

Macedonia

Engaging champions and mobilizing civil society for women's rights



OUTCOME 2
Empowering
Communities

These country examples show how IPPF Member Associations are already implementing key elements of the new Strategic Framework. To deliver our new goals, Member Associations will have opportunities to capitalize on the achievements of peer organizations.



Since 2008, the government of Macedonia has invested millions in an anti-abortion campaign. In 2013, this culminated in a new law restricting women's access to abortion. The Macedonian IPPF Member Association (XEPA) led civil society advocacy to demand the restoration of women's right to abortion.

Approach

XEPA tackled the government's anti-choice actions by advocating in partnership with a wide range of allies and fostering champions of women's rights.

XEPA mobilized NGOs and activists to protest against the new abortion law. It organized a Global Day of Action for abortion, got 41 NGOs to sign a declaration in support of abortion rights, and led rallies at the Parliament.

XEPA gained support through the media. It organized a TV debate with the Minister of Health, provided an evidence-based factsheet to journalists, and mobilized citizens through social media.

Fostering champions within parliament and government ministries was instrumental to XEPA's success. XEPA fostered champions for women's rights among EU parliamentarians and presidential candidates. XEPA used international reviews

of Macedonia's human rights record, and Constitutional Court processes, to hold the government to account. XEPA also requested the Ministry of Health to revise its new abortion services guidelines.

Results

XEPA successfully blocked two proposed restrictions in the law, and its report to the UN Human Rights Committee prompted them to request the government to respond to concerns about the law on abortion. XEPA also convinced two presidential candidates to express support for women's right to abortion. In addition, XEPA built a strong civil society platform for the protection of women's rights, including a large network of social media activists.

More examples of our Member Associations' work can be found on our website: www.ippf.org.



The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is a global service provider and a leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. We are a worldwide movement of national organizations working with and for communities and individuals.

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