
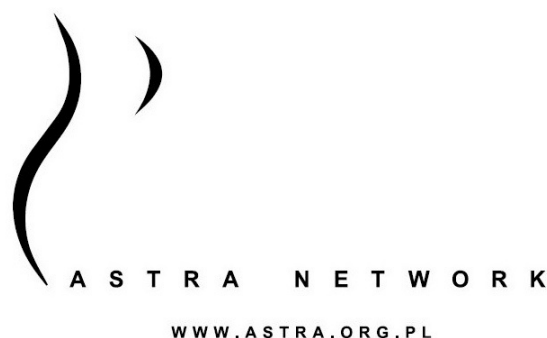


ASTRA NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT



2020

ASTRA Network – Central and Eastern Europe Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights is a coalition of non-governmental and informal organisations from the CEE region that work together for advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as health care in general. The Network, established in 1999 during a regional meeting hosted by Federation for Women and Family Planning, currently consists of 41 organisations from 21 countries. ASTRA's secretariat is located in Federation's office in Warsaw. Our activity can be followed online: on ASTRA's website, Facebook fanpage and Twitter account.



Regional publication

In February 2020, ASTRA Network's newest report was published – „The fight hidden in plain sight. Sexual and reproductive health and rights in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia“. The report provides an overview of reproductive rights in 14 countries of the region (Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, North Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Russia and Romania).

Special emphasis was placed on 6 thematic areas:

- abortion and postabortion care,
- contraception,
- sexual education,
- prenatal care,
- LGBTQI+ rights,
- gender-based violence.

ASTRA Network takes pride in its part as a network that creates the space for the smaller organizations to share their knowledge – all the chapters were written by local activists, who provide the best expertise when it comes to the situation in their countries. Consequently, the report not only summarizes the legal situation in each of the abovementioned countries, but also offers a unique insight into the actual implementation of law, thus enabling the members of ASTRA's affiliated organizations to present the lived reality of reproduction in their countries.

The volume comprises of 83 chapters and exceeds 100 pages, which makes it the most accurate and up-to-date source of knowledge regarding sexual and reproductive rights in the region.

International advocacy, interventions and support

In 2020, ASTRA represented the interests of regional organizations in international bodies and publicized cases of violations and attacks targeting sexual and reproductive rights that required attention from global community. The Network kept the public informed about the attempts to limit the abortion law in Slovakia and the process of tightening the anti-abortion law in Poland. At all times, the organization remained in contact with local activists, actively supporting them by means they indicated as most adequate (by organizing legal consultations with other organizations from the region/the relevant country, publishing official statements, providing and disseminating information, contacting international organizations, etc.).

The Coordinator of ASTRA Network was invited to offer expertise and specific guidance on improving access to reproductive rights for the new Germany's National Sustainable Development - an article on the topic is available [here](#). She was also invited to comment on the results of the latest Contraception Atlas in the European Parliament, where she explained the reasons for the declining results of Eastern European countries and for Poland being ranked last in the entire study.

Solidarity statements and open letters

In 2020, the Network's member organizations expressed their support for Polish activists twice: for the first time in April, condemning the Stop Abortion and Stop Pedophilia projects, and for the second time in October, with reference to the forthcoming ruling of Polish Constitutional Tribunal on the legality of abortion on the grounds of foetal malformations.

ASTRA also signed the statement of the Center for Reproductive Rights regarding abortion during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the member organizations with ECOSOC status (including Federation for Women and Family Planning) expressed their common position at CSW 64 – the text can be read on the Network's website.

New member organization

Although the everyday reality in 2020 was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, ASTRA continued to grow. A new organization has joined the network – SEXUL vs BARZA (Sex vs. Stork), a Romanian initiative focusing on providing young people with access to reliable sex education. SEXUL vs BARZA constitutes an active participant in the life of the network, providing current information about the public sentiments in the country and reporting activities which limit the access to education and contraception for young people, to name a few examples.

Preparations for the new publication

At the end of the year, work on the organization's new brochure began. It will present the reproductive reality in the time of COVID-19 pandemic, as experienced in each country of the region. The publication is planned for the first quarter of 2021.

Monthly newsletter

As in previous years, ASTRA carried out a thorough monitoring of the state of sexual and reproductive rights in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Our monthly newsletters summarized the collected data and remained an important source of information on sexual and reproductive rights in the region. Over 3,000 subscribers and social media followers drew knowledge about reproductive health realities and policies from these bulletins. The information comprised in the newsletter was cited, among others, by the Center for Reproductive Rights or the International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion.



In 2020, ASTRA Network was strongly supported by our donors and partners – International Women’s Health Coalition and Global Fund for Women.

