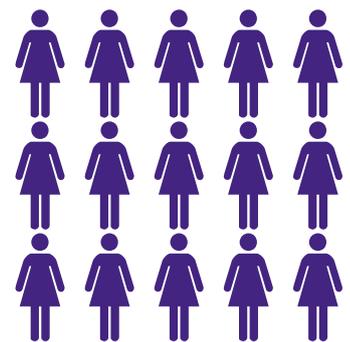


# EUROPE STANDING UP FOR ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND INVESTMENT IN FAMILY PLANNING

**AN ESTIMATED 225 MILLION WOMEN IN DEVELOPING REGIONS<sup>1</sup> WHO WANT TO AVOID A PREGNANCY ARE NOT USING A MODERN CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD**

which means that they have an unmet need for family planning. This unmet need affects many areas of human development, including gender equality and poverty reduction, but has the most direct impact on women's and children's health.



**SERVING ALL WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT CURRENTLY HAVE AN UNMET NEED FOR MODERN CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS WOULD:**



**PREVENT 52 MILLION UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES<sup>2</sup>**



**REDUCE THE NUMBER MATERNAL DEATHS BY ALMOST A FOURTH<sup>3</sup>**



**SAVE THE LIVES OF 500,000 INFANTS EVERY YEAR<sup>4</sup>**

**NO OTHER INVESTMENT CAN MATCH THESE NUMBERS.**

**2012**

The London Family Planning Summit called for action to give women and adolescent girls greater freedom to access family planning services wherever they are in the world. The summit culminated in a series of FP2020 pledges, with donor and recipient countries committing to increasing financial and political support for family planning to enable 120 million more women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020.

**2016**

Halfway to 2020, Countdown 2030 Europe invited stakeholders around Europe to reflect on achievements so far and recommit to reaching the goal. In this context, our partner organisations held series of events from May till September 2016 around Europe calling for advancement of human rights and investment in family planning.

**2020**

**120 MILLION MORE WOMEN AND GIRLS USE CONTRACEPTIVES**

# EUROPEAN EVENTS

## SPAIN 6 MAY 2016

It is vital that actions that link the global agenda with national and local agendas are coordinated to achieve reproductive health and family planning services for all – concluded the participants of the public discussion on sexual and reproductive health and family planning (SRH/FP) in the Agenda 2030 at the Catalanian Parliament on May 6, 2016.



The event, hosted by the parliamentary intergroup on Population, Development and Reproductive Health and supported by **FPFE**, Countdown 2030 Europe partner in Spain, presented a unique opportunity to share synergies and proposals between the major social organizations working for sexual and reproductive health and rights in Catalonia, public bodies responsible for policies and budgets and parliamentarians who are defending these issues with legislative actions.

## BELGIUM 12 MAY 2016

Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health Maggie De Block and members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group 'Parliamentarians for the 2030 Agenda' visited the one-day family planning clinic that opened its doors in the heart of Belgium's federal parliament.



After being exposed to the harsh realities played out in this documentary installation, Belgian politicians spoke out for family planning and called upon the international community to step up its efforts to help achieve the 2030 target of universal access to sexual and reproductive health in numerous video and radio interviews. This successful event was organised by **Sensoa**, Countdown 2030 Europe partner in Belgium.

**8 VIDEO'S REACHED  
18 506 PEOPLE AND  
WERE WATCHED  
4235 TIMES**

**A RADIO  
DOCUMENTARY WITH  
ABOUT 1,3 MILLION  
LISTENERS**



**WATCH THE VIDEOS**

→ [PS visite la clinique de planning familial africaine](#)

→ [OpenVLD bezoekt de Afrikaanse vrouwenkliniek in het Federale Parlement](#)

## NORWAY 10 MAY 2016

"Norway will continue the annual contribution of 150 million NOK," said political advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Peder Weidemann Egseth, thus recommitting to its FP2020 goal at the opening of the conference 'Taking stock midway of the Family Planning 2020 Initiative'.



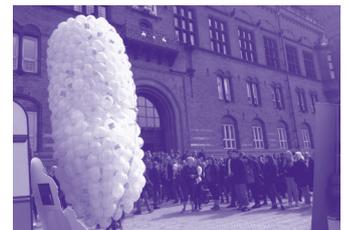
The conference organised by **Sex og Politikk**, Countdown 2030 Europe partner in Norway, and the Norwegian All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on sexual and reproductive health and rights, discussed women's access to contraceptives, challenges and opportunities internationally. The event provided valuable contributions to an evidence-based focus on access to contraceptives in the Norwegian development debate.

**"Investing in family planning is not only the right thing to do; it is smart economics as it creates development."**

**JON LOMØY**, Director General of Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) with this confirming strong Norwegian belief in family planning.

## DENMARK 18 MAY 2016

Danish school kids gathered at Copenhagen city hall and square to call for the rights of young people and girls in particular. They made a national record for the largest comprehensive sexuality education session; they discussed the needs of young people with decision makers and released 1,000 condom balloons to make an unforgettable statement.



**500 YOUNG PEOPLE CALLING  
FOR YOUTH RIGHTS**

*"The importance of girls' and women's access to education, health and rights cannot be underestimated and we need to address the challenges of poverty, migration and climate change that the world community is currently facing," – says Tania Dethlefsen, Deputy Secretary General of the Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA), Countdown 2030 Europe partner in Denmark.*

## SWITZERLAND MAY-JUNE 2016

“Wake-up Call against Hunger and Poverty” petition with more than 36,000 signatures was handed over to the all-party political delegation in front of the Swiss parliament on 30<sup>th</sup> May. The petition asks the members of the Swiss Parliament to support international development cooperation and to abstain from Official Development Assistance (ODA) cuts when deciding on the budget framework for the next four years.



Countdown 2030 Europe partner, **SEXUAL HEALTH Switzerland** has contributed significantly to the campaign by highlighting the importance of ODA for sexual and reproductive health and family planning and by mobilising its network as well as the members of the parliamentary group to sign the petition.

 **LINK TO CAMPAIGN**  
→ [www.weckruf-armut.ch](http://www.weckruf-armut.ch)

## FRANCE 6-10 JUNE 2016

Young girls and women’s access to family planning products and services is a fundamental human right and a major driver of change for development. That’s the message **Equilibres & Populations**, Countdown 2030 Europe partner organization in France, carried during an advocacy week, by raising the voice of Southern actors from the field. They brought the message home at numerous events during Week of Action “Women’s empowerment and demography: family planning, a key stake for West Africa”. For several years, France has conducted a strong diplomacy in favour of women’s rights that highlights the needs for reproductive health and family planning. French policymakers, such as Corinne Brunon-Meunier, who invited everyone to include family planning in their strategy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, have reiterated this position.



“Efforts in family planning will articulate empowerment issues with demographic challenges. It is a necessity to improve concretely living conditions in West Africa, starting with those of women and adolescent girls.”

AURÉLIE GAL-RÉGNIEZ, executive director at Equilibres & Populations

## SWEDEN 6 JULY 2016

The objective of Countdown 2030 Europe partner in Sweden **RFSU**’s event “Innovation – reaching the global goals for contraceptives” was to create political and public awareness of the unmet need for modern contraceptives, discuss new solutions, as well as the need to increase efforts to meet the global goals. The panel addressed Swedish development cooperation and Sweden’s contribution and role as a global actor with its expertise and commitments to sexual and reproductive health and family planning. The strong political voice of the feminist government in relation to human rights and gender equality, and its added value in relation to increased access to contraceptives, was highlighted.



“This is ultimately about power, the power to decide over one’s own body”, said Ulrika Modéer, State Secretary for International Development Cooperation, Sweden, “and this is a starting point for the Swedish Feminist Foreign Policy. If women and girls do not have the power over their own bodies, it’s hard to see how they would be able to claim power in any other spheres.”

 **WATCH THE VIDEO**  
→ [RFSU presents a new contraceptive: Gubbelax](#)

## EUROPE 11 JULY 2016

This World Population Day, Countdown partners took Twitter by storm – using the momentum of midpoint to FP2020, they called for advancement of human rights and investment in family planning using hashtag #Stand4FP. From Benin to Brussels, realities of unmet need were brought to the European scene by experts from the South – see video interviews for insider view. Countdown 2030 Europe partners **IPPF EN**, **DSW** and **EPF** worked together with the Member of the European Parliament Heidi Hautala to bring these stories and call for family planning to European news readers. Also a new factsheet showcasing the EU’s progress towards FP2020 goals is now available.



 **READ THE DOCUMENTS**  
→ [Family planning 2020 and the European commission support for women and girls](#)  
→ [Commission must prioritise access to contraception in development policy](#)

 **WATCH THE INTERVIEWS**  
→ [Focus on Family Planning: Only young people can say what they need \(2016\)](#)  
→ [Focus on Family Planning: Brigitte Dagba Kangni \(2016\)](#)

# THE NETHERLANDS AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2016

Countdown 2015 Europe partner in the Netherlands, **Rutgers**, has launched a campaign #HappyBirthControl asking public to show support for contraceptive access worldwide.

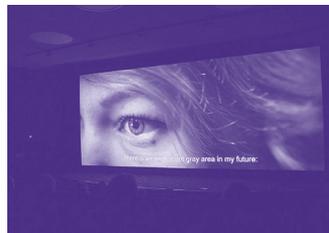
In 2012, governments and organisations from 20 countries, including the Dutch government, were brought together by a goal to ensure that by 2020 at least 120 million additional women and girls use contraception. As public support helps to keep that goal high on political agenda, Rutgers is asking to like and share the Facebook posts Hoera (g)leen baby? and/or post a picture of the Hoera (g)leen baby? postcard with hashtags #HappyBirthControl on your social media channels and contribute to the conversation. These postcards are also available in more than 750 pharmacies across the Netherlands.



 **VISIT TO FIND OUT MORE**  
→ [www.rutgers.nl/happybirthcontrol](http://www.rutgers.nl/happybirthcontrol)

# FINLAND SEPTEMBER 2016

**Väestöliitto**, Countdown 2015 Europe partner in Finland, joined forces with Helsinki International Film Festival Love & Anarchy to give voice to young people. By curating a section of the festival called "Let's talk about sex", Väestöliitto provided a platform for young people to express their own opinions on their right to sexual health and family planning in Finland and globally. During the event, which was moderated by a Member of the Finnish Parliament Mr Jani Toivola, sexual health and family planning of disabled people, transgender people, immigrants and young people were discussed and four short videos featuring stories of young people released.



 **WATCH THE VIDEOS**  
→ [Kenelle seksi kuuluu?](#)  
→ [Kenelle seksi kuuluu? Kader](#)  
→ [Kenelle seksi kuuluu? Sakris](#)  
→ [Kenelle seksi kuuluu? Nina](#)

  
**Countdown 2030**  
EUROPE  
Advance human rights  
Invest in family planning

  
**JOIN THE CONVERSATION**  
#Stand4FP  
@C2030Europe

# UNITED KINGDOM SEPTEMBER 2016

By the year 2020, preliminary estimates by the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition shows there will be in excess of 397 million women using modern methods of contraception throughout 130 plus developing countries. The preliminary estimate of the additional cost of the contraceptive supplies required by these women is at least an additional \$750 million. There are indications that there is a funding gap, initially indicated by a UNFPA Supplies shortfall of around \$70 million between now and 2020. In October 2016, Countdown 2030 Europe partner **Plan International UK** in partnership with MSI, the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition and the UKSRHR Network held a round table discussion between key stakeholders and technical leaders to address this issue and identify innovative solutions to a long-standing structural challenge.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO**  
→ [Disrupting the market - Changing the status quo to secure contraceptive supply](#)

# IRELAND OCTOBER 2016

Countdown 2030 Europe partner in Ireland, the **IFPA's** project consists of a digital briefing and social media campaign to raise awareness in Ireland of the need to invest in FP, in order to reach 120 million additional women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020. The campaign consists of the development of a policy briefing tool in the form of an animated video, launched online through our usual social media strategies, but also disseminated to the wider readership of a major newspaper via a digital advertising campaign. This strategy allows us both to produce an awareness raising and information tool for supportive parliamentarians and NGOs, and to also reach a wider public through the carefully designed placement of a digital ad and accompanying twitter campaign.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO**  
→ [Joining the Dots - How Investment in Family Planning Safeguards Women's Human Rights](#)

Countdown 2030 Europe is a consortium of 15 leading European non-governmental organisations working in 12 European countries and with the EU institutions to ensure that reproductive health and family planning are a funding priority for European donors and a policy priority in Europe and globally. For more information, please contact the Countdown 2030 Europe lead partner, the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN), at: [countdown2030europe@ippfen.org](mailto:countdown2030europe@ippfen.org) or visit [www.countdown2030europe.org](http://www.countdown2030europe.org)

## SOURCES

1., 2., 3., 4. Gutmacher Institute "Adding it Up. The Costs and Benefits of Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health" (2014)  
[https://www.gutmacher.org/sites/default/files/report\\_pdf/addingitup2014.pdf](https://www.gutmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/addingitup2014.pdf)