



The International Planned Parenthood Federation is a global service provider and a leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. We are a worldwide movement of national organizations working with and for communities and individuals.

We work towards a world where women, men and young people everywhere have control over their own bodies, and therefore their destinies.

A world where they are free to choose parenthood or not; free to decide how many children they will have and when; free to pursue healthy sexual lives without fear of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

A world where gender or sexuality are no longer a source of inequality or stigma. We will not retreat from doing everything we can to safeguard these important choices and rights for current and future generations.

The IPPF European Network is one of IPPF's six regions. IPPF EN includes 41 member associations in as many countries throughout Europe and Central Asia.

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*Elena Dmitrieva,
President*

Message from the Regional President

IPPF is a volunteer driven organization with volunteers coming from the member association level up to the governance structures of the IPPF globally. This is quite a challenge as most of the volunteers do have full time jobs and need to engage actively at the national level, understand the complexity of the IPPF structures and provide a solid and experienced contribution to its development. Volunteers have different roles within the organization but, whatever their role, they are an invaluable asset to IPPF.

This also means that IPPF needs to invest in volunteer development. One of the specific areas that have been developed over the last years is to engage young people in the work of the member associations and of IPPF. As young people are, by far, the largest priority group for IPPF's work, it is logical that they are involved in the development of IPPF's programming, its implementation, its monitoring and evaluation.

However, involving young people to have a better insight in their needs and what the responses could be is only one side of the coin. Young people are also the leaders of tomorrow and it is

extremely important that they become experienced advocates and are able to fight themselves to preserve and promote their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Increasingly, IPPF EN is asked to "deliver" young people to national and international audiences of policy makers giving them a forum for discussion and expression of their needs and desires. This has been a novelty in certain surroundings but in all cases it has opened possibilities for direct dialogue and understanding of young people's needs.

IPPF recommends the involvement of young people in governance at all levels of the Federation. This has now come to fruit with IPPF EN's YSAFE network of young people. YSAFE is responsible for increasing youth involvement in the region. YSAFE elects its own Steering Committee and Youth Representative to all IPPF governing bodies.

As an "old" organization from the fifties, IPPF needs to constantly rejuvenate and to adapt its systems to a new and challenging environment. Its governance structure is no exception to this. In 2007, an international Governance Task Force was established to formulate recommendations on how governance could become more

effective and efficient. The results are not yet known but certainly the recruitment and capacity building of volunteers in governance as well as the streamlining of governing bodies at regional and international level will be key points for attention.

IPPF has also come to the end of the first cycle of accreditation of its membership. Almost all of the 41 member associations in Europe have gone through an extensive review of their compliance to IPPF Membership Standards. This exercise provides tools and recommendations in regard to good governance and management which helps the associations to be solid, transparent and democratic NGOs. The Accreditation Certificate is to be seen as a quality label, thereby providing the association's credibility and accountability which should in return encourage donors to work with the IPPF members.

Being a volunteer with IPPF is challenging but rewarding and is an excellent way of contributing not only to health but to rights as well. Therefore, I can wholeheartedly recommend volunteering with IPPF.

Foreword by the Regional Director

A network is networking



*Vicky Claeys,
Regional Director*

Over the years, significant effort has been put in stimulating collaboration between the individual member associations and to build upon the strength of each others experience and expertise. An interesting example is an interregional project where young advocates from the IPPF European Network youth group YSAFE (Youth Sexual Awareness for Europe) and the IPPF Africa Region youth group YAM (Youth Action Movement) were given the opportunity to attend the European Parliament and the Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA). These young people from the North and the South were trained in advocacy for SRHR in Development by the Regional Office and then successfully coached through the actual JPA sessions held in Wiesbaden, Germany and Kigali, Rwanda.

Member associations have also been stimulated to export and share specific expertise on an individual basis with other member associations in the region. For instance, the member association of Kyrgyzstan interacted through exchanged visits with their Irish counterpart and developed joint projects.

Networking becomes even more important with other partners and agencies. Therefore, IPPF member associations have been stimulated to develop national collaboration with all types of other organizations working on areas of mutual concern. A very significant achievement of the EC TACIS IBPP (Institution Building Partnership Programme) funded project "Building a Civil Society Platform for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Russian Federation" was the positioning of the Russian member association, RFPA

as the leading voice of a civil society coalition and cooperation platform for SRHR in Russia. This included the setting-up of an e-network among civil society organizations focused on developing common advocacy strategies.

The Regional Office has developed a close relationship with European networks like the International Lesbian and Gay Association European Region (ILGA-Europe), in preparation of the IPPF EN Policy on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people (LGBT) and with the European Women's Lobby in the counter-attack regarding women's rights in some countries in the Region. The Regional Office is the only SRHR organization which is a member of Concord (European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development). Concord is a European structure of national platforms and networks representing some 1600 national Development NGOs from the European Union member states through which IPPF EN is active at all levels.

The Regional Office is also observer to the European Parliamentary Forum (EPF) while a significant number of the member associations provide the secretariat function to their national All Party Parliamentary Groups which are in their turn a member of EPF. The same with EuroNGOs, a network of national NGOs working on advocacy for SRHR in development cooperation where the Regional Office is an observer and many of the member associations are a member. These connections are extremely valuable for concerted advocacy actions.

This strength of being a network, covering at the moment 41 countries

in Europe and Central Asia is also interesting for agencies such as the Council of Europe and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe. IPPF EN has built a very solid and respectful relationship with both organizations which has proven to be mutually beneficial in the Sexual Awareness for Europe project and the implementation of the WHO guidelines on reproductive health topics. The Regional Office is also a highly valued participant in the discussions within the Council of Europe and is strongly engaged with the CoE on issues of rights and health.

Building up credibility through networking is a very extensive job but it has brought us recognition from donors as being an able and experienced leader of consortia and well-regarded manager of complicated multi-country projects.

At this moment, no NGO can survive in splendid isolation. Globalisation is not only a matter of economics or environment. It has an effect on everything and forces NGOs to step outside of their specific area of competence into a world which is much more complicated and demanding but has the benefit of joining forces and bringing civil society on the forefront of change.

HIV/AIDS

Linking up Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and HIV/AIDS

The Regional Office focused its work around HIV/AIDS on advocacy with the European Institutions to increase the awareness on the situation within Europe and to strive for the integration of SRHR and HIV/AIDS in European development aid policy.

The Regional Office has been one of the catalysts in bringing the Brussels-based HIV and SRHR NGOs to work hand in hand in order to advocate for better linkages between the two policy areas. Over time, adopting a common voice has increased the credibility of our joint advocacy and raised the programmatic understanding about the need for integration among policy makers.

In 2007, this resulted in the recognition of the importance of

linking SRHR and HIV in several key policy documents such as the ACP Health Minister's "Brussels Declaration on health for sustainable development in ACP countries" (October 2007), the EU Statement for World AIDS day (December 2007) (links between HIV/stigma and discrimination and SRHR) and in the European Parliament report on Gender Equality and women empowerment.

Since January 2005, IPPF EN has been involved in an IPPF 3-year project called "Promoting access to HIV/AIDS prevention and services among vulnerable groups". In the framework of this project, the Regional Office supported the participation of a member of staff of the Russian member

association in the HIV Competencies workshop in Kenya, in August 2007.

Moreover, the Regional Office, with the technical assistance of the IPPF Central Office supported the member associations of Russia, Georgia and Bulgaria to develop specific HIV/AIDS strategies.

Estonia against HIV/AIDS and STIs

According to official sources, the first HIV case was registered in Estonia in 1988. During the period 1988 – 1999, a total of 96 HIV infection cases were reported. In the second half of 2000, a drastic rise in new HIV infected cases occurred, mainly among injecting drug users. Between 1998 and 2008, there

Member associations projects financed by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Bosnia Herzegovina

Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health XY, runs a project to scale up information/education and communication and behavioural change in populations with an increased risk for HIV infection. In 2007, XY successfully educated and advised 1000 vulnerable individuals such as men having sex with men (MSM) and prisoners as well as 50 health and non-

health staff (including medical and prison staff) on the prevention and protection of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, and sexually transmitted infections. The member association noted an increased use of Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) services among MSM. These beneficiaries were also involved in the project as outreach workers for MSM and thus actively took part in every segment of the project.

Estonia

ESHA organized an HIV/AIDS prevention programme for Russian speaking school-children from 5th to 12th grade. This project ended in September 2007. In total they reached 16,650 students.

Macedonia

HERA implemented a project to improve access and quality of HIV counselling and

In 2007,

63.8%

of IPPF EN member associations conducted Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) activities to reduce stigma and promote health-seeking behaviours

IPPF EN Global Indicators Survey, 2007



Macedonian out-reach team in front of mobile van.

have been 6432 diagnosed HIV cases and 193 people are living with AIDS.

Having participated in the IPPF Competencies development programme since its inception, the Estonian member association (ESHA) now has a well developed AIDS programme and has started developing concept notes.

In 2007, ESHA obtained funding from the Estonian Health Insurance Fund for two projects: "Reproductive health counselling and prevention of STIs" and "Youth internet counselling". Both projects intend to offer acceptable information for young people about contraceptives and how to prevent HIV and STIs.

testing among hard to reach population: man having sex with men, women having sex with women, prisoners, injecting drug users, drug users, sex workers, Students living in dormitories and Roma youth.

The originality of this project was the use of outreach teams in non-hospital setting through the use of a mobile van.

Czech Republic

The member association of the Czech Republic, SPRSV, held a national information campaign to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. With this campaign, SPRSV joined the group of international organizations that organize commemorative events round World AIDS Day on 1st of December with the symbol of the red ribbon.

In total, 4 836 persons participated in this event, including students and other volunteers. SPRSV's partner in this action was the Czech AIDS Help Society. According to the campaign coordinator, the aim of this event was also to build and reinforce attitudes and communication skills of participants, thereby increasing knowledge and helping to decrease the epidemic.

Advocacy

Putting SRHR on the agenda in Europe and in EU Development cooperation



EU-ACP JPA, Kigali, Rwanda

The European Union Institutions

In order to include the concerns of its membership on the political agendas of governmental institutions, the Regional Office continued to work with the European Parliament, the European Commission and the EU Council of Ministers.

The EU Presidencies

During 2007, the Regional Office monitored the EU Presidencies of Germany and Portugal and involved the member associations in the Troika process, thereby ensuring that SRHR remains on the agenda of the successive EU Presidencies.

The main focus of the advocacy activities towards the German EU Presidency was the work around the European AIDS Conference in Bremen and the subsequent declaration on HIV where we cooperated with the Civil Society Forum on HIV and the German Health Ministry. IPPF German member association, Profamilia, liaised with the Ministry in charge of family issues in the framework of the European Initiative for an EU Family Alliance launched by the German Presidency. We worked with the the Platform of European Social NGOs (the Social Platform) to ensure that the German Presidency initiative for a Family Alliance was based on an inclusive definition of family.

The Portuguese member association, APF, took an active role in the Portuguese EU Presidency working group on health, providing extensive input on SRHR for the EU Presidency Conference on "Health and Migration – better health for all in an inclusive society". This led to the successful inclusion of SRHR in the official Council conclusions on Health and Migration in December 2007.

APF was also an active player in the EU Year of Equality for All and on HIV/AIDS.

The European Parliament

In December 2007, the European Parliament Working Group on Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS and Development (EPWG) and the Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights organized a roundtable discussion on the occasion of World Aids Day where the Regional Office launched its publication "Choices" on the SRHR of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people in Europe.

The Regional Office together with other SRHR NGOs in Brussels, largely commented on the own-initiative report drawn up by MEP Martens on the Joint EU Africa Strategy as well as the report from MEP Uca on Gender Equality in Development, both in the Development Committee (DEVE). Despite heavy debates and many anti-choice amendments, both reports were adopted with strong wording on SRHR.

The European Commission

The Regional Office worked very closely with the European Commission Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection (DG SANCO), participating actively in SANCO roundtables on sexual health.

The Regional Office also provided information for the drafting of a proposal to improve the sexual health of young people submitted to Health Commissioner Kiprianou who approved a positive messaging on sexuality and agreed to explore a strategy on sexual health for young people to be submitted to the Health Council hopefully in late 2008, early 2009.



Countdown 2015 Europe stand, Kigali, Rwanda, November 2007

Countdown 2015 Europe

IPPF EN's Regional Office consolidated its role as lead partner in a new 3-year project "Europe Champions Reproductive Health Worldwide II: Tackling the Supply Challenge". Activities are implemented by a Consortium of 10 European NGOs including member associations (RFSU, Sex og Samfund, and Vaestoliitto) under the name of "Countdown 2015 Europe". This group has been expanded with another 8 collaborating partners, widening the scope of action to 15 EU member states.

The project aims to achieve increased financial support of European donors for

Reproductive Health supplies (maternal and neo-natal supplies, contraceptives, condoms and HIV medicines) and to improve European coordination and coherence to narrow the gaps between the needs, demand and availability of reproductive health supplies. This is an essential step towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular the target of universal access to reproductive health services (MDG5).

In addition to advocacy activities on the national level or in Brussels (depending upon the partner), the consortium partners developed a programme of joint activities in

order to achieve the project objectives. The project also works in close coordination with other key actors who are working under other major initiatives to improve global support to reproductive health and supplies.

Countdown 2015 Europe was officially launched at the EC European Development Days, held in Lisbon (under the Portuguese Presidency) in November 2007.

The consortium recently launched its website www.countdown2015europe.org

In 2007,
95.1%
 of IPPF EN member
 associations were involved
 in advancing national policy
 and legislation on sexual and
 reproductive health and rights

– IPPF Global Indicators Survey, 2007

At the international level, IPPF EN worked closely with the Directorate General on Development and a number of other SRHR and HIV/AIDS NGOs advocating on the policy and funding instruments for social and human development within the framework of the new Financial perspective 2007-2013. This was needed to ensure that sufficient SRHR funding was included in the instrument “Investing in People” and that this funding would not exclusively be allocated to the Global Fund to fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

the recognition of its contribution to the Council of Europe’s work and in particular the key-role that it plays in the international NGO community.

Thanks to the dual role of holding the position of Vice-Chair of the Health grouping and member of the organised and accredited civil society of the Council of Europe, we gained new opportunities to advance SRHR and meet key-decision makers.

The Council of Europe

In 2007, the Regional Office made considerable progress in relation to

National advocacy

In 2007, the Regional Office launched a new initiative “Together for a stronger Voice in Advocacy” to build

Joining Forces: Youth Advocates for SRHR in Development

IPPF EN received a grant from the Summit Foundation for the project “Joining Forces: Youth advocates for SRHR in Development”. The project aims to ensure that young people from the North and the South are effective and prominent advocates for SRHR, particularly that of adolescents and youth, in development aid policies and programmes.

During this project, young advocates from the IPPF European Network youth group YSAFE and the IPPF Africa Region youth group YAM were given the opportunity to participate in the European Parliament and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries Joint Parliamentary Assembly sessions (EU-ACP JPA) held in Wiesbaden, Germany and in Kigali, Rwanda.

In Kigali, 12 YSAFE and YAM youth representatives were able to approach parliamentarians from their respective countries to discuss youth SRHR as a vital component in development and aid programmes. Some of the Parliamentarians with whom the African young people, in particular, had continued the contact after Wiesbaden, were very happy to meet again and took the opportunity to discuss the upcoming Joint EU Africa Strategy.

The opportunity to hold an IPPF information stand at the EU-JPA and to link up with other civil society organisations for joint demonstrations made the young people very visible and easily accessible. As a result, they received a promise from the Co-Chair of the JPA, Glennys Kinnock, to have a slot for an

official side meeting on youth and SRHR at the next JPA in Slovenia, in March 2008. Thanks to IPPF EN capacity building workshops on advocacy, YSAFE and YAM youth representatives who had no knowledge about the EU development policies before the project were able to articulate technical and to-the-point advocacy arguments in favor of SRHR for young people in a complex environment. They became empowered to approach parliamentarians from their respective countries to explain the importance of targeting youth in SRHR aid programmes and to advocate for youth friendly SRHR policies, including increased EU funding. The opportunity for YSAFE and YAM representatives to link up and exchange their different regional experiences allowed a better understanding of each other, leading to better and more efficient advocacy.

the advocacy capacities of some of its grant-receiving member associations. Five member associations (Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Latvia and Lithuania) were involved in the first phase of this project. Among the main achievements in the first year of this 3-year regional initiative was the sharing of experience and knowledge on advocating for SRHR, reinforcing the interactions and synergies between member associations. The project involved Executive Directors, volunteers and young people. Country advocacy strategies were developed and further technical assistance provided.



Article "Der Spiegel" on SRHR situation in Malawi, 39/2007

Raising Awareness of Polish politicians about the AIDS epidemic in Angola

As part of the Joining Forces project, the IPPF member association of Poland, TRR, developed an action plan for small-scale in-country activities intended to raise awareness on the importance of addressing SRHR in Overseas Development Aid (ODA). The young advocates of TRR decided to focus on the AIDS epidemic in Angola and sought to raise awareness among Polish politicians about the economic impact of HIV/AIDS and, in particular, the high death rate of young people caused by HIV infection in Angola.

The Foreign Office of Poland had previously been engaged in helping Angola. However, the YSAFE representatives advocated that it was

insufficient and that Poland was capable of doing more for young people in need. The young advocates successfully approached parliamentarians to involve and empower the Polish All Party Group on Population and Development to further support ODA to Angola. They asked Polish MPs specific questions on their stance to ODA in Angola. They received twenty responses from MPs and one official interpellation was made by Polish politician Wiesław Jedrusik from the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD).

SRHR Training for German Journalists

The German member association, Profamilia received funding through IPPF to organise a SRHR training for German Journalists and study tour to Malawi in cooperation with the Family Planning Association of Malawi.

The aim of the project was to increase the media's long term knowledge, awareness and coverage of SRHR issues. The objective was to provide German media with a much more attractive, direct access to real-life situations in their country and on the international scene.

As a result of their training and the Malawi study tour, the journalists produced a considerable amount of news stories which appeared in Germany's leading newspapers, magazines and in other media channels.

Those who took part in the training and study tour decided to continue to follow-up SRHR-related subjects and have created a loose network of cooperation.

Adolescents

Empowering young people in SRHR



SAFE competition entries: Handbag and Skin Saver

Youth participation is a key objective in the IPPF EN strategic plan. The IPPF European Network takes a rights based approach to SRH and views youth participation as a right of all young people.

After three years of intensive work to establish the regional Adolescents' programme and promote youth



participation at all levels (within IPPF EN member associations and the Regional Office), 2007 has seen the results of much broader participation of young people in activities across Europe and abroad.

The most notable contributors to this success have been the SAFE project which ended in October 2007 as well

as its by-product, the network YSAFE, established in 2006 to encourage young people to participate more actively in the work of IPPF EN at both regional and member association level. Most importantly, YSAFE introduced and institutionalized mechanisms and tools for the full participation of young people in regional decision making and governance.

YSAFE: The IPPF EN Youth Network

YSAFE increases the opportunities for young people to work together on regional projects, enabling exchange of skills, information and experiences.

YSAFE is different from other existing youth networks on SRHR in Europe because of the particular link with IPPF's member associations offering a greater geographical reach and cohesion of commitment to IPPF's vision, mission, values and programme.

In 2007, the YSAFE network counted approximately 100 members. Activities involved the YSAFE annual meeting, the Joining Forces project and the SAFE project. The YSAFE network also developed its website and forum (www.ysafe.net). This has shown to be an effective medium for the members to regularly communicate and learn from each other.

YSAFE held its second annual meeting in February 2007, bringing together

SAFE Competition on repackaging safe sex messages

As part of the SAFE project, YSAFE members developed a competition on the re-packaging of safe sex messages. The overall purpose of the competition was to find new ways of reaching young people with safe sex messages and to stimulate youth involvement at national level. The competition took place in 12 countries and winners of the competition were able to show the results of their artwork during the final conference of the SAFE project.

Italy

Italy won first prize by votes from the YSAFE network. The project entitled "Skin Saver" consisted in tiny condom packages that can be put together to form items such as bracelets or necklaces.

Hungary

Hungarian competition winner Anikó Mónus won 2nd place following Italy by votes from the YSAFE network with her photo entitled "Handbag".

"SANCO applauds the SAFE project's findings and recommendations. Selected parts of the policy recommendations could make an important input into a future European policy on sexual health for young people. Hence, the SAFE project provides valuable input into policy formulation at EU level and is a good example on how to deliver constructive input with restricted resources."

- Robert Madelin, Director General of DG SANCO



Robert Madelin, Director General of DG SANCO and Vicky Claeyns, IPPF EN Regional Director at the SAFE Conference

young representatives from 31 IPPF member associations.

The Regional Office also introduced a 6-month internship opportunity for the position of YSAFE Coordinator to be filled in by a YSAFE member. Three candidates were selected, thereby ensuring continuity and support until at least mid 2009.

The SAFE Project: A European partnership to promote youth SRHR

The Regional Office embarked on a three year project on 1 November

2004 and finalized it with a European Conference on 8-9 October 2007 in Brussels. This European Commission funded project was implemented in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and Lund University (Sweden). The goal of the project was to enhance the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all youth across Europe through better co-operation among EU countries, co-ordination among agencies and harmonization of public health policies, health promotion strategies and programmes.

The project which involved 26 member associations had three

main components: research and documentation; advocacy and dissemination of information; testing best practices. From the beginning to the end of the project, young people were involved in the design and implementation of the activities and were the major advocates in high level meetings with European health officials.

The outputs of the project were a "Guide for Developing Policies on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Young People in Europe" which is also summarized in a Policy Brief; A Reference Guide to Policies and Practices on Sexuality Education

Belgium

Between July and August of 2007, the Belgian Flemish member association, Sensoa ran a 'Sexy Summer' project making use of mass media specifically targeted at young adults aged between 18 and 30 years old, to inform them and to raise their awareness of the risks of STIs, HIV/AIDS, unplanned pregnancy, sexual abuse and sex.

Research indicated that young adults (18 to 30 years) show some quite risky behaviour both in their everyday life and on holiday.

A media partner, JIMtv (commercial music television channel for youth), was contacted, and expressed interest in producing an infotainment programme consisting in 9 Sexy Summer episodes, each one paying attention to a specific topic. The programme turned out to be the most viewed JIM-programme during the summer of 2007. The episodes

were also shown on the JIM-website, where they registered an additional 5.000 viewers a day.

Sensoa also produced 50.000 Sexy Summer lanyards (a cord worn around the neck from which to hang information) which were distributed by JIMtv during the many summer festivals in Belgium. The lanyards contained the phone number of the Safe Sex Hotline of Sensoa as well as the Sexy Summer homepage on the internet and the Sensoa website.

Moldova

IPPF member association of Moldova, SPFM, embarked on a three-year project 'Empower Young People to Make Informed Choice in SRHR' funded by UNFPA and to be implemented in the rural areas of Moldova.

Activities in 2007 included the training of young people who would like to become SPFM volunteers/peer educators. These trainings took place in local branches of SPFM. Trained Peer educators then provided sexuality information and education sessions in institutions (orphanages and boarding schools), prisons and in summer camps in different rural areas.

New young volunteers were recruited through promotional materials and radio slots and by means of the SPFM website: www.iubire.md

In 2007, SPFM also organised a series of mass media related activities such as the participation of peer educators in the realisation of a radio talk show cycle "Youth Force" at Radio Moldova. This included 47 talk shows realised during 2007. Contraceptive methods, emergency contraception; domestic violence, gender equality were among the topics of discussion.

In 2007,

92.7%

of IPPF EN member associations provided SRHR services to young people

– IPPF EN Global Indicators Survey, 2007

in Europe; 4 fact sheets on good practice in SRHR for young people and a Research Report on sex and young people in Europe. All these publications can be downloaded from the IPPF EN website.

The Policy Guide which covers 5 key areas (information and education, health services, access to contraception, STIs and HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancy and safe abortion) was officially released at the final conference of the SAFE project. Robert Madelin, Director General of DG SANCO was among the key-note speakers of the final conference.

Besides the publications, SAFE activities included mini-action projects involving member associations to develop and test good practice that might be adapted to

the local context and the specific needs of the young people, particularly from vulnerable groups. The results of these mini projects eventually fed into the production of the fact sheets on good practice in SRHR for young people.

Capacity building for young people on SRHR

As a result of the European Commission TACIS IBPP (Institution Building Partnership Programme) funded project "Building a civil society platform for SRHR in the Russian Federation", the Russian member association, RFPA, has not only improved collaboration with national NGOs/CSOs but also strengthened the capacities of its staff and youth volunteers to advocate for SRHR in general, and youth SRHR in particular.

The major achievement of the project, designed and implemented by the Regional Office together with RFPA, has been the constitution of a pool of 94 youth advocates for SRHR from four local branches in Ivanova, Tatarstan, Karelia and Samara. They received training in Moscow and then replicated their training at local level conducting individual or group information sessions for youth in each region to raise the level of awareness among young people on SRHR. They reached and informed about 570 young people in three regions: Tatarstan, Karelia and Ivanovo. Young trainers from Samara are still in the process of conducting the planned IEC activities on SRHR but it is expected that they will have covered about 300 young people.

SAFE mini-action projects

Austria and Germany

IPPF Austrian member association, ÖGF and Profamilia, the German member association jointly developed a condom and contraceptive Information website for young people of Turkish origin called "Welcome condom" (www.merhabakondom.at and www.merhabakondom.de).

The member associations involved young Turkish migrants in developing the bilingual merhaba-website.

The website offers the possibility to provide sound information on SRHR in an adequate

way for young migrants who are especially disadvantaged by the desire of their parents to retain the own culture and to restrain the influence of the "other culture".

Cyprus

The Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA) organized an 'Awareness Through Entertainment' mini-action project that included a two day workshop for 50 students (aged 15-17) of a local high school in Nicosia, followed by the writing and performance of a play on SRHR, presented entirely by young people for their peers and parents.

The play concentrated mainly on the emotional struggle young people face regarding their sexuality and the difficulties they face in talking about it with their parents, carers, and even their peers.

The purpose of the project was to improve the knowledge of young people on SRHR in local high schools, increase the awareness of the general public on the SRHR of young people and advocate to policy makers for the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education in schools.

Abortion

Making abortion safe and legal in Europe

2006-2007 was a period of remarkable achievements in the area of abortion. The Regional Office continued to provide member associations of Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan with tools and training which increased the quality of abortion services offered by partner clinics in their respective countries. Moreover, member associations of Portugal, Ireland,

Armenia, UK/Northern Ireland and France were successful in obtaining funding for abortion activities through the IPPF Innovation Fund.

Promoting safe abortion in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia

The regional abortion initiative was successful in the development of a

complete set of tools in Russian on how to assess the quality of abortion services according to IPPF Quality of Care standards. The tools were further refined by adapting other resources available through IPAS, WHO and other agencies.

Making abortion legal, safe and rare in Portugal



APF poster illustrating help line on abortion

A major highlight was the success of the abortion referendum in Portugal, in February 2007, resulting in a liberalized abortion legislation. The IPPF member association of Portugal, APF, received funding from the IPPF

Innovation Fund to conduct a research study on the availability of abortion in Portugal prior to the referendum. The results of the research were a key component in the following campaign which contributed largely to the positive outcome of the referendum. The Executive Director of APF received a call from the Prime Minister of Portugal himself congratulating APF for their lead role in the referendum campaign. The Portuguese member association also established a help line on abortion and is now working on a database offering information on "friendly" abortion services in Portugal, including information on hospitals which provide abortion services.

Choice Ireland

The Portuguese referendum also coincided with the start date of the Irish Innovation Fund project aimed to increase the capacity of Choice Ireland (an action group of young members of the member association)

to advocate around abortion legislation and to increase the impact and visibility of the campaign for safe and legal abortion in Ireland. A good example of public action and media attention gained through this project were the Choice Ireland demonstrations performed in front of rogue crisis pregnancy agencies. Thousands of pro-choice leaflets were distributed in Dublin and young people staged protests outside the agencies on International Women's Day, holding placards reading: "This agency gives out false medical information".



Choice Ireland demonstrators in front of rogue crisis pregnancy agency

*Abortion related services are:
Pre-abortion counselling, referrals to
external abortion services, surgical and
medical abortion services, post-abortion
follow-up, management of abortion-
related complications and incomplete
abortion.*

In 2007,

87.8%

of IPPF EN member
associations provided abortion
related services

– IPPF EN Global Indicators Survey, 2007

Albania: Reducing Post- Abortion Complication in Shkodër District

The Albanian member association, ACPD, reduced the incidents of post abortion complications in the Shkodër district. The project aimed to improve and broaden the skills of service providers (midwives) in pre- and post-abortion counseling according to the WHO quality standards; to

increase the use of Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) in all partner clinics providing abortion services; and to increase the awareness on post-abortion complication among women in the Shkodër district. In collaboration with the IPAS office in Tirana, a 5-day training was organized on the use of MVA and prevention of post-abortion complications. A total of 11 Obstetricians/Gynaecologists

working within the partner abortion clinics including the Maternity Hospital in Shkodër district took part in the training. This initiative was very much appreciated by the medical staff and they were able to use their new technical skills immediately after the training.

Making Abortion safe and rare for young women and poor in Armenia

The member association of Armenia, PAFHA, was able to set up its own safe abortion services in Yerevan, introducing abortion and pre-post abortion counselling; establishing and following up post-abortion contraception. The establishment of this new model of abortion services and referral system between the member association and the Institute of Perinatology Obstetrics and Gynaecology (IPOG) was done in a way that it can be replicated throughout the country and the region. According to IPPF Service Statistics, PAFHA offered a total of 5,016 abortion services in 2007. Some 67 medical abortions were reported and 987 women received medical treatment for incomplete abortion. Thanks to the project, young and poor people living in Yerevan have increased their awareness about (un) safe abortion issues. In 2007, the number of young people and poor women having access to information on (un) safe abortion issues was threefold.

Medical abortion outside French clinics and hospitals

In 2007, the French member association, MFPP, advocated the government and parliament representatives to further support abortion outside clinics and hospitals. This IF project proved to be successful as it resulted in change of legislation in November 2007. Activities included information sessions targeted towards women. Seven family planning centres, all members of MFPP, acquired the necessary permission from the health authorities and established protocols for the provision of services and conducting of medical abortions.

*Poster published by MFPP to
sensitize the public on the women's
right to choose.*



ACCESS

Improving availability and confronting barriers

In 2007, the European Region gained in diversity of services targeted towards vulnerable, marginalised and socially-excluded populations in particular. Special attention was given to SRHR issues relating to trafficking, disabilities as well as the right to sexual diversity.

Working with the Roma Communities

In March 2007, the final conference of the five-year regional project on working with the Roma Communities in Central Europe was held in Bratislava. The implementation of the project which started in 2002 in Hungary and in 2003 in Slovakia aimed at providing accessible and high quality sexual and reproductive health services and sexuality education for Roma and other marginalized groups in Hungary, Moldova and Slovakia. Roma coordinators were recruited to participate in relevant meetings/conferences. Roma representatives also participated actively in the final conference. The project adopted an integrated community approach establishing sustainable partnerships with the Roma Community and other marginalized people, with a special focus on young people living in regions with a large Roma presence.

The final conference was attended by a number of high ranking participants from the international and European fora as well as Roma partner organizations and other NGOs interested in the issue together with member associations from Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic,



Young military men at information session in Chisinau, Moldova

Hungary, Macedonia and Slovakia. A number of programmatic and policy recommendations were formulated during the conference and are now used as advocacy tools at the national level.

Reaching out to young men from military units

As part of their programmatic activities, the Family Planning Association of Moldova (FPAM) is carrying out a three-year project (2007-2009) targeted towards young military men, in continuation of a project first implemented by FPAM in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Moldova in 2006.

In 2003, UNDP Moldova and UNAIDS had carried out a behavioral Survey in

the Armed Forces of Moldova which concluded that the level of knowledge of military personnel regarding HIV/AIDS/STIs is very low, thereby underlining the need to educate this group of population.

The results of the research also indicated that young men from Chisinau and other urban regions of the country had proper access to quality information on SRHR whereas this was lacking for those from rural areas.

The purpose of the project was to build knowledge and skills of young men in military units from 5 regions of the country (Balti, Floresti (Marculesti), Ungheni, Cahul and Chisinau) in SRHR and gender equality.

“I have learned a lot of proper things and discovered a lot of realities about the issues I had considered to be myths before. I have changed my vision and personal attitude and behavior towards my personal life and the life of the young people around me.”

- First Lieutenant Valeriu Bulat, 29, military psychologist, Battalion of Special Destination, Chisinau, participant at information education sessions and TOT for military officers.

87.8%

of IPPF EN member associations conducted programmes aimed at increased access to SRHR services by poor, marginalized, socially-excluded and/or under-served groups

- IPPF EN Global Indicators Survey 2007.

In 2007, FPAM organized activities to increase young men’s access to high quality SRHR information and sexuality education using a rights-based approach. The activities included 50 SRHR information and education sessions on SRHR and gender equality for 900 young soldiers from military units in 5 selected regions of the country and 40 officers from Cahul. The sessions were held in the form of training on SRHR, particularly regarding STIs and contraception. Information on family life, gender issues and domestic violence was included in the Curriculum.

Thirteen officers (persons responsible for education in the army, military psychologists and medical doctors) from the military units from Chisinau, Cahul, Balti and Marculesti (Floresti) were educated and trained in one 5-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on

SRHR, HIV/AIDS, counseling skills and psychological issues.

Participants were provided with a manual on developing safe behaviour skills and HIV/AIDS, STIs prevention.

The objective to increase commitment of the national military officials and the Ministry of Defence to SRHR and gender equality was fully met. They expressed their great interest in the topics discussed and suggested that all military units countrywide should be involved.

Working on trafficking issues

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) has been confronted with a serious problem in trafficking of human beings for sexual exploitation. This is common for a country which is both in political and economic transition, as well as one undergoing post-war reconstruction. Such trafficking has a profound impact on the sexual and reproductive health of the women and men affected, who face different health needs at each stage of the trafficking cycle (pre-departure, travel/transit, destination, detention/deportation and reintegration).

Launched in June 2006, "The Green Light Project" is a 3-year project funded by IPPF Innovation Fund and implemented by Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health XY. The project aims to improve the SRHR of people who are either vulnerable to trafficking or have been trafficked for sexual exploitation.

The project intends to increase the awareness of NGOs, policy makers and other key decision makers on the need to address SRHR as primary and fundamental elements of trafficked persons’ legal and human rights.

The main achievements of the project have been the development of a peer education module on gender, rights and trafficking; as well as the visibility of the Green Light project in the yearly report for 2007 by the BiH Office of the State Coordinator for combating trafficking and illegal migrations. Annual report which will also be a component of the State Coordinator's new action plan in combating human trafficking 2008-2012.

Association XY worked in partnership with the main Green Light partners (NGO Lara from Bijeljina and NGO Medica from Zenica), and with the technical support of IPPF EN succeeded in developing new peer education modules on gender, trafficking and SRHR – a real innovation in BiH.

Another main achievement was the collaboration with the NGO Forum of local democracy - FLD Sarajevo, one of the leading organizations involved in trafficking and gender based violence issues in BiH, which has its own shelter for the victims of human trafficking in Sarajevo.

The member association in Bulgaria also embarked in January 2007 on a similar project called ROSE (Rights, Opportunities, Safety, Equality). The goal of this 2-year project is to

strengthen the Bulgarian member association BFPAs capacity in addressing SRHR issues related to trafficking, to gain support of local stakeholders to improve access to SRHR information, education and services for young people, in particular women vulnerable to or affected by trafficking. In addition to training for general practitioners, the project should also provide mobile SRHR services.



The first edition of RFSUI/RFSL programme on LGBT and human rights gathered 24 participants from 8 different Asian countries

Sweden

With funding from Sida (The Swedish International development cooperation Agency), RFSU together with RFSL (The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Rights) launched international training programmes on LGBT and Human rights.

The programme is unique for its focus on LGBT issues in development cooperation training programmes. For the 2007/2008 sessions, candidates from the following countries were invited to apply: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

These training programmes are held for participants working in health, education and other social sector positions from Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

The Netherlands

Dutch member association, Rutgers Nisso Groep took part in a project with Dutch publisher Elsevier and NGO De Koninklijke Effatha Guyot Groep for deaf and hard



Toolkit 'Totale Communicatie, lichaam & seksualiteit' (in English 'Total Communication, body and sexuality')

of hearing people. The project consisted in a unique toolkit which includes basic theory and instructions for guidance of people with mental limitations. Intended for parents with children with mental deficiencies and care workers in institutions, the content of the toolkit is helpful for designing individual programmes to provide step by step information about privacy, physical experience, sexuality and socially desirable behaviour. The package includes: conversation board, visual pictogram cards, cartoons, puzzles, photograph cards, and so on. The cases described illustrate clearly how care workers/ parents can meet the needs of individuals with a mental handicap in the area of intimacy and sexuality.

IPPF EN Regional Executive Committee Members and Regional Office staff

Elena Dmitrieva, President

Russian Family Planning Association (RFPA), Russia

Peter Safar, Vice President

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Familienplanung (ÖGF), Austria

Paul Soemer, Treasurer

Pro Familia, Germany

Denis Deralla

Shoqata Shqiptare e Planifikimit Familjar, Albania

Danielle Igniti

Mouvement Luxembourgeois pour le Planning Familial et l'Education Sexuelle (MLPFES), Luxembourg

Hakan Satiroglu

Türkiye Aile Planlamasi Dernegi (TAPD), Turkey

Isabel Serrano

Federación de Planificación Familiar de España (FPFE), Spain

Lene Stavngaard

Foreningen Sex & Samfund, Denmark

Lenka Sulova

Společnost pro plánování rodiny a sexuální výchovu (SPRSV), Czech Republic

Regional Office Staff

Regional Director team

Vicky Claeys

Regional Director

Karina Friesen

Executive Assistant

Marie-Agnès Lenoir

Communications Officer

Mihaela Preslavka

Governance & Policy Officer

Marije Volger

Accreditation Officer

Programme and Advocacy Team

Liz Bennour

Director Programme & Advocacy

Lena Luyckfasseel

Programme Officer

Mariëka Vandewiele

Programme Support Officer

Sarah Standaert

Programme Support Officer (maternity leave replacement)

Ada Dortch

Programme Support Officer

Eef Wuyts

EU Liaison Officer

Irene Donadio

Advocacy Officer

An Huybrechts

Advocacy Project Coordinator

Soizick Martin

Project Coordinator - Advocacy

Jolanta Skubiszewska

Administrative Assistant

Finance and Administration Team

Paul Geeraerts

Director Finance & Administration

Halil Karatas

Finance Officer

Sabire Chergui

Regional Accountant

Paul Yang

Bookkeeper

Yannick Godin

Administrative Assistant

Kristos Argiro

IT Coordinator

The IPPF European Network region



International Planned Parenthood Federation

EUROPEAN MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

ALBANIA

Albanian Centre for Population and Development
email: info@acpd-al.org

ARMENIA

For Family and Health' Pan-Armenian Association (PAFHA)
web: www.armfha.com
email: armfha@netsys.am

AUSTRIA

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Familienplanung (ÖGF)
web: www.oegf.at
email: office@oegf.at

BELGIUM

Fédération Laïque de Centres de Planning Familial (FLCPF)
web: www.planningfamilial.net
email: flcpf@planningfamilial.net

Sensoa

web: www.sensoa.be
email: info@sensoa.be

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

APP-XY - Family Planning Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina
web: www.xy.com.ba
email: bhfpa.xy@bih.net.ba

BULGARIA

Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association (BFPA)
web: www.safesex.bg
e-mail: bhfpa@safesex.bg

CYPRUS

Family Planning Association of Cyprus (FPAC)
Web: www.cyfamplan.org
email: famplan@spidernet.com.cy

CZECH REPUBLIC

Společnost pro plánování rodiny a sexuální výchovu (SPRSV)
email: planrod@centrobox.cz

DENMARK

Sex & Samfund
web: www.sexogsamfund.dk
email: info@sexogsamfund.dk

ESTONIA

Eesti Seksuaalaltõrvis Liit (ESTL)
web: www.amor.ee
email: estl@amor.ee

FINLAND

Väestöliitto
web: www.vaestoliitto.fi
email: central.office@vaestoliitto.fi

FRANCE

Mouvement Français pour le Planning Familial (MFPF)
web: www.planning-familial.org
email: mfpf@planning-familial.org

GEORGIA

Association HERA XXI (FPAGEO)
email: hera@caucasus.net

GERMANY

PRO FAMILIA Bundesverband
web: www.profamilia.de
email: international@profamilia.de

GREECE

Family Planning Association of Greece (FPAG)
email: esop@ath.forthnet.gr

HUNGARY

Magyar Család- és Nővédelmi Tudományos Társaság
email: eva.barko@ksh.hu

ICELAND

Fræðslusamtök um kynlíf og barneignir (FKB)
web: www.fkb.is
email: fkb@fkb.is

IRELAND

Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA)
web: www.ifpa.ie
email: post@ifpa.ie

ISRAEL

Israel Family Planning Association (IFPA)
web: www.opendoor.org.il
email: ippf@post.com

ITALY

Unione Italiana dei Centri di Educazione Matrimoniale e Prematrimoniale (UICEMP)
web: www.uicemp.org
email: uicemp@tin.it

KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan Association on Sexual and Reproductive Health (KMPA)
email: center.kmpa@alnet.kz

KYRGYZSTAN

Reproductive Health Alliance of Kyrgyzstan (RHAK)
web: www.rhak.kg
email: nc@rhak.kg

LATVIA

Latvijas Gimeses Planosanas un Seksualas Veselibas Asociacija 'Papardes Zieds' (LAFPSH)
web: www.papardeszieds.lv
email: papardeszieds@apollo.lv

LITHUANIA

Seimos Planavimo ir Seksualines Sveikatos Asociacija (FPSHA)
web: www.spa.lt
email: lithfpa@takas.lt

LUXEMBOURG

Mouvement Luxembourgeois pour le Planning Familial et l'Education Sexuelle (MLPFES)
Web : http://www.planningfamilial.lu/
email: plannlux@pt.lu

MOLDOVA

Societatea de Planificare a Familiei din Moldova
web: www.iubire.md
email: spfm@starnet.md

THE NETHERLANDS

Rutgers Nisso Groep
web: www.rutgersnissogroep.nl
email: rng@rng.nl

NORWAY

Norsk forening for seksualitet, samliv og reproduktiv helse (NSSR)
web: www.nsr.org
email: post@nsrr.org

POLAND

Towarzystwo Rozwoju Rodziny (TRR)
web: www.trr.org.pl
email: trr@trr.org.pl

PORTUGAL

Associação Para o Planeamento da Família (APF)
web: www.apf.pt
email: apfportugal@mail.telepac.pt

ROMANIA

Societatea de Educatie Contraceptiva si Sexuala (SECS)
email: sediu@secs.ro

RUSSIA

Russian Family Planning Association (RFPA)
web: www.rfpa.ru
email: info@rfpa.ru

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Slovenská spoločnosť pre plánované rodicovstvo a výchovu k rodicovstvu (SSPRVR)
web: www.rodicovstvo.sk
email: planovane@rodicovstvo.sk

SPAIN

Federación de Planificación Familiar de España (FPFE)
web: www.fpfe.org
email: info@fpfe.org

SWEDEN

Riksförbundet för Sexuell Upplysning (RFSU)
web: www.rfsu.se
email: info@rfsu.se

SWITZERLAND

PLANeS - Fondation Suisse pour la Santé Sexuelle et Reproductive
web: www.plan-s.ch
email: info@plan-s.ch

TURKEY

Türkiye Aile Planlamasi Dernegi (TAPD)
web: www.tapd.org.tr
email: tapd@tapd.org.tr

TAJIKISTAN

Tajik Family Planning Alliance
web: http://www.tfpa.tj
email: tajik-fpa@rambler.ru

FYR MACEDONIA

Health Education and Research Association (HERA)
web: www.hera.org.mk
hera@hera.org.mk

UNITED KINGDOM

fpa
web: www.fpa.org.uk
email: fpadirect@fpa.org.uk

UZBEKISTAN

Uzbek Association on Reproductive Health (UARH)
web: http://www.uarz.uz
email: uarz@ars.uz

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146 Rue Royale
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium
Tel +32 (2) 250 09 50
Fax +32 (2) 250 09 69
E-mail: info@ippfen.org
www.ippfen.org

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