RUSLAN POVERGA

Primary Applicant | Proposed General Manager, CHIAF

Community Health Systems | Public Health | Policy & Access | Social Innovation

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Executive Profile

Public health and community-led systems leader with more than 25 years of experience, from peer support and direct work with people living with HIV and people who use drugs to organizational leadership, national policy reform, digital transformation, sustainable financing and international cooperation. Specialized in translating community needs and practice-based data into sustainable services, regulatory change, public financing mechanisms and scalable access infrastructure.

25+ years **community -> system change** from peer support to national reforms	**2021** **100% public financing of ARV medicines** advocacy contribution to the transition away from donor dependence	**21 organizations** **in the R.I.D. digital ecosystem** 64.43k clients / 2.33m services
~30 vending machines **24/7 access to prevention** 7k+ users / ~123k distributions	**68%** **of MyLife Plus monthly sales** generated by services paid for directly by clients	**4 centres** **for psychosocial support** coordinated for launch in 2010

CORE CAPABILITIES

Core Capabilities

Health systems & integrated care
community-based clinics, continuity of care, decentralization

Policy & regulatory reform
HIV, opioid agonist maintenance therapy, PrEP, harm reduction, reproductive rights, drug policy

Community-led monitoring
community data -> barrier analysis -> policy change -> implementation oversight

Digital health & data infrastructure
R.I.D., BI, inventory, vending, MyLife+, procurement analytics

Domestic financing & sustainability
ARV medicines, social contracting, public financing, mixed financing

Leadership & coalition building
multi-stakeholder coalitions, national governance, founder alignment

Treatment access & market advocacy
hepatitis C, medicines access, patents, affordability

Social enterprise
Eco Life, Discovery Hub, MyLife Plus

CAREER JOURNEY

Career Journey

2026

Initiator, International Coalition / CHIAF

Challenge: Similar community-based centres in different countries lacked a common platform for scaling innovations and accelerating access.

Role / action: Coordinating the formation of an international coalition and the Community Health Innovation Access Fund; aligning founders around a shared strategy, governance model and access agenda.

Result: A common manifesto, founding dialogue and international partnership architecture were developed.

2016-2026

General Director, Positive Initiative

Challenge: Services, advocacy, financing, data and partnerships needed to be integrated into a single organizational system.

Role / action: Strategic and financial management; development of multidisciplinary services, national and international partnerships, digital health, social enterprise and policy work.

Result: Positive Initiative evolved from a portfolio of projects into a system-level partner in health care and community systems.

2020-2026

Policy & health-system leadership

Challenge: Regulatory barriers, donor dependence and the territorial concentration of treatment limited access.

Role / action: Work on protocols, decentralization, reproductive rights, public financing of ARV medicines, MyLife Plus and social enterprise.

Result: 2020 - access to assisted reproductive technologies; 2021 - full public financing of ARV medicines; further expansion of access to treatment and integrated care.

2015-2018

Initiator / Coordinator, 'My Status Is Not a Secret' campaign

Challenge: Stigma was reinforced by anonymity and the lack of open, human stories.

Role / action: Mobilized people living with HIV around public leadership and openly sharing their stories.

Result: A new public narrative was established; dozens of people began speaking openly about living with HIV.

2014-2017

Coordinator of Leaders / Strategy Lead

Challenge: Communities needed trained leaders and the capacity to act collectively.

Role / action: Residential camps for 100-120 participants covering leadership, team building, patient education and advocacy; city teams returned with action plans.

Result: Local teams, volunteers, staff members and new leaders were developed.

CAREER JOURNEY

Career Journey - continued

2014-2016

Community / Patient Advocacy - Hepatitis C

Challenge: Hepatitis C treatment was available to an extremely limited number of patients.

Role / action: Access advocacy, a public action at the Ministry of Health and institutional dialogue.

Result: Access to medicines was secured in 2016, substantially increasing treatment coverage from about 300 patients to a much larger number. By 2026, annual treatment coverage reaches 15,000 people.

2013-2014

Coordinator, Advocacy Campaign

Challenge: ARV procurement depended on external financing, making treatment access systemically vulnerable.

Role / action: 'For Life' motor rallies, with advocacy for state-funded ARV procurement as one of the objectives, combining policy dialogue, advocacy actions and mobilization of both communities and civil society.

Result: In 2014, Moldova procured ARV medicines from the state budget for the first time.

2010

Coordinator / Programme Lead

Challenge: People with drug dependence needed more systematic psychosocial support.

Role / action: Coordinated the opening of four psychosocial support centres.

Result: A network of specialized support was established, creating a foundation for further institutionalization.

2008-2009

Coordinator, Territorial Development

Challenge: Support was concentrated mainly in Chisinau and Balti and did not sufficiently reach other cities.

Role / action: Opened and strengthened self-help groups in the regions through local leaders and extended field visits by the team.

Result: The model began scaling territorially and increasingly relied on local leadership.

2003

Programme Coordinator / Service Development

Challenge: Peer mutual support alone was insufficient for sustained recovery among people with drug dependence.

Role / action: Implemented the first project with UNAIDS support and launched a rehabilitation centre in Malovata on the Dniester River.

Result: Transitioned from informal mutual support to a structured support and rehabilitation programme backed by donor funding.

2000

Community Member / Peer Support

Challenge: People who use drugs and people living with HIV had virtually no accessible support system.

Role / action: Established a self-help group, provided mutual support, and introduced early forms of record-keeping and effectiveness assessment.

Result: A community-based model and an early culture of data-informed management emerged.

SELECTED SYSTEM-LEVEL ACHIEVEMENTS

Selected System-Level Achievements

Public financing of ARV medicines | 2013-2021

Role: advocacy coordinator / coalition participant

Result: 2014 - first public procurement of ARV medicines; 2021 - ARV expenditures fully covered by the state budget.

Opioid agonist maintenance therapy: access to modern treatment | 2014-2026

Role: community representative / protocol contributor

Result: Buprenorphine was incorporated into protocols; treatment initiation criteria, permitted dosages and take-home conditions were revised, including take-home supply for stable patients for one week or longer.

PrEP and HIV prevention | 2010s-2026

Role: community systems advocate

Result: Community PrEP was developed, along with a more universal prevention approach focused on need and risk rather than a stigmatizing group label. Services are provided through ARV treatment sites, and Community PrEP has also been introduced.

Harm reduction: from commodity distribution to comprehensive support | 2010s-2026

Role: policy / standards contributor

Result: Standards strengthened regular contact, testing, linkage to treatment, work with additional vulnerable populations and service navigation. The Ministry of Health also approved a national costing methodology for services and introduced an electronic service registration system.

Drug policy and rights protection | 2026

Role: community representative / policy contributor

Result: Contributed to development of a more patient-centred drug strategy; helped return a punitive draft law for revision and remove its most problematic provision requiring mandatory reporting to the police.

Reproductive rights | 2020

Role: advocacy / policy coalition

Result: On 29 January 2020, an order was adopted ensuring access to assisted reproductive services for people living with HIV and couples with different HIV status.

Community-led policy change | 2000s-2026

Role: member of a multisectoral team

Result: Patient complaints, practice monitoring and international standards are translated into proposals to revise protocols, orders, standards and legislation, with particular attention to the gap between formally adopted rules and their implementation.

DIGITAL HEALTH & DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

Digital Transformation

Digital transformation logic: from recording a service delivered to real-time management, risk forecasting and individualized care pathways.

Community Monitoring / HIV Scorecard: continuous monitoring of epidemiological, programmatic, financial, human-rights and service-quality data to support management and advocacy decisions.

R.I.D.: digital client profile, electronic service registration, commodities, inventory, case management, automated reporting, dashboards and BI. Scale as of 26 September 2026: 21 organizations, 64.43k clients and 2.33 million recorded services.

Positive Initiative as a direct service provider: 13.63k clients and 267.05k recorded services.

Electronic inventory: links client -> service -> commodity -> stock movement -> balance -> future need.

MTender: national partnership supporting advocacy for and the launch of the electronic public procurement system, open contracting and public monitoring.

Tender.Health: procurement intelligence, price benchmarking, analysis of contracts, prices, suppliers, donor deliveries, COVID-related procurement and vaccines; involvement in consolidating more than 30 civil society organizations.

Vending: since 2023, 24/7 access to prevention commodities and self-tests; by mid-2026 around 30 machines, 7k+ users and ~123k automated distributions; estimated savings of more than 900 social-worker working days.

Medical digital triage: integration of basic diagnostic indicators into the electronic client profile; approximately 1,738 people assessed during the pilot.

MyLife+: client-facing layer of the ecosystem - personal profile, consultations, results, referrals, service navigation, feedback, rights reporting, surveys, community participation and integrations.

Penitentiary digital access: vending + information kiosks as access points for commodities, information, feedback, case management and release preparation.

Next stage: interoperability, Early Warning Systems, risk scoring, predictive analytics and AI-assisted case management based on human-in-the-loop, informed consent, privacy-by-design and role-based access principles.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Formal Roles and Governance

2016-2026	**Positive Initiative**	General Director	Strategy, budget, team development, national and international partnerships, integrated services, digital health, advocacy, sustainability and social enterprise.
2011-2017	**Positive Initiative**	Chair	Organizational leadership and governance during a period of institutional growth.
2025-2026; 2020-2024	**Committee of Communities Living with or Affected by HIV and TB**	Chair	Coordination of common community positions on national programmes, treatment access, financing, quality of services and Global Fund processes.
2017-2026	**Hospital of Dermatology and Communicable Diseases / national HIV care institution**	Member, Administrative Board	Patient and community perspectives in governance, quality of care and organization of patient pathways.
2007-2016	**Viata Noua**	Chair	Strategy, governance, staff development, partnerships and programme development.
2005-2007	**Viata Noua**	Programme Coordinator	Coordination of HIV, TB, drug dependence and psychosocial programmes; development of a therapeutic community and regional initiatives.
2001-2005	**Viata Noua**	Volunteer / Peer Counsellor	Direct support, counselling and accompaniment for people living with HIV and people who use drugs.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Social Enterprise and Sustainability

Eco Life Role: initiation / organizational support Result: Quail farming, meat and ice cream production; jobs created primarily for members of priority populations.	**Discovery Hub** Role: strategic development Result: An independent children's business while retaining subsidized places for the organization's clients.	**MyLife Plus** Role: strategic lead / system builder Result: Integrated community-based clinic; around 68% of the monthly budget is covered by service sales, while donor resources preserve access for vulnerable clients.

INTERNATIONAL & ADVISORY EXPERIENCE

International and Institutional Experience

- Kyrgyzstan: technical assistance on adapting community-based services, digital access and automated distribution models.
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia: advisory work on digital services, community-led monitoring, domestic financing and patient rights.
- Institutional cooperation: GNP+, Elton John AIDS Foundation, Alliance for Public Health, AFEW International, UNAIDS, UNDP, Unitaid, EBRD, Open Contracting Partnership, Global Fund country mechanisms and national authorities.
- Global Fund: participation in country dialogue, national programme processes, sustainability and transition discussions, community delegation and feedback mechanisms.

SELECTED PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Selected Public and Professional Contributions

- AIDS 2024, Munich: oral presentation on 24/7 automated provision of HIV prevention commodities and self-tests.
- AIDS 2026: first author of abstract OAE3703 on integrated communicable-disease and NCD diagnostics and digital case management; the publication reports 16 organizations, more than 50,000 profiles and over 1.5 million recorded services/commodities at the time of reporting.
- Geneva Health Forum 2026: co-author of an accepted poster abstract on a digital early warning system for continuity of HIV treatment.
- November 2025: co-facilitation of the National Administration of Penitentiaries action-planning workshop on HIV, TB, hepatitis C, drug dependence, mental health, human rights and reintegration.

LANGUAGES

Languages

Language	Speaking	Reading	Writing
Russian	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
Romanian	Good	Good	Satisfactory
English	Satisfactory	Good	Satisfactory