

Young People and Sexual Health in Europe: Promoting Education, Awareness and Access to Services

Integrating the European Knowledge



Tuesday 8th November 2011

The Silken Berlaymont Hotel
Brussels

"An International Symposium for gathering knowledge, discussing the latest challenges and sharing best practices in the field of young people and sexual health in Europe"

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Overview

In the European region, there are 99 million adolescents (aged 10-19), accounting for 14% of the population. Overall, the health of young people in the EU countries is better than it has ever been. However, sexually transmitted infections in Europe are a major public health concern, with untreated STIs potentially leading to serious short and long term consequences for individuals.

Young people are a particularly vulnerable group in terms of their sexuality and personal development. Due in part to a negative perception of sexual education or a fear that it will encourage sexual activity, adolescents are often denied education, information or health services that would otherwise have helped them to make capable, informed choices. There is an urgent need to provide easily accessible education through both formal and informal channels and youth-friendly sexual health services.

In the UK, teenage pregnancy rates remain comparatively higher than Western European countries whilst sexually transmitted infections have continued to rise across the EU generally, with chlamydia being the widest spread. Whilst much has been done to curb the rising levels in countries such as Sweden, where children are taught about sexual health at a primary level, it is clear that a more comprehensive strategy is still required. Furthermore, key public health dangers posed by antimicrobial resistance, the facilitation of HIV transmission by STI co-infection and the growing burden on curative services make harmonisation of approaches to STI control across the EU an urgent priority.

The European Commission's policy aims to enhance public awareness of the risks of, support the prevention of and give guidance on the control of STIs. Furthermore, with the EU STI outbreak early warning and response system already in existence, it is important to build on the progress made to date by improving the exchange of data and implementing new monitoring processes.

This timely symposium provides an opportunity for local practitioners and stakeholders to gain a valuable insight into the vision for reducing teenage pregnancy and STI rates across Europe as a whole. Delegates from all sectors will have the opportunity to exchange ideas, share best practices in improving sexual health education and training and explore new approaches to develop a holistic framework for sex and relationship education to improve outcomes for all young people in Europe.

“ Sexual health is a broad and complex field that offers many entry points for action and strategic investment. Directing Attention and resources to sexual health as outlined in this broad framework can be a powerful means for countries to achieve improved public health, social justice and gender equality, and health equity”

- Sexual Health: A public health challenge in Europe, Entre Nous, The European Magazine for Sexual and Reproductive Health, No.72-2011

Venue and Accommodation

**The Silken Berlaymont Hotel,
11-19, Boulevard Charlemagne
1000 Brussels - Belgium**

Through our partnership with the Silken Berlaymont Hotel we are pleased to be able to offer our delegates specially negotiated accommodation rates. These discounted room rates are subject to availability and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



Why Attend?

- ✓ **Promote Teenage Sexual Health through Better Communication, Sex and Relationship Education and Access to Services**
- ✓ **Share Best Practices and Understanding of Risky Behaviour in Young People**
- ✓ **Shape Positive and Holistic EU-Wide Approaches Towards Adolescent Sexual Health**
- ✓ **Delineate Appropriate Frameworks for Multi-Sector Co-ordination and Co-operation Especially Between Health and Education Authorities**

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
- GUM Clinics
- 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 Mrs. Vicky Claeys , Regional Director, IPPF European Network, Belgium (confirmed)
10:10	Panel Session One: Improving Sexual Health of Adolescents in Europe – Integrating Existing Comparative Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current Status of SH in Europe – Challenges and Possible Solutions• Creating Appropriate Frameworks for Multi-Sector Coordination• SH as a Fundamental Right and Value-Existing Challenge in Europe• Exchange of Lessons Learned• Recommendations
10:35	First Round of Discussions
11:05	Morning Coffee Break
11:25	Panel Session Two: Exchanging Data, Standardised Indicators and Monitoring Processes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing Data on Positive and Negative Indicators – What Have We Learnt so far?• New Sources of Information – Impact on SH of Adolescents• Recommendations
11:50	Second Round of Discussions
12:20	Networking Lunch
13:20	Panel Session Three: Promoting SH Education and Improving Training and Access to Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empowering Young People in Europe• Teenage Pregnancy and Abortion• Current Obstacles to Accessing Healthcare Services and Treatments• Positive Approaches Towards Sexually Transmitted Infections• Access to Contraception Across Europe• Recommendations
13:45	Third Round of Discussions
14:15	Afternoon Coffee Break
14:30	Panel Session Four: Positive Approaches in Understanding Sexual Behavior and Sexual Health Outcomes: Shaping a Comprehensive EU-Wide Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing Understanding, Sharing Information on Policies and Programmes• Exchange Best Practices for Programme Implementations• Improving SH Outcomes – Current Challenges and Possible Solutions• Identifying Interventions that Influence Cultural and Social Norms and Promote Gender Equality• Holistic Perceptions that Incorporates General Emotional, Mental and Social Wellbeing at Individual and Societal Levels• Recommendations for Future Actions
14:55	Fourth Round of Discussions
15:25	Chairman's Summary and Closing Comments
15:30	Networking Reception

Sponsorship 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 8th November 2011

Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Venue: The Silken Berlaymont Hotel, Brussels



Speakers include

- ✓ **Ms. Gunta Lazdane**, Regional Advisor, Reproductive Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe (confirmed)
- ✓ **Senior Representative**, European Commission (tbc)
- ✓ **Ms. Kaye Wellings**, Professor of Sexual and Reproductive Health Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK (tbc)
- ✓ **Prof. Marleen Temmerman**, Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Director of the International Centre for Reproductive Health, Ghent University, Belgium (confirmed)

“**Yet despite the social, cultural, political, and economic differences among countries, there are similarities, both in provision and in how different countries have addressed obstacles and opposition to sexuality education. Each country's unique experience adds something to the debate about how best to provide sexuality education, and how advocates can ensure that young people are able to exercise their right to sexuality education. By comparing country and cultural characteristics, the ease with which sexuality education can be implemented, and at what age and in what form it is available, advocates can learn valuable lessons for campaigning for or strengthening sexuality education.**”

- A European partnership to promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people, the SAFE Project, 2011