

# 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](http://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.

# Partner Updates

## Research reports and summary of research on young people's SRHR



**RutgersWPF**, the lead partner of the research workpackage, compiled a summary of research on young people's SRHR. This can be found on the SAFE II website ([www.ySAFE.net/safe](http://www.ySAFE.net/safe)) and will be updated when necessary. Partners in the research workpackage (**Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany and Spain**) had an extra meeting in the Netherlands in September to discuss the analysis of their research data and the outline of the research reports. The country research reports are currently being finalised and reviewed. The final research report and summary of all the research on youth SRHR will be ready in April 2012!

## What challenges are partners facing in the uptake and replication of good practices?

In **Poland**, **TRR** is working on the provision of SRHR information and skills to medical students. In a challenging period of parliamentary elections in Poland, TRR managed to establish contact with the Polish Gynaecological Society which will hopefully increase the interest of medical professionals. TRR is reaching medical students through its own network at the moment and through working with the Lublin medical association. The medical students recruited will be trained using a newly developed TRR training module.

**Papardes Zieds in Latvia** is working towards increased provision of SRHR information and knowledge on youth friendly doctors to university students. A webpage and mapping of youth friendly doctors is almost finalized and will soon be online. There have also been a lot of recent initiatives and projects from the newly formed university students group. Examples are a Relay Race during festivals and public events, a movie on the 'first time' and a 'Crazy in Love' project in which cartoons on condom use are developed.

In **Finland**, **Vaestollitto** is establishing an active youth group and they want to include the issue of sexual violence into sexuality education in schools. A new partnership with the Metropolia (University of Applied Sciences) resulted in both the involvement of student midwives in the work of the Finish MA as well as in the development of new sexuality education materials by these student midwives. A poster series, three computer games and a card game have been developed for use in sexuality education lessons for 12-15 year olds; these materials address the issue of sexual violence and aim to promote empowerment. The materials will be translated into English before the end of the SAFE II project.





**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2012 to discuss the final phase of the SAFE II project. On the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ysafe.net/safe)

[my.ibpinitiative.org/SAFEII](http://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.