

SAFE II News

The SAFE II project stands for Sexual Awareness for Europe: ensuring healthy future generations who love and care for each other. SAFE II aims to enhance the SRHR 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.



Dear SAFE II partners,

The implementation of the second year of the SAFE II project has come to an end. We want to thank you all for your hard work in realizing the results of this partnership. We wish you all the best for 2012 and look forward to a fruitful final year of SAFE II. In this newsletter you will find updates from all partners, based on the progress reports from May – November 2011. Enjoy the update!

Kind regards,
 Karolien Dekkers
 Programme Advisor
 IPPF EN

SAFE II Events

10-12 February	YSAFE Annual Meeting in Brussels
24 April	SAFE II Steering Committee meeting in Brussels
27-28 September (tbc)	SAFE II Final Conference in Brussels

New: In the MYX

IPPF's new sub-brand, website and social media platform on young people's SRHR:

myx.ippf.org



The SAFE II project is an initiative from the IPPF European Network (IPPF EN) in collaboration with 14 IPPF EN Member Associations throughout Europe and 10 collaborating partners.



APF in Portugal works hard on the implementation of sexuality education legislation and for a clear strategy for Youth Friendly Health Services in the National Health Plan (2011-2016). On the 15th of December, APF organized a meeting with stakeholders to debate the latest developments on youth SRH and to propose an assessment tool for monitoring the quality of interventions/programmes for sexuality education in schools. APF produced a Portuguese translation of the Policy Guide on Youth SRHR as well as a factsheet on Sexuality Education as a crucial dimension for youth SRHR. Both can be found on APF's website: www.apf.pt. The publications were disseminated during a national seminar on School Sexuality Education. APF's youth group had their national meeting to discuss the 'Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young Portuguese'. APF's youth group, in cooperation with the National Youth Council and the Portuguese Youth Institute organized an international conference on Young People, Rights and Sexual and Reproductive Health, held on May 27th, which was a good opportunity for sharing and dissemination of good practice.

In order to improve policy and political commitment on Youth Friendly Services and Sexuality Education, the **Slovak Family Planning Association (SFPA)** finalized the 'Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young People – policy review and the situation in the Slovak Republic' and distributed it among Members of Parliament. Furthermore, a web page on the influence of conscientious objection on youth SRH was developed; this includes recommendations and best practice examples. A workshop for teachers was organized on sexuality education, focusing on marginalized groups (Roma minority).

The **Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA)** re-established a committee of young people and adults to jointly work towards legislation and implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education. The establishment and the training of the new committee members caused some delay in the implementation of the SAFE II project. However, the commitment and motivation of the committee members resulted in the development of several materials like factsheets and a position paper. These materials will be included in info-kits and will be used in communication with stakeholders. A legal expert was consulted in order to be aware of relevant political processes and to plan accordingly. Committee members presented the necessity of Comprehensive Sexuality Education at parliament during the 2nd Congress of Civil Society. They also participated in the conference on 'Preparing for the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of EU' resulting in a written working group conclusion on the importance of Comprehensive Sexuality Education as a dimension of children's health. As a follow-up to the approval of the Sexuality Education Manual addressed to Teachers of Primary Schools, the Ministry of Education purchased the rights to publish 800 Manuals in order to provide a copy to each Primary School in the free area of Cyprus. CFPA will provide training to a Special Group of Educators that will act as a support group for Primary School Educators in implementing sexuality education within the health education scope.

The YSAFE Steering Committee meets in Brussels



The YSAFE Steering Committee met in Brussels last October. The meeting focused primarily on the content and organisation of the YSAFE Annual Meeting which will be held in Brussels in February. The theme of the Annual Meeting will be 'Society, Sexuality and Pleasure'. During a "market place" on the first day, the SAFE II project will be discussed. More details to follow. From January to June 2012, Jakub Skrzypczyk from Poland will be the new YSAFE coordinator at the IPPF EN office. Jakub has been actively involved in the Polish MA for many years.

Looking forward – the final year of the SAFE II project

The SAFE II project officially ends in November 2012. This means that 2012 will be an important year for the finalisation of activities but also for the dissemination of results, the involvement of stakeholders and the uptake of lessons learned. There will be an extra SAFE II Steering committee meeting on the 24th of April 2012 to discuss the final phase of the SAFE II project. On the 27th and 28th of September 2012 (tentative) the final SAFE II conference will take place in Brussels. This conference will provide an important platform to present our results, lessons learned and the way forward. The project will be externally evaluated before November 2012. A call for consultants will be sent out soon.

An important recommendation from the midterm evaluation was to increase the communication between partners in the same workpackage, between the various workpackages as well as between SAFE II partners and relevant stakeholders. To increase the communication between all SAFE II partners, newsletters are written and an online community was set up with support from WHO IPB: <http://my.ibpinitiative.org/SAFEII>. We hereby want to encourage you to actively contribute to the online community as well as send information and updates that you want to see uploaded on the SAFE II website and/or the next newsletter to Karolien Dekkers. (kdekkers@ippfen.org). For the final year of the project, internal and external communication is especially important in order to share results, lessons learned and to be able to inform and involve relevant stakeholders. If you need an invitation for the online community or if you have other suggestions, please contact Karolien Dekkers.



Links

www.ysafe.net/safe

my.ibpinitiative.org/SAFEII



Disclaimer

This newsletter arises from the project 'Sexual Awareness for Europe: Ensuring healthy future generations who love and care for each other – SAFE II' which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Health Programme. The content of this newsletter is the sole responsibility of the author and in no way represents the view of the European Commission or its services.