



# Annual Report 2014

*From choice, a world of possibilities*



The International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN) is one of the six regional networks of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). Our region covers Western and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

IPPF is a global service provider and a leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. It is a worldwide movement of national organizations working with and for communities and individuals.

This report presents a snapshot of the impact of our work in 2014, grouped under three main headings: 'unite', 'deliver' and 'perform'. These are goals chosen to focus and prioritise IPPF's work from 2005-2015.

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Cover photo: © IPPF EN / Layla Aerts



## A word from our Regional Director

I am proud of many achievements this year. The groundbreaking work we are doing to empower young people with learning disabilities is changing lives in 12 countries, and elsewhere we have succeeded in using legal instruments to ensure people are treated with dignity and receive the services they need. We continued to use the huge wealth of experience inside our incredibly diverse network to fight for change and new possibilities for ordinary people, wherever they are.

One of our priorities is ensuring that young people are able to reach their full potential. To realise this we are challenging gender stereotypes and patriarchal social norms with our strongest weapons: knowledge and choice.

We are particularly worried about communities in the Balkans and Eastern Europe. In addition to poverty and disrupted social services, they have continued to face the consequences of humanitarian crises caused by the floods and conflicts that hit the region. Our people were there to help girls and women in their communities, particularly rural and undocumented migrant women struggling to access basic goods and services such as contraception and safe abortion.

IPPF EN is a vibrant player in the global IPPF movement and our impact is enhanced when we work together at the international level. 2014 was a pivotal year for the negotiations that will shortly determine how far world leaders will commit to ensuring greater equality and tackling poverty in the coming decades. Our advocates from countries as far apart as Sweden and Albania, Spain and Kazakhstan, have worked passionately to make the case for ambitious targets. We have also fought to ensure that when it comes to European development assistance, our politicians keep their promises.

The rise of conservative parties in the 2014 European elections showed that we cannot take hard-won gains on sexual and reproductive health for granted. Opponents of progress continue to attack fundamental human rights, especially those of women, wherever their pessimistic and narrow world views are under threat. We won some battles in 2014, but there will be more, and we will be prepared to shift gear.

In 2014, IPPF started a major conversation within its global network, sounding out our grassroots activists from around the world, from Macedonia and Colombia to the Netherlands and Lesotho, on how together we can create the future that we want to see. This will define a new Federation-wide strategy, to be launched in 2016. It is an exciting opportunity to prepare us for future challenges, of which there are many.

On a personal note, I will stand down in 2015 as IPPF EN's Regional Director, after 32 incredible years as part of this wonderful family of activists and advocates. I believe as strongly as ever that sexual and reproductive health and rights have the power to transform the lives of people and their communities for the better. The young people our Member Associations reach out to are telling us this themselves! I am constantly inspired by the passion and eloquence of the new generation of young activists that IPPF EN is nurturing. We could also not have the impact that we have without our dedicated volunteers. As I prepare to hand over the reins, I am confident that IPPF EN will continue to play a leading role as a champion of sexual and reproductive health and rights in our region and beyond.

Friends, supporters, we hope you will continue to support this life-changing work.

Vicky Claeys

# About IPPF EN

*Our work focuses on 5 thematic areas:*  
**Advocacy / Access / Adolescents /  
Abortion / HIV/AIDS**

## *We are a volunteer-driven organization*

What makes IPPF unique is that we are an international federation representing independent grass roots civil society organizations around which women and men voluntarily organize themselves to respond to local needs for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Volunteers are essential to our organization as they represent civil society and are well placed to formulate the needs of an ever-evolving society.

## *We promote youth participation & empowerment*

Young people are encouraged to fully participate in IPPF's programmes and governance. Their voice is equal to those of adults. IPPF EN's youth network, YSAFE, is very vibrant. It is the guarantee that sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) will stay on the agenda for future generations. Read more about YSAFE's activities on page 7.

## *We are rights-based*

IPPF was formed in 1952. It was the result of campaigning by a handful of brave and angry women, including Margaret Sanger and Elise Ottesen-Jensen from Sweden and Dhanvanthi Rama Rau from India, who were all imprisoned for their assertion that women had the right to control their own fertility.

Since then the Federation has evolved and grown to become a global service provider and a leading advocate on SRHR in the world.

## *Transparency & Accountability*

IPPF assists its Member Associations to develop into strong, transparent, well governed and trustworthy civil society organizations that are leaders in their countries and excellent partners for donors.

It does this through an extensive five year cycle of accreditation that looks into the adherence of its members to IPPF's membership standards.

## Our Vision

IPPF EN envisions a world where every individual is healthy; where sex and sexuality are recognised as fundamental and precious parts of human life; where sexual and reproductive choices are respected; and where diversity is valued and celebrated.

## Our Values

IPPF EN believes that sexual and reproductive health is integral to an individual's physical, mental and social wellbeing.

We are committed to ensuring that every individual has the opportunity and the power to make a personal and informed choice, free of coercion, on any matter relating to her or his sexual and reproductive life.

We are committed to every individual having the moral and legal right to dignity, sexual autonomy and bodily integrity and the right to access the highest quality sexual and reproductive health services.

IPPF EN fully recognises the tough reality faced by the poor, vulnerable and socially-excluded, and the need to change existing power relations in order to eliminate gender biases and inequalities that influence women's, men's and young people's health, choice and rights.

We are a democratic organization based on volunteer activism and leadership in the pursuit of our mission.

## Mission Statement

To advance the basic human right of all people to make free and informed choices in their sexual and reproductive lives; and to fight for access to high quality information, education and health services regarding sexuality and sexual identities, conception, contraception, safe abortion and sexually transmitted infections/HIV/AIDS.

# Unite

*A global movement fighting for sexual rights and reproductive rights for all*

## IPPF EN wins milestone decision against Italy on abortion and conscientious objection



*“A woman’s request for an abortion cannot be treated as a lottery, dependent on the luck of the patient, her wealth or where she lives.”*

Vicky Claeys, IPPF EN Regional Director

### “ My name is Silvia\*.

I’m 35 and I live in the South of Italy. In February 2014, I had to terminate my first pregnancy at 22 weeks because my baby had serious malformations. At my local hospital, in the city of Bari, they completely refused to help me in any way. So I delivered at home after 16 long hours of labour, with only my mother, husband and a friend there for support. I won’t share the most gruesome details with you because I don’t want to upset you. I reported what happened to the state attorney’s office, but I still haven’t had any response from them. I want people to know about my story and my pain, because so many women have suffered this fate in Italy. I hope that by sharing my experience, I can help to stop this from happening to other women, and fight this widespread and common practice by self-righteous doctors.

”

Women like Silvia are facing serious difficulties accessing reproductive services in Italy. A particular problem is the increasing number of doctors who refuse to carry out abortions on the grounds of conscientious objection. This is creating very real barriers to women seeking abortion, even though Italian law guarantees their right to access this service in every hospital.

IPPF EN challenged this major obstacle by lodging a collective complaint against the Italian government with the Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe, the most important human rights institution in Europe. In March 2014, our complaint

was successful. The Committee stated that Italy’s failure to organise abortion services in a way that ensures patients’ needs are met was in violation of its own abortion law.

It remains to be seen what action Italy will take in response to this decision. For the time being, a lack of national data on the demand for abortion services and what happens to the women who struggle to access them means that even the government cannot fully assess the seriousness of the situation. IPPF EN continues to work with its partners in Italy to fight for proper implementation of the law.

\*name has been changed



## Young volunteers call on politicians to step up on sexual rights

2014 was a busy year for YSAFE, IPPF EN’s network of youth volunteers, which is building an online community of young sexual rights activists around Europe and Central Asia thanks to its lively social media platforms, blogs and online campaigning and training tools.

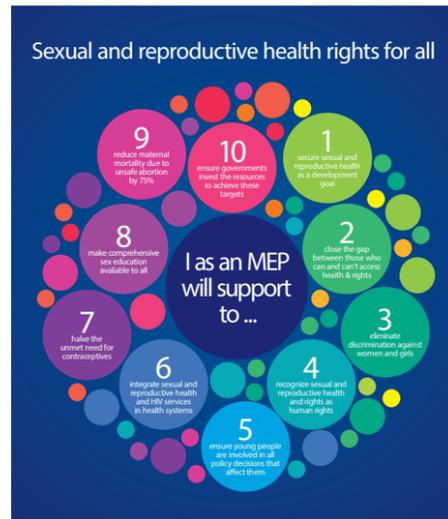
YSAFE was particularly vocal on the need for politicians to make sure sexuality education is available to all young people. They helped to pave the way for it to be included in the future global development framework being negotiated at the United Nations (see box on page 8), and worked with other European youth networks to call on the European Parliament (EP) to take action on sexuality education. During the EP elections, YSAFE used social media to mobilise young people to use their vote, giving them the lowdown on where different parties and candidates stood on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and illustrating the

impact that Members of the European Parliament can have on citizens’ health and wellbeing.

YSAFE stands for ‘Youth sexual awareness for Europe’. It was set up in 2006 to bring young people into the IPPF EN family on a long-term basis and empower them to help to shape our region’s future. YSAFE members work hard to explain to policymakers and other stakeholders working on sexual and reproductive health and rights just how important it is to involve young people in political and policy debates that affect their lives.

@YSAFE  
www.facebook.com/ysafe.network  
www.ysafe.net  
www.iheartbeingagirl.blogspot.com.es  
www.ysafe.net/index.php/blog

## Fighting for a progressive EU voice in election year



European Parliament elections and the appointment of a new European Commission made 2014 a pivotal year. Throughout this period of political musical chairs, we fought for the highest levels of continued backing for gender equality, women's empowerment and social justice. The growing strength of conservative Eurosceptic parties around the region made our task difficult. We are proud of the success we had in helping to ensure continuity and (re)build support for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Before European Union (EU) citizens went to the polls, IPPF EN called widely on candidates to pledge their backing for policy changes that would make a real difference to people's lives. We did this building on our strong track record of engaging Parliamentarians both at national level and in Brussels, two political contexts where our network is excellently placed to reach out.

Ensuring the new Commissioners' support for a progressive SRHR agenda was also a top priority, and we were delighted to help achieve public commitments by key politicians to issues like reproductive health and the right to choose. We worked with Brussels-based partners and our EU Member Associations to gather intelligence on the new political landscape. We also jointly briefed the incoming Commissioners and Parliamentarians on how fundamental SRHR are to people's health and well-being, and how the EU institutions can support them. It was vital to act fast as the newcomers got to work almost immediately determining the EU's position on a major future international development agreement (see box below).

In a year when so much was at stake, this groundwork helped underpin our ongoing fight to ensure the EU speaks with a progressive voice on SRHR.

## A unique opportunity to reduce global poverty

In 2000, world leaders made a global commitment to reduce extreme poverty by 2015. This set of targets became known as the Millennium Development Goals. The targets included poverty reduction, education and health. Yet reproductive health was not included until 2007, and by 2007, global health funding for sexual and reproductive health and rights had fallen, and many governments had failed to act. In September 2015, world leaders will adopt a new framework. The so-called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will include economic, environmental and social development, and will apply to all



countries. IPPF is fighting to have sexual and reproductive health and rights at the heart of the SDGs. If they are not, it is the world's poorest and most vulnerable people who will suffer.



## Giving the invisible a voice at the United Nations

In September 2015, the United Nations (UN) will agree on and adopt the Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the 'post-2015 framework' (see box on previous page). IPPF EN has been working with and alongside country governments, UN agencies and civil society organizations to fight for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) to get the priority attention they deserve in this new framework that will define the international development agenda until 2030.

In the final months of 2014, we helped to ensure explicit references to SRHR in the positions of the Council of the European Union (EU) and of the European Parliament (EP) for the post-2015 negotiations. By reaching out to decision-makers at both national and regional level, we and our partners were able to help overcome initial opposition to progressive language from a number of EU countries and ensure that both the EP and EU governments adopted positive wording around the need for a human-rights based approach and the central role of empowerment of women and girls. This was crucial to paving the way for the EU to take a progressive stance in the global negotiations.

Beyond the EU, IPPF EN has worked hard to ensure the strongest possible commitments at global level from governments in the broader European and Central Asian region. Another priority has been to ensure that the needs of lower income countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are reflected in global development dialogues. To achieve all of this, our network has been very active in regional consultations that have the potential to influence the post-2015 framework. We have pushed continuously for the greatest possible emphasis on gender equality, universal access to SRHR and human rights. Our work in 2014 has created a solid foundation for Europe to speak with a strong voice in the global talks that will shortly determine governments' commitments to SRHR for the next 15 years and beyond.



I Decide billboard in Times Square © IPPF / Todd France

## #I Decide campaign: mobilising communities to push for a better world



Supporters from YEU Cyprus



Supporter, Czech Republic



H.E.R.A. volunteers, Macedonia

In May 2014, IPPF launched a worldwide campaign aimed at galvanising public action to call on world leaders to place sexual and reproductive health and rights at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals. Member Associations in 18 countries around Western and Eastern Europe and Central Asia marked the I Decide launch with a burst of creative activities on 13 May, our global day of action. From film competitions, town square photo booths and sex quizzes, to media interviews, political roundtables and social media campaigns, we spoke with one voice.

More than 350,000 people so far have signed the campaign petition. Our message reached more than two million social media accounts in just a few hours, helping us to win a prize for social media at the Population Institute's Global Media Awards. Campaign highlights have included a stunt in Times Square, New York, during a meeting of leaders at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2014.

*I decide who I live with; I decide what happens to my body; I decide how many children I have; I decide about my future.*

All of these basic rights are essential if we are to end poverty and create a more sustainable world. That's why they are at the centre of IPPF's vision.

IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO YET, PLEASE HELP US PUSH FOR A BETTER WORLD AND SIGN THE PETITION:  
[www.ippf.org/idecide](http://www.ippf.org/idecide).



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## Holding political leaders to account

IPPF EN is the lead partner of **Joining Voices**, a new global project that is strengthening governments' financial and political commitment to supporting the right of women and girls to decide whether, when and how many children to have.

Our main focus is making sure that European donor countries are as ambitious as possible in their support for reproductive health and family planning in the Global South. We head a consortium of 15 leading European NGOs, including 9 IPPF Member Associations, that is holding donors to account for their policy and funding commitments. The consortium, known as **Countdown 2015 Europe**, is the region's leading collective voice on the importance of addressing the global unmet need for family planning.

Countdown 2015 Europe collects data and evidence that track European donor spending and help policymakers, donors and civil society organizations to make a strong case for reproductive health and family planning, whether at national, European or international level. As a result, funding increased in nine of the 12 countries covered by the project between 2012 and 2013.

The broader **Joining Voices** project plays to the strength of IPPF's global network, linking IPPF activists and advocates in the Global North and South, as well as other civil society groups, to hold governments around the world accountable for commitments they have made.



[www.countdown2015europe.org](http://www.countdown2015europe.org)  
[www.joiningvoices2020.org](http://www.joiningvoices2020.org)

# Deliver

## Ensuring sexual and reproductive justice for all



© IPPF / Graeme Robertson

**Respect us!  
Safe and overprotected  
are two different things**

**Peter and Sophia are two young people with learning disabilities living in different sections of the same institution.**

Peter, 25, has been staying at the institution for three weeks, and not much is known about him. Previously, he was in another institution which could not give him the support and guidance he needed. Sophia is 15 years old. She has been living in the institution for over a year. She's reached puberty and is very interested in everything to do with boys and sex. They were discovered having sex in the bushes by a visitor. Sophia was yelling "No, stop. I don't want to!" But Peter wouldn't stop.

Up to 90% of people with intellectual impairments experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives, and violence against children with a disability occurs at 1.7 times the rate of violence against non-disabled children. People with disabilities are among the most vulnerable and under-served in terms of their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Young people in particular face a number of obstacles to enjoying intimacy and respect of their rights. Some are not able to channel their sexuality in a socially acceptable manner, and some are vulnerable to abuse because they don't know when sexual behavior towards them is inappropriate. Others have no notion of consent or how to defend themselves against attacks.

Exhausted parents and overstretched social workers are often unprepared, and many feel terrified and alone. One parent in Romania told us she would hit her 16 year-old boy if she found him masturbating in his bedroom just because she

didn't know what else to do. Another parent of a severely disabled 17 year-old girl told us: "safety and overprotection are not the same thing. We need to give young people as much autonomy as we can and let them find their own way."

IPPF EN believes that one of the most violent forms of discrimination is to deny a human being the right to have human relationships just because of a physical or intellectual disability. In 2014, we continued building on the decades of experience several of our Member Associations have working in this field to support these young people, their families and carers. Our members in 12 countries worked together, with experts from Belgium, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and the UK coaching colleagues in Denmark, Latvia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Romania and Spain. They all made giant steps forward, but the demand for support remains huge.

*The European Commission's Daphne III Programme has contributed to this amazing work*



© IPPF EN / Layla Aerts

## Giving women another chance: abortion services in Kazakhstan

In Kazakhstan, poor women and those living in rural areas are often denied the choice of being able to have a safe abortion. Although abortion has long been available in some of the country's hospitals, these are few in number, have very long waiting lists and tend to be situated in large cities. These factors make access a real problem for many vulnerable women, such as undocumented labour migrants from neighbouring countries, working as cleaners or sex workers, who find themselves at the margins of the system. On top of this, the hospitals use obsolete techniques that can cause health risks and complications.

Women in difficulties, particularly those who are too poor, too young or too afraid to get to a hospital, resort to buying drugs on the black market. There they are alone and potentially in danger, since they go without the quality guarantee and support that make medical abortion under the right conditions an extremely safe procedure.

Our Member Association in Kazakhstan, KMPA, knows that for many women and girls, being able to access modern abortion services can have life-changing impact. Since 2014 it has been making greater access to high quality, safe abortion services a reality. Seizing the opportunity of a new

law that made medical abortion possible in primary healthcare settings during the early weeks of pregnancy, it has worked with several clinics in the cities of Astana, Almaty and Shymkent. As a result, some of these have begun offering women free medical abortions with the guarantee of safe and high quality drugs, as well as counselling and other support. Other clinics have been able to expand existing services to include disadvantaged women and those registered in other cities, who would not otherwise have any other place to turn to.

KMPA succeeded in getting support for this work from the Ministry of Health. This was a crucial step, since political backing at national and regional level is essential if women in Kazakhstan are to continue to benefit from increased choice. KMPA is also working with its partner clinics to try and ensure that they continue to provide abortion services for women in the longer term.



## “A new generation with more humanity” - working with young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, longstanding myths and social norms about gender roles are preventing young people from fully expressing themselves and from enjoying their sexual rights. Our Member Association, Association XY, is tackling this by raising awareness among young people and their parents, teachers and community leaders. Young people can get involved and take the lead in action days, social media campaigns and healthy lifestyle sessions and be trained as volunteers, counsellors and peer educators.

In 2014, IPPF EN trained young people who had taken part in the activities organised at Association XY’s clinic and youth centre in Sarajevo to collect stories from their peers about the differences these activities has made in their lives. What they heard was powerful. Young people explained that realising their sexual and reproductive health and rights had led to personal transformation. They had also begun to view the world differently, and see diversity as a positive thing. The young people collecting the stories concluded that Association XY’s activities were creating a new generation with more humanity.

“ I was 13 when I found out about Association XY from a friend. I thought it was funny that they were giving out condoms. Later I understood why their work is so important - it’s because they provide a great opportunity for young people to find help. The most challenging thing for young people in Bosnia is to talk about our problems and what is happening in our lives.

23 year-old, Bosnia

”

“ I didn’t have anyone to talk to about sexuality. I just had the internet, which was full of wrong information and fake pictures about real things in life. Now I want to change my environment and help young people to have more respect for themselves. Ethnicity and religion have a strong influence here, and I want to make a healthier and more genuine society. I am fighting against prejudice and taboos, in my family and in my community.

21 year-old, Bosnia

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*The Dutch government has contributed to this work*



## Meeting people’s health needs when disaster strikes

Communities in Eastern European and Central Asian countries face major threats from the manmade and natural disasters to which their region is prone. The survival and well-being of women and children are particularly at risk. For example, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia were hit by severe floods in May 2014 which displaced more than 70,000 people, caused damage worth millions of euros, and had huge humanitarian and environmental impact. In another example, the outbreak of fighting between armed groups and government forces in eastern Ukraine in April 2014 led to a reported 600,000 people fleeing their homes. They continue to need shelter, food and health services.

In cases like these, family planning consultations and provision of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services are often interrupted, medical facilities are damaged, qualified medical staff is limited and increased levels of gender-based violence are reported. SRH needs are often underestimated during an emergency.

IPPF EN, together with the United Nations Population Fund’s Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, has played a central role in coordinating efforts around the region to help ensure that in future, people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights needs are not overlooked in these kinds of humanitarian crises and emergency situations. We are proud to have led the work to develop the first ever tool for assessing how prepared countries are to provide a minimum initial service package (MISP) for SRH. In 2014, we supported more than 90 organizations in 18 countries in our region as they used the tool – a unique achievement on such a large scale. In some countries this brought important players in SRH and disaster risk reduction together for the first time.

While the results showed that there is a good enabling environment in most countries, coordination among key actors needs further improvement to ensure that vulnerable people’s needs are not neglected when disaster strikes. The 2014 assessment will help countries to set the right priorities and be better prepared. We are delighted that the new tool is also now there for other countries and regions to use.

# Perform

*Working towards a transparent and accountable Federation*

**IPPF accreditation:**  
making our principles reality all over the world



*An Huybrechts, Senior Advocacy Advisor at IPPF EN's Regional Office, visited H.E.R.A. in Macedonia in 2014. "It was a great chance to learn about the political situation faced by our national member and to see their everyday work with local populations, including a pilot project with vulnerable minorities. Meeting volunteers, especially youth activists, was very inspiring."*

Taking part in an accreditation visit is an enriching experience for staff and volunteers who gain insights into the reality of people on the ground. The process also allows our activists in the country to take a step back and reflect on their work, structure and strategies. It creates the time and space for powerful and important discussions

to take place. At its heart are the solidarity and support that help to ensure we achieve the best possible quality and effectiveness. We don't only call for strong accountability from governments and donors; we demand it of ourselves first and foremost.



## Ongoing dialogue to make sure we are getting it right

Gathering feedback from the people we serve is crucial to ensuring the impact of our work. We were proud to hear enthusiastic comments in 2014 from young people in Albania who took part in a youth programme organised by Member Association ACPD that included trainings, comprehensive sexuality education classes and services/counselling.

Some had been able to change how they communicated with their partners and family members:

“**Before, I didn't talk to my husband.** I wasn't free even to raise my eyes and look him in the eyes and express my problems. Now I can talk with him and of course he is with me when we visit Aulona [ACPD's centre in the city of Vlorë] and the hospital for my health issues.” 23 year-old, Albania

“I came to realise that **my relationship with my partner may be more beautiful** when I knew how to protect myself.”

15 year-old, Albania

”



## Holding governments to account on human rights

Our Georgian Member Association, HERA XXI, wants to see its country introduce comprehensive sexuality education, prevent child marriage and increase or improve access to family planning services and affordable contraceptive methods. In 2014, HERA XXI took the opportunity of an upcoming United Nations (UN) review of its government's track record on human rights to highlight the current lack of action. The process was challenging. But they managed to convince the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women to call on Georgia to take urgent measures in these areas.

Positive results like this help to put pressure on national politicians to truly live up to the commitments they make at global level to protect and guarantee people's human rights. IPPF Member Associations are local NGOs that work closely with

local populations. This means they have a wealth of experience and evidence-based information to share with the international bodies whose job it is to assess a state's track record. But the complex language and bureaucracy that surrounds these processes usually prevent them from doing so.

Georgia's success is a wonderful example of how we work together in the IPPF EN family. Irish Member Association IFPA is a veteran of using legal instruments to ensure the respect of human rights related to sexuality and reproduction. IPPF EN called on our Irish colleagues to help coach the Member Associations of Georgia, Macedonia and Romania as they embarked on using human rights instruments in their advocacy work. The results, as shown by the Georgian example, were impressive.

## HIV discrimination an IPPF EN priority

Combating the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV is one of our top priorities. In 2014, three-quarters of all Member Associations in our region carried out actions aimed at reducing discriminatory policies and practices for those affected by HIV. Focus issues included:

the legal protection of the rights of women and girls, particularly sex workers; the fight against criminalisation and jailing of HIV-positive people for not disclosing their HIV status; and protective policies for people living with HIV in the workplace.



## Fighting for abortion rights - an ongoing combat around the region

Abortion rights remain a major uphill struggle in our region, in spite of the fact that many people believe that they can be taken for granted. Some Western European governments stubbornly refuse to introduce or properly implement progressive laws, while others seem intent on turning the clock back. Meanwhile, in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, many countries are seeing an assault on women's rights that is chipping away at access to abortion services. Throughout the region, it is the most vulnerable women and girls who bear the brunt.

IPPF EN is fighting hard to change this situation. In 2014, Member Associations contributed to positive policy changes in eight countries that either made abortion more easily accessible or prevented the creation of new barriers for women wanting to access services. In some cases, such as the high profile abortion bill in Spain, our network also mobilised to fight for abortion rights beyond national borders. The policy changes were as follows:

- **FRANCE** - women are no longer required to 'explain' their 'distress' in order to receive an abortion service. It is now officially recognised that abortion is an undeniable right, and that asking women to frame a request in a situation of distress creates guilt and stigmatises abortion. Abortion services will now be 100% reimbursed by the public healthcare system, and new measures will provide women with better information and increased availability of services.

- **IRELAND** - the Health Minister gave a commencement order for the 2013 Act that provided for legal abortion when there is a real and substantial risk to a woman's life. New protocols and procedures were introduced throughout the health system.

- **LATVIA** - a proposal to introduce a 120 hour waiting period for women wanting to have an abortion was dropped.

- **LITHUANIA** - a proposal to introduce a waiting period was not adopted.

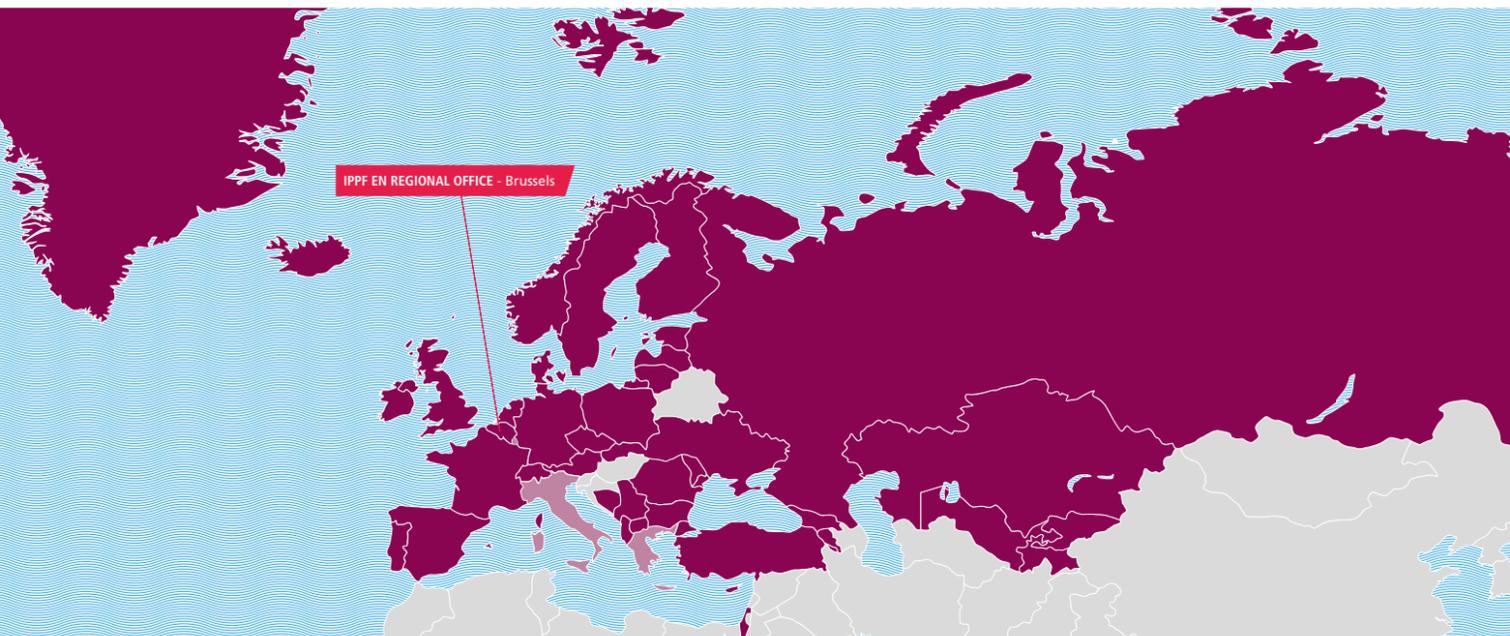
- **NORWAY** - draft legislation that would have allowed GPs to refuse to perform abortions on grounds of conscientious objection was blocked.

- **SPAIN** - an attempt to make the country's abortion law one of the most repressive in Europe failed. Sadly, at the time this report went to print, a new proposal was putting access for adolescent girls at risk.

- **SWEDEN** - a proposed law related to conscientious objection was blocked.

- **SWITZERLAND** - a referendum to remove abortion from the country's health insurance system failed.

# The IPPF European Network region



Our region reaches from Iceland to Israel and from Spain to Kazakhstan. It includes some of the richest countries in the world and some of the poorest. Some of them are donors of international development funding, others receive it. Some are long-standing democracies, others are still struggling to find their way. Throughout Western and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the landscapes, populations, cultures and politics of our region are extremely diverse. Together, we are a proud and strong member of IPPF's family of activists for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

## Our Member Associations

### Full members

ALBANIA Qendra për Popullsinë dhe Zhvillimin - *Albanian Centre for Population and Development* (ACPD) [www.acpd-al.org](http://www.acpd-al.org) - ARMENIA "For Family and Health" Pan-Armenian association - [www.armfha.com](http://www.armfha.com) - AUSTRIA Österreichische Gesellschaft für Familienplanung (ÖGF) - [www.oegf.at](http://www.oegf.at) - BELGIUM Fédération Laïque de Centres de Planning Familial (FLCPF) / Sensoa - [www.planningfamilial.net](http://www.planningfamilial.net) / [www.sensoa.be](http://www.sensoa.be) - BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA Family Planning Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Association XY - [www.xy.com.ba](http://www.xy.com.ba) - BULGARIA Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association (BFPA) - [www.safesex.bg](http://www.safesex.bg) - CYPRUS Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA) - [www.cyfamplan.org](http://www.cyfamplan.org) - CZECH REPUBLIC Společnost pro plánování rodiny a sexuální výchovu (SPRSV) - [www.planovanirodinz.cz](http://www.planovanirodinz.cz) - DENMARK Sex & Samfund - [www.sexogsamfund.dk](http://www.sexogsamfund.dk) - ESTONIA Eesti Seksuaaltervise Liit (ESTL) - [www.amor.ee](http://www.amor.ee) - FINLAND Väestöliitto - [www.vaestoliitto.fi](http://www.vaestoliitto.fi) - FRANCE Mouvement Français pour le Planning

Familial (MFPF) - [www.planning-familial.org](http://www.planning-familial.org) - GEORGIA Family Planning Association of Georgia (HERA XXI) - [www.hera-youth.ge](http://www.hera-youth.ge) - GERMANY Pro Familia Bundesverband - [www.profamilia.de](http://www.profamilia.de) - ICELAND Fræðslusamtök um kynlíf og barneignir (FKB) - [www.fkb.is](http://www.fkb.is) - IRELAND Irish Family Planning association (IFPA) - [www.ifpa.ie](http://www.ifpa.ie) - ISRAEL Israel Family Planning association (IFPA) - [www.opendoor.org.il](http://www.opendoor.org.il) - KAZAKHSTAN Kazakhstan Association on Sexual and Reproductive Health (KMPA) - [www.kmpakaz.org](http://www.kmpakaz.org) - KYRGYZSTAN Reproductive Health Alliance of Kyrgyzstan (RHAK) - [www.rhak.kg/english/index.php](http://www.rhak.kg/english/index.php) - LATVIA Latvija Gimenes Planosanas un Seksualas Veselības Asociācija "Papardes Zieds" - [www.papardeszieds.lv](http://www.papardeszieds.lv) - LITHUANIA Seimos Planavimo ir Seksualines Sveikatos Asociacija - Family Planning and Sexual Health Association (FPSHA) - [www.spa.lt](http://www.spa.lt) - MOLDOVA Societatea de Planificare a Familiei din Moldova - [www.iubire.md](http://www.iubire.md) - THE NETHERLANDS Rutgers - [www.rutgers.international](http://www.rutgers.international) - NORWAY Sex og Politikk - the association for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights - [www.sexogpolitikk.no](http://www.sexogpolitikk.no) - POLAND Towarzystwo Rozwoju Rodziny (TRR) - [www.trr.org.pl](http://www.trr.org.pl) - PORTUGAL Associação Para o Planeamento da Família (APF) - [www.apf.pt](http://www.apf.pt) - REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA Health Education and Research Association (H.E.R.A.) - [www.hera.org.mk](http://www.hera.org.mk) - ROMANIA Societatea de Educatie Contraceptiva si Sexuala (SECS) - [www.secs.ro](http://www.secs.ro) - RUSSIA Russian Association for Population and Development (RAPD) - <http://www.ranir.ru> - SLOVAK REPUBLIC Slovenská spoločnosť pre plánované rodičovstvo a výchovu krodičovstvu (SPR) - Slovak Family Planning Association (Slovak FPA) - [www.rodicovstvo.sk](http://www.rodicovstvo.sk) - SPAIN Federación de Planificación Familiar Estatal (FPFE) - [www.fpfe.org](http://www.fpfe.org) - SWEDEN Riksförbundet för Sexuell Upplysning (RFSU) - [www.rfsu.se](http://www.rfsu.se) - SWITZERLAND Sexual Health Switzerland - [www.sante-sexuelle.ch](http://www.sante-sexuelle.ch) - TAJIKISTAN Tajik Family Planning Alliance (TFPA) - [www.tfpa.tj](http://www.tfpa.tj) - UNITED KINGDOM fpa - [www.fpa.org.uk](http://www.fpa.org.uk) - UZBEKISTAN Uzbek Association on Reproductive Health (UARH) - [www.uarz.uz](http://www.uarz.uz)

### Associate members

SERBIA Serbian Association for Sexual and Reproductive Rights  
[www.safesexresurs.org](http://www.safesexresurs.org)  
TURKEY Türkiye Aile Planlamasi Dernegi (TAPD)  
[www.tapd.org.tr](http://www.tapd.org.tr)  
UKRAINE NGO Women Health and Family Planning  
[www.womenhealth.org.ua](http://www.womenhealth.org.ua)

### Collaborative members

LUXEMBOURG Mouvement Luxembourgeois pour le Planning Familial et l'Education Sexuelle (PFL)  
[www.pfl.lu](http://www.pfl.lu)  
ITALY Associazione Italiana per l'Educazione Demografica (AIED)  
[www.aied.it](http://www.aied.it)  
GREECE Positive Voice  
[www.positivevoice.gr](http://www.positivevoice.gr)



All photos: © IPPF EN / Layla Aerts

**Volunteer!**  
 We need all the support we can get to make a difference. If you would like to get involved, there are so many different ways you can help. Join our movement - get in touch via [info@ippfen.org](mailto:info@ippfen.org).

**Donate!**  
 Donations are always welcome. If you would like to help us, you can make a donation directly into our bank account:  
 BNP PARIBAS FORTIS  
 Brussels, Belgium  
 BE18 0016 5794 9965  
 IPPF European Network

**Thank you!**

## Presenting our new Regional Executive Committee

2014 saw the renewal of our board, known as the Regional Executive Committee (REC). Lene Stavngaard, our new Regional President, is one of our longstanding youth activists and, at the age of 30, is our youngest Regional President ever.

The REC is composed of 9 dedicated volunteers, two of whom are under 25, collectively bringing a wealth of experience from around the region. This is how IPPF EN is making youth leadership a reality.



*The members of the REC are (from left to right):*

**KELLY MACKEY**, Regional Vice-President, Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA), Ireland - **REINIS UPENIEKS**, Latvijas Ģimenes Plānošanas un Seksualitātes Veselības Asociācija, Latvia - **DANIĒLA DRAGHICI**, Societatea de Educatie Contraceptiva si Sexuala (SECS), Romania - **DAMIR ZEKOVIC**, Youth Representative,

Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health XY (Association XY), Bosnia and Herzegovina - **ESTHER ALBARRAN**, Federación de Planificación Familiar de España (FPFE), Spain - **LENE STAVNGAARD**, Regional President, Foreningen Sex & Samfund, Denmark - **BERT VAN HERK**, Treasurer, Rutgers, The Netherlands - **DILNOZA SHUKUROVA**, Youth Representative, Tajik Family Planning Alliance, Tajikistan - **GABRIEL BIANCHI**, Slovenska spolocnost pre planovane rodicovstvo a vychovu k rodicovstvu (SSPRVR), Slovak Republic

## IPPF EN Regional Office staff

**Vicky Claey**s, Regional Director  
**Lucy Cady-Vernon**, Executive Assistant  
**Ron Amey**, Administrative Assistant  
**Elena Rottin**, Executive Assistant (maternity cover)

**Christian Vandamme**, Director Finance / Administration  
**Laurence Evrard**, Senior Finance Advisor  
**Halil Karatas**, Senior Finance Advisor  
**Nathalie Bollen**, Senior Finance Advisor  
**Kendy Tshabantu**, Accountant  
**Kristos Argiro**, Senior IT Advisor  
**Sirrah Baldeh**, IT Support

**Lena Luyckfasseel**, Director Programme  
**Soizick Martin**, Senior Programme Advisor  
**Marieka Vandewiele**, Senior Programme Advisor  
**Sarah Wong**, Senior Accreditation Advisor  
**Karolien Dekkers**, Programme Advisor  
**Sarah Standaert**, Programme Advisor  
**Nesrine Talbi**, Programme Advisor  
**Andrea Rotondo**, Accreditation Advisor  
**Ivy Miltiadou**, YSAFE Intern  
**Kristina Puzarina**, Administrative Assistant

**Antonina Radeva**, Programme Advisor (maternity cover)  
**Nada de Murashkin**, Programme Advisor (maternity cover)

**Eef Wuyts**, Manager International Advocacy  
**An Huybrechts**, Senior Advocacy Advisor  
**Charlotte Nielsen**, Senior ICPD Project Advisor  
**Gina Wharton**, Advocacy Advisor  
**Elena D'Urzo**, Advocacy Advisor  
**Raffaella Dattler**, Advocacy Advisor  
**Ariane Vaughan**, Administrative Assistant  
**Aurore Guieu**, Advocacy Advisor (sabbatical cover)  
**Iveta Gravite-Massone**, Administrative Assistant (maternity cover)

**Irene Donadio**, Manager Public Affairs  
**Anna Michalowicz**, Senior Communications Advisor  
**Irene Hernandez**, Resource Mobilization Advisor  
**Vasos Pavli**, Intern  
**Sophia Ekbatani Arredondo**, Senior Resource Mobilisation Advisor (maternity cover)  
**Anni Patila**, Advocacy Officer (maternity cover)

## Our partners

### What they say about working with us



*"IPPF can teach the NGO world about partnerships and alliances"*  
Seamus Jeffreson



*"We are seeing a backlash on gender equality in Europe, which makes it so important to have a strong voice on SRHR. Our partnership is fundamental for advocacy at EU level. SRHR are fundamental to human rights and women's rights."*

Viviane Teitlbaum



*"Right now, this is the time to work together to make sure we get SRHR into the new global development framework. Because so many women and girls around the world are not able to decide about their own lives."*

Patrizia Pompili

IPPF EN collaborates with a wide range of networks, consortia, confederations, multilaterals and professional groups (apologies to any partner we've overlooked here):

Amnesty International; Astra Network; Catholics for Choice; Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR); Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE); Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung (DSW); European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG); European Humanist Federation (EHF); European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF); The European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health (ESC); European Women's Lobby (EWL); European Youth Forum (EYF); International Federation of Abortion Practitioners (FIAPAC); International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO); International Federation of Professional Abortion and Contraception Associates; Family Planning 2020 (FP2020); Futures Group Europe; HIV Think Tank; the European region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA-Europe); Marie Stopes International (MSI); Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM); Population Action International (PAI); Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition (RHSC); Save the Children; Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN); Stop AIDS Alliance; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGS); World Scout Movement.

We also collaborate regularly, both through our Member Associations and our Regional Office, with the European Institutions; United Nations agencies such as the UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (UNFPA EECARO); the World Health Organization (WHO) Europe; the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); UN Women Brussels Liaison Office; and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

IPPF EN is a member of the following civil society networks: European Public Health Alliance (EPHA); The Platform of European Social NGOs (The Social Platform); European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD); and Conference of the INGOS of the Council of Europe.

We have observer status with EuroNGOs and the European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development (EPF).

IPPF EN has participative status with the Council of Europe and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

## IPPF EN Member Associations

In 2014, IPPF provided a total of \$1.28 million in funding to 16 Member Associations in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This funding is not included in the figures presented for IPPF EN as it is transferred by IPPF Central Office in the UK.

The grant-receiving countries were the following: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

## Financial statements

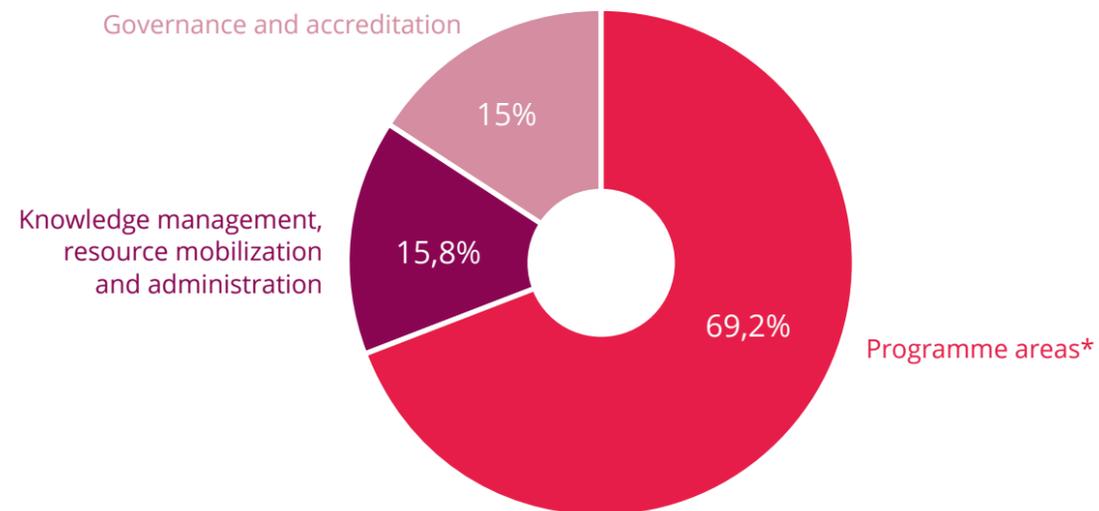
### Income

Total income = €4.21 million  
€2.13 M from IPPF HQ  
€1.77 M restricted grants  
€0.31 M from other income  
*(including exceptional exchange gains USD/EUR of € 0.30 M)*

### Expenses

Total expenses = €3.71 M  
€1.93 M indirect costs  
€1.77 related to restricted projects  
€0.01 M other charges

### Breakdown:



\*Programme areas include adolescents, AIDS, access, abortion, advocacy and capacity building

We would like to thank the following donors for their generous support for projects in our region: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation / The European Commission / UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)

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**Stay tuned!**

Visit us at [www.ippfen.org](http://www.ippfen.org)



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