

Terms of Reference

Consultancy: Briefing Paper on Intersecting issues, identities and barriers in access to health care, HIV services and SRHR among key populations in CEECA

SWAN is searching for a Consultant to develop a Briefing Paper on intersectionalities among key populations in the CEECA region.

We hope to explore the ways that intersecting identities - including those of transgender people, men who have sex with men, women who have sex with women, drug users, sex workers, and those living with HIV, might affect their access to health care and modify their experience of laws and barriers, and in particular examining stigmatising practices towards these groups in regards to HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights. 'Intersectionality' in this context refers to belonging to two or more of these 'key populations' or communities

The purpose of this Briefing Paper is to explore how these intersecting vulnerabilities, issues and identities affect key populations' access to HIV, SRHR and other services and to examine how intersectionality affects our narratives around communities, key populations and ultimately to inform on better programming. In addition, the Briefing Paper should examine what intersectionality means for specific communities:

- How are intersecting identities and issues hidden when accessing certain spaces/ services?
- Can intersectionality embraced as an element of multifaceted human experiences and identities, or is intersectionality conceptualised in terms of issues and barriers?
- How do intersecting issues/identities affect the layers of stigma that affect individuals and communities?

The consultant will be tasked with examining these questions in various contexts:

- intersectionality and criminalization
- intersectionality and human rights
- intersectionality and access to support and services

The resulting document should inform on advocacy opportunities and targets, the potential for improvement in service provision, rights-based programming, community and civil society approaches, and opportunities and areas for further discussion of the issues raised in interviews and consultations.

The primary source of information will be published documents and interviews with members of the regional key population networks in CEECA: Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN), Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA), ECOM - Eurasian Coalition on Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity (ECOM) , Eurasian Women's AIDS Network (EWNA).

SWAN Secretariat will secure all the necessary links and logistics to the main Consultant, while each of the networks will assign a 'focal point' who will coordinate community consultations and interviews within their own networks. These focal points will gather data under the direction of the main Consultant and send it back to them for future analysis.

This Briefing paper is being developed within the framework of the Eurasian Regional Consortium: "Moving Together Towards Quality and Equality: Improved Sustainable Services

for ISPs in EECA” financed by the Robert Carr Fund for civil society networks (RCF). The Eurasian Regional Consortium joins the efforts of the Sex Workers’ Rights Advocacy Network in Central, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SWAN), ECOM – Eurasian Coalition for Health, Rights, Gender and Sexual Diversity, the Eurasian Women’s AIDS Network (EWNA) and the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) to effectively address the lack of financial sustainability in prevention, treatment, care, and support programs for the key populations vulnerable in terms of their rights violation and the risk of HIV.

The Consultant will be expected to undertake the following tasks:

- Develop a methodology for data collection among members of SWAN, EHRA, ECOM and EWNA with regard to intersectional issues in accessing HIV and SRHR services in the CEECA region;
- Develop survey and interview questions;
- Set up a list/numbers of participants (in cooperation with relevant networks);
- Establish a framework for working groups and focal points, their roles and responsibilities;
- Coordinate, delegate tasks and support the groups of focal points for each network, in regards to national level data collection;
- Jointly define pop up questions for each community;
- Jointly discuss a list of resources for desk review;
- Discuss and agree on methodology, introduce, confirm and familiarise with the questionnaires;
- Define a timeline for community consultations and interviews;
- Provide support during the data collection process;
- Collect data from focal points gathered on a national/regional level;
- Conduct desk research on other available resources on intersectionalities between communities' needs and responses in the region;
- Conduct data analysis, formulate recommendations and develop the Briefing paper on Intersecting issues, identities and barriers among key populations in CEECA

Deliverables:

- The consultant will develop research methodology among networks, members and other sources by May 30th, 2023
- The consultant will coordinate and conduct data collection, jointly with focal points between by September 1st, 20223
- The Consultant will submit a draft analysis and recommendation to SWAN Secretariat in English, by October 1st, 2023
- The Consultant will submit final Briefing Paper and recommendations, in English, to SWAN Secretariat by November 1, 2023

Evaluation process

Submitted applications will be evaluated by the evaluation panel.

A two-stage procedure will be utilised in evaluating the proposals:

- evaluation of the previous experience (portfolio) via technical criteria – 80% in total evaluation;
- comparison of the costs (best value for money) – 20% in total evaluation.

Cost evaluation is only undertaken for technical submissions that score a minimum 80 points out of a maximum of 100 as a requirement to pass the technical evaluation. A proposal which fails to achieve the minimum technical threshold will not be considered further.

Requirements for the position and evaluation criteria:

- Experience of working in social research, social movements, social determinants of health, human rights and health, gender diversity, populations at margins (30 points);
- Knowledge and understanding of key population communities, HIV and/or SRHR trends, gender diversity and legal frameworks in CEECA;
- Experience of conducting desk research;
- Experience of writing up briefing papers, reports or analysis;

General Terms

- Fluency in written and spoken English language;
- Fluency in Russian or another regional language welcome;
- Ability to work in a multicultural, multilingual and diverse environment and maintain excellent working relationships;
- Lived experiences in relation of any of the topics is welcomed;

Applying for Position

Applicants are required to submit the following:

- Letter of Interest in the position, including the proposed number of working days, fee per day and timing of implementation;
- Detailed CV;
- Links to previously conducted relevant assessments, briefing papers or other written materials;
- 2 reference contacts;

The consultant should be able to provide a Tax Residency Certificate from their home country.

Applications with the above details should be sent to stasa.plecas@swannet.org , by April 9th, 2023