

Annual Report 2011

From choice, a world of possibilities



X. E. P. A.

ассоциация за здрoствено кaлyкoнo и истрoкyкoнo



A Member Association of



IPPF

European Network

International
Planned Parenthood
Federation



1952 - 2012

Contents

Welcome note from the President and ED 03

About HERA 07

HERA on international events 11

OUR WORK ON HIV 12

OUR WORK ON ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE 22

OUR WORK ON ACCEES TO INFORMATION AND SERVICES 29

OUR WORK IN ABORTION 38

OUR WORK ON ADVOCACY 42

GOVERNANCE 52

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION 54

SOCIAL NETWORKS 57

Welcome

Welcome to the annual report of HERA for 2011. Over the coming pages you will learn about the work we delivered in 2011.

Organizing the first fundraising activity among commercial sector for People Living with HIV was a highlight of our work in 2011. The opera aria concert supported by the President of Macedonia, Gjorge Ivanov and Macedonian Opera and Ballet raised over 3.500 EUR for purchase of PCR viral load test and to deliver social packages for most in need people who are infected and affected by HIV.

The concert was one among many successful debut activities, planned and achieved by the grassroots team of the PLHIV community organisation "Stronger together". We are happy to have the Stronger together in our everyday work and will continue to provide safe space and support till the right moment when the organisation will continue on its own path.

2011 proved to be another very challenging time to advocate for sexual and reproductive rights. Namely, in February 2011 the Government of Macedonia had finally adopted the first National SRH strategy, the 3-years action plan was not approved due to lack of political will of the Government to ensure contraceptives are covered in the state patient's health insurance. At the Christmas Eve the Government of Macedonia has again launched the media campaign (initiated in 2010) on the negative consequences of the abortion titled as "Choose life – You have a right to choose, as part of its pro-natal policy. Moreover the minister of Health during World Contraception Day has highlighted that contraception is not a priority of this Government which was another strike for undermining SRH right-based values „ It may be possible [contraceptives to be covered from the health insurance] in the next 20 years, now there is no money for that. There are many other drugs that are needed to prevent many diseases, which are not on the health insurance list“.

HERA was not immune to these challenges and has carried out several advocacy activities to prove it's at the forefront of championing sexual and reproductive health rights. In this regard, in January 2011 the Parliamentary Commission for Equal Opportunities between women and men together with HERA organized a public debate on sexuality education in which the Commission gave support to the Framework for Comprehensive Sexuality Education and recommended "to develop

a specific school programme for sexuality education and further on implement a pilot project". At the same time the press conference together with the Professional Association of Gynecologists and Obstetrics were organized to counterpart the anti-abortion campaign and asking from the Government to withdraw the video spots. During World Contraception Day campaign activities HERA also organized a petition for introducing sexuality education in elementary and high schools "to ensure effective implementation of the National SRH strategy for SRH 2010 – 2020 which foreseen ensuring accessible modern contraception and introducing of sexuality education". Petition was signed by 14 NGOS and further sent to Ministry of Education and the Macedonian Parliament.

Delivering HIV and SRH services continued to be one of the most important values of our work. 1647 clients have benefited from SRH-related services in our youth friendly centers "Sakam da znam" whilst 2292 people have received VCT through our mobile clinics. Around 60% of the people who are reached through our services were those who are poor, marginalized and socially-excluded. We have also distributed over 35.000 condoms during our promotional and educational activities across the country.

Partnership and collaboration remained very important to us. Together with NGO PORAKA we continued promoting knowledge and skills of relationship and sexuality for persons with intellectual disabilities and their parents/carriers. We were delighted to launch the first guidelines for sexuality and learning disabilities – to assist professionals and parents to talk about relationship and sexuality education. As an active member of the Coalition of sexual and health rights of marginalized communities we were on the frontline to defend sexual rights of the LGBT community and to fight homophobia in the school textbooks. We are proud our partnership with the Global Fund in the field of HIV has been strengthened. Hosting CCM Secretariat to fight HIV and Tuberculosis in the country, has continued to successfully support CSO and Government members and individuals affected by the diseases to ensure they are skilled and have tools to oversee the national respond to HIV and Tuberculosis. Through the Global Fund project 2012 – 2016 we have also secured additional funding to ensure sustainable provision of SRH and HIV services within our youth friendly services and to keep building capacities of the people living with HIV as advocates for their rights.

Least but last we like to emphasise our strong commitment to improve the capacities of our team as well as being most closely to the beneficiaries to involve them in process of planning of the forthcoming interventions. During the year there were set of reputable national and international capacity building trainings attended by the core staff and volunteers. Also we organised a half-year retreat for review of the current Strategy framework progress and we developed and annual programme for 2012.

We hope you enjoy reading about our achievements in 2011. We'll continue to be at the forefront of championing sexual and reproductive rights and to deliver our services as efficiently as possible, especially to those who most needed.

Finally, we also want to thank all our volunteers, partners and donors for their contribution and support in our work and activities.

Best wishes,

Milena Stevanovik

President

Bojan Jovanovski

Executive Director





About HERA

Hera goal: Our vision is to establish a world in which sexual and reproductive rights are guaranteed and a world in which all men, women and young people are healthy and free, celebrating their sexuality and diversity as a basic principle of human lives.

As an organization we believe that:

Sexual and reproductive rights are inseparable from the human rights and everyone should enjoy the right of his/her sexual liberty, identity and the right to have access to SRHR information and services.

Right of choice is a legitimate need of each individual to make free choices about his/her body, life and sexual and reproductive health.

Sexuality and diversity are essential for the enjoyment of highest standards of mental, physical and social welfare.

HERA FOCUSES ON 5 PRIORITY STRATEGIC AREAS:

1. Abortion – in order to ensure that the right of choice to any woman is full respected, safe and legal abortion is easy accessible and contraception use is increased;
2. Adolescents – in order to ensure that young people are more aware of their sexual and reproductive rights and have access to comprehensive information, education and services to improve their sexual and reproductive health;
3. HIV/AIDS – in order to maintain low HIV/AIDS prevalence in the country in accordance with the 2007 – 2011 National HIV/AIDS Strategy and ensure full protection of the rights of the persons infected and affected by HIV.
4. Access – in order each person to have access to accurate information related to his/her sexual and reproductive health and to SRH/HIV services thus to be able to exercise his/her health, social, sexual and reproductive rights;
5. Advocacy – in order to ensure that all national HIV/SRH policies and programmes are rights-based oriented and in best interest of people's sexual and reproductive health and fully correspond with the different needs and concerns of all individuals

MEMBER ASSOCIATION OF IPPF

HERA is one of the member associations from 170 countries of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). It is a global service provider and a leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health rights for all.

As a member, HERA supports IPPF's Declaration of sexual health rights which states that sexuality, and pleasure deriving from it, are central aspects of being human whether or not a person chooses to reproduce.

MEMBER OF COALITION FOR SEXUAL AND HEALTH RIGHTS FOR MARGINALIZED GROUPS

HERA is one of the co-founder and active member in the Coalition of sexual and health rights of the marginalized groups. Particularly, HERA is representing the rights of PLHIV, document and writes shadow reports of violation of human rights and taking the lead role in any advocacy or capacity-building initiatives related to HIV and those who are infected and affected.

MACEDONIAN ANTI POVERTY PLATFORM

At the moment we are holding the presidency of the Macedonian anti poverty platform full member of European anti poverty network to fight against poverty and mainly responsible in its health-related and social inclusion activities, especially in CSO strengthening and advocacy.

NATIONAL NETWORK AGAINST VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN AND FAMILY VIOLENCE “VOICE AGAINST VIOLENCE”

HERA one of the founders and board members of this network that is aiming on full recognition and respect of women rights in Macedonia. In particular the network is coordinating different NGOs in advocacy for better policies on prevention of family violence and violence towards women.

NATIONAL COORDINATIVE BODY FOR FIGHT AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

HERA is one of the organization members of the National coordinative body for fight against family violence. The coordinative body is chaired by the Ministry of labor and social affairs and is responsible for development and implementation of the National strategy to fight against family violence 2012-2015.



HERA on the web

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| WWW. | www.hera.org.mk |
| facebook | www.facebook.com/hera.macedonia |
| twitter | www.twitter.com/hera_mkd |
| You Tube | www.youtube.com/HERAMacedonia |

IN 2011 HERA WAS @

JANUARY

ASTRA Youth Report Launch Event at the European Parliament, Brussels.

MARCH

Regional Consultation on Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support in Europe and Central Asia, Kiev.

High level meeting for Access to SRHR and vulnerable groups, UNFPA, Istanbul.

First PLHIV Conference, Subotica

APRIL

ExCo meeting EAPN, Budapest.

Conference on child poverty, EAPN, Budapest. MAYEECA Regional Youth Conference May, Istanbul.

HIV in the European Region, Tallinn.

JUNE

QUING UN Women Experts Meeting: GE and Policy Responses to VAW, Bratislava

General assembly EAPN, Lisbon

SEPTEMBER

Crisis Conference, EAPN, Brussels
OCTOBER
Roma health resource workshop, UNFPA/WHO, Istanbul

13th European AIDS Conference (EACS), Belgrade

NOVEMBER

ExCo meeting EAPN, Estonia

World Summit Youth Award – Winners Festival, Graz

DECEMBER

International Consultation on Homophobic Bullying in Educational Institutions, Rio de Janeiro

OUR WORK ON HIV

PLHIV COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING “STRONGER TOGETHER”

Objective: To strengthen the capacities of the Group of PLHIV for the support and self-help –Stronger Together for independent organizational functioning and advocating for the human rights of all those living with and affected by HIV

The IPPF project on PLHIV community mobilization “Nothing about Us without Us” strengthened the capacities of the working group of PLHIV Stronger Together to function in a significantly more organized manner, as an autonomous body within HERA, as well as to provide support to, and further mobilization of the wider community of people living with HIV. In 2011 there were a total of 15 community members taking part within Stronger Together activities, both in prevention and advocacy. In particular, 10 members attended the training for peer counselors facilitated by the experienced trainer from the Serbian CBOs of PLHIV “Stav plus” and further on 5 of them were engaged in service delivery for the benefit of other people with HIV, by providing regular peer counseling sessions during the second half of the year within the premises of the University Clinic for Infectious Diseases. Moreover, the team of 5 trained peer counselors with the support from the staff of the HIV counseling centre, especially Rumena Krastovska – the social worker, developed Guidelines for peer counselors and a Protocol for the service delivery. During 2011 a total of 29 peer-support counseling sessions were provided by the trained members of Stronger together, including one home-based visit and one additional post-test HIV positive result counseling. 5 clients (3 male and 2 female) have benefited from the peer-support services, including one parent affected by HIV. Moreover through their joint efforts Stronger Together produced two up-to-date printed education and information materials for PLHIV, (1) HIV and sex and (2) What I need to know after being diagnosed with HIV, with the support of EATG and IPPF.

Most importantly, the Group developed their first two-year strategy which focuses on clear advocacy objectives and includes continuation and further development of the peer support and community mobilization. In this regard, a strategic planning workshop was organized by HERA gathering 14 members of Stronger Together

Along with the organizational development and the strategic planning for the next two years, the Group already engaged in initial advocacy activities, mostly regarding continuous access to HIV treatment. Furthermore, it received recognition among national stakeholders in the HIV response as a community based entity. Namely, Stronger Together published three public statements, the main results of which were (1) the support from and a meeting with the President of the Republic of Macedonia, d-r Gjorge Ivanov, on the occasion of the World AIDS Day (2) representation in the two chief multi-sectoral bodies in the national HIV response (Country Coordinating Mechanism for the Global Fund grants, and the newly reestablished National HIV/AIDS Commission), and, (3) a number of media reports in favor of the needs of the community. Members of the Group also participated in several trainings and conferences (both in the country as well as abroad) and actively contributed to the first national Declaration against poverty and social exclusion. The coordinator of Stronger Together and one other member actively engaged in the drafting of the new National HIV/AIDS Strategy (2012-2016) as nominated by the Ministry of Health.

The safe environment which HERA provides for PLHIV in a society with high level of HIV-related stigma, as well as the support for a rather autonomous organizational development of the community group, proved to be crucial prerequisites to the overall success in 2011. Having the Groups coordinator engaged part-time within HERA's headquarters provided an opportunity for both individual and organizational capacity building; throughout the year, the coordinator had a first-hand experience in the everyday work of a respected national NGO, and while providing the basic logistics for the regular functioning of the Group, he also had the chance to participate in programmatic planning as well. This proved to be very effective, especially since some of the activities (such as the small scale project for translation of a brochure HIV and sex supported by EATG, and an advocacy project under the Access to Essential Medicines Initiative of the Open Society Foundations which is being implemented during 2012), were developed by the coordinator himself in consultation with the Group and with the technical and professional support by HERA's staff.

Plans for 2012:

Continue to strengthen capacities of PLHIV Community “Stronger together”, with focus on organizational management and advocacy

Continue providing peer-counseling support within the partner Clinic of infective diseases

Organizing training among health care providers on HIV human rights related issues and dealing with PLHIV

Advocating for sustainable national mechanism for ARV procurement through developing a economical study on ARV, issuing a policy statement and working with media



VOLUNTARY COUNSELLING AND TESTING

Objective: To improve access to high-quality VCT services among marginalized and vulnerable groups

In 2011 on-site data verification review for Round 7 HIV grant in Macedonia was conducted assessing few projects, including Outreach VCT managed by HERA. This was the single project that was rated with A by the Global fund report highlighting the well established management for Outreach VCT led by HERA, good collaboration between all partners and daily use of developed protocols and standards.

59 % of HIV testing performed within all VCCT services throughout the country in 2011 was made through Outreach VCT clinics of HERA. A total of 2292 people received counseling and testing for HIV. Moreover 68.9% of all clients in the Outreach VCT were new clients whilst 89.1% of the clients of the Outreach VCT belong to vulnerable and social excluded populations. 36.4% of all users of Outreach VCT have also received hepatitis C tests (848 people).

In 2011 HERA continued strengthen capacities of the Government and NGOs outreach workers and service providers on VCT. In this regard a refresh VCT training for 35 counselors has been organized and further on 23 service providers from the Government methadone centers and 8 outreach CSOs workers has successful passed the VCT training and has been certified as VCT counselors.

In order to increase the awareness of the benefit of HIV testing a promotional campaign among university students has been organized reaching around 10 000 people for one week. Within the campaign was used new approach so called "under line" and the campaign activities included distribution of promotional leaflets and brochures within universities and health care clinics in the capital Skopje.

Under GF project HERA in partnership with the Clinic of Infective Diseases and the Institute for Public Health has developed the new guidelines for VCT service providers. The guidelines also provide monitoring and evaluation tolls to assist Government and NGOs dealing on HIV prevention to better assess the quality of their VCT services.

HERA has established an up-graded on-line service statistic tool to better manage data evidence (both HIV and SRH services) of its service delivery points. The new service statistic system is in line with IPPF Global Service Statistics which will enable better reporting and coordination between all HERAs service delivery points, especially in regards to referral services.

Plans for 2012:

Continue providing VCT outreach services for key populations in partnership with CSOs and local institutes for public health

Expanding outreach VCT services for the TB patients living in the rural areas

Opening of the outreach HIV/SRH mobile clinic for most-at-risk groups and women and girls living in the rural areas

Organizing a promotional campaign on raising awareness of HIV testing

Training and accreditation of VCT counselors from the CSOs



COUNTRY COORDINATING MECHANISM - CCM

Objective: Provision of technical support to the CCM members thus they are capacitated to oversight the national GF project on HIV and Tuberculosis

In 2011 HERA continued hosting the Country Coordinating Mechanism Secretariat and act as technical support facility for the CCM members. In particularly CCM started the reform process and reviews its membership in order to have more efficient supervision of the Global Fund grants that are going to be implemented in Macedonia in the next five years. The total number of members was reduce from 32 to 21, whereas 7 members representing the government sector (Representative from the Cabinet of the Prime Minister, Secretariat for European Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice), 3 representatives from multilateral and bilateral organizations (UNICEF, WHO and USAID), 2 representatives of people living with HIV and those affected by tuberculosis, 3 representatives of religious communities and 6 representatives.

In 2001 A set of internal polices has been developed and are in place to ensure better functionality and transparency of the CCM

There are New CCM members elected as representatives of the civil society that enabled refreshed participation of CSOs on board and increased the number of non-grant receiving organizations to ensure CCM is more accountability and transparent . Organizing transparent election of new representatives from the civil society sector was an asset in year 2011.

Due to improved coordination support and technical assistance on both internal and external persons CCM members have now better understanding about their role and responsibilities, including the Conflict of Interest Policy; Preparing CCM documentation (Constitution, By-laws, Governance Manual, Oversight Handbook, Operational manual, Work plan, Budget). External assistance from GMS for development of internal polices and restructuring of CCM was of great importance.

Plans for 2012:

Continue providing technical support to CCM members to oversight GF projects

Capacity building among CCM members on sustainable financing



HIV PREVENTION CARD ON MSM

At the beginning of 2011 HERA has produced the MSM prevention card to document the findings of the qualitative survey that was carried out in 2010. The MSM report card (available in English on www.hera.org.mk/eng) was conducted in partnership with NGO EGAL Equality for gay and lesbian. Macedonia is one of 3 countries in world which implemented this study as part of the joint initiative of IPPF and UNFPA. HERA also organized a round-table discussion with CSO activities, UN representatives and Government health programme managers to present the study findings and discuss opportunities how the recommendations can be taken further in advocacy activities. It was concluded that the New HIV strategy should certainly took in account some of the findings of the study and it was recommended to all organizations working in HIV field to use it in their further advocacy processes. One of the most important recommendations of the MSM report card are the following: recognize sexuality orientation and gender identity in the existing Antidiscrimination Law, allocate specific budget for MSM prevention activities in the National AIDS budget; to establish new preventive HIV service for MSM throughout country and straightening the capacities of the existing health services towards working with MSM; the Government to take part on reducing homophobia in the country; to Strengthen the capacities of individuals and organizations dealing with MSM/LGBT as advocates on policy and legal reform to ensure that human rights of these groups are respected and protected. Please visit our web site to download the full report (www.hera.org.mk/eng)



HIV PREVENTION CARD ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

In addition to MSM prevention card HERA with the support of UNAIDS country office and using the same qualitative methodology of IPPF and UNFPA has also conducted a HIV prevention survey among young girls and women. The Women and Young girls HIV prevention report card was the 26th research that was conducted within the IPPF family members. The findings were presented along those with MSM card in order to ensure that further development policies and prevention services related to HIV are gender-sensitized and not solely focused on most-at-risk groups as the practice up-to date. The woman report card gives the following recommendation to be used as an advocacy tool by both NGOs and state health organization dealing with HIV: to adopt legal provisions to protect from gender-based violence and the concept of gender to be recognized as such in the national legislation, policies and programmes and in the educational process; to overcome barriers for access to health care services for young people under age of 18; to ensure that the Law on Citizens Associations and Foundations is equally implemented and that all citizens, especially those from marginalized communities, including sex workers, are formally entitled to establish community-based organization; to improve the HIV prevention activities among women and young girls, especially in promoting VCT; to strengthen capacities among service providers on gender-sensitized approaches; enable HCT is available at the gynecological cabinets in the primary health care system; to increase the participation of the women's organization in HIV decision making process and preventive services. Please visit our web site to download the full report (www.hera.org.mk/eng)



**OUR WORK
ON
ADOLESCEN
TS AND
YOUNG
PEOPLE**

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

Objective: To ensure meaningful youth participation in the organizational policies and activities

In 2011 HERA has enlarged the number of youth volunteers and at the moment there are 40 active youth volunteers that are active in the peer education activities, social media (Twitter and Facebook), creative workshop on SRHR using theater based performance and youth advocacy linked to sexuality education. Within the peer education activities of the youth clinics "Sakam da znam" a total of 237 young people attended SRH workshops. Moreover 103 young people, mainly from rural areas have been educated for TB and HIV prevention in the framework of the Global Fond project, Round 10 but more workshops are planned to be organized in 2012 as the project has just started (October 2011). Youth volunteers were also very active within the advocacy activities for introducing sexuality education as part of the World Contraception Day, through collecting signatories from the general public supporters. Moreover as part of World AIDS Day our volunteers also took part in the promotional activities for raising awareness on HIV testing among university students and distribution of condoms and educative materials.

The youth volunteer team of HERA has been also awarded with the small-grant project by the European Society of Contraception and RH which is continuation of the Contraception is my choice previously implemented under the Girls Decide initiative of IPPF. The project will use different approaches such as video, theatre play, Facebook, entertainment events to raise awareness of usage of modern contraceptives and oral pills among young people, particularly girls.

Many volunteers of HERA were also active within the advocacy activities for the introduction of the Law for Young People as part of the youth network movement Youth- Law in which more than 35 youth organizations took part. HERA's youth volunteers were on the frontlines in many open debates, street protests and media activities to ensure that Youth Law represents the interests of young people and that their voice is accountable in the decision process at both Central and local level.

RADIO SHOW on YOUTH AND SRHR LAUNCHED BY YOUTH VOLLUNTEAR TEAM OF HERA

Starting November 2011, the youth volunteer team of HERA has launched a radio show Sexy neighborhood which is broadcasting every second week to the internet radio of the Youth Educational Forum. A total of 3 radio shows has been emitted during 2011 to the following topics: (1) introduction to HERA and general understanding of SRH, HIV basic information and World Aids Day, (3) stigma and discrimination and PLHIV

AWARDS

Decision move that was produced by the HERAs volunteers in 2010 as part of Girls Decide initiative of IPPF has been awarded for its innovative approach by the World Summit of youth awards that took place in Graz, Austria. HERAs project has been awarded among 700 other projects submitted from 99 countries.

Youth coordinator of HERA Daniel Kalajdjieski has been also awarded by the Governing Council of IPPF, in London, for his contribution in the IPPF global work in improving young's people SRHR.

2 LITTLE GIRLS CAMPAIGN ON HUMAN TRAFIKING PREVENTION

Objective: Promote human trafficking prevention among young people, especially in rural areas in the framework of Two Little Girls regional campaign

Promoting human trafficking prevention among young people, especially from rural areas by using creative methods such video and theater based-performance - in total 328 young people, (age 12-17) through education moving caravan in rural and urban areas in Macedonia were reached

. This was really good example for edutainment session with creative educational methods like theatre and movie. It was amazing to see that Two Little Girls is touching to every young person that was participating on the sessions. As greatest achievement of this project is documentary movie that was produced as part of regional campaign for human trafficking. The movie contains documentary parts from edutainment sessions and animation for human trafficking film "Two little girls and narrative part where animated characters are brought to live. The movie is made to raise awareness about human trafficking and document creative methods of educating young people (available at www.youtube.com/HERAMacedonia). Moreover Comic relief the taster will be further on used in fundraising activities of Comic Relief the initiator of the 2 little girls' regional campaign for production of feature film.

Edutainment sessions went well thanks to the partnership with Macedonian Red Cross. Involving local partner for organizing sessions was good for attracting students to participate and it was peer learning for both partners HERA and Macedonian Red Cross.

BOYS DO MATTER

Objective: To increase access of boys and men to SRH information and services

Promoting SRH knowledge and prevention among young athletes from 5 sports club in Skopje - 136 boys have been reached through workshops activities thus they received proper knowledge and skills on different aspects of SRH, especially on contraception, use of condoms and HIV/STI prevention. In addition focus was also given on importance of male SRH self-care and during workshops facilitators from HERA especially worked on motivating boys in order they to use SRH services and Sakam da znam youth clinics. Gender, particularly masculinity issues were also part of the workshops that enabled boys to be more sensitized about gender roles and different sexualities.

Promoting fatherhood care among Roma males - 35 Roma fathers from the Roma community of Suto Orizari were involved in workshop activities to raise awareness on the importance of fathers in the care of children and family in general. The workshops a great achievement is that they provided open flora for the Roma men to discuss their traditional gender beliefs and how they be changed in terms of enhancing gender equality and mans greater responsibility towards SRH.

Adoption of male SRHR policy - The policy has been designed in wider consultancy process within

association where both Governance/staff/service provider and youth volunteers took part. This policy gives clear strategic directions how to improve the gender aspects of the further association activities, services and internal policies and especially 2. By Improving men's SRHR through enhancing the access to information and services; 2. By Increasing participation of men in improving women's SRHR; 3. By promoting gender-sensitized and gender-transformative approaches toward full achievement of gender equality. Prior to the development of the males SRH policy a Qualitative survey (through in-depth interviews with 50 boys) was carried out which findings was the foundation for the policy creation. The survey concluded that: (1) boys do not possess basic knowledge about the comprehensive concept of SRH (2) they enter in risky sexual activities whereas prevention is based to non-valid criteria (3) they do not visit medical persons if they have signs to infection but rather want to solve their problems with alternative ways (4) they do not know whom to go about problems related to relationships, emotions (5) they do not use psycho-social services about problems related to sexual dysfunction (6) model of identifications linked to masculinity are allied to traditional norms



Defending the youth participation – Draft Youth Law

The whole initiative started in April 2011 when without any public debate the Youth Law entered into Parliamentary procedure. The draft law was controversial because was neglecting the main principle of youth participation and activism effectuating state selection and control over the youth organizations. This was more than enough to raise the voice on many non-government organizations that are working on youth issues in different areas.

From the very beginning, youth volunteers in H.E.R.A. took part in this initiative. In order to defend the youth rights and their participation with other 36 partner organizations many activities in order to be influenced all process were organized. In this regards, press conferences, public debates with young people and parliamentarians took place over the country. In addition, policy brief and policy study in order to stress out all weaknesses of the proposed law were prepared.

When the law entered the second reading in October it was withdrew by the Government with the explanation that improvements are needed. This joint initiative, very first of this kind in Macedonia, showed that the youth voices is strong and the participation of young people in the decision making processes is more than needed.

All information about the initiative is available at www.mladizakon.org

Plans for 2012:

Capacity building of youth volunteer team on SRH advocacy and project writing

Training of peer educators, with focus to Roma young people

Conducting peer education workshops on Tuberculosis in rural areas

Conducting peer education activities in the youth friendly services 'Sakam da znam''

Continue working on boys' SRH through provision of education and promotion of youth friendly services

Development of comprehensive sexuality education curricula for youth volunteers

Promotion of use of oral contraception among young people, especially girls



**OUR WORK
ON ACCESS
TO
INFORMATION
AND
SERVICES**

SEXUALITY AND LEARNING DISABILITIES

Objective: Young people with learning disabilities are aware of their sexuality and know how to protect their SRH and to have pleasurable and responsible sexual activities.

Promoting knowledge and skills of relationship and sexuality for persons with intellectual disabilities and their parents/carriers - 186 people (67 people through individual sessions and 119 people through group work exercises) have benefited from the sexuality education programme in 11 institutions and special school dealing with learning disabilities. Programme on sexuality and learning disabilities managed to establish strong partnership with NGO PORAKA in all stages of project implementation. The partnership benefited in recruiting service providers, design of the sexuality education action plan in the daily centers and monitoring and evaluation activities. The NGO PORAKA showed great sensibility of the sexuality issues and sexual rights of people with disabilities that was very crucial for the results achieved through this project and more important motivation of the service providers in the institutions to promote SRHR. Moreover HERA has received a certificate of acknowledgement for the cooperation and support in implementation of the programme activities of the day centers of PORAKA for persons with intellectual disability in 2011 (see http://poraka.org.mk/en/news2012_3.html)

Opportunity to discuss sexuality and relationship needs and constraints of people with disabilities together with academia authorities from both scientific perspective and daily practices by organizing the first national conference that brought 60 people from different institutions, including future educators and CBOs (media article available at the special education and rehabilitation web site <http://www.defektologija.org/nastani/%D1%D0%BA%D0>).

HERA developed and printed guidelines for professionals and parents to deal with sexuality and SRH of people with disabilities. The unique tool will assist all those who deal with people with intellectual disabilities to promote SRHR knowledge and skills based on human rights-values and according to evolving capacities of the beneficiaries (available in Macedonian language at <http://hera.org.mk/default.aspx?pArtID=492>)

FPA Northern Ireland hosted a team of 7 people, including representatives from HERA, community-based organization (including a parent), Ministry of Social Affair and the Dean of University of

Philosophy for a study visits on sexuality and learning disabilities. The country team had possibility to learn from the experiences of FPA Northern Ireland and to get familiar to the social inclusion process of the people with disabilities. In particular they were more knowledgeable about FPA Northern Ireland methodology and methods used, the way of partnering with different institutions and special schools and had also possibility to hear about impressions from the people with disabilities from the sexuality education programme.

Plans for 2012:

Continue building capacities of the service providers working in the daily centers for people with intellectual disabilities on sexuality and relationship issues

Implementation of the sexuality and relationship action plans in 11 daily centers dealing with people with disabilities

Introducing topics on sexuality and relationship within the school curricula in the Institute for Special Education and Rehabilitation – Formation of expert group

Conducting educational workshops among university students on sexuality and learning disabilities

Creating a network of SRH friendly service providers for people with disabilities

Conducting need assessment on sexuality and relationship among people with physical disabilities

ROMA HEALTH MEDIATORS (RHM)

Objective: To increase the access of Roma to health, social, educational and legal services through established innovative programme of mediation – Roma Health Facilitators (RHF).

The Centre for Vocational Education and Science under the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia has developed a Training curriculum for the occupation of Roma Health Mediator which was approved by the Minister of Education and Science with the Decision No. 07-528/1 issued on 27.01.2011. This Curriculum defines the program structure, the competences acquired upon completion of training, the entry criteria for candidates, the organization, monitoring and evaluation of the training. The Curriculum provides a modular package of seven training modules with duration of 360 hours to enable the candidates to acquire the professional, theoretical and practical training required for acquisition of competences for working as an RHM. The candidates have gained knowledge and skills in the following areas: Health Care, Administration and referral, Social protection, Communication skills, working on Case studies.

16 RHMs have successfully completed the training in the secondary medical school, "Dr. Panche Karagjozov" and are ready to begin with field work. Starting from June to August 2011, 20 Roma candidates took part in the training, with the coordination support of HERA, out of which 16 RHMs were selected through elimination tests to evaluate the acquired knowledge and skills. Training costs were covered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia and administrated by HERA. The training was conducted by a trained team of educators in the premises of the secondary medical school, Dr. Panche Karagjozov. Upon completion of the training, the candidates acquired a certificate proving they possess the required competences to work.

Through the RHM project 2 pilot RHMs was engaged as part of the activities of the Roma Youth Clinic Sakam da znam. The Roma grassroot organization Umbrella was selected as a partner organization due to its years of field work experience in Suto Orizari. Two representatives of that organization attended a three-day training provided by representatives from the Institute for Mothers and Children, the Inter-municipal Centre for Social Work from Skopje and HERA. The pilot RHMs started with their field work in February 2010. Their main task was to improve communication between the Roma population and health workers, providing assistance in the provision of necessary personal and health insurance documentation, as well as carrying out health promotion activities both individually and at the level of the community.

The pilot RHM showed that RHMs will play a significant role in the referral of citizens to the appropriate places in the system, in cases when they identify people without any personal identification documents, persons who need to be introduced into the health care system, children who do not receive the regular mandatory immunization, as well as to facilitate the process of integrating the health needs of the Roma population in the overall health system. During a 19 month period (February 2010 - October 2011) the Pilot RHMs in Shuto Orizari have detected 186 families who needed support in achieving their health and social rights, out of which 151 families have been provided support to achieve easier access to health and social institutions.

The following services were provided by the RHMs to Roma residents of Shuto Orizari:

Exercising the right to health insurance - **161**

Obtaining personal identification documents - **80**

Information and referral for immunization of children - **800**

Informational and educational meetings with women regarding reproductive health and visits to gynecologists - **500**

Achieving the right to welfare payments – **10**

Plans for 2012:

Organizing a Regional Conference on Roma Health as part of the Government presidency on Roma Decade Inclusion

Provision of technical support and capacity building for the accredited Roma Health Mediators

YOUTH FRIENDLY SERVICES “SAKAM DA ZNAM”

Objective: To increase access to high-quality SRH services for young people in Skopje, especially for those who are poor and marginalized

In 2011 HERA registered a total of 1647 clients to both youth SRH clinics. According to the service statistics 40% of the clients have been new and around 82% of them belong to groups who are poor, vulnerable or marginalized (this includes general Roma, MSM, SW, street children and institutionalized children). As result of the continuation of the cooperation with the local schools neighboring mainstream youth clinic in Skopje and action plan developed with 3 new schools and SOS village a total of 544 youth visited the centre and attended educational workshops. In 2011 214 Roma clients received contraception counseling and 52 of them received free contraceptives, including oral pills and IUDs. 5.8% of clients in youth clinics have also received VCT services. The YGS project emphasize the well-established partnership with various partner, both GO and NGO (especially those dealing with MARPs - sex workers and MSM), including schools. In particular this year we can highlight the continued collaboration with SOS village Kinderdorf international and initiated partnership with 3 new high schools from Skopje. Moreover the collaboration for referral for SRH services with Roma grass roots organizations was enabling HERA to improve their access to Roma households to provide outreach SRH promotion.

Plans for 2012:

Promoting youth friendly services among marginalized and vulnerable groups, including sex workers, MSM and injecting drug users

Organizing sensitizing trainings for health professionals for dealing with vulnerable and marginalized groups

Conducting a need-assessment on SRH among sex workers, MSM and injecting drug users

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV) IN STRUMICA

Objective: To reduce incidence of domestic violence in the municipality of Strumica through strengthening local Government capacities and commitment and creating coordinated response at all local institutions level

As continuation of activities in 2010, in 2011 through this project a local strategy for domestic violence was developed and adopted by the Municipality Council. Moreover the Municipality has allocated budget for DV prevention activities (especially for the SOS helpline created during this project) at local level that ensured financial sustainability of HERA's project beyond UNFPA funding. Moreover the project was recognized as best practice model by the UNFPA, that served as model for other NGOs involved in implementation of UNFPA DV projects to established similar in its context local coordinative bodies in other respected municipalities throughout the country. The projects succeed to ensure there is a commitment, both political and financial, from the local decision makers in the filed of fight against domestic violence.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Interior, during 2011 the number of the reported cases of DV in Strumica is the highest in the country, just behind the capital. It could be assumed that this is particularly result of Outreach DV promotional activities (164 families were reached) and promotional Round tables/debates carried out through this project (180 people reached).

In 2011 a memorandum for understanding for combating domestic violence at local level among all relevant key stakeholders responsible for implementation of the state protocol was signed, including the Municipality, Centre for social welfare, Local police station, Health Institution, Secondary school and 3 civil society organizations. Moreover, formal referral network was established in order to ensure effective implementation of the protocol and each institution, organization and religious community that is part of the local coordinative body

Plans for 2012:

Providing technical support to Municipality of Strumica for opening a Shelter center for victims of domestic violence

Working with private sector on social entrepreneurship and domestic violence

IN DEPTH ANALYSIS OF FAMILY PLANING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SUPLIES

To increase our understanding of the low contraceptive use and key factors influencing contraceptive behavior in the Republic of Macedonia a qualitative study was carried out to analyze the following: knowledge and opinions about contraception, access to and quality of services and the impact of policy and health system reforms. Data were collected through focus group discussions (10) covering differences in gender, age, ethnicity, residence (urban/rural); interviews (25) among service providers, community and religious leaders, government officials, policy makers, donors and pharmacists; case studies (5) among focus group participants and policy-makers(1).

The survey concluded that misinformation about modern contraception, both among users and service providers are the most important barrier influencing modern contraceptive use. A lack of access to information and services to rural residents as well as gender inequality among the Roma and Albanian communities are also very important. There is no supportive political environment to ensure contraceptives are more available and accessible in the country.

The survey findings will be used as an advocacy tool of HERA's ongoing activities for improving the accessibility and policy environment of contraceptive use and family planning services in the country. It will also provide more relevance of HERA advocacy activities as provide updated analysis of the FP situation in the country.

Plans for 2012:

Organizing High-level consultative meeting on promoting national ownership on reproductive health and contraceptive supplies
National dissemination of study results and recommendations among decision makers

Printing final study report



OUR WORK IN ABORTION

MEDICAL ABORTION

Objective: To enable women in Macedonia to have access to medical abortion and to enjoy their right to choose between different methods in the context of comprehensive abortion care

One of the major achievements in 2011 is the training on medical abortion regime that we provided to 12 gynecologists that enabled them to feel more optimistic and knowledgeable about introducing medical abortion, and what is important their ignorance and misperception softened and reduced significantly which is key factor for further introduction of this method in the context of CAC. This training was the first of its kind organized among professionals in the country, supported and in collaboration with the Professional Association of Gynecologists and Obstetricians and Concept Foundation which on the other provides immense value for the service providers and for HERA as well.

In addition D-r Sasa Jovcevski, director of the University Hospital expressed interest to pilot medical abortion to its clinic and together with HERA as a partner. In a series of consultations and meetings HERA and University Hospital have agreed all details for the pilot project to start beginning 2012. A letter of Interest by the University Hospital to the Concept Foundation was sent and approval by the Foundation who further expressed its willingness to donate 500 packages of Medabon and assisting all stages of its implementation, design, provision of services and evaluation. Thus we succeeded to involve one of the decision makers (director of the University Clinic) to further act as supportive person for introducing medical abortion. Moreover the collaboration and technical assistance of the Concept Foundation has strengthen and continued to be very crucial for the project in both technical assistance and motivating gynecologist to start providing medical abortion services.

MEDIA ADOCCACY AGAINST ANTI-ABORTION GOVERMENT CAMPAIGN

HERA and the Macedonian Association of the Gynecologists and Obstetricians on 18th January held a press conference in order to oppose the Government media campaign for explaining the consequences (infertility, sepsis, perforations of the uterus, complications from the anesthesia and severe mental consequences) of the abortion as well as to deny the non-relevance and misuse of the facts being used in the video spot about the procedure of the termination of the pregnancy. At the Christmas Eve the Government of Macedonia has again launched the media campaign on the negative consequences of the abortion titled as "Chose life - You have a right to chose", as part of its pro-natal policy. The campaign consists of 3 video spots that explain the consequences of abortion and make glorification of the children and families as most valued issues.



HERA and the Macedonian Association of the Gynecologists and Obstetricians on 18th January held a press conference in order to oppose the Government media campaign for explaining the consequences (infertility, sepsis, perforations of the uterus, complications from the anesthesia and severe mental consequences) of the abortion as well as to deny the non-relevance and misuse of the facts being used in the video spot about the procedure of the termination of the pregnancy. Both associations called for Government to stop and withdrawn the campaign (the full text of the press release is available at <http://www.hera.org.mk/en/default.aspx?pArtID=33>). Among others both association has also recommended to the Government to introduce and implement the newly adopted protocols for safe abortion by MoH, including registration of the medical abortion drugs, to further improve the safety and the quality of the safe abortion services.

Plans for 2012:

Piloting medical abortion in the University Hospital of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Skopje

Make sure abortion remains right of choice for all women and counterpart and anti-choice activities

OUR WORK
ON
ADVOCACY

COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE)

Objective: Young people in primary and secondary schools in Macedonia have access to comprehensive sexual education as part of the regular educational curricula

HERA continued advocating for introduction of sexuality education curricula in schools. Several advocacy activities were undertaken. Firstly, in January 2011 the Parliamentary Commission for Equal Opportunities between women and men together with HERA organized a public debate on sexuality education in which the Commission gave support to the Framework for Comprehensive Sexuality Education (initiated from HERA in 2010 and developed in consultancy with wide range of professionals, Government officials and NGOs) and recommended to MoE authorities to develop a specific school programme for sexuality education and further on implement a pilot project. The Commission has also underlined that there is a need for wide general public campaign for sexuality education and expresses their readiness to collaborate with all relevant ministries and NGOs. In the progress forward it is important that finally the conditions for negotiations and collaboration with the key state institution, the Bureau for educational development, were established. Namely, HERA received invitation by the Bureau for educational development to conduct 12 workshops on CSE as part of the life-skills education ToT for teachers in elementary schools. These workshops helped HERA to obtain valuable knowledge about the limitations of the implementation of the Life skills education subject in schools and the possible areas of intervention in the school curricula. On the grounds of these findings HERA has identified the strategic advocacy interventions for 2012. During 2011 HERA has strengthened the media visibility in regard to its advocacy activities on CSE. Thus more than 10 articles were published in newspapers and we have been also invited to discuss CSE topics on 2 TV talk shows (National TV Broadcaster – MTV and Alfa TV). What is especially important is that CSE topic was on the cover page of one of the most commercial newspaper in the country (Dnevnik), including statement of our Programme Director of introducing CSE in schools that was in addition published. 8 journalists (covering topics on health, education and entertainment) and 3 university students in journalism received 2 days-training about SRH and how to report on these topics in more comprehensive and sensitized manner, with special focus to CSE.

During World Contraception Day campaign activities HERA organized a petition for introducing sexuality education in elementary and high schools as per the directions of the Framework for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, i.e. to ensure effective implementation of the National SRH

strategy for SRH 2010 -2020 which foreseen ensuring accessible modern contraception and introducing of sexuality education. Petition "You have right on contraception information. Demand sexuality education!", was signed by 14 NGOs and 455 citizens and further sent to the Macedonian Parliament members. The demands enlisted in the Petition provoked the Minister of Health to publicly express his ideological beliefs about sexuality education and oral contraception. At the end of year, on the occasion of the World AIDS day we have also sent the letter to MPs asking for oversee hearing of non-taking up the recommendations of the Parliamentary Commission of Equal Opportunities by the Bureau of Educational Development which resulted in extra efforts made by the Commission President and a meeting scheduled with the Bureau decision makers to discuss challenges and further development of CSE in schools.

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION ON HOMOPHOBIC BULLYING IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

HERA was of the of 40 government, civil society and community based organization that were part of the International Consultation on Homophobic Bullying in Educational Institutions Rio de Janeiro, Brazil convened by the UNESCO. This first of kind meeting initiated broader international discussion on homophobia and homophobic bullying in education. HERA took active participation in development and endorsing the "The Rio Statement on Homophobic Bullying and Education" (<http://bit.ly/xhqOeL>), as well as the publication "The Good Policy and Practice in HIV and Health Education – Booklet 8: Education Sector Responses to Homophobic Bullying".

Plans for 2012:

Continue advocate for mandatory comprehensive sexuality education in schools

Formation of expert group to propose CSE amendments in the live skill school curricula

Development of guidelines for teachers on CSE

ROMA HEALTH MEDIATORS

Objective: To increase Government political and financial commitment of Roma access to Health Care as part of Roma Decade Inclusion

One of the greatest success we did in 2011 in regards to Roma health is the decision of the Government of Macedonia at its 210th session on 08.02.2011, to approve budget of 800,000 denars (around 13.000 EUR) for the employment of 16 accredited RHMs in the Ministry of Health as per the recommendation of the Strategic Framework for the improvement of the social and health status of the Roma, whereas the remaining funds needed for their employment to be provided through foreign donations. This Framework provides strategic guidelines for the introduction of RHM in accordance with the obligations undertaken by the state with the adoption of the National Action Plans (NAPs) prepared on the basis of the National Strategy for Roma in the Republic. Macedonia and the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015. This project managed to establish very good partnership with the public officials from the Ministry of Labour and Social Polices which were the crucial in HERAs advocacy process of recognition of RHM and their further employment in the public health system and as part of Roma Decade Social Inclusion policy.

Plans for 2012:

Advocate for budget allocations under MoH for employment of Roma Health Mediators and make sure the RHM programme is integrated with Roma health development polices

NATIONAL SRH STRATEGY

In February 2011 the Government of Republic of Macedonia had finally adopted the first National SRH strategy. It took almost one year continued advocacy from the team who worked on drafting the strategy including UNFPA country office as technical supporter in this initiative. HERA, represented by Executive Director, was also member of the MoH working group and took part to all dissemination and advocacy activities to ensure SRH is part of the development policies of the Government.

Plans for 2012:

Make sure that National SRH strategy is efficiency budgeted and implemented



NEW NATIONAL HIV STRATEGY 2012 – 2016

In December the MoH had established a working group to draft the new national HIV strategy for the period of 2012 - 2016. HERA was also invited to take part in the expert group and in particular responsible for the areas of linking HIV with other public health-related issues and HIV prevention among young people. HERA has succeeded to set up HIV and SRH linkages as one of the strategic objectives in the new national HIV strategy 2012 - 2016. The strategy development process will continue in 2012 when the new strategy is expected to be finalized and further on adopted by the Government.

Plans for 2012:

Make sure that the draft HIV strategy is being approved by the Government and acknowledges HERA's strategic priorities to maximum extend

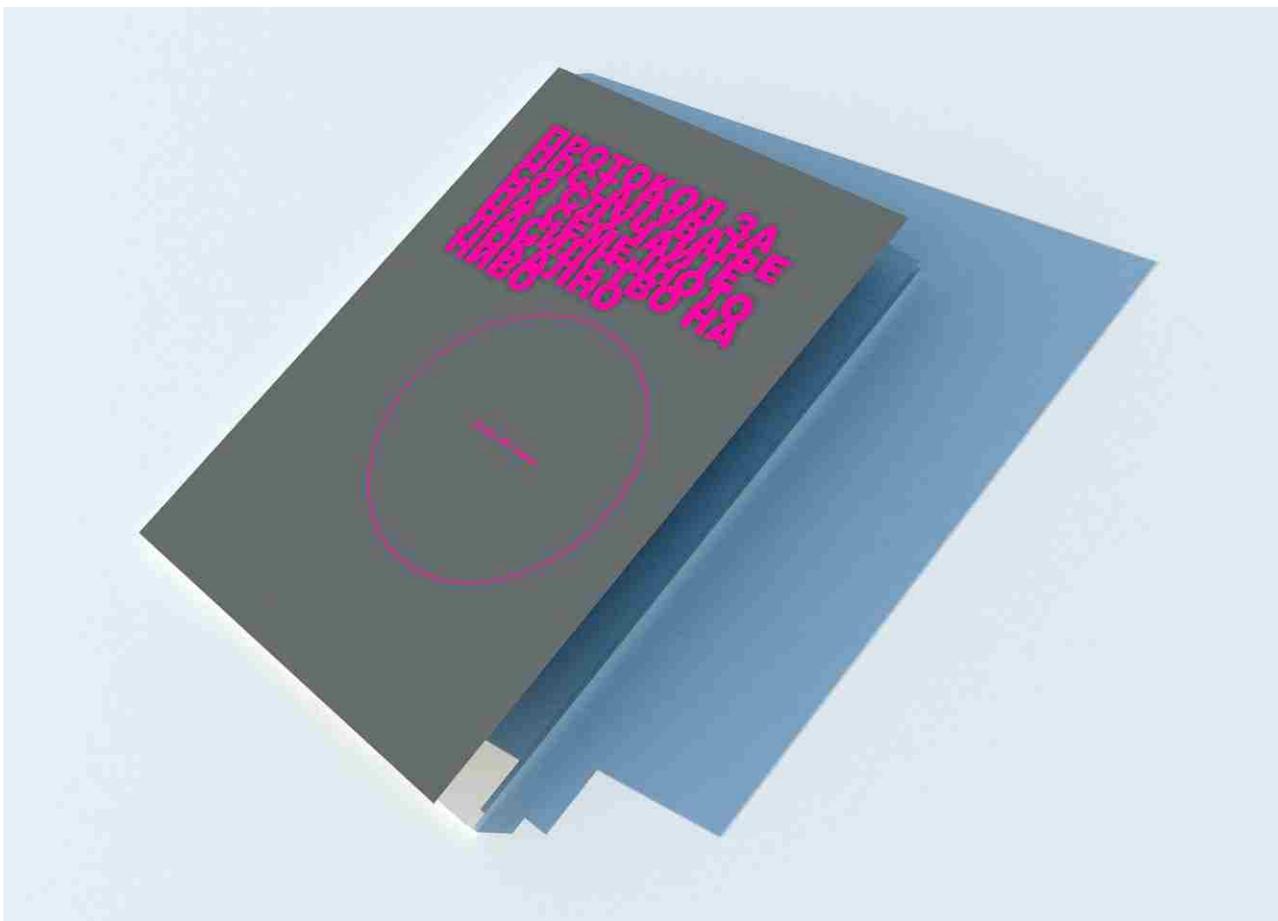


YOUTH FRIENDLY SERVICES "SAKAM DA ZNAM"

GF proposal for Round 10 recognize the importance for linking SRH youth friendly services with HIV prevention for most at risk populations (MARPS) as result of successful advocacy of HERA. Starting from 2012, youth friendly clinic Sakam da znam will be financed by the Global Fund project that will ensure YFS is sustainable beyond NCA and IPPF funding in the last 5 years. HERA was pre-selected to run this project due its experience in linking HIV and SRH services for young people and its long-term practice in providing youth SRH services through "Sakam da znam" youth clinics.

Plans for 2012:

Continue advocating for recognizing youth friendly services "Sakam da znam: within MOH preventive health programmes and budget



ANTIDISCRIMINATION STATE COMMISSION RECOMMENDED TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO REVISE THE HOMOPHOBIC TEXTS IN THE SCHOOL BOOKS

In May 2011 the state Commission for protection of discrimination issued a mandatory recommendation to the Ministry of Education to revise the homophobic text in the school book Pedagogy for the 3rd year of high school education since represents harassment and provoke humiliation and dignity violation to certain group of people. Moreover the commission pointed out that school books can't have texts which stigmatize certain group of people and that the content of the textbooks cannot have elements of human rights violation. This recommendation is result of the submission made by the Coalition for protection of sexual and health rights of marginalized communities to the state antidiscrimination commission because the ministry of education allowed in the school curricula usage of school book that consist text which discriminate people with homosexual orientation. Moreover the European Commission in its Progress Report for Macedonia has also underlined that University and high school books also treat homosexuality as a disease and that anti-discrimination law is still not fully harmonized with the EU acquis, bearing the fact the discrimination on the basis of sexuality orientation is still omitted in the law. Therefore all Government arguments that the antidiscrimination framework law is in line with EU directives in 2010 lost their validity. HERA as formal organization with the Coalition has also took part in this initiative through the involvements in public debates, advocacy activities within sexuality education project as well as media activities.

Plans for 2012:

Take pro-active role in Coalition advocacy activities to fight homophobia and promotion of sexual rights of LGBT people

Homophobic Bullying in Educational Institutions

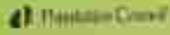



ИМАЈЕ ПРВО НА ИНФОРМАЦИИ ЗА КОНТРАЦЕПЦИЈА
БАРАЈ СЕКСУАЛНО ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ

 X. E. P. A.

СВЕТСКИ ДЕН НА КОНТРАЦЕПЦИЈАТА 2011
ИМАЈЕ ПРВО НА ИНФОРМАЦИИ ЗА КОНТРАЦЕПЦИЈА
БАРАЈ СЕКСУАЛНО ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ

ПОДДРЖАНИ ОД:

ПЕТИЦИЈА
ИМАШ ПРАВО НА ИНФОРМАЦИИ ЗА КОНТРАЦЕПЦИЈА.
БАРАЈ СЕКСУАЛНО ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ.

Се потпишувам на оваа петиција бидејќи:

- Само 5.6 % од студентите во Македонија користат орална контрацепција. За 25 % од нив прекинувањето на сексуалниот однос се уште е главен начин за контрацепција.¹
- Стапката на тинејџерска бременост во Македонија е неколкупати поголема од земјите во Европа.²
- Во учебниците се промовира прекинувањето на односот како метод на контрацепција и не се објаснува правилната употреба на кондомот.³ Спротивно на Светската здравствена организација⁴ во учебниците стои дека оралната контрацепција „не се препорачува затоа што може да предизвика несакани и трајни последици“⁵
- Само 5,6% од наставниците изјавиле дека можат да предаваат за контрацепција.⁶

Затоа, на Светскиот ден на контрацепцијата, со ставањето на потпис, БАРАМ:

1. Да се воведат сеопфатно сексуално образование во основните и средните училишта во Македонија во согласност со насоките од Рамката за сеопфатно сексуално образование, којашто беше донесена од 23 стручни државни и граѓански институции, според којашто научно проверените информации за модерните средства за контрацепција мораат да бидат дел од наставната програма.

2. Да се имплементира Националната стратегија за сексуално и репродуктивно здравје 2010-2020 со којашто е предвидено обезбедување на достапна модерна контрацепција и воведување на сексуално образование.

1. Анкета на ХЕРА спроведена меѓу 10000 студенти во Скопје, 2011

2. Рамка за сеопфатно сексуално образование. ХЕРА, Скопје 2010.

3. Љубов само по часови-Проценка на потребата и на достапноста на информациите од областа на сексуалното образование во Македонија. ХЕРА, Скопје 2010.

4. Критериуми за медицинска оправданост за употребата на контрацепција. СЗО, Женева 2009.

5. Прирачник за Образование за животни вештини за VII-IX одделение, Биро за развој на Образованието, Скопје 2009.

6. Љубов само по часови- Проценка на потребата и на достапноста на информациите од областа на сексуалното образование во Македонија. ХЕРА, Скопје 2010

Во текот на 26 Септември, Светскиот ден на контрацепцијата, Петицијата ја потпишаа 455 граѓани.

Организации потписници на Петицијата се :

1. Здружение за еманципација, солидарност и еднаквост на жените во РМ – ЕСЕ
2. Акција Здруженска - Скопје
3. НВО Доверба
4. Институт за брак, семејство и системска пракса - АЛТЕРНАТИВА
5. Фондација отворено општество - Македонија
6. Форум на млади - Битола
7. Младински образовен форум

8. Центар за развој и унапредување на јавниот живот- Тетово
9. Младински клуб- Штип
10. ХЕПТА - Асоцијација за здравствена едукација, превенција и подобар третман
11. ЦИВИЛ - Центар за слобода
12. ХОПС- Опции за здрав живот Скопје
13. Организација на жените на општина Свети Николе
14. ХЕРА - Асоцијација за здравствена едукација и истражување



X. E. P. A.
асоцијација за здравствено едукација и истражување

A Member Association of



IPPF

European Network

International
Planned Parenthood
Federation

GOVERNANCE

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

A new HERA Executive Board was elected during AGM in July 2010. There was only one replacement in the EB composition, welcoming only one new member coming from the PLHIW community. The amendments of the association made in 2010 encourage PLHIV to nominate for Board members and to take active participation in its activities whereas one place in the Executive Board, according to the criteria for selection of Board members, will be reserved for the person living with HIV.

POLICY ON MEN'S SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

At the AGM in July HERA has adopted a policy on men's sexual and reproductive health and rights. The policy identifies 3 specific objectives: 1. Improving men's SRHR through enhancing the access to information and services; 2. increasing participation of men in improving women's SRHR; 3. Promotion of gender-sensitized and gender-transformative approaches toward full achievement of gender equality. Under each of the specific objective a set of activities and strategies are proposed. The policy outlines following core values:

Understanding of gender not solely as women issue but as an issue that concerns both men and women

Understanding of the gender as social, dynamic and changeable category which is key factor for improving SRHR for all people

Information and services that is adjustable for different needs of all men, with special focus to socially-vulnerable groups

Accepting and respecting different sexuality orientation, gender identity and expressions among men

Active participation of the men in design, promotion and implementation of association SRHR policies and programmes

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY 2011 – 2013

The first communication strategy by the association was adopted in July 2011 at the AGM. The communication strategy was developed with the support of external consultant. A 2 days meeting was organized for volunteers, staff and EB members and facilitated by the consultant in order to do situational analysis and set the basis for the communication strategy, both in external and internal communication. The strategy should support the implementation of the programme activities of HERA in accordance to its primarily goal: steadily progressively improvement of SRH in Macedonia, protection and implementation of the sexual rights through information, education, build institutionalized capacities and appropriate open dialogue. The strategy envisages 2 communication objectives:

To strengthen the image and recognition of HERA as leading advocate in the area of sexual rights and SRH in the country

To improve the practices, tools and protocols for external and internal communication of the association

As follow up of the strategy an action plan has been created by the senior staff member in order to assist both staff and volunteer in ensuring efficient communication (external and internal) in implementing the strategic paper. The Programme Director is the main responsible person to monitor its implementation and to provide additional support and tolls to the association membership and staff.



RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

In 2010 H.E.R.A. income amounted to 391.032 US\$ a decrease of 23,6% from 2010. Same as last year, most H.E.R.A. resources have come through the Global Fund Projects and IPPF. HERA continued receiving funding from the GF to fight HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria to host the CCM Secretariat. HERA has also received a small institutional grant of 5.000\$ to support the activities of the PLHIV informal group Stronger together. As HERA has been preselected to run 3 projects under new GF grant (Round 10) it is expected that in 2012 the total amount will increase significantly compared to 2011. However one of the most successful resource mobilization activities in 2011 goes to OSI Skopje with whom at the end of 2011 we have signed agreement for 3 projects for 2012 (ARV treatment advocacy, Roma community mobilization and antenatal care, Health rights and Roma women) in amount of around 70.000\$.

For the World AIDS Day and for the first time HERA together with Macedonian Opera and Ballet has organized a fundraising opera concert titled as "HIV concerns everyone. Make HIV test. Support PLHIV" aimed to increase the social responsibility of the private sector about People Living with HIV. A total of 3.700EUR has been raised from the business companies and individuals and the money were further used for purchase of PCR tests, and donated to the Clinic of Infective Diseases, as well as social packages of food and hygiene products for the poorest PLHIV. The donor concert was also supported by the President of Macedonia as main patron of this event. 3 media (one radio, one newspaper and billboard company) had also provided financial support for the media coverage of the event.

Funders and supporters in 2011

- 1. Global Fund to fight HIV and Tuberculosis**
- 2. International Parenthood Planned Federation – IPPF**
- 3. Norwegian Church Aid**
- 4. UNFPA – United Nations Fund Population**
- 5. UNDP – United Nations Development Programme**
- 6. Foundation Open Society Macedonia**
- 7. Comic Relief**
- 8. Center for Institutional Development**
- 9. British Council**
- 10. European Society of Contraceptives and Reproductive Health**
- 11. EATG – European AIDS Treatment Group**
- 12. City Of Skopje**
- 13. Institute for Public Health**

Sources of funding 2010 in local currency (MKD)

| | INCOME | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL INCOME |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| IPPF – International Parenthood Planned Federation | 3.470.650 | 19% |
| Government organizations | 218.386 | 1% |
| International Organizations and Foundations | 13.672.147 | 74% |
| UN agencies | 616.415 | 3% |
| Fundraising activities | 257.500 | 1% |
| Membership fees, interest | 352.493 | 2% |
| TOTAL | 18.587.591 | 100% |

SOCIAL NETWORKS

In 2011

We got 2600 “likes” on our Facebook page. Around 3000 people received information from our Facebook page, 63% of the fans are females, 36% are males, 37% of the fans are between age of 18 – 24

752 people follow us on Twitter

8500 page views on HERA's YouTube videos

Word Press Blog of youth volunteers of HERA got over 9000 views

HERA TEAM

H.E.R.A Executive Committee Members

- 1. Milena Stevanovik**, President
- 2. Aleksandra Vuckovska**, Secretary
- 3. Ninoslav Mladenovik**
- 4. Velimir Saveski**
- 5. Zoran Jordanov**

H.E.R.A. Office Staff

- Bojan Jovanovski**
Executive Director
- Drasko Kostovski**
Programme Director
- Milos Stojanovik**
Director of Finance and Administration
- Mila Carovska**
Programme Coordinator Access
- Elizabeta Bozinovska**
Programme Coordinator HIV/AIDS
- Daniel Kalajdjieski**
Programme Coordinator Youth
- Hristina Nestorovska**
Financial assistant and accountant
- Ana Filipovska**
CCM Secretary
- Marina Cvetkovic**
Project Administrative assistant
- Andrej Senih**
Stronger Together Coordinator
- Damjan Nikolov**
Administrative Assistant
- Marija Matovska**
Youth project coordinator
- Marija Dragojlovik**
Host – Youth Center “Sakam da znam”, Vodno
- Lence Popovska**
Social Worker Youth Friendly Service “Sakam da znam” – Suto Orizari
- Vesna Turmakovska**
Psychologist - Youth center “Sakam da znam”, Suto Orizari
- Lozan Kirandgiski**
Driver
- Miroslav Jelik**
Driver

**Annual
Report 2011**

Skopje, 2012