



HARM REDUCTION
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2013
JUNE 9 - 12 | VILNIUS, LITHUANIA

INFORMATION FOR THE MEDIA

Updated Sunday June 9

Key Media events at the International Harm Reduction Conference 2013

Sunday June 9

1. Official Media Briefing: IHRC 2013 Programme Highlights

When: 14.30-15.10

Please note room change:

Where: Lambda Room

Who: Michael Kessler, IHRC 2013 Media Manager

Michael Kessler will brief media representatives on the key programme highlights of the IHRC 2013 conference – the key abstracts, the key VIPS, the key sessions. He will also provide updated information on the 3 key media briefings that will take place during the conference and additional logistical information.

Representatives from conference convenors Harm Reduction International, local conference partner EHRN, key NGOs and drug user groups will all be present in the room to organise interviews with, once the briefing has ended.

2. Official media briefing: Vytenis Povilas Andriuskaitis, Minister of Health, Republic of Lithuania

When: 15.15-15.45

Where: Lambda Room

Who: Vytenis Povilas Andriuskaitis, Minister of Health, Republic of Lithuania

This is an opportunity for media to learn about harm reduction programs in the host country of Lithuania

3. International Harm Reduction Conference 2013 Opening Ceremony

When: 16.20 – 18.20

Where: Alfa Room

Who:

Rick Lines, Executive Harm Reduction International

Serge Votyagov, Executive Director, Eurasian Harm Reduction Network

Eliot Albers, Executive Director of the International Network of People Who Use Drugs

Irina Teplinskaya, Chair of the Eurasian Network of People Who Use Drugs
Vytenis Povilas Andrjukaitis, Minister of Health, Republic of Lithuania
Ruth Dreiffus, member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy and former President of Switzerland
Aleksander Kwasniewski, member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, former President of Poland
The Ball and Chain, Lithuanian pop group

Monday June 10

1. Harm reduction wins the battle against HIV/AIDS in Ukraine

Organiser: International HIV/AIDS Alliance Ukraine

When: 10.45-11.30

Where: Media Centre

Who:

Michel Kazatchkine, UN Secretary General Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Nicolas Cantau, Portfolio Manager for the Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Andriy Klepikov, Executive Director, International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine

Lord Fowler, former UK Secretary of State for Health and Social Security

Last year, for the first time since 1999, there was a decrease in the number of new HIV cases in Ukraine. The key speakers will present new data to indicate that the country with Europe's worst HIV epidemic is starting to make some headway in stemming new HIV infection rates in injecting drug users, due to harm reduction programmes funded entirely by international donors. They will also touch on forthcoming challenges for the region including sustainability of funding for HIV services for most at risk groups, a growing climate of homophobic legislation and high HIV/TB/Hepatitis C co-infection rates.

Alliance Ukraine, with the support of the Global Fund, implements the largest HIV prevention programme in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups including people who use drugs.

2. Luncheon media briefing with the Global Commission on Drug Policy

Organiser: Global Commission on Drug Policy

When: 12:45 - 13:45

Where: Lambda Room

Who: 3 members of the Global Commission on Drug Policy

Ruth Dreiffuss, former President of Switzerland and former Minister of Social Affairs

Michel Kazatchkine, UN Secretary General Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and former Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Aleksander Kwasniewski, former President of Poland

Three members of the Commission on Drug Policy will discuss the following:

- The role of the Commission and the current state of play on the debate around international drug policy;
- The Switzerland experience of a four-pillar drug policy;
- Evidence of the need for harm reduction and public health approaches based on the Commission's HIV and Hepatitis C reports, how this is particularly critical for Eastern Europe and Asia;
- Evidence of the need to decriminalize people who use drugs for society. What the Commission's recommendations mean for Eastern European politicians.

Tuesday, June 11

1. Harm reduction funding in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia: The current state of play and options for the future

Organiser: Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)

When: 10.45-11.30, Tuesday June 11

Where: Media Centre

Who:

Sergey Votyagov, Executive Director, Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)

Nino Tsereteli, Tagandoma, Georgia, EHRN Steering committee

Martin Donoghue, HIV/AIDS, STIs and Viral Hepatitis, Programme Manager, WHO

Increasing the access of people who inject drugs in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region to quality harm reduction services funded by local and national governments.

At a time when financial resources are increasingly limited for vulnerable populations and structural barriers remain strong in the EECA region and fuel the world's fastest growing HIV rates, advocacy to address both the lack of funding, and policy barriers, are critical. The sustainability of HIV efforts, including more than 10 years of Global Fund investment in harm reduction, will require greater government commitment. Beginning 2014 EHRN will focus on building the advocacy capacity of civil society to address a set of critical regional challenges through the Global Fund's regional grant to the EECA region.

Further information:

Media Centre is located in the IOTA Room

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To join the conversation, please visit our [Facebook page](#) Updates on the campaign are publicly available on our [Twitter Feed](#) or via the hashtag #IHRC2013.

About the Organisers:

Harm Reduction International (HRI)



Harm Reduction International is a leading non-governmental organisation working to promote and expand support for [harm reduction](#). With over 8,000 members worldwide, Harm Reduction International is the largest membership-based global harm reduction association.

HRI works to reduce the negative health, social and human rights impacts of drug use and drug policy – such as the increased vulnerability to HIV and hepatitis infection among people who inject drugs – by promoting evidence-based public health policies and practices, and human rights based approaches to drug policy.
www.ihra.net

Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN)



The Eurasian Harm Reduction Network (EHRN) is a regional network with a **mission** to promote humane, evidence-based harm reduction approaches to drug use, with the aim of improving health and protecting human rights at the individual, community, and societal level.
www.harm-reduction.org