

THIS ISSUE

- 1 The Conecta project
- 2 Sex Work In Russia, Irina Silver Rose
- 3 National meeting
- 4 Services for Sex workers in Russia today: a short overview
- 5 Trends of sex work –interim mapping results
- 6 Violence agaist sex workers
- 7 17 december campain
- 8 This&That- announcements-news..

Adress partners

CONECTA 2012 Newsletter 1 December 2012

With the Financial Support of the EuropeanLogo reference, disclame..



INTRODUCTION TO CONECTA PROJECT

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. The two the national sex worker organizations organizations, Silver Rose, Russia and Lega Life, Ukrainian, are both representeds in the project activities. 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.

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/STI and limits sex workers' ability to access vital health and support services, including medical and social care and harm reduction. In this sense. CONECTA was created under the official name of 'Strengthening of HIV/STI 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/STI transmission, while developing an example of comprehensive and rightbased 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 the project activities, 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, they will be able to expand the coverage and ways to involve and respond to the needs of sex workers in the region.

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/STI 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
- 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

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 project. The idea is to bring in inspirations on how to advocate for sex workers' human rights. For that goal, Conecta developed:

- 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, Conecta partners organizations and allies, oppose criminalization of sex work and condemn violence against them

..... (More from the folders...) website address....

SEX WORK IN RUSSIA

Note: this is just a example, you will need to edit or reduced. LOGO

The Director of the organization Silver Rose, Ms. Irina Maslova, what is sex work in the Russian Federation. Because Silver Rose is the only sex worker organization Silver Rose is active since 2005 but does not have a legal register with public authorities due to limitations on association of sex worker lead organisations in Russia.

According to Irina, the main characteristics of sex work in the

Russian Federation are:

- Russian Federation. According to Articles 6.11 (Law on Administrative Offences) and Articles 240 and 241 (Criminal Law).
- Police raids, inspections and repression take place in several cities. For instance, during the celebration of the 300 years anniversary of the city of St. Petersburg there was an order to "clean up" the city. Police are actors in institutionalizing discrimination.
- Discrimination. violence impunity miss the norm. There are multiple of forms perpetrators partners. (government, clients and service providers). In spite of that, there are only a few cases that are dealt with on the juridical level in courts and that end up with the punishment of the violators.
- migration. Migrant sex workers don't have access to the medical health care, nor legal stay permission in the country. Deportation because sex work miss the norm. Russian sex workers that work in other cities (internal mobility) don't have access to public medical care because they are not registered with the municipality were they work. For both groups, lack of access to public health and care is a big barrier for the affirmation of their rights, especially the right to health.

High prevalence of HIV infection.

The HIV prevalence rate in Russia is still high, one of the highest in Europe. In relation to sex workers, there are

multiple structural factors that make them more vulnerable to HIV infection.

- work is criminalized in Russia, sex workers are afraid from charges and police arrests. Under these circumstances, sex workers tend to hide. Moreover, because sex workers are considered a threat to public health in the country, many avoid contact with service providers. If a sex worker is tested positive for HIV, he/she can be charged for spreading the disease.
- Lack of HIV prevention programmes. Not all cities of Russia have HIV prevention programmes for sex workers. There are many gaps in service provision. Moscow, the capital, and also home of the majority of sex workers in Russia, does not have any specific programme for sex workers.
- Disappearance of main donors from the region. With the withdrawal of the Global Funds from Russia, and with the instable political situation in relation to foreign donors, NGOs in Russia have been facing a harsh moment to fund their activities and build up new projects and initiatives.
- The increase of the influence of the church and moralization. Moralization affects sex workers advocacy work and impedes them to act and react against repressive laws and policies that affect them.
- Bad laws. For example, the issuance of an administrative offence for the clients of the sex workers in Belgorod (a city and the administrative center of Belgorod Oblast, Russia,

located on the Seversky Donets River just 40 kilometers north of the Ukrainian border). It was adopted last April.

In relation to this context, the organization Silver Rose was created to speak for sex workers voices in the Russian Federation and face this increasingly harsh situation for sex workers. Irina then presented the work of Silver Rose as follows:

■ We exist and we are all different.

The diversity of sex workers situation, working conditions, settings, income, genders, compose a wider perspective of what sex work is. Because sex workers are diverse, their opinions should be taken into account in any level of policy making and service provision interventions.

- Sex work is work. This is the motto of the organization which fights for the labour rights of sex workers. The only way to overcome sex worker's vulnerability is to recognise them as workers and grant them good working conditions.
- HIV affects us to and we are interested in stopping the epidemic.

 Sex workers are part of the solution.

 We want to halt the epidemics but for that

 says Irina we must overlook sex workers' experiences.
- We (sex workers) are agents of influence concerning the safe sexconduct. Because we perform sexual services does not mean that we are not concerned about our sexual health. Sex workers are actors of their own well-being and wish to take care of their sexual health as any other person.

One of the main objectives of Silver Rose is to identify sex workers' main needs, such as:

- Access to health and health promotion
- Access to justice
- Social integration
- Education on matters of HIV prevention, sexual and reproductive health

Silver Rose also carries out prevention activities on the initiative of sex workers via peer education. Irina highlighted the importance of peer education and peer support in the development and implementation of HIV prevention programmes. Without involving sex workers, NGOs have fewer changes to achieve their goals, she said.

More than that, she stated that NGOs should move from prevention to rights-based services. It is clear for us – sex workers – that we need more than prevention programmes. "We want our rights", said Irina.

Silver Rose introduced Leadership
Trainings and other activities which
make sex workers agents of influence.

In relation to the meeting, Irina's main aim was to connect with service providers who work with sex workers in different parts of Russia; to know the different services; and to help them to improve their connection with sex workers.

Irina finalized her speech with the following claims of sex workers:

- To be heard
- To obtain the recognition of our social and health problems on the governmental level
- To take part in the implementation of the programmes on HIV prevention at all stages
- To be covered by a supportive legal framework

■ To have the right for humane treatment, tolerance, dignity and protection

Finally, sex workers know how to do, and that they just need the support of the NGO/GOs in the country. webadress

NATIONAL Meeting

Short report on the meeting....when..Goal..who...Fin al Conclusion-

Recommendation of the meeting

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Conecta project is interactive.

Because of that, at the national meeting a poster section was create as space for organizations in Russia to tell more about their experiences, knowledge, and problems faced by sex workers in their regions.

In preparation to this meeting, Humanitarian Action collected all posters that were prepared by the organizations present in the meeting.



Please note: this is just a example how you can introduce the posters information, you will need to reduce and decide which information is important and which is not. Consider also to add contact details/webadres ωf the organisations

■ RUSSIAN RED CROSS | Irkutsk

The activities of this NGO in accordance with the objectives of the organization, traditionally addresses the following key areas: preparation and response to disasters and emergencies; protection of public health, health promotion; the organization of homecare treatment for lonely elderly, sick and disabled.

Since 1999 the programmes in the field of HIV / AIDS have started. Since 2007 a specific program for Sex Workers.

The services for sex workers provided by this organization include: outreach counseling (this is done by peer educators, nurses, and outreach workers); reference to trusted doctors; rehabilitation unit; distribution of preventive materials; psychological counseling. They implement two different projects. The first is called "1st step to health" and the target group are sex workers and drug users. The second is an outreach counseling project. It includes HIV prevention among sex workers and one drop-in day, with gynecologist services and condoms distribution. In one month they are able to reach 25-30 outdoor sex workers and 200 indoor ones visit the drop-in.

The number of sex workers covered by this organization in total is approximately 225 per year. Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers (who work outdoors) is 90 %.

■ ITPC | Saint Petersburg

International Coalition for medical treatment in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. ITPC stands for universal and free access to AIDS treatment for all HIV-infected people and for a more active involvement of HIV-positive people in the decisions that affect their lives. As for the services provided by this

As for the services provided by this organization, mostly, this NGO is engaged in advocacy for the access to treatment, and also has a huge number of partner organizations and experts who provide psychological, legal, and customer support to HIV-positive people. Sex workers are a common target audience of our work. As for concrete services, these are: i) free access to HIV treatment; ii) education on health issues; iii) referral system; and iv) distribution of informational materials. In addition to that, they prepared several educative video clips for key groups, including sex workers.

■ SILVER ROSE | Saint Petersburg

The mission of this organization is to contribute to the development of state policy concerning sex workers, based on humanity, tolerance, protection of health, dignity and human rights.

Silver Rose was created in 2005.. It is the only sex worker organization in Russia. It is connected to international sex work networks such as NSWP, SWAN, and TAMPEP. Silver Rose mediates the contact between sex workers, governmental authorities, and service providers. Moreover, it connects sex workers with organizations in different regions

of the country. According to Silver Rose there are 3 million sex workers in Russia.

Among the services provided by this organization, there are such services as increased access to health services; legal protection; personal growth, mutual support and social integration; representation of the interests of sex workers and participation in the decision-making of the lives of sex workers; promotion programmes and services, the effectiveness of which has been scientifically proven; security and freedom from violence; the development of the movement of sex workers; joint work with the media, art and cultural sectors.

The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 2500 sex workers in Saint Petersburg and 2500 in the region.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 90%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 10 %.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who are migrants is 70 % (they come from Commonwealth of Independent States , regions of Russian Federation, Africa).

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 10 %.

■ Charitable Foundation AINAIDS | Nigniy Novgorod

The main objectives of the Foundation are HIV prevention among sex workers; change of risk behavior for a safe one, information services and improvement of the capacities of NGOs and government agencies that provide services to women in difficult situations.

The main services provided by this organization are as follows: counseling on the risks; distribution of information materials; conduct of seminars for sex workers; distribution of condom; reference to free and anonymous medical examinations; reference to other organizations.

The number of sex workers covered by the organization is approximately more than 300. Due to the lack of funding the organization started to do outreach activities by bike (so called "cycle team"). In spite of all odds, they make use of art and videos to work with their key populations, including sex workers. They do their best to motivate newcomers in sex work to visit the services.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 70 %.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 30%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who are migrants is 3 % (Asia, Africa).

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 7-10%.

■ HUMANITARIAN ACTION | Saint Petersburg

The main objectives of this organization are the following: prevention of HIV, STIs, protection of sexual and reproductive health of sex workers, overcoming violence, gender inequality and barriers to access

comprehensive services, and sharing the methods of behavior with sex workers, based on the principles of humanism.

The directions of the work of this organization include: outreach work to prevent HIV infection and other diseases in the areas with the largest concentration of the target groups; social support the programmes for solving complex problems of sex workers; building partnerships between different organizations in the provision of services to the target group; sharing the experience of the work with the target groups; advocacy and legal support for sex workers.

The services provided by this organization included the following ones: counseling on safer conditions of sex work, prevention of diseases, identification of needs; referrals to trusted doctors; orientation counseling on health, social and psychological services in the city; express HIV testing and testing on pregnancy; emergency psychological counseling, psychotherapy trainings, personal growth trainings, groups; support individual social accompaniment; legal counseling and aid; temporary housing for victims of violence or persons in other difficult life situations: providing a feasible humanitarian assistance (food parcels, clothing, hygiene products); distribution of quality condoms, lubricants, syringes, and other means of prevention; provision of information materials, videos during outreach work.

The number of sex workers covered by this organization since 2001 constitutes 7 348, while every year it is 2500.

Moreover, Humanitarian Action is committed to change the attitude of society regarding sex workers by organizing press conferences, by cooperating with other networks such as ESVERO, SWAN, and some UN agencies.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 80%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 20%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who are migrants is 40 %.

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 30 %.

■ FUND RED BAND | Saint Petersburg

The main aim of this organization is HIV / AIDS/ STI prevention among MSM.

The services provided by this organization include the following: counseling on HIV / STI prevention; psychological counseling on violence; referral for counseling and testing to HIV / STI doctors and psychologists of the AIDS Center; counseling on alcohol and drug addictions; referral for counseling and treatment to the City Hospital.

The number of MSM sex workers covered is up to 50.

Their main gap is working with immigrants who are not covered. Moreover, outreach

work is conducted only in gay clubs and for this reason should be expanded.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 90%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 10%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who are migrants is 90 %.(Ukrainians, Tajiks, Uzbeks, Kirghizs).

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 70-80%.

■ COMPASS| Chelyabinsk

The organization was created to provide social, informational, and psychological services for people affected by the problem of HIV / AIDS and drug abuse, aimed at sociopsychological health improvement of the society by conducting effective prevention and timely assistance to the target groups.

The services provided for sex workers by this organization include the following ones: providing free medical care of persons who are unable to obtain it through official channels; providing personal protection means against STI; providing literature on preventive measures; rapid testing for HIV; legal and social assistance; psychological support. Outreach activities are also provided by this organization, as well as trainings on peer support are conducted according to the needs of the sex workers. peers support

The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 67 per year

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 30 %.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 70%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who are migrants is 8 %.

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 25 %.

■ FUND CIVIL INITIATIVE| Magnitogorsk

This organization was created in 2005. The mission of this NGO is the development, adaptation and implementation of innovative models and mechanisms of health, social and psychological support to people affected by the epidemic of HIV and vulnerable to HIV / AIDS, drug abuse and other diseases.

In 2011, the Fund has established a rehabilitation center "Guarantor". Therapy programme on drug addiction and alcohol is realized in a suburban hospital rehabilitation center.

The organization runs outreach activities and accompaniment to social services social maintenance for sex workers. They have established partnership with the local AIDS center and promote educative programmes for medical staff.

Other services for sex workers include: information & support on prevention of HIV / AIDS, STI; referral to trusted doctors; express testing for HIV, STI, pregnancy testing; motivational counseling for the treatment of drug addicted persons; rehabilitation at the center "Guarantor".

During the 5 years of work of this organization 1500 sex workers have been covered by its services.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 70%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 30%.

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 40-60%.

■ VOICE OF ANTIAIDS| Ufa

This is a self-organization of HIV-positive persons, which was established on July 27, 2005.

The main objectives of this organization include the following: HIV prevention and prevention of other diseases among vulnerable population; improving the quality of life of people living with HIV; prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child.

The services of this organization are as follows: psychological counseling, peer education, social support (document renewal, access to health facilities); distribution of condoms, syringes etc.

There is a possibility to access medical services even when there is no funding for specific projects.

During the past 4 years = 1172 sex workers have been covered by this organization.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 60%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 40%.

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 60%.

■ SIBERIAN INITIATIVE| Barnaul

Regional public organization "Siberian Initiative" is a non-governmental, non-profit organization whose goal is to build a humane, educated and healthy society through the implementation of information, training and counseling projects.

Currently the organization is working on four major areas: primary prevention of HIV infection, work with experts, the development of the non-profit sector and the development of civic initiatives, the provision of services to vulnerable groups.

The services provided for sex workers are as follows: training activities for the sex workers activists on various aspects of preservation of health, personal safety and the basics of defending their human rights; psychological counseling on various aspects of health, safety, interpersonal relationships in the family; social support by specialists; support related to the protection of human rights. All cases of human rights violations are registered. The organization has a database where they register all legal cases of sex workers and such database is monitored.

The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 200 during the whole period of work of this organization with the target group. Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 30%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 28%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who are migrants is 15%.

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 80%.

■ KOVCHEG-ANTIAIDS| Rostov-na-Dony

The organization started its activities in 2003.

The main aim of this organization is the improvement of the quality of life of HIV-positive persons, as well as the prevention of social diseases and negative effects

The services of this organization include: rapid testing on HIV/STI; referral to low-threshold medical specialists, individual social support.

■ PREVENTION AND INITIATIVE| Kazan

The organization's goals are to bring together specialists in different fields to develop, implement and support initiatives and innovative projects in the field of HIV prevention, social rehabilitation and employment of drug addicts.

The services of this organization include: provision of protective materials (syringes, condoms etc.) and distribution of prevention information consultation of peer educators, psychologists; rapid test for HIV, hepatitis C and B, syphilis; direction and assistance in obtaining services (sometimes direct support) in health facilities - AIDS center and other medical centers; assist in the renewal of documents, registration, provision of temporary housing; provision of services in low-threshold centers, programmes of social support. Representatives of the NGO do outreach work with a mobile unit according to the needs of outdoor sex workers.

From 2009 to 2012 there were 279 sex workers covered by this organization.

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 32%.

■ POSITIVE DIALOGUE| Viborg

Vyborg autonomous branch of the Interregional public organization "Society of HIV-positive and AIDS patients POSITIVE DIALOGUE was founded in May 2011. The aim of this organization is social rehabilitation for HIV- infected and AIDS patients. The objective is also to render legal, psychological and social assistance. The city is situated in the border zone with Finland, where it is known for having many sex workers. The organization is based on a hospital. They use the premises of the hospital free of charge. The coordination council of the organization is under the control of the AIDS center. Consultation and information is given by the medical staff of the hospital.

The services provided by this organization include the following ones: distribution of condoms, information materials assistance

of the psychologists and social workers; support of trusted doctors.

The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 500.

■ ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL STAFF| Chapaevsk

The programmes aimed at HIV prevention within this organization have been realized since 1999.

The services provided by this organization include: consultation of trusted doctors; access to medicines; testing for STI, HIV, hepatitis, social support of the clients; psychological counseling, peer educators; legal advice; low-threshold center facilities (laundry, shower, tea/coffee). Currently, a fixed group of 20 sex workers profit from the services of the organization.

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 70%.

■ PROJECT APRIL| Toliati

This organization operates since 2007.

The mission of this organization is to improve the quality of life of people living with HIV / AIDS and the prevention of HIV / AIDS in Russia.

The objectives of this NGO lie in supporting the people living with HIV and helping them to improve their quality of life, support the initiatives of individuals and entities, as well as promote action to address the social, educational, cultural, demographic, or other socially significant problems; promoting prevention of dangerous diseases; the development of partnerships governmental and non-governmental organizations and entities; to facilitate the involvement of representatives of communities affected by these diseases in efforts to protect their rights and interests; attracting media attention and the general public to important social issues; raising funds , facilities, international experience and its adaptation to support international and regional cooperation through intergovernmental, international, foreign and national organizations and agencies, as well as individuals.

The services open to sex workers include these: HIV prevention counseling; redirection to medical, social, legal services; a variety of support groups.

The number of sex workers covered by this organization constitutes approximately 100.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 15%.

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 40-60%.

■ WOMEN'S FUND ASTRA| Saint Petersburg

This organization was created in 2007.

The mission of this Fund is to stop discrimination against women and promote their rights. The principle of the work of this organization lies in the involvement of women in difficult situations and the development of their potential.

The main target groups of this Fund are pregnant women and mothers in difficult life situations and their families; people living with HIV and their families; socially vulnerable people and their families.

The services provided by this organization are the following: administrative services and the development of sex workers community; increasing the capacity and access to legal services of the sex workers' community. They work with sex workers, MSM, and HIV positive female drug users and their children. They provide web-seminars on leadership, and education via Skype. Moreover, they run a crisis centre in the city of Volhov.

■ YULA| Kaliningrad

The organization was created in 1998.

The mission of this organization is to promote the formation of personalities that is aware of their dignity and honor, and that are able to develop and defend themselves.

Main tasks of this organization lie in the prevention of HIV / AIDS among young people and vulnerable groups; support for young people in difficult life situations, including drug users, people living with HIV and those who are in prison; promotion of healthy lifestyle among young people; the involvement of young people in the solution of local community problems; protection of children's rights and human rights; prevention of highrisk behavior among young people; the development of leadership and volunteering skills; advocacy of anti-epidemic measures to stop the spread of HIV and TB among vulnerable groups such as drug users and prisoners.

The services provided by this organization include: individual counseling; support and assistance in getting out of difficult situations, especially if it is related to drug use or release from prison service (case management); help to improve access to treatment for people with multiple diagnoses (drug addiction, HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis, etc.); aid in the renewal of documents, protection of their rights and legitimate interests, including in the court: outreach work; low- threshold point "TIME" (tests, questionnaires, information and motivation) based in the AIDS Centre. They good connections, including governmental support.

Approximately 100 sex workers were clients of this organization.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 95%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 1 %.

CENTER ANTIAIDS Voronezh

This organization was registered in 1999, in Voronezh, Russia. The main purpose of the organization is to carry out programmes for the prevention of diseases among injection drug users (IDUs), sex workers, prisoners, lobbying and advocacy for people living with HIV / AIDS.

In 2002, the work started with sex workers, mostly female. They have a mobile unit which allows them to do outreach work for outdoor-based sex workers. Moreover, they conduct interviews with sex workers to identify their main needs. They have conducted a network researchin 7 cities. The organization also developed a manual on advocacy and deals with the media. Two ongoing projects that this organizationare: 1) project on labour and social rights; 2) project on social rehabilitation.

The services provided for sex workers include as follows: group and individual counseling for HIV- positive persons, as well as counseling on reproductive health, legal issues; conduct of trainings, distribution of leaflets; referal to trusted doctors; psychological care; assistance in selecting programs of rehabilitation; assistance in obtaining social services, document renewal, employment, referral to social hotels.

The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 300.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 70%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 30%.

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 40%.

■ TIMUR ISLAMOV FUND | Naberezhnie Chelny

The purpose of this organization is to confront HIV / AIDS in the city of Naberezhnie Chelny, Republic of Tatarstan, on different levels. The strategy of this organization lies in implementing small but effective projects that would really make a difference to HIV / AIDS situation and to assess the activities that have been carried out.

The services provided to sex workers include the following ones: counseling and awareness rising during the daily outreach work on the streets of the city. Twice per week the mobile units leaves to make new contacts and drop off the necessary preventive materials to clients of the project. Clients are also provided with personal hygienic items (shampoo, wet wipes, cotton buds, etc.). Clients are also provided with the special literature on Violence and Security etc. Educational seminars are conducted by professionals every month for service users and volunteers.

In the work of this organization 760 contacts have been established with sex workers, 265 of whom are newcomers.

■ TOMSK ANTIAIDS | Tomsk

The objective of this organization is to reduce the spread of HIV, tuberculosis, and other diseases; provide access to comprehensive medical, social, psychological assistance and social

integration of street children and young people, injecting drug users, people living with HIV / AIDS, women who provide sexual services, people released from prison.

The services provided for sex workers include as follows: discussions on topics of STIs, reproductive health, unwanted pregnancy, violence, tuberculosis (TB); ensuring the protection and the prevention (condoms, lubricants); the hotline for HIV / AIDS / TB infected people; distribution of brochures and information materials on topics of STI, reproductive health, violence, tuberculosis (TB); education of sex workers on topics of HIV / STI prevention, reproductive health, TB, skills, safe sexual behavior, principles of work including "peer education" (training and workshops); providing quality care by trusted specialists; free testing for HIV, syphilis, hepatitis, with pre-and post-test counseling, screening for tuberculosis; integration of sex workers into public programmes on treating infection, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections; help in difficult situations and social support; sex workers have a unique opportunity to get the range of services in one place (the "principle of the department store").

The Fund involves groups of managers of sex work and other stakeholders of sex industry in the distribution of condoms, lubricants, syringes to sex workers.

From 2005 to 2011 the number of sex workers covered is 1256.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 20%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 70%.

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 30%.

■ REGIONAL CENTER ON HIV PREVENTION AND FIGHT AGAINST AIDS | Tver

The purpose of the institution is to provide diagnostic treatment, counseling patients on HIV, the organization and conduct of events on prevention of HIV and other infectious diseases.

The services provided for sex workers include the following: distribution of condoms; prevention information materials; testing for HIV and Hepatitis; referral for examination, psychological assistance, social assistance; training seminars, referrals to the State Institution of Health, "House of Mercy" for a short stay and renewal of documents (upon request).

The organization carries out trainings, provides information and counts with peer educators in their work. They have partnership with a dermatologic clinic and other specialized clinics.

From the period of 01.07.2012 to 30.10.2012 86 sex workers have profited from the services of this organization.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 95%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 5%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who are migrants is 1% (Belorussians); 5% (Ukrainians).

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 60%.

■ NEW CENTURY, "SIMONA CENTER" | Kazan

The organization aims at the most vulnerable groups: children and young adults, migrant workers, injecting drug users (IDUs), sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM). The services provided by this organization include the following: provision comprehensive medical. social and psychological services in one a low-threshold services center "the Simona Center". The services are guaranty to be: anonymous, free of charge and non judgmental . Service users have the opportunity to complete a full range of diagnostic tests for HIV / STI / Hepatitis / TB, accompanied by pre-and post-test counseling and receive quality treatment. Each individual receives social support, emotional support and psychological counseling for the declared problem. The Center is based on the dermatovenerologic clinic and it counts with trustful doctors. Even without funding coverage, the medical services are provided. The organization involves communities representatives in the activities and carried out peer education programs. This organization has experience inusing the media for mitigating the stigma and sensational article on sex workers .

At the average 1300 sex workers per year are covered by the services of this organization.

Mainbarriers: repressive prostitution policy against street sex workers that are often prosecuted and expelled from the streets of the city as for example, at the occasion of the

prosecuted and expelled from the streets of the city as for example at the occasion of the celebration of 1000 years of Kazan, there was "cleaning of streets". Need of reform of the administration law against sex work..

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 100%.

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 60%.

■ NEW LIFE| Orenburg

The aim of this organization is to provide support for people living with HIV / AIDS and their loved ones; lobbying the rights of LGTB at the local and regional level; support people living with HIV in Orenburg region, namely the moral support of LGTB, their families and friends; rehabilitation for LGTB and their families in their daily lives, reducing their social isolation; organization of public education in order to increase tolerance of the population to people living with HIV; activities of educational nature, lectures to raise public awareness on healthy lifestyle.

The services provided for this organization include the following: peer education; outreach work;

Helplines +7 (3532) 576104 (for HIV-positive persons), +7 (3532) 61 95 93 (for MSM); work

group HIV-positive persons (everv Tuesday during 10 years), work of the motivational group (M- group) for MSM (every second Sunday of the month during 5 years); working with the relatives of clients; case management; training seminars, workshops on topical issues for MSM; conduct training workshops for professionals providing services to MSM; round table with the participation of decision-makers in the provision of services to MSM; support to MSM via social networks-2 closed groups for communication of the MSM - "Follow the of Life» (http://vkontakte.ru/club3838378), and Orenburg» (http://vkontakte.ru/club5744462);

information website www.newlife56.ru (temporarily under construction).

From 2007 to 2011 3 500 IIII have been covered on the territory of Orenburg.

The organization started in 2002, as a group for mutual aid. In 2003, it became an officially registered organisation. There was no separate project for sex workers; they were included into the group of IDU. In 2003, they worked with the AIDS center, local representation of the Ministry of healthcare and a dermatovenerologic clinic.

■ STAIRS| Orel

The mission of this organization is to create and support social services for injecting drug users in the Orel region, reducing stigma and discrimination as the main barriers for prevention and care, as well as human rights.

The services provided by this organization is the provision of condoms; counseling and information about health services; redirection to friendly medical personnel.

The number of sex workers covered by this organization is 56.

This organization has been working only for 6 months. They have received a grant from the "fund of young leaders. They work with female drug-users. Outreach work is done mainly on the streets, since indoorbased sex workers are reluctant to contact service providers. They have had round table meetings where we invited doctors from the AIDS Centre; representatives of social center, psychological center were invited. We refer them to other centers and also accompany them.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 70%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 10%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who are migrants is 10%.

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 30%.

■ MEGAPOLIS| Saratov

The main aim of this organization is to promote the reduction of growth of

alcoholism, drug addiction and HIV infection among young people; the provision of effective psychosocial care for people living with HIV / AIDS; the organization of employment and leisure-time activities, the formation of young people ideas of healthy living.

The organization started in 1999. Outreach is done among sex workers. Most of the sex workers reached are outdoor-based sex workers.

Services provided for sex workers by this organization are: outreach work; the applied technique of "reference method"; the method of "peer education"; use of information materials; distribution of condoms, lubricants etc.; help from trusted professionals, doctors; psychological and legal counseling.

1339 sex workers were covered by this organization, 861of whom were newcomers (609 of them –IDUs).

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 60%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is 40%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who are migrants is approx.30% (Kazakhstan, Moldova, Ukraine).

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is approx.45%.

■ ANTIAIDS-SIBERIA| Barnaul

The main aim of this organization is the coordination of HIV - infection in the region and the city of Barnaul; assistance in the organization and implementation of measures to prevent HIV - infection in the region. Since 1999 this organization has been working towards the prevention of HIV / STI within the most vulnerable groups: IDU, sex workers.

The services provided to sex workers by this organization are the following: distribution of information; counseling; testing for HIV, hepatitis, STI; consultations of medical specialists; consultations of lawyers, psychologists, social workers; stationary and mobile unit.

1200 annually receive services from this organization.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work indoors is 30%.

Approximate percentage of sex workers who work outdoors is approx. 7%(6.6%).

Approximate percentage of IDUs among sex workers is 25%.

■ PATIENTS IN CONTROL| Saint Petersburg

It is an organization for HIV positive patients. It is based on treatment and self-support. All members speak openly about HIV and advocacy is one of the main goals of this organization.

NOTE: We don't have the poster of ESVERO, need to be add the info on the network/organisation

A other suggestion is to add (need to be reedit) the total analysis of the posters as conclusion of this overviuw

Анализ постеров участников национальной сети

1. Соответствие услуг потребностям секс-работников в России

2. Потребности организаций

- 00000000 00 00000000 000000 000000 00

3. Влияние законодательной базы

- 00000000 000-0000 (000000 00000 00000000 0000000 0 15 000).

- 00000000 0000000000 0000000 00000000 0000 000-0000000

4. Рекомендации национальных экспертов

Особенности сцены проституции

Выводы

INTERIM RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL MAPPING ON SEX WORK IN RUSSIA

In the framework of CONECTA project, Humanitarian action has conducted a mapping on sex work in the Russian Federation. In total, 37 organizations that work with sex workers directly or indirectly have taken part in creation of the national map of sex work.

The majority of organizations that participated in the mapping are situated in North-West Federal District (11), Siberian Federal District (8), Volga Federal District (6) and Central Federal District (5). Ural and Southern Federal Districts are represented by only two organizations, while Far Eastern Federal District is not represented in the mapping.

It is worth noting that due to repressive state policies against sex workers and because of suspension of financing of preventive programs for sex workers from the Global Fund resources in the Russian Federation, there have remained only a small number of organizations that work with sex workers. That is why the results of mapping are not exhaustive, they rather indicate the main trends, characteristics and problems in the field of sex work in the Russian Federation.

The main areas of difficulty while carrying out mapping of sex work in the Russian Federation were the following:

■ Lack of reliable information about the total amount of sex work and its structure. It was possible to make a more or less complete picture of sex work only in cities, where there are several types of programs for different types of sex workers functioning (St. Petersburg, partly Orel and Barnaul). In cities where there were no programs for sex workers, there were also no sources of information about the processes going in the field of sex work, including their vulnerability to HIV infection and violence:

In cities where work with sex workers is carried out by a single organization, the organization had a picture of the group of sex workers that they work with only, most often they were outdoor sex workers, which are involved in drug use. In this case, work with them was carried out within programs of work with drug users.

Very few organizations provide services to indoor sex workers. There is also no information on sex workers who provide escort services.

There is practically no information about male sex work – there were found only three organizations that work with men engaged in sex work, two of them are located in St. Petersburg and Leningrad region.

There is complete absence of any information on transgender sex workers.

On the whole, one can say that the structure of sex work in the Russian Federation is very complicated and it varies even within a single region. In big (megalopolises) percentage (50%) of sex workers is represented by migrants. The main countries from which sex workers come to Russia are former Soviet Union republics, both European (Ukraine, Belarus) and Central Asian (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan). When it comes to the far abroad countries, countries of Africa are the represented most largely. In towns that are situated close to the state borders there is generally a certain percentage of sex workers who come from a bordering country.

In megalopolises, migrant sex workers work mostly indoors. In cities with a population of less than a million and in cities far from the borders of Russia, migrant sex workers are generally not presented in the structure of sex work. In cities where street sex work is present,

In cities where street sex work is present, the majority of sex workers are drug users. In cities, where drug use and sex work are under a particularly close attention of security structures, sex workers, who use drugs work mostly outside the city (highways, parks) and indoors.

The main factors of outdoor sex workers' vulnerability are:

- Drug use
- Stigma and self-stigmatization
- Violence
- HIV and STIs
- Outrage of security structures
- Extreme working conditions
- Legal vulnerability

- Social vulnerability
- Unprotected contacts and insufficient use of means of protection

The main factors of indoor sex workers' vulnerability are:

- Violence
- Outrage of security structures
- Vice Squad (moral police)
- Lack of protection from the police
- Lack of awareness
- Dependence on the organizers of sex work
- Absence of documents
- HIV and STIs

The following actions for overcoming vulnerability of sex workers to the above described factors were mentioned:

- Carrying out training programs for sex workers to raise their awareness about HIV, STIs and their legal rights
- Organization of low-threshold care centers, delivery of quality means of protection
- Development and improvement of existing services for sex workers: both male and female
- Advocacy activities to increase sex workers' activism
- Creation of supervisory bodies to monitor actions of security forces
- Creation of judicial precedents to protect the rights of sex workers
- Trainings for sex workers' clients

Vulnerability of sex workers

Nearly all organizations, that work with SWs directly, provided information that a large group of SWs don't control the conditions of their work. However, the

data on the proportions of SWs, which control their working situation, is very different: from 0% to 70%, depending on a city and awareness of the problem. Besides, since the vast of organizations majority implementing programs for street SWs, the data provided on the percentage of street SWs, which control their working conditions, can be considered more reliable than the data on the percentage of indoor SWs, who control their working conditions. A common feature for all respondents is their recognition of the fact that at least 50-60% of SWs (according to the worst estimate, 100% of SWs) has no control of their working conditions.

Moreover, almost all of the respondents have admitted that 100% of SW gives a part of their income to third parties and they generally keep no more than 50% of their earnings (from 30% to 80%). The data on who which group of SWs is more vulnerable to "giving up income" to the third parties (indoor or outdoor) is contradictory.

The data on SWs' vulnerability in terms of lack of condom use is also contradictory. In general, the trend is that outdoor SWs are more vulnerable to the lack of condom use, than indoor SWs.

There was noted an extreme vulnerability of SWs to physical, psychological, economic, and other forms of violence, as well as to the use of alcohol and non-injecting drugs. Street SWs are also extremely vulnerable to injecting drugs. There

was also noted an extreme legal vulnerability of SWs and social exclusion. These factors of vulnerability are especially characteristic of outdoor SWs. The majority of respondents acknowledged that, although the level of education of outdoor SWs is usually lower than that of the general population, the level of education of indoor SWs does not differ from that of the general population.

On the whole, one can state an extreme vulnerability of sex workers to many important social, medical and psychological factors, which definitely affects the spread of HIV infection and STIs.

Conclusions and recommendations

- In the Russian Federation the coverage of SW by prevention programs is extremely low. There is need to develop a network of programs and projects aimed at reducing SWs' vulnerability to many factors, including HIV infection and STIs.
- The Russian Federation has almost no programs for indoor sex workers, as well as male and transgender SWs. There is a need to start developing programs for these categories of SWs.
- SWs are extremely vulnerable to all kinds of violence. Outdoor SWs are more vulnerable to violence from security forces, and indoor SWs are more vulnerable to violence from their clients. There is a need to work towards reducing violence against SWs, both with security forces and clients (including potential clients of SWs).
- SWs are highly insecure from a legal point of view. There is a necessity

of work towards establishing precedents of protection of SWs' rights and promotion of the idea that SWs have all the rights and freedoms of humans and citizens, in accordance with the Russian Constitution and international conventions.

■ SWs are highly vulnerable to HIV infection and other sexually transmitted infections. Is necessary to create a vast network of health care programs that are friendly to the needs of SWs, including mobile programs. It is necessary to conduct advocacy work in order to bring message to the government structures, that there is a need of their participation in financing of such programs.

VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS IN RUSSIA

During the project CONECTA, the "Humanitarian Action" has interviewed 102 outdoor sex workers, who work in the street in saint Petersburg, to determine the types and frequency of violence that the latter have to face in their daily lives. Nearly all of the respondents are injecting drug users, 50% are working on their own, 50% - with a pimp.

100% of respondents have reported (directly or indirectly), that they suffer from violence, while assessment of the role of violence in their lives was often inadequate: the option "rarely" was selected by women who have been beaten up to 10 times in the previous 12 months, and women who reported being exposed to economic, verbal and psychological violence answered "never"

to a question of how often they suffered from violence. It means that sex workers understand "violence" as causing physical damage and sexual coercion only, while all other types of violence are not perceived as such, what points at a very serious level of self-stigma.

90% have reported that they had to practice vaginal or anal sex without a condom, and the main reasons for that were client's demand and the fact that sex without a condom is paid better. Thus the initiators of unprotected sex are, first of all, customers.

82% of respondents have reported being physically abused during the last 12 months. The most frequently encountered type of physical violence is beating (80% of respondents were beaten 2.8 times at the average during the last 12 months, from 1 to 15 times). 43% of respondents suffered from coerced sex, 1.4 times at the average during the previous year (from 1 to 5 times). 15% of respondents reported, that they were threatened with weapons.

100% of the respondents have been exposed to economic violence. The most frequently encountered type of economic violence is unpaid or underpaid sex - 100% of respondents faced this type of violence 8.3 times during the last 12 months at the average (1 to 30). 56% of the respondents faced theft of money or other valuables while working- 1.3 times during the previous 12 months at the average (from 1 to 8 times). 43%

of sex workers experienced coercion to work without payment - this happened 3.2 times in the last year at the average (from 1 to 18 times).

Verbal and psychological violence are the types of violence that sex workers face every day. These forms of violence have become common for them and are already perceived as a routine.

100% of sex workers have been subjects to insults, 54 times a year at the average (from 10 to 365 times), 88% of sex workers have heard threats against them, 12 times a year at the average (from 1 to 100 times), 84% of sex workers have been subjects to humiliation, 48 times a year at the average (from 1 to 100 times), 100% of sex workers work in a risky environment, 126 times a year at the average (from 50 to 365 times).

Additionally, 35% of sex workers were deprived of documents during the last 12 months.

100% of respondents have reported that the subjects of violence are generally clients and policemen, and the frequency of violence towards sex workers from their clients and from policemen is approximately the same.

And even so 75% of respondents have stated that they are in control of their working conditions, 97% can decide when they will work, 100% can decide what kind of clothes they will wear, 89% can leave their job at any time, 98% can make decisions about what clients they will work with.

Extracts from the interviews with sex workers:

"Last November, I was standing in the Prosvescheniya prospect when two police

cars drove up and two men dressed in uniform rushed out of them. They grabbed me and pushed me into a car. Inside the car there was one more girl and three others were in the neighboring car. We were taken somewhere outside the city, beaten, forced at gunpoint to undress and were driven into a river. The air temperature at that time was about zero degrees. We were forced to stay in ice-cold water for a very long time, and then they left, having taken our clothes. It is better not to remember how we got home. All five of us have got our kidneys and appendages frostbitten, we all were ill for a very long time after that. One of the girls died."

"I had a regular client, I trusted him, and he was good client with no problems. One day he invited me to his birthday party in a country house, so that after the celebration I could serve him. I knew him well, so I argeed. There were about 40 men, all of them were slightly drunk. I went with my client to him room, but he was drunk and nothing worked out. He told me to serve his friends, I refused. Then he dragged me to the common room and said to his friend that they could do with me whatever they wanted. As a result, almost all of them exposed me to violence. When I was released, I almost could not walk. A car stopped, there were two men inside, they asked what has happened to me and offered a ride. I could not walk, so I agreed. The upshot was that the three of them raped me,

"My friend was "pastured" by some men from the highway patrol service for more than a year: she had to stand in a specific place during strictly defined hours. They controlled all of her clients, all her earnings and took greater part of her revenues."

We can assume that sex workers who work indoors are exposed to violence more often than sex workers who work outdoors because they have fewer possibilities to select clients, and a closed space provides even more opportunities for violence.

Conclusion:

Sex work in Russia involves an extremely high level of violence, including physical and sexual abuse.

The factor of violence plays an enormous role in the vulnerability of sex workers to infection and the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. In addition, one can't but note a high mortality rate of sex workers that is precisely caused by violence. The situation points at the need of urgent interference, primarily through establishment of integrated low-threshold programs for sex workers, as well as changes

ADVOCACY- 17 december campain

WHAT IS 17 DECEMBER₽

Action-slogan- manifesto-photos