



AIDS 2018

EECA Youth for AIDS 2018

CREATED BY TEENERGIZER!

TEENERGIZER!

Union of Adolescents and Youth “Teenergizer” is a non-profit charity organization which supports HIV-positive and HIV-free youth in Eastern Europe & Central Asia by organizing HIV-awareness and education events

- In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, data regarding youth and HIV remain disturbing. The largest epidemics in EECA are observed in Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Russian Federation, where, according to UNAIDS, as of end of 2014, 27,129 children under the age of 18 were diagnosed with HIV.
- In comparison with other figures, this number may seem not alarming. **However, its every single digit signifies a life of a real girl or boy from the EECA countries.**
- Youth Representative and the EECA representatives are delighted that the CCC members expressed their will to make AIDS2018 a youth-friendly and also an EECA-oriented venture. **In this brochure, we are honored to present the EECA's youngest generation of social activists and leaders who feel aspired to represent thousands of their peers at the AIDS 2018.**
- Conveying ideas of every young person from EECA at the AIDS 2018, they will call for support in order to address the needs of growing population of adolescents living with HIV and to prevent new infections among youth in the region.




19 years old

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I am a young man born with HIV. Growing up with the virus, I became a **youth activist** to represent the voice of adolescents, including those HIV+, in Ukraine and at the international level. My mission is to advocate for engagement and meaningful participation of adolescents in policy-making. Through my activism, I promote strengthening the capacity of adolescent leaders in the advocacy sphere. I believe that thanks to such an involvement, interests and needs of adolescents in EECA countries would be taken into account.

My HIV+ status gives me an opportunity to reform the ancient approaches in social health in the countries of the EECA region. At the EECAAC2016 Conference, I was a speaker on the closing ceremony and, during the AIDS2016 in Durban, I **represented adolescents of Eastern Europe** on the Youth Pavilion. Also, I was selected as the representative of Ukraine in the global UNAIDS and UNICEF campaign named **ALL IN** and participated in the consultative meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe. Recently, as a speaker on the Ukrainian national HIV/AIDS conference, I advocated for **empowering youth-oriented prevention programs in Ukraine**.



AIDS2018 is a main opportunity for me to grow as an advocacy activist. Holding a speech at the AIDS2018 Conference, I would convey the experience of Teenergizer to people who make decisions in order to make them more aware of the life of youth in my region. Through the presentation of our work methodology and results, my speech will show **how a teenager can fight with HIV and protect rights of others teens**.



17 years old

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I have always been curious how I can help people around me. For this reason, I have **founded my own volunteer organization**. After engaging in **community activism for 2 years**, I learned about the **Teenergizer Union** and its activities. Up to that moment, I had worked with orphans, homeless people, Romani communities, teenagers, and senior people, but never with HIV-positive people. That new issue interested me, so I began discovering the idea of controlling the epidemic levels. Now, involved greatly in **HIV activism and advocacy**, I know that this idea is fully achievable. Since I began my path in HIV prevention activism, I have conducted **5 HIV-awareness seminars for more than 150 young people**, written **9 articles on**

health and education issues for teenergier.org, and participated in dozens of work meetings, HIV conferences, and training sessions. As a part of Teenergizer, I have overcome 5,560 km across Ukraine in order to share our knowledge, experience, and true facts. Giving my helping hand, I have inspired 20 adolescents to overcome their fears and **get HIV-tested**. These numbers may not seem impressive, but I have done this all in just few months. In my professional future, I long to make youths understand that they are the ones to make the change. By revealing my own experience to them, I want to persuade them that positive changes are possible and that all the outcomes are in their hands.




At AIDS 2018, I would like to **present my ideas on filling the gaps in HIV-prevention system and integrating HIV-prevention services in basic healthcare services in the EECA region and beyond**. As the first important component, I believe, involving schools in HIV-prevention plans would substantially decrease the epidemic levels. Improving basic healthcare and SRHR education, we will raise adolescents' awareness. At the same time, integrating HIV testing in basic medical checkups at the governmental level will decrease society's stigmatized perceptions on HIV tests. Among adolescents and youth, fear of HIV testing is based on stereotypes regarding HIV infection, which also lead to discrimination and jumping epidemic statistics. In my presentation, I hope to **present how SRHR and HIV-related school education will help EECA to build a society, free of HIV stigma and discrimination**.




17 years old

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My name is Nuzhna Lada, and I am 17 years old. I am an **activist of the Union of Adolescents and Youth “Teenergizer”**. For a long time, I have been interested in volunteering as such. When I was 16 I got a diploma for volunteering and decided that I do want to be **a part of a serious social movement**. After the training on the mobilization of adolescents in Ukraine, I realized that I want to dedicate myself to a movement of fighting the HIV / AIDS epidemic. Having an art education, I became an illustrator and co-author of **online lectures on HIV**. I am also a coach

on **HIV-awareness peer-to-peer trainings** which are currently conducted by Teenergizer all over Ukraine. Quite recently, I was elected to **speak on reproductive education in Ukraine**, on behalf of youth, at the roundtable with representatives from the Ministry of Education and UNAIDS. As a result of my participation in the roundtable, I have gained a new perspective on providing sexual education and acquainting the whole generation with the topic of HIV. Currently, I am involved in the **development of the Youth-friendly Clinics and reproductive education in Ukraine**.



Today, Ukraine positions itself as one of those few countries that have the “Basics of Health” subject remain included in the curriculum. To clarify, “Basics of Health” is a subject covering many topics, from security in every-day-life up to, of course, HIV. Nevertheless, the lack of its effectiveness can be seen, for example, in HIV infection statistics. For some reason, education in Ukraine can sometimes be used not as a method for achieving 90-90-90, but as a tool for creating more bias in thinking. Being a teenager who has experienced this education and has plucked up to bring a change to this system, I would like to **give a speech on the efficiency of imparting reproductive education to people raised in the Post-Soviet area in terms of fighting HIV epidemic**.



23 years old

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In June 2016, I graduated from I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University with a degree in general medicine. While studying there, I have explored different fields of medicine. However, the most interesting one for me is **infectious diseases**, as well as other problems related to **HIV and AIDS**. For the whole world, the importance of the HIV/AIDS topic is incontestable. This is proven by the special role given to the HIV-infection in the Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing. In my country, this health care problem is one of the most urgent. **During the last 2.5 years**, I actively work in this area. In the first place, as a young scientist,

I devoted myself to studying issues related to the course of **opportunistic infections in HIV-positive patients**, as well as the **organization of medical care for HIV-infected people in Russia**. Secondly, as a doctor, **since September 2016**, I worked for the **Moscow AIDS-center**, conducting pre-test and post-test consultations. Finally, as a public figure, I organized and participated in the number of initiatives aimed at **preventing HIV among young people and fighting stigma**, and also in the organization of **training courses and scientific conferences for young doctors**. Meanwhile, I had several internships in Brazil, Indonesia, and Spain.



Unfortunately, being an infectious diseases doctor in Russia is hard. Low salaries, no career prospects, no access to high-quality education. Fewer and fewer people choose this specialization, despite the growing relevance of the field and lack of the personnel. During my work, I managed to find like-minded people who are ready to act in this field and was honored education and grant support from the international professional communities ESCMID and EACS. However, without large-scale government assistance and investment in the education of new doctors, my country and region will **face the collapse of the infectious disease specialty in the next few years**. We faced the insufficient quality of education and financial limitations for education courses and internships. Thereby, we **worked closely with international organizations**, which helped us in creating and conducting practical courses. By our own efforts, for the third consecutive year, we have been holding the **All-Russian Youth Conference on Socially Significant Infections**, where we try to **find talented people, interested in the field of infections**. At the AIDS 2018, I hope to **present this problem through my personal story of medical activism and initiate the worldwide discussion on finding fresh solutions**.




19 years old

YANA PANFILOVA

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My name is Yana Panfilova, and I am 19 years old. I was **born with HIV** and now **live with my status openly**. I discovered that I live with the virus at the age of 10. At that time, I was sure that HIV and AIDS is the same thing and, hearing stories of people with AIDS dying just after they got infected, I was terrified. However, thanks to my mum, I soon realized the truth. Having experienced most problems which HIV-positive people face, I decided to **help all the adolescents living with HIV**. Few years ago, I **created the Union of Adolescents and Youth "Teenergizer"** which nowadays is one of the biggest teen organizations in the EECA region. This year, I was awarded a place

in the #Top30under30 list, created annually by Kyiv Post to identify the most successful young Ukrainians. In 2016, I held an opening speech at the regional conference on HIV/AIDS in **EECA (EECAAC2016)** and now **chair at the CCC committee of EECAAC2018**. Also in 2016, I gave a speech at the **High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS** during the United Nations General Assembly. Each time I participate in a conference, meet great people, and talk to my colleagues from different countries, I become stronger individually and professionally. A huge amount of work was done by our Teenergizer team, but much more has to be done by us in the future.



I am assured that AIDS2018 will become the first large-scale conference to have a great amount of teen and youth participants from EECA. These young activists are ready to combat the HIV epidemic in our region. As a part of this new generation, I strive to **present the problems which HIV-positive teenagers from EECA face**. Focusing largely on the HIV topic, I would show the AIDS2018 audience how we manage to **galvanize young people and engage them into the health care issues**. In my presentation, I would explain how, being so young, we do our best to **reform the law and advocate for the rights of HIV+ and HIV-free youths** in front of the people who make decisions.



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