



Mainstreaming Gender and Health in EU Policy

A CALL FOR ACTION

- **Gender impact assessment**
EU and national bodies must ensure that awareness of gender-based implications for health improvement and policy development is raised at all administrative levels, and that programme development, implementation and evaluation assess gender impact.
 - **Education and health curricula**
EU education initiatives and programmes for the training of health professionals must consider the impact of gender where it has the potential to improve health status.
 - **Gender theme in EU public health**
From 2005, EU Public Health work programmes must include gender as a key factor in the formulation of their objectives, and encourage the number of initiatives that improve the knowledge of gender as a health determinant.
The future EU Health Portal must also provide a gender-sensitive focus.
 - **Gender considerations in FP7**
The 7th Research and Development Framework Programme must incorporate research on:
 - Possible sex differences and effects of gender in the development of qualitative and quantitative research protocols, especially in fundamental biological research.
 - Extending the knowledge base of gender-related indicators for use in all areas of EU policies affecting health.
 - **European Gender Institute prospects**
It is essential that the future Gender Institute includes health as part of its remit. It must enrol the expertise of gender and health-focussed pan-European NGOs in the development of its objectives. The Institute must also receive adequate resources to carry out its mission effectively.
 - **Addressing gender equality in health**
The follow-up programme to the current EU action programme 'Towards a Community Framework Strategy on Gender Equality' must also address health from a gender perspective.
The EU action programme on anti-discrimination, and social exclusion initiatives must address gender-related health issues specifically and concretely, especially where access to healthcare and services is concerned.
 - **OMC to address national focus on gender**
The Open Method of Coordination (OMC) in the area of health and long-term care must specifically include gender considerations in the formulation of objectives and progress indicators, so that National strategies have clear and measurable gender-sensitive targets.
 - **Concerns for gender and health in eastern Europe**
Special attention must be paid to emerging health problems, in particular those related to eastern European countries subject to rapid economic and political changes, where gender may have a differential pattern on health status and access to care.
 - **Gender impacts many areas**
Policy makers in other areas such as agriculture and environment must also take into account the differential effect of their policies on health and gender (tobacco production, food labelling, or chemicals).
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