Overview

Sexual health is an integral part of overall health and well-being. Sexual health and sexually transmitted infections remain a significant public health problem in Europe, with untreated STIs potentially leading to serious short and long-term consequences for individuals.

Young people are at particular risk of poor sexual health and relatively high rates of STIs. According to the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC), chlamydia is the most frequently reported sexually transmitted infection in Europe, with 73% of the cases being found in young people. Thus, a sexual health STI/HIV-prevention strategy in Europe will have an important role to play in preventing harm from such infections and diseases.

Much progress has been made in Europe – both to provide sexual education, and to reduce teenage pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. However, it can remain difficult for practitioners to interact with young people and adolescents in an effective manner. As such, there is a need to raise awareness and provide easily accessible actions through both formal and informal channels and youth-friendly sexual health services. Young people need the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their sexuality and lifestyle, with Comprehensive Sexual Health Education, community-based activities and active youth participation being recognised as successful strategies.

Youth involvement must be at the heart of the sexual education process through a safe and positive approach towards sexual health and STIs awareness. Recently, the internet and social media have emerged as important tools in promoting sexual health and well-being, and as a result there is a need for professionals to learn how to use these new tools in an effective manner.

At policy level, the World Health Organisation contributes enormously through its European Regional Strategy on Sexual and Reproductive Health aimed at reforming existing services at national level. Member States, along with EU institutions and international organisations, are building on the progress made by working for a better synergy in collecting and monitoring data. The ECDC is also attempting to tackle sexual health problems by implementing surveillance systems such as the European Surveillance System (TESSy).

This timely international symposium will provide an invaluable opportunity for participants to examine and discuss sexual health related challenges and assess the progress made so far in tackling sexual health issues. Delegates from all sectors will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and share best practice in improving sexual health education and awareness for all young people in Europe. Public Policy Exchange welcomes the participation of all key partners, responsible authorities and stakeholders.

Why Attend?

- Gain insights into current strategies and programmes for sexual and reproductive health rights in Europe
- Examine how to empower young people to make good decisions and avoid risky behaviour
- Explore solutions for better training and skills for professionals
- Assess data collection and monitoring at national and European level
- Share best practices on youth campaigns and online tools

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
- Youth Organisations
- Social Inclusion Organisations
- National Schools for Public Health
- Institutes of General Practice and Community Medicine
- Psychoanalysts
- Family Practitioners

Governments must implement national policies and programmes that ensure all adolescents and young people have access to comprehensive and integrated sexual and reproductive health services, regardless of age or marital status, that respect our privacy, confidentiality and human rights…”

- UNECE Regional Youth Conference Call to Action, May 2013

Venue and Accommodation

Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie
Avenue Louise 91-93
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium

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**Programme**

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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Chair’s Welcome and Opening Remarks</td>
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<td>10:10</td>
<td><strong>Improving Sexual Health of the European Youth - A Multilevel Approach</strong></td>
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<td>First Round of Discussions</td>
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<td>11:30</td>
<td>Improving Information and Knowledge - Raising Awareness of STIs/HIV and</td>
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<td>Teenage Pregnancy</td>
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<td>Providing a Good Sexual Education - Better Training and Skills for</td>
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<td>Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments</td>
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<td>Networking Reception</td>
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**Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice**

**Event Details**

- **Date:** Tuesday 23rd September 2014
- **Time:** 10:00am – 4:30pm
- **Venue:** Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie, Brussels

**Speakers Include**

- **Isabel De la Mata**, Principal Adviser - Special Interest in Health, DG Health and Consumers, European Commission (confirmed)
- **Dr Michelle Hindin**, MHS, PhD, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Senior Scientist, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization (confirmed)
- **Evert Ketting**, Senior Researcher, Radboud University Nijmegen (confirmed)
- **Ivy Miltiadou**, YSAFE Coordinator, IPPF European Network (confirmed)
- **Tamar Khomasuridze**, MD, PhD, SRH Advisor for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UNFPA (confirmed)
- **Antonina Radeva**, Programme Advisor, IPPF European Network (confirmed)
- **Dr Minou Friele**, Project Officer, WHO Collaborating Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Health, Federal Centre for Health Education (BzgA) (confirmed)
- **Lucie Daniel**, Development and Innovation Officer, Le Planning Familial (confirmed)
- **Erika Frans**, Health Psychology Expert, Psychological and Pedagogical Sciences; Sensoa (confirmed)

**Marketing 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:
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or email parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk