

Amsterdam, 9 January 2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Consultant to map availability, accessibility and needs for Harm Reduction Services in Southeastern Europe (SEE)

Reference Number	RFP2025_1
RFP Title	Harm Reduction in SEE
RFP Closing date & time	23 February 2024 23:59 CET

Correlation - European Harm Reduction Network (C-EHRN) was established in 2004 in Amsterdam (NL) as a European civil society network and centre of expertise in the field of drug use, harm reduction and social inclusion. C-EHRN is hosted by Foundation De Regenboog Groep (FRG) – a non-governmental low-threshold organisation in Amsterdam, providing harm reduction services to people who use drugs and other individuals and communities disproportionately affected by social and health inequalities.

C-EHRN works towards a Europe that embodies a compassionate and equitable society where people who use drugs and other communities disproportionately affected by stigma, discrimination, and harmful (drug) policies have universal access to sustainable, high-quality health and social care, where social justice principles guide policies, and individuals and communities affected by harmful drug policies find empowerment and dignity.

C-EHRN is looking for a qualified consultant to conduct a comprehensive assessment of harm reduction service availability and accessibility in Southeastern Europe (SEE). The consultant will contribute to the BOOST project, which aims to address significant health disparities affecting people who use drugs, particularly concerning HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis. Currently, data on harm reduction service provision in SEE is fragmented and insufficient to support effective advocacy and resource allocation. This consultancy will address this critical gap.

We encourage professionals within the harm reduction field to submit proposals and especially encourage those who are experts on and based in SEE countries.

BACKGROUND

People who use drugs in Southeastern Europe (SEE) face significant health challenges, particularly concerning HIV and HCV infections. While evidence suggests higher rates of these infections in SEE compared to other European regions, a lack of comprehensive, comparable data hinders effective responses. This data gap limits the ability to precisely understand the scope of the problem, hindering targeted interventions and robust advocacy for increased resources and policy changes. While some harm reduction interventions, such as opioid agonist treatment (OAT) and needle and syringe programs (NSPs), exist in SEE, consistent, high-quality data on their coverage, effectiveness, and accessibility is lacking. Existing reports offer only limited regional detail, preventing a clear picture of the harm reduction landscape in SEE and its comparison to other parts of Europe. This situation is further complicated by severely limited funding for harm reduction initiatives in the region—a mere 6% of estimated needs are met—exacerbating existing service gaps. The absence of detailed, comparable data on the prevalence of HIV and HCV among people who use drugs, combined with the significant underdevelopment of community-based services, creates a critical need for evidence-based information to support improved services and advocacy efforts. This consultancy directly addresses this crucial gap by generating the high-quality, regionally specific data needed to inform effective interventions and strengthen advocacy for improved harm reduction services in SEE.

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES OF THE CONSULTANCY

The development of the comprehensive assessment of harm reduction service availability, accessibility and needs in SEE will involve several activities, including:

- **Data Collection:** Conducting an assessment of harm reduction services in SEE. This will involve collecting data on service availability, accessibility, and needs. The consultant will develop a methodology for data collection, appropriate for the context of SEE, in collaboration with the CEHRN team.
- **Data Analysis:** Analyzing collected data to identify key trends, gaps, and disparities in harm reduction service provision across SEE. This will include comparative analysis with other European regions where possible.
- **Report Writing:** Producing a comprehensive report detailing the findings of the assessment, including clear recommendations for improving harm reduction service provision in SEE. The report should clearly articulate the findings using evidence-based arguments to support advocacy.

- Data Visualization: Creating easily understandable visualizations of the data for use in presentations and advocacy materials.
- Stakeholder Engagement: The consultant will work in close collaboration with local harm reduction networks, communities of people who use drugs and other relevant stakeholders in SEE, fostering the project's collaborative spirit and ensuring the project's findings are informed by the experience of those directly affected.

DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

- March 10th 2025 - Contract signature
- March 23rd 2025 - Detailed data collection methodology
- July 15th 2025 - Final report with findings, analysis, and recommendations
- August 4th 2025 - Briefing documents suitable for advocacy and policy purposes

All activities should be completed by the end of August 2025. A more detailed timeline will be established in negotiation with the consultant.

REQUIREMENTS

The ideal candidate will possess:

- Extensive experience in conducting research and assessments in the field of harm reduction.
- Demonstrated expertise in data collection, analysis, and interpretation.
- Excellent writing and presentation skills in English.
- Strong understanding of the harm reduction field and the social determinants of health affecting people who use drugs.
- Experience working in Southeastern Europe.
- Proven experience in capacity building and community engagement.

HOW TO APPLY

To be eligible as a consultant, individuals must comply with C-EHRN's Mission and Vision, which are available [here](#).

Applicants must submit a short letter of interest and a CV. These documents should reflect the candidate's competency to complete the consultancy, including references to the requested skills, knowledge and professional experience.

Please, submit your application to administration@correlation-net.org by the 23rd of February 2024 23:59 CET. In the subject line of your e-mail, please indicate the Reference Number, the title of the Consultancy and your name:

Reference Number | Consultancy Title | Name & Family Name

Note: Incomplete applications will not be considered.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

All submitted applications will be reviewed by an Evaluation Panel composed of the Management Team of C-EHRN. The panel will assess the extent to which the proposals meet the requirements of each of the consultancies.

Additionally, the consultants should:

1. Have no conflict of interest (to be declared in the letter of interest).
2. Have proven experience and expertise in the area of work.
3. Have an excellent level of English writing.
4. Offer a good and reasonable price-quality ratio.

Candidates and experts who have already contributed satisfactory results to the work of C-EHRN in the previous years will be prioritised to ensure the quality of work.

Candidates with the highest evaluation will be invited for negotiation and signature of an agreement. C-EHRN reserves the right to enter into negotiations with one or more applicants to obtain clarifications or additional information and agree on the conditions and timing of the consultancy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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