

Covering letter
From Valentina Likhoshva

With this letter, I want to express my interest in grant support for my studies and researching in case of admission to EHU. I am also sending three examples of my research papers, which can give you an idea of my skills and abilities.

My work focuses on the study of closed and hard-to-reach women's groups. I am encouraged by research into strategies and patterns of living where the risks for women are high and their sexuality faces stigmatization, punishment, exclusion and other manifestations of negative social control. So I researched the survival strategies of non-heterosexual women in the North Caucasus republics, the psychological well-being of sex workers in Russia, and the practice of using conversion therapy. This work required tactful communications, building trust, patience and the ability to assess risks. And the center of research became a woman as a person in whom there is a struggle between traditional morality and sexuality, patriarchy and feminism, civic activism and survival.

I see science and research not only as a separate area of life, but also as a tool, a method, a necessary condition for democratic change, for the liberation of women and the LGBT+ community. At the same time, it is important for me not to stop researching the women's issue in this important and rapidly changing time, to maintain efficiency, mobility and flexibility in research approaches.

The grant would not only help me to study the program, but also to continue the empirical research that requires regular travel for surveys and interviews.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the grant competition and for your time
Valentina Likhoshva

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valentina Likhoshva', with a stylized, flowing script.