Y-PEER
DEFYING BOUNDARIES
Y-PEER News Bulletin
Y-PEER News Bulletin is a visual content-based document, which will report and illustrate activities administered by Y-PEER network on an international level, as well as the national one. Aim of the Bulletin is to enable network members and active Y-PEERers get acquainted and informed about various seminars, workshops, events and activisms taking place within their own communities, along with those occurring within their geographical region and beyond.

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### Abbreviations

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
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<td>IDP</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Person</td>
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**Joint United Nations Programme On HIV/AIDS:**

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNV</td>
<td>United Nations Volunteers</td>
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<td>SRHR</td>
<td>Sexual And Reproductive Health And Rights</td>
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<td>UNFPA CO</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund Country Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>STI</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Infection</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWOT Analysis</td>
<td>Analysis Of The Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities And Threats</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPC</td>
<td>Focal Point In Charge (Part Of The Structure Of Y-PEER)</td>
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<td>TOT</td>
<td>Training Of Trainers</td>
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<td>FGM</td>
<td>Female Genital Mutilation</td>
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<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender Based Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>EECA Region</td>
<td>Eastern Europe And Central Asia Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCCA</td>
<td>National Center Of Culture And Arts</td>
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Posters that deliver messages of non-violence and promote awareness of the issues were created. The creation of these posters was organized by the Focal Point of the city of Shkodra, Ditmar Kolaj. The Campaign was launched on the 25th of November, and members of Y-PEER started by encouraging others to become part of the Campaign, explaining its main goal and answering the question “Why is it important to get involved in this campaign?”. The young people were invited to be part of Y-PEER network.

A short video message was created by two of the Y-PEER Albania members, in cooperation with one of the most famous journalists in Albania. It became part of the video with the theme “WOMEN NOT SILENT”, which is available online on Y-PEER Albanian’s Youtube channel, and is distributed by volunteers, as a part of the Youth Voice Albania Network. UNFPA and INDIA gave a positive feedback to the message. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIJWDF8N47M

During the opening event Y-PEER Albania was responsible for the creation of the Human Orange Ribbon, organized in the Central Square of the capital city. This ribbon was followed closely by the Mayor, participants from different ministers, representatives of civil society in Albania and representative agencies of religions, who said they would work and would promote a society free of violence. Members of the Y-PEER network were on the stage as well and sent messages to their peers.

The work of the Y-PEER Network Albania was strongly supported by UNFPA Albania through materials, contacts and promotion.

Find more about Y-PEER Albania on the following links:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/YPeeralbania/1435165850140937
https://www.facebook.com/groups/441685482656594
http://y-peer-albania.weebly.com/
Theatre-based trainings on gender, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS were organized by Y-PEER Azerbaijan peer educators at 3 schools located in Baku, Azerbaijan. The training courses took place at State School on Physics, Mathematics and Informatics (11-14 November), Pishavari Humanitarian Gymnasium (2-5 December) and “Dayanat” Baku Turkish School (10-12) with overall participation of 61 adolescents in the trainings. Throughout the 3 days of training courses at each school students increased their knowledge about sensitive topics like gender, children’s rights, reproductive health, sex-selective abortions, child marriages and HIV/AIDS. During the public theatre event open to parents, peers and youth at each school, the adolescents presented their social theatre plays on these topics. Approximately 20 teachers, 43 parents, 28 youth and 66 adolescents were directly reached through the project.

Y-PEER Azerbaijan conducted 3 theatre-based training courses and consultations for adolescents and young people (14-20 years old) in Lankaran, Ismayilli and Aghdam regions of Azerbaijan during July-August 2015. During those training courses young people from remoted areas, from conflict affected regions increased their competences on women empowerment, gender, sexuality and HIV/AIDS. Youth also got an opportunity to suggest their vision for better future during the Forum Theatres and consultations with them and local decision makers in their respective regions. The inputs by adolescents and young people representing all social, economic and cultural groups were put together in Declaration “Azerbaijani Youth in Action for a Better Future”, which was officially presented to the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Following this, on 22nd September, the conference “Youth in Action for Better Future” brought together 150 young people, 6 decision makers/senior government representatives and 2 Members of Parliament who delivered statements supporting the youth agenda.

Youth Voice” Campaign in Azerbaijan

“Accessible Education-Accessible Future” project was developed by Y-PEER Azerbaijan FP Saadat Abdullazada and implemented by her team with the support of Hilton Baku Hotel. The project consisted in a 3 days of training course and follow up trainings aiming to increase awareness about disability, to build the competences of young educators, trainers and future teachers studying pedagogical science at the universities in Baku. The 3 days of training course took place at Hilton Baku Hotel, during 23-25 October, 2015 with participation of 21 young people interested in learning ethical principles and right methodology while working with persons with disabilities (PWD). 8 out of 21 participants have planned to conduct disability awareness training course at their respective Universities. Overall, 28 female and 19 male young people were directly reached throughout the project. The project also reached the decision-makers through offering suggestions of participants of the training about ensuring accessible future. Youth suggestions ensuring accessible education and future were developed and send to UNICEF Country Office in Azerbaijan in order, to consider it in development and implementation of their next country program. More about the project (in Azerbaijani language) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4miVv9ZQfRw

Find more about Y-PEER Azerbaijan on the following link: https://www.facebook.com/ypeer.azerbaijan/?ref=ts&fref=ts
Regarding the Youth Voice campaign, the members of Y-PEER Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with other peers, organized a “Letter Campaign”. They wrote, collected and sent 2,000 letters to the President and local governments. The letters contained “Youth Voices” that expressed their opinions on health issues, education, safety, employment and other important topics.

On the 26th of October Y-PEER Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with Partnerships in Health, organized educational workshops for youth about HIV, AIDS and risks for young population, as a part of one of the UN programs which is implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina, known as National Response to HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis.

The same day our volunteers were distributing educational brochures in cafes, shopping malls and places where most young people spend their free time.

The Workshop was organized with the support of the Local Government of Ilidža’s Municipality where 30 young participants were present and learning about human rights, gender equality, discrimination. After the presentations the participants did some exercises where they needed to recognize cases of discrimination and think about how to find a solution for them.

It was two-days long seminar which was very successful. During these two days the participants had the chance to discuss and exchange experience and comments about the topics.

Y-PEER, together with other NGOs and Youth Councils, celebrated the 1st of December – The World’s AIDS Day by organizing public events, info stands and distribution of educational materials and condoms. We also organised a round table, together with schools’ officials and talked about sexual and reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases and the importance of educational lessons in schools.

After that Y-PEER, in collaboration with Partnerships in Health, held a presentation about HIV/AIDS, open for everybody. Throughout the day everyone could get a condom and advices on how to be safe and have a healthy life.

Find more about Y-PEER Bosnia-Herzegovina on the following links:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Y-Peer-Bosnia-and-Herzegovina/184595568246108
Web: http://www.y-peer.ba/
The campaign is taking place in 9 Egyptian governorates. It started in mid-November and aims at conducting 255 peer education sessions by 255 peer educators who are going to be trained by Y-PEER Egypt in 9 local trainings (one training for each governorate), in order to raise awareness about FGM and minimize the rate of the cases of FGM in the community.

Girls Empowerment Campaign

The campaign was launched to empower Egyptian girls between 16 and 25 years old, in order to help them exercise their social rights and offer them more opportunities. UNFPA and SIDA (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) supported the campaign.

10 Days Of Activism Campaign

We had a preparation phase for the 10 DOA campaign in September, which had the aim to build new partnerships and improve the capacity of the partner organizations. It was really fruitful, as we managed to reach 11,000 young people. The activities targeted adolescents, who discussed issues like Healthy lifestyle, HIV/AIDS, the importance of premarital counseling and adolescent’s health.

The second phase of the 10DOA was implemented in parallel with the international campaign. We had ten days of action, enthusiasm and raising awareness in more than 40 schools and youth centers all over Egypt.

MICROCLINIC – Diabetes Campaign

Our national campaign aims at helping the adolescents to live a healthy lifestyle and to avoid getting diabetes mellitus. 24 Y-PEERians attended a national TOT on diabetes with MICROCLINIC International in August 2015. The campaign started in the beginning of November (The International Month of Diabetes) and each Y-PEERian was supposed to offer two programs which consisted of 8 peer education sessions arranged in a way that helped others change their unhealthy habits by the end of the program (50 people were reached by every Y-PEERian: 25 people per program and 2 programs developed by each).

Raising Awareness On FGM Campaign

Y-PEER Egypt has implemented 2 national trainings of trainers in this period, one for SRH and another one on Diabetes. On the national level, about 55 training were conducted for the partner organizations on SRH, humanitarian, theatre and life skills topics.

Trainsings And Capacity Building

78 Organizations on the national level have been involved in Y-PEER activities on GEC “Civic Engagement” and 10 DOA national campaigns. Y-PEER Egypt was also represented in many regional and national events with the participation of UNAIDS, UNV, UNFPA, Population council and many CSOs.

Advocacy And Partnerships

Y-PEER Egypt is developing a new mobile application as a tool to provide more information about the network activities as a new channel of communication with smart phone users.

Find more about Y-PEER Egypt on the following links:
http://www.ypeeregypt.com/
https://www.facebook.com/YPeerEgypt
The culmination of the campaign was December 1, when UN Partners with Youth celebrated the World AIDS Day in Georgia. UNFPA and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and Georgian Youth Development and Education Association (GYDEA), in partnership with University of Georgia (UG) organized an Event in the garden opposite the UN House, to celebrate the World AIDS Day. It aimed to raise awareness on HIV prevention among adolescents and youth, the TV public service launched and promoted free of charge HIV counseling and testing services among the youth and women. The PSA is a collaborative initiative of the UNFPA and UN Women in partnership with the Georgian AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center.

The presentation of the video was followed by the Awards Ceremony of the winners of the Youth contest on the most creative media pieces about HIV prevention, announced by UNFPA earlier in November. Popular youth bands “Ghost Vision” and “King Monkey” performed for the audience.

Georgia currently belongs to HIV low prevalence countries; by 2015 there have been 5,328 registered cases of HIV, the majority of which belong to 29-40 age group. The correlation between Violence against Women and HIV & AIDS is high and female victims of violence represent those of the high risk group. The United Nations has a significant role and is committed to support implementation of the new Global UNAIDS strategy globally and at the national level. Each year, the UNFPA Georgia Country Office celebrates the World AIDS Day by supporting various activities to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS among youth. UNFPA supports strengthening of integrated HIV and sexual and reproductive health services.

We strongly believe that increased national investments in HIV prevention, especially for young people and key affected populations, will contribute to ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

10 Days Of Activism Campaign

Is an important reminder of the opportunities we have to combat HIV/AIDS and gender inequality. We are on the Fast Track to end AIDS. It is a long and challenging, although achievable road and we believe we can win this battle together.

GYDEA Georgia continues its tradition to organize the campaign; our strategy is to combine technology, social media, arts, journalism and music to ensure mass mobilization of all communities and promote collective responsibility in the fight against HIV and gender inequality. Our goal is to encourage society to acknowledge that the only way to stop this disease from spreading is unity of all people in the world against it; also it is important to support people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have passed away.

We have done several activities for 10 days of activism 2015. We held meetings in the University of Georgia with students where we had a chance to promote positive thinking regarding HIV, we have challenged students to rethink outdated stereotypes, challenge myths and be positive about HIV. We have done this by showing the movie, handing out the brochures and holding a discussion after movie. After discussion everyone was eager to share what they have talked about HIV amongst their friends, family and classmates.

Find more about Y-PEER Georgia on the following link:
https://www.facebook.com/GYDEA/?fref=ts
Y-PEER Iraq team organized a seminar on entrepreneurship in Iraq, Erbil, as part of the project “Mentoring for Young Entrepreneurs” that was supported by the EU (Erasmus+) in the period 10-15 October 2015. 15 young entrepreneurs from different countries (Slovenia, Kazakhstan, Yemen, Portugal, Croatia, and Iraq) participated in this program. We had a field visit to the “Together Organization for Human and Environment” to have an idea about the history of the organization and we were informed about their vision, goals, and projects, their partnership with Y-PEER Iraq network. On the second day we visited two companies, “Life Support Team Company” & “Tadmur Company” along with “Peace Generations Network”, a network of 20 NGOs, and in addition we organized a cultural night after these activities. On the third day, we realized a workshop at the Erbil Stock Exchange about entrepreneurship experiences and banks that support young entrepreneurs. Then we had a meeting with the governor of Erbil. On the fourth day, we had a conference at Kurdistan University, attended by 200 people from various institutions to highlight Iraqi, Portuguese, Slovenian, and Croatian experiences in entrepreneurship. After the conference we had a meeting with the Minister of Higher Education of KRG.

In August 2015 the Y-PEER team in Baghdad did a wonderful trip to few IDP’s families for the sake of their kids. The trip was to Al-Zawraa Park. It was a trip full of adventures, as it was the first time for the kids to see a real lion, and they took a boat trip in a lake. They spent a joyful time playing, running, singing, and making jokes. The feeling of just seeing them happy was unforgettable!

On August 12th, the young female volunteers in Arbat IDP camp Sham Women Center got together to celebrate the International Youth Day through writing messages that they wanted to share with the world.

On the first day there was a quiz about teenagers’ health issues and the winner could get a prize like from Y-PEER. On the third day there was a workshop about GBV, with great active participation of different people.

UNFPA and Y-PEER in coordination with the Directorate of the Youth in Duhok conducted six parallel trainings for 150 boys and girls from different districts in Duhok, during August and September. The targeted youth were IDPs, refugees, and youth from the host community and the training was about the typical topics of Y-PEER trainings, such as discrimination, violence against women, child marriage, and sexual transmitted diseases through the Y-PEER education techniques. The interactive theater team in Najaf presented one of their plays which was about the pursuer caused by peers and their positive and negative effects to school students. The First National Y-PEER Theatre Based Peer Education Training for young people from Baghdad was organized in the period 5-7 September 2015, in partnership with the Youth Development Institution.

During the 10DOA we organized Peer Education Workshops for university students in Basra, Najaf, Babylon, and Baghdad, for secondary school students in Diyala and Erbil. For IDPs and refugees in Sulaimania, Dohuk, Diyala we showed the interactive play “Hysteria” in Baghdad International Fair. We organized competitions on our Facebook page about volunteerism. We had several interviews on radio channels with Y-PEER Iraq members who talked about Y-PEER and the 10DOA Campaign.

In the end, as Y-PEER Iraq, we believe in our stance and the cause we stand for. Challenges and difficulties are becoming heavy but our perseverance and hopes of a better tomorrow proved to be heavier. We think that time should be our friend, as we see our seed growing and fruitful results are and will be cultivated from our hard work for what we believe in. Stay positive...Share knowledge but most importantly - persevere!
It is the day when the youth gathered together from all over Jordan in one place. It’s the day that came as result of collective efforts of professional and creative young people who believe that youth can do a lot if they get their space. What made this day unique is how everyone joined the activities and was happy and satisfied with its program.

We had a great partnership with UNRWA (http://www.unrwa.org/) to target the adolescence inside Palestinian camps in 4 areas (Zarqa, Wehdat, Bakaa, and Jarash) camps through training to raise awareness about RH and GBV. We trained 88 young people in Palestinian refugee camps and prepared them to give awareness sessions inside UNRWA schools. After the training we supported the trainees to have their own initiative such as awareness session, graffiti, and interactive theatre. Four of our trainers were Syrians from Zatari Camp. The trainings helped them build their capacity and ensure the social cohesion between the host community and Syrian refugees.

Our partners INJAZ (http://www.injaz.org.jo/) and J-CAP (http://jcap.bluerayws.com/) completed 2 trainings (debating and advocacy). We are working with them in the frame of the “7ewar Al Ajeeal” project “Communicate for Family Happiness” and we will target 8 areas in Jordan, in order to do 24 awareness sessions regarding Reproductive Health, Advocacy, and Resources for the Awareness of Population Impacts on Development (RAPID). We participate as Leaders and Coordinators in:

1- Mobilizing the youth from local community and building their capacities to support family planning issues.
2- Supporting the advocacy and policy initiatives.
3- Optimizing the use of RAPID to raise awareness on the positive impact of balanced population growth on the country’s natural, social and economic resources.
4- Supporting the Family Planning Coalition to implement non-government advocacy initiatives.

“Caravan for Volunteerism” was launched on the 17th of October 2015 in partnership with UNV. It is aiming to spread the idea of systematic volunteerism under the umbrella of UNV. A concrete local database was collected through the Caravan, which toured all the governorates of Jordan. The Database consists of different initiatives that were identified through the tour. It also covers various aspects, from challenges to opportunities that each governorate faces in regards to volunteerism. The “Caravan of Volunteerism” also promoted the “Volunteerism Cup” where each initiative/volunteer had the right to compete for winning the cup for the second time in a row.

Y-PEER Jordan was partner in this Caravan through a freeze mob show, a theatre performance and the help of the volunteers who joined.

Amman Cultural Innovation Day had the aim to open a space for young people to share their talents, culture, ideas, and achievements in an innovative way. As Jordan is a country with a young population, we had the aim to show the successful model of international youth networks that integrated with the Jordanian community like the Cultural Innovators Network and the Youth Peer Education Network Y-PEER. One of the main objectives was to create bridges between people, organizations and networks, as well as to show Jordanian cultural diversity. This event was organized by motivated and professional young people who believe that they can change the world. The event contained multicultural activities focusing on innovative ways of sharing. Our guests were young people from the cultural sector grouped by governorates (Zarqa, Irbid, Jaresh, Karak, Aghore, Mafraq (Zataari camp)), and Amman. There were also a lot of participants from NGOs, humanitarian organizations and private sector organizations.

For more information you can visit: www.culturalinnovators.org

Find more about Y-PEER Jordan on the following link: https://www.facebook.com/ypjordan/
Advocacy: Coming From Words Into Action

International Women Forum took place in Shymkent with the participation of Secretary of the State of the Republic of Kazakhstan Gulshara Abdykaliyeva. Also, akim of South-Kazakhstan Oblast Beibut Atamgulov, sportspeople, representatives of the government, big and medium business owners took part in the event. Y-PEER activists participated as representatives of the youth. We have pointed out the results of our activities and positive sides of supporting the network. After the Forum and all the Plenary Sessions the resolution has been developed.

World AIDS Day

As part of the 10 Days of Activism Volunteers of "Y-PEER Kyzylorda" took part in a concert dedicated to the World AIDS Day which took place in Korkyt Ata Kyzylorda State University. Participant of the training school PETRI-SOFIA 2015 Azhdar Daulet made a report about the work of Y-PEER and shared experiences.

AIDS Does Not Sleep

10 Days of Activism in Semey On the 1st of December an activity called "AIDS does not sleep" was organized in a central park in the city and dedicated to the Day of AIDS. Young people filled out questionnaires and studied the handouts. As a result of the activity, youth supports that responsibility should be applied to all people.

Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

Y-PEER Kazakhstan returned from the First Central Asian Youth Forum in Issyk-Kul: "Youth, peace-building and security in Central Asia." Thanks to the intensive work they were able to achieve impressive results, proved our organization and got a scholarship. All our orange family so proud for our activists! Go ahead!

Y-PEER Kazakhstan with the support of UNFPA CO opened another resource center for young people. The opening ceremony was held on the main square of Kyzylorda City, and gathered around 160 people who have enjoyed the show.

Find more about Y-PEER Kazakhstan on the following links:
https://twitter.com/YPEERKazakhstan
http://www.y-peer.kz/
This year Y-PEER conducted 9 Forum Theatre performances in different communities in the South and North of Kyrgyzstan for rural and urban youth. On the performances participated about 860 young people and local authorities. It was interesting to observe that in religious and remote villages young men were more active than women and did not have barriers in coming onto the stage and play instead of the protagonist. But in the cities mostly young women tried to change the situation with GBV and were active in interventions.

From August 16th to November 18th were held shootings of 12 televised Forum Theatre programs on gender based violence, migration, early marriage, adolescent pregnancy, unemployment and different forms of discrimination among youth issues. These programs were broadcasted by National TV Channel from September 3rd to December 4th, 2015. We have received more than 600 feedbacks from spectators, and more than 500 spectators attended in shooting in TV Studio. After the programs released community activists and school administrations in the regions started to conduct forum theatres with their peers, and build a dialogue on issues in their community.

Within the reporting period in the frame of the campaign was held a meeting with UN representatives in Kyrgyzstan, also collected more than 12 600 post-cards with “youth voices” from 5 regions of Kyrgyz Republic addressed to the decision makers, to Mr. President, and First Lady, also to Premiere Minister and MPs. All these cards were analysed and was prepared final document which going to be presented to the decision makers mentioned above on the meeting in December, 17th.

In August 19-24th was held a National TOT on health promotion for 30 volunteers from different youth NGOs all over Kyrgyzstan. During the training they have improved their knowledge and skills on youth SRHR, health promotion, STIs as well as improved skills on leading training, conducting campaign and youth activism. After the training young activists conducted trainings, campaigns and other activities in their communities for their peers. We have provided them with the resources for activities.

In the frame of the “Stop silence about violence against children” project were trained about 70 peer educators on moral-sexual education, forms of violence and ways to react. These trainers will conduct every week some trainings in their respective schools during academic year on prevention of violence against children according to the curriculum “My safety world”.

Find more about Y-PEER Kyrgyzstan on the following links:
https://www.facebook.com/YPEERKG/timeline
https://twitter.com/@YPEER_KG
http://www.y-peer.kg/
For Y-PEER Moldova the fall and the first month of winter 2015 were productive with plenty of remarkable achievements, appealing challenges and unforgettable moments. In this period of time, the peer educators had the possibility of increasing their knowledge, broadening horizons, gaining experience; things that lead to the network’s development and other beneficial consequences.

National Festival Of Social Theatre 2015

One of the most significant events organized by Y-PEER in Moldova was the National Festival of Social Theatre 2015, which took place in Chisinau, the capital, on the 28th of November. This year 14 teams consisting of 10-15 young people from different districts of the country, had the possibility to participate in the festival and performed social-theatre scenes on the subject of reproductive health and non-discrimination. The most important aim of the event was to increase knowledge, change attitudes and behavior.

“What? Where? When?”

This fall, peer educators came up with the new and brilliant idea of organizing a contest on the subject of sexual reproductive health. It was named “What? Where? When?” and was realized in schools from different districts of the country. The aim was to deliver to young people information about puberty, personal hygiene, contraception and other important things related to SRH. The National Y-PEER Trainers and Regional Leaders were given the tremendous opportunity to gain new skills, abilities and knowledge by participating in several trainings. Approximately 25 peer educators attended sessions on the subject of actual social problems (stereotypes, prejudices, discrimination, etc.). Other two trainings were delivered by representatives of a national company, named CICO, which helped the participants improve their performance in teaching and management, become more competent and experienced.

YAP Meetings

In the last months two YAP Meetings also played a significant role. They were held in Chisinau and during these events the Regional Leaders had the opportunity to meet and plan their activities.

10 Days Of Activism Campaign

In the period 25 November–5 December 2015, Y-PEER Moldova celebrated 10 Days of Activism through organizing informative sessions, information booklets and condom distribution, flash-mobs, etc. All these gripping activities served as social contribution and also led to increasing the network’s visibility, number of beneficiaries and PE sessions. These are the most important activities done by Y-PEER Moldova in the last months, performed with diligence, love and dedication!

Find more about Y-PEER Moldova on the following links:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Y-PEER-Moldova/175140282540382
http://ypeer.md/
Updates from Morocco

The International Youth Day

Y-PEER Morocco with the support of UNFPA Morocco office has celebrated the 2015 IYD from August 12th to 22th in 8 different cities around the kingdom of Morocco. Our priority is to reach out to marginalized youth rather than focusing only on youth in big cities. Accordingly, IYD activities were mainly held in villages and unprivileged neighborhoods. It aimed to promote civic engagement, explain the importance of youth participation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the global post 2015 Agenda at national level. On August, 12th, 7 parallel events took place in 7 cities with a unified program which entailed an interactive exercise; a screening of the movie “Chabab” (Youth), produced by Zakia Tahiri, followed by a group discussion on youth issues related to rights and health. The outcome was more than 200 youth and adolescents took part to these events organized in 8 different cities and villages.

Y-PEER Morocco’s Advanced Training Of Trainers

It was organized for trainers by Y-PEER Morocco and UNFPA in Rabat. From 26 to 30 October, 17 young people participated in the training. They were from different places around the kingdom and represented different NGOs. The 5 days of training were full of interactive exercises, presentations and teamwork. Participants were tremendously motivated and engaged during all activities and sessions. As a reward of their hard work and the efforts of Y-PEER trainers, they became officially Y-PEER Morocco’s Focal Points.

Y-PEER Morocco’s National Meeting

It was an opportunity to discuss the upcoming activities of the network and aimed to explore possible options for collaboration between Y-PEER Morocco and other NGOs. The event was organized in the Center for Training and National Meetings in Rabat with UNFPA's technical and financial support. 22 focal points from different parts of the Moroccan kingdom, as well as UNFPA representatives, attended this meeting.

Find more about Y-PEER Morocco on the following links:
https://www.facebook.com/ypeermaroc
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Youth-of-Morocco/1590311834582015

Y-PEER Morocco’s Scale Up Meeting

Organization of a national scale up meeting to discuss Y-PEER Morocco’s Strategy with representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

10 Days Of Activism Campaign

It was held between 25 November and 9 December was marked by several activities including Organization of 2 stands in two cities with more than 700 visitors, Organisations of 9 Awareness sessions in 7 cities for 231 participants, 12 of them are young people with disabilities, Organization of a photo competition and Organization of a poll on young adolescent rights to access to SRH information and services, 432 filled in the form. All these activities have common objectives, namely:
- Awareness of the needs of teenagers regarding access to information and services related to health.
- Collect the recommendations and opinions of young people and adolescents on the right of access to information and services related to health, including Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Partial evaluation of the perception of the rights of adolescents by Moroccan related to Sexual and Reproductive Health.
- Sharing the correct informations about Sexual and Reproductive Health and inviting young people to get tested as part of the campaign "TEST4HIV". The outcome was more than 1360 youth and adolescents took part to these events organized in different cities and villages around the kingdom of Morocco.
1-We celebrated the Week for People with Disabilities in partnership with the Primary School for Deaf. Participating “youth” organized sports and recreational activities for adolescents and children to encourage the inclusion of people with disabilities in the Palestinian society. The activity was named “Inclusion of Every Citizen”.

2-We held a session with the Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, where the sessions included tools and methods to address mental health cases and traumas without marginalizing or stigmatizing the victors. The activity was named “Breaking Mental Health Stereotypes” and aimed to break taboos and labels in relation to mental illnesses.

3-Y-PEER ambassador May Abu Assab was invited to a Radio episode on tackling and being open about issues related to Y-PEER, sexual reproductive health and rights, gender and HIV/AIDS. The title of the episode was “Talk it out”.

4-We've launched a summer camp in collaboration with Sharek Youth Forum, UNFPA and Yafa Cultural Centre which was held in Balata Nablus City. We've also invited a social media expert to train young people on the importance of optimizing the use of social media in the correct way in order to maximize the involvement of young people with the Y-PEER.

5-9 YPEER members including the Fellow, Focal Point in Charge and a Y-PEER celebrity have attended the Y-PEER 3.0 Leadership training.

6-From the 18th till the 20th of December 2015, we will be holding a Y-PEER Palestine Scale up Meeting where we'll be tackling the following issues including many games and energizers:
   a-Youth in Palestine: Needs, Challenges and Expectations
   b-PEER Education: Concept in the world and the specificity of Palestine (explaining the network’s activities and scaling up)
   c-Assessment of Y-PEER’s current situation: SWOT Analysis

7-We created a challenge which was titled “Y-PEER Challenge”. The activity was organized for 50 adolescents and over 35 young volunteers and Y-PEER members. It was held at the Environmental and Educational Youth Village near Ramallah (Kufur Ni’meh). We have organized a whole day of activities which included various topics aiming at training young people and adolescents on team building, competition, adventure and leading them to better engage in their communities and contribute towards change. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0coY37igFs&feature=youtu.be

8-We held a Training of Trainers which included 30 participants from different cities in Palestine; the TOT went on for 5 days and focused mainly on teaching the special skills and techniques to the new Y-PEER trainers in order to deliver our messages in a youth friendly and a scientifically correct way. We've also held 3 basic trainings and over 8 orientation sessions in universities, community colleges and youth organizations.

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10 Days Of Activism Campaign

1-We celebrated the Week for People with Disabilities in partnership with the Primary School for Deaf. Participating “youth” organized sports and recreational activities for adolescents and children to encourage the inclusion of people with disabilities in the Palestinian society. The activity was named “Inclusion of Every Citizen”.

2-We held a session with the Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, where the sessions included tools and methods to address mental health cases and traumas without marginalizing or stigmatizing the victors. The activity was named “Breaking Mental Health Stereotypes” and aimed to break taboos and labels in relation to mental illnesses.

3-Y-PEER ambassador May Abu Assab was invited to a Radio episode on tackling and being open about issues related to Y-PEER, sexual reproductive health and rights, gender and HIV/AIDS. The title of the episode was “Talk it out”.

4-We’ve launched a summer camp in collaboration with Sharek Youth Forum, UNFPA and Yafa Cultural Centre which was held in Balata Nablus City. We’ve also invited a social media expert to train young people on the importance of optimizing the use of social media in the correct way in order to maximize the involvement of young people with the Y-PEER.

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Find more about Y-PEER Palestine on the following link: https://www.facebook.com/YPeerPalestineOfficialPage
How youth can be more involved in society in order to develop a sustainable future, was the highlighted question for the Youth Voice campaign. Youth Voice Romania is part of the regional Youth Voice campaign that takes place in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This campaign aims to make the youth voices heard and to develop key messages that express the priorities of young people, aiming to further ensure their participation in the ongoing discussion around the post-2015 development framework.

In November more than 200 young people from 12 cities responded with their needs in taking a proactive position in the context of local policies and programmes developed for youth. “It’s not enough to be a recipient of the programmes if we are not involved in the process from the beginning. It’s no point talking about Agenda 2030 without having the presence of the future adults at the table.”

Young people had the chance to look at all 17 objectives of the new UN Sustainable Development Agenda and establish a priority list adapted for Romania and also they identified what change and improving of policy are needed in order to create an environment were all young people are consulted, active involved and empowered to develop the actual society.

There were many events in the administrative scene in the last months that made the vision of a sustainable future to be more possible. Many decision makers approved the messages that young people are claiming, but until we succeed to integrate the philosophy in action we will need an accountable attitude towards our community.
Updates from Syria

Interactive Theater Training With NSJ initiative

A five days Interactive Theatre Training with NSJ initiative took place in the period 18-22 November for 25 young people, in order to deliver two interactive workshops about early marriage and domestic violence in three different associations in Damascus.

Have The Passion In What You Do!!

YPEER Syria conducted 6 PE GBV training from the 3d of September to the 18th of December for overall 150 participants in different governorates in Syria. The aim of the training is to introduce the peer education theme and GBV concept using interactive exercises and role-play techniques.

Orientation For UNFPA

20 young people participated in a startup workshop conducted by UNFPA-Syria and were introduced to YPEER and UNFPA. The workshop provided a complete overview of the YPEER Network in an interactive way.

Voluntary Work Is A Life Style

“Shabab-link ” is an event to encourage young people to plan for their future and engage in their communities. The FPCs spoke about the voluntary work concept and the importance of engaging in such activities, giving concrete examples.

Peer-To-Peer Education

Another activity was the organization of several peer education sessions, after participating in the Y-PEER Advanced TOT of Peer Educators in Sexual & Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings with the National Center for Culture and Art in Amman Jordan.

Find more about Y-PEER Syria on the following links:
https://www.facebook.com/YPEERSYRIA
https://www.facebook.com/YPEERSYR?fref=ts
http://www.youthpeerarabic.org/

PE GBV Hama

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Introduction Into SDGs

A one-day interactive session was held for the medical mobile team of volunteers in the Arab Syrian Red Crescent. The main topic discussed was the Sustainable Development Goals and conducting some team building activities.

Find more about Y-PEER Syria on the following links:
https://www.facebook.com/YPEERSYRIA
https://www.facebook.com/YPEERSYR?fref=ts
http://www.youthpeerarabic.org/
Updates from Tajikistan

The International Youth Day And “Youth Voice”

On August 12th the topic of the IYD was “Civic Engagement of Youth” and a large-scale cultural event was organized in Dushanbe. The main focus was youth involvement in solving problems of society and the country’s sustainable development. The event was held in the business center “Poytaht-90” and was aimed at the popularization of volunteering, especially among the growing generation through a demonstration of the opportunities that it offers for young people, the society and the country. This year the event received additional support in the framework of UNFPA regional office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia “Youth Voice”.

A presentation of Youth Voice was organized, together with round tables with young people from 4 regions and cities (Rasht, Sugd, Kurgan-Tube, Dushanbe), where they discussed the problems of youth in Tajikistan and were looking for a solution. Around 200 youngsters took part in the round tables.

Y-PEER Training Started In Dushanbe

A training on project development and management and the basics of fundraising with representatives of the Y-PEER network of Tajikistan (NGO “Hamsol ba hamsol”) and partner organizations was held in Dushanbe. Young people learnt the basics of project proposal development and effective project management. Also, on the basis of practical exercises, participants were taught to raise funds for projects for the development of programs of peer education. The training was organized with the financial support of UNFPA in Tajikistan.

The International Day Of Child-Girls In Dushanbe

On October 11, 2015, the International Day of Child-Girls, several activities were organized in Dushanbe: the first exhibition of children’s drawings on the theme “I love my family” and a Youth Fair where Y-PEER volunteers carried out a quiz and other workshops. The exhibition marks the 70th anniversary of the UN and UNESCO and the Year of the Family in Tajikistan. The program had contests, games, dances, awards, a photo session. The contests were a joint project of the United Nations Advocacy on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF) in Tajikistan.

Participation Of Y-PEERers In international Events

From 22 to 24 October 2015 in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, the Form for Youth Peace-building and Security in Central Asia was held. We are very pleased that three activists of the Y-PEER network in Tajikistan were involved in this event and represented the vision of the youth of Tajikistan on the issues: Mehrubon Pulodi – Focal Point in charge, Komron Mardon and Aziza Inoyatova - Master trainer in our network.

Saidov Nuriddin and Inoyatova Aziza, members of the Y-PEER network in Tajikistan, participated in the Annual PETRI – Sofia Training School that took place in Borovets, Bulgaria, from 16 to 22 November 2015. They did their best, showing great interest and desire to acquire new knowledge and skills, which subsequently would be used for the further development of Y-PEER Tajikistan.

World AIDS Day And 10 Days Of Activism

“Peer to peer”, in collaboration with the Office of Youth, Sport and Tourism, UNPO Population Fund Representative in Tajikistan and a joint project of the UNPO and advocacy on HIV/AIDS in Tajikistan, held an information event dedicated to the World AIDS Day. On December the 1st volunteers were handing out information leaflets; a survey was conducted among students of pedagogical and medical institutions. The main objectives were: raising awareness about HIV and AIDS among young people; reminding and uniting people against HIV and AIDS; getting statistical data. Shortly after that, on December 5, 2015 – The Y-PEER team organized an action for the distribution of promotional materials in the frame of the 10 DOA. Over 150 information leaflets were distributed and around 200 young people were involved. One the next day, a one-day cognitive training was organized with the support of UNAIDS on the topic of HIV/AIDS. Peer educators and debaters combined the techniques of debating and peer education methods, in order to come up with an effective methodology of conveying messages and promoting advocacy among young people.

In Dushanbe, an event dedicated to the 20th anniversary of UNFPA in Tajikistan took place on December 9th. The Y-PEER team helped with the organizational matters and the Y-PEER volunteer Kulaeva Firuza had a speech about “Achieving young leaders in Tajikistan”.

Find more about Y-PEER Tajikistan on the following link:
https://www.facebook.com/ypeer.tj/?fref=ts
Y-PEER Turkey Becomes YAHA

On July 28th 2015 Y-PEER Turkey gained its legal entity by the name of Youth Approaches to Health Association (YAHA). As the first and only association in Turkey that works on young people’s sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), YAHA started to work on new projects with high motivation. We set the core values of the organization: participation, gender equality, teamwork, non-violence, open and honest communication, transparency and accountability, and we started to move SRHR advocacy one step further in civil society.

First Steps

After the organization was founded, we got our first grant from the Community Volunteers Foundation, the Young Women Fund, with the Young Women Academy Project. Young Women Academy provides young women between 18-25 years old with an environment to discuss social issues and phenomena with the focus on SRHR, human rights and gender sensitive perspective. We have the aim to inform young women about their rights and to make them able to reach true information particularly on gender-based violence and active participation of young women in the decision-making process and social life, through bringing their own solutions to this problem. We planned the collect these solutions in “Young Women Policy Paper” which will be counted as a source in both the area of gender equality and high-level activism.

In addition, Y-PEER Turkey provided technical and content support for the Young Refugees Support Project in the context of sexual and reproductive health and rights of young refugees in humanitarian settings. After the training of peer educators, 13 Syrian and 10 Turkish new peer educators started to organize and participate in events and trainings.

World AIDS Day

At the same time, we ran the World AIDS Day Campaign in 42 cities with 215 events. For the first time, this year we participated in the World AIDS Day Meeting with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization. As young activists, we got the chance to speak about our rights with decision-makers.

Another piece of good news is about FRIDA-Young Feminist Fund which works for the support and empowerment young feminists globally. We were selected as guarantee cohort of FRIDA receiving highest vote among 800 young feminist groups working in over 100 countries. We were awarded a 4000$ grant as a contribution to our SRHR projects and gained also mentoring support from FRIDA. Thus, we gained new resources for our work and a chance to increase recognition of Y-PEER Turkey internationally.

Moreover, we participated in the training that was conducted by Bilgi University within the Social Incubation Program. It aims to strengthen the organizational continuity of civil society organizations in Turkey and to produce innovative tools for capacity development in civil society. Our selected Y-PEER Turkey members found an opportunity to share and enrich their knowledge and experience with other associations through visits. Thanks to this opportunity we will strengthen YAHA’s institutional organs within this program.

In addition, we are a member of the Small National Assembly which brings members of the Turkish Parliament and civil society representatives together. This council provides floor for civil society organizations to convey their complaints, suggestions and demands from decision makers directly. We advocate for SRHR in the presence of decision makers and other civil society organizations by participating in these monthly meetings.

In conclusion, Youth Approaches to Health Association (Y-PEER Turkey) works for bringing up SRHR issue to the agenda without losing anything from the Y-PEER sprit!!
Y-PEER PETRI-Sofia (Peer Education Training and Research Institute) is a joint project based on a strong partnership between Y-PEER International Network, UNFPA, Ministry of Health of Bulgaria and National Center for Public Health and Analysis of Bulgaria. Its mission is to strengthen and spread internationally high quality peer education in the field of adolescence sexual and reproductive health. Since its establishment in 2007, PETRI-Sofia has organized, facilitated and supported numerous trainings in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of the young people. Recently PETRI team has been expanding and has gained several new Team Members!

Meet & Greet

Yuliya Andzhekarska, PETRI-Sofia Fellow

“I’m Yuliya Andzhekarska from Bulgaria and I joined the PETRI – Sofia team in October 2015 as the new Youth Coordinator. Previously, I had experience with the youth and NGO sector in Bulgaria, in other countries in the EU and in Mexico. It is my pleasure to be a part of the Y-PEER family now to get to know and to work with so many young active people from different cultures, who want to make a positive change in their lives, their communities and in society as a whole. I already met some of you at our Annual Training School here in Bulgaria, I am looking forward to meeting more of you soon and to further developing the activities of our network”.

Ramy Shehata, PETRI-Sofia Fellow

“I’m Ramy Shehata a school social worker from Egypt and it’s an honor for me to join the remarkable team of PETRI Sofia, from the first moments I felt welcomed from everybody here, I’m too excited of being here, I consider this fellowship an important step in my career life where I can Gain some transferable skills and knowledge required for success in a professional work, I will do my best in order to further strengthen and develop this great network. I used to work with the adolescents so i look forward to take the advantage of this fellowship as much as i can. I’m willing to assist you in our work to achieve our common goals so please feel free to contact me in case you need any help”.

Mohamed Esam, PETRI-Sofia Fellow

“My name is Mohamed Esam from Egypt. It’s an honor and pleasure to be Y-PEER fellow; I’m recent graduate from Mansoura Medical School, I joined Y-PEER since 2011. And in 2014, I was elected as the National Partnerships and Networking Officer in Y-PEER-Egypt. Y-PEER is the family where I gained priceless experience, developed my skills and gained too many friends from around the world. It’s the Orang Family. I’m also the counselors’ coordinator in Ma3looma Egypt, supporting a cross-media life skills program that enables and encourages young people to engage with sexual and reproductive health issues through use of mobile phones and web platforms.

Find more about PETRI-Sofia on the following link: http://petrisofia.blogspot.com
Participation In The Annual School 2015

57 young people between 16 and 30 years old from 18 countries from the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia took part in the Annual School, organized by PETRI – Sofia between the 16th and the 22nd of November 2015 in Borovets, Bulgaria.

The Annual School had three modules: “Project Development and Management”, “Training of Trainers” and “Theatre-Based Techniques in Peer Education for Roma Communities”. The participants in each one of them were young people from the Y-PEER network and from other organizations, active in the area of SRHR, volunteering and youth participation. The trainers in the different modules were professionals with rich experience in the topics from Bulgaria, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Macedonia and the USA.
The main aims of the Annual School were to:
1) Increase the number of highly skilled and trained young people as well as Peer Education Trainers of Trainers in the EECA Region to plan and to implement wide spectrum of youth SRH and HIV prevention related activities;
2) Support capacity development of young people in the Region in three particular areas:
   • project development and management;
   • delivering high quality peer-based adolescent sexual reproductive health education training programs in the region;
   • improving the SRHR of Roma adolescents and youth and raise awareness about the root causes of Roma poor education and health outcomes, by using the theatre based peer education approach at the community level.

The Annual School was a great opportunity for the young people from the region to develop their skills and knowledge, to meet their peers from different countries, exchange and share ideas and experiences, network, plan future activities, work in a multicultural environment.

Here are some of the comments and reflections of participants in the Annual School:

Termir, Kyrgyzstan:
“Involvement, Unity and Solidarity. I appreciate PETRI’s effort to let young people feel and act to bring together these values.”

Sargis, Armenia:
“It’s already the second time I’m taking part in this training supported by UNFPA and Y-PEER. I’m sure I’ll be continuing my activities in this network, because I got and I keep getting a lot of experience and skills, which I can share in my community. I’m proud to represent Armenia in Sofia, it’s a great responsibility for me. Thank you so much for this opportunity!”
The First International Coordinators Meeting

The First International Coordinators Meeting was held on the 23rd-24th of August 2015 and the Second one was held on the 7th-8th of December 2015 in Amman, Jordan. These events included:

- Working on a coherent governance of the International Network in all areas;
- Updating the progress, achievements and lessons learned in the different areas;
- Working on communication strategy (internally and externally) on raising Y-PEER’s visibility at all levels;
- Discussing the development and implementation of a new campaign related to SRHR of the young people that will be implemented in 2016;
- Discussing the outcomes of the adoption of the 2013 development agenda and what would be Y-PEER’s role in the implementation of the indicators of the SDGs at regional and local level;
- Developing interpersonal and group communication skills; as communication and coordination have a big role as governing body of the international network;
- Strengthening the collaboration of Y-PEER with the different partners (UN agencies, youth organization and Private partners);
- Considering possible fundraising strategies;
- Assessing the outcomes from the 10 Days of Activism.

The First Regional TOT

The First Regional TOT in “Peer Education on Youth Sexual & Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings” was held between the 8th and the 11th of September 2015 and the second one was held between the 22nd and the 27th of November 2015 in Amman, Jordan.

19 Y-Peerians from 9 Arab states (Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, Morocco, Sirya, Somalia, Tunisia, and Jordan) participated in the first training and 21 Y-Peerians from 9 Arab states (Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, Morocco, Sirya, Libya, Tunisia, and Jordan) participated in the second training.

The Y-PEER International Center for Youth Development (ICYD) in cooperation with The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Arab States Regional Office, successfully organised two Regional Trainings of trainers in “Peer Education on Youth Sexual & Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings” from the 8th to the 11th of September 2015 with the participation of 19 Y-Peerians from 9 Arab states and from the 22nd to the 27th of November 2015 with the participation of 21 Y-PEER members from 9 Arab States. The trainings were focused on the capacity building of the selected peer education trainers to design and deliver high quality peer-based adolescent and youth sexual and reproductive health education programmes, including gender-based violence in humanitarian settings.
The H&M End Of Project And 2016 Planning Meeting

The H&M end of project and 2016 planning meeting was held on the 1st -2nd of December 2015 in Amman, Jordan. The meeting with Y-PEER ICs, FPCs, Fellows, Celebrities, Alumni, and key trainers was organised in partnership with the NCCA. Work groups addressed challenges, needs, and tools related to communication, perception, and inclusiveness of Y-PEER Network, amidst the shortage of funds. Additional work groups addressed fundraising and alternative strategies to raising funds and reaching out for marginalised and vulnerable youth groups.

Y-PEER Leadership Training: Y-PEER 3.0

Y-PEER Leadership Training: Y-PEER 3.0 was held from the 3rd to the 6th of December 2015 in Amman, Jordan. Its aim was to create a new generation of Y-PEER Leaders that can facilitate the process of scaling up Y-PEER globally. This group of young people will help anchoring strategies to scale up Y-PEER in all countries in the region. In addition, the training will equip them with the skills to be credible representatives of the marginalized youth.

The Theatre Experts Consultation Meeting

It was held from the 1st to the 5th of November 2015 in Amman, Jordan. Kenneth Hornbeck from U.S.A., Maria Abdul Rahman from Lebanon, Marouan Ben Larbi from Morocco, Nada Sabet from Egypt, Rania Kamhawi, Mohannad Nawafleh, Suzan Al Banawi, Ghandi Saber, Alaa Hammad, and Saba Obeidat from Jordan. They participated in the meeting to develop and elaborate the content of the existing TBT manual for future training courses for beginners and advanced levels as well as having a pool of theatre experts in the Arab region.

New Y-PEER Fellow Hajar Benmazhar

New Y-PEER Fellow Hajar Benmazhar from Morocco has joined the Y-PEER International Center for Youth Development on the 10th of August, 2015. Ms. Hajar Benmazhar assists in the coordination, planning and implementation of the center’s activities. The annual activities include capacity building through the organization of standardized trainings and events, establishing and maintaining database for professional educators and trainers, facilitating collaboration and communication with potential partners as well as contributing to research and knowledge provision on youth issues.
We would like to say special thanks to the following people for actively contributing with their Y-PEER Network stories and updates:

This News Bulletin has been developed by the Peer Education Training and Research Institute (PETRI) – Sofia, Bulgaria based at the National Centre of Health and Analysis, Sofia, Bulgaria and volunteers from Y-PEER International Network.

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Y-PEER
DEFYING BOUNDARIES
Y-PEER News Bulletin