



# SUSTAINABILITY OF SERVICES FOR KEY POPULATIONS IN EECA & SEE REGION

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100%LIFE



**##  
SOS\_  
PROJECT**

# ## Regional Partnership Scale 2019-2021

## CONSORTIUM



## The largest and most comprehensive regional GF project

## 14 countries and 25 cities are involved

## Unique partnership between EECA and SEE countries

### OVERALL PROJECT GOALS:



**\$73 405 110**

ART price optimization and reallocation of relevant economy for HIV prevention services



**\$10 250 000**

Increase of national and local HIV funding targeting key populations vulnerable to HIV

**280 000 PLHA**

Increase in # of PLHA knowing their status (Fast Track Cities, + 75 thousand)

**90%**

Increase in # of PLHA on ART (90%, or 252 000 in 12 Fast Track Cities)



Program's 25 cities are home to over **200 thousand PLHA** or 20% of EECA PLHA



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##505-project

# ## Goals and objectives for SEE & Balkan countries



## GOAL

To achieve sustainable national HIV response among key populations in the context of donor departure

### #SoS\_ project objectives at Balkans



**To establish** and/or institutionalize a sustainable regulatory framework and management mechanism allowing domestic financing of NGOs to implement quality HIV programs



**To increase** domestic funding for HIV programs from national and municipal sources at the sufficient level to cover most of the estimated need and achieve sustainable funding allocation to NGOs



**To strengthen** civil society engagement in policy and budgetary decision making processes to achieve relevant programs scope and quality

# ## Budget advocacy

## Major activities

- **Unit costing**
- **Development of** country-specific standards of HIV service provision for key populations
- **Advocacy for changes** in legislation making social contracting possible
- **Establishment and ensuring functioning** of local coordination councils and development of local programs for combating HIV
- **Capacity building** of local NGOs to be competitive at the market of social services provision



## Progress to date



**Unit costing** for key populations interventions conducted for Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia



**Bosnia and Herzegovina:** 2 projects of civil society institutions are already funded by municipalities, 2 – are expected soon



**Montenegro:** our partners were involved in development of the Action plan 2019-2020 for National AIDS strategy 2015 – 2020. As result, #SoS\_project - funded priority activities are incorporated in it



**Balkans regional meetings - RCM** ( Podgorica, Montenegro, 26-27 September, 2019), *From Donor Support to Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health* (Skopje, N.Macedonia, 2-3 October, 2019)



# ## Quality of HIV-related services

## Quality of services is the necessary prerequisite for successful HIV response. The quality is hard to measure, as everyone has own likes and dislikes, and different requirements to services

## The only indicator of high quality of medical services provision in the area of HIV is undetectable viral load; the only indicator of high quality of social services provision is the second visit of the client (and becoming “constant” rather than “one-off” client of NGO)

## The issue of quality of services is very important and should be taken into consideration by service providers. External reviews by experienced organizations have to be undertaken to ensure non-partisan assessment and evaluation of quality

## SoS project is largely concentrated on ensuring sustainable and uninterrupted HIV services in project countries and making funding available. The issues of quality of services are in the area of responsibility of regional partners selected through open call for proposals



## Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Established contact with three cities to implement Fast Track Initiative: Sarajevo, Bijeljina and Mostar
- Conducted unit costing for making further adequate calculations in budgeting of Municipal HIV programs for key populations to reach 90-90-90

## North Macedonia

- Initiated a dialogue with the Municipality of Skopje in order to establish a working group on HIV, develop a municipal program and sign the Paris Declaration
- Conducted unit costing for making further adequate calculations in budgeting of Municipal HIV programs for key populations to reach 90-90-90

## Serbia

- Serbian cities of Belgrade, Novi Sad, Šabac, Prokuplje, Zaječar, Loznica, Sombor, Kragujevac chosen to implement Fast Track
- Dialogue with Belgrade, Novi Sad, Šabac and Zaječar to sign Paris Declarations

## Montenegro

- Podgorica, Bar, Bjelo Pole have chosen to implement Fast Track Initiative

## Paris Declaration on HIV signed:

- 👍 December, 2019 - **Podgorica, Bar and Bjelo Polje** (Montenegro)
- 👍 January, 2020 – **Skopje** (North Macedonia)
- 👍 May 2020 – **Sarajevo, Mostar, Bijeljina** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- 👍 June, 2020 - **Sombor, Kragujevac** (Serbia)



# ## Removal of Legal Barriers

## APH & PARTNERS

**EECA Commission Drug Policy:**  
development of analytics,  
regional candidates  
(1 step)

Research on drug policies in Russia,  
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus (2020)



Strategy and main methods for phase one:

1. Search

2. Talk

3. Analyse

4. Report

## REGIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

**A Unique Role of Regional KP Networks:** data collection on human rights violations, community mobilization, TG, integration of TB, analysis of transition plans



**TB PEOPLE**



## NATIONAL PARTNERS

**Rights-Evidence-ACTION:**  
Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Georgia  
and Moldova:

**REACT**

IT-system for monitoring of, and response to human rights violations, which is managed by grassroots NGOs

# # Challenges

## Challenges identified in SEE countries

- HIV-related services provided by NGOs were under the risk of interruption when donors left Balkan countries
- In some countries, legislation disables harm reduction services provision by NGOs (e.g. in Montenegro – legislation regarding medical wastes)
- Very expensive price of ARVs and very limited access to broad spectrum of cheaper drugs, even brands, and this does not provide for economy and its reallocation to HIV prevention programs
- Patients and medical practitioners have prejudices to changing approaches in HIV treatment (WHO guidelines, optimization of ART regimens)



## COVID-19 Related Challenges

- Need to ensure uninterrupted HIV-related services with a view to limitation of transportation and physical distancing
- Need to ensure supply of HIV and OST drugs for the patients (with a view to closed borders and lack of drugs in the countries)
- Many patients belonging to vulnerable groups and PLHA left without earnings due to closure of their organizations for the lockdown period
- Funding for HIV might be reallocated to combating COVID-19



# ## Recommended changes after COVID-19



## Services:

- Harm Reduction 2.0
- Syringe vending machines
- Online-counseling

- HIV self-testing
- ART per post
- ART delivery
- Take-home OST

## Recommendations:

- Take-home OST for not less than 14 days
- Supplies stocks (including sanitizers) for harm reduction clients for up to 1 month
- Supplies delivery to harm reduction clients per post/courier service
- Introduction and promotion of test/syringe vending machines
- Expansion of HIV self-testing
- Increase in online counseling services (phone, social networks, messengers, hotlines)
- ART provision for 3 months and more
- ART delivery per post, especially when patient visit health facility is impossible
- The possibility of temporary registration and receiving ART at the place of residence



# ## COVID-19 Response

**Social Initiatives Map is:**

👉 Online web-site representing **55 interactive stories** of people and communities from **19 countries** on combating [#COVID19](#) and [#HIV/AIDS](#)

👉 Stories how under the conditions of [#COVID19](#) the services and practice have been changed, which are provided by the community and HIV-servicing organizations in all the countries of the EECA and SEE region

👉 Unique regional case on establishment and development of sustainability of services for key populations and people living with HIV





**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**



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