

YOUTH TEACH PEERS ABOUT RISKY BEHAVIORS



Zoran with peers, TOT in Razanj



How to use condom, Zoran explain

RAŽANJ, SERBIA – Zoran Miletic is 20 years old student from Razanj. He has a condom in his pocket – always. Name of his girlfriend is Sanja. Zoran had first sexual experience in elementary school.

“This is usual for our communities. Young people explore sex in early teenage years but their knowledge about protection and risks are poor” said Dr Zlatko Spasic from Youth Counselling Cabinet in Nis Health Care Centre. “I know Miletic. He comes to the Cabinet from time to time – when he needs a pill for morning after.”

During February and March 2004, as a part of USAID/CHF RH&FP sub-programme of CRDA "Youth project – Youth at risk issues", professionals from health and education sectors in local communities as well as representatives of the local authorities and NGO Mreza volunteers had 7 two day seminars in 6 municipalities. Zoran participated at workshops and follow up activities in Razanj.

"Zoran was our regular participant at last year's educational events. At the end of those lectures he suggested that we organize educational sessions just for youth. At this years training activities he said:" This is what I was telling you about. This is the real thing" said Dr Olga Milojkovic from NGO Mreza. Zoran is the first volunteer who was brave enough to transfer his new knowledge gained from CHF and partner NGO Mreza in February and March to his friends and colleagues.

"I have decided to help the kids out and tell them how **it** is transferred and how to protect themselves" said Zoran about Sexually transferable infections and risk behaviours. There were 15 boys at that first lecture, not a single girl. "They are ashamed to come", explained Zoran. Estimations were that one young educator would train 5 to 15 pears from local community and surrounding area. "It was my first time to teach outside my school, but I was not nervous at all. I was once actor at the theatre in the show 'Football-Love-Business'" said Miletic about his first knowledge transfer session held in Internet café in Razanj established with USAID/CHF support.

One week after first lecture on March 25th, this young man held his second lecture in front of unexpected 40 participants. Director of the primary school in which this lecture took place, sent the students of the final year to participate. Knowledge transfer sessions Zoran plans and implements in cooperation with CHF RH&FP team and Youth Counselling Cabinet in Nis Health Care Centre. Big support to Zoran was president of the CDC, Mr. Slavoljub Guslarevic. Miletic plans to go to Faculty, live in Razanj and Aleksinac and he promises more lectures. Participants of his lectures were shy and did not want to comment on Zoran's work. "They stayed until the end. No one said – it's boring, I am leaving!" Zoran concluded about success of his training.