



Youth in Power

Project Overview

The Youth in Power strategy is an up-to-date and comprehensive strategy on sexual and reproductive rights in Europe and Central Asia that was developed by youth advocates from the region using data collected via questionnaire that was translated in 9 local languages and filled in by over 1.000 young people across the region. The strategy is intended to serve as an advocacy tool for young people and stakeholders who are active in the field of SRHR, and as a guiding document for NGOs and governments.

Research Findings

- **Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE):**
 - 58.5% of respondents would like to receive more information on SRHR from schools / universities and from the health-care providers,
 - 61.9% of respondents would like to receive more information on emotions and emotional development,
 - 75.6% of respondents would like to be involved in the drafting of policies and legislation about the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people at national level
- **Legislation** - Based on the survey answers, the legislative areas most in need of improvement are: Decriminalisation of abortion, Marriage equality, Legal regulation of the right of adoption for same sex couples, and the drafting of a national strategy on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people with their active participation in the process
- **SRHR Services** - Many respondents indicated that they did not know who to turn to for information on safe abortion or relationships, or for advice in cases of sexual bullying. They identified the provision of youth-friendly SRHR services, free contraceptives and SRHR services without necessity of parental consent, as the most important areas that needed improvement.
- **Youth Participation in Decision Making Processes**- Over 60.3% of the respondents in the English version of the survey think that the needs and

opinions of young people in their country are not/not at all taken into consideration in the shaping of policies and Legislation and this figure was elevated for LGBTQI youth or youth with disabilities

Policy Recommendations and Objectives to be Reached by 2025

- **Comprehensive Sexuality Education** - By 2025, CSE will be incorporated into the curricula of 50% of schools and universities in accordance with the minimal international frameworks // Youth will be involved in the development of CSE materials // Funding and capacity of NGOs and CSOs providing information on CSE in rural areas will be increased // Websites on CSE supported by governments and in line with recommendations from experts and young people will be established // The number of educators receiving training on the delivery of CSE and SRH will increase to 20%
- **SRHR Services** - Access to contraceptives will increase to at least 50% of the population disaggregated according, but not limited, to age group, gender, ethnicity, nationality // Nationwide campaigns on SRH that are based on international standards will be launched by 2025
- **Legislation**- Legislations and policies will be developed/improved on to implement mandatory CSE in the frameworks of formal education by 2025 // Mechanisms to monitor legal procedures on the implementation of CSE will exist by 2025 // The age of consent for accessing SRH services will be decreased to 14 // National Strategies including Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and CSE will be developed by 2025, where young people are involved in the development of such strategies
- **Youth Participation in Decision Making Processes** - Working groups on initiatives and national programs related to youth health issues will consist of at least 20% young people by 2025 // The processes of drafting and adopting policies and laws will include a step providing young people with the option of open consultations on said policies and laws // Educational programmes on decision making processes and on the importance of youth participation in such processes will be developed.

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