

A photograph of three young people sitting on the ground and laughing. On the left, a young woman with long dark hair and sunglasses on her head is wearing a light green zip-up hoodie. In the center, a young man with short dark hair is wearing a white t-shirt with a red graphic and a dark backpack. On the right, a young woman with long brown hair is wearing a white t-shirt with a rainbow-colored graphic. They are all smiling and looking towards each other. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with some structures.

SEXUALITY EDUCATION in Europe and Central Asia

Drashko Kostovski
IPPF European Network

Shaping a healthy environment fit for children
3-4th October, Helsinki

Who are we?

The International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN) champions sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

IPPF EN covers a hugely diverse region stretching from France to Kyrgyzstan, and Norway to Israel.

Last year our member associations reached to 300 000 young people with SE and 20 000 new SE educators were trained



Some history of SE in Europe

1955

It began in Sweden in 1955, followed by many more Western European countries

1st
phase

Prevention of unintended pregnancy (1960s-70s), then moved on to the prevention of HIV (1980s)

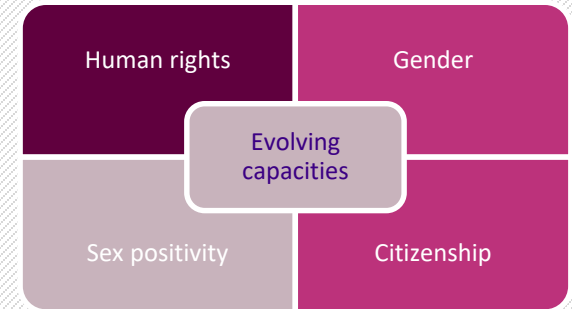
2nd
phase

Awareness about sexual abuse (1990s), prevention of sexism, homophobia and gender norms and reflections on gender inequality

3rd
phase

2006 onwards: Holistic and sex positive... Protection online

We understand SE as:



- Holistic, developmental and age appropriate,
- Culturally and contextually relevant and scientifically accurate
- Learning process grounded in a vision of human rights, gender equality, sex positivity and citizenship.

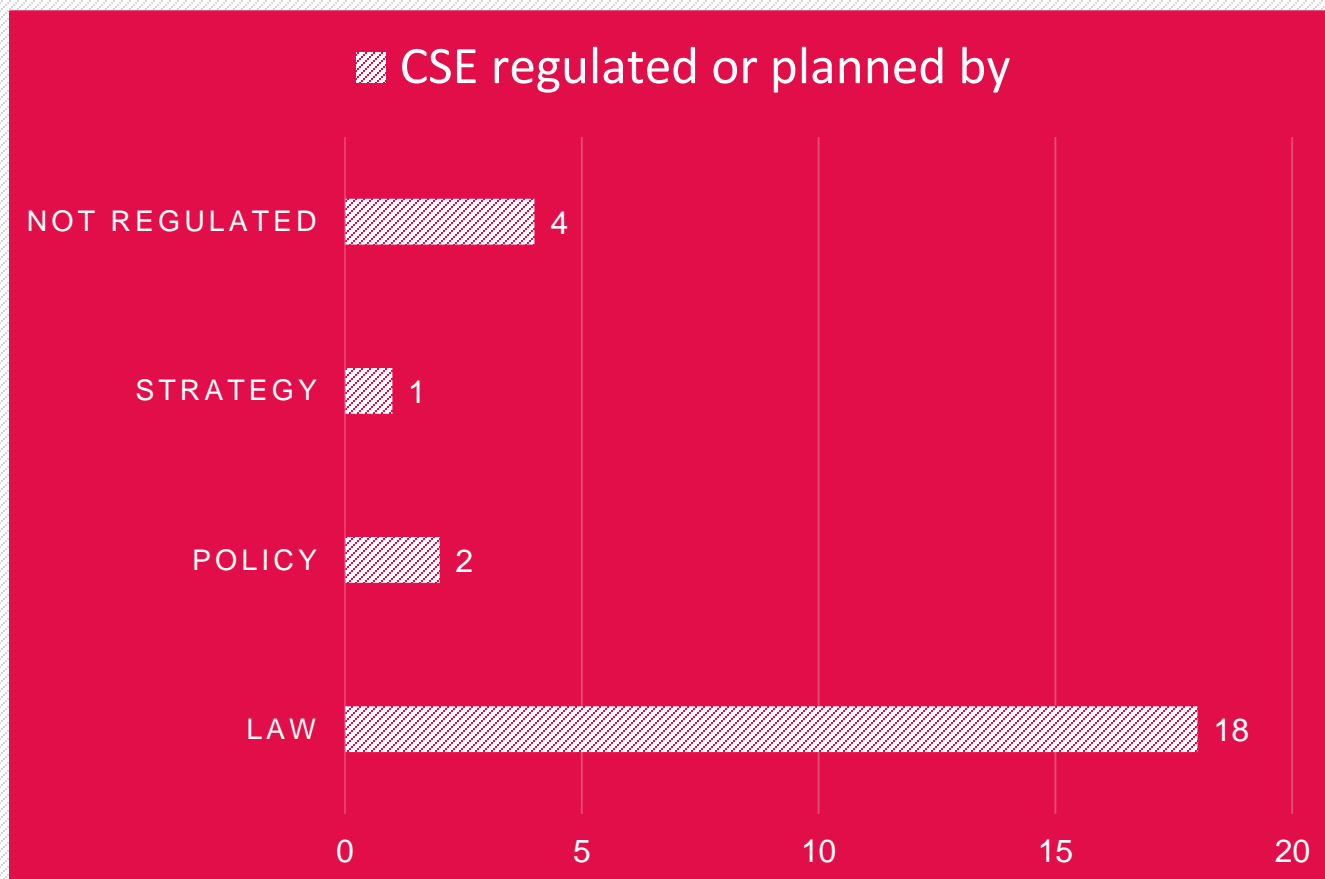
Any proof of success?



- Increase correct knowledge, clarify positive values and attitudes
- Increase the use of protection against unintended pregnancy and STIs during sexual intercourse.
- Increase skills for protection from sexual and gender-based violence, coercion and online bullying
- Increase vital skills to understand consent and to be able to make informed decisions and act upon them
- Improve perceptions on social norms, cultural values and traditional beliefs, and skills for managing relationships with peers, parents, teachers, other adults and their communities.

Sexuality Education in Europe and Central Asia. An Overview in 25 Countries.

MAIN FINDINGS: Impressive Progress of SE in Europe



SE IS BECOMING AN INTEGRATED TEACHING SUBJECT IN EUROPE



Mandatory in schools in 11 countries

Partly mandatory in 6 countries

Optional subject in 4 countries

In 4 countries it is, as yet, hardly or not taught

Country	Status	Country	Status
Albania	<i>Mandatory</i>	Ireland	<i>Partly mandatory</i>
Austria	<i>Mandatory</i>	Kazakhstan	<i>Optional</i>
Belgium	<i>Mandatory</i>	Kyrgyzstan	<i>Optional</i>
Bosnia & Herzegovina	<i>Optional</i>	Latvia	<i>Mandatory</i>
Bulgaria	<i>Optional</i>	Macedonia	<i>Pilot phase</i>
Cyprus	<i>Partly mandatory</i>	Netherlands	<i>Mandatory</i>
Czech Republic	<i>Mandatory</i>	Russian Federation	<i>Partly mandatory</i>
England (= UK)	<i>Mandatory</i>	Serbia	<i>N.A</i>
Estonia	<i>Mandatory</i>	Spain	<i>Partly mandatory</i>
Finland	<i>Mandatory</i>	Sweden	<i>Mandatory</i>
Germany	<i>Mandatory</i>	Switzerland	<i>Partly mandatory</i>
Georgia	<i>N/A</i>	Tajikistan	<i>Partly mandatory</i>
		Ukraine	<i>Mandatory</i>

MAIN FINDINGS

Country	Law/ Policy ¹ + year	Use of European Standards ²	Comprehensiveness ³	Man-datory ⁴	Teacher training ⁵	Links with YFS ⁶	M&E ⁷	Resistance in society ⁸
Albania	L, 2012	A+C	+++	Y	++	N	Y	Y
Austria	L, 2015	A+C	+++	Y	+	Y	N	S
Belgium (Flanders region)	L, 2010	A+C	+++	Y	+	Y	Y	N
Bosnia and Herzegovina*	S, 2016	A+C	+++	O	+++	Y	Y	Y
Bulgaria	L, 2016	A+C	N.A.	O	+	N	N	Y
Cyprus	P, 2011	C	++	P	?	P	N	Y
Czech Republic	L, 2013	C	++	Y	++	N	P	S
Estonia	L, 2011	A+C	+++	Y	+++	Y	Y	N
Finland	L, 2016	C	+++	Y	+++	Y	Y	N
Georgia	N	N	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	Y
Germany	L, 2002	C	+++	Y	+	Y	N	S
Ireland	L, 2010	?	+	P	+	N	Y	S
Kazakhstan	L, 2009	?	+	O	++	?	P	Y
Kyrgyzstan	L, 2015	?	++	O	+	N	?	Y
Latvia	P, 2013	?	+	Y	+	Y	P	Y
Macedonia (fYRoM)	N	A	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	S
The Netherlands	L, 2012	A+C	+++	Y	+	P	P	N
The Russian Federation	N	?	+	P	N	N	N.A.	Y
Serbia	N	N	N.A.	N.A.	+	N.A.	N.A.	Y
Spain	L, 2010	N	+	P	N	Y	N	Y
Sweden	L, 2011	N	+++	Y	++	Y	N	N
Switzerland	L, 2008-2014	A+C	+++	P	++	Y	N	S
Tajikistan	L, 2015	?	+	P	+	?	N	Y
Ukraine	L, 2013	A	+	Y	+++	P	Y	S
United Kingdom (England)	L, 1996	A	+	P	++	P	Y	S

❑ Comprehensive in only 10 countries

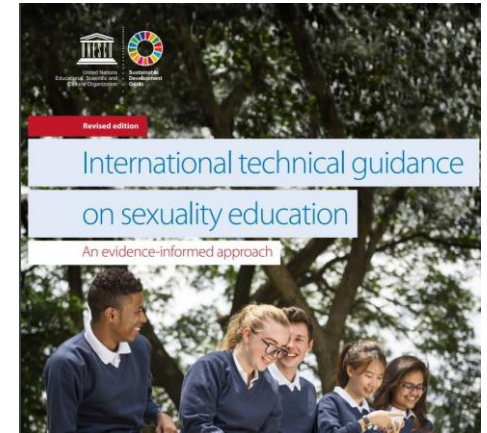
❑ Challenges with implementation and teacher's training

❑ An extensive resistance to SE in 12 countries

In countries with comprehensive SE :

- ❑ It is associated with high levels of oral contraception use
- ❑ The teen birth rates tend to be very low
- ❑ SE does not lead to early sexual initiation

A new momentum



New guidance, new evidence, the #metoo movement, a need to share good practices and realities of the ever-present digital world.



It's like a SECRET SOCIETY... to be INITIATED inside you have to send a NUDE or do this or do that then you're like a WOMAN

(girl, Ireland, 15)



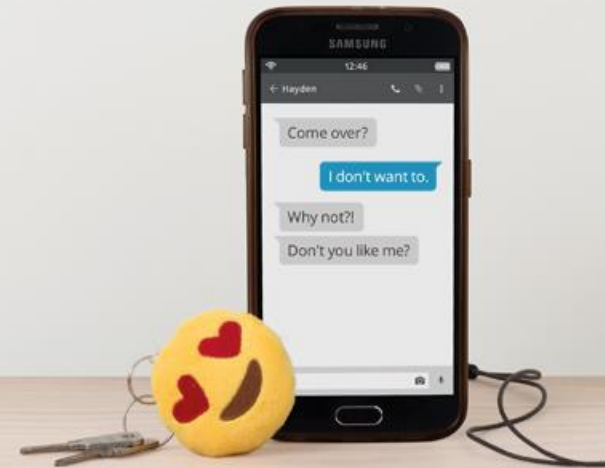
For me, if you have a chat with your girlfriend you can ask her to send you an INTIMATE PHOTO, if she sends it to you, good. DANGER is not sexting, danger is the SPREAD of these photos when we LEAVE each other

(boy, Italy, 16)

I've been empowered to make my own decisions and assert myself in relationships. I know I should never be forced into having sex.

SEE THE COST

#SeeTheCost



Recommandations

- ❑ Focus on new emerging topics and address the needs of different groups of Young People
- ❑ Use the momentum of renewed political interest for better implementation and support teachers
- ❑ Reach to the groups of the society which are not well informed about the benefits from SE
- ❑ Engage parents (inform, motivate, provide consent)
- ❑ Collect evidence and share knowledge and experience across the region



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