

SOS_
PROJECT
2.0

Policy environment and strategies for a broader implementation of PrEP in EECA

Dr. Sergii Filippovych, Director of the #SoS 2.0
Alliance for Public Health

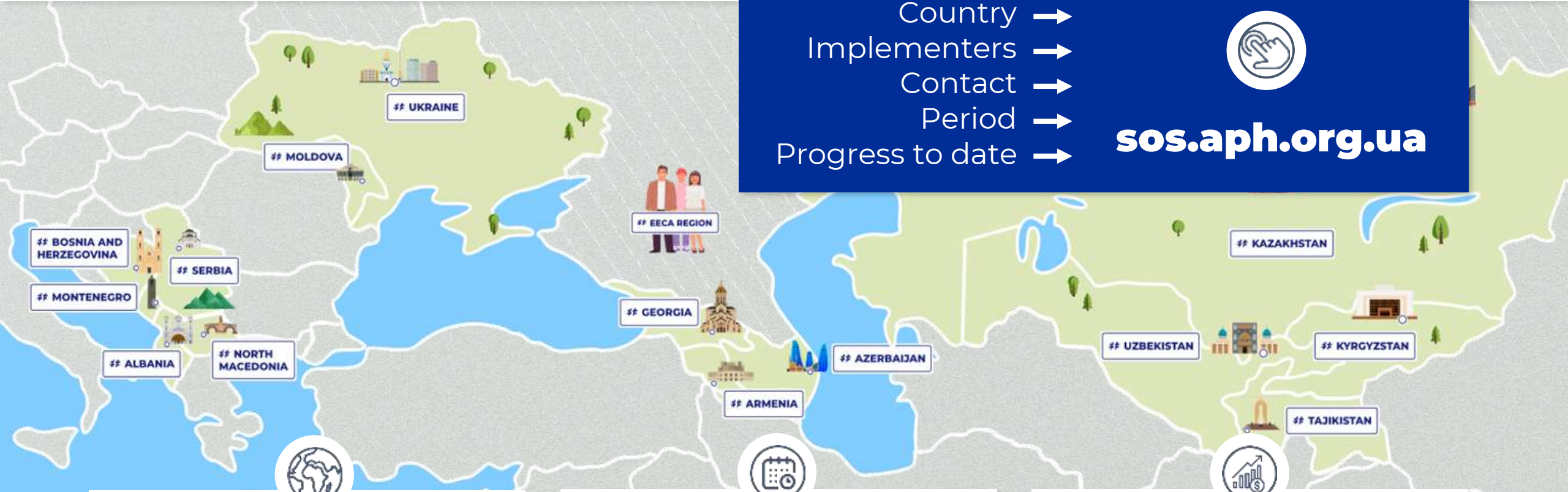
#SoS_2.0 website available 24/7 online



Country →
Implementers →
Contact →
Period →
Progress to date →



sos.aph.org.ua



The largest in geography regional GF project.
14 countries and **23 cities** are involved

3 years: 2022-2024
Budget: \$14 million
Unique partnership all between EECA subregions

Absolute increase funding for HIV activities targeting the KPs in
14 countries - \$20 mln

Achievements in PrEP programs (2022-2023)



CAB LA PrEP in Ukraine

- Advocacy of the LA PrEP in Ukraine, 2022-May, 2023 (#SoS 2.0)
- Launch of the pilot project on CAB LA PrEP in Kyiv and Lviv for 100 MCM - PEPFAR (Aug, 2023 – Dec, 2025), 100 courses (CDC, UPHC, APH)
- Implementation of national (Ukraine) and regional (EECA) information campaign (#SoS 2.0)



PrEP pilot project in Balkans

- 3 countries in the Balkans have launched PrEP project: North Macedonia - 64 Bosnia and Herzegovina -17 Montenegro - start on 9th of Oct 2023

PrEP insights:

- PrEP coverage from 95K in 2020 to 200k in 2023 to 500K in 2025
- Implementation of community-based service delivery model
- Widely attention is expanding to other key groups (PWUD, SW)



Analysis of protocols for PrEP

- Analysis is held in 7 countries (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan)
- Based on the analysis recommendations for clinical protocols were developed in order to include PrEP as a standard service package and adjust current protocols according to the WHO recommendations

LA PrEP information campaign

UKRAINE

1. PILOT PROJECT 100 MCM clients / Kyiv & Lviv / Sept 2023 - Aug 2025

Implementation partners:



2. INFO CAMPAIGN: Oct 2023-Aug 2024

Organizers: ALLIANCE GLOBAL Alliance for Public Health

with financial and technical support

Goals:

- information,
- involvement,
- loyalty support

Main steps: Surveys of awareness and fear of clients (social workers and medicine personal) at the beginning and every quarter, which will form the basis of the information campaign.



Leonid, 24 y.o., an open MSM who will be one of the first to start taking CAB LA.

He's an Influencer running his blog. He explores myths about LA PrEP and shares his experiences.

Platforms and content: video and posts in TikTok, Fb, Instagram, Hornet, website.

EECA Region



Ukrainian experience



World experience



Awareness + Demand



Target Audience:

- National and regional NGO activists and experts, health workers, policy makers
- Health policy decision makers (finance, procurement).

Platforms and content:

social media, website, mailing and on/off line meetings in region.

Organizers:



PrEP in Balkans: North Macedonia

ЗАЕДНО
ПОСИЛНИ



PrEP

2021: PrEP pilot as an implementation study

- Officializing the national PrEP guidelines
- Procurement of PrEP drug using #SoS 2.0 funds
- One new HIV+

2022: Continued per pilot protocol

- No new recruitment due to ARV procurement crisis

2023: Pilot started as Program

- Joint funding
- Recruitment again
- New PrEP donation through #SoS 2.0
- Expansion to other KP



FUTURE steps

- Consolidate program
- New objectives - 150 people
- Plans for intensified promotion
- Advocacy – increase funding through National HIV Program for 2024



LESSONS learned

- National PrEP guidelines beneficial, but not a prerequisite
- Necessary support from WHO instrumental
- Strong advocacy work on price reduction

PrEP provides an opportunity for:

insight into the trends of the epidemic among most-at-risk populations increasing awareness of HIV and HIV testing and other services contributes to preventing new infections – even if numbers are low

PrEP in Balkans: Bosnia and Herzegovina & Montenegro



Pilots implementation

- Procurement of PrEP drug using #SoS 2.0 funds **in 10 times cheaper**
- Clinical Pilot Protocol was developed
- Clinical Protocol was developed in BiH
- Training was conducted with support of WHO expert
- A study visit was conducted
- Flexible service delivery schedule
- Methodological guidelines are developed (BiH)



Lessons learned

- Review of procurement models of PrEP
- Change regulators rules and perception regarding generics needed



Next steps

- Development of National Protocol
- Funding of PrEP-related expenses included into national funding schemes in both countries



Partnerships in Health
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



#SoS 2.0: PrEP in the EECA region



In 2022, ECOM held **Analysis of National PrEP Protocols in 7 countries (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Ukraine)** and provided recommendations to align the national protocols with the WHO guidelines. In 2023

PrEP among MSM, 2023

Country	Estimated MSM	PrEP	%, PrEP
Ukraine	181 500	7000	3,8
Kazakhstan	62 000	3000	4,8
Azerbaijan	23 900		
Georgia	18 500	1540	8,3
Moldova	17 100	470	2,7
Kyrgyzstan	16 900	350	2
Armenia	16 100	100	0,62
Tajikastan	13 400	100	0,74
Macedonia	11 054	84	0,76
Uzbekistan	3 000	0	0

PrEP coverage is low and do not meet the WHO goals

Challenges and barriers to solve:

- lack of PrEP programs in some countries
- lack of National Protocols in some countries
- Limited access to PrEP some KPs

Current & future steps:

- Equal access for all KPs
- Programs expansion
- Introduction and implementation of innovations
- Advocacy of generic
- Sustainability of programs
- Digitization - promoting the development of PREP services

Innovation:

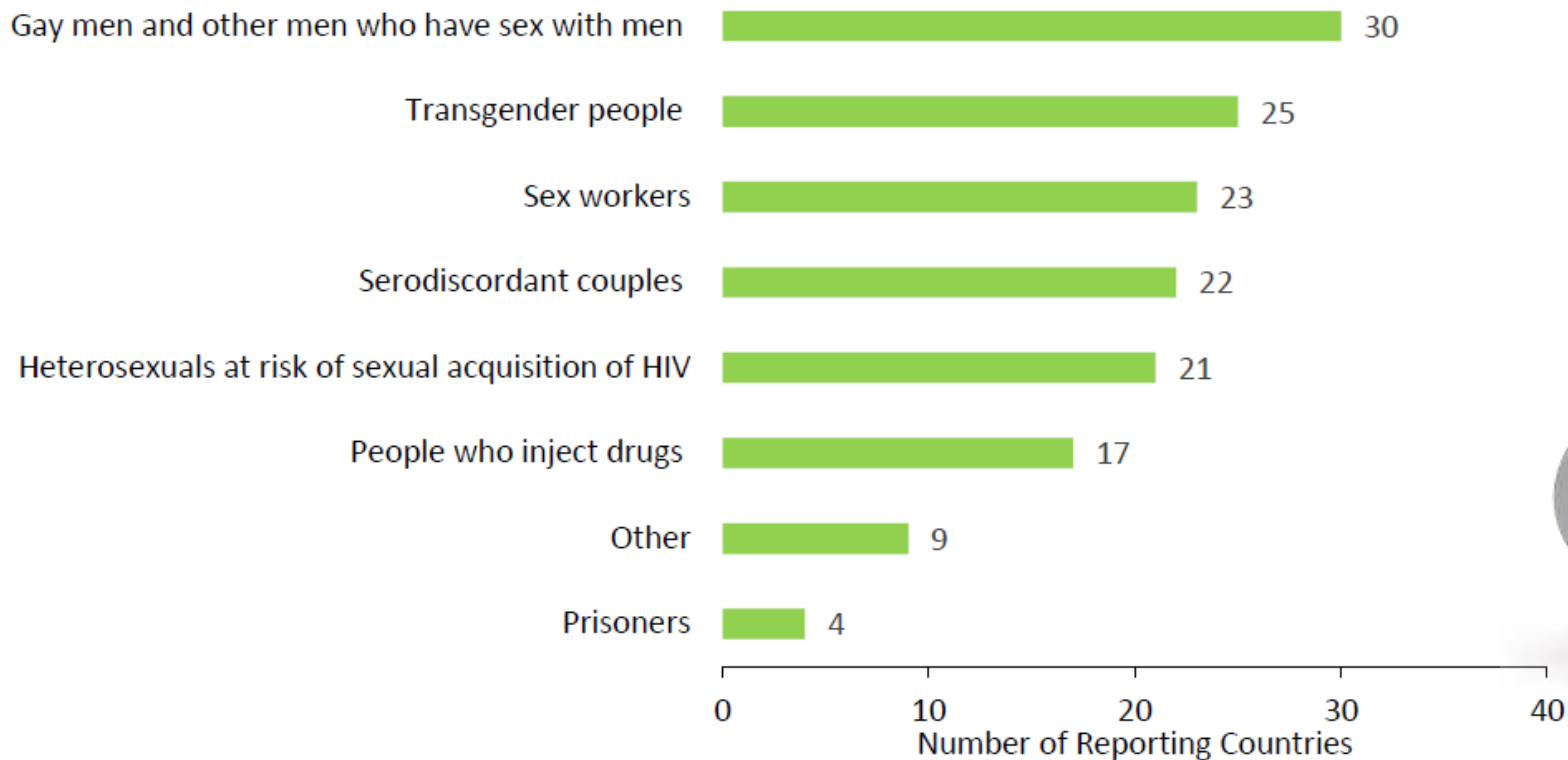
- CAB LA in Ukraine
- PrEP through pharmacies and community centers in KAZ

PrEP eligibility fo KPs (ECDC Data)



In 2022, 35 countries provided data on which key populations were eligible for PrEP (Figure 3). Gay men and other men who have sex with men were most frequently reported as eligible for PrEP: 30 of 35 countries reported that they are eligible for PrEP. Prisoners were least frequently reported as eligible for PrEP, with only four of 35 countries reporting them eligible.

Figure 3. Populations deemed eligible for PrEP across Europe and Central Asia (n=35)



Developing IT solutions to enhance service delivery, data collection, analysis and presentation of results



1. **National info** system for collecting, storing, analyzing, reporting and presenting data on all HIV related areas, incl. PrEP
2. **Virtual / online / electronic social worker** as a source of reliable up-to-date comprehensive information on all HIV related areas, incl. PrEP for clients and social / outreach workers, peers and other relevant parties
3. **Regional HIV data dashboard** to allow for presentation, analysis and comparison on national, cross-country and regional HIV related data, including implementation of and coverage by PrEP programs

The screenshot displays the DHIS2 National info system interface. It features a top navigation bar with a search icon and a user profile icon. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail showing the current location: 'Home > HIV-ECDA program'. The main content area is divided into two sections. The top section, titled 'Profile (ID)', contains a form for entering client information, including fields for 'Date of birth', 'Age group', 'Sex at birth', 'Client LINC', 'Case', 'HIV code', and 'Main RP group'. The bottom section, titled 'Table Data Entry', contains a form for entering client details, including fields for 'Client Details', 'Service provided', 'HIV General information', 'Medical history', 'HIV testing', and 'PrEP type'. The form includes various input fields, radio buttons, and checkboxes for data entry.

The DHIS2 based National info system **will consist of:**

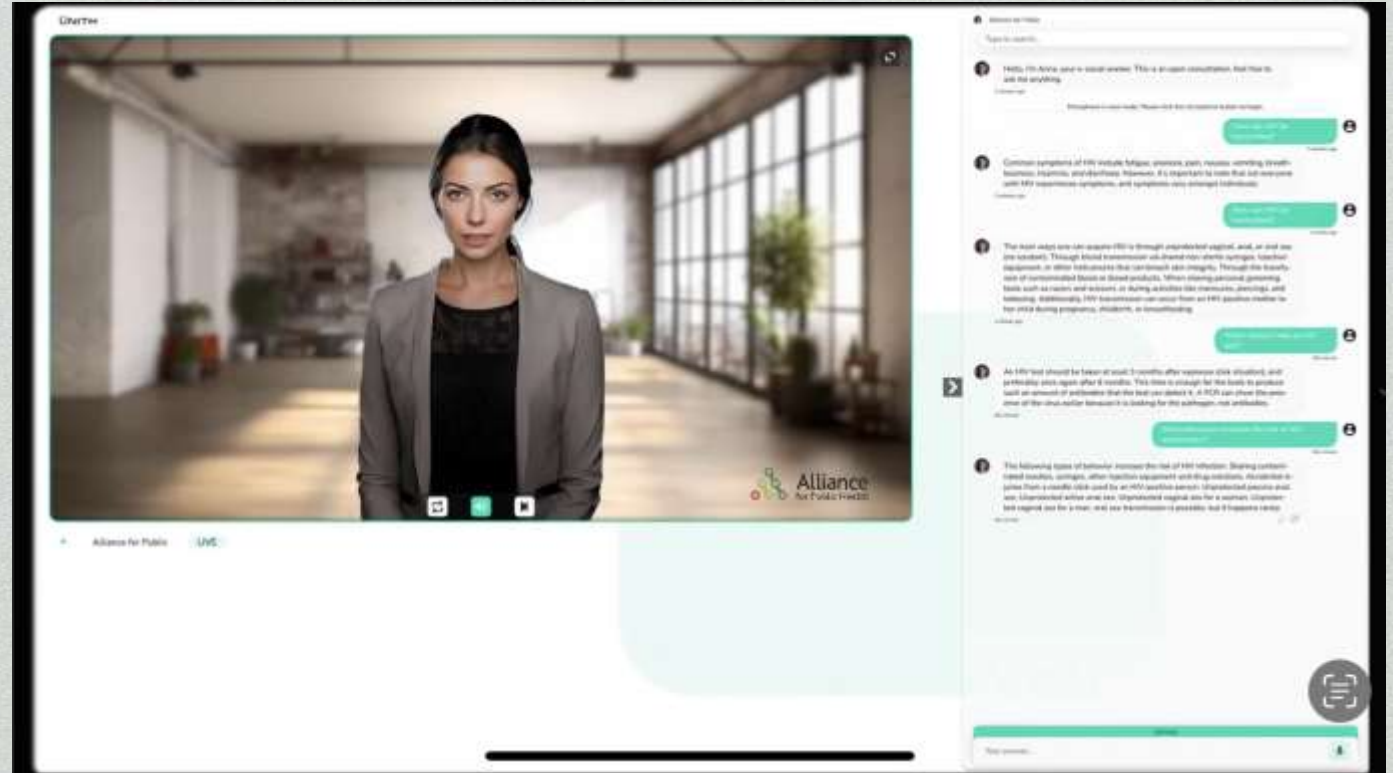
- ✓ **database** (data entry possible via mobile app or desktop version)
- ✓ **service provider mobile app** for data entry
- ✓ **service provider desktop** access for entering, storing, working with data
- ✓ **dashboards**

And will be accompanied by the client mobile app

AI based e-Social Worker as a virtual assistant for clients and social workers



- **A mobile app** that will allow to **take some load off social workers** by providing them with **reliable comprehensive info** they need to be able to work effectively with clients and by providing clients **access to the info**, as well as info on **contacts and details of services available to them**
- **Offline version** in form of guided conversation – menu options to choose the topic of interest and an **online version** with AI and virtual human, allowing for an open conversation with voice / text entry of the question at hand
- **PrEP block** will cover the **theory** on what it is, why and who needs it, as well as **practical aspects** on where and how to get it and how to take it, etc., tailored to the country where the client is based (who is implementing the solution)



First countries for piloting – UA, KG

Pilot in Ukraine in 2024 for 50 000 clients (co-funding from Gilead)

The solution **can be used by other countries** in various formats, based on needs and available resources

PrEP: Human rights, GBV, discrimination



CLM tool for human rights related barriers monitoring and response

Challenges

- Awareness about PrEP availability at community level is low
- Receiving of PrEP within state institutions is complicated
- PrEP associated with MSM
- Limited access of PrEP for migrants
- Clients are afraid to request PrEP due to the risk of disclosure of sexual orientation

*** conclusions formulated from real REAct cases



November 18, 2022

Buprenorphine in Moldova. Discrepancy between planned purchases and actual needs



January 30, 2023

Not here: refusing to hospitalize a person living with HIV in North Macedonia



September 8, 2023

Combating Discrimination Against Children with HIV in Kazakhstan Educational Institutions



March 3, 2023

Against discrimination and stereotypes of society: how REActors defend the rights of sex workers in Tajikistan

Advocacy

- Statement regarding LGBT discrimination in Central Asia on High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (ECOM)
- Submission of cases about violence based on hatred to OSCE (ECOM)
- Policy briefs and recommendations to reduce gender barriers among trans* people in Balkan countries and Armenia (EKPC)
- Revision of legislation and barriers to services for migrants and refugees in TJ, KG, AZ, UZ. (REGMH)



- **Removing barriers** within countries to the development and implementation of national PrEP guidelines, protocols and programs
- **Ensuring greater access** to PrEP and progress in the implementation of PrEP, align country indicators with regional goals
- **Priority in the availability of PrEP**, for example provided through community-based organizations, online access to PrEP
- **Sustainability and extension of PrEP** with provision of state funding
- **Advocacy** for decision makers
- **Implementation of innovations** (long acting PrEP)

SOS_
PROJECT
2.0

Thanks for attention

<https://sos.aph.org.ua>

Alliance for Public Health