



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

EHRA Seeks Consultant to update the regional report “Shrinking civic space and marginalized communities in EECA” (2025)

RFP Number	EHRA-07-09
RFP Title	Consultant to develop regional report
RFP Closing Date and time:	24:00 EET on 2 August 2026
Proposal Submission Address:	info@harmreductioneurasia.org

Background

The Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) is a non-profit, public membership organization uniting activists and harm reduction organizations from Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CEECA), with the mission to actively unite and support communities and civil societies to ensure the rights, freedoms, health and well-being of people who use psychoactive substances in the CEECA region.

The activities will be implemented within the Regional project "Sustainability of services for key populations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)" – #iSoS: *Empowering and Innovations*, implemented by a consortium of organizations under management of the ICF "Alliance for Public Health", with the financial support of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; as well within the RESILIENT project.

A 2025 regional report [“Shrinking civic space and marginalized communities in EECA”](#) aimed to provide a comprehensive overview, through a human-rights lens, documenting how restrictive “crisis” measures (foreign-agent laws, drug-propaganda statutes, LGBTQI+ censorship, funding cuts, etc.) are undermining HIV, TB and related health services for key populations across 10 countries¹ in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Objective:

¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan



The objective of this RFP is to update the regional report [“Shrinking civic space and marginalized communities in EECA”](#) taking into account the context and changes in 2026 (further, Regional report 2026).

Key tasks include:

1. Desk review

- Review and select reports, articles and other materials in relation to the civic space and marginalized communities in EECA to support the preparation of the Regional report 2026.

2. Data consolidation

- The main information resource for the consultant will be [instruments](#) filled in by 10 country Focal Points, it will provide description of the situation in the countries, case descriptions, specific laws, etc. To be filled by end of August 2026.
- Cross-check, clarify data in the instruments in interviews with the Focal Points (based on need). Contact details provided by EHRA.
- Cross-check and reinforce data provided by the Focal Points with materials identified in desk review.

3. Analytical synthesis & human-rights-focused recommendations

Same as the report of 2025, the Regional report 2026 should:

- Provide regional analysis.
- Assess how crisis measures affect: Freedom of Association (e.g., registration barriers for NGOs), Freedom of Expression (e.g., media restrictions, online censorship), Freedom of Peaceful Assembly (e.g., bans on public gatherings, protest crackdowns), Access to Information (e.g., limitations on data or reporting), Protection from Reprisal (e.g., arrests, intimidation of activists).
- Summarize direct and indirect impacts on HIV/TB outreach, testing, treatment and continuity of care for marginalized communities.
- Identify cross-country patterns, divergences and emergent trends in civic-space shrinkage, health-service disruption and functioning of CSOs.
- Propose human-rights-centered strategies for civil-society actors, donors and policymakers to safeguard and restore civic freedoms, mitigate service disruptions for key populations, protect community advocates from reprisals.

4. Report drafting and revision



- Design and propose to EHRA the approach of Regional report 2026 preparation: integration of data in report 2025 with updates of 2026, revisions of structure, etc. organize a call with EHRA for this discussion before starting the report preparation.
- Prepare a full draft of the regional report, including executive summary, country chapters, thematic analysis, and recommendations.
- Incorporate feedback from EHRA, Focal Points and other regional networks and ensure final edits are addressed.

Timeline

All work must be completed by the 31 October 2026. The Consultant can start working as soon as hired. The instruments filled by 10 Focal Points will be available end August 2026. The detailed timeline will be discussed and set with the selected Consultant. EHRA estimates around 10 working days for the assignment. The total number of days will be agreed upon with the hired consultant (based on the proposed strategy and daily rate).

Evaluation Criteria: Submitted applications will be evaluated by the EHRA evaluation panel using a two-stage procedure:

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

Only submissions scoring a minimum of 80 points out of 100 in the technical evaluation will proceed to cost evaluation. A proposal which fails to achieve the minimum technical threshold will not be considered further.

To assess submitted applications, the following technical criteria will be used (80%) (maximum possible number of points is 100):

Criteria	Points
Technical & methodological expertise Demonstrated experience in designing and executing multi-country qualitative and quantitative research, including: ● Development and review of data-collection tools (surveys, interview guides, case-study templates) ● Rigorous data consolidation, validation and cross-checking	30



Strong analytical skills in synthesizing findings into coherent regional themes and recommendations.	
Regional & health-sector experience Proven track record working on HIV, TB or related public-health programmes/projects, evidenced by: - Previous consultancies or research projects in at least two of the target countries - Familiarity with key-population outreach, treatment-continuity challenges and donor-funding landscapes - Fluency in Russian (to review materials provided in Russian) or demonstrated capacity to accurately translate those materials into English.	30
Civic-space & human-rights expertise Specialized knowledge of civic-space dynamics and freedoms—association, expression, assembly, access to information and protection from reprisals—as they relate to health-service delivery for key populations. An asset would be: - Prior analysis of foreign-agent laws, anti-propaganda statutes or NGO-registration regimes - Experience assessing the impact of restrictive laws on civil-society actors and vulnerable groups - Established networks with CSOs and human-rights defenders in the region.	40
Total number of points:	100

Cost proposal (20%): EHRA will allocate the same importance to the provided portfolio and recorded experience as to the cost of the services. The cost proposal will be evaluated in terms of best value-for money to EHRA in EUR, price and other factors considered.

Condition

This announcement shall not be construed as a contract or a commitment of any kind. This request for proposals in no way obligates EHRA to award a contract, nor does it commit EHRA to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposals.

How to Apply

To be eligible, consultants must comply with the EHRA [Code of Ethics](#) and EHRA's [position](#) on the Russian military aggression in Ukraine.

Applicants must submit a CV and Letter of Interest reflecting competency, proposed number of working days, daily rate (in euros) to info@harmreductioneurasia.org with the RFP number (EHRA-07-09) and their name in the subject line.

General Terms



1. Consultant must be fully fluent in Russian or be able to accurately translate all Russian-language materials into English.
2. EHRA will sign an agreement with one selected consultant. The contract will define a detailed work plan and payment terms.
3. EHRA reserves the right (but does not commit itself to obligations) to enter into negotiations with one or more applicants in order to obtain clarifications or additional information, as well as to agree on the timing of work.
4. The winner must confirm his/her/their daily rate before signing of the agreement.
5. Results will be announced by 2 August 2026. Each candidate will be contacted individually.
6. Any questions regarding this RFP should be sent to m.sketre@harmreductioneurasia.org.