



Ganna Dovbakh

Eurasian harm reduction association (EHRA)
VNGOC member organisation since 2013

Supported by:

AIDS Foundation East-West (AFEW)

Candidate for:

Chairperson

I am currently the Executive Director of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA) – a diverse and highly-engaged network of NGOs from across the region. I have decades of experience in this sector from a wide range of different perspectives – my activism started in the mid-1990s in the youth drug-free clubs supported by partners from the temperance movement (Swedish IOGT-NTO and European youth temperance federation EGTYPF), where I was happy to learn a lot about community engagement and youth activism. Then, from 2004-2014 I was organizing and conducted capacity building for LGBTQI+, people living with HIV and people who use drugs in Ukraine and across Eastern Europe and Central Asia, focusing on community-based advocacy.

I am a trainer, researcher, supervisor, technical support provider, experienced network coordinator, and author of numerous publications on community engagement and self-organization. My work experience has offered me a chance to work in varied multi-cultural environments with people from all backgrounds, and has helped me to develop confidence in my ability to communicate effectively and maintain collaborative work and professional integrity in relationships with others. Being originally from Ukraine, one of my main focuses is to help overcome the dominant, colonial views on people who use drugs and social care systems across Eurasia.

EHRA has been an active member of VNGOC for the past four years, participating in Annual General Meetings, webinars, CND meetings and inter-sessionals, and consultations. I was also part of the VNGOC working group on nomination procedures in 2021. I have been participating at the CND and related spaces for many years, organizing several side events and meetings with governments and UN partners.

I am LGBTQI+ and a human rights activist, feminist, and mother of a young person.

On the VNGOC Board, I would see my mission as supporting and developing NGO capacity in engaging with UN bodies and UN member states, continuing to secure the meaningful involvement of the full breadth of NGOs in the international drug policy decision-making process, and ensuring transparent and accountable governance of the Committee itself.