

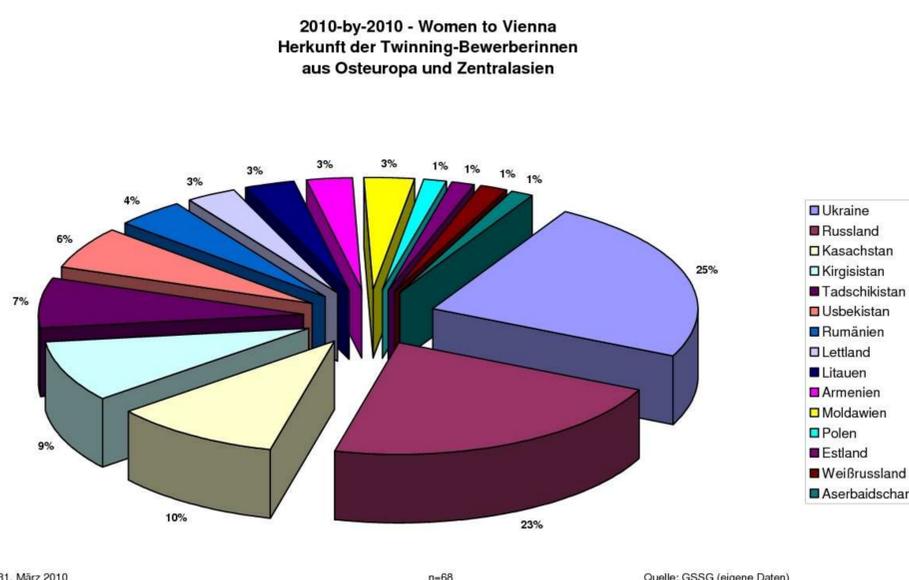
# Twinning Project: „2010-by-2010 – Women to Vienna“

Harriet Langanke, GSSG - Gemeinnützige Stiftung Sexualität und Gesundheit, Köln

## XVIII International AIDS Conference 2010, Vienna, 18. – 23. July 2010

### The Project:

The Twinning Project brings together women from HIV communities in Germany and Eastern European and Central Asian countries. By becoming a twin pair, the women get the possibility to attend the International AIDS Conference (IAC) together and to exchange and advance their knowledge. Building individual bridges shall enhance transnational networks, empowers the women, betters their often isolated situations and contributes to HIV prevention. After the IAC communities will benefit as participants share their experiences within their home countries. For this project the GSSG cooperates with supranational women networks like Athena and Women Arise; with networks in Europe like WE-CARe+, and with German organisations as AAWS, the women's section of the German AIDS Society, spi research and German AIDS-Hilfe.



### The History:

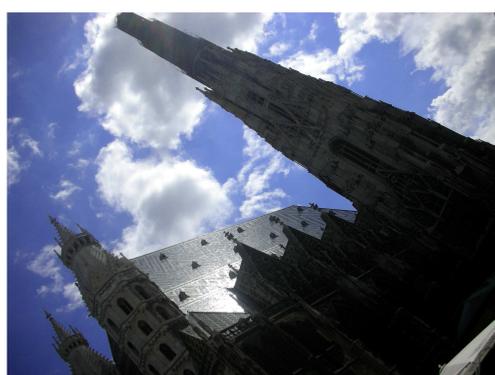
The idea of the Twinning Project was conceptualized in May 2009 when the German network "Women and AIDS" met with representatives of the International Community of Women living with HIV at the GSSG in Cologne, Germany. At another meeting in February 2010 a committee of experts set up criteria for participation and developed an easy-to-fill-in application form in English and Russian for all interested women. Application forms were distributed to organisations and mailing lists via e-mail. The application period was five weeks. In late April, the committee chose the participants. The selected women were notified by May 3rd.

### The Participants:

Nearly 100 activists from Germany, Eastern Europe and Central Asia applied to become a Twin. To participate in the project, the women have to be part of their home country's HIV community. They must speak at least one of the official conference languages, English or Russian. And they must be prepared to share their experience and knowledge within their community. Most of the women come from the Ukraine and Russia but there were also applications from Eastern European countries and from Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan. The chosen women were coupled with women from Germany as Twinning Pairs.



Duschanbe, Tajikistan



Vienna, Austria

### The Numbers:

UNAIDS estimates the number of people living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia around 1.5 million people (date: end of 2009). The German Robert-Koch-Institute reported that 12.000 women were living with HIV/AIDS in Germany at the end of 2009. Two out of three HIV infections in Germany are diagnosed in men. As in most Western European countries, women represent a minority.



Baku, Azerbaijan