



YSAFE Strategy 2023 – 2028

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Context

Youth Sexual Awareness for Europe (YSAFE) was formed in 2006 and is a regional network for the young volunteers in the member associations (MA) of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). YSAFE has members in over 30 countries across Europe and Central Asia, and is part of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) movement that wants to strengthen young people in making informed decisions about their own bodies and lives. YSAFE provides safe spaces for young volunteers to share experiences, build new tools and capacities, and advocate for young people's sexual health and rights. YSAFE is led by a Steering Committee of young people elected each year at the YSAFE annual meeting (AM). This Committee is supported by dedicated staff at the IPPF European Network Regional Office (ENRO).

Throughout its almost 20 years of existence, YSAFE created spaces for sharing, learning and advocating, physically as well as digitally. With members in the large area between Portugal in the west and Kyrgyzstan in the east, YSAFE is unique in the diversity covered by the network. The MAs in the Central Asian and European region face different issues when it comes to SRHR, but YSAFE created tools and practices that overcome barriers of countries, religion and language. YSAFERS are innovative, flexible and committed to improving SRHR.







In recent years, the Central Asian and European region has experienced a rise in right-wing populism, which hits especially hard against youth, the LGBTQIA+¹ communities, sex workers and other key populations. Conflicts, racism, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and a strong anti-choice movement are just a few examples of the issues YSAFERS face today, individually and structurally. While the evidence on the positive effects of comprehensive sexuality education on young people wellbeing is growing, access to quality curricula in schools is still not satisfactory. In turn, the lack of information among young people is affecting their ability to access SRHR services and modern contraception.

¹ Abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/transsexual, queer/questioning, intersex, allied/asexual/aromantic/agender, and more.

Connection to the IPPF global strategy

All YSAFERS are first and foremost members of national IPPF MA youth groups and are therefore part of the global IPPF community. YSAFERS have been active contributors to the development of 'Come Together', IPPF's global strategy for 2023–2028. The key principles of the global IPPF strategy are integrated into this new YSAFE strategy. As such, this document outlines how we as a regional IPPF youth network can best contribute towards achieving the intended outcomes of IPPF's global results framework. Our YSAFE results will contribute in particular to our global IPPF ambitions in pillars in relation to shifting social norms about sexuality, improving access to youth-centred information and care, and focusing our work more closely on the needs of marginalized people.

Lessons Learned from the previous strategy



The first YSAFE strategic plan guided activities from 2018–2020. The Strategy was reviewed in 2020 and extended into 2021, then further extended into 2022 due to the COVID pandemic, which has completely overturned the ways YSAFE expected to be working. The previous strategy advanced YSAFE organizationally by hiring a programme advisor, but also in other ways implementing the Youth-centred approach, developing a toolkit on sexual and gender-based violence, training YSAFERS on advocacy, partnering with SRHR and non-SRHR organizations and win several funding opportunities, among a myriad of other things created by YSAFERS.

The review of the initial triennial YSAFE Strategy finished with the list of questions to be considered when developing the next strategy and recommendations. The key takeaways include:

- Inclusion and representation of marginalised groups within YSAFE should be mainstreamed in updated goals
- Growth of YSAFE network should not be a goal within itself, boosting active engagement would be more meaningful
- The question of how YSAFE relates to the new structures within IPPF should be explored.

This new strategy builds on a desk review of relevant documents, key informant interviews with YSAFE steering committee, young people who are member of YSAFE, IPPF senior staff and partners, as well as focus group discussions to gather insights and thoughts on where YSAFERS see the network evolving.

YSAFE's vision

A stylized illustration of a hand with a yellow sleeve, holding a white pen and drawing a thick, wavy pink line that curves downwards and to the right, passing behind the text blocks.

YSAFE is a leading network in a global SRHR movement, ensuring that young people everywhere are able to access, claim and enjoy their sexual and reproductive rights (SRHR) and can live without fear of discrimination, exclusion, and/or violence. No matter what sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, country of residence or nationality, religion, functionality or social economic background or status.

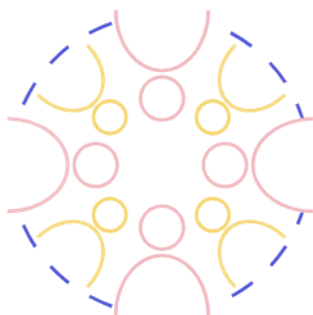
Mission

To lead and empower a network of self-organised young volunteers in IPPF MAs in Central Asia and Europe by learning, networking, educating and advocating with the aim to improve the SRHR of vulnerable, marginalised and underserved young populations, including key populations.

Values

Youth-led, human rights-centred, gender transformative, inclusive, intersectional, feminist, sex-positive, innovative, accessible

Goals and priorities



CSE FOR ALL

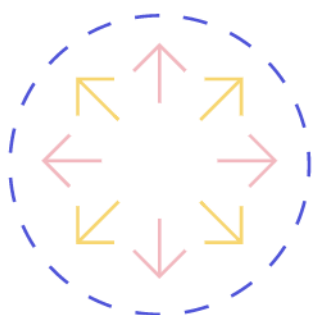
YSAFE reaches beyond teaching the bare minimum in sexuality education and strives to include intersectional perspectives and experiences, and ensure consistent implementation of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) across the region. This includes sharing knowledge, practices and tools in innovative ways with stakeholders and peers, searching out and learning about new methods, and strengthening the capacity of medical professionals, parents, social and youth workers in their SRHR work.

- Expand best practices and promote comprehensive material for people of all ages and with all experiences, with a queer-feminist grounding and a gender-transformative approach that reaches beyond the gender binary
- Challenge colonial, cisnormative, heteronormative, racist and ableist power structures within SRHR and elevate the perspectives of marginalised and underserved populations
- Promote intergenerational learning and communication to transform damaging social norms and values

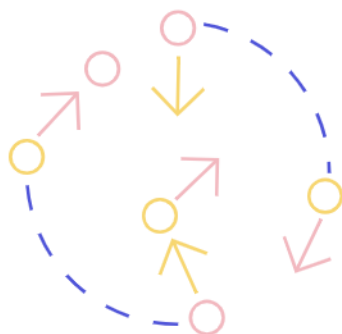
BUILDING CAPACITY

Run by and for young people, YSAFE is creating conditions for individual youth groups across the network to learn from one another and grow together; YSAFE is a capacity-building platform that creates resources, offers mentorship and coaching, focuses on boosting the variety and quality of youth opportunities within the IPPF MAs. YSAFE will continue working to become a well-recognised network, building capacity of all young members, and ensuring youth is meaningfully engaged in all areas of work of youth groups, MAs and IPPF.

- Inspire, support, build capacities and cater to the needs of young activists and educators
- Encourage, create and support opportunities to improve youth engagement at local and regional levels
- Act as the leading youth voice to advance and influence IPPF's global youth agenda



Goals and priorities



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

YSAFE will be operating in strategic partnerships with other SRHR and non-SRHR organisations and strengthen relations within IPPF and members' associations at global and regional levels. The goals of the partnerships move beyond coordinated advocacy with grassroots organizations representing marginalized groups and stretch to include active allyship, capacity building, increased knowledge, and sharing the advantages that YSAFE has access to with grassroots organisations representing marginalised groups.

- Create safe spaces for learning, sharing and creating, within and outside of YSAFE and IPPF
- Strengthen partnerships within all of IPPF to connect movements and communities experiencing similar issues
- Build strong and diverse partnerships with SRHR organisations and non-SRHR organisations

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

YSAFE will make its internal structures more sustainable and revamp its brand. YSAFE will lead the way in how to act as an inclusive organisation and find new ways of being part of YSAFE and IPPF and create synergies for the SRHR movement of the future.



- Grow the active member base of YSAFE, and diversify how one can engage in the network, digitally, physically or otherwise
- Increase YSAFE's visibility in all digital channels and promote the network in and outside of IPPF
- Diversify YSAFE's funding opportunities to support projects and core activities