YouAct and European youth-led advocacy for the new development agenda

In the run-up to and throughout 2015, YouAct has been collaborating with other European NGOs and international partners to find strategic entry points for the advancement of SRHR through international development frameworks, including the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

A key event in these efforts is the strategic meeting that YouAct hosted in August, in Bucharest, Romania. YouAct invited partner youth organizations - CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality, Y-PEER and the PETRI Sofia Center, Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights and YSAFE to share their experiences and involvement in the post-2015 related processes and advocacy initiatives. Daniela Draghici, an experienced advocacy consultant and trainer and EuroNGOs Steering Committee member, joined the youth group and presented various models of working in partnership for European advocacy, with examples from ASTRA, ASTRA Youth and EuroNGOs.

Read more about it here!
Last round of negotiations for the new development agenda

In July, YouAct, represented by Ana Rizescu, joined the civil society advocates at the Intergovernmental Negotiating Session (IGN) for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The negotiations focused on the draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mobilizing support for SG’s Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health

YouAct, represented by Ana Rizescu, along with other youth networks representatives has participated in a meeting hosted by UNFPA and co-convened by UNFPA and the UNAIDS Secretariat as the adolescent work stream of the SG’s Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health “Every Woman Every Child”.

What does the new Development Agenda mean for Women and Girls?

In September, Camila Ochoa Mendoza attended an online seminar that discussed Women and Girls’ Rights in the Post-2015 Goals. She summarized and shared the main points brought up, regarding how the Agenda supports gender equality, which parts are lacking, and what the next steps are.

Joint Youth Statement on 2030 Agenda

On 25-27 September, the world’s governments will adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Youth organizations called upon governments to recognize and emphasize the right of young people to meaningfully participate in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda and to acknowledge the SRHR of young people and adolescents worldwide.
A march for choice

Anna Johannson Dahl was in Dublin and attended the March for Choice. Together with many other activists, they demonstrated for the legalization of abortion in Ireland. Today, Ireland is one of three countries in Europe where it is still illegal to have an abortion.

She also met Nessa Childers and Marie Arena, Members of European Parliament, former Member of European Parliament Zita Gurmai and Spanish Pro-Choice activists to discuss the issue.

Read more about it here!

Have You Seen My Rights?
Young people’s right to talk about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Following the Sustainable Development Goals adoption, YouAct and the Swedish Association of Sexual Education (RFSU) organized two key activities in the framework of the “Have you seen my rights?” campaign - a workshop and a breakfast-seminar with national stakeholders.

Read more about it here!

Eastern Europe and Central Asia Youth Voice Campaign Bulletin

The publication includes news from the national level as well as regional updates from youth advocates who were involved in processes related to the new development agenda. YouAct’s work is illustrated in the newsletter in several occasions, such as the contribution to the online consultation on the Draft Sustainable Development Goals Declaration, where our members from 7 countries across Europe: Romania, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Armenia, Moldova, Russia have shared their input, advocacy work conducted at the last Intergovernmental Negotiations in New York, the Joint Youth Statement on the 2030 Agenda developed in partnership with fellow youth organizations and networks and others.

Read more about it here!

September 28 - Day of Action for Access to Safe and Legal Abortion

YouAct members joined the fight against abortion stigma and discrimination and engaged in the initiative #BustTheMyths, emphasizing the importance of abortion as an essential social good and a human right, and demanding that governments uphold their human rights commitments!
EuroNGOs International Conference

Anna Johanson Dahl and Ana Rizescu attended the 2015 EuroNGOs conference hosted by Sex og Politikk, the Norwegian Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and had the opportunity to meet, network, exchange and disseminate ideas, information and resources for advocacy.

YouAct’s Coordinator, Ana Rizescu was invited as a speaker in one of the sessions. She shared an analysis of the 2030 agenda outcome document from a youth perspective and highlighted the issues that have been left out. In her reflections about opportunities and challenges for young people and youth SRHR organizations to engage in the implementation, follow-up and review, she highlighted that addressing the youth development issues requires a multi-sectorial approach and having youth-adult partnerships as key elements. Ana also emphasized the importance of continuously supporting the capacity building of young people in developing skills that will allow them to better advocate on their own behalf, create programs and activities that will engage other youth and contribute to the ongoing processes related to the new development agenda.

#MYPintheSDGs Youth Initiative

Together with representatives of other youth networks, including CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality, SAIH and YSAFE, YouAct and partners prepared and used the momentum created by the EuroNGOs conference to emphasize the right of young people to meaningfully participate, to stimulate more youth-adult partnerships and work together with other stakeholders on the new agenda. “Framing meaningful youth participation in the SDGs” was the initiative that gathered photos with messages focusing on meaningful youth participation in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (therefore, the hashtag used was #MYPintheSDGs).

David Donoghue (Irish UN-Ambassador and Co-facilitator for Post-2015 Negotiations), Babatunde Osotimehin (UNFPA Executive Director) and Lambert Grijns (Special Ambassador for SRHR/HIV/AIDS of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs) were among those who showed their support to ensure meaningful youth participation in the 2030 agenda implementation, follow-up and review.

YouAct joined the 10 Days of Activism Campaign - “Adolescent for Future: Global to Local, Let’s Commit for Adolescents Rights in the 2030 Development Agenda!”

As part of the International Advocacy Campaign “10 Days of Activism” 2015, the Y-PEER Network organized a webinar on the topic “Global to Local: Bring the UNSG’s Strategy Every Woman Every Child to local level, tackling the importance of adolescents in the decision making as a mean of sustainable development of each nation”. YouAct was one of the webinar speakers, along with UN and CSO experts and activists.