

Annual Report of the IPPF EN Secretariat (ENRO)



to the IPPF EN General Assembly



2021

OUR APPROACH

The Regional Office of the IPPF European Network (ENRO) supports its Member Associations to achieve the Outcomes and Results in the [IPPF Strategic Framework](#).



We work with the European Institutions, the Council of Europe and with national governments to **ensure Europe is a global leader in SRHR and gender equality** home and abroad.



We **facilitate Member Associations (MAs) and partners to work together and learn from each other's experience and expertise**. We enable capacity sharing on advocacy, education, service provision, especially regarding marginalized groups, and organizational development. We provide grants - core funding and strategic grants - and assist with resource mobilisation.



Ensuring **young people** are at the heart of driving SRHR in the region and at national level is a core objective.



Work on **narratives and new initiatives with social movements** help counter opposition to SRHR and gender equality and build a more conducive SRHR environment in which Member Associations can achieve their aims providing more impact for people they serve.



A dedicated focus on **learning** and maintaining a **safe, equal and well-managed organisation** are the underpinning pillars which enable success.

TOWARDS A NEW NORMAL

The pandemic remained an ever-present backdrop to ENRO's work in 2021, as online tools brought new opportunities for learning, innovation and expanding our reach, but with valuable face-to-face activities still limited and shifting restrictions forcing us to make constant adjustments. Like our resilient Member Associations (MAs) and partners, we adapted and continued to deliver on our programmes and commitments. By the end of the year, a "new normal" of hybrid working and increased stability began to come into view.

Another constant was interference by opposition forces, persistently seeking to reverse progress and undermine rights, freedoms and the rule of law. ENRO continued to push back, through our external engagement and through our support to social movements, MAs and partners building on our experience with winning narratives and blending expertise and skills from across our team to help strengthen, connect and amplify the voice of national activists and boost regional solidarity and political support for their causes.

It was an exciting year in terms of securing restricted funding to support our work on our regional priorities. We kicked off in January with a brand new project funded by MSD for Mothers, building on young people's experiences of the pandemic to ensure youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care in the Balkans. And in November we won a 4-year framework partnership agreement with the European Commission for core support to ENRO's championing of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender equality. Also in November, the Gates Foundation invited the ENRO-led Countdown 2030 Europe Consortium to submit a new and expanded 4-year proposal to continue holding European decision-makers accountable for their international development commitments.

At the global level, as IPPF continued to change and adapt to meet the challenges of our age, ENRO made many active contributions to consolidating a united secretariat, collaborating with colleagues from around the globe in a wide range of areas, both functional and cross-cutting, and helping the sharing of technical knowledge, learning and best practices. We also invested in the development of the new global strategy 2023-28, convening our MAs and young people to input their expertise, facilitating roundtables and providing our own insights at each step.

DRIVING EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP OF SRHR

In 2021 we saw major long-term European Union (EU) budget and programming processes move from design to implementation, as ENRO's years of advocacy to help shape them bore fruit in terms of prioritisation of SRHR and funding opportunities for the European Network and IPPF globally. A landmark report in support of SRHR was adopted by the European Parliament (EP) against a landscape of constant vigilance and pushing back against opposition forces in the EU Council. Throughout, we have worked with our MAs and partners to hold decision-makers to account for their commitments to SRHR and gender equality.

Within the EU: Having advocated for three years towards the European Commission (EC) for the prioritisation of gender equality/women's rights, including SRHR, in its new EU **Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)**, ENRO successfully applied for an operating grant. This major win will fund and enable us to go further with our core activities advancing and protecting SRHR over the coming four years.

As the EC worked on its proposal for the first ever legally binding EU **Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence**, ENRO helped prepare the ground for a strong draft, making recommendations and taking part in consultations with the Commission, while advocating towards the EP to adopt a strong position on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) which affirms comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) as a prevention measure, and recognises violations of SRHR, including denial of abortion care, as a form of GBV. We also engaged through innovative digital advocacy tools, such as a series of podcasts on gender, featuring key EU decision-makers in discussion with youth. ENRO encouraged MEPs to adopt a strong parliamentary report on intimate partner violence in autumn 2021. We will continue to engage with the institutions to ensure the new Directive is as strong as possible as negotiations continue through 2022.



In the summer, the EP adopted a landmark **report on the situation of SRHR in the EU**; its first report specifically dedicated to our issues in a decade. IPPF EN and EU MAs advocated intensively and continuously to help shape progressive language in the text and secure its adoption despite fierce mobilisation by anti-rights groups. The report reaffirmed SRHR as human rights, intrinsically linked with gender equality; highlighted remaining challenges in access to SRHR, including those compounded by COVID-19; denounced backsliding on women's rights, gender equality and SRHR across Europe and globally; and made recommendations to Member States and institutions on SRHR.

EU as a global actor: In 2021, we coordinated advocacy efforts across IPPF globally to ensure that the EU prioritised funding for SRHR in over 50 countries, as well as in its regional programming for Africa and the Pacific. We also consulted with the EU as it developed a new instrument which will include funding for civil society organisations working on SRHR in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Implementation of the **EC's new Gender Action Plan (GAP)** 2021-2025 started in 2021. 50 EU delegations prioritised SRHR and ENRO supported MAs around the world to engage with their EU delegations to monitor the implementation of the GAP and its impact on gender equality and SRHR.

In the **EU Council**, which brings together Member State governments, 2021 was marked by the adoption of several formal positions – 'Conclusions' – that included language on SRHR and gender equality, such as on human development, and on COVID-19 and human rights. IPPF EN and Countdown 2030 Europe (C2030E) worked strategically with ally Member States to counter opposition in the Council, sharing expertise, language suggestions and recommendations.

In 2021, IPPF EN also prepared for a key **African Union (AU)-EU Summit** coming up in early 2022. We coordinated with IPPF's AU Liaison Office and Africa Regional Office and civil society partners to ensure that SRHR and gender equality would be high on the Summit agenda. Through the European Week of Action for Girls (EWAG), we ensured that youth advocates engaged with decision-makers to share their vision of how a renewed AU-EU partnership should deliver on gender equality and girls' rights.



IPPF EN and C2030E ensured that Europe spoke with a bold and coherent voice on SRHR at the Generation Equality Forum in Paris. As various multi-stakeholder “Action Coalitions” convened to prepare the ground for the GEF, we advocated for strong and coherent recognition of SRHR, encouraging the French government and the EC to play strong roles leading, respectively, the Action Coalitions on bodily autonomy and SRHR, and GBV.

In January, C2030E published its annual [tracking](#) of European donors’ SRH and family planning funding and policies. The data showed that in 2020, despite the pandemic, European governments increased support to SRH/FP in international cooperation, contributing EUR 2.614 billion to SRHR, within which EUR 1.447 billion were disbursed to SRH/FP, reaching a new record. 12 out of the 13 European donors under review either increased or maintained funding compared to the previous year. We shared the findings with a wide audience via a [report](#), [factsheets](#) and a [video](#).

ENRO supported MAs and partners to contribute to a **Council of Europe** report on harassment of pro-choice activists, ensuring that evidence of national experiences was shared with the rapporteur, and engaging with MEPs to help ensure adoption of this important text aiming to counter opposition tactics.

Using **innovative digital advocacy approaches**, we further built our platform among EU decision-makers and other stakeholders in the Brussels policy community. We carried out continuous, values-framed communications with a clear and bold voice on SRHR, using podcasts, [events](#), social media mobilisation, [story-telling](#), [statements](#), [blogs](#) and media [op-eds](#) to amplify our messages and calls to action and help shape the agenda. In 2021, we significantly boosted our digital interactions with influential individuals, political groups and institutions, while our social media data showed a very strong rate of engagement on Twitter, and our Facebook post reach increased by 200% compared to the previous year.



MOVEMENT ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

ENRO continued to support social movements under IPPF's global Movement Accelerator Programme (MAP), providing MAs and partners from a range of countries with context-specific support on social mobilisation, countering opposition and narratives. This ranged from trainings and technical assistance to grants and rapid response to opposition attacks. In 2021 we extended our MAP sub-granting programme to MAs and partners in Hungary, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Slovenia and Romania. The MAs from Ukraine and Latvia were supported to develop strategic opposition response plans and launch data-driven communications campaigns on CSE to respond to opposition.

We also hosted a very popular peer-to-peer "opposition busting bootcamp", an interactive webinar series on strategies to counter the anti-gender movement. This focused on tips to reclaim the family, how to stop anti-gender financing, and leveraging crisis PR techniques when under attack, and generated a set of toolkits to maximise learning. We also produced a new e-learning series on strategies that work to defeat the opposition.

Solidarity actions for social movements

IPPF EN has been leveraging our strategic communications and advocacy knowledge to provide support to national social movements to help them strategize and coordinate better together as well as to galvanize international support for their efforts. In 2021, we continued to amplify the messaging and advocacy asks of national partners in international media and mobilized ally decision-makers at the regional level.

Poland remained in the spotlight as activists battled – and defeated – bills that would further restrict their civil liberties and human rights. We facilitated 30 articles in international press such as Euronews, Associated Press, El País, La Repubblica, France Television, Politico, the New York Times and the Washington Post. We also held multiple background conversations with journalists to shape the international media narrative on developments in Poland, ensuring a strong connection was made between the attacks on SRHR and democracy and the rule of law.

The joint advocacy and media engagement of a broad international coalition run by IPPF EN influenced two European Parliamentary resolutions on the rule of law and abortion in Poland, expanded support for reproductive rights defenders within the EC (with the EU Equality Commissioner condemning the abortion ban), and increased engagement among Member States at the EU Council.

We launched a Europe-wide solidarity campaign for Polish human rights defenders facing smear campaigns, intimidation lawsuits and state and far-right violence. 'DefendTheDefenders' called on decision-makers to act urgently to protect human rights defenders and raised funds for activists' legal fees. It was supported by MAs, who promoted it on social media (the action marking one year since the anniversary of Poland's virtual abortion ban reached over 100,000 people) and in the press. The Danish MA raised EUR 5,800 for the legal fund from the EUR 10,000 total. We received widespread support from MEPs, co-organising a campaign stunt at the EP on the one-year anniversary of the ban.

We also mobilized international solidarity with movements from other countries. We sent action alerts and communications materials to MAs and partners calling on their support for Turkish activists seeking to defend the Istanbul Convention, Slovak activists mobilizing against proposed restrictions on abortion care, San Marino activists campaigning for a historic referendum for abortion rights, and Hungarian activists mobilizing against a ban on depictions of LGBTIQI people in educational materials and the media. We amplified their messages via social media, with these posts ranking very high in terms of engagement and reach (from September to November we counted 303,500 impressions, 1,100 retweets and 2,500 likes on Twitter).



EMPOWERING AGENTS OF CHANGE

Member Associations and Collaborative Partners

Our work supporting MAs continued apace in 2021, adjusting on a continuous basis to the ebb and flow of pandemic restrictions.

The MAs from Cyprus and Estonia were **reaccredited as members of IPPF**, and five new **accreditation review** processes were started in Belgium (FLCPF), Serbia, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Israel. Meanwhile the MAs from Finland, Ukraine, Belgium (Sensoa) and Lithuania, reviewed in 2020, continued to progress towards full compliance with IPPF membership standards with tailored support from ENRO. The third global cycle of accreditation was completed in late 2021, allowing for review and development of the next cycle in 2022 before the new cycle kicks off in 2023.

As the **My Body, My Rights** project entered its final stage, results showed that in 2021, local partnerships led by the MAs in Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia had successfully created trust among Roma communities towards health professionals and brought about attitude changes among the latter. The numbers of people accessing SRH care had increased, and 3,578 young Roma people took part in CSE sessions. ENRO created a video animation based on stories of change collected from participants as part of the project monitoring and evaluation.

The **Youth SpectActors** project, led by the Serbian MA, received a second six-month no-cost extension until the end of September 2022. In 2021, ENRO created a [video](#) on the role of gender-transformative social theatre in preventing SGBV; the [Gender and the Union](#) podcast series in which young people and EU policy-makers discussed the prevention of SGBV and CSE as an important tool; and we conducted a social media campaign in November during the 16 days of action against GBV.

IPPF's new global voucher system was rolled out, and many EN MAs chose to invest their vouchers in a Training of Trainers on **Sensoa's Flag System**, a methodology to enable the recognition of transgressive sexual behaviour in children. Peer-to-peer support and training equipped 13 MAs to (re-)introduce the Flag System in their programme.

As pandemic disruption continued, we awarded **SRHR leadership grants** to several MAs for a range of vital work: piloting of training peer educators and service providers on online counselling and enhancing referrals in Kyrgyzstan; 2,000 clients offered online counselling in Albania for contraception care, GBV, abortion care and HIV/STI prevention using Facebook, WhatsApp and mobile phone; a series of 24 podcasts were released in Romania, and episodes listened to 288,280 times; and in Tajikistan a telehealth system was established to help minimize the spread of COVID-19. Throughout the year, 14 MAs and Collaborative Partners were successfully supported to win funding through **resource mobilisation** capacity analysis and support in writing and reviewing applications.

ENRO continued to play its role in MA business planning, reviewing the Annual Programme and Budget of the 13 core grant-receiving MAs, and managing global performance reporting. New systems and processes were introduced to support better context-driven decision-making by MAs and strengthened performance monitoring.

Young people

IPPF EN's youth network **YSAFE** made an important contribution to regional inputs to development of IPPF's global strategy 2023-28. Its members participated fully in the drafting of MA recommendations at the EN Regional Forum, and held their own Youth Forum, subsequently generating clear youth recommendations for both the global strategy and YSAFE's new strategic plan. They also organised part of an IPPF global roundtable on young people as leaders and agents of change as part of the strategy 'listening' phase.

In 2021 there were several great examples of young people co-creating resources and creative content. YSAFE members featured in Gender and the Union (see above), helping draw statements of support from the EU Equality Commissioner and an MEP. Young people and youth staff from seven MAs collaborated with the End FGM European Network to produce new beta guidelines for digital CSE. And YSAFE's "Safe from SGBV" toolkit was finalised and disseminated, including as a digital platform.

With a grant of USD 1 million secured from MSD for Mothers at the end of 2020 for the **Youth Voices, Youth Choices** project, we kicked off in 2021 by commissioning research into the impact of COVID-19 on the needs of young people, including those from vulnerable groups, in five Balkan countries. A regional youth group was set up to ensure the project approach is youth-centred, and facilitate young people engaging in project advocacy and campaigning.

ENRO continued to provide support to MAs' CSE programmes, with highlights including the Ukrainian MA's new online CSE/SGBV modules being recommended to teachers by the Ministry of Education, and the Albanian MA conducting a study finding that CSE supports young people's capacity to recognise and react to SGBV, further developing the evidence base on this important linkage. MAs' CSE achievements were presented at Global CSE Partnership Forum events. Support to our new CSE Collaborative Partners also bore fruit, with a strategy on prevention of child marriage by the partner in Uzbekistan achieving state recognition and new donor support, while the Moldovan partner addressed a national gap by developing a CSE curriculum for young people with disabilities.



CONTRIBUTING TO KNOWLEDGE AND MAXIMISING LEARNING

A key role of IPPF ENRO as a secretariat supporting MAs and partners is to be a hub for aggregating knowledge and learning, and disseminating it for use by those Members and partners to strengthen their work.

Continuing to drive a results-based approach to strategic planning and reporting, ENRO took multiple actions to support MAs to engage more fully in IPPF **results reporting**, for example by carrying out 'after action reviews' to better understand members' needs and adjust the process accordingly. We also ensured a strong monitoring, evaluation and learning dimension in restricted projects and secretariat initiatives, through provision of bespoke tools and capacity building to nine MAs and ENRO staff.

Our in-house **analysis of MA** data provided insights on major trends and supported evidence-based decision-making. For example, understanding the impacts of COVID-19 on MAs and their programmes enabled ENRO to ensure pandemic emergency grants were made to Israel, Latvia and Spain. Dashboards of the longitudinal results data of MAs informed the review and evaluation of projected results in 2022 business plans.

ENRO jointly launched the **European Abortion Policies Atlas**, collaborating with the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights to score legal frameworks for access to safe abortion care in 52 countries. The Atlas was our most visited webpage and among the highest performing content on **social media** in 2021, and provides vital comparative information for national and international advocacy.

Research conducted into the **impact of COVID-19 on young people's SRHR needs** and experiences in the Balkans under the Youth Voices, Youth Choices project prepared the ground for sharing much-needed data with regional and national audiences and underpinning future advocacy for the needs of young people, particularly those living with vulnerabilities.



The ENRO-hosted **Community of Practice** on Winning Narratives became fully operational, **facilitating learning** and sharing among organisations and movements across the globe on key thematic areas such as abortion and CSE. ENRO also drove the development of the **Movement Accelerator Digital Platform** to cascade knowledge across the Federation by creating a space to access resources such as e-learning, videos, case studies and blogs, all in preparation for launch in 2022. We also continued to play a lead role in gathering and sharing intelligence and information on anti-rights strategies and activities, expanding the reach of our opposition update newsletter.

In addition to its annual donor tracking of SRHR funding, **Countdown 2030 Europe** conducted research on innovative funding mechanisms, touching on the private sector, humanitarian and incentivizing domestic funding, as well as the impacts of COVID-19 on SRHR.

DRIVING A WINNING NARRATIVE

In respect of the fundamental role that communications has played in furthering the opposition-driven backlash against SRHR, IPPF EN has pioneered a new strategic communications approach to reclaiming the agenda and countering opposition through values-based framing. This expertise and experience is recognized in the role played by the Regional Office as IPPF's Winning Narratives Centre (WNC).

The WNC became fully global since 2021, growing to support a global network of MAs and partners through **grants, technical support, coaching and capacity enhancement** to develop and test new narratives on a range of issues related to SRHR, gender equality and LGBTIQ+ rights. ENRO's initial work on values reframing in Europe has been a launch pad for rolling the work out in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

The WNC continued to build new and innovative partnerships with experts in the field to further develop its technical expertise on strategic communications, including trainings and guidance on framing, social listening, audience analysis and localized campaigns. In 2021, MAs and partners in Poland, France, Hungary, Latvia and Ukraine were supported in this way. On the **research** side, the Centre also continued to run horizon scanning and analysis of emerging narrative trends, for example on demographic decline and gender ideology.

All of ENRO's external communications continued to mainstream values-based narratives, from our digital advocacy messaging and solidarity actions for social movements to the creative content we developed to showcase the impacts and importance of EN programmes. Reframed language was used in a video animation presenting local stories of change to highlight how MAs in the Balkans are supporting the reproductive freedom of Roma communities, and in the Gender and the Union podcast series, as well as in the launch of the EPF-IPPF EN Abortion Atlas (all referenced above). We also made a very active contribution to the development of the new global IPPF website ahead of its launch in 2022, helping ensure that values-based narratives were embedded in ENRO's new digital 'shop window'.

Countdown 2030 Europe drew on ENRO expertise on winning narratives to pilot analyses on opposition narratives in development and support identification of "movable middle" national stakeholders for engagement.

OPTIMISING AND RESOURCING INTERNAL OPERATIONS

As their countries graduate from middle to high income status, the MAs in Latvia, Lithuania and Romania were supported to strengthen their **sustainability**, through business planning and resource mobilisation capacities. For example, the Latvian MA will boost its online visibility to support the selling of services, products and masterclasses to customers.

2021 was a very positive year as regards **resource mobilisation**, starting with the set-up of the new MSD for Mothers-funded Youth Voices, Youth Choices project, and culminating in the winning of ENRO's first ever operating grant from the EC under the CERV programme. This is expected to run for 4 years, will support core ENRO work on SRHR and gender equality, and as of 2023 will extend to sub-granting to national partners. New funding was also secured for our Movement Accelerator work from the Open Society Foundations and UNFPA. As the current grant to the Countdown 2030 Europe Consortium, led by ENRO and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, reaches its final phase, the donor gave its green light to the submission in 2022 of a new 4-year proposal for an increased amount of USD 10.5 million.

Work continued to build the **safeguarding** culture across IPPF, with 13 MAs coming together for a Training of Trainers in October. This initiative allowed participants to deepen their existing knowledge about safeguarding and develop the skills to train others. They then developed action plans for rolling the training out among their staff and volunteers.

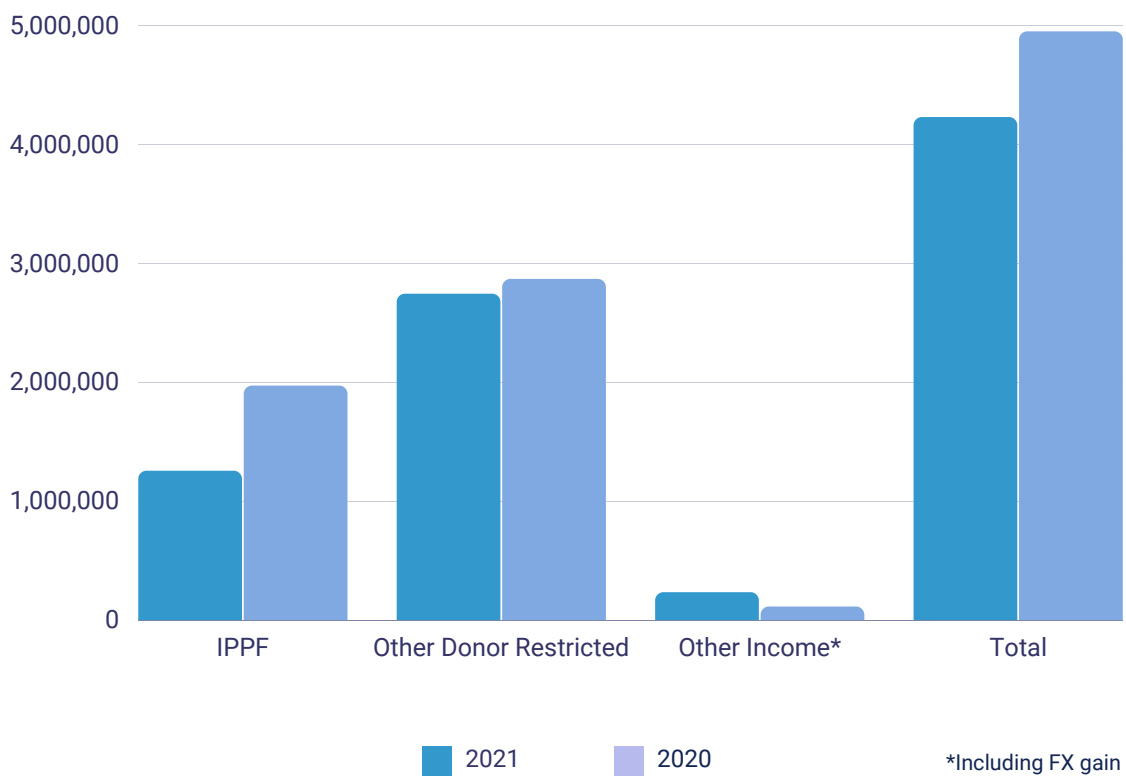
As working from home remained the norm, our **human resources** staff conducted several surveys among colleagues on an eventual return to the office, enabling ENRO to propose a model of hybrid working that built on our team's feedback and experiences. Meanwhile, in collaboration with global work on IPPF's grading structure, we continued a process of salary benchmarking to ensure our salary scale is robust and transparent. Our annual performance and development review tools were improved, including to ensure that staff wellbeing in COVID-19 times was given extra focus.

ENRO was actively involved in the process to develop a new **global IPPF strategy 2023-28**. More than 80 people - Executive Directors, volunteers and young volunteers - from around 30 MAs came together at the Regional Forum to develop recommendations based on their experience and expertise. In the phase of the strategy focused on listening to stakeholders and experts from outside and inside IPPF on future SRHR directions, we initiated a roundtable event on sex work, co-hosted by the MAs of Macedonia and Belgium with ENRO, and featured in a roundtable on reconstructing narratives, while YSAFE organised part of one on youth.

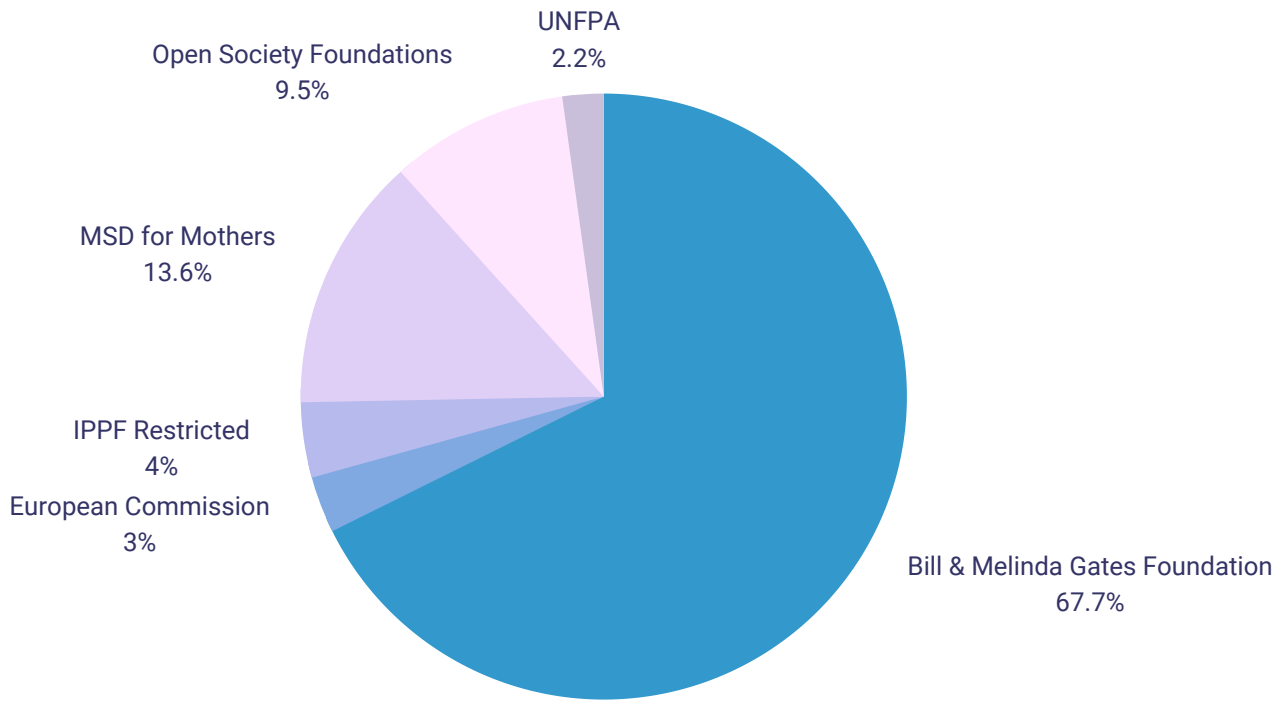
We participated in consolidating a globally **unified IPPF secretariat** that acts together, striving to balance overall coherence with regional contextualization. Many ENRO staff were involved in more or less formal global Centres, hubs and teams: from the Movement Accelerator Programme, within which we led the Winning Narratives Centre, to Youth, Advocacy, Communications, Safeguarding, Human Resources and Gender, etc.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

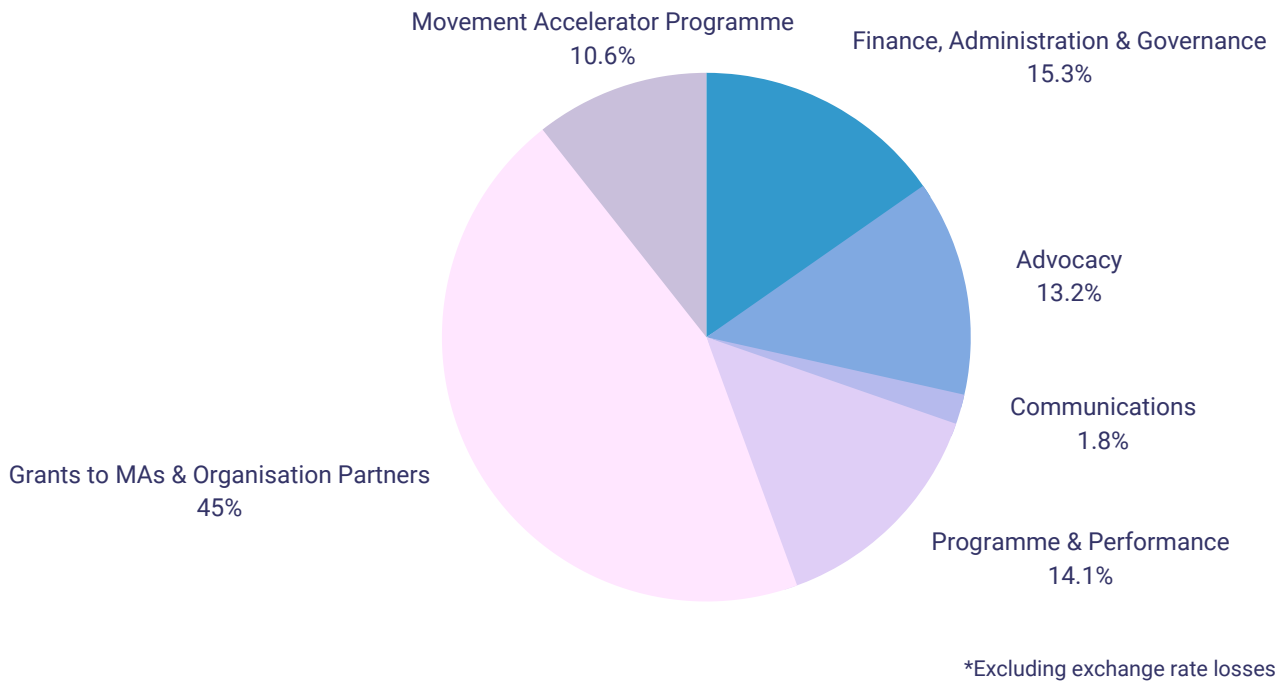
GRAPH 1 - INCOME 2021 & 2020



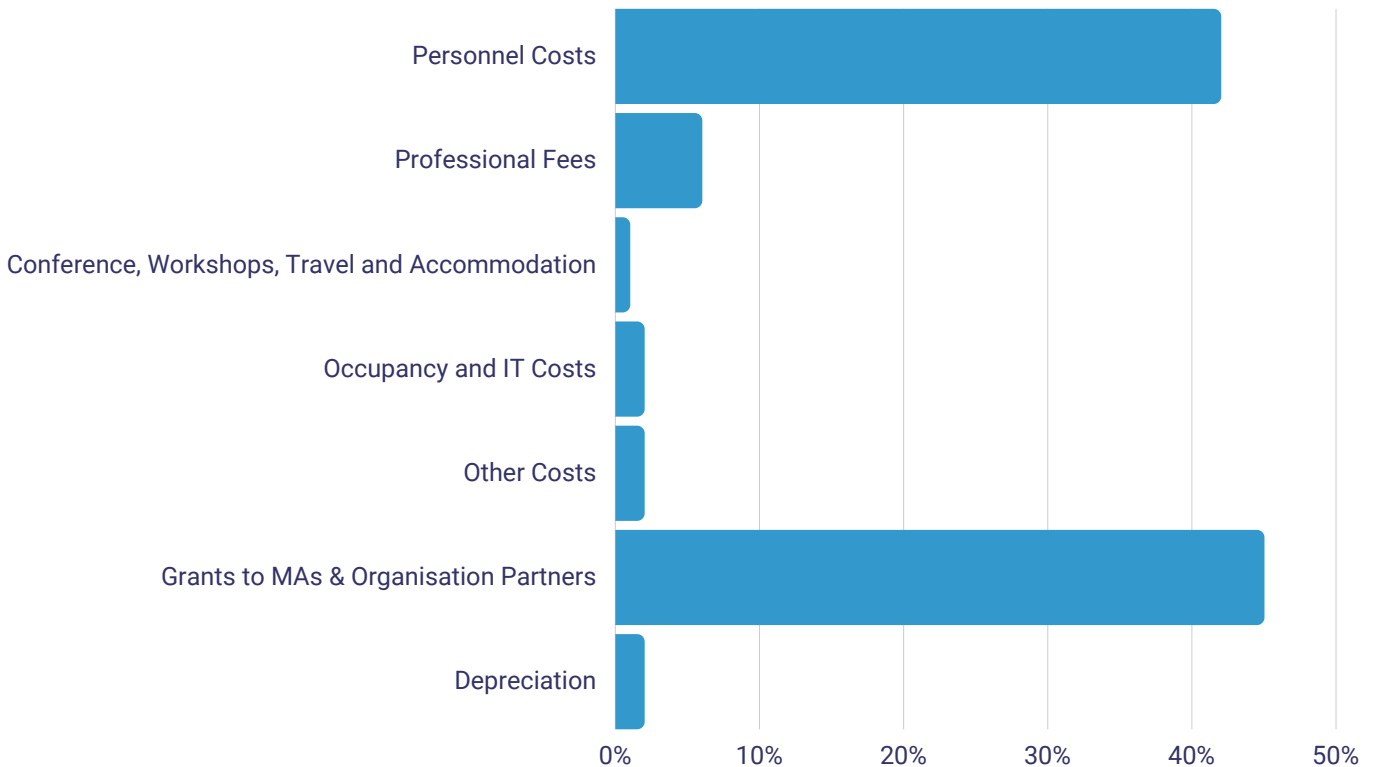
GRAPH 2 - INCOME RESTRICTED PROJECTS 2021 PER DONOR



GRAPH 3 - EXPENSES 2021 PER AREA OF WORK



GRAPH 4 - EXPENSES 2021 PER TYPE OF COST



GRAPH 5 - GRANTS TO MAS AND PARTNERS PER COUNTRY



*Grants not present in IPPF European Network books but disbursed for the EN Region
 Currency USD

ENDS



**Registered in Belgium as an international
Non Profit Association No 0840.619.519**

55 Rue Royale 1000,
Brussels, Belgium

Tel +32 2 250 09 50
Email eninfo@ippf.org

STAY TUNED!

 europe.ippf.org

 [@ippfen](https://twitter.com/ippfen)