

Young People and Sexual Health:

Reducing Risky Behaviour through Education and Empowerment



Tuesday 23rd September 2014
Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie
Brussels



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Overview

Sexual health is an integral part of overall health and well-being. Sexual health and sexually transmitted infections remain a significant public health problem in Europe, with untreated STIs potentially leading to serious short and long-term consequences for individuals.

Young people are at particular risk of poor sexual health and relatively high rates of STIs. According to the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC), chlamydia is the most frequently reported sexually transmitted infection in Europe, with 73% of the cases being found in young people. Thus, a sexual health STI/HIV prevention strategy in Europe will have an important role to play in preventing harm from such infections and diseases.

Much progress has been made in Europe – both to provide sexual education, and to reduce teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. However, it can remain difficult for practitioners to interact with young people and adolescents in an effective manner. As such, there is a need to raise awareness and provide easily accessible actions through both formal and informal channels and youth-friendly sexual health services. Young people need the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their sexuality and lifestyle, with Comprehensive Sexual Health Education, community-based activities and active youth participation being recognised as successful strategies.

Youth involvement must be at the heart of the sexual education process through a safe and positive approach towards sexual health and STIs awareness. Recently, the internet and social media have emerged as important tools in promoting sexual health and well-being, and as a result there is a need for professionals to learn how to use these new tools in an effective manner.

At policy level, the World Health Organisation contributes enormously through its European Regional Strategy on Sexual and Reproductive Health aimed at reforming existing services at national level. Member States, along with EU institutions and international organisations, are building on the progress made by working for a better synergy in collecting and monitoring data. The ECDC is also attempting to tackle sexual health problems by implementing surveillance systems such as the European Surveillance System (TESSy).

This timely international symposium will provide an invaluable opportunity for participants to examine and discuss sexual health related challenges and assess the progress made so far in tackling sexual health issues. Delegates from all sectors will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and share best practice in improving sexual health education and awareness for all young people in Europe. Public Policy Exchange welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders.

“ Governments must implement national policies and programmes that ensure all adolescents and young people have access to comprehensive and integrated sexual and reproductive health services, regardless of age or marital status, that respect our privacy, confidentiality and human rights...”

- UNECE Regional Youth Conference Call to Action, May 2013

Venue and Accommodation

Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie
Avenue Louise 91-93
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium



Why Attend?

- ✓ Gain insights into current strategies and programmes for sexual and reproductive health rights in Europe
- ✓ Examine how to empower young people to make good decisions and avoid risky behaviour
- ✓ Explore solutions for better training and skills for professionals
- ✓ Assess data collection and monitoring at national and European level
- ✓ Share best practices on youth campaigns and online tools

Who Should Attend?

- Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinators
- Sexual Health Strategy Co-ordinators
- Local, Regional and National Health Services
- Sexual Health Treatment/Advisory Services
- Teachers and Senior Schools Staff
- Counselling Services
- Child Psychologists
- Sexual Health Support and Outreach Services
- Local and Regional Education and Children's Services
- Health Promotion Advisers
- School Nurses and Health Visitors
- Child and Education Psychologists
- Family Planning Specialists/Associations
- Looked After/Children in Care Teams
- Drug and Alcohol Action Teams
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Social Care Professionals
- Child Protection Officers
- National Governmental Agencies
- Third Sector Representatives
- Academics
- Social Services
- Gender and Development Organisations
- Sexual Health NGOs
- Sexual Health Associations
- Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Services
- Reproductive Health Alliances
- Health Education and Research Centres
- National Societies for Sexology
- Sexuality and Health Foundations
- Associations for Clinical Sexology
- Youth Forums
- Youth Organisations
- Social Inclusion Organisations
- National Schools for Public Health
- Institutes of General Practice and Community Medicine
- Psychoanalysts
- Family Practitioners

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Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **Improving Sexual Health of the European Youth - A Multilevel Approach**
- Discussing the WHO Regional Strategy on Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Framework for Action
 - Designing Youth-Friendly SHR Policies and Services in European Member States
 - Assessing EU Actions and Policies on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
 - Considering Social and Cultural Determinants of Sexual and Reproductive Health
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **Improving Information and Knowledge - Raising Awareness of STIs/HIV and Teenage Pregnancy**
- Assessing the European Situation - Facts and Figures
 - Challenges in Collecting Data and Monitoring at National and European Level
 - Methods of Information Sharing Between Different Actors
 - Recommendations and Future Developments
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Providing a Good Sexual Education - Better Training and Skills for Professionals**
- Training and Capacity Building in Sexual Health for Health Workers, Teachers, Youth Workers and Social Workers
 - Discussing the Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE): The Physical, Emotional and Social Perspectives - Progress Made in Developing a Holistic Approach to Sexual Health
 - Equipping Adults to Interact Better with Adolescents
 - Exchanging Knowledge and Best Practices
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 14:50** **Increasing Youth Participation - Encouraging Dialogue and Initiatives**
- Reducing Sexual Risk-taking Behaviours: How to Promote Effective Youth Involvement?
 - The Double-Edged Sword - The Impact of Social Media and Web-Tools on Sexual Health Promotion
 - Involving Families and Young People in the Sexual Education Process - Examples of Best Practice
 - Exploring Innovative Initiatives and Projects
- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception

Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact:

Parvin Madahar on +44 (0) 20 3137 8630

or email parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk

Event Details

Date: Tuesday 23rd September 2014

Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm

Venue: Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie, Brussels



Speakers Include

- ✓ **Isabel De la Mata**, Principal Adviser - Special Interest in Health, DG Health and Consumers, European Commission (confirmed)
- ✓ **Ivy Miltiadou**, YSAFE Coordinator, IPPF European Network (confirmed)

Forthcoming Events

- ✓ **Cross-Border Healthcare in Europe: Improving Co-operation to Deliver a Patient-Centred System**
18th June 2014
- ✓ **The 6th Annual International Symposium on University Rankings and Quality Assurance 2014**
25th June 2014
- ✓ **Strengthening Data Protection Standards in Europe: Towards a Harmonised European Digital Market**
1st July 2014
- ✓ **Unlocking the Potential of Migrants in Europe: From Isolation to Multi-level Integration**
2nd July 2014
- ✓ **Smart Cities, Smart Europe: Putting Our Energy into Innovation and Sustainability**
9th July 2014

Delegate Fees

Central Government Depts./NDPBs/Private Sector/Legal Sector	€395 / £345 per delegate (1 Place)	€345 / £295 per delegate (2+ Places)
Local & Regional Authorities/Police/NHS/Academic/Charities/NGOs	€345 / £295 per delegate (1 Place)	€310/£265 per delegate (2+ Places)

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