

Female genital mutilation in Europe. Achievements and remaining challenges

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Women's Rights Perspective

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Projects and research of ICRH on FGM

- Daphne projects
 - 1997: Towards a consensus in Europe regarding FGM
 - 1999: Establishing a European Network for the prevention of FGM
 - 2002: Evaluating legislation on FGM in Europe
 - 2004: Strengthening the European Network for the Prevention of FGM
 - 2007: Improving law enforcement on FGM in Europe
- AWEPA Guidelines for Parliamentarians



Projects and research (continued)

- Development of several resolutions in Belgium on FGM
- Community based interventions in Burkina Faso and Sudan (WHO, 2006-2008)
- KAP study among Flemish gynecologists (2008)
- Training for Somali key persons, Kenya (2008)
- END FGM Campaign (2009)
- Scientific committee “Guide for professionals” (2011)
- Prevalence study on FGM in Belgium (2010, publication 2011)



Achievements at EU (policy) level

- EP Resolutions on FGM (2001 and 2009)
- EC Daphne Programme '97-'07: 14 projects on FGM in Europe (2.4 million euro)
- END FGM European Campaign, AI & NGOs
- European Network for the Prevention of FGM



Achievements at national level

- Specific criminal laws adopted in 11 EU MS
- New national action plans developed in 8 EU MS
- Special health services available
- Many EU MS have CBOs/NGOs for prevention work

- Increasing bulk of research performed on a.o.:
 - Reassessment FGM in migration context,
 - Health seeking behaviour of affected communities,
 - Evaluation of service delivery,
 - Difficulties in implementing laws.



Some challenges at EU level

- Limited funding available
- Ongoing efforts at policy level but no integrated EU agenda yet
- Little coordination at European level between multiple agencies
- No accurate knowledge on magnitude of problem



Some challenges at national level

- Lack of coordination
- Lack of government support for NAPs
- Lack of knowledge FGM among many professionals
- Few effective interventions on behaviour change
- Implementation of laws:
 - Risk assessment
 - Mechanisms to increase reports of (suspected) FGM cases



Recommendations

- Adopt EU strategy proposed by END FGM EU Campaign
- Establish a coordinating body (EuroNet-FGM?)
- Develop instruments to measure progress
- Increase budgets, specially for community based behaviour change strategies



**Muchas gracias por su
atencion!**

Thank you for your attention!



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