



**ALTERNATIVE SUBMISSION**  
**TO THE 26<sup>TH</sup> UN Human Rights Council SESSION**  
**under the UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**  
**of the Republic of MOLDOVA**

### **Introduction**

1. This submission has been prepared by the Public Association (non-governmental organization) “**Positive initiative**” (registered in 2011), which is a network of organizations with a rich experience in the field of HIV/AIDS and drug use in Moldova, with focus on MARPs (Most at Risk Populations). The organization is oriented towards defending the rights and represent the interests of people living with HIV, drug users, women and children with HIV or affected by HIV, and other affected communities.

### **Summary**

2. This report focuses on the issue of **transparency in state procurement of medicines** and on **access to the treatment of Hepatitis C** by the specific groups: HIV positive people and drug users.

### **Transparency in state procurement of medicines using state budget resources**

3. Access to information and participation in the process of state procurement of drugs for the treatment of HIV and hepatitis C is extremely limited. Information on the implementation of procurement at all stages – starting with drafting of the requirements and terms of reference to evaluation of proposals and prices received from suppliers – is not transparent and is closed to beneficiaries, whose lives depend on these life-saving drugs. This practice is contrary to the Law on access to information, Law on transparency of decision-making and the Law on the rights of patients.
4. “Positive Initiative” *urges:*
  - *to include in the state procurement working commission representatives of the beneficiaries at all levels of procurements;*
  - *to insure timely publication of ads and conditions of the procurement process and results of the final decision on suppliers, prices and name of the purchased medicines;*
  - *to introduce electronic system for procurement of medicines, to increase the transparency of the procurements;*

## Access to the treatment of the Hepatitis C for people who live with HIV and drug users

5. In the Republic of Moldova there are about 300 000 people with Hepatitis. About 175 000 from them live with Hepatitis C. Every year 3 000 of them die due to the lack of accessible treatment. The treatment of Hepatitis is very expensive in our country – the cost of a single course is about 15 000 Euro. The situation is complicated by the fact that 70% of HIV positive persons are co-infected with Hepatitis C and 80% of injectable drug users live with Hepatitis C.
6. At the same time the National Program for the treatment of Hepatitis C provides free of charge treatment only for 300 persons per year. The cost of a single course of treatment is 15 000 Euros. In the countries from our region, such as Ukraine and Georgia, the price per course of treatment is 2,5-5 times less than in Moldova. In many other countries Sofosbuvir is used as a less expensive and more effective treatment course for Hepatitis C. The price for such course is about 900 US dollars. This course is less toxic for the beneficiaries and it takes much shorter time - 4 weeks. The efficiency of the treatment is higher (it is successful in 90% of cases), than the treatment that the Moldovan state is offering (using Pegylated interferon).
7. Another severe violation is non-transparent system of registering to the waiting list for the state-paid treatment. There are cases when persons with Hepatitis had to pay bribes in order to be registered for treatment in spite of the fact that normally this should be free of charge. Moreover when the person is already in the treatment list it is almost impossible for this person to find out what is his/her place in the list and how long this person still needs to wait to be treated.
8. “Positive Initiative” urges:
  - to immediately develop and implement urgent measures to lower prices for procurement of the medicines needed to treat Hepatitis C;
  - to ensure transparency of the procurement process and inclusion of beneficiaries into the procurement decision-making bodies;
  - to increase the number of beneficiaries of the National Program for the treatment of Hepatitis C;
  - to ensure transparency in registering and processing of the waiting list for the state-paid treatment;
  - to provide access to high-quality generic drugs of new lines of treatment for Hepatitis C.