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# Nº 5



**ENPUD  
COUNTRY  
NEWS**



# ENPUD FORUM

16-18 DECEMBER | TBILICI, GEORGIA

OUR WORLD. OUR RULES

#АЛЕНАБЫОДОБРИЛА  
#ENPUDFORUM  
#ФОРУМЕСЛУН  
#ЕСЛУНСИЛА

## ENPUD: OUR WORLD OUR RULES

Before the start of the ENPUD Forum, where network members from all countries of our region will come, there is not much time left.

Soon we will all meet and hug.

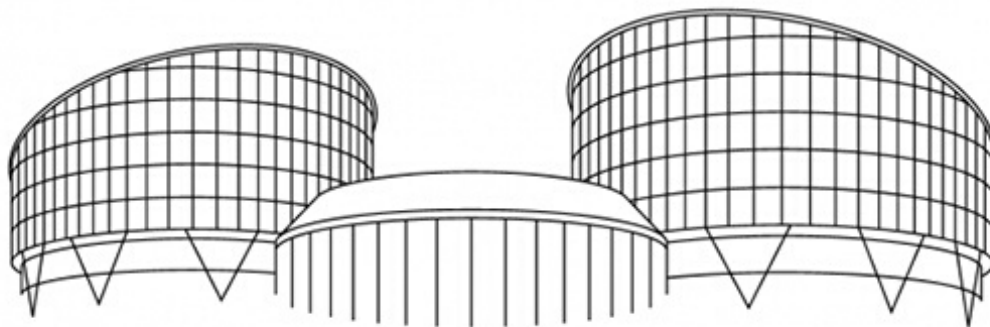
Our Forum is a very cool and important event. Many meetings and discussions will take place in Tbilisi, a huge number of topics will be touched upon and no less than a number of important decisions will be made.

And, of course, first of all, this event is so important for all of us because our beloved Alena Asaeva dreamed about it.

She conceived this Forum and wanted the members of ENPUD to gather in one place, because ENPUD is power.

**#аленабыодобрила**  
**#ENPUDforum**  
**#форумЕСЛУН**  
**#ЕСЛУНсила**

This Forum is the Forum of Alena Asaeva. She will always be with us.



## EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

### **ALEXEY KURMANAEVSKY, IRINA TEPLINSKAYA, IVAN ANOSHKIN: REFUSE TO THE RIGHT TO SUBSTITUTION THERAPY!**

On November 26, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) announced its decision on the complaint of Alexei Kurmanaevsky, Irina Teplinskaya and Ivan Anoshkin. They stated (in 2010, 2011 and 2013, respectively) that the treatment available to drug addicts in Russia does not help them.

They asked to try substitution therapy. Formally, they filed complaints that methadone and buprenorphine therapy for the treatment of drug addiction were banned in Russia.

The ECHR's ruling states that since the applicants did not complain of physical violence against them or the lack of any form of rehabilitation for drug addicts in Russia, the Russian authorities did not violate their rights by their actions (in particular, the protection from Article 3 of the Convention on Human Rights torture).

The court noted that the applicants did not use all available treatment methods, and also indicated that public health issues were subject to "discretion by the national authorities".

The document clarifies the Russian judge Dmitry Dedov, who noted that although substitution therapy for heroin addiction can lead to a decrease in the incidence of HIV, the legalization of one type of drug to fight another type can "lead to chaos" in Russia, given its large territory, corruption and frequent sentences for drug trafficking.

"Having satisfied the applicants' complaint about access to methadone, the government would have paid a high price," the judge writes. "Thus, such a decision would not allow balancing the interests of the individual and public interests."

# EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME



The court decision also indicated that methadone and buprenorphine are on the list of substances prohibited for use (order of the government of the Russian Federation). The legislation of the Russian Federation prohibits the use of substances from this list for medical purposes.

At the same time, they say in Strasbourg, the Russian state “guarantees drug addiction medical care, which includes medical and social examination, counseling, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.”

Commenting on the decision of the ECHR, the Ministry of Justice of Russia noted that in Strasbourg “they agreed with the Russian position that the state’s interference in the applicants’ rights was justified, since the prohibition of drug treatment by substitution therapy is aimed at protecting the health and life of citizens,” message of the department. ”

“The ECHR found that there was no discrimination against the applicants in the present case, since the use of appropriate drugs is prohibited on the territory of the Russian Federation,” the Ministry of Justice said.

“The decision of the European Court of Human Rights on the ban on opioid substitution therapy in Russia is certainly a bad precedent, since the ECHR did not recognize a violation of the right to privacy in connection with a complete ban on OST in Russia. What to do next? OST is necessary in the Russian Federation against the backdrop of the HIV epidemic, hepatitis, problems with ensuring adherence to treatment of tuberculosis among people with opium addiction, and also against the background of low effectiveness of drug treatment methods available in the Russian Federation. This often leads to torture and even murder of patients who are being tried to be held in rehabilitation centers by force. However, one wrong decision of the ECHR does not relieve the state of its responsibility to provide OST on the basis of many other international treaties equal in force to the European Convention”, - said Mikhail Golichenko, lead human rights analyst at the Canadian HIV / AIDS Legal Network.

# ІІІ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ ФОРУМ ЛЮДЕЙ, ЯКІ ЖИВУТЬ З НАРКОЗАЛЕЖНІСТЮ

—  
КИЇВ 22-24 ЛИСТОПАДА

## UKRAINE: THIRD NATIONAL

The main and expected event in the life of the community of people who use drugs in Ukraine was the Third National Forum of people with drug addiction, which was held on November 22-24, 2019.

25 regions were represented at this meeting, more than 90 community activists, representatives of partner organizations, the UN, etc. took part in it. Participants talked about work in the National Council, discussed the problems of the regions, the role of the community in change, drug policies and much more.

“Following the Forum, a resolution was adopted. It spells out our priorities - services, rights, the fight against stigma, the formation of a humane drug policy, the development and support of people with drug dependence, and rehabilitation.

We will try not to stop in our activism - nothing is for us without us!”- said Oleg Dymaretsky, director of the All-Ukrainian Association people with drug addiction “VOLNA”.

**РАСШИРЕНИЕ ПРАВ  
И ВОЗМОЖНОСТЕЙ  
ЖЕНЩИН, ЖИВУЩИХ  
С ВИЧ В ВОСТОЧНОЙ  
ЕВРОПЕ**

**22**  
**24** ноября  
**2019**

## **BELARUS: ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE**

The conference “Empowerment of women living with HIV in Eastern Europe” was held in Minsk, Belarus, November 22-24. The German Association of HIV Service Organizations, with the financial support of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, brought together more than 120 participants from Germany, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Russia, Belarus so that they could exchange experience, knowledge and love.

The conference was attended by representatives of state non-profit organizations and movements from countries of the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region.

“My experience shows that at conferences men always take the first word, even when the topic concerns women directly,” says organizer Sasha Gurinova. “And women living with HIV rarely have the opportunity to talk openly about problems and achievements.”

Therefore, the conference became a place where women could talk about women and at the same time did not feel the fear of condemnation and criticism. “And where didn’t you have to invite women to the stage just for the sake of gender balance,” she adds.



Gender inequality is one of the main factors affecting the HIV epidemic, according to the World Health Organization. It leads to greater vulnerability of HIV-positive women and the spread of stereotypes: if a woman lives with HIV, she either uses drugs or leads a hectic life.

Another behavior model is superimposed on this - physical and / or sexual violence can be used against such women, and they cannot be good mothers and wives.

The conference discussed the development of the HIV epidemic among women, the criminalization of HIV, pregnancy and HIV, discordant couples, women living with HIV in prisons, and many others.

In the very near future, DUNews will present a film about this conference. Follow the news!



## GERMANY: COMMUNITY POWER

The final meeting of the PaSuMi project took place on November 26th. Representatives of organizations and communities gathered in Berlin that have been involved in its work for almost three years, including the BerLUN (Community of Puns of Berlin). Project Organizer - Deutsch AIDS Hilfe e.V.

The RaSuMi project is the first project aimed at helping and supporting migrant drug users. Enormous attention in the framework of his work was given to people living with HIV. He brought together service organizations throughout Germany and was aimed at developing and strengthening communities.

This is a daunting task, given that migrants have difficulty integrating into society. And migrants who use drugs have extensive experience of discrimination and do not trust social services and organizations.

In two and a half years, the BerLUN community has been created and strengthened. Training activities were conducted on the work of the German medical care system, substitution therapy programs, HIV and viral hepatitis prevention.

The community conducted a study, began to participate in a working group to prepare another study that will deal with the homeless. BerLUN activists themselves began to accompany community members to doctors and lawyers, to visit in prisons and hospitals, to conduct outreach work.

This all became possible thanks to the acquaintance and connections obtained in the PaSuMi project.

From the first days of participation, BerLUN has received tremendous support from project managers. Activists always felt care and attention, and, very importantly, were free to choose their direction of activity.

The PaSuMi resource allowed us to carry out a lot of what was planned. And the main result was a close-knit community that exists, works and makes plans for the future.



On the day the project was completed, its participants talked about the work done, analyzed the experience gained and shared their achievements. The study, conducted by BerLUN, attracted the attention of specialists. After the presentation, activists received a proposal for a meeting from representatives of the R. Koch Institute, the largest sociological institute in Germany.

The main event of this evening was the presentation of awards. It was a great honor to present BerLUN community diplomas to people and organizations that help and support people who use drugs.

This is a traditional community award that BerLUN presents annually during its birthday on June 26th. It was decided that an extraordinary award would be held that evening. The evening ended with the solemn presentation of diplomas to all project participants and congratulations to the leaders and coordinators.

Activists applauded all the experts and were glad that Sergio Grimaljski was among them - the main person for BerLUN, without whom the community would not have appeared!

**MORE INFORMATION ON BERLUN PAGE IN FB:**

<https://www.facebook.com/908980489242651/posts/1489606307846730?d=n&sfns=mo>



## LITHUANIA: 16 ORANGE DAYS

The international action “16 days against violence” is held from November 25 to December 10 throughout the world, including the countries of our region. Its purpose is to draw attention to the issue of violence against women and respect for human rights.

Today, violence against women is one of the most widespread, difficult to eradicate and leading to catastrophic consequences of human rights violations in the modern world.

The Young Wave organization, working with young people who use psychoactive substances, has joined this campaign. Today in Lithuania, women who use drugs can be given the condition to undergo treatment and rehabilitation for drug addiction, otherwise the guardianship authorities will take their children away. Police can call such women "creatures", humiliate and sexually harass them in exchange for not being arrested.

Women are also often forced to provide sexual services in exchange for the drugs themselves. And these are just a few examples.

The Young Wave called on civil society and government institutions in Lithuania to work more efficiently to protect the rights of women who use psychoactive substances and support harm reduction, treatment and social services programs.

# **MANIFEST**

**MANIFEST OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN  
THE REGION OF EASTERN EUROPE AND  
CENTRAL ASIA**

**(DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION  
BY MEMBERS OF ENPUD)**

# MANIFEST

## 1

### **WE ARE PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS**

We are people who use drugs.

We live in countries that until recently were part of the Soviet empire, where the absence of freedom and repression against people of different views and behavior was the norm. And that remains the norm so far.

We are those whom the state and society harasses and discriminates against.

We are told that we are all dangerous and worthless people, and consider us the embodiment of evil.

We are told that we are all “sick” and they lock us up in psychiatric clinics, register us and deny rights.

We are told that we are all criminals, and they put us in jail, torture and kill us.

We are told that we are all the source of the spread of blood-borne infections and limit our niche to our social and social role.

## 2

### **WE ARE PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS**

We are not “sick” and we are not criminals.

Only a small proportion of people who use drugs are addicted to drugs. And only a small part of people who use drugs commit crimes.

We are people and citizens of our countries, possessing all rights and opportunities.

However, no one ever asks us how we want to spend our time and manage our health. All of this has already been decided by the state and society.

At the same time, none of the approaches to resolving issues related to drugs proposed by law enforcement agencies, religious organizations, politicians, doctors and public figures gave the expected result.

# MANIFEST

## 3

### **WE ARE PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS**

We have unlimited human capabilities, various life experiences, knowledge, skills and abilities, while remaining people who use drugs.

We are able to bear responsibility for our life and health.

We are able to give birth to healthy children and raise them.

We are able to work in various qualities.

We are able to actively express our political, social and public position on a variety of issues.

We are able to love and care for the people around us.

## 4

### **WE ARE PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS**

We ourselves can find solutions to issues related to our lives.

It's time to stand up for your rights and speak on your own behalf. Only in this way can one defend one's rights, gain strength and freedom.

The time has come to change attitudes towards all aspects of our lives. Drug use is part of our lives and our choice.

It's time to believe in yourself and return all the rights that citizens of our countries have. Respect for human rights begins with a lack of feelings of fear, shame and stigma that prevent us from fully participating in the life of society and the state.

# MANIFEST

## 5

### WE ARE PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

We know exactly what we want and what needs to be done to change the situation with the violation of our rights.

It is necessary to move away from the global goal of the UN member states, "A World Without Drugs." Practice and experience show that all this does not work.

It is necessary to stop the "War on Drugs." This is a war of extermination that has been waged for decades with us, our families, friends and relatives.

It is necessary to destroy the stereotypes and clichés of the state and society about us as "criminals" and "patients". Drug use is a complex sociocultural phenomenon, and stigmatizing concepts and laws only lead to repression.

Drug use should be considered from a human rights perspective. This point of view should be reflected in the relevant laws and policies.

Health care and harm reduction services, including opioid substitution therapy, need to be made quality and affordable for all people who use drugs. Their low quality lowers our standard of living.

It is necessary to cancel narcological registration. This systematically leads to the disclosure of medical information and to the restriction of our rights.

It is necessary to make Naloxone OTC and accessible to all people who use drugs. In an overdose epidemic, the inaccessibility of this drug kills us and is a crime on the part of the state.

It is necessary to abolish the criminalization of use and storage without the purpose of marketing, as well as the criminalization of storage for the purpose of marketing in small quantities, the so-called social marketing. Decriminalization will not allow the state to persecute us.

It is necessary to release people convicted of "drug offenses" in prison. Their detention in prisons is part of a meaningless repressive drug policy that needs to be reviewed.

Finally, it is necessary to introduce state regulation of all drugs. Legalization will solve the negative consequences for our health, rights and freedoms that exist in the context of the criminalization of drugs.

# MANIFEST

## 6

### **WE ARE PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS**

We must begin to act now. No more delay. As the Drug War continues, every minute lost is someone's broken or lost life.

We should unite in communities at the local, national, regional and international levels - this is an important element in our gaining strength and influence.

We should support the existing local, national, regional and international communities of people who use drugs - this is our responsibility to each other.

We should disseminate information about our work in order to support and stimulate the development of communities in countries where there are few or none at all - this will help activists in these countries gain voice faster.

We should use our experience and knowledge to educate and enlighten society - this is an opportunity to talk about the destructive impact that drug policy has on us, the economy, politics, the social sphere, etc.

We should defend our right to obtain objective, evidence-based information about drugs and drug policies - our health and life depend on this, as well as this condition for the effectiveness and efficiency of our actions.

We should protest against national legislation and international conventions, which today do not allow most of us to lead a safe, secure and healthy life - actions and campaigns should become our usual tool for expressing our position and coordinated actions within the community.

We should ensure that people who use drugs are not sent to prisons, and that those who are already in prison have the same rights and decent conditions as other prisoners - this is our defense against reprisals at the community level.

We should participate in the formation of policies that affect our interests at all levels of decision-making in areas such as healthcare, social security, legislation and research - the slogan "Nothing for us without us" remains relevant.

# MANIFEST

## 7

### **WE ARE DRUG PEOPLE**

It will not work to achieve the set goals right away, but we must step by step, without stopping, go towards the set goals. To do this, we must have an action strategy for the effective use of our small forces and resources.

We must set clear and achievable goals and work on them and only on them.

We must work with our inner circle - with those who are ready to hear and support us, gradually gaining momentum and supporters.

We should focus less on big and beautiful ideas and more on specific issues on which our health and life depend.

## 8

### **WE ARE DRUG PEOPLE**

We know from our own experience and from the experience of our friends from friendly communities that not a single stigmatized group of people could change their position in society if they had not mobilized all their supporters.

We, working together, will seek to change the existing repressive drug policy at the local, national, regional and international levels.

We will do this and will witness the emergence of drug policies based on real facts and respect for the rights and dignity of people, and not on moralizing, stereotypes and lies.

**WE ARE PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS. It's time to act!**

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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in the preparation of the digest:**

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