

Association HERA XXI

Annual Bulletin

2023



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The Association promotes the fulfilment of the country's international commitments regarding sexual and reproductive Health and rights and gender equality in line with the implementation of the EU Association Agreement, the Candidate Status Recommendations and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Effective advocacy of sexual and reproductive health and rights is especially important in conditions where the issue of stigma and stereotyping remains a challenge. This challenge deprives the legislative and executive bodies of the issue to avoid political instrumentalization.

Advocacy at the International Level:

- SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) -Association HERA XXI is a member of the South Caucasus Regional Working Group led by CENN. The association leads the fifth goal on "gender equality" and prepares a shadow report in coalition with non-governmental organizations in Georgia;
- On October 17-18, Regional Youth Consultations on Population and Development and on 19-20 October Regional Conference ICPD30, Population and Development: Ensuring Rights and Choices were held in Geneva and, in which the Association HERA XXI represented the young person from Georgia. She spoke

up youth voices on the following issues: access to youth friendly high-quality, services for young people, comprehensive sexuality education, access to contraceptives and safe abortion services;

- The Association HERA XXI, as a member organization of the IPPF, shared the best practice of advocacy in Sofia, Bulgaria.

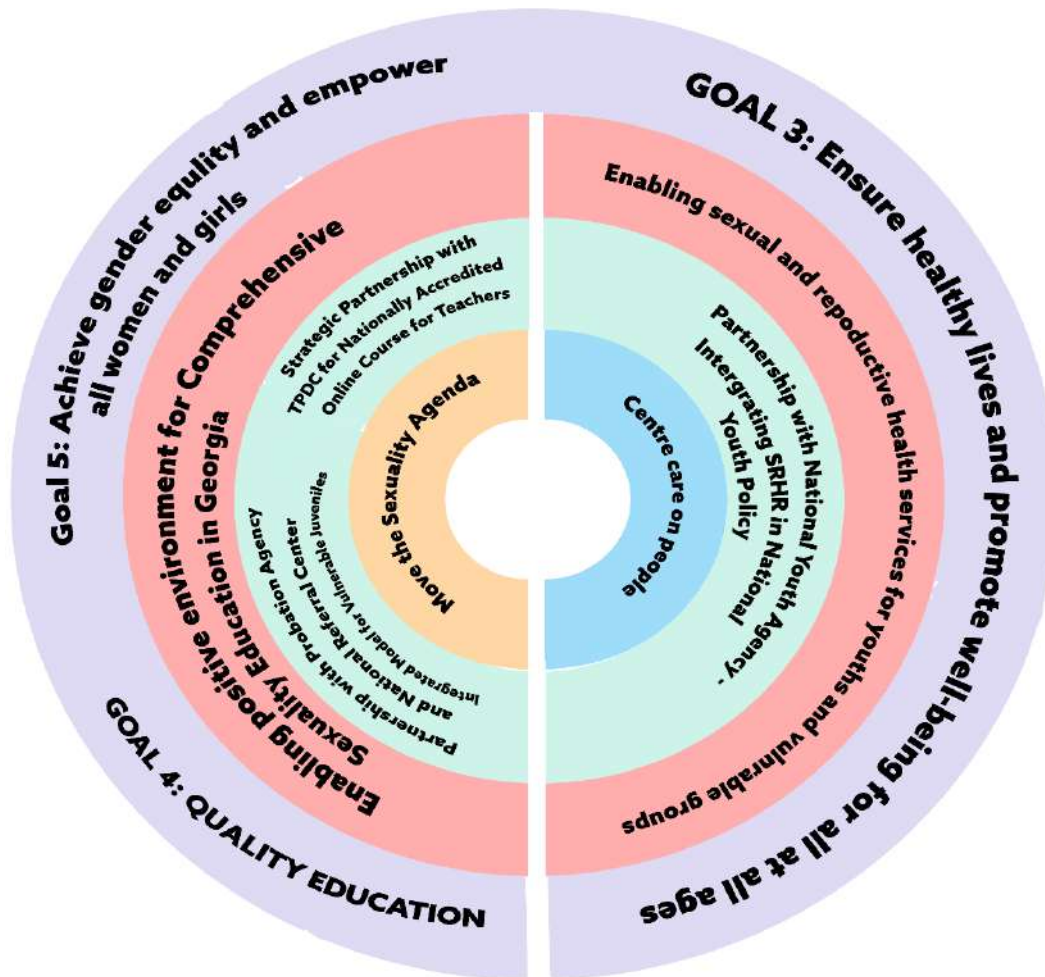
Advocacy at the National Level:

- As a partner of the Youth Agency, the Association HERA XXI participated in the development of the State Youth Strategy 2023-2026 and the following Action Plans for 2023, and 2024-2025, It was through the efforts of the organization that the measures towards sexual and reproductive health and rights were integrated, within the framework of the second task: "Strengthening the health and well-being of youth", in the youth policy documents;
- The representative of HERA XXI is a member of the National Youth Advisory Board and advocates on the topics of sexual and reproductive health and rights at the national level;
- Association HERA XXI, in cooperation with the National Agency for Crime Prevention, Non-Custodial Punishment and Probation, has developed a national training course for teachers on SRHR issues.

Advocacy at the Local Level:

- Association HERA XXI works in 5 municipalities, these are Ninotsminda, Akhalkalaki, Kutaisi, Gori, and Tbilisi with Youth Affairs units and Gender Councils and advocates for sexual and reproductive health and rights at the local level;
- Within the framework of the second strategic goal of the State Youth Strategy 2023-2026 and the Action Plan 2023, "Strengthening the Health and Well-being of Youth " in cooperation with the Youth Agency, Association HERA XXI conducted in conducted communication and advocacy campaign on healthy lifestyle and behavior in Tetrtskaro municipality and Tserovani village;
- Association HERA XXI conducted a 16-day campaign against gender-based violence in cooperation with Khobi Municipality City Council;

Alignment of HERA XXI's advocacy at national level with IPPF Strategy and global agendas

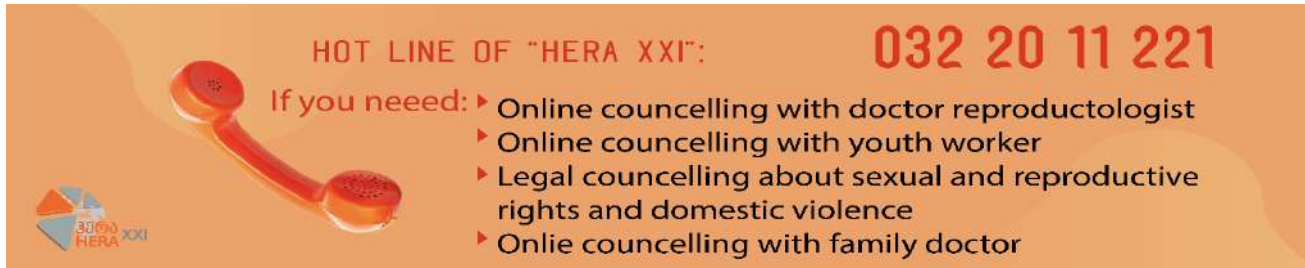


IPPF Strategy

Association HERA XXI-Advocacy

Nairobi commitments by the Association HERA XXI

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



HOT LINE OF "HERA XXI": **032 20 11 221**

If you need:

- ▶ Online counselling with doctor reproductologist
- ▶ Online counselling with youth worker
- ▶ Legal counselling about sexual and reproductive rights and domestic violence
- ▶ Onlie counselling with family doctor

The Association HERA XXI has been working for years to provide quality services to everyone, especially vulnerable groups: adolescents aged 14-29, girls and boys living in rural areas, socially vulnerable women, people with disabilities, HIV-positive individuals, high risks groups, and the LGBT community.

- Online Counseling – HERA XXI offers free, remote, online consultation (hotline, video consultation, and online chats) to the beneficiaries of the Family doctor, Reproductologist, and Lawyer, which promotes access to reproductive health services and legal advice in a gender-sensitive and rights-based approach.
- Information assurance - taking into account the difficulties associated with the filtering of information, the Association HERA XXI offers its beneficiaries reliable information on reproductive health and rights. the organization has its digital platforms - a [sexual counseling office and women's sexual and reproductive health and rights](#), where interested persons can read thematic articles, attend live engagements, and ask questions completely anonymously;
- For benevolent services tailored to young people, the Youth Worker Service works to identify the needs of young people. The youth worker provides both remote/online services to adolescents and conducts information and communication-type meetings. social platforms created for youth are actively working: [Association HERA-XXXI Youth Network YOUTHnet of Association HERA - XXI](#), [HERA Twenty-One - Alumnae Network](#), where Live engagements are being held step by step and articles prepared by the youth worker are being published on topics necessary for young people, which have been revealed as a result of meetings with them.
- In 2023, in parallel with the online service, the Association anchored visits to the site to provide the service to the representatives of the vulnerable group.

The Association HERA XXI, in cooperation with the Kaspi Municipality Public Health Center, provided the full gynecological service to the targeted segment on May 20, 2023, with the involvement of the gynecology-reproductologist in the Kaspi district, giving the beneficiaries contraceptive products completely free of charge, depending on their individual needs. in case of detection of abnormality, referral to the relevant service was made.

And on July 22, 2023, at the initiative of the association HERA XXI, digital technology agency [Neo TV](#) and [Zurab Sabakharashvili Reproductive Clinic](#) in cooperation with the population of the occupied territories in the border zone of the village Ergneti provided comprehensive medical services: consultation with the family

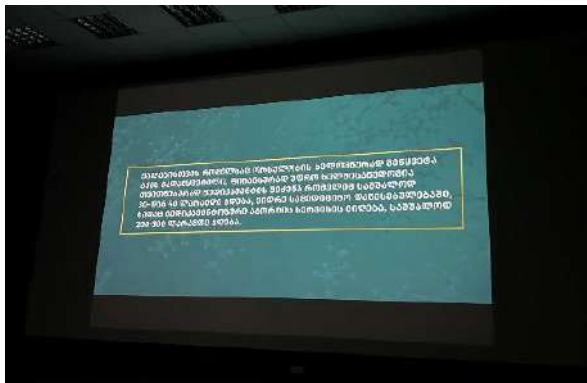
doctor, the doctor gynecologist, the ultrasound practitioner, and the psychologist. During the visit, the vulnerable population, women of fertile age, women in menopause, young girls, and adolescents were given free consultations, ultrasonographic diagnostics were performed and contraceptives and pregnancy tests were given as needed, and information brochures and symbolic gifts were presented.

- To support vulnerable groups, the HERA XXI Community Mobilizer is actively working in the village Ergneti. She meets the villagers, conducts a survey, investigates their needs, and makes a quick and effective referral to the remote services of the association.

- referral to family doctor - 10 057referrals
- referral to Lawyer-401 Referrals
- ● referral to Gynecologist-Reproductologist-104

Safe Termination of Pregnancy

- The Association HERA XXI engages in informational-educational activities regarding the current legislative changes, both locally and internationally;
- Cooperation with the Georgian Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists regarding the renewal of the Protocol on Safe Termination of Pregnancy. Specifically, a member of the UNFPA Working Group on Advance Patient Counseling and Informing, Counseling, and Decision Making.
- Conducted an information and communication campaign on the topic of safe abortion in young women and girls;



Civil Sector Solidarity

The Association actively works with the civil sector to protect the rights of women and girls to sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence.

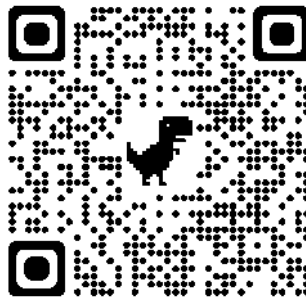
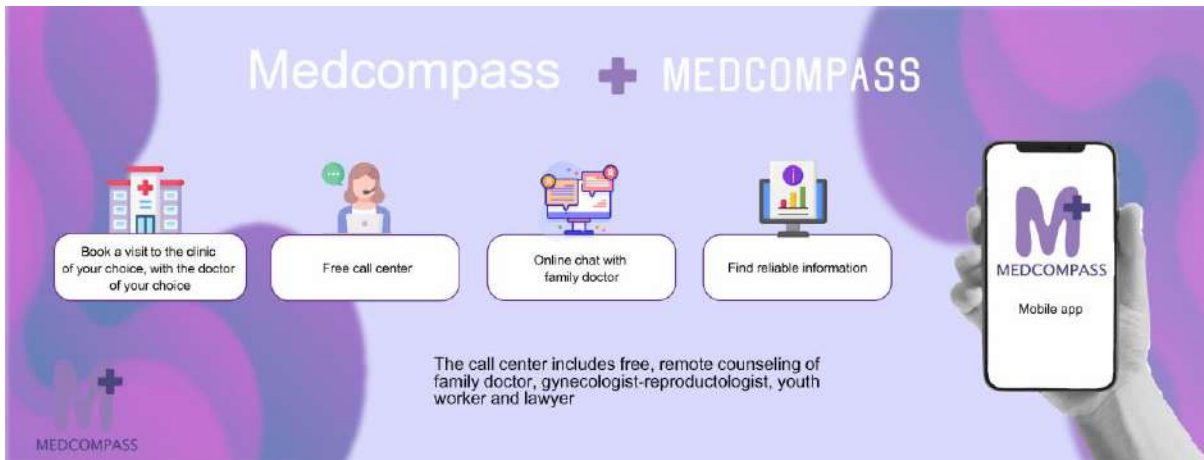
- On March 8, 2023, members of the association HERA XXI joined the Women's Movement March in various cities of Georgia;
- Also, the association HERA XXI joined the events of March and expressed a clear position against Russian law. The organization considers that the bill threatened the democratic development of the country and was damaging to European aspirations. This bill was a danger to women's rights organizations, as it would promote anti-gender sentiments and encourage the anti-European movement.



The Association HERA XXI launched the MEDCOMPASS digital health mobile app in 2023, which is a fast, economic, unbiased, reliable medical information guide where you can receive unbiased online services from a highly qualified specialist.

The potential beneficiaries and service providers will find reliable information, and thematic articles on topics relevant to them, find a nearby clinic, select and book a visit to a specialist without leaving home, and use a call center where a family doctor, gynecologist, lawyer, and youth worker will provide remote services in a non-discriminatory, safe environment.

The application is tailored to the patient's requirements and needs: MEDCOMPASS provides quality continuous family physician services for preventive medicine to prevent diseases at an early stage throughout life: internet access and registration are required to use the mobile app. [The app is available on the Android system.](#)



Providing comprehensive sexuality education to youth and professional groups is still a challenge for Georgia. This is due to prejudices and stereotypes prevalent in society, lack of effective training and relevant material in Georgian. Through its activities, the Association HERA XXI promotes activities every year to reduce the aforementioned gaps and contribute to the provision of comprehensive sexuality education to the public.

Formal Education

Within the framework of the Strategic Partnership, The Association HERA XXI, together with the National Center for Teacher Professional Development launched Nationally Accredited Teacher Online Course for the teachers of following subjects: civic education, biology and natural sciences.

The course was successfully completed by 20 teachers.

Course is hosted on the EDX platform.



Informal Education

- ❑ 24 trained peer educators who have undergone thematic sessions and two days of training of trainers(TOT);
- ❑ Total number of informational-educational sessions conducted during the current year - 85;
- ❑ The number of young people who attended the informational-educational session “All in one training course” **on all the topics** of the textbook -150;
- ❑ The number of young people who attended the informational-educational session “All in one training course” **on several topics** of the textbook - 248;
- ❑ The Number of young people who attended the informational-educational session “All in one training course” **on one topic** of the textbook - 1658;
- ❑ Cooperation with Public Schools-Association conducted a campaign within the framework of the International Day of Health in cooperation with the Public School of Tbilisi.

With the support of Youth Agency, 5 youth groups successfully operate in various municipalities of Georgia based on sexual and reproductive health and rights: Tbilisi, Gori, Kutaisi, Ninotsminda, Akhalkalaki. The youth groups, with self-developed action plans, define their own goals, objectives, activities, and conduct various types of meetings and campaigns in accordance with these plans.

The organization is focused on creating equal conditions and opportunities for young people with gender-diverse identities. Each municipality has a human resource equipped with modern knowledge and skills as peer educators, leaders, volunteers and activists of HERA XXI, which contributes to the development of civic activism and access to quality health services, which nationally corresponds to the second strategic objective of Georgia's 2023-2026 Youth Policy Strategy and 2023 Action Plan: "Strengthening the Health and Well-Being of Youth".

In 2023, diverse practices have accumulated from the work of groups in finding and using youth spaces:

- Cooperation with local vocational educational institutions (Imereti);
- Cooperation with local municipalities (Akhalkalaki);
- Cooperation with the local youth center (Ninotsminda, Gori);
- Cooperation with Youth Agency (Tbilisi).

Activities carried out:

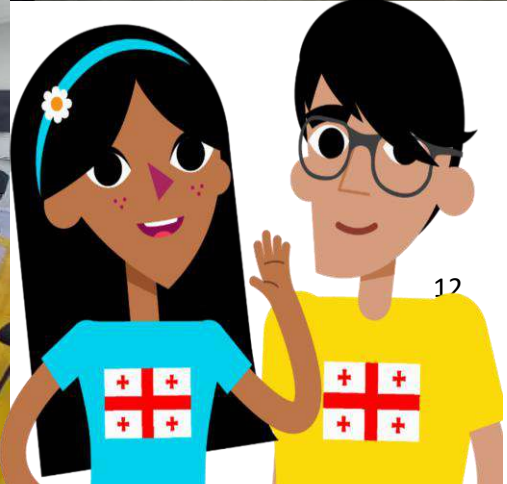
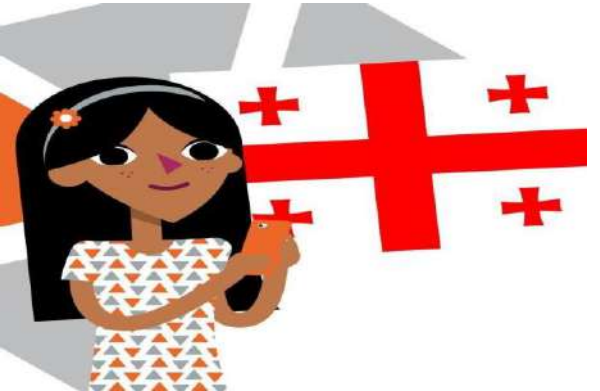
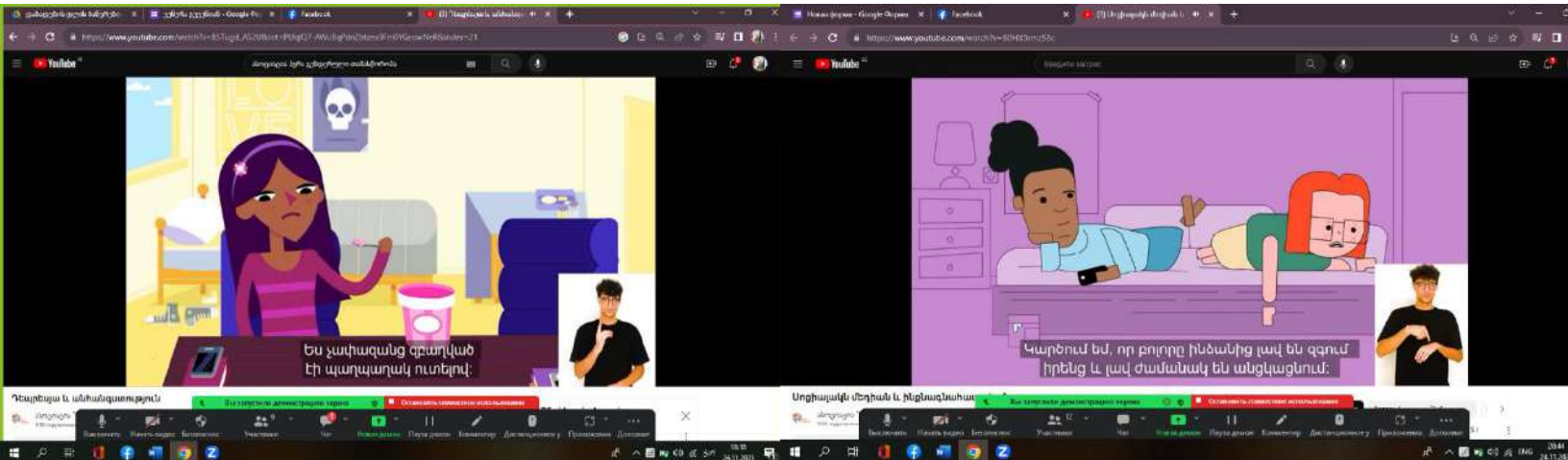
- 2-day workshop to develop leadership skills and develop action plans for youth groups;
- More than 35 information and communication campaigns, covering up to 500 young adults;
- Cooperation with local government and non-governmental sectors, civil society;
- Collaboration with local municipalities and set up future joint projects.

The final meeting of the year of the association HERA XXI was held, where the leaders of the 2023 peer educator, Volunteer and Youth Group leader were identified, who were given symbolic gifts from the association.

Informational and Educational Resource for the Education System

In 2023, the association "HERA XXI" became the winner of the AMAZE international award for the second time. Within the framework of the project, the association translated and adapted AMAZE discussion guides, lesson plans and toolkits, which were developed in accordance with the UNESCO standard, these resources are internationally tested, reliable informational and educational resources prepared for specialists working in the field of education and promote comprehensive sexuality education delivery.

Within the framework of the project, animated videos of AMAZE have been translated into Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages, with gestural voice-over. It was with the help of these resources that the association's peer educators, volunteers, leaders, youth group members and activists held informational and discussion meetings across the country.



The Association HERA XXI has supported volunteer work since 1998. With his support, a volunteer movement was formed and developed across the country; innovative and creative approaches were established and youth and volunteer engagement became a priority in the organization's activities. The organization also facilitates mentorship and experience sharing among the organization's experienced and relatively new volunteers.

In 2023, 2083 volunteers were added to the association. Targeted coordination of activities and properly selected mechanisms have helped the organization to create a strong successful volunteer platform that takes into account the interest and resources of each volunteer.

To improve communication with volunteers by HERA XXI, the [HERA XXI Alumnae Network is operating on the](#) based on the organization. The hub is home to 544 young people. This is a space for self-realization and personal development, sharing experiences and carrying out activities effectively.

In 2023, the organization's volunteers and state members were trained in IPPF safeguarding and informed about the safety and security policy.

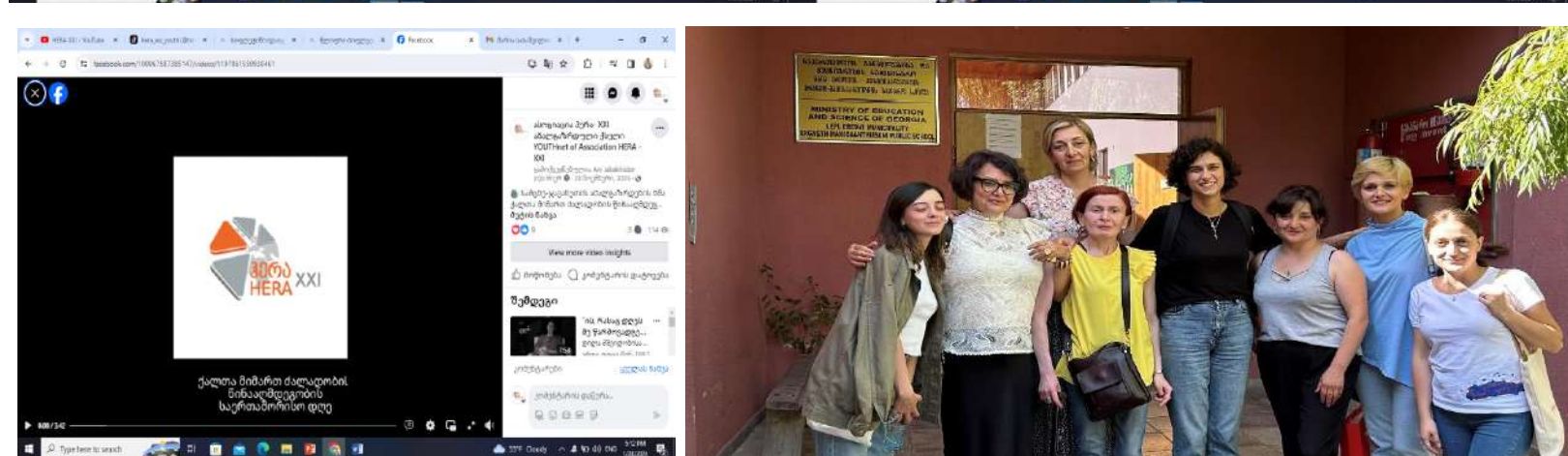
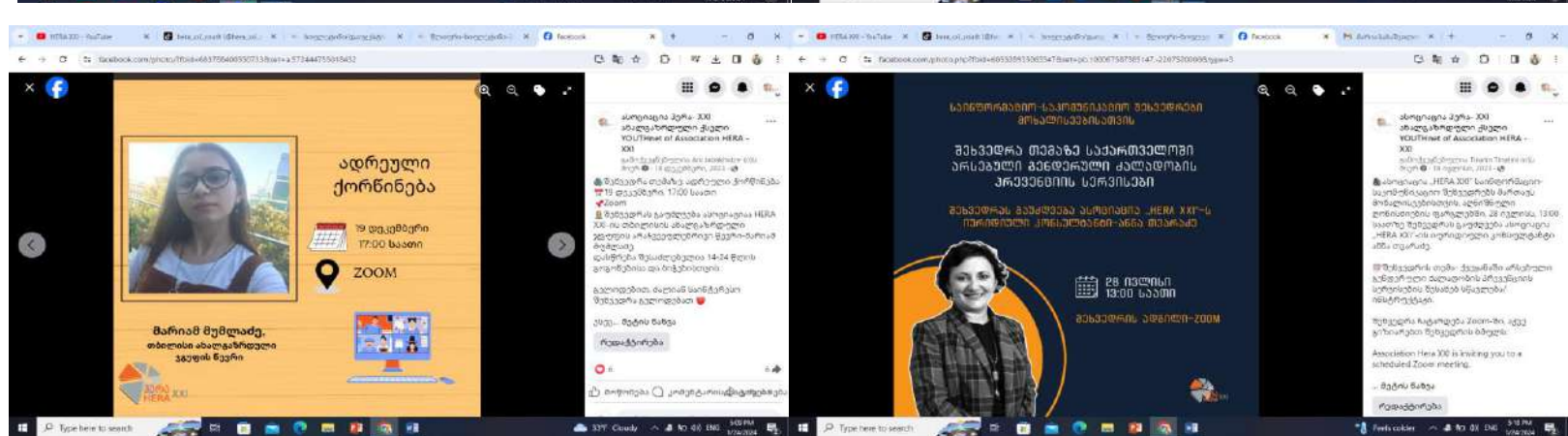
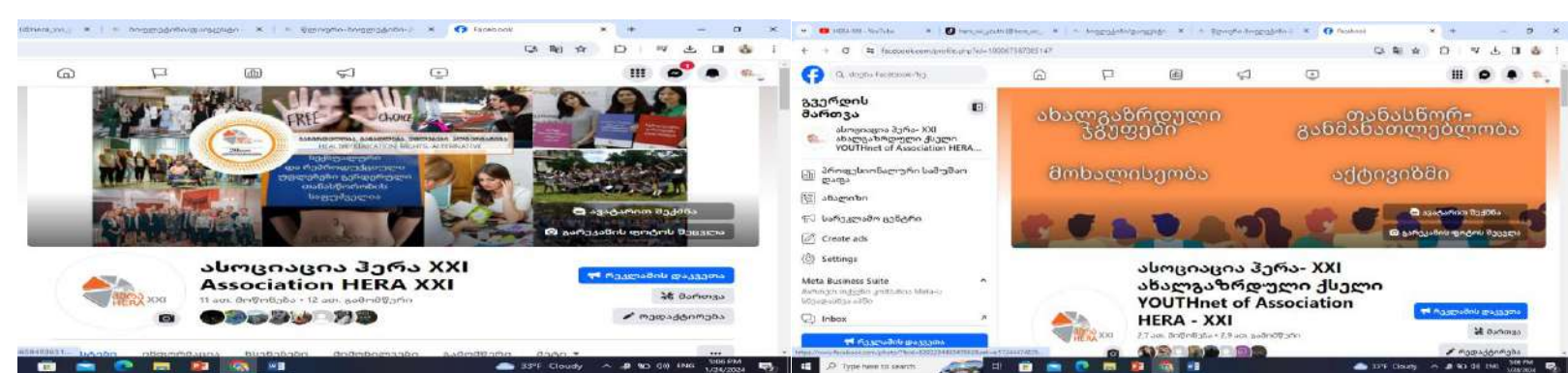
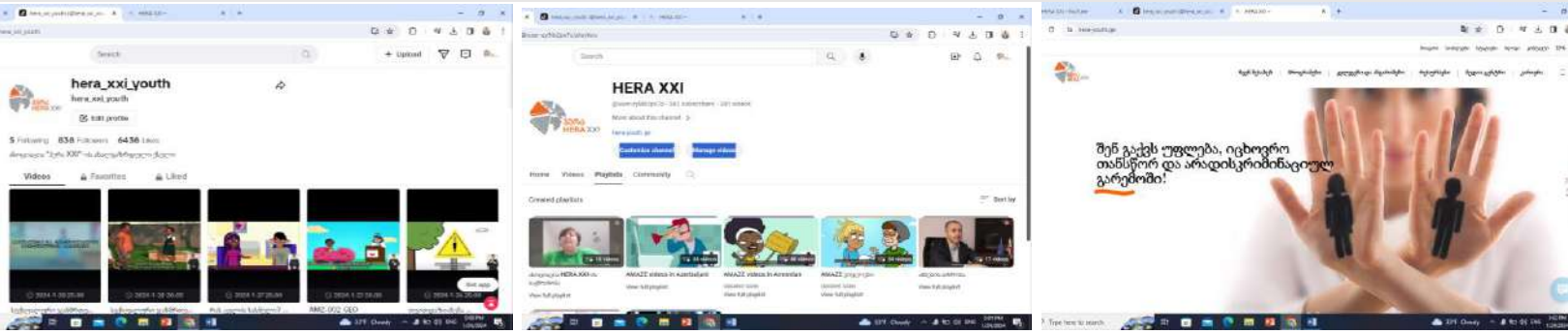
a volunteer survey was conducted by a volunteer mobilizer. After analyzing the results of the survey, information and communication meetings were planned for the volunteers, led by a volunteer mobilizer, a youth worker, a legal consultant of the association and a family doctor, on the following topics:

- Volunteering,
- HERA XXI Volunteer Policy,
- Interpersonal relationships,
- Premature marriage,
- Healthy lifestyle,
- The human body and its development,
- Training/instruction on gender-based violence prevention services in the country,
- House in the country free SRH services provided by the programs and training/instruction on SRS services of the Association.

HERA XXI volunteers participate in various types of events, forums and exhibitions.



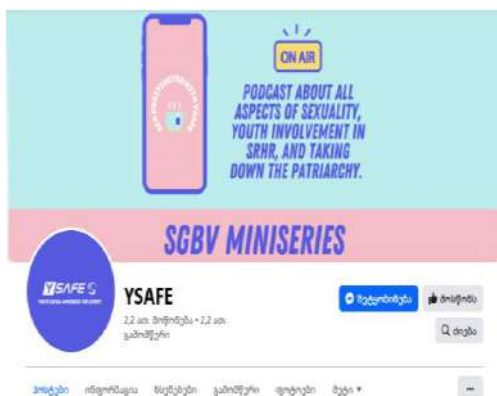
Association HERA XXI on Social Media

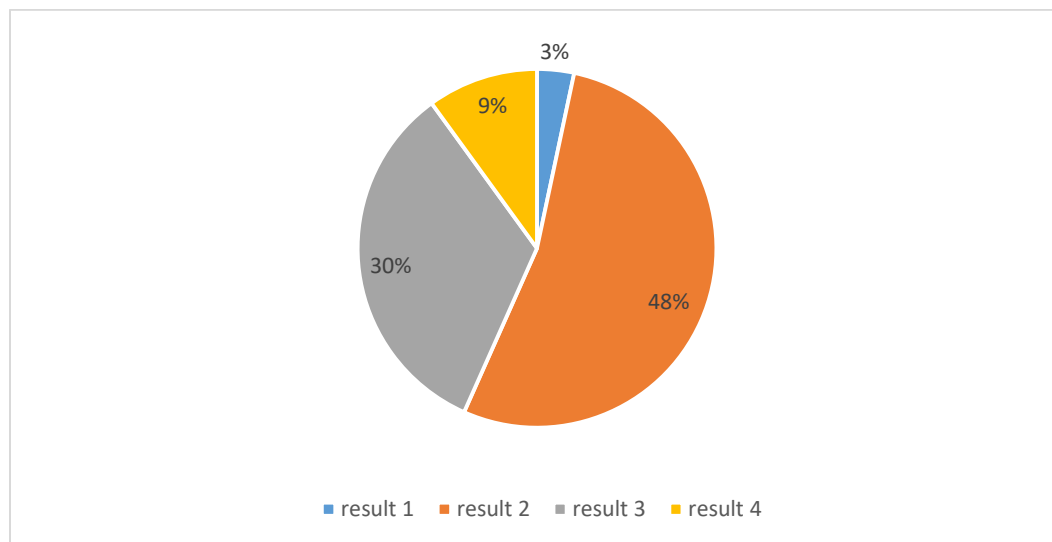


- **YSAFE**- is a youth volunteer network bringing together volunteers under the age of 25 from IPPF member associations in Europe and Central Asia. [YSAFE](#) focuses on issues such as communication, advocacy, and the future of networking. YSAFE members have the opportunity to participate in international projects, conferences and forums.

At the end of 2023, HERA XXI became the owner of a small grant from Ysafe, the association will implement a short-term youth project in Shida Kartli region.

- **Astra Network** - Eastern European Countries Platform- The Association engages in international advocacy on SRHR topics, in addition to their [website](#) you can find the bulletins prepared by the Association on SRHR topics.





Strategic Goal 1: Advocating for Gender Equality and SRHR Issues

The political social and economic environment towards SRHR in the country is improved by the government's fulfillment of its international obligations.

Strategic Goal 2: Comprehensive Sex Education

Most young people in Georgia have knowledge of sexual and reproductive health and rights, make free choices and realize their rights.

Strategic Goal 3: Volunteer Movement Development and Civil Activism Support

The Association HERA XXI is financially sustainable and provides a strong volunteer activist-based community movement.

Strategic Goal 4: Gender-Sensitive, Human ensuring access to high-quality rights-based HR services

More of the poor and vulnerable groups of the Georgian population have access to rights-based SRHR services.

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