specific social factors (repressive legislation and social discrimination, stigmatisation and marginalisation) influence the concrete practice of peer support and, in general, one’s ability to identify or to organise around concepts of “community”.

One of the contradictory aspects which comes to the fore when analysing policies which are supportive of peer support and peer education within the context of sex work and the practical application of such policies is that on a rhetorical level models of peer education are based on the principle of empowerment and equality while in practice the peer group is frequently controlled by a hierarchy of individual external to the “community” and they must therefore adapt themselves to socially acceptable and codified behaviours regarding the perception of their roles.

These types of programs are frequently initiated and controlled by health care

professional groups or AIDS focussed on vulnerable population. This is particularly the case in those countries where the absence of spokespersons for the rights of sex workers or autonomous community based organisations makes it difficult for sex workers to interface with funding agencies and institutions which could assist in initiating and managing peer support and education projects.

A particular form of barrier for peer education is represented by countries where state policies mandate forced HIV testing and codify legal discriminatory practices against sex workers.

The institutional framework and socio-political system within which a prevention model is conducted will directly influence the possibilities for effective impact.

An intervention model which in certain instances may prove effective can quickly lose this effectiveness if the context in which it is managed is unclear or if the underlying work ethics are ambiguous in terms of defining power relationships and agendas.

Analysis of the context, clarity in the managements and philosophy of a peer education programme and clarity of the position/task/ reference target of the peer educators are essential).

In other words, if the discourse on AIDS prevention for certain groups known to be

at risk (such as sex workers) is not integrated with a discourse on rights and empowerment and, if the members of the affected community are not called upon to assist in the practice and management of projects, then there are real possibilities that the group in question will be further alienated and marginalised (even with the best intension of the integration of the peers).

The basic premise of a great impact of peer education is that in order for sex workers to be able to protect themselves from HIV infection, AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases, they must have safe working conditions, including the right to turn down abusive or uncooperative clients, and the right to refuse to engage in practices likely to transmit HIV and other STIs, including any penetrative sex performed without a condom. This premise is important for two reasons: firstly, it identifies various audiences within the sex work sector to whom prevention activities should be targeted (sex workers, clients, lovers and other non commercial partners, sex work business owners and managers, other gatekeepers such as health care workers, police...) and secondly because it highlights the fact that the practice of safer sex by sex workers is linked to safe working conditions and to the fruition of rights which include the possibility of refusing to accept risky practices requested by clients.

Concerning the methodology of peer education and peer support:

The definition of **peer education** implies that peers are educated and join the services provision of the organisation as **equal staff members**. They should be able to fully participate in the planning, design and implementation of prevention activities and methodology.

Peer supporter can be selected from each target audience and **trained to influence** the behaviour of their peer group and facilitate outreach activities.

Peers education programme with an identification of different targeting groups and a clear professional profile and description of the tasks are more effective.

Main barriers for peer education:

Frequently the sense of frustration experienced by those who work within peer education projects targeting sex workers is determined by an awareness regarding the causes of the unsafe working conditions in which their colleagues find themselves and by an awareness regarding the repressive police policies which lead to precarious and unprotected working condition. Unfortunately, peer educators are frequently unable to significantly influence or intervene on these factors. The advocacy role of sex workers lead organisations is essential in this context. As well the effort to support leadership by sex

workers and train sex workers to be leaders.

The position of the peer educator inevitably creates a divided loyalty. As a peer, they must educate. As a sex worker, they fear for their colleague's working conditions that put them in danger.

For this reason, the peer worker is supposed to find a balance between being an insider and an outsider. Peer educators should be trained to understand their position and should be **empowered** to influence not just about health issues but also in community building to overcome structural barriers.

For all the above, peer education for sex workers has become a 'buzzword' for AIDS prevention policies, but the practice of such education is different according to different contexts and needs of sex workers.

Finally, Pia recommended – based on her experience with Fenarete project – that before the implementation of Peer Programmes:

- A **methodology** should be developed including peers' opinions
- **Professional trainings** for peer educators must be carried out
- The professional training must include **didactical elements**

corresponding to a curriculum for enhancing the professional competencies of the professional communities (social workers or community educators).

Pia concluded by saying that the professionalization of the figure of peer educators is feasible and implementable.

WORKSHOPS

After the trainings, and presentations, the participants were divided into different workshops. There they could discuss the ways of implementing strategies and techniques learned in their work. All participants had access to all workshops and the results were presented in the third day of the meeting.

CLOSING OF THE SECOND DAY

The meeting was closed by Natalia Isaeva, who thanked the participants for the productive engagement in the workshops.

THIRD DAY

The third day of the meeting was a moment of reflection about the contents of the meeting. Discussions took place about the results of each workshop, which were presented by a member of each different workshop.

PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE WORKSHOPS AND DISCUSSION

WORKSHOPS ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

■ RESULTS

On the basis of the training conducted by Natalia, she suggested that the participants come up with suggestions on what can NGOs do without additional financial support.

These are the conclusions the group has come up with:

- **Focus groups** consisting of sex workers should be created in order to test the quality and effectiveness of informational materials
- NGOs should provide practical **legal** and **psychological support**
- **Crisis situations** must be understood and addressed in a more comprehensive manner
- **Leadership skills** and **community mobilization** should be developed among sex workers
- **Promote networking** as a fundamental tool for developing an **effective referral system** for sex workers, especially those in a crisis situation
- **Case management** should be done
- Discussions and council meetings should be held in order to build up a **dialogue between the organizations and the representatives of the law enforcement organs**
- **Cases of violation** against sex workers should be collected and documented by NGOs
- NGOs should better formulate the **concept of violence** against sex workers as a main issue for addressing their vulnerability
- **Rehabilitation/re-socialization** should be done only upon the request of sex workers
- NGOs should provide **trainings and educative sessions** on human rights and how to avoid conflict situations
- Trainings and educative sessions should target **NGO representatives, law enforcement organs and clients**
- NGOs should distribute printed materials and make sure sex workers read them carefully

- Sex workers themselves should be included in the development of service programmes for them (**involvement**)
- NGOs should promote **media attention** on cases of violence against sex workers
- Formulation of **tolerant attitude** towards sex workers in the society
- Promote the **decriminalization of sex work** as a way to reduce sex workers' vulnerability to violence and HIV/STI infection
- Leading cases that involves the violation of sex workers' rights to the competent **Courts** with the final result of holding the violators liable
- **Influence on the changes** (when there is a possibility) in the legislation concerning sex workers and their rights

On the basis of this points, as well as discussions held during the whole meeting, the participants of the meeting have come to the following Action Plan that was approved on the last day of this meeting.

WORKSHOPS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

■ RESULTS

In relation to the two workshops on human rights, the groups discussed firstly the main problems in Ukraine and in their cities/region.

The main problems are:

- **Lack of protective laws** for sex workers from the part of the State
- Existing laws **do not protect sex workers**
- **Lack of law enforcement**
- **Lack of trust** in state institutions
- **Impunity** of crimes against sex workers
- **High level of violence** against sex workers

The second step in terms of results collected was to understand strengths and the weaknesses of the human rights advocacy in Ukraine and in their cities/region.

Strengths:

- Allies with police in the local level is possible in some cities
- There are at least 3 relevant national allies in Ukraine
- International organizations support NGOs in Ukraine
- Important alliance with SWAN and NSWP

Weakness:

- Difficulty to formulate what the government should do in relation to the human rights violations faced by sex workers

Finally, the groups drew some recommendations in relation to the protection of sex workers' human rights in Ukraine. These recommendations were considered for the final results of the meeting.

Recommendations:

- Change the approach of the police towards sex workers
- Raise public awareness of violence against sex workers
- Raise awareness of sex workers about their rights
- Educate clients of sex workers and punish those who violate their rights
- Create a coalition of NGOs and connect to regional networks, like SWAN and network on HIV prevention and harm reduction
- Systematically document incidents of violence against sex workers; use the tools available for collecting evidence and outcomes for shadow reporting
- States must ensure that clients that use violence against sw are punished
- States must take reports of sws seriously (e.g. Police, Prosecutors)
- Put violence against sex workers in the framework of human rights obligations of the governments and use it for advocacy

WORKSHOP 3 – RESULTS

WORKSHOPS ON PEER EDUCATION

In the workshop on peer education participants could understand better the positive and the negative points of implementing a peer education programme within their organizations.

The positive elements discussed by the group were:

- NGOs have more access to hidden groups (e.g. marginalized)
- The language spoken with sex workers is closer to their reality
- Long term results
- Much easier to distribute information
- Helps to improve sex workers' position and self-esteem
- Provides different perspectives to sex workers
- Sex workers trust more information coming from peers
- Peer support can be done in a voluntary basis
- Peer education is a more informal way of approaching sex workers
- Peer education is a career

The negative elements discussed by the group were:

- Most of the projects do not provide remuneration for peer educators
- Low professional level as educator
- Misuse of the information obtained
- Different targets to be reached
- Competition with service providers
- Low motivation of sex workers
- Psychological projection: meaning low ability to keep the distance
- Mobility of sex workers
- Lack of responsibility of some sex workers
- Misunderstanding of the role of peer educator
- Inflated self-esteem of the peer educator

From this exercise the following outputs can be listed:

Peer education must be:

- **Reasonable.** It is important not to give more responsibilities to peer educator than what they can carry out
- **Clear and agreed.** Clarify the expectations of peers and staff members
- **Distinct.** Make a clear differentiation of roles and tasks among the staff
- **Organized.** Organization of the priorities of peer education is essential (e.g. organization of the

workshops, studies, leaflets, posters, etc)

- **Integrated.** Peer educators have to be integrated as part of the outreach activities

EQUAL RIGHTS VIDEO SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

In sequence, the video **EQUAL RIGHTS** was screened for the participants.¹

The video was screened in Russian, since it is translated into 16 languages.

The video **EQUAL RIGHTS** is a rights-based empowerment tool for sex workers and, at the same time, a tool to raise community awareness for sex workers' rights. By protecting sex workers' human rights we are supporting the improvement of the working and living conditions of sex workers.

It was developed to have a positive message that would go against current misconceptions of sex work, misguided with violence, victimization or trafficking. The main idea of this video is to present a parallel between sex work and another work, socially accepted, addressing features that were similar and advocating

¹ A full access to the video is available through the link:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R2VEIkTTHo&feature=plcp>.

for the need to respect sex work as work too. Sex workers should be entitled to the same rights as other workers. ‘The right to work, to good working conditions, to be respected, to fair pay, to choose and refuse clients and to safety’ are inspired by the principles of human rights and for this reason we call sex workers rights to be respected, protected and fulfilled just like in any other profession.

So, EQUAL RIGHTS was constructed within the framework of a rights-based and justice-based sex worker empowerment purpose.

EQUAL RIGHTS aims to combat discriminatory, victimizing, condescending and stigmatizing attitudes towards sex workers, which do not reflect sex workers’ reality and voice. At same time, it increases sex workers’ confidence, self-respect, pride and self-determination, as basic conditions for the exercise of their full citizenship. EQUAL RIGHTS is the result of a process in which sex workers, health and social workers, as well as people that have no relation to sex work, were involved, persons living in the nine European countries that constitute the INDOORS project.²

After this brief discussion on the key message of the video, Licia was invited to present the last contents of the day.

² See: www.indoor-project.eu

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

The group first agreed upon the **definition of sex worker**:

‘Sex worker is an adult person of any gender and sexual orientation who voluntarily provides sexual services for remuneration.’

Based on the discussions that have taken place over the last two and a half days, participants have agreed upon and have committed to:

1. Our services must be based on respect for human rights of sex workers.
2. We recognize the social needs of sex workers and commit to provide a full package of services aimed at specific needs of sex workers.
3. We recognize violence as one of the major factors of the sex workers’ vulnerability and we are committed to integrate anti-violence services and actions.
4. We recognize the need for joint advocacy, networking and collaboration of NGOs with and for the sex workers in order to be able to meet the main barriers that impede sex workers’ access to healthcare and human rights.
5. We urge the authorities to comply with the international standards on human

rights and to respect and protect the rights of the sex workers at all administrative levels, and include in the agenda legal and political reforms, namely the exclusion of administrative responsibility for prostitution (article 181-1 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences).

6. We recognize that the full participation of sex workers in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects should be provided.

7. We recognize the importance of the implementation and use of peer education and peer support in our programmes.

8. We are committed to involve, train (raise the level of the professional skills) and integrate Peer Educators as paid staff and team members of NGOs.

9. We support the initiatives of the sex workers on human rights, including the mission and goals of the organization «Liga Life».

10. When working with sex workers we recognize the diversity of the needs of the target group.

11. We intend to change the attitude of the media towards sex work, thus contributing to the creation of tolerant attitudes of the society towards sex workers.

CLOSING CEREMONY

Ms. **Maryana Sluzhynska** closed the meeting by thanking all for the participation and collaboration with Conecta project. Gifts were distributed to the participants.

Dr. **Licia Brussa** finally closed with the common commitment of the group to use the tool of CONECTA website in order to strengthen the capacities of the organizations in the country.



ANNEX

1. The Programme

2. The Profile of Speakers

3. The List of Participants

Annex 1 – The Programme

CONECTA

National Capacity Building Meeting on Sex Work Final Programme

30 October to 1 November 2012, Lviv, Ukraine

Lviv Hotel ■ Lviv, Chornovil Avenue, 7 ■ +38 (032) 24-23-270 ■ www.hotel-lviv.com.ua

Monday / 29 October 2012

18.00 – 20.00

Arrival day. Informal welcome, registration, and fixing the posters in the plenary.

SALUS staff (Sandra Grushynska, Oksana Hrushynska, Ostap) will assist you.

Tuesday / 30 October 2012

TIME	Activity	Content	Facilitators & Speakers	Place
CHAIR FOR THE DAY: Oleksandra Sluzhynska				
9.00 – 9.30	Opening	Welcome	Yaroslav Bordiyan, Social Services of the Lviv Region Administration, Chief of the Department Licia Brussa, Director of TAMPEP Oleksandra Sluzhynska, Charitable SALUS Foundation, Executive director	Plenary room
9.30 – 9.40	Introduction to the meeting	Review of the agenda and purpose of the meeting	Oleksandra Sluzhynska, SALUS	Plenary room
9.40 – 10.00	Introduction to CONECTA project	Overview of the contents of the project	Dennis van Wanrooij, TAMPEP	Plenary room
10.00 – 10.30	Sex Work in Europe: situation, trends, and policies	Overview of the European sex work situation and main issues	Licia Brussa, TAMPEP	Plenary room

10.30 – 11.00	Sex Work in Ukraine: from the sex workers' perspectives	Overview of the Ukrainian sex work situation and main issues	Natalia Isaieva, Liga-Life	Plenary room
11.00 – 11.30	Break			
11.30 – 13.00	Poster presentations on local situations	Oblast exchange - participants discuss each other's posters and resources	All participants with facilitation of: Iryna Potapova Valentyna Pavlenko	Plenary room
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch			
14.00 – 14.30	HIV prevention among SWs in Ukraine	Presentation on the national programme	Natalia Dwinskikh, International AIDS Alliance in Ukraine	Plenary room
14.30 – 15.30	Consultation WP1 Presentation of the interim results of the national mapping on sex work + discussions	Principle of multidisciplinary services/ capacity building/ networking. Input: Improving coverage on HIV prevention and care and knowledge (TAMPEP) Technical details and description of tools (SALUS)	Licia Brussa, TAMPEP Oleksandra Sluzhynska, SALUS	Plenary room
15.30– 16.30	Consultation WP2	What are good practices?	Dennis van Wanrooij, TAMPEP	Plenary room

	Presentation of the Good Practices criteria + discussions	(TAMPEP) Technical details and description of tools (SALUS)	Maryana Sluzhynska, SALUS	
16.30 – 17.00	Break			
17.00 – 18.00	Consultation WP3 Priorities in advocacy strategies & addressing violence against sw + discussions	National priorities (Natalia) International initiatives and tools (TAMPEP)	Natalia Isaieva, Liga Life Licia Brussa, TAMPEP	Plenary room
18.00 – 18.10	Closing comments		Oleksandra Sluzhynska, SALUS	Plenary room
18.30 – 19.30	Cocktail			
19.30	Dinner			

Wednesday / 31 October 2012

	Activity	Content	Facilitators & Speakers	Place
CHAIR FOR THE DAY: Licia Brussa				
	Introduction	Review of agenda and purpose of each session	Licia Brussa, TAMPEP	Plenary room
09.15– 10.15	Training session 1	Access to justice and violence prevention: techniques and strategies	Natalia Isaieva (Liga Life), Ukraine	Plenary room
10.15 – 11.15	Training session 2	Human rights abuses: perspectives, tools, and actions that can be taken	Marjan Wijers (Rights for change), the Netherlands	Plenary room

			Dennis van Wanrooij, (TAMPEP,) the Netherlands	
11.15 – 11.45	Break			
11.45 – 12.45	Training session 3	Involvement of sex workers and peer education: European experiences	Pia Covre (CPDCP onlus –TAMPEP), Italy	Plenary room
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch			
14.00 – 15.15	Workshop round I	Workshop on Training 1 (*around 15 participants each)	Workshop on Training 2 (*around 15 participants each)	Two separate rooms
15.15 – 16.30	Workshop round II	Workshop on Training 2	Workshop on Training 3	Two separate rooms
16.30 – 17.00	Break			
17.00 – 18.15	Workshop round III	Workshop on Training 3	Workshop on Training 1	Two separate rooms

18.15 – 19.00	Closing comments		Oleksandra Sluzhynska	Plenary room
19.00	Dinner			

Thursday / 01 November 2012

Time	Activity	Content	Facilitators & Speakers	Place
CHAIR FOR THE MORNING: Natalia Isaieva				
09.00 - 09.15	Introduction	Review of agenda and purpose of each session	Natalia Isaieva, Liga Life	Plenary room
09.15 – 10.15	Presentation of the results of the workshops and discussion	Presentation of the 5 main issues discussed and agreed within each training topic. Power point.	Facilitators of the workshops	Plenary room
10.15 – 10.45	EQUAL RIGHTS video and advocacy campaign	Presentation of the video and discussion on advocacy and organization of human rights campaign	Dennis van Wanrooij, TAMPEP	Plenary room
10.45 – 11.00	Break			
11.00 – 12.30	Setting up Action Plan			Plenary room
12.30 – 13.00	Final Remarks and Closing		Maryana Sluzhynska, SALUS	Plenary room
13.00	Departure			

Annex 2 – The Profile of Speakers

Licia Brussa

Italian, PhD sociologist, active since 1980 in research and project management for sex workers in different regions in the world. She is the general coordinator of TAMPEP (European Network for HIV/STI Prevention and Health Promotion among Migrant Sex Workers), a networking project aimed at carrying out and implementing multi-faceted strategies for health promotion and social support for migrant and mobile sex workers. TAMPEP relies on a network in 25 countries. She is also the director of TAMPEP International Foundation (the Netherlands), which carries out projects for the protection of the human and civil rights of sex workers.

Dennis van Wanrooij

Brazilian, lawyer, and LLM in International Human Rights Law. He has been researching and working, since 2009, in the field of Human Rights, having experience with reporting human rights violations in juvenile detention centres, and mental health institutions in Brazil. He has worked for the United Nations Latin American Institute for Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD), and, lately, in TAMPEP International Foundation (the Netherlands) in several European projects on

the issues of migration, sex work, trafficking, HIV prevention, and human rights.

Pia Covre

Italian, sex worker, and activist in the field of prostitution since 1982. Expert on prostitution related issues, in particular social, health, psychological and legislative aspects. Since 1987, she works with the prevention of HIV infection among sex workers and clients through the creation and coordination of sensitisation campaigns. She is co-founder and secretary of the Committee for the Civil Rights of Prostitutes and co-founder (in 1997) of the Association Tampep International Foundation (Italy).

Marjan Wijers

Dutch, researcher, consultant, and trainer in human rights, human trafficking, sex workers rights and women's rights. She is also a partner in Rights4Change, a cooperative of gender experts specialized in human rights impact assessment tools. From 2003 to 2007 she was President of the European Commission Experts Group on Trafficking in Human Beings. Previously, she worked at the Dutch Foundation against Trafficking in Women and the Clara Wichmann Institute, Dutch Expert Centre on Women & Law. She is board member of the

International Committee on Sex Workers Rights in Europe (ICRSE).

Natalia Isaieva

Ukrainian, sex worker, human rights defender. Member of the Ukrainian Sex Worker Association Liga Life.

Oleksandra Sluzhynska

Ukrainian, MD PhD, gynecologist working in the field of STIs, one of the founders of the SALUS Charitable Foundation, executive director of the SALUS Foundation since 1996. SALUS Foundation deals with health promotion and diseases prevention. Since 1999, she is working on programmes and services for sex workers.

Maryana Sluzhynska

Ukrainian, MD, dermatovenerologist, HIV prevention trainer. Since 1996, she has worked in HIV/AIDS prevention projects among general population and vulnerable groups in SALUS Foundation as social worker. She is also VCT consultant and project coordinator. From 2000-2003 (Regional Lviv coordinator of European Union Project "HIV/AIDS Prevention Among Youth). Since 2005 till now (Director of the Regional AIDS Centre).

ANNEX 3 – List of Participants

1. Artemenko Galyna – Charitable Christian Foundation “Solidarity”
2. Bordiyan Yaroslav - Lviv Regional Center for Social Services for Families, Children and Youth
3. Brussa Licia - TAMPEP
4. CherednichenkoValeriya - TAMPEP
5. Chumachenko Solomiya – Charitable Foundation SALUS, Lviv
6. Covre Maria Pia - TAMPEP
7. Dobrynova Anna - Charitable Foundation “Unitus”, Mykolaiv
8. Docenko Natalia - Charitable Foundation “Hope”, Zaporizhzhia
9. Dvinskikh Natalia – International AIDS Alliance Ukraine, Kyiv
10. Grushynska Oksana - Charitable Foundation SALUS, Lviv
11. Halushchak Khrystyna - Charitable Foundation SALUS, Lviv
12. Isaeva Natalia – All-Ukrainian League “Legalife”, Kirovohrad

13. Korenda Natalia - Charitable Foundation "Insight", Cherkasy
14. Kovalchuk Olena - Charitable Foundation SALUS, Lviv
15. Kovalok Natalia – Center of Spiritual and Psychological Support "Resources", Ternopil
16. Kozlova Marina - Charitable Foundation "Hope and Salvation", Simferopol
17. Leshchyshyn Andriy – Charitable Organization "TOTAL", Lviv
18. Marchuk Maryana – Chervonohrad City Center for Social Services for Families, Children and Youth
19. Nesevych Nazariy - Charitable Foundation "Avante", Lviv
20. Oliynyk Andriy - Charitable Foundation SALUS, Lviv
21. Oryshchuk Oksana – Center on Re-socialization of Chemically Dependent People "Independence", Vinnytsia
22. Pchelnikova Oksana – Public Movement "Faith, Hope, Love", Odesa
23. Poliakova Liudmyla - Charitable Foundation SALUS, Lviv
24. Prokhorova Maiya - Charitable Foundation "Orchid", Mykolaiv
25. Samoylenko Liubov – Public Organization Union "Amicus", Makiivka
26. Shestak Natalia - Charitable Foundation "Future without AIDS", Rivne
27. Shytikova Alina – Khmelnytsky Regional Association for the Solution of Problems of Drug Addiction and AIDS "Victoria", Khmelnytsky

28. Skachko Victoriya - Charitable Foundation “Anti-AIDS”, Lugansk
29. Sluzhynska Maryana - Charitable Foundation SALUS, Lviv
30. Sluzhynska Oleksandra - Charitable Foundation SALUS, Lviv
31. Telishevsk Mariya - Charitable Foundation SALUS, Lviv
32. Tiupina Iryna - Charitable Foundation “Way Home”, Illichivsk
33. Tkachenko Olena – Kharkiv City Charitable Foundation “Welfare”
34. Tsarevska Yuliya - All-Ukrainian Charitable Organization “Convictus”, Kyiv
35. Vadziuk Olha – Ternopil Regional Branch of the League of Social Workers of Ukraine, Ternopil
36. van Wanrooij Dennis - TAMPEP
37. Vasylyev Andriy - Charitable Foundation SALUS, Lviv
38. Vasylyev Ostap - Charitable Foundation SALUS, Lviv
39. Voronova Olena - Youth Organization Youth Centre of Women's Initiatives, Sevastopol
40. Wyers Marjan - TAMPEP