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ACCELERATING PROGRESS IN IMPROVING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN EUROPE

Carolina Elite Hotel Tower/ Karolinska Institute
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Scope and purpose

Background

Universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is critical to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, Health 2020: the European policy for health and well-being, and other policies and resolutions recently approved by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC). During the 66th session of the RC in 2016, Member States endorsed the ***Action Plan for Sexual and Reproductive health: Towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe – leaving no one behind*** and its resolution.

The ***Action Plan*** provides a comprehensive regional framework supporting European countries to ensure that people are achieving their full potential for sexual and reproductive health and well-being. It requires adaption at the national level in line with Member States' international commitments, including the ICPD Programme of Action, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in accordance with national legislation, capacities and priorities and development of country specific policies and plans in reducing inequities in sexual and reproductive health and rights within and between countries, and in achieving universal coverage for sexual and reproductive health. The Member States will be reporting on status of the implementation of the Action Plan in 2019.

WHO Regional Office for Europe, UNFPA Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Office and Public Health Agency of Sweden will conduct a meeting to explore the progress and challenges in implementation of the Action Plan and its implications to achieving Universal Health Coverage to ensure that lessons learned, positive outcomes and challenges are exchanged to benefit and advance the progress in the countries.

Target audience

The meeting is intended to be a forum for policy-makers, experts and key professionals in sexual and reproductive health from the Member States, representatives from the WHO collaborating centres, international experts and aid development partners working in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Objectives of the meeting

The meeting will be organized around four specific objectives:

- to review the progress towards achieving the goals and objectives of the SRH Action Plan in the European region and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development SRH targets;
- to discuss triggers and barriers in implementation of the SRH Action Plan at country level and national SRH monitoring mechanisms;
- to highlight the main SRH challenges in countries and discuss possible solutions, including decreasing inequalities in SRH outcomes and *leaving no one behind*;
- to identify areas for further cooperation and technical support from WHO/Europe, UNFPA and other partners to accelerate progress in achievement of SRH related targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Expected Outcome

The network of policy makers and experts to improving SRH and rights and advancing the universal access to SRH at national and European regional level is strengthened.

The country experiences in implementing SRH Action Plan shared, summarized and published.

The regional tools and resources for developing, updating and monitoring of the SRH national Action Plans discussed.

Recommendations on further acceleration of the implementation of the SRH Action Plan in countries and WHO European Region, in improvement of SRH and “leaving no one behind” are developed, agreed upon and published.