4-PEER NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, 2012
Dear friends, colleagues, partners and youth around the world;

It’s our pleasure to present you Y-PEER Newsletter volume 15 (July-December 2011).

Starting from briefing about national networks and international activities to celebrating WAD 2011 is like a journey around Y-PEER world, and guess what, it will not be enough to know all the amazing work and activities done and their impact. So, you are invited to this journey to get across three regions – Arab State, Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Asia Pacific – and more than 48 countries.

To write an editor’s article you have to cover the main topic of the newsletter but the words cannot express it as the articles themselves. While reading “Me forever young”, “Elephant in the room” or “Reaching out 20.000” and activities like “street action” and using of “Social media” for sure you will get inspiration to know and do more and more for your community. Y-PEERians have the main goal and insist to reach it.

Now; I will let you discover more about Y-PEER.

Last but not least; this newsletter would have been complete without writers and editorial team Aysel Asgarova (FPC Azerbaijan), Beka Berikashvili (FPC Georgia) and Kacem Jlidi (fp Tunisia).

Thank you!

Gehad Elsayed

http://www.ypeerinaction.org/
What’s more?

Y-PEER Algeria was launched in 2005. It involves 3 youth NGOs, over 200 peers divided into teams: media, social marketing, field work and programming. It aims to strengthen knowledge, awareness, advocacy, education and communication in the field of SRHR, HIV/AIDS and support PLHIV.

Because we believe we are destined for great things for which we are the change and the voice to speak up for the fulfillment of the MDGs, ensure SRH services and prevent the spread of HIV. Y-PEER Algeria initiated for the last semester many activities of prevention and education in different cities convinced that field work and proximity interventions will achieve the goals toward behavioral change.

Peers organized two Itinerary campaigns for awareness from HIV/AIDS in summer and autumn under the theme 10 Days of Activism targeting youth and populations at high risk of infection. A huge number of Street actions were organized in public spaces: markets, streets, stadium, popular coffee shops, and bus stations in the capital each month. About 10 Awareness days took place in different youth structures targeting university students, young nurses, magistrates, structured youth in vocational training establishments and migrants as well.

Peers also celebrated international events such as the UN Volunteer day in action for environment sustainability. For their capacity building trainings on SSR took place and targeted 30 peers.

What’s more, a project of entertainment was initiated to support people living with HIV in hospitals. Y-PEER brought happiness to them at each celebration.

As a result, 32,510 people were approached. 200 people living with HIV were supported. Over 49,870 posters and flyers and 84,520 condoms were distributed. 15 media representations were leaded. 2 videos were realized. As we are aware that only the involvement of all actors will have an impact, we collaborated with three youth NGOs as well as UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF.
Me Forever Young

Before you get bored and thumb through the pages let’s do a little experiment while you’re reading. Try to relax and seat comfortable calm music would be of benefit. :D you ready to start?…!!!

While you’re reading try to visualize the scenes, or simply think over those questions and answer them.

What would it feel like to be an aged person, per se?

What it would be like to be an aged person (Gram or Grandpa) with a walking stick in the hand?

How would you treat young people let’s say your grandsons? What kind of advices would you give them? What it would feel like to be the one in this society.

Indeed, questions that few people ask themselves or seriously thought over them.

Well now relax :D you’re still middle age. Maybe some of you will picture it easily and some of you with a bit difficulty.

Processing those kinds of situations and thinking over those questions can influence on your perception toward many questions.

To discover whether it works or not Y-PEER Armenia along with UNFPA CO designed a project within the 7 billion campaign. The project involved a group of volunteers from y-peer Armenia and group of aged people that leave alone.

From one hand the project aimed to confront young people with the issue of growing up as an inevitable part of life and from another hand to discover whether there is anything common between those generations. Moreover the project aimed to give a chance to aged persons to get to know young people to understand their views, lifestyle and behavior.

One day long young volunteers passed with aged persons, like they live, doing whatever they do, watching soap operas, reading a book, drinking coffee with other neighbors etc. Whereas another full day aged persons lived with young people as they do, such as
Social video

On August 26th, 2011 Y-PEER Azerbaijan in cooperation with Active Citizens Azerbaijan organized media training with focus on movie-making and blogging at GRBS International Tuition Center.

Young people nowadays are often eager to share their concerns or ideas via social media; however they often don’t know what to start with and mostly lack any knowledge and skills to make a social video or write up a good blog post.

The training brought together 15 students and community activists. In a course of the training young people learnt about Windows Movie Making program; assemblage/editing of short films as well as the tips for writing a good blog post. Thus, the project encouraged young people for active citizenship and promotion of social values via social media and equipped them with movie-making and enhanced blogging skills.

Upon the completion of the event trainees had an opportunity to put in practice the knowledge and skills gained.
On International Volunteers Day, 5th of December 2011, the presentation of Y-PEER Belarus website (www.ypeer.by) was held at gymnasium № 1 OSHMYANY. “The electronic site is a part of the peer education project implemented by the Ministry of Education, UNFPA and UNICEF” — said in her opening speech Anna Rysevetsglavny, Inspector of the Department of Social and Educational Work of the Ministry of Education. “We are pleased that our project is being developed not only at schools but also in the Internet space. We, in turn, will further support the ideas of peer education! Thanks to this website young people, working in the field of peer education can find all necessary information and all on one resource!”

The portal offers electronic samples of activities for seminars on related topics, dictionaries, information about youth organizations working on peer education as well as information on scholarships and grants. In addition to the theoretical knowledge young people will be able to consult online a psychologist, a surgeon and gynecologist. Young people will be also able to consult the peer educators.
While creating the portal volunteers tried to take into account the interests of all stakeholders. Thus, in “Application for a seminar” division representatives of the school can specify the dates and topics of the requested training. After completing this form, certified volunteers and leading youth organizations are contacted to conduct the training. “We try to support the initiative of young people, and highlight their achievements. High school №1 in Oshmyany was not chosen by chance. This educational institution is one of the leaders in promotion of peer education!” — Said Tatiana Pronko, Senior Specialist of UNFPA Belarus — “Starting from January 2012, we will choose the best volunteer monthly!” — added Mrs. Pronko. Young musical band Open Space was chosen as Y-PEER Belarus ambassadors and role models. In support of UNFPA activities, last year Y-PEERS participated in concerts against domestic violence. The reaction of young people was amazing—they thanked Y-PEERS for what they do and asked not to remain indifferent to the problems of young people and try to solve them. Afterwards volunteers were invited to a peer education training. “Having seen how the youth-to-youth principle works, we immediately accepted the offer of cooperation with UNFPA and started with recording of the song “Do You Remember”, — said the singer of Open Space band Vitaly Matievsky. “Our band is pleased that through creativity and active volunteering, we can influence the behavior of young people!” — concluded Maxim Mestovsky, guitarist of the band.
Alex Festival

Y-PEER Egypt one of a huge networks in Egypt and the first branch of Y-PEER in the Arab World, that started in Egypt since 2005 by five peer educators and by support from UNFPA CO, and now we have a 42 NGOs partner working with youth and Health in All of Egypt also the network relies on 268 national trainers of peer educators and approx 10202 peer educator perform the peer education activities in these NGOs in the country.

Through Alexandria International culture Festival we reached more than 16,000 young people and talk with youth and adolescence and provide issues such as STIs, HIV/AIDS, and Family Planning...etc, in comics. Also Y-PEER Egypt ambassador implement participate with us and we arranged musical party.

The second activity was networking meeting between the NGOs partner that meeting helped them to share the challenges and the chances were met and discussed how they can make cooperation among them, also they were share their experiences in working with youth and how to use peer education methodologies.
“We have already discussed and decided such kind of problems, come on” it was the only answer wherever I tried to start talking about gender based discrimination, homophobia and HIV discrimination. We who are “progressive, developed and open-minded” young people do not or cannot notice problems in our society. Yes, we have already discussed this problem, thought a lot about it and changed a lot; didn’t we? But if we open eyes a bit wider we can see that big elephant is still standing in our small room.

At first glance it seems impossible how a big elephant in a small room can’t be noticed. But think, what can be easier than closing our eyes when neighbor is beating his wife? Of course it is not our business. What can be easier than not letting our child play with HIV positive children? We know he/she can’t be infected this way but still, we’ll feel safer if our child stays far from HIV infected children. Yes, it is the easiest to just pass in the street where a ho-
mososexual is insulted and beaten. It is not our fault that he is gay, is it?! And generally, these women, homosexuals and HIV infected should take care of themselves; it’s none of our business.

The above mentioned problems are the ones that are most ignored in Georgian society. Most of the people can’t even realize that we have such kind of problems. When planning the project we saw that talking about solving problems is just wasting our time when most of the people can’t even realize them. So we decided that the main aim of the project should be making the problems more noticeable, showing them to the society and inducing discussions about them. Here came the name of the project – “Elephant in the Room”

Last year we made one day project – an youth competition where 6 teams participated in. We got many interesting and creative works from the participants, but still we had a feeling that one day was absolutely not enough to think about such kind of problems. This year with the help of UNFPA we managed to create 10 days project. From 1st to 10th of December 10 different teams (4 people in each) created articles/assays, photo series and slogans about the topic that was given to each of them. Besides this, each team had one day in this 10 days period to organize a flash mob or street performance.

Together with UNFPA, the project was organized by our NGO – GYDEA (Georgian
Youth Development and Educational Association) and two other NGOs – CSMA and ICCN. The project had two winners. Mariam Korinteli’s team was the favorite of jury and Tiko Gabunia’s team was the second (according to Facebook likes). The winner team got 4 laptops and the second team got 4 Ipods.

On 7th of December you would meet people in Tbilisi who were holding big papers with writings: “I am a woman too”, “I am a child too”, “I am HIV positive also”, “I am gay”, etc. This flash mob (organized by Tiko Gabunia’s team) had a very important message: when there is violence in our society then we should say that we are also women and children, HIV positive or gay. When you feel yourself in the victim’s place then the attitude – “it’s not my business” – instantly disappears.

“I was so happy to win but it wasn’t only about winning. Just participating in this project was a huge thing for me. These ten days changed so many things in my life. I began thinking about the problems I didn’t think about earlier.” — stated Mariam Korinteli, leader of the winning team. This project may not induce revolutions in people’s minds, but the 50, 100 or 500 people who were somehow connected to the project began thinking about these problems. …and this is very important. …And these are just first steps.

Reasons to choose Y-PEER

Yesterday I watched a movie called “Pay it forward”. Have you ever watched it? If no, I recommend this movie to you, because it’s a very motivational and inspiring one. It’s about the concept to do something good to someone and to ask this one to do the same thing for others. And you know, watching this made me realize that Y-PEER is also based on this concept.
We inform youth and they share the information next to their fellows. So, as peer trainers, we are the links of a great and important concept of making the world a better place. This fact is one of the reasons I chose Y-PEER.

But let’s make a little introduction: I am from Moldova and I joined Y-PEER 3 months ago. When I read the advertisement to apply for a Y-PEER training I was attracted by the main words: “peer educator” and “journalism”. These were the fields where I wanted to work the most, because they represent my interests and fit me the best. Besides, I am sure that the Y-PEER mandate is very important and opportune for youth from my country, once they need to know all the right and relevant information about reproductive health. After I passed the selection and became a member of the network, I understood what the real power of Y-PEER is. I’ve seen that only Y-PEER, thru a lot of workshops, trainings, informational campaigns, like Pro Health Campaign, social theatre festival, flash mobs, annual meeting, YAP meetings and more activities provide information that is really necessary for youth.

It was my choice to join Y-PEER! Of course were people who asked me: “Why did you come here? Is it not better to stay at home, on Facebook, than to organize activities, workshops, to write articles? Does it worth?”
My answer was a strong “yes!”; since I was motivated enough and willing to change the level of information from my community.

Yes! Y-PEER is my first way to success! Because here I have seen so many young peoples with initiative, who believe in themselves and in voluntary work and I understood that Y-PEER is what I was looking for.

For me Y-PEER is equal with success, specifically to the initiative to success. As for me, success can be defined in 3 words: Perseverance, Correctness and Responsibility

So, Y-PEER is all that I call success, and also attitude, because attitude determines the altitude. This is the secret!

P.S.: And don’t forget that we are destined for great things!

Alexey Dzhura

“Numbers, people — concerns everyone”

The photo project was dated for the 30th year of the opening of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

More than 200 people came for the opening day of the photo exhibit to the gallery “New Space” in the Samara city. Some of the journalists, who are always trying to find the hot news for their newspapers, to impress their readers with the fresh gossips about publics life, some of them were school kids, who were forced to come by their teachers, and some of them were young people who probably just got interested with one of the banners on the street.

But the reason why they decided to attend this photo exhibit, is not really important, the most important thing that they actually came over there, and they received the message that we were sending to the society: “HIV exists in this world, and it is one of the worst problems of today’s world... lots of people are dying from AIDS and we should know about it!”
What have we done in 2011?

Somaliland Y-PEER Network is getting popularity and trust of the community year after year because of its tireless efforts in fighting HIV and FGM in Somaliland. In 2011, the network carried out five big different activities to contribute to the HIV prevention initiatives in Somaliland.

The photo exhibit was consisting of twenty one portraits of valuable people in the region of our city Samara, there were politicians, show men, representative of the NGO’s fighting against AIDS, and even the YOGA teacher. Each of the portraits was also leaded by the citation from the facts concerned the situation about the HIV epidemic in the world for today. The photo exhibit was just the first step of the project, for now, the main idea is to implement the knowledge about HIV prevention, into the community of Samara region. The participants of the project, are going to hold a small lecture amount the people whom they are working with, and to share the information with someone whom they are working with. The YOGA teacher have promised to make a lecture in one of his classes, the local radio DJ will make a report on one of her radio programs and the university professor, have promised to organize a training with students.

In all the words, the huge amount of work has been done by Michael Ushakov, the leader of the project and our photographer Olga Usoltseva. We should never forget about our rights as young people as one of the main groups or risk, such events is a good example of successful proves that: “It is possible to stop the epidemic of HIV, but only with the purposeful effort of all of us”, how it have been said by Andrey Bikov, the leader of Samara State prevention Center.

Abdiziz Hersi Warsame

Somaliland Y-PEER Network is getting popularity and trust of the community year after year because of its tireless efforts in fighting HIV and FGM in Somaliland. In 2011, the network carried out five big different activities to contribute to the HIV prevention initiatives in Somaliland.
We created 6 HIV school clubs in five main cities namely Hargeisa, Borama, Berbera, Burao and Erigavo to promote HIV prevention methods — ABC — in the high schools and we commemorated World AIDS Day and International Youth Days to provide advocacy messages on HIV, FGM and GBV to the youth and leaders of the country. We also targeted the youth at high risk including drug addicts and youth living in border towns and Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps through theatre based techniques and circus shows.

In addition to that, Somaliland Y-PEER designed and implemented a project called “Fighting FGM in Somaliland through Peer Education Approaches” in 2011. The project, which was completed successfully, was aimed to influence the attitude of 560 university students and 1450 girls in secondary schools to advocate FGM eradication in Somaliland and to create 4 FGM clubs in Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland. The outcome of the project included but not limited to, 358 high school students in 6 regions trained on FGM eradication, 1115 reached through interpersonal communication approach and 560 university female students reached through sensitization meetings.

Finally, I would like to mention that we carried out behavior change communication messages through the mass media to reach even more youth. We conducted 5 radio talk shows and developed 5 radio spots all of them on HIV prevention and stigma reduction. We also produced the second edition of “BAAQ magazine” or “The Caller”. 630 copies were distributed in the universities and high schools of Somaliland.

We believe that Somaliland Y-PEER is now one of the strongest local organizations that address HIV, STIs, FGM, GBV and other youth issues in Somaliland. We will continue working hard and hope we will achieve more in 2012.

Thanks to UNFPA, MTV Staying Alive Foundation, SOLNAC, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and all our partners for their collaboration and support.
6th Asian Pacific Conference

In the middle of October 2011, three young people from Sri Lanka participated in the 6th APCRSHR conference held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. All three of them were internationally trained Y-PEER educators and took this opportunity to increase the visibility of Y-PEER Sri Lanka and to broaden their network of peer educators.

The conference, under the theme “Claiming Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Asian and Pacific Societies” was held from the 19-22nd of October.

We rocked the event — two presentations and one session — three highlights

On the 1st day of the conference Amila Wensiri, Y-PEER focal point and National Focal Point for the Global Youth Coalition on HIV and AIDS (GYCA) facilitated a satellite session on youth and adult partnership. Challenges faced by youth when working with adults and the ways to overcome such challenges was the main focus of his presentation. The session was appreciated by youth activists and adults alike.
During the 2nd day of the conference Sarah Natali, Y-PEER focal point and Youth Chair for youth technical advisory committee of the Family Planning Association in Sri Lanka presented a poster on “Sexual violence against women in public transportation systems in Sri Lanka.” This innovative project focused on empowering women to speak up when they experience sexual abuse or name calling in public buses. It also spread awareness on how to take legal action against serious offences.

During the 3rd day of the conference, Thusandra, Y-PEER focal point in charge presented an oral paper on “A peer education project on HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health with the involvement of Sri Lankan youth in Post Armed Conflict Areas.” This was the only oral presentation accepted from Sri Lanka for the conference. His presentation highlighted the need and importance of peer education for young people, out of school, and in post conflict environments. The pilot project was implemented in 2 of the 25 districts in Sri Lanka.

The happy coincidence—Thusandra reads out the Youth Declaration of APCRSHR

On the final day at the closing ceremony, Thusandra had the unique opportunity to be part of a three member team that read out the youth statement. The Youth declaration focused on young people sexual and reproductive health rights and their access to services.

There is no doubt that “Y-PEER Focal Points” left a lasting impression at the 6th APCRSHR conference.

“Passion rebuilds the world for the youth. It makes all things alive and significant.” —Ralph Waldo Emerson
Uzbekistan

Reaching out to 20,000

Y-PEER is working in Uzbekistan since 2005. Today it is a network of more than 200 volunteers and 17 active Focal Points. The main partner of the Network is Youth Initiative Center “Kelajak Ovozi”, and there are a number of NGO’s and international organizations working together with Y-PEER.

July of 2011 started with active involvement in 10 Days of Activism — 21 activities were conducted, among which, there were eight peer-education sessions aiming to raise the knowledge of young people in the areas of reproductive health, STIs and HIV/AIDS prevention. Then, Y-PEER volunteers helped to hold an event dedicated to World Population Day that included women’s marathon and children’s chalk competition. Y-PEER also celebrated such big events as International Youth Day in August and WAD in December. In the framework of advocacy efforts for PLWH, Y-PEER members took part in UNAIDS workshop on «Strength-
ening the partnership and participation of civil society including PLWH in expanding universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support». It is crucial to mention that Y-PEER was the only youth organization invited to participate in this event. There were two National ToTs in the fall, as well as a Special Training for Medical Staff in Andijan. One of the most-awaited events of the year for Y-PEER Uzbekistan is Annual Experience Sharing and Planning Meeting, which for the third time gathered 50 most active Y-PEER volunteers in the mountain resort in November. Members gave their feedback on the overall work, challenges, lessons learned, and ways to improve our work. And the Award Ceremony celebrated the most active and committed volunteers of the year. Overall, during July-January 2012, Y-PEER Uzbekistan implemented 143 activities reaching over 20,000 young people nationwide.

We learned from this period:

1. Creating mechanisms for stronger FPs involvement in network (FPs Council) increases their responsibility and work as coordinators of the network.

2. Expanding the topics of volunteer activities and a variety of partners improves sustainability of the network and raises its recognition as a strong mechanism for young people’s empowerment.

3. Development and distribution of Trainers Kits increases the implementation rate of national peer-education activities.
Y-PEER INTERNATIONAL
Y-PEER has recently completed important meetings in Manila, Philippines: a Global Peer Education Conference on 3rd October, followed by a New Areas Meeting on 4th and the annual Global Advisory Board (GAB) Meeting from 5th to 8th of October 2011.

The meetings served as a platform to formally introduce the Y-PEER international network in the region, giving a face to the international network among the newly joined countries as well as to the potential regional and intentional partners in Asia and Pacific region.

The annual GAB meeting served as a space for Focal Points in Charge from 40 countries to share information, report, plan and build their knowledge within the framework of Y-PEER Transition and strengthen their capacity and skills on leadership, communication approaches to increase quality and delivery of Y-PEER activities, and overall improvement of the network. Moreover, elected Y-PEER representatives and ICs with support from Y-PEER Alumni’s have drafted Y-PEER International Action Plan for 2012 which will soon be presented to
UNFPA Regional Offices to serve as a young people’s input in the regional youth and SRH including HIV/AIDS programmes.

Also, Y-PEER International Coordinators (ICs) serve a term of 2 years, and as a result, Ms. Fatma Hacioglu (Turkey), Ms. Carla Daher (Lebanon) and Mr. Davron Mirsagatov (Uzbekistan) graduated and became part of Y-PEER Alumni Board.

Three new ICs were elected and are Ms. Aida Darzhanova (Kazakhstan), Ms. Gehad Elsayed (Egypt) and Ms. Shubha Kayastha (Nepal). Along with the four other International coordinators who will continue their positions until October 2012, Y-PEER IC Team has 7 members.

In this regard, and after a thorough assessment of the priority needs of the international network, the new International Coordinators team has divided their roles for 2011 and 2012 as follows:

- **Bothaina Qamar** (Jordan)
  International Coordinator in charge of Organization Development

- **Dina Jaffary** (Syria)
  International Coordinator in charge of Capacity Building

- **Mario Balibago** (Philippines)
  International Coordinator in charge of Resource Mobilization

- **Aida Darzhanova** (Kazakhstan)
  International Coordinator in charge of Monitoring & Evaluation

- **Shubha Kayastha** (Nepal)
  International Coordinator in charge of Advocacy

- **Ana Rizescu** (Romania)
  International Coordinator in charge of Partnership & Networking

- **Gehad Elsayed** (Egypt)
  International Coordinator in charge of Media & Communication
Y-PEER Advanced Training of Trainers in Peer Education and Civic Engagement

Back home to snowy and windy Russia from warm and hilly Bulgaria. Even though I’ve been back for two days already, I still can’t describe all the feelings and emotions that I had for the week of training.

Who could imagine that the process of education and learning new stuff could be so fun? Our trainers/peer educators, showed some really amazing techniques to learning new things, but also inspired us with the unforgettable Y-PEER spirit.

In my country, Y-PEER is used just like training methods in NGO’s, but after the week in Pravets, I was able to fully realize that it is much more than that. You can meet only special kinds of people in events like that: those who are ready to give up all their free time to contribute to their society and help others. Now I know what the real power of Y-PEER is. We will never stop believing in the opportunity to change this world for the best. We are young, free, and full of energy. No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. Once you become a Y-PEER, you will hold this in your heart for the rest of your life.

During the whole week, we were really busy with our schedule, but the process of training wasn’t even a little bit boring. We did a lot of improvisation, working in the groups and doing activities for cross-cultural communication. Each of us could hold the floor during facilitation and feedbacks, and we were able to keep our energy on a good level with the help
of different kinds of energizers.

Some of the exercises were really strong, and some of them were even hard psychologically. But I had a feeling that I was opening my inner world to the group of participants, the people who became the real team in the end, and those were some of the most amazing feelings of my life.

Probably the only thing that I really didn’t like was the “Saying Goodbye Day”. Farewell saying to all the friends who became so close to me for the last eight days was the hardest part of the training. But I am not sad at all because I know that I have so much to share with my community over here in Russia! So much stuff to do, and if I need new ideas or new experiences, then I will just write to my friends and we will cooperate together for the best result!

Evdokia Romanova - NGO “Youth Theatre “Light” – Y-PEER Russia

“Thanks to this training, I had a chance to think on my own attitudes and values regarding SRH and HIV/AIDS, as well as gender, and other health and social issues.

We’ve also learned about Y-PEER Network, its structure, elements, tools and resources as well as new roles as Y-PEER Focal Points.

In my opinion group discussions in this training will contribute my whole works in Y-PEER Turkey! I think it will assist to elevate the Y-PEER!

With the other participants we’ve shared our ideas about new projects in Y-PEER.

I feel that I am improving myself as a peer educator day by day…

Everytime in my life I think that the world is a big house for everybody, where people live. The sun is shining for all of us. Watching the sun, we understood that Y-PEER is one of the most important tools to think about how to create a bridge of benevolence!”

Bulut Oncu – Y-PEER Turkey

Well, few days ago I had may be the most exciting and interesting experience of my life. In Pravets, not far from Sofia more than 30 gifted and motivated young people had their Y-
because during this 7 day’s training we were supposed to learn a lot. But still were had time to have some fun and the whole process was not so hard, because the way of giving the information to participants was simple and interesting. I really appreciate the work of our trainers, very hard task they had, working through all these days. They did their best to organize this event most productive, interesting and unforgettable for all of us. I find them to be very good, taking into account both their personal and professional characteristics: they are very kind as people and qualified and experienced as trainers of peer education. I consider them to be a very good example for me. Moreover, some of them could be good actors and actresses! On the training, while doing one of the exercises I found them to be very talented in acting. Actually, this exercise is one of my favorite exercises, when trainers “quarrel” with each other for us to show how we can communicate with our co-facilitators on training. I have never before had such an exercises, and was shocked when Rua and Ivica (our trainers) had a conflict, when we were all together. But, as it turned to be later, it just was an exercise, and when they hugged and smiled to each other I was happy. Now I know what should we do and what is forbidden to be done during our work as peer educators.

One thing is also worth mentioning that I liked great job of participants as one team. During different exercises, especially team building exercises we worked as people, who know each other for one year at least. I liked them all, everyone has something special, that I was interested to learn, they are very motivated, hard-working and creative people. I never thought before that people from different countries have a lot in common and that they can understand and support each other. It is very good feeling when you know that young people from different spots of our planet do the same job, that you do actually. It pushes you to work twice as well as you can.

During the training I learned a lot of new things, as well as from our trainers and from participants’ personal experience. Thank you very much for such splendid event we had all together.

Liliya Sabitova – Y-PEER Uzbekistan.
Theatre Based Peer Education Training kicks off in Beirut

Y-PEER Regional Theater Based Peer Education training kicked off today in Beirut, Lebanon with 25 participants from across the Arab World.

This year, the training is hosted by Y-PEER PETRI AUB unit in the American University in Beirut. It brings together Focal Points, peer educators and theatre enthusiasts. Participants are being trained by qualified theater experts from Jordan and Egypt, alongside certified Y-PEER trainers.

Its aim? To explore ways to use interactive theater in delivering key messages to the community, following edutainment techniques.

By the end of the training, participants will put together a play using the new skills and knowledge they acquired through the sessions.

Y-PEERs attend the Global Youth Economics Conference in Washington DC

Three Y-PEER focal points attended the Global Youth Economic Conference last week, a platform where 400 young professionals from over 60 countries meet annually to discuss ways to improve economic opportunities for youth around the world. The conference took place in Washington DC, Sept. 7-8.

Participants representing different organizations gathered through workshops and plenary sessions, sharing methods, lessons and contacts, all in an effort to alleviate employment challenges faced by the world’s 1.5 billion youth.

DAY 1

Speeches at the opening session focused on the importance of education and vocational training for entering the job market. Throughout the session, challenges to employment were discussed, with close attention given to case studies in Zambia and China.

Speakers included the Moroccan ambassador to the United States, Ms. Barbara Chilangwa, Executive Director of Campaign for Female Education in Zambia and Mr. David Arkles, president of Manpower Group, a leading company in workforce solutions in the US.

According to Mahmoud Nabulsi, Y-PEER Jordan, “the conference is a great chance for networking and learning new techniques especially for youth economic projects, entrepreneurship ideas.”

DAY 2

During the second day of the confer-
ence, Mr. Jeff Holfman said that being an entrepreneur starts from commitment, focus, hard work, team spirit and passion, a list of qualities he referred to as the “gradients” for entrepreneurs. Good ideas can come from anyone and good ideas don’t have age, he added.

Another plenary tackled the importance of exploring breakthrough technologies in order to increase access of young people to financial services, employment, entrepreneurship and skill building opportunities.

Nabulsi attended the workforce development session, where participants discussed the strengths and weaknesses of a USAID-led project taking place in Jordan. The project aims to encourage young people in Grade 11 to start drafting their business plans and aspire to become entrepreneurs in the future.

Meanwhile, Odina Salihbaeva attended a session where participants discussed the way national policies impact youth savings and the importance of financial inclusion, zooming in on case studies from Colombia, Ghana, Kenya and Nepal.

Rua Al-Tawil attended a session on adolescent girls and young women titled: “Challenging Squared: Opening Income Pathways for Extremely Marginalized Young women,” which focused on the economic challenges faced by young women as a result of discrimination and marginalization.

The conference concluded on Sept 8.

Y-PEER and the 7 Billion Actions Campaign

On 31 October, world population reached 7 billion. A world of 7 billion people poses many challenges and countless opportunities to make a positive difference. 7 Billion Actions, established by the United Nations Population Fund, inspires change that will make a difference by highlighting positive action by individuals and organizations around the world.

UNFPA and Y-PEER National Networks have celebrated and launched the 7 Billion Actions Campaign and here is what they did:

In Armenia, UNFPA and THEATRE FOR CHANGES ARMENIA presented an interactive performance that introduced the intricate links between the recent and rapid growth in the size of our global family and the environment and social trends of our society: strains on our natural resources, polluted air and water, climate change, unprecedented worldwide communication and trade, and an increase of people living in poverty.

In Moldova, Y-PEERs organized a flash mob in order to inform the pop-
In December 2011 Y-PEER ICs gathered together for a three-day annual meeting in PETRI Sofia with the aim to strengthen the capacity in Advocacy, Partnership and Networking, as well as Resource Mobilization and to plan, coordinate work and divide tasks between themselves (2 PETRIS and ICs) according to the finalized International Action Plan for 2012.

The first two days were devoted to capacity building workshops by Dr. Plamen Dimitrov, President of the Bulgarian Psychological Society. ICs and PETRIS team were able to practice their skills and knowledge via different advocacy and networking simulation games and discussions. “Organizations should open their boundaries to meet “super goals,”- said Dr. Dimitrov. “If organizations keep on doing the same thing, the same way, they lose opportunities!”

The last day of the meeting was devoted to discussion of achievements and challenges faced by PETRIS and ICs and dividing tasks for next year. Participants did an exercise to identify activities to implement and discuss lessons learnt. In a course of this exercise, 10 Days of Activism campaign was unanimously recognized as a key achievement of the year.
Youth Competition in Battling the HIV Epidemic

Earlier this year, on June 9th—World leaders gathered in New York for the 2011 United Nations High Level Meeting on AIDS where they launched a Global Plan that will make significant strides towards eliminating new HIV infections among children by 2015 and keeping their mothers alive. “We believe that by 2015 children everywhere can be born free of HIV and that their mothers can remain healthy,” said Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS. “This new global plan is realistic, it is achievable and it is driven by the most affected countries.”

“Nearly every minute, a child is born with HIV. Working together, we can reverse this tide as we have done in the United States and they are very close to doing in Botswana,” said Ambassador Eric Goosby, the United States Global AIDS Coordinator. “Preventing new HIV infections among children across the globe is truly a smart investment that saves lives and helps to give children a healthy start in life.”

As part of this approach, UNAIDS, which is the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, is an innovative United Nations partnership that leads and inspires the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support have partnered with Y-PEER, the Youth Peer Education Network to launch a Youth Competition on Revolutionizing awareness and prevention in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

The competition is falling toward the UNAIDS vision of reaching zero HIV new infections, zero AIDS related deaths and zero stigma and discrimination.

As for this competition, young people are asked to present a proposal on how youth in MENA can play a major role in the AIDS response in terms of awareness, prevention, peer education, human rights, care and support to people living and affected by HIV and advocating for the review of existing HIV laws and policies.

UNAIDS and Y-PEER have launched the youth competition early in September 2011 at MTV show broadcasted on @MTV Lebanon. Awards will be distributed for the best three proposals presented by the youth on the World AIDS Day Regional Telethon Event that is going to take place in Lebanon during the month of December in collaboration with MTV. United Nations representatives, Re-
regional UN Goodwill Ambassadors, regional artists, parliamentarians, and policy makers will be our guests during the Telethon.

Throughout the competition MTV Lebanon is hosting Y-PEER members weekly on @MTV show coming from various countries in the region to discuss HIV and AIDS issues and share their experiences in the HIV response and the role that they are playing.

The topics which the participants are encouraged to formulate their project ideas upon are presented and discussed during the show and they count:

2. Human Rights and Gender- Stigma and discrimination on People living with HIV and Key populations and Women Empowerment.
3. Voluntary counseling and Testing and benefits from early diagnosis and Treatment/ Mandatory testing; Treatment for Prevention.
4. Travel Restrictions and related mandatory testing.
5. HIV laws (people living with HIV and key populations).
6. Youth peer education and its benefits as an approach in raising awareness around issues surrounding HIV/AIDS.

Participants were encouraged to attend the weekly shows, broadcasted every Wednesday on 04PM Beirut time and submit their proposals to UNAIDS. The names of the winners will be revealed in March 2012; Awards are including iPads, trips of 3 days to Turkey and Diamond necklaces will be distributed for the best 3 proposals during the Telethon and the winners will be hosted at @MTV to share their experience.
Dreams come true!!!

Ana Rizescu

I began my journey with Y-PEER International Network in October 2008, in the Y-PEER PETRI Center in Sofia. I didn’t know much about what I was going to do, but I learned quickly because I had great support from all the people I worked with and a great mentor, Naida, who was an International Coordinator (IC) at that time.

I was dreaming of walking in her shoes, of gaining a lot of experience while in the same time contributing to the networks’ development.

And with a lot of work and commitment, taking it step by step, my dream came true. I became an IC in October 2010 and came back in the Y-PEER PETRI Sofia in October 2011 as an IC in charge.

Anina, Sophie and Rali are still here, supporting us along the way. I am working closely with Toni, the PETRI Coordinator and with Rua, the brilliant fellow from Syria. The office looks the same, but so many things are different. Now I have a better overview of the network and more responsibilities, I am in charge of communication and coordinating processes, motivating and engaging our members, being accountable for our partners and donors.

October has surely been the month of changes, as after the GAB meeting, Fatma, Carla and Davron became Alumni and Shubha, Gehad and Aida became the new ICs. It was challenging to adapt to the new team dynamics, and Bothaina, Dina, Mario and I had to embrace a mentoring role and
do our best to build up the team spirit, to share all the good practices and the lessons learned of the last year. In ICs team, we are all counting on each other as our work is like pieces of puzzle that come together and every piece is important.

November’s main focus was organizing and conducting the EECA Regional ToT – this gave me a lot of motivation that was my driving force for the following period. I realized I missed the Y-PEER trainings atmosphere and I enjoyed to the max how participants were very active and involved, how trainer’s team worked together and the satisfaction and joy acquired after a week.

The beginning of the year was very busy, especially during Dr. Ruth’s working time for the Y-PEER Evaluation in the EECA Region. It gave me a great feeling of accomplishment when I attended the interviews with Stani & Stefan - Focal Points of Y-PEER Bulgaria - cause hearing their perspective on the impact Y-PEER made in their lives and in their community was very inspiring.

So this is a little sharing of what’s happening here in Y-PEER PETRI Sofia! There is a lot of online work, planning and collaborating to make the most out of 2012 and I am very happy to be a part of it! Being an International Coordinator is a voluntary role and it is very beneficial when one of us has the opportunity to be based in the Y-PEER PETRI Center and is able to dedicate a full working day to Y-PEER!

Y-PEER fellowship in a beautiful Beirut: A Look Inside

Jamshid Kayumov

During the four months, I was fellow in the PETRI (Peer Education Training and Research Institute / Unit) center, which is located in the Lebanese capital, Beirut. During that time there was a lot of interesting and useful things for me.

But I want to begin a story about how I became as a Y-PEER fellow. I learned news about the selection of the fellowship from the Y-PEER mail list. When the documents were handed over (I should had recommendation of UNFPA country office of Uzbekistan which I got) for the fellowship. I did not think that I would pass the selection. It was a spontaneous decision. But time had passed ... The first letter was that the papers were interested by the selection committee members. They told me that in a few days I had an interview. I was in complete shock and did not know what to do next. In the begin-
ning, everything was against me; the interview was scheduled on the day of my cousin wedding. Interview can be characterized in a few words: terror night, unfamiliar, but pleasant voices, the sound of the wedding, no clear future.

Next news – “Pack your things! You are Y-PEER PETRI AUB Fellow!”. A little less than five months of waiting – I was in Beirut!

About Lebanon: After years of unrest, Lebanon is regaining its former reputation as «The Switzerland of the Middle East». Beirut is a beautiful city, with modern high-rise buildings. There is each day built other beautiful new buildings. The streets of the city resemble the streets of European cities. People here are kind and interesting. Also, there are a lot of tourists, and therefore almost all the inhabitants of the city speak English.

About the fellowship: In my opinion, the purpose of the fellowship in the Y-PEER PETRI AUB, as in the Y-PEER PETRI Sofia – is help to the international coordinators to operate, control and develop Y-PEER network. As well as gradual training of professional personnel for the network, and possibly for UNFPA, both at the national and international level.

Fellowship was held in American University of Beirut (AUB). Office of the Y-PEER PETRI AUB was located in the Department of “Health Science”. AUB is considered one of the best higher education institutions in the region. This fact makes the fellowship even more interesting.

Y-PEER PETRI AUB team consisted of five members: two fellows: me from Uzbekistan and Kacem Jlidi from Tunisia, the international coordinator of the Y-PEER network Bothaina Qamar from Jordan, the coordinator of the Y-PEER PETRI AUB Lina Jbara and Hala Abou Farhat, another member of the team: Mayada Kanj, Michael Khoury (all from Lebanon).

All guys are professionals. They have a great experience. So I got many good skills from them. Everyday we had something to do at the office and we all worked hard. Shortly, you can feel there reigned Y-PEER spirit. In the weekends we spent good time in the Beirut as well in other beautiful cities of Lebanon.

Y-PEER Fellows have many privileges and benefits in AUB. They have the same rights as students of AUB. For example, I had English course. I studied with AUB students. But difference between me and them was that I did not pay anything for English course. Also, I was selected to the AUB men football team. It is hard to explain how I was happy to be part of this amazing University!

After finishing fellowship I came
back to my work. Nowadays I feel more comfortable myself. Mainly, my boss is very happy that I become more professional and energetic. So fellowship help me to build myself as a personality.

In general, I recommend you take part in the selection to the next cycle of fellowship in the Y-PEER PETRI AUB, which will begin soon.

I’m sure that you really like the fellowship and Lebanon! GOOD LUCK!

**Me, the fellowship and myself • Kacem Jlidi**

What does it mean to be a Y-PEER fellow?

This is perhaps the question that most Y-PEERS think of when regarding fellowships offered by the orange network. What do fellows do and how do they go through the fellowship duration away from home? Away from family and friends?

These are few of the questions that I was asked throughout my fellowship.

I would like to emphasize on the first question raised because I feel it’s somehow more important to address.

To some extent, we might think that it’s all about the chance to travel and live abroad for a while, but personally, it’s far beyond that; it is not the day to day work that fellows have to do neither it is the monthly allowance – even though that matters quite a lot ;)

I’m sharing an office with three people and the things that set us apart...
are far more numerous than those that bring us to unity. This fact alone continues to amaze me every day.

Less than two feet away sits Jamshid, from Y-PEER Uzbekistan, a country I wasn’t able to locate on the map till I met him. It’s been fascinating working alongside Jamshid, the numerous discussions we have, how we disagree often and then find ways to agree again and support each other.

On the other side of the room sits Hala, our new PETRI-AUB coordinator. She’s a young Lebanese lady who puts so much passion in everything she does. She’s very friendly, a smiley person who brings in a great spirit as soon she walks through the door. It couldn’t get any more convenient to get to know Hala than having her assist with a Y-PEER training before she was fully on board; the training was the best environment to unleash my craziness and myself, and be able to get to know her easily. She’s more of friend/partner than being a ‘boss’ and I absolutely love that, keeping in my mind my dysfunctional relationship with hierarchy.

Lina, our previous PETRI-AUB coordinator whom I had the privilege to work with during the past two months, had moved on with her life to a more stable job. I will not forget the first lesson she taught us, Jamshid and I – ‘Patience’!

Lina is an absolute Lebanese beauty; she has an angelic look and is very caring, and although she calls us her children, I’m not quite sure she ever appreciated the word Mommy J.

Not far from Hala/Lina’s office sits our wise queen Bothaina from Jordan, the International Coordinator in Charge. She always has a zillion activities to finish on her list and I still have no idea how she manages to achieve them all. I absolutely adore the voices she makes all of sudden when working or when that Frenchy-tricked pc tricks her. I’m learning so much from her work manners, the effort she puts in every task and her keenness of adding a personal touch to her work. Her presence carries an irreplaceable added value.

Now, imagine the daily interactions that happen among this small sample of differences over a quite long period. Call me a geek, but I absolutely enjoy observing us and how we magically get together and enjoy learning about our differences. Cultural awareness and personal differences were always subjects of importance to me, and somehow, through being here, I’m feeding the little rebel in me – at the end of the day, the ultimate lesson learnt is that we can all co-exist and live together. What makes us different enriches us. Imagine how boring it would be if we had less differences.

Don’t you agree?
Cosmin Obretin is y-PEER Romania Focal Point since 2010.

He has the reasons to be POTM (November 2011) as he said:

“I believe that I have gained experience in the field of peer work and I have shaped an image of what means volunteering (not just for you but for the others too) to inspire other young people. The organized activities contributed in developing my personality and as a volunteer at Y4Y and y-PEER, I have had the chance to work in high-schools and organize peer education sessions on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Family Life Skills related topics. In the same time, I have participated in numerous out of school/ outreach sessions, in parks, clubs, places where young people are used to spend time and to work at topic related theatre plays. I am also part of the team of editors having the main goal to promote the image of volunteering through articles, drawings, stories, websites etc.

The most significant activity I took part to was in 2010 when he was one of the volunteers who were at the sea
side for the “HIV Prevention” summer campaign and I was able to reach in only two weeks almost 600 peers.”

Also he clarified What did the work in peer education add to his life as a young person by saying:

“Firstly, the work in peer education shaped my personality and by this I am referring that it developed my communication skills and attitude. I have to admit that I started volunteering out of curiosity but I had never imagined that it could become so important to me. It really changed my life, shaping my personality and one of the greatest satisfactions of this work is that you get to know a lot of people that are doing it out of pleasure or maybe just for fun, wanting to change something in the world. These aren’t all the things that motivate me to continue with my work but you have to experience it in order to understand it. And one of the thing I am proud is that other volunteers come to me in search- ing for answers or looking for an advise and this gives me faith.

I also think it is a great opportunity to get used to a job, because even if you don’t get paid for your activities, they are still recognized as experience in the workforce. The most important thing that peer education added to my life as a young person is the people I met and in- spired me.”

Cosmin has a nice quote about his spare time: “Travel- ling, reading detective stories, watching and understanding people and enjoying the sun everyday, but I don’t consider there is such thing as free time. The time is just THE TIME. It depends on how you want to manage it in order to do things that could help you and the others and when you just feel good that’s when you know you’ve done SOMETHING.”

She think she is the Peer of The Month because she got involved in almost every activity of the network since she became a member. She is enthusiastic about every possibility she has to involve! Besides being a peer to peer educator throughout the country and a trainer for the new team in Chisinau, she also organized a Refresh for the new team, took part at the organizing and/or carrying on of the “PRO-Health campaign”, 10 DoA, flashmobs, the Social Theatre Festival and the participation of the network at other festivals.

Maria express her experience and what Y-PEER added to her by saying: “It added a lot to my life as a young person! First of all, it changed me very much. Adolescences made me a very reserved person who didn’t talk almost at all and wasn’t quite sociable but after beginning my work as a volunteer in Y-PEER I be-
came the little friendly girl I used to be when I was a child. The work as a peer to peer educator has helped me in every other field of my life and I’m very thankful for everything I could do until now and want very much to do in the future!”

She was also volunteer in the 7th form. She helped the kids younger than her to make their home works and also made other activities for the small kids and played with them.

In addition to her study and voluntary work, she spends her spare time attending the meetings of the Chisinau Toastmasters Club, being a member of the Academy of Ideas.
Y-PEER and World AIDS Day
As part of the celebration of WAD 2011, Y-PEER in collaboration with its partners initiated a campaign called: 34 million people living with HIV, 34 days of activism. Through this activity, peers aimed to intensify their interventions and sensitize about the importance of advocacy to unite all efforts to combat HIV.

On the 1st of December, an artistic event was held in the hall “El Moggar” for youth. Y-PEER took advantage of this opportunity where many young people were gathered to install a stand of information. Y-PEERians went for a large street action distributing flyers and brochures to all passersby. At the entry of the hall, before getting to the concert, each person was sensitized and invited to take prevention materials including condoms.

An exhibition of painting from the online competition between peers as well as handicrafts articles made by positive youth were exposed for selling to reorient their benefits to support PLHIV and promote their rights.
“Peer education session for schoolchildren” was held at UN conference room on 1 of December 2011, aimed to equip 50 high school students of various local schools with peer education techniques. As a result, the high school students equipped with peer education techniques, able to pass on the learning beyond the life of action.

“Media activity”; Y-PEER Azerbaijan participation as guest speakers in internet TV programme dedicated to World AIDS Day, moreover raised awareness of HIV/AIDS, ways of transmission and prevention and stigma and discrimination in society associated with HIV. Afterwards Y-PEERS answered the questions of spectators.

“Y-PEER Bahrain Action toward getting to zero”; Peer Education Training and a Symposium attended by 25 young people to share the students of RCSI (Royal College of surgeons in Ireland) World AIDS Day, and done exhibition sharing materials, the students of RCSI done several workshops, but from our side I have done a Symposium and peer education training. It took place in Royal College of surgeons in Ireland, and there wasn’t any involvement from other organizations. The main impact of the training is that all the students was amazed from the Y-PEER methodology, and they were happy and would like to join the network, and they asked for more trainings from Y-PEER.
Our biggest strength — the young people!

Y-PEER has a long tradition in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 2002 it has been changing the lives of young people. Thus, every time we organize activities for World AIDS Day I believe we do a small miracle. This year the miracle was undeniable.

While preparing for WAD 2011, Y-PEER Bosnia and Herzegovina had big plans. However, unfortunately, only one day before WAD, we were informed that we would not get any funds for implementation of our activities. One can imagine our disappointment, since we all put our hearts and souls into the action plans. It was like when someone wakes you up from a wonderful dream. I can say it was one of the biggest challenges and obstacles we faced last year.

But then something truly amazing happened — something that only Y-PEER can do! Young people from Y-PEER Bosnia and Herzegovina decided...
to take the matter in their own hands and organised the best WAD ever! As a result, with minimum resources and maximum efforts we managed to organise activities in 9 towns of Bosnia and Herzegovina!

By the help of our volunteers and volunteers from other NGOs, we organised info stands, street actions, informal gatherings, peer education sessions and parties. Young people proved that with high motivation, we can accomplish a lot! During these events we promoted “Getting to zero” idea, as well as condom usage and healthy lifestyle. We had a very creative art exhibition in Banja Luka, where young people presented photos promoting tolerance and non-discrimination towards HIV positive people.

This WAD has taught us a lot, but most of all, we all realized that we should be more than proud to have such motivated and dedicated young people in our network, who are not afraid of any challenges! These brilliant young people reminded us that all it takes for our network to do something is our spirit and eagerness to make positive changes in our communities! I have never been so proud of being a part of Y-PEER Bosnia and Herzegovina and I hope you all find an inspiration from what Y-PEERS do!
On 1st December the volunteers took part in many different actions of the campaign. They were walking on the main streets of the city and giving away cards with facts about HIV/AIDS and the people liked it very much. Also, there was a free projection in the cinema of the Bulgarian movie “Love.net”. The hall of the cinema was full and there were even standing people. There were trainings at the topic of HIV/AIDS for the students in the local schools, too. All of these activities took place in Shumen and we had the support of the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth Shumen.

Campaign in “The Mall”, Street action Organized to raise the awareness about HIV/AIDS, alleviating stigma towards people, living with HIV and referring people to HIV tests. The campaign was in one of the biggest shopping malls in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. We chose this one also because of our longstanding partnership with it. The main activities were as follows: distribution 3500 condoms, 2000 informational materials and red ribbons; presentation of video clips and other multimedia materials and follow-up discussions, referring to a mobile HIV-testing laboratory (100 HIV-tests on-site) and general discussions with interested young people.
“FREE HUGS”; eight volunteers and 100 people hugged. Yes it was amazing street action, Volunteers were hugging people walking by on the main square with a sign FREE HUGS to show people that HIV is not transmitted with social contact and to raise awareness about stigma and discrimination surrounding PLHIV.

“Getting to ZERO”; another street action to raise civil society awareness about HIV/AIDS modes of transmission (Zero new infection). We made big red ZERO with our bodies, and we were singing refrain of one popular song that talks about getting infected by HIV. This action was attended 100 young people.

Also, Y-PEER Croatia organized “Info stands” in ten difference cities, on info stands volunteers give out educational leaflets and condoms, while educating people about HIV/AIDS.

Last but not least; our “Petition signing” — Declaration of medical students and for general public — The declaration of medical students is asking of medical students to promise not to discriminate and stigmatize PLHIV when they become doctors. The declaration for general public asked the public to stop the discrimination and stigmatization of PLHIV and to promote and educate people about HIV/AIDS. Participants of this event were 15 volunteers and 1000 signatures just in 2 weeks.

Viviana Radica
“Myth or Truth”/“What should we do in order to stop HIV/AIDS?” Interactive thematic contests; activity held in the shopping center MallDova and it consisted of questioning people about HIV/AIDS (through a box with myths and truths) and promoting right information about virus and WAD significance. We also had a box for collecting ideas about what we should do in order to stop the infection with HIV. The activity was supported by distribution by 400 informational materials, red ribbons, white balloons and 300 condoms. Dance4Life team was our partner in this event.

“10 Days of Activism on HIV Prevention”; Peer education sessions in 12 schools attended by 1153 young people and addressed HIV Prevention, Stigma and Discrimination, Transmission etc., games and quests.

“Transit Movie Demonstration” and valuable discussion was done with 25 young people.
“Getting to Zero with Youth Action”; four street drama, group discussion, Documentary show organized to gather young students and professionals in a common ground to spur their creativity to create messages on HIV & AIDS awareness and raise the awareness on HIV/AIDS specially transmission through unsafe sex among more than 1070 young people. The street drama focused on “Proper care and love to the HIV patients can transform their life and can help them to live a better life”.

All audiences gave positive feedback after show and showed their desire to have opportunity of such programs in the future. Also, the news of the program was published by local newspaper and also broadcasted through local community radio stations.

Moreover, To gather youths working in various field in a common platform and discuss on their role to minimize the impact of HIV & AIDS, Y-PEER Nepal held a “Let’s talk about Safe Sex” workshops followed by candle lightning in the evening attended by 150 young people.
Y-PEER Oman celebrated WAD 2012 by holding “Peer education event” attended by 25 young people. This event was educational exhibition which talked about HIV/AIDS, a walkathon, a small theater play, In addition to educational games.

Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER) Pakistan in collaboration with Chanan Development Association (CDA) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organized an “Awareness Seminar” to commemorate World AIDS Day at Al-Hamara Hall, the Mall Lahore. More than 250 young people and representative of civil society, Media and Govt. officials participated in the event.

Muhammad Shahzad Khan, Executive Director—CDA during his opening speech briefly shared the work of CDA and Y-PEER as well as the history of World AIDS Day. He said that “today’s world needs the active, equal and meaningful youth participation in all the HIV prevention programming to work effectively towards a world getting to Zero”.

The main objective for celebrating WAD was to raise awareness amongst young people about HIV/AIDS epidemic as well as promote tolerance, and acceptance for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Y-PEER Pakistan organized several activities to celebrate WAD and “16 Days of Activism Campaign 2011” with 19 different activities in 17 different sites/cities and reached around 2334 young people. The major issues covered during these amazing activities:

- Poster competition and awareness seminar on women & SRHR.
- Theater Performance on Human Rights of Trans-genders.
- Human Rights Education through Football Match.
Y-PEER Philippines organized “Candlelight Ceremony” awareness discussions for four days in different cities among youth and public to raise their awareness and commemorate the victims of HIV/AIDS.

Also, Let us PAINT Catbalogan City red! Concert and Street Action for public, the unique event is dubbed as “The Red Night”, the red signifying the strong campaign towards the eradication of stigma and discrimination towards HIV and AIDS, and to celebrate the most joyous time of the year, the Christmas Season.

In addition to the GAYON LGBT group in Legaspi Albay celebrate World AIDS Day with different strategy which creates awareness on their community. This is also an activity to give positive impression about the LGBT community in making action towards the issues.

Moreover; Theatre Presentation on Sexually Transmitted Infection and HIV and AIDS showed to present the issues in different dynamic and idealistic one and attended by 40 young people.
“Human Ribbon”; Broadcasted action and condom distribution. The activity had the purpose of bringing awareness in the community of WAD. The Human Ribbon took place in Bucharest on the sets of a morning TV show, and it was a first because it was the biggest ribbon made out of people in a live TV show. The event attended by 78 youth from six active NGOs in sexual reproduction health. After the TV event we have distributed 4000 condoms in the center of Bucharest and gave people information regarding HIV prevention.

“Flash Mob” Street action to raise the awareness of the community about HIV/AIDS. The action was organized by a group of students at the University of Sociology and other 3 NGOs also attended by 53 young people. The flash mob was consisted in forming creating a human ribbon and other people who froze. There were media reporters who filmed the event and took interviews from organizers about actual situation of HIV/AIDS infection in Romania.

1008 condom distributed during “WAD – Out of school activity” and “Stand activity within National Congress of Students and young doctors”, 130 participants. These activities held to inform people from the conference about how NGOs are approaching the HIV/AIDS theme in their projects as a good example.
In September 2009, Y-PEER Syria Network born, with the efforts of 8 Focal Points, this network started to become the leading network to offer an advanced, yet interactive trainings in the field of Reproductive health, HIV/AIDS & Drugs raising awareness sessions...

Every year, Y-PEER Syria participate the occasion of the World AIDS Day...

And thus, in WAD 2011, Y-PEER Syria conducted a special National ToT training for the “Syrian Family Planning Association” (SFPA)’s 26 volunteers — one of the main NGOs that Y-PEER Syria is networking with — for 7 days, aiming to expand the cadre of well skilled and trained Peer Educators’ trainers and building their capacity to design and deliver high quality peer-based reproductive health education training programmes within the SFPA.

This ToT covered various topics, with main focus of personal and group skills in the frame of Reproductive Health, Gender, Stigma & Discrimination, working with MARYP and youth adult partnership.

7 days of interactive learning passed with full of joy and rich information shared between the participants, in
which every one of them (the trainees) got the highest dose of inspiration to start testing their new experience in the field…

7 days of endless youth-friendly atmosphere passed with discovering new skills among youth which just need a spark to fire it up and make the trainee ready to reshape what he/she got to another group of peers.

7 days of Y-PEER interactive techniques made the trainers feel like nothing can be compared to this gorgeous network… Simply because it’s Y-PEER :) 

No doubt, the success of this training has been added to our success stories which we are all proud of it, and we dedicate this success to all of Y-PEER members all over the world ;)

Celebrating WAD in 13 different cities around Turkey with 13 different activities cannot be presenting in few lines. Starting with preparatory meeting collected 39 PEs in addition to 5 FPs and UNFPA representative.

The major activity was “Street Action”; 24 street actions took in 15 different cities and 2000 young people participate in to attract the society’s attention and advocate for PLHIV rights.

Media; to raise awareness and educate young people about HIV/AIDS, 12 film workshops in 12 cities were conducted with discussions among 600 young people who participated in.

Moreover, 200 young people were participated in 40 PE sessions around 10 cities talked about Sexual and reproductive health and SRH rights, Our bodies, HIV/AIDS, STIs, contraceptive methods, breast examination and condom sessions implemented in educations. Also, 6 condom parties in 6 different cities organized to provide the ABC protections attended by 600 young people.

The last but not least; 2 religious sermons attended by 200 religious leader.
Protect your love

December, 1\textsuperscript{st} 2011 — on the square in front of Lviv National University were placed three large banners where anyone could write or draw their thoughts about HIV/AIDS. Everyone could express their outlook of this problem. Also, volunteers were handing out leaflets, red ribbons and condoms with the slogan: “Protect your love.” In addition to cover two major universities: Polytechnic University and Commercial Academy. Our volunteers were handing out leaflets & condoms at city nightclubs “Fenomen” & “M100”. At the end of the activity we outlined a symbolic red ribbon with candles. We are united in “Together against AIDS”. This event was held in such cities of Lviv region: Zhovkva Rava-Ruska, Sokal, Dubliany, Chervonograd. Two weeks earlier we conducted two regional trainings on HIV/AIDS for students and schoolchildren.

Uzbekistan

Y-PEER Uzbekistan held 11 activities dedicated to WAD — 3 peer education sessions, 1 poster competition, 1 concert, 4 theatre performances, and a campaign. The latter was organized together with Social Initiative Support Fund, Youth Initiative Centre “Kelajak Ovozi” and UNDP and held in Youth
Palace in Tashkent. This event was divided into two parts—a fair during which each organization had an opportunity to present their work; Y-PEERs held quizzes, outreach activities for young people and staged a theater performance. It is not a surprise that Y-PEER volunteers took it as a creativity challenge! They managed to put together beautiful collage with pictures from various activities in regions and important messages dedicated to youth and WAD. Additionally, a little skit regarding the issue of stigma and discrimination of people, living with HIV was performed. More than 200 young people, participating in the event, received information on WAD objectives and HIV.
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