

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022**

INTRODUCTION

2022 has been a year of change, adjustment and innovation for SWAN. After two years of virtual meetings due to the pandemic, we were finally able to get on the move again, bringing together our staff and management committee together face-to-face in cities across the region, as well as building connections and solidarity with other networks.

Crucially, after the outbreak of war in Ukraine in February, we were able to move swiftly to adapt to the changing situation and secure funding for emergency supplies from several small donors, which we could then distribute to our member organisations in Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia and Romania.

We are pleased to announce that we will begin collaboration with a new donor to investigate the impact of digital technology among sex workers in the CEECA region, a vital new endeavour for us. As internet usage across the region increases, we are seeing our communities, already subject to high levels of stigma and violence, exposed to new kinds of threats. In a rapidly changing world, we must gather more knowledge in this area so that we can arm our outstanding community of sex workers and activists with the tools to protect themselves.

With all this in mind, we thank all of our members across the region for their relentless bravery and hard work in 2022, and look forward to what the future has to offer!

OUR ACTIVITIES IN 2022

RESPONSE TO THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

With millions of people being suddenly displaced or in refuge, we mobilized to establish a network of support channelled through our members on the ground. We share a deep admiration for our colleagues at Legalife-Ukraine, who in these harsh circumstances managed quickly to mobilize, organize and provide direct support to community members and their families in 15 regions in Ukraine. We also extend our gratitude to our members in neighbouring countries who acted quickly and mobilized to accept and support refugees fleeing from the war.

Our efforts began with reaching out into our networks to contact our members in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, and Romania, whilst monitoring the situation and data gathering. With the support of **Aidsfonds** we were then able to secure small emergency funds for immediate support including food, basic medicines, hygienic products, and preventive kits for our member organizations: Legalife-Ukraine, Sex Work Polska – Poland, Odysseus –Slovakia, and Carusel – Romania.

With the support of **Giro 555**, and joint collaboration with Aidsfonds, EHRA, ECOM and EWNA we built upon the emergency support activities by securing funds for food, clothes, transport, psychological and legal support, rapid sexual & reproductive health screening and protection as well as HIV/STI and Covid tests in Ukraine, Poland, and Slovakia for an additional year.

Additionally, we participated in developing a digital assistant for displaced people living with HIV, and with the support of UNAIDS TSM helped strengthen the digital capacity of our members Legalife-Ukraine, in order to maintain communication under the conditions of war.

SWAN also supported Legalife-Ukraine in conducting a survey on the war's impact on sex workers and the services available to them, with the support of the EECA CRG Regional Platform project, led by EHRA, the results of which are now available in [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#).

IN POLAND, SEX WORK POLSKA HAS REACH OUT TO
134 UKRAINIAN SEX WORKERS
AND PROVIDED THEM WITH:



414

SHOPPING
VOUCHERS
(each for 100 PLN)



19

MEDICAL VISITS
(gynaecological, dentist,
pulmonologist, chest x-ray)



8

MEDICAL VISITS
(including gynaecologist,
dentist, psychiatrist,
oncologist)



BASIC
MEDICINES



DETERGENTS AND
HYGIENIC TISSUES



42

PSYCHOLOGICAL
CONSULTATIONS

(31 with
psycho-traumatologist)



63

SEX WORKERS WITH
EMERGENCY HOUSING



268

HIV/STI PREVENTION
PACKAGES

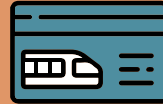
(condoms, lubricants,
intimate wet wipes, soft
tampons, gynoxin for STI
infections)



134

TICKETS FOR PUBLIC
TRANSPORT

(in Warsaw)



12

3-MONTH PUBLIC
TRANSPORT TICKETS



72

HOURS OF LEGAL
CONSULTATIONS

(about regulation of
stay, visa procedures,
legalisation of status)



10

LEGAL CONSULTATIONS
WITH MIGRATION
LAWYERS



5

LEGAL CONSULTATIONS
WITH HUMAN RIGHTS
LAWYERS



21

NIGHTS IN HOTELS



**BASIC HOUSING
EQUIPMENT**

(e.g., electric kettle,
toaster, hairdryer,
cutlery, etc.)



3

**HOUSEHOLDS
RECEIVED ACCESS TO
SHELTER/TEMPORARY
ACCOMMODATION**



1

**TRANSLATION OF
HIGH SCHOOL
DIPLOMA**



1

BABY CAR SEAT
for a woman who gave
birth to a daughter during
the summer



**DEVELOPMENT AND
PRINTING OF
INFORMATIONAL LEAFLETS**
in Ukrainian and Russian

IN SLOVAKIA, ODISEUS PROVIDED:



33

ACCOMPANIMENTS TO
HEALTH AND OTHER
INSTITUTIONS



11

VISITS AT THE
TEMPORARY HOME OF
THE CLIENT



79

CONSULTATIONS



241

DIFFERENT
SOCIAL SERVICES



314

HIV PREVENTION MATERIALS



4500 €

IN SHOPPING VOUCHERS



10

Assistance for 10 people/families with
TESCO VOUCHERS FOR
BASIC SUPPLIES



45

PACKAGES OF BASIC
MEDICINE



Assistance in obtaining
health care with a focus on
OPIOID SUBSTITUTION
THERAPY AND HIV
TREATMENT



27

HYGIENE KITS



10

Worked with 10
people/families on
providing
ASSISTANCE AND HELP WITH
FINDING ACCOMMODATION

IN UKRAINE, LEGALIFE CONDUCTED A SURVEY among sex workers in 12 regions to identify the needs of community members for receiving humanitarian aid during wartime. The aid was purchased and distributed according to the findings.



780

520 SEX WORKERS
RECEIVED 780 FOOD KITS



780

HYGIENE KITS



370

KITS WITH BASIC
MEDICINES



452

CONDOM PACKAGES



172

SEX WORKERS RECEIVED
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

in the form of telephone consultations via Hotline for sex workers. The main topics for calling were: psychological disorders in sex workers and their children caused by stress from the war in Ukraine: loss of the meaning of life, depression, aggression, confusion, panic attacks and problems with raising children and communicating with close relatives.

IN ROMANIA, CARUSEL MANAGES A



TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION CENTER WITH A CAPACITY OF 40 SEATS,

offering each person 3 hot meals per day, coffee, tea and water permanently, access to hygiene facilities (including necessary products - shower gel, shampoo, towels, etc.) and clothes hygiene, medicines and medical supplies.



PROVIDED SUPPORT IN THE ASYLUM APPLICATION PROCESS in Romania or travel to other cities/ countries (PCR test accompaniment, airport /train station, medical units, etc.).



In the first months of the refugee crisis, they accommodated and provided humanitarian support for **290 PEOPLE IN THE SHELTER AND ANOTHER 100 PEOPLE ON OUTREACH/IN THE FIELD**, and used this small rant to support their work.

PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

CONCLUSION OF THE SWIT PROGRAMME

Sexual and reproductive health services run by and for sex workers

2022 marked the end of a 6-year-long project together with the Sex Worker Networks Consortium to develop an international set of practical guidelines for meeting the needs of sex workers in HIV programming and STI testing. Effective sexual and reproductive health programming is impossible without the empowerment of sex workers who should be meaningfully involved in its implementation at every level: from condom distribution and outreach to community resource centres.

SWAN has successfully rolled out this guidance on a national level in Russia, Armenia, Macedonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Ukraine. In these seven countries, sex worker-led organisations have implemented SWIT on a national level through different activities and reaching different goals – from community mobilisation and sex worker-led outreach to services monitoring, advocacy strategies, and organisational development.

THE SEX WORKER NETWORKS CONSORTIUM

*The **Sex Worker Networks Consortium** was brought together in 2013 with funding from the **Robert Carr civil society Networks Fund**, so named after the legendary HIV & human rights activist Dr Robert Carr, uniting sex worker-led networks from across the globe – SWAN has worked alongside **Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW)**; **African Sex Workers Alliance (ASWA)**; **Caribbean Sex Work Coalition (CSWC)**; and **La Plataforma LatinoAmérica de Personas que Ejercen el Trabajo Sexual (PLAPERTS)** and led by **The Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP)**.*

New Programmes for 2022

SOCIAL PROTECTIONS PROGRAMME

Sex workers demanding access to state support

Following the conclusion of the SWIT programme, SWAN has launched a new programme with the Sex Worker Networks Consortium investigating social protections for sex workers worldwide.

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, with governments rolling out different levels of state support during lockdowns, it became increasingly evident how much sex workers who tend to live their lives outside of official channels struggled to access this support. Due to factors like criminalisation, stigma, mistrust of institutions and bureaucratic hurdles, this meant they were largely left to fall through whatever safety nets were provided by governments, suffering through the worst effects of the pandemic unaided. For example, in Kyrgyzstan during the initial COVID-19 lockdowns, many sex workers were unable to access government assistance in the form of food packages because their place of residence was marked as a hotel or sauna. In Armenia, we have been informed that transgender sex workers face barriers to accessing healthcare due to discrepancies with their gender marker on the legal documents required for health insurance. The past few years have highlighted what has always been and still is a deeply rooted problem for sex workers worldwide, and one which intersects with issues around migration, LGBTQ rights, poverty, homelessness, illiteracy, and sexual and reproductive health rights. Understanding this web of obstacles is the first step to untangling the barriers that keep sex workers from accessing the basic rights enjoyed by other citizens.

In 2022, a dynamic and comprehensive program started on a journey to empower seven national sex work-led organizations, focusing on critical areas of social protection, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), data collection, and advocacy. This three-year programme is strategically divided into distinct phases, each year dedicated to building specific capacities to strengthen these organizations and their invaluable work.

The first year of this program focused on enhancing the knowledge and capabilities of these organizations in navigating their respective countries' complex national social welfare systems, as well as collecting data on sex worker's experiences with social protection in their countries. This involved one regional and seven national trainings, aimed at providing members with the necessary skills on social protection and SRHR data collection and the writing of national reports. In next two years, this programme will use the data collected to work on building advocacy tools, and finalizing with advocacy activities in the year 2024.

BUDGET ADVOCACY AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME

Giving sex workers a voice in funding processes

For the grassroots community-led organisations in our network who are fighting hard to deliver services vital to sex-workers health and wellbeing, available finances and the systems by which these become available, which are linked to wider funding bodies and governments, are often inaccessible and not well-understood, and this can severely hinder the life-saving work that they perform. SWAN's new programme on budget advocacy, funded by the [Robert Carr Fund](#), aims to illuminate these processes for our members so that they may begin to have more of a voice in the funding processes which so strongly influence their day-to-day activism.

The other two priorities of this project are **community-led monitoring**, and **intersectionality**. Under these facets of the programme, SWAN joined the Eurasian Regional Consortium, alongside EHRA, EWNA, ECOM, and Teenergizer to implementing a program, "Moving Together Towards Quality and Equality: Improved Sustainable Services for ISPs in EECA," supported by the Robert Carr Fund from 2022 to 2024.

During the autumn, we conducted webinars on community-led monitoring, sharing insights from experienced SWAN members like Legalife-Ukraine and Tais Plus in Kyrgyzstan. These insights will be compiled into guidelines in 2023.

The intersectionality aspect will involve writing a paper on the impact of intersectional identities on sex worker's access to services, which will be published in 2023, as well as participating in EWNA's feminist school.

EECA CRG REGIONAL PLATFORM

Enhancing sex workers' participation in global fund activities

SWAN launched a program to empower SWAN members to participate effectively in national and regional Global Fund-related activities. Four member organizations (Right Side in Armenia, Women for Freedom in Georgia, Ameliya in Kazakhstan, and Legalife-Ukraine) played pivotal roles. Right Side conducted surveys and consultations with 100 sex workers across 11 regions, producing the report “Sex Workers Access To The Global Fund Projects In Armenia.” Ameliya facilitated sex worker community engagement in Kazakhstan’s Global Fund processes. Legalife-Ukraine, amid challenging conditions, surveyed 100 sex workers to assess service accessibility and quality, publishing a report available in [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#). This project was run with support from the Global Fund Community, Right, and Gender Initiative via EHRA,

THE GLOBAL FUND

The Global Fund is an international partnership that fights AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. It raises funds from governments, organizations, and private donors, then allocates these resources to NGOs and health programs in affected countries. This collaboration helps provide crucial resources and support for effective disease prevention and treatment worldwide.

TIBERIUS PROJECT

Dismantling obstacles to HIV care

The goal of this project was to enhance the effectiveness of HIV care by dismantling legal obstacles for the most vulnerable key populations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) cities.

On a national level, paralegal teams, often comprising sex worker community experts who are SWAN members, were pivotal. They documented cases and provided invaluable support, dismantling legal barriers and facilitating access to essential services. SWAN initiated the project with training sessions that equipped project teams with insights into sex work legal frameworks, their repercussions, and their connections to the HIV continuum of care and sex workers' primary needs.

As the project unfolded, it unearthed a broader web of interconnected health, social, and economic challenges. These issues stemmed from the state's inability to establish mechanisms that cater to the well-being of all, adhering to the principle of "No one left behind." Sex workers faced an exacerbated situation due to the state-endorsed stigma and discrimination they encountered everywhere. An analysis of cases between January 2021 and March 2022 revealed that over 70% were linked to issues like healthcare access, documentation, socioeconomic challenges, and violence.

The report concluded that to improve outcomes, a holistic approach is vital, addressing the broader issues sex workers and key populations face, encompassing violence, criminalization, social protection, healthcare, poverty, discrimination, and stigma.

This project, led by EHRA, was carried out in Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Moldova from 2021 to September 2022 and involved two additional networks: the HIV/AIDS Legal Network and ECOM.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND SEX WORK IN CEECA REGION

Exploring the impact of the internet on sex workers in our region

Building on the feedback and experience gained from our summer webinar series, we are happy to announce we were able to establish collaboration for a new programme with Numun Fund - the first dedicated fund for feminist tech in, and for the Larger World, aka the Global South. The new programme, from the beginning of 2023 will focus on the use of digital technology among sex workers and sex work organizations and its impact on digital inequalities, safety and security issues in the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEECA) region. It aims to address the unique challenges and vulnerabilities faced by sex workers and community-based organizations in this region in the context of online spaces, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding their digital rights and safety. The program is the first step that SWAN is taking on this topic and will give us an idea of our future work or initiatives such as digital literacy, online safety training, and advocacy efforts to protect the rights and security of sex workers in the CEECA region.

The Digital technologies programme is set to be implemented for the next two years (2023-2024), through community consultation, the development of a regional assessment on digital technologies and sex work, subgrants for two national community-based organizations and exploring the potential for expanding secure use of digital technologies for SWAN members.

EVENTS AND WEBINARS

CYBER SECURITY WEBINARS

Arming sex workers and activists with the tools to protect themselves online

In the summer of 2022, we hosted four Cyber Security webinars, uniting sex workers, activists, and allies in the CEECA region. Attendees, totaling 15 to 25 per session, grappled with unique digital challenges. Issues ranged from online anonymity, data protection, and revenge porn to government surveillance, outing, and stigma. Despite limited legal support, stigma and violence persist, extending into the digital space. Blackmail is now commonplace, fueled by repressive governments seeking political gain. With limited research on these regional challenges, we aim to compile a comprehensive base of knowledge tailored to the diverse needs of CEECA sex workers, drawing both from local activists and our community's insights.

FEMINISM SCHOOL

Affirming sex worker's place in the feminist movement

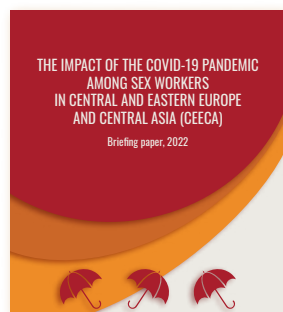
In October, Management Committee member Shahnaz Islamova of Tais Plus, Kyrgyzstan attended the Fourth School of Feminism, organized by the Eurasian Women's AIDS Network in Almaty, Kazakhstan, to conduct a session on "Feminism and Sex Work". Fifteen activists hailing from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Estonia convened to enhance their leadership and activist skills, with a focus on feminism and gender theory, with the aim to bolster the HIV response and uphold human rights in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. The primary focus of the session revolved around how the sex worker movement engages with feminist perspectives and the counterarguments it presents against abolitionist views. The discussion included an introduction to the Feminist Manifesto advocating for sex workers' rights.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AMONGSEX WORKERS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (CEECA)

Documenting the resilience of our community

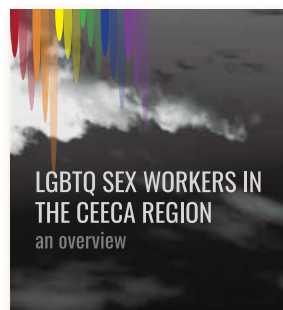
Since the outbreak of the pandemic, we have seen sex worker communities globally face profound challenges, both directly due to the virus and institutional barriers which left many unable to access state support. Building on surveys and interviews with sex workers in 11 of our member organisations in 10 countries, this study documents the pandemic's impact on CEECA sex workers and their collectives, investigating how it shaped government actions, policing, working conditions, and healthcare access. It reveals how the crisis unveiled existing and new forms of harm to sex workers, whilst exploring how CEECA sex worker groups have responded by securing the survival and basic needs of their communities, enhancing their access to rights, health care services and protections, and advocating for policy change that could reduce sex workers' vulnerability to the virus and other threats.



LGBT SEX WORKERS IN THE CEECA REGION – AN OVERVIEW

Exploring the experiences of LGBT sex workers

After surveys and in-depth interviews with our members and stakeholders from 10 organisations in 8 countries, we published our findings in our latest briefing paper on LGBT sex workers in the CEECA region, providing an overview of the ways in which the intersections between homophobia, transphobia and sex worker stigma and oppression impact those who live their lives at the intersection of these overlapping identities. This community receive little, if any, attention from policymakers, civil society and funders. Transgender sex



workers and men who have sex with other men (MSM) sex workers are also often forgotten in the response to the HIV epidemic and inadequately served. This briefing paper developed by SWAN aims to fill the gap in knowledge about LGBTQ sex workers in Central Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

CYBER SECURITY RESOURCE

An accessible handbook to protecting yourself online

The information shared by LGBTQ+ activist and human rights defender Henri Demianovich during our summer webinar series has been into an online resource, containing step-by-step instructions for sex workers to protect themselves online - it is available in English and Russian.



SWIT VIDEO SERIES

An animated guide to the sex worker implementation tool

To conclude this year's SWIT programme, SWAN, with the help of our community working group and the Rights Reporter Foundation, has transformed the information laid out by the Sex Worker Implementation tool into a series of animated short films with beautiful illustrations by [Lili Rontó](#).

It is crucial that sex workers are able to self-advocate for better representation & involvement in the services that cater to them in order for their needs to be met. The videos are available on youtube in English and Russian and are available for use in community training, public events, sensitivity trainings, advocacy with stakeholders and rights-based programmes, and anything else you can think of!



MEETINGS AND TRIPS

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IN BELGRADE

Finally, after 2 years spent apart and meeting online due to the pandemic, the first face-to-face meeting was organised in Belgrade, Serbia, bringing together SWAN staff with our elected board of representatives from sex worker-led organisations throughout the CEECA region. This year, we were joined by the wonderful of Right Side NGO, Armenia, Sex Work Forum Russia, Ameylia, Khazakstan and of Tais Plus, Kyrgyzstan, as well as of Legalife-Ukraine, who due to the current circumstances attended the meeting through video call.

These brilliant activists from throughout the CEECA region met together with our Executive Director Staša Plecas, Programme Officer Trajche Janushev, our new Communications Officer Ginger, and our interpreter Olga Zubkovskaya.

Besides going over our ongoing programs, work plan and M&E framework, MC members also discussed the changing landscapes and political developments in the region, including but not limited to the impacts of Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine, and made strategic decisions which will help the Secretariat to navigate through the challenging regional shifts. We also discussed ideas and laid out a timeline for developing SWAN's next strategic plan beginning in 2023, as well as the potential process for recruiting a new Executive Director.

Our definition of the region remains the same, as the network was established in the region with a purpose of being a network of post-socialist countries and as post-soviet system that left us with a similar legal heritage across countries.

BAKU

In October, SWAN was invited by [ECOM](#), as a regional sex worker community network, to provide 2 days of training on the effective use of the Sex Worker Implementation Tool ([SWIT](#)) in Baku, Azerbaijan, presenting to organisations from the region that wish to better support the sex worker community in their provision of HIV and SRHR services.

Our facilitators, SWAN Programme Officer Trajche Janushev and Agata Dziuban began by using statistics from UNAIDS on HIV prevalence among sex workers to examine the key factors contributing to the increased risk of HIV among sex workers, inviting participants to consider how current laws and policies further contribute to this vulnerability. The group then discussed the different forms of violence sex workers are subject to, and the role of stigma and criminalisation in contributing to this, inviting participants to brainstorm possible strategies that could be adopted by their organisations, in order to both protect sex workers from harm and grant them access to justice. Finally, following a look over the services currently available to sex workers in Azerbaijan, reviewing their accessibility and identifying gaps in provision (e.g. PEP and PrEP), participants were asked to develop potential action plans for introducing the Sex Worker Implementation Tool into their work.

Encouragingly, training participants were able to consider new ways of engaging sex workers in their outreach activities – for example, by organising workshops, creating safer spaces and organising informal social activities such as make-up sessions, as well as enhancing the visibility of sex work-related issues and sex workers’ rights on their websites and social media, and even organising sensitising training for law enforcement agencies.

BUDAPEST

In October, a 4-day training in Budapest was the first exciting step towards national implementation, bringing together sex-work activists from seven of SWAN’s member organisations in order to discuss the programme’s content and concept in more detail, whilst revising it to include specific regional issues not captured in the global framework. During the workshop, participants went through the objectives, goals and outcomes of the programme, with a focus on social protection and SRHR, along with methodologies for data collection on national level, data analysis and follow-up advocacy based on the information collected during this process.



We extend our thanks to all the wonderful activists from our network who attended and hope these sex worker leaders now feel equipped to effectively engage in national, regional and global policy platforms so that we may amplify the voices and lived experiences of sex workers in all their diversity.

BISHKEK



Between the 14th and 18th of November, SWAN staff came together with member representatives from Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, for a training on community-led budget advocacy. Attendants came together in order to deepen their understanding of the budget processes which lie behind the funding that eventually pays for social and medical services for sex workers in the EECA region. The eventual goal, through exploring stakeholder cooperation, is to empower our community-led civil society organisations with knowledge so they may attempt to influence the distribution of these local and national funds.

During the training, our participants reviewed the key concepts, processes, and budget advocacy methods in their countries, identifying which budgets (national and local) currently have funding available for the provision of social and medical assistance to sex workers. They were then able to create some realistic budget advocacy goals for their organisations, map possible allies, and establish what kind of technical support they may need from their regional organisations and partners.

YEREVAN

In December, SWAN team members Marija Tosheva and Trajche Janushev paid a visit to our member organization [Right Side](#) NGO at their community center in Yerevan, Armenia.

During 4 days of meetings, SWAN's team, together with members of Right Side, discussed the set-up of a human rights documentation project in the country, focussed on recording cases of violations of social protection rights, such as rights to social care, unemployment benefits, housing support and healthcare, as well as sexual and reproductive health rights for sex workers in Armenia. The group also discussed different advocacy approaches and partnership initiatives on both local and national levels. Later, the two organizations met with representatives from other NGOs and activists operating in Yerevan, including [Pink Armenia](#), [DiverCity NGO](#) and [The Global Trans Initiative](#), in order to explore intersectional interests and opportunities, including the overlapping concerns of LGBTQ people and sex workers in Armenia.

BARCELONA



In April 2022, our Executive Director, Staša Plečas, and Programme Officer, Trajche Janushev met in person in Barcelona with two representatives from each member of the Sex Worker Networks Consortium and together with NSWP staff developed a global framework to document human rights issues that underpin social protection and access to SRHR service. They agreed on defining common priorities for social protection and sexual and reproductive health rights, as well as deciding on the common research questions and finalising steps and timelines for regional training, data collection, and reporting.

VILNUS

In July, our Executive Director Staša Plečaš and Program Officer Trajche Janushev took part in a Regional Consultation in Vilnius, Lithuania, which brought together fifty representatives from regional networks of people affected by HIV & TB and key populations (KP) (including: people who use drugs; sex workers; men who have sex with men; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people as well as prisoners and migrants); civil society networks, UNAIDS, The Global Fund, experts from fields of HIV, TB, human rights and security, in order to discuss the role of community-led initiatives in the face of the war in Ukraine, and determine what is needed for their sustainability.

NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

SWAN participated in the **ESWA** congress held in Brussels. During the conference, a dedicated session was conducted to shed light on the regional context and the initiatives undertaken by SWAN to support sex workers in Ukraine since the war started. Our program officer, Trajche Janushev, facilitated the session and featured insights from speakers representing Legallife from Ukraine and SW Forum from Russia. This collaborative effort showcased the organisation's commitment to advocating for and empowering sex workers in the region.

On invitation from **ECOM**, SWAN provided SWIT training to bolster the knowledge and expertise of NGO service providers in Baku, Azerbaijan. This strategic partnership reflects a commitment to fostering a more robust and efficient HIV services, ultimately benefiting the sex worker community in Azerbaijan.
(more you can read under trips section)

The collaboration between **EHRA** and SWAN is a powerful partnership that strongly supports the cause of sex worker organisations. In 2022, in Bishkek, we organised a crucial budget advocacy training for five SWAN members/sex worker organisations. This initiative demonstrates our commitment to empowering and equipping these organisations with the tools and knowledge to advocate for their rights and funding. Together, we are fostering positive change and a brighter future for sex workers in the region.
(more you can read under trips section)

SWAN joined forces with **Front Line Defenders** to extend possible support and technical assistance to its members and individual sex work activists in perilous circumstances. In a world where sex workers often face discrimination, violence, and legal vulnerabilities, this collaborative effort aimed to provide support, protection, and advocacy for those on the front lines of sex workers' rights.

SWAN participated in the [SCOPE project](#), "Strategic Community HIV Prevention Empowerment," led by The European AIDS Treatment Group (**EATG**). This collaborative effort showcased SWAN's dedication to advancing HIV prevention within the sex work community.

SWAN contributed to informing the **Funders Concerned about AIDS** collective about the mediate needs of the sex worker community in relation to the impact of war.

SWAN continued its collaboration and partnership with the Global Network of Sex Work Projects and contribute to discussions and global advocacy. NSWP has continued providing technical support to SWAN, and SWAN continues to collaborate within the Sex Work Consortium.

OUR DONORS

Our activities in 2022 were made possible by the following donors, to whom we extend a huge thanks:

Aidsfonds
Elton John
Giro555
Numun fund
Open society foundation
Red umbrella fund
Robert Carr fund
UNAIDS

