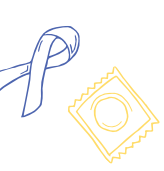


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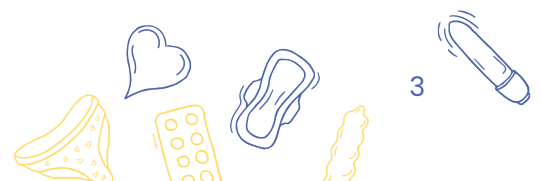


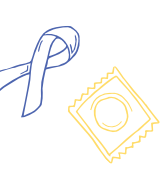


## Foreword

At the beginning of 2023, the IPPF Secretariat launched itself into a journey of transformation to ensure our operations are aligned, and powered to advance our new strategy Come Together (2023-2028). These transformations impacted the YSAFE network as previous connections and collaboration methods with the ENRO were planned to be substituted with new ones. Therefore, the YSAFE network was facing uncertainties related to its role within IPPF, budget, organization of events, and collaboration with the ENRO. Amid these processes of change and the introduction of the new Youth Networker post at ENRO, who would be responsible for supporting YSAFE, it was time for YSAFE to elect a new Steering Committee. YSAFE is proud to be able to report on a number of successes despite these challenges, having supported young people across the IPPF EN network to devise and deliver several national-level SRHR projects, engage in global-level initiatives, and share their knowledge and concerns in a new series of podcasts.

As of the end of 2023, YSAFE consists of 73 young people from 26 member associations in 26 countries. The YSAFE network is supported by a team of five Steering Committee members and the youth networker. The following chapters reflect on the main activities held by YSAFE and the YSAFE Steering Committee during 2023.





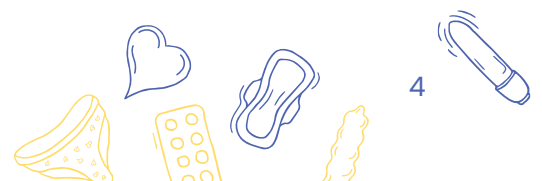
# Strategy 2023–2028

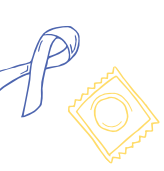
Following the YSAFE strategic plan of 2018–2020 (continued until 2022 due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic). The previous strategy helped YSAFE organizationally by hiring a program advisor. Additionally, it contributed to the advancement of the Youth-centered approach, the creation of a toolkit addressing sexual and gender-based violence, the training of YSAFERS in advocacy, forging partnerships with both SRHR and non-SRHR organizations, and successfully securing various funding opportunities. The review of the 2018–2020 YSAFE Strategy finished with the list of questions to be considered when developing the next strategy and recommendations, including: (1) prioritizing the mainstreaming of inclusion and representation for marginalized groups within YSAFE in updated goals; (2) shifting the focus from the mere expansion of the YSAFE network to a more meaningful emphasis on fostering active engagement; (3) delving into the question of YSAFE's relationship with the new structures emerging within IPPF.

The formulation of the 2023–2028 strategy was a comprehensive process including a desk review of pertinent documents, key informant interviews with the YSAFE Steering Committee, interviews with young individuals – YSAFE members, consultations with IPPF senior staff, and engaging partners. Furthermore, the strategy benefits from insights garnered through focus group discussions, providing a holistic understanding of how YSAFERS envision the evolution of the network.

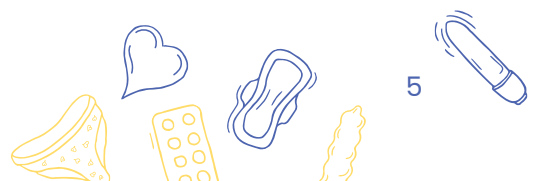
**YSAFE's 2023–2028 strategy focuses on inclusivity, capacity-building, strategic partnerships, and sustainable growth to advance SRHR for marginalized youth.**

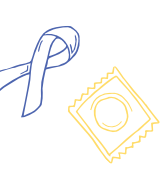
The overall mission of leading and empowering a network of self-organized young volunteers in IPPF MAs in Central Asia and Europe by learning, networking, educating and advocating for the SRR of vulnerable, marginalized and underserved young populations, including key populations. Similarly as the IPPF global strategy "[Come together](#)", the YSAFE 2023–2028 Strategy is also composed of four main goals and their priorities, namely CSE for all, building capacity, strategic partnerships and sustainable growth. First, CSE for all includes expanding best practices, promoting comprehensive material for people of all ages and experiences with a queer-feminist grounding and a gender-transformative approach that transcends the gender binary, challenging and dismantling colonial, cisnormative, heteronormative, racist, and ableist power structures within SRHR, while elevating the perspectives of marginalized and underserved populations, and fostering intergenerational learning and communication to transform damaging social norms and values. Second, building capacity refers to inspiring, supporting, building capacities, and addressing the needs of young activists and educators, while encouraging, creating, and supporting opportunities to enhance meaningful youth engagement at local and regional levels, and serving as the forefront youth voice to advance and influence IPPF's global youth agenda. The third goal – strategic partnerships – entails creating safe spaces for learning, sharing, and creating within and outside of YSAFE and IPPF, while strengthening partnerships within all of IPPF to connect movements and communities facing similar issues, and fostering robust and diverse collaborations with both SRHR and non-SRHR





organizations. The fourth and last pillar – sustainable growth – refers to expanding the active member base of YSAFE and diversifying engagement methods, whether digital, physical, or alternative; enhancing YSAFE’s visibility across all digital channels and promoting the network internally and externally within IPPF; and broadening funding sources to support a variety of projects and core activities. The full 2023–2028 YSAFE Strategy can be found [here](#).





# Steering Committee and Youth Networker

In the first half of the preceding year, the network was supported with the dedicated efforts of the former Steering Committee, comprised of Uluk Batyrgaliev (Reproductive Health Alliance of Kyrgyzstan (RHAK), Alice Brito (Associação para o Planeamento Familiar (APF), Līna Putāne (Papardes Zieds), Angela Aleksandrovska (HERA – Health Education and Research Association) and Davy Beauvois (Le mouvement français pour le Planning Familial). Yet, as of July 2023, new elections were held and the YSAFE Steering Committee was composed of four new Steering Committee members, with the fifth one joining in October. Changes occurred not only with the Steering Committee members changing, but also with the creation of a new position, namely the Youth Networker. The Youth Networkers will be based in each of the IPPF's regional offices, working on youth engagement and youth-led accountability via youth networks of the regions and in the Federation as a whole. The newly elected Steering Committee members as well as the Youth Networker met for an induction meeting in September 2023 to discuss the strategy and rules and regulations as well as establishing task forces and developing collaboration mechanisms between the Steering Committee members.

## Līna Putāne, Chair (she/her)

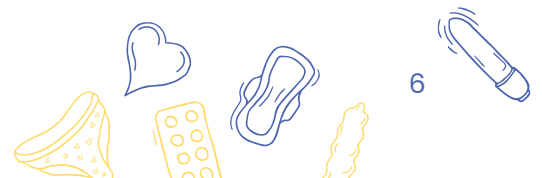


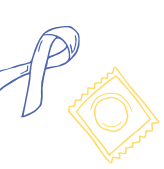
Līna continued her second term as a Steering Committee member. She is from the Latvian Member Association “Papardes zieds” where she is a board member, a volunteer and the youth volunteer coordinator. Within the Steering Committee, Līna has been in the organizer team of the “Sex Positivitea with YSAFE” podcast project, as well as part of the newly established partnerships and advocacy task force. As the chair, her responsibilities include representing the network in internal and external events and conferences and strengthening smooth cooperation and work within the Steering Committee.



## Elliot F. Charrier, SC-member (he/him)

Elliot joined the Steering Committee in October 2023. He is from the Danish Family Planning Association where he is a board member. Prior to sitting in the DFPA, Elliot has organized and taken part in activism regarding SRHR in Denmark both locally and nationally. Within the Steering Committee, Elliot has participated in assessing the small grant projects for 2024 and is part of the partnerships and advocacy task force.





### **Azra Mehmedovic, Vice-Chair (she/her)**



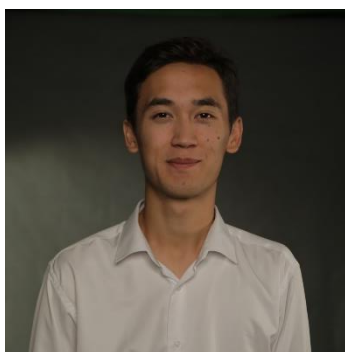
Azra Mehmedovic, a dynamic youth advocate in IPD from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, serves as the Vice-Chair of the YSAFE Steering Committee, bringing a wealth of experience and passion to their role. They are a key member of the organizer team for the "Sex Positivitea with YSAFE" podcast project and contribute to the newly established partnerships and advocacy task force. As Vice-Chair, Azra represents the network in internal and external events and conferences, ensuring smooth cooperation and effective work within the Steering Committee.

### **Dameli Tileshepayeva, SC-member (she/her)**

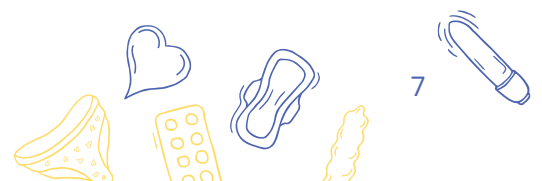


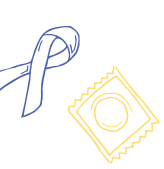
Dameli Tileshepayeva, an SRHR youth advocate and peer-to-peer educator from the Kazakhstan Association on Sexual and Reproductive Health (KMPA), joined the Steering Committee as an Internal Communications taskforce lead. She is also a part of the [#AWorldWhere](#) Campaign of Countdown 2030 Europe and an EWAG youth advocate. She leads digital sexed projects on SRHR in Kazakhstan and makes sure that internal comms within YSAFE members go smoothly and effectively.

### **Erbol Tiukebaev, SC - member (he/him)**



Erbol, a dedicated advocate for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and an esteemed peer-to-peer educator affiliated with the Kyrgyzstan Association on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (RHAK), joined the role of External Communications task force lead within the Steering Committee. In this capacity, Erbol is tasked with enhancing the visibility of YSAFE across various social media platforms. Leveraging his expertise and commitment to advancing SRHR initiatives, he spearheads strategic communications efforts aimed at amplifying the organization's presence and impact in the global discourse surrounding youth advocacy and empowerment in SRHR matters.





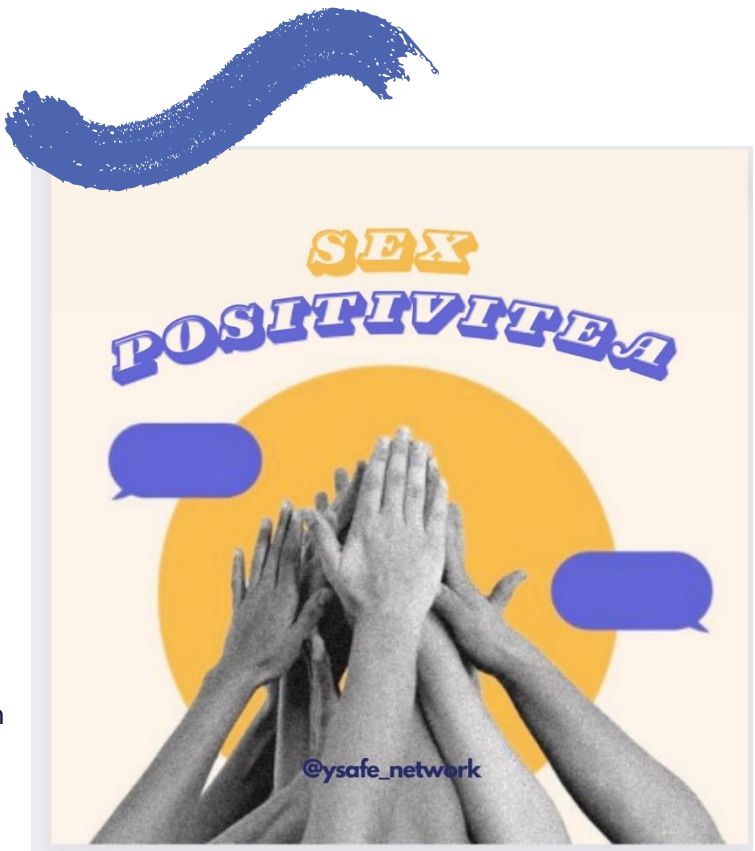
**Makhabbat Boranbay, Youth Networker (she/her)**

Makhabbat joined IPPF Europe and Central Asia office as a Youth Network Officer in late June. She has been actively involved in SRHRJ and gender equality movement in Kazakhstan and Europe and Central Asia region as a trainer, researcher, facilitator, communications strategist and specialist, and mainly as an intersectional feminist activist since 2016.

## Podcast

The Sex PositiviTea Podcast Project has continued to make significant strides in promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) among youth worldwide. In 2024, our focus remained on creating informative and engaging content that challenges stigma, fosters open dialogue, and empowers listeners to make informed decisions about their sexual health.

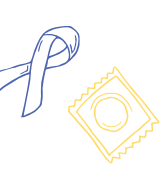
Season 3 of the Sex PositiviTea podcast was a dynamic exploration of collaboration and empowerment in the realm of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The season kicked off with a focus on diverse collaborations, highlighting initiatives that have led to positive change in various communities worldwide.



- **Collaborative Blooms: Parades Zieds, Latvia** – This episode explores the collaborative and partnership dynamics at Parades Zieds in Latvia, where unity and positive change have turned it into a symbol of harmony. Uncover the historical and cultural significance of Parades Zieds, emphasizing collaboration's integral role in its growth. Explore diverse collaborative projects initiated by various groups, enhancing the experience for all attendees. Delve into artistic collaborations contributing to the vibrant atmosphere of Parades Zieds, celebrating diversity and creativity. Examine collaboration's historical roots within Parades Zieds and its cultural importance in Latvia. Discover collaborative initiatives enriching Parades Zieds, ensuring a diverse and engaging







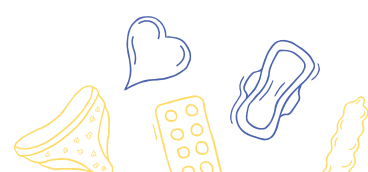
experience. Explore artistic collaborations fostering a vibrant atmosphere, celebrating diversity and creativity. Individuals and groups actively involved in Parades Zieds share firsthand insights into their collaborative experiences, challenges faced, and the transformative impact of diverse energies coming together.

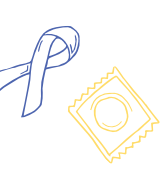
- **Interfaith Collaboration in Bosnia and Herzegovina** – Religious leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina came together to foster interfaith dialogue and promote unity in diversity. The episode highlighted their collaborative projects and initiatives, showcasing the power of partnerships in challenging stereotypes and promoting respect among diverse religious communities.
- **Non-Hierarchical Student Activism in Poland**– Student groups in Poland, organized in non-hierarchical structures, advocated for LGBTQ rights through protests and demonstrations. The episode explored their collaborative efforts, emphasizing the power of unity in driving positive change and inclusivity.
- **Empowering Collaboration in the Sex Work Community** – This episode shed light on collaboration within the sex work community, highlighting stories of empowerment, initiatives for positive change, and the challenges faced in the journey toward empowerment.
- **Global Perspectives on Abortion**– Mara Clarke's insights into abortion rights across six countries provided a nuanced understanding of the challenges and collaborative efforts shaping reproductive rights globally.
- **Art and Photography in Collaboration** – Youth Choice, Youth Voice – Collaboration between Sex PositiviTea and a Bulgarian NGO showcased the transformative impact of art and photography in amplifying youth voices and cultural narratives within the Roma community.
- **Collaborative Learning in Norwegian Sex Clubs** – Norway's innovative approach to collaborative learning in sex clubs was explored, highlighting the importance of open dialogue and community engagement in sexual education.
- **Collaboration for Change: A Conversation with IPPF Regional Director Micah Grzywnowicz** – Micah Grzywnowicz's insights into collaboration and partnership in advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights underscored the importance of unified efforts in driving positive change.



### Financial Summary:

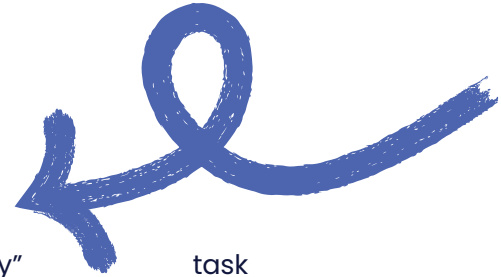
The Sex PositiviTea Podcast Project operated within budget constraints, primarily focusing on essential production costs such as equipment, software, and promotional materials. Despite limited resources, the project has continued to deliver impactful content that resonates with our audience.





As we look ahead to the next year, we are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for the Sex PositiviTea Podcast Project. We remain committed to our mission of promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights through informative and empowering content. We thank our listeners, partners, and team members for their continued support and dedication to our cause.

## Partnerships & Advocacy



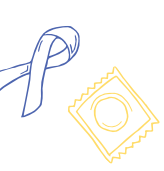
With the new Steering Committee and the new Strategy for 2023-2028, the process of establishing a new “Partnerships and Advocacy” task force was initiated. Creating this task force and a corresponding strategy started with important and thorough discussions on how YSAFE can sustainably grow both in the short term and the long term. In 2023, several YSAFE Steering Committee members - members of the task force had meetings and interviews with crucial stakeholders inside of IPPF who helped map and define the opportunities, challenges, and overall condition of the YSAFE network. Following the meetings with the stakeholders, the “Partnerships and Advocacy” task force members within the Steering Committee held several weekly or bi-weekly meetings, discussing both fundamental questions about the network, the network's internal structure, potential partnerships inside and outside of IPPF, and advocacy network. To enhance collaboration and ensure alignment with overarching objectives, bi-monthly meetings were established with Micah Grzywnowicz, the esteemed European Network Regional Director. The work in 2023 addressing partnerships and advocacy work areas has prepared the task force to start implementing the new strategy in 2024 as a pivotal part of reaching the goals of the YSAFE strategy 2023-2028.

**In 2022, YSAFE piloted its “Small Project Grants.” This was a new mechanism for supporting its national-level members to create and lead their actions toward the network’s transnational strategic goals.**

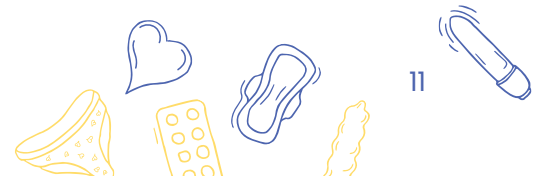
It was a direct response to the requests for support to members to do this in a way that would allow greater flexibility and autonomy to young people than is always possible in restricted, multi-year projects like those YSAFE runs with Erasmus+ funding. One of the goals was to boost international cooperation between the national members, and the amount national groups could apply for depending on how many countries the application involved. The SC provided guidance on the types of costs that could be supported (largely, any direct costs linked to the project activities) and allowed the young people to design their budgets. To ensure that the young people running each project would be adequately supported, every proposal was required to include some staff time for a coordinating staff member at the IPPF member association named as partnership leader, to a maximum of 20% of the budget, and per diems for the young volunteers working at meetings or producing outputs.

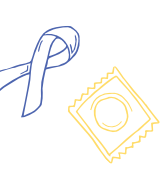
This initiative was continued into 2023. In North Macedonia, the grant was used for an [innovative collaborative TikTok campaign](#) featuring Macedonian drag queens aimed at





(1) sparking discussions about queer youth SRHR access and (2) encouraging more LGBTQI\* young people to access the youth-friendly services run by the IPPF member association there. Youth in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan used the grant to increase the number of youth participants at a groundbreaking [Central Asian conference on digital sexuality education](#), topping up existing support from UNFPA, UNESCO, and UNAIDS. The funds were used to support media action plans undertaken by the youth groups in both organizations as a follow-up activity to the conference. In Tajikistan, the funding supported an initiative using art activities to help young people threatened or affected by underage marriage to explore their feelings about it and disseminate a comic zine to raise awareness of the options that young people who are at risk of forced marriage. In Albania, the youth group ran a project expanding access to comprehensive sexuality education for queer young people.





# Power of the Many Forum Youth Day

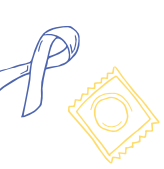
The Youth Day was a 1-day event that took place within IPPF EN's SRHR Learning and Actions days, a 4-day program of learning, sharing, and strategizing for IPPF EN members and partners, movement activists, and youth volunteers working to advance SRHR and gender equality in Europe. The SRHR Learning and Actions days ran from 4th – 7th October. The Youth Day was a side event within this program, aimed to unite young volunteers from IPPF MA's and their national youth partner guests from non-SRH organizations to foster collaboration and partnerships, creating a safe space for participants to share their experiences and outlooks on the future activities and challenges they foresaw in their activism and social projects.

The Power of the Many Forum (POMF) was the central day-and-a-half highlight of a week-long program of learning, sharing, and strategizing for IPPF EN members and partners, called the 'SRHR Learning and Actions Days'. The Forum took place in Sofia, Bulgaria on the 5th and 6th of October 2023, back-to-back with the Executive Directors' annual meeting (4th October), the EU Advocacy meeting (5th October in the morning), the Solidarity for Change meeting and the Youth meeting (both on the 7th October) and the YSAFE Steering Committee meeting (8th October).

Participants involved in all these respective SRHR meetings had the opportunity to come together during the Forum to unlock "The Power of Many", find our common ground, and build a sense of movement in the challenging and polarized context we worked in, with the aspiration of ensuring gender equity and human rights for all.

As a result of these events we have a strengthened sense of unity and collaboration among participants, including young volunteers, movement activists, IPPF EN members, and partners working toward advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality in Europe. Through sharing experiences, strategizing, and fostering partnerships, participants gained valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities in their activism and social projects. The value of these days lies in the creation of a safe space for dialogue, networking, and collective action, ultimately contributing to the broader goal of achieving gender equity and human rights for all.





# Key External events

## EWAG, 2023.

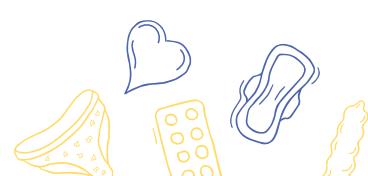
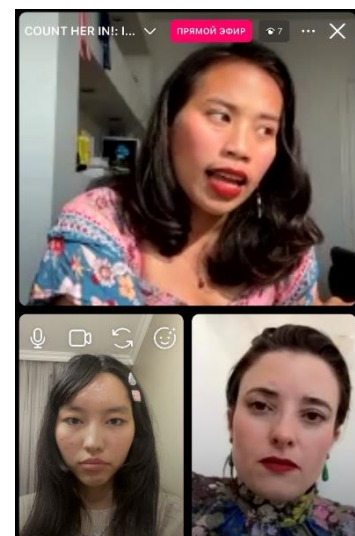
Dameli Tileshtpayeva, spoke at the European Parliament as an advocate and youth activist on the topic of sexual and reproductive health and rights as part of the European Week of Action for Girls (EWAG) on the International Girl Day on 11 October. Dameli and other young EWAG activists spoke at the European Parliament, discussing the work of the European Union (EU) to promote girls' rights around the world, especially in the context of the upcoming EU elections.

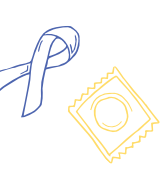


Dameli also took part in events such as a meeting with the Spanish Presidency, members of the European Parliament and a film screening of the film "Raise the Bar", that were full of discussions, debates and advocacy for the youth on the regional and global stage. She also actively participated in bilateral meetings with MEPs with a reference on the EWAG accountability tool.

## YIELD Hub Live Event, 2024.

On 8 March 2024 Dameli participated in the Instagram Live event "Count Her In!: Invest in Women and Youth" hosted by YIELD Hub where she as an SRHR youth advocate of C2030Europe and YSAFE SC member together with Karen Melchior, Member of European Parliament and Dina, the host of YIELD Hub Live amplified the voices and stories of women and youth while celebrating their strength and resilience to achieve equality.





## Meeting with youth members from IPPF Americas and Caribbean region

On March 21st, YSAFE Steering Committee members Uluk and Lina shared the experience of YSAFE as a model youth regional network during a meeting with youth members from the IPPF Americas and Caribbean region. The gathering aimed to foster an exchange of experiences, projects, and initiatives between ACRO youth and YSAFE members, laying the groundwork for the establishment of the ACRO youth network. During the session, Lina and Uluk provided insights into various aspects, including YSAFE's establishment and structure, the YSAFE Strategy, rules and regulations, as well as an overview of past and current projects.

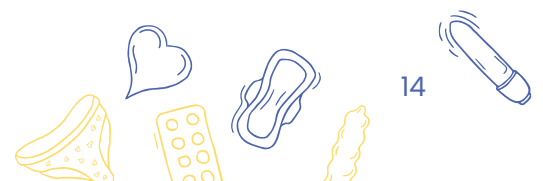


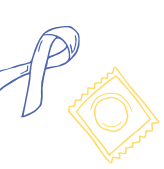
## Global Youth Connect (GYC)

The Global Youth Connect (GYC) project is a digital platform established by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and hosted by Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU), one of the federation's Member Associations. The project is centered on empowering diverse young people with vast, accurate, and age-appropriate information on sexual and reproductive health to improve their well-being. It aims to achieve this through meaningful and inclusive youth engagement/participation, primarily in the form of an online information portal featuring a website with interactive features linked with other IPPF youth communication channels. As a part of the Think Tank group of the project, steering committee member, Vice-Chair of YSAFE, and Representative of Europe, my role is integral to ensuring that the project aligns with the goals of YSAFE and the broader IPPF network.

### Objectives

- To empower young people with accurate information on sexual and reproductive health.
- To increase meaningful participation of young people in key federation processes, including strategic decision-making.
- To strengthen interaction and exchange of ideas among young people in different networks.
- To ensure sharing and debating of youth participation practices, connect and amplify IPPF youth communications channels, and share opportunities to advance the IPPF youth agenda.





## Key Features and Functions

The GYC platform performs three core functions:

**Sharing and Debating Youth Participation Practices:** The platform facilitates the sharing of tools, standards, policies, and ideas related to youth participation, enabling young people to engage in meaningful discussions and debates on these topics.

**Connecting and Amplifying IPPF Youth Communications Channels:** By linking with other IPPF youth communication channels, the platform helps amplify the reach and impact of youth-focused communication efforts, ensuring that young people have access to relevant and timely information.



**Scanning for and Sharing Opportunities:** The platform scans for and shares opportunities such as training, grants, and advocacy forums that can help advance the IPPF youth agenda, enabling young people to take advantage of these opportunities to further their goals.

## Reach and Impact

The GYC platform is far-reaching, aiming to reach diverse young people across the world. It also focuses on engaging other stakeholders, including parents, cultural and religious leaders, media, civil society organizations, and governments. This engagement is crucial in ensuring that a safe and supportive environment is created for young people to realize their sexual and reproductive health and rights, while also holding these stakeholders accountable for fulfilling these rights.

