

December the 1st – World AIDS Day

How EECA region marked World AIDS Day 2013





Armenia



On the 1st of December, World AIDS Day, in Erevan, Armenia, at the Severnyi Avenue all passers-by had a possibility to get express-testing for HIV and to find out their HIV-status just in 20 minutes. This action, performed by NGO Real World Real People, was accompanied by music and famous TV-presenter Aram MP3 motivated people around to get tested by self-example.

Cold weather didn't make any obstacle to testing – a lot of people were willing to get tested. In total during this day 116 people got tested for HIV. Pretesting and post testing consultation was granted by Republican center on AIDS prevention.

The whole process was carried out in ambulances behind the closed doors so the confidentiality was granted.





Belarus



On World AIDS Day Belarus joined international campaign "RED".

On December 1, World AIDS Day, the National Library of Belarus was lighted in red in solidarity with people living with HIV. Organized by Belarusian community of people living with HIV in frames of "Together for Life" action, the event gathered NGO representatives, PLWH community activists and mass-media.

Watch the video on events here

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEdti7bNo9E>

"We want to remind all Belarusians about HIV/AIDS and support people living with HIV," - said Eugene Spevak, activist of republican non-governmental organization "Belarusian PLWH Community".

"Every year different recognizable architectural objects are highlighted in red to commemorate World AIDS Day on December 1. International campaign "RED" previously took place in London, Paris, Sydney, Madrid, Cape Town, Kiev and many other cities around the world. This year Belarus has joined this campaign to show everyone that HIV in our country is not a problem of an individual. Only joint efforts can tackle HIV/AIDS epidemic in our country", - reported Belarusian community of PLWH".





Lithuania



The World Aids Day in Lithuania was supported by students of Art Academy. Creative youth with help NGO "Pozityvus gyvenimas" drew beautiful posters on HIV thematic and this art-pieces were displayed in front of general public for several days.

Also in Klaipeda and Kaunas the city municipal center was lightened up in red for the first time. It wasn't a part of International RED campaign, but an initiative of activists.

In Lithuania actions dedicated to the World AIDS Day were carried out by association "Pozityvus gyvenimas" as long as Lithuania Medical Student's Association, Klaipeda Committee of Lithuanian Red Cross and Klaipeda Center of Medical Care.





The main message of Georgian activists on the World Aids Day was three “zeros”: “Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths.”

In Georgia on the 1st of December a press-conference, meeting with officials and a movie-premier were held.

At first decision makers – government representatives, representatives of GF, medical officials - met with Georgian activists and people working in the sphere of HIV-epidemic fight. A broad discussion started on all epidemic related issues.

One of the main government representatives rose was access to treatment and obligatory public financing of ARV-treatment. Deputy Minister of Health marked that Ministry fully understood the importance of this issue and the urgent necessity of allocation of finances for ARV. She also marked her personal readiness to start the work in this direction.

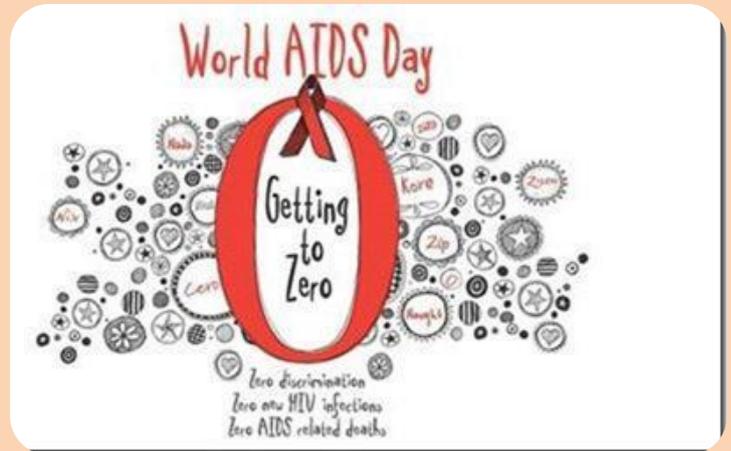
Global Fund representatives also expressed their readiness to take active part in mentioned processes.

Also in terms of this meeting NGO Real World Real Vision raised questions of main problems in field of access to treatment. They stressed the necessity of prompt ratification of work plan on public financing transition.



Later a movie was shown (USAID GHPP project).

All actions were carried out by NGO Real World Real Vision with Georgian network of harm reduction and World Vision.





Estonia



In Estonia actions dedicated to the World AIDS day started even earlier - on the 29th of November. Activists and volunteers of Estonian Network of PLWH gathered in front of the Parliament and Ministry of Social Affairs for reminding the Government about its responsibilities taken to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country.

This year Estonian Network of PLWH carried out activities in Tallinn, Narva and Johvi with such messages: "Estonia has the highest level of HIV-spreading in EU", "Save lives! Narva needs

immediate treatment!", "All PLWH must get treatment and they need an access to all necessary services"

In all cities candles were lighted, and other activities organized: concerts, flashmobs, round-tables. In Narva activists were spreading free condoms and brochures on HIV. In one of Johvi's trade-centers there was an express-testing for HIV.





Moldova



In Moldova a lot of street actions have taken place. On the first of December in Belzy volunteers carried out the action “Shake my hand - I have HIV”. Volunteers in special T-shirts featuring mentioned slogan proposed a hand-shake to passers, trying to raise a tolerant attitude to PLWH.

At the same time every action participant had a possibility to check his or her knowledge about HIV/AIDS by passing a special test. All interested people got leaflets and brochures on the topic.

Also volunteers from „Respirația a doua” and IPCS „Viața cu speranță” visited universities where they spread brochures and information about HIV/AIDS.





Украина

Due to the political situation in the country no actions to mark World AIDS Day were performed





Russia



In Moscow All-Russian Network of People Living with HIV raised the question on HIV/AIDS with a slogan of ECUO campaign “There are drugs, there is no time”. Famous singer Yuliya Checherina and musician Eugen Feklistov supported the action as long as the groups «Grinland» and «MAD BulletZz». All of them helped volunteers to spread literature on HIV/AIDS issues right at the city streets. The highlight of this action was a big concert.

You can watch video on this here -

<http://yadi.sk/d/yfGqYt05EEtvx>

Also on the next day a press-conference in a major Russian news agency Interfax was held. Activists raised the questions of price decrease for ARV-

treatment, problems with drug supplement in regions and necessity of prevention programs for target groups.

In other cities and regions street performances, contests in universities, lectures, flashmobs and other actions were made. Not only volunteers and activists but also representatives of educational and religious sectors supported the actions.

In some regions free tests for HIV were proposed for all willing to know their HIV-status.





Azerbaijan



In Azerbaijan activists were spreading literature and leaflets on tolerant attitude to PLWH at the city streets.

Also hand-to-hand fight competition was held among youth. More than 80 sportsmen took part in this competition. Around 150 visitors watched it. Participants received certificates and gifts from Public Organization Against AIDS.

During competition activists were spreading information on HIV/AIDS issues and were talking about problems which face PLWH in everyday life.

