



## “6 Nations” Relationship & Sexuality Education (RSE) in the context of National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategies

3rd October 2019 Centre for Evidence and Social Innovation, Queen’s University, Belfast

**An overview of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy  
combining Health and Education in Uruguay  
with a special focus on the role of RSE  
and its impact on adolescent pregnancy**

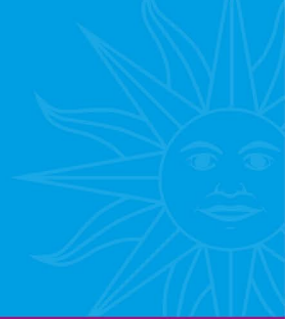
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# Uruguay



- **Secular State**
- **Republican System with strong political parties**
- **Free Public Education at all levels**
- **National Integrated Health System**

- **Population: 3.400.000 hab.**
- **Surface: 176.215 km<sup>2</sup>**
- **GDP. per cápita: U\$ 17.500/  
€ 433**
- **Poverty: 8,1%**
- **GFR: 1,6**
- **CM: 6,7/00**



- Since 2005, the government party is Frente Amplio (left parties and center left coalition): 2005-2010, 2010-2015, 2015-2020.
- Continued economic growth since 2005, the longest period in national history. Substantial reduction of inequality (in 2005: Gini index reached 0.46 points and in 2017 it was 0.38).
- Structural reforms of the State and development of public welfare policies: Tax Reform, Health Reform, Labor Market Reform and Social Policies Development.



## Sexual and Reproductive rights: Health and Education policies

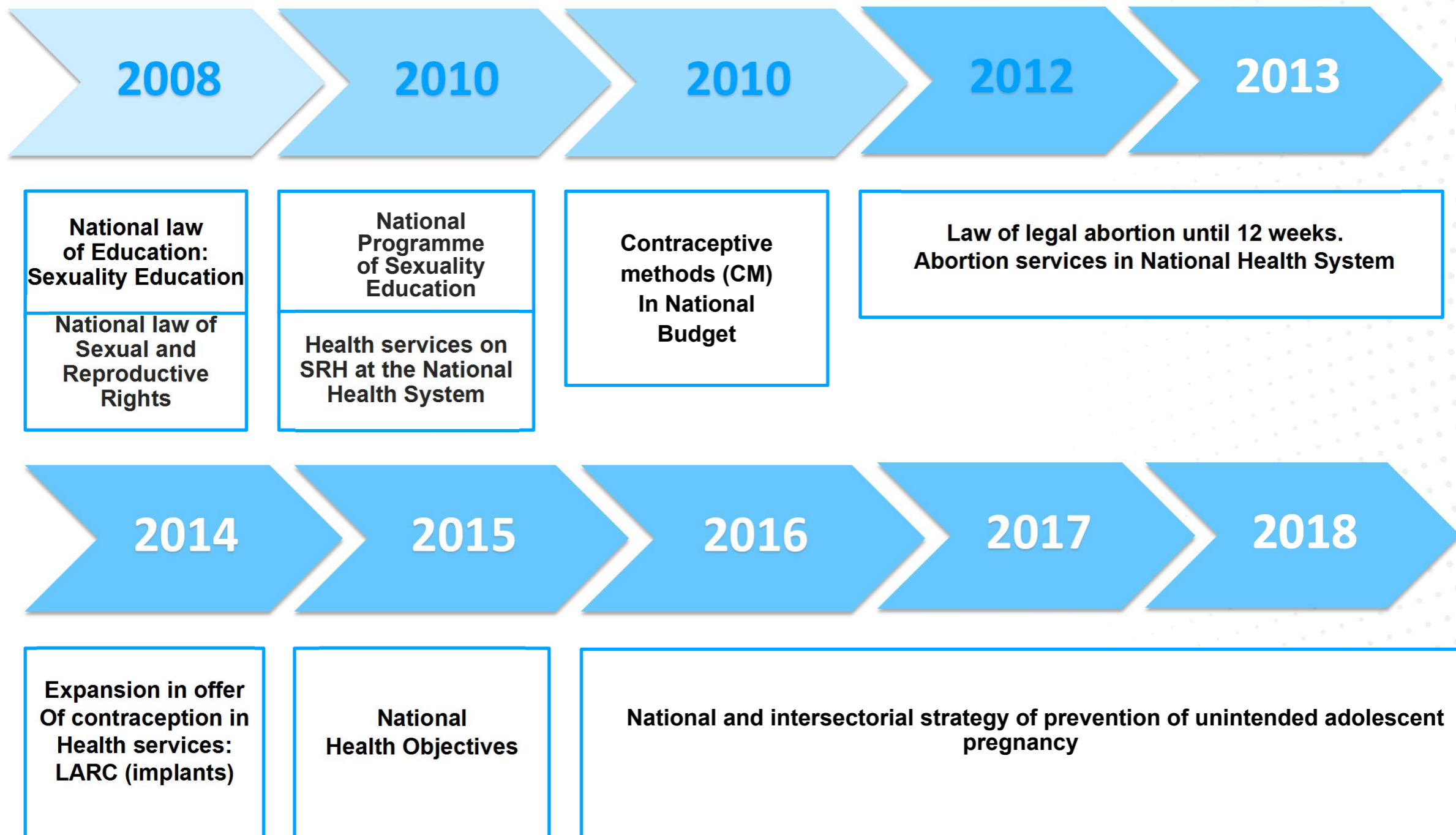
- Strong regulatory framework that recognizes sexual and reproductive rights as human rights.
- National policies and programs on sexual and reproductive health and sexuality education.
- Comprehensive services on sexual and reproductive health that includes access to legal abortion.
- Sexuality Education Program is implemented throughout the education system from initial level to bachelor level, including training of teachers.



*Cross-cutting approaches:  
Intergenerational, Human Rights, Gender and Diversity*



## Key milestones: 2005–2018

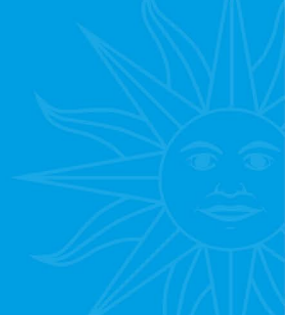




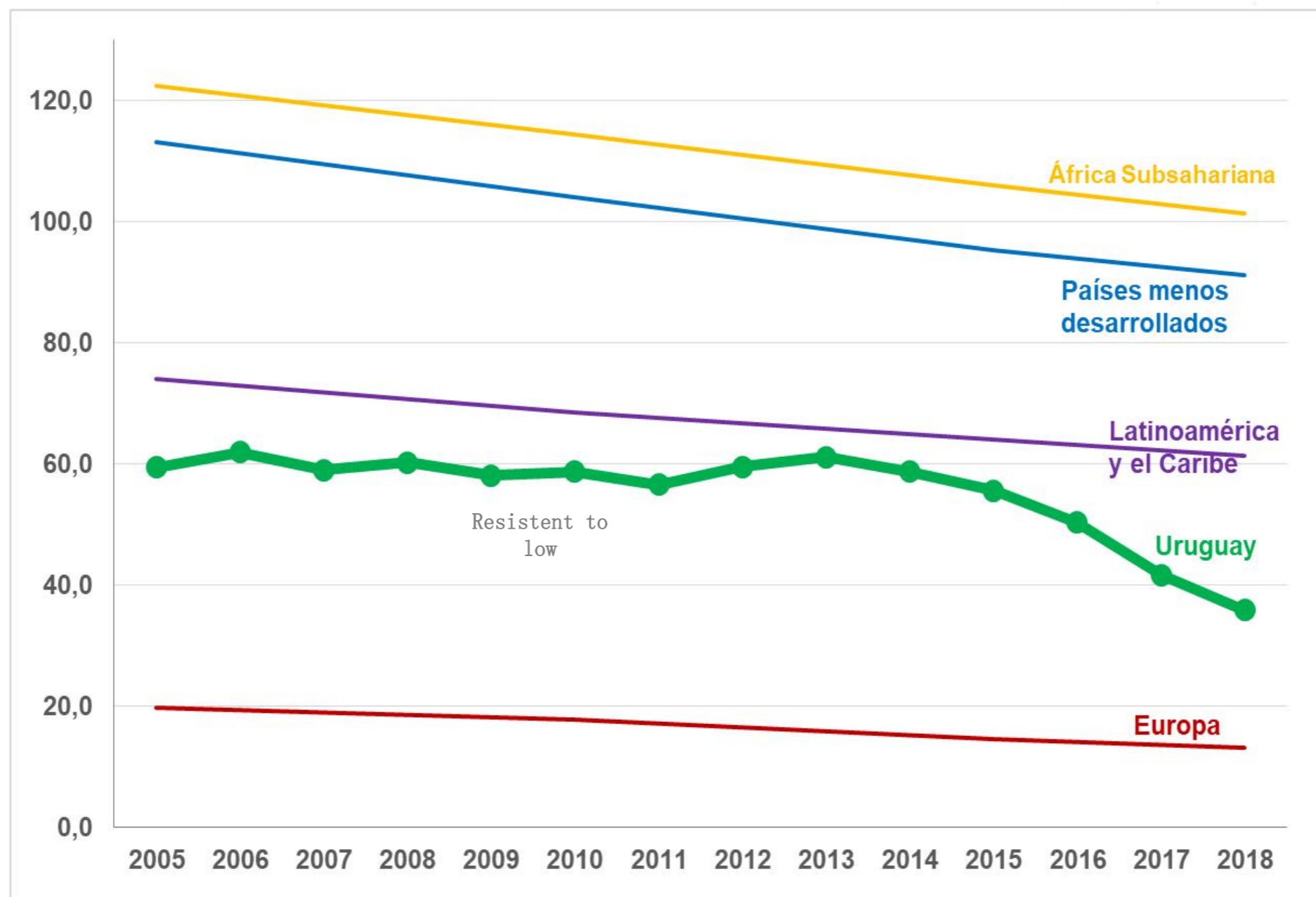
**In spite of the achievements ... in 2015 the evidences showed that:**

- ! High Adolescent fertility (55 / 1000)
- ! *Adolescent motherhood*
- ! 71% would have preferred to postpone motherhood.
- ! 82% had no job nor were not looking for one
- ! 70% dropped their studies before getting pregnant
- ! 57% were not studying or working : “Care responsibilities”
- ! 56% had first sexual intercourse at 15 years or less

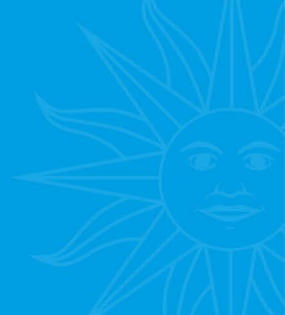
**Social  
inequalities**



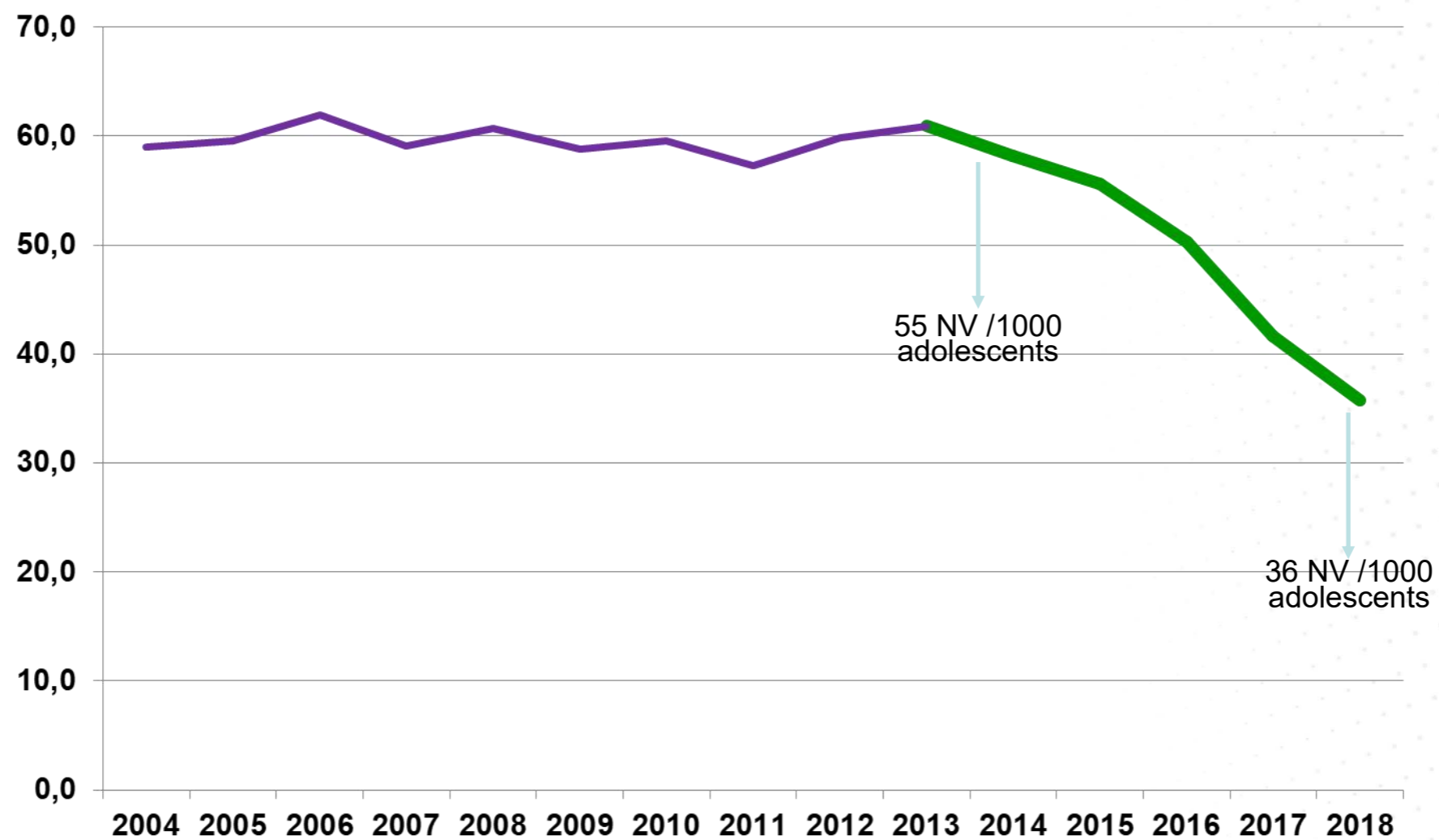
## Recent evolution in adolescent fertility (according to Regions)



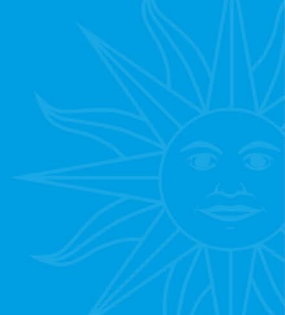




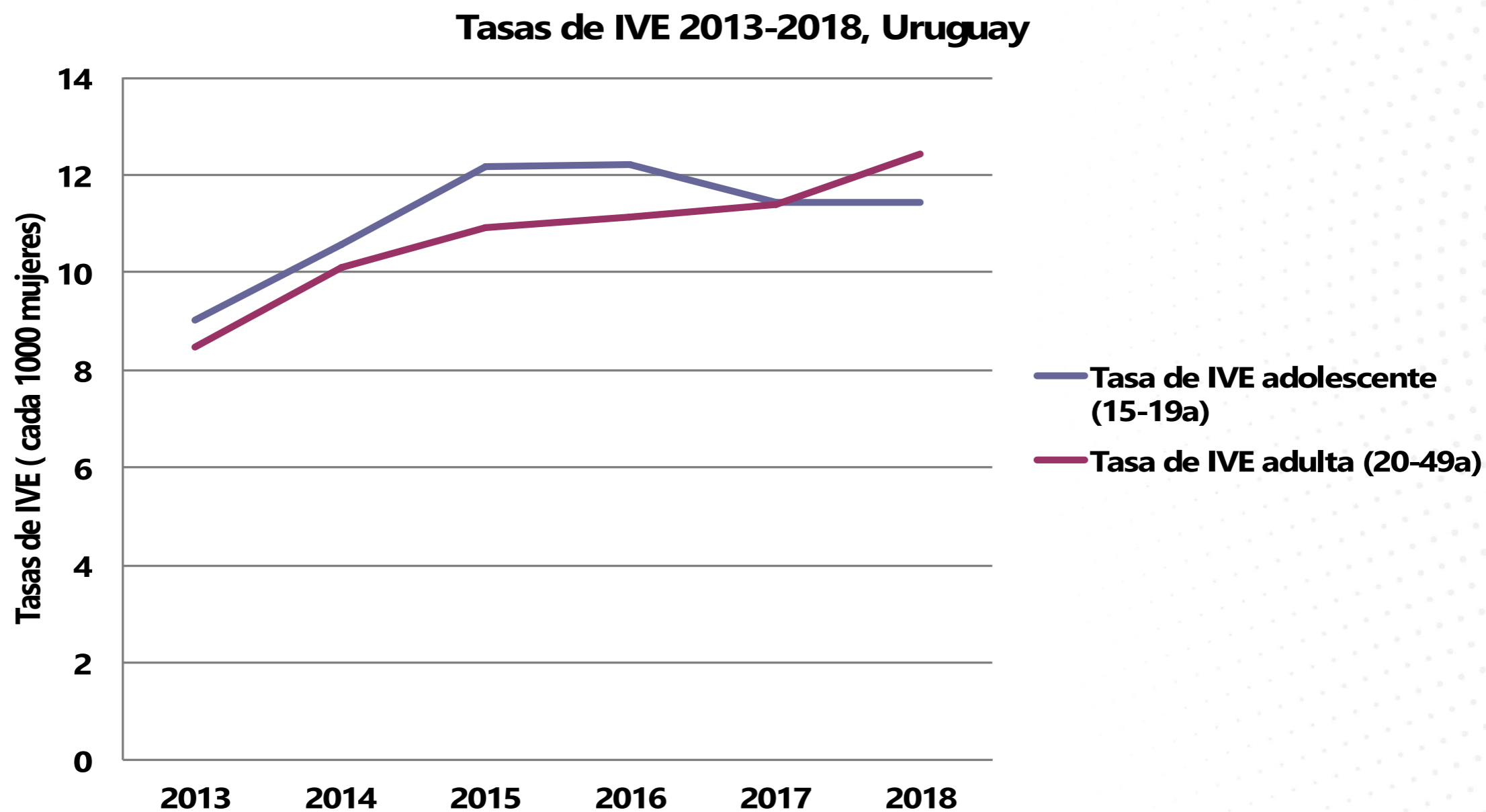
## Evolution of adolescent fertility rates (Uruguay 2004-2018\*)



\*Preliminary numbers



## Legal abortion rates (until 12 weeks)



# Uruguay

## 2015: National and Intersectoral Strategy for prevention of adolescent unintended pregnancy in Uruguay.

- Presidency of the Republic.
- Ministry of Education and Culture.
- Ministry of Health.
- Ministry of Social Development.
- National Administration of Public Education.
- University of the Republic.
- National Institute for Childhood and Adolescence of Uruguay.



### Technical and Financial support

- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- BID
- EUROSOCIAL





## Purpose and objectives

- **Purpose:** To contribute to social intergration, development and exercise of sexual and reproductive rights of girls, boys and adolescents from 10 to 19 years old in Uruguay.
- **Main Objective:** To low the rate of unintended pregnancy in girls and adolescents and its determinants, guaranteeing the promotion and access to reproductive and sexual rights.



## National Strategy

- International commitments assumed by the country on promotion of sexual and reproductive rights.
- High level national government agreement.
- Intersectoral perspective and actions.
- Based on research and scientific evidences.
- Comprehensive approaches: human rights, gender, generations, race, diversity and adolescence as a specific stage.
- Adolescent unintended pregnancy as an expression of social inequalities.



## Structure of the Policy (National Strategy)

**National  
Authorities**

**Local Coordination  
Technical Team**

**Coordinating  
Council**

**System  
Information  
Technical Team**

**Intersectorial  
Regional Groups**

**Communication  
Technical Team**



## Main actions

- Transformation of gender norms and inequalities.
- Adolescents health services (confidentiality, privacy, comprehensive services).
- Knowledge and consistent use of contraceptive methods
- Sexuality education for girls, boys and adolescents
- Intersector teams in local levels
- Communicational campaign.
- Technical guidelines for prevention unintended adolescents pregnancy
- Route map for preventing unintended pregnancy under 15 years old and to support the decision making process in case of pregnancy (to continue or to have an abortion).



Working Hypothesis: public policies may have influenced the decrease in adolescent fertility rate between 2015 and 2018.

1. Implementation of the National and Intersectorial Strategy for prevention of unintended pregnancy in adolescents (2016).
2. Incorporation of LARC (implant) in the provision of contraception at the National Health System (2014).
3. Implementation of legal abortion services in the National Health System (since 2013).
4. Sex education in the curriculum of education sector (since 2008)





## Challenges

- From a government policy to a State Policy. Sustainability.
- Adequate budget and financial support
- To develop a comprehensive implementation of the National Strategy in regional and local levels.
- To define a Monitoring & Evaluation model.
- To increase the participation of civil society organizations, communities, families and children/adolescents.
- To promote enabling socio-educational environment for the development and exercise of human rights.
- To generate new Scientific evidences and innovative interventions to involve boys and teens in the prevention of unintended pregnancy.
- To increase the capacities and skills of teachers and health care professionals to promote sexual and reproductive rights, gender equality and prevention of unintended pregnancy in adolescents.

# Uruguay



**Many thanks!**

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