

# Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health Towards Improved Standards for Sexual Education in Europe



**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre,  
Brussels



# Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health

## Towards Improved Standards for Sexual Education in Europe

### Overview

Established in 2011, the European and Regional World Health Organization's strategy on sexual and reproductive health achieved progress in health national policies, particularly in the development of preventive measures for unsafe abortions and with the introduction of sexual and reproductive health in the national agendas. However, several challenges still remain to be tackled: a recent report on adolescent health and well-being, from the Lancet Commission Group (May 2016), revealed that sexual health and sexually transmitted infections remain a significant public health problem in Europe, with two-thirds of young people growing up in countries where preventable and treatable health problems like unsafe sex, STIs, unwanted pregnancies, injury, violence and depression are an ongoing threat to their development and well-being.

The ongoing regional consultation on the development of the European action plan for sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) 2017-2021 stresses the importance of investing in a comprehensive and appropriate sexuality education for children available to all age groups. It also stresses the need for including children and adolescents as well as their parents, through an inclusive European policy strategy that embraces the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), especially for the vulnerable groups such as LGBTB and refugees. The action plan also highlighted the key role of health professionals in achieving an inclusive, high quality sexual health prevention system.

This timely symposium provides an opportunity to discuss different strategies aimed at improving young people's access to information, contraception and advice services. This symposium will also examine the importance of addressing the challenges related to young adolescents' sexual and reproductive health through a multilevel approach that encompasses developing youth-friendly health services, parental capability, health-promoting schools as well as empowering young people to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

**“ As a Committee we have spoken before about the right to health, but we thought that given, for example, high maternal mortality rates around the world or harmful practices that women and girls especially go through, like female genital mutilation and early child marriage, it was important to specifically address the issue of sexual and reproductive health.”**

- Heisoo Shin, Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR),  
March 2016

### Venue and Accommodation

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre  
Avenue du Boulevard 17  
1210 Brussels  
Brussels



### Why Attend?

- ✓ Find out more about the concrete actions of the Action Plan for SRHR 2017-2021
- ✓ Develop mechanisms to empower young people to make good decisions, challenge peer pressure and rebuff risky behaviours
- ✓ Build measures to develop youth-friendly health services
- ✓ Develop ways to promote and improve sexual and reproductive health education
- ✓ Discuss the key role of health professionals in achieving an effective sexual health prevention system
- ✓ Take part in interactive discussions on the need to promote a comprehensive sexual and reproductive youth health policy in national strategies
- ✓ Evaluate the importance of age appropriate sexual and reproductive education programmes in schools
- ✓ Share ideas on ways to reinforce parental skills on youth sexual health

### 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

# Young People's Sexual and Reproductive Health

## Towards Improved Standards for Sexual Education in Europe

### Programme

09:15	Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:00	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:10	<b>Evaluating Current European Policies on Young People's Sexual Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussing the Draft European Action Plan for SRHR 2017-2021</li><li>• Addressing Effective Implementation of Antidiscrimination Policies on STIs/HIV in National Strategies</li><li>• Discussing Challenges in Data Collection and Monitoring</li><li>• Evaluating the Adoption of a Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Youth Health Policy into National Strategies across Member States</li></ul>
10:40	<b>First Round of Discussions</b>
11:10	Morning Coffee Break
11:30	<b>Providing Inclusive Access to Health Services for Young People</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fostering Friendly Access to Confidential and non-Discriminatory SRHS</li><li>• Supporting Cross Border Cooperation within Health Professionals and Health Services</li><li>• Reducing the Stigma and Discrimination of Groups at Risk of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections</li></ul>
12:00	<b>Second Round of Discussions</b>
12:30	Networking Lunch
13:30	<b>Ensuring a Sustainable and Efficient Sexual Education: Fostering Young People's Empowerment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investing in Quality and Comprehensive Age Appropriate Sexual and Reproductive Education Programmes in Schools</li><li>• Addressing Sexual Orientation: Reinforcing Parental Skills on Youth Sexual Health</li><li>• Empowering and Training Professionals Working with Young People on SRHS</li><li>• Sharing of Successful Partnership Projects</li></ul>
14:00	<b>Third Round of Discussions</b>
14:30	Afternoon Coffee Break
14:50	<b>Raising Awareness on Sexual and Reproductive Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investing in National Strategic Approaches to Raise Awareness in Civil Society</li><li>• Ensuring Youth Participation in SRH Policies and Programmes Development</li><li>• Understanding the Importance of Media to Disseminate Messages for Positive SRHR</li><li>• Sharing of Successful Partnership Projects</li></ul>
15:20	<b>Fourth Round of Discussions</b>
15:50	Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
16:00	Networking Reception
16:30	Close

*\* Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice \**

### Event Details

**Date:** Thursday 12th January 2017  
**Time:** 10:00am – 4:30pm  
**Venue:** Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Brussels, Brussels



### Speakers Include:

- ✓ **Ana Rizescu**, Executive Coordinator, You Act
- ✓ **Forthcoming Events**
  - ✓ *Reforming the Common European Asylum System: Towards a Unified, Fair and Effective Policy*  
16th November 2016
  - ✓ *Boosting Youth Employment in Europe through Growth and Quality Jobs: Guaranteeing a Future for the Young Generations*  
22nd November 2016
  - ✓ *Green Growth: Promoting Solutions Towards Better Sustainability and Competitiveness*  
29th November 2016
  - ✓ *Finalizing the Unitary Patent Package: Challenges and Ways Forward*  
30th November 2016

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