



Ganna Dovbakh

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

Supported by:

Harm reduction international

Candidate for:

Deputy Chairperson

I am the Executive Director of the Eurasian Harm Reduction Association, a diverse and highly engaged network of NGOs and activists from across the CEECA region.

My activism started in the mid-90s in the youth drug-free club supported by partners from the Swedish temperance movement, where I was happy to learn a lot about community engagement and youth activism. Then, for 10 years I was organizing capacity building for LBGTQI+, people who use drugs, and people living and affected by HIV in Ukraine and across the region focusing on self-organization and community-based advocacy.

I am from Ukraine I am keen to overcome the dominant, colonial views on people who use drugs and on social care.

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 multicultural 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 several years, participating in Annual General Meetings, webinars, CND meetings, inter-sessional, and consultations. EHRA and I personally have been participating at the CND and related spaces for many years, organizing several side events and meetings with governments and UN partners.

Being a member of the VNGOC Board in 2023 I contributed in the facilitation and analysis of civil society contribution to the Mid-term review of the Ministerial Declaration 2019, where I learned a lot about work done by VNGOC members all over the globe to address different aspects of drug policy.

As VNGOC Deputy Chairperson, I see my mission in 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.