



# Right from the Start

## Resetting the Agenda in Women's Health



Comité économique et social européen  
European Economic and Social Committee

## European Institute of Women's Health 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Expert Conference

---

Hildrun Sundseth and Peggy Maguire

*European Institute of Women's Health*

4-5 December 2017

European Economic and Social Committee

Brussels, Belgium

Supported by





# Welcome

*Céad míle fáilte*

From the Board and Secretariat of the  
European Institute of Women's Health

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*



# Conference Motivation



- Celebrating the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the European Institute of Women's Health's (EIWH)
- Reviewing 60 year of gender equality in EU policy since the Treaty of Rome (1957)

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*



# Conference Objectives



- **Bring together decision makers and thought leaders** to review progress that has been achieved in sex and gender equity in women's health
- **Examine both the biological and social factors** relevant to sex and gender equity and wellbeing across the lifespan through expert discussions
- **Explore existing gaps** by employing a cross-sectoral approach and devise steps for moving forward together
- **Develop a European Action Plan** for Women's Health and Wellbeing through facilitated expert discussion.

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*



# Day One Overview



- Evaluates the state of women's health today
- Utilise a life-course approach and the most recent evidence base to highlight the current issues in women's health and wellbeing
- Answers the questions:
  - *What progress have we achieved in reducing sex and gender inequities in health over recent decades?*
  - *What is the current state of women and family health across Europe?*
- Provides an evidence base and the central issues to be tackled by the European Action Plan for Women's Health

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*



# Day Two Overview



- Facilitated expert discussions on four central policy areas
  - Focus on health promotion and early intervention
- Make concrete recommendations on how to move forward together
- Answer the questions:
  - *Where do we want to go in the field of sex and gender equity in health?*
  - *How do we advance the women's health agenda together?*
- Develop the European Action Plan for Women's Health and Wellbeing

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*



# Day Two Overview



- Facilitated expert discussions on four central policy areas
  - Focus on health promotion and early intervention
- Make concrete recommendations on how to move forward together
- Answer the questions:
  - *Where do we want to go in the field of sex and gender equity in health?*
  - *How do we advance the women's health agenda together?*
- Develop the European Action Plan for Women's Health and Wellbeing

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*



# About the EIWH



- The European Institute of Women's Health is a health NGO founded in 1996.
- The EIWH aims to ensure a gender-sensitive approach to health policy, prevention, treatment, care and research in order to reduce health inequalities and improve quality.
- **Organisation:**
  - Extensive multi-national, multi-disciplinary network of patient groups, health NGOs, researchers, gender experts, politicians, and medical professionals
  - Expert Advisory Board

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*





# Origins of the EIWH



- Maastricht Treaty (1992): EU competency extended to health
- Women's Health Conference in Dublin, Ireland (1993)
  - Lack of information for women
  - Lack of research on women, particularly on sex and gender factors
  - Lack of dissemination of existing knowledge
  - Social determinants of health not included
- *How far have we come? What has changed? What have we achieved?*

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*



# Advancing the Women's Health Agenda



- Moving women's health forward
  - The Europe against Cancer Programme
  - Social Fund capital
  - Cancom—multilingual cancer information for women by women
  - Modules for older and younger women (1993), eTearooms, Café Mondial
  - Midlife and Older Women's Health Report (1996)

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*



# Translating Findings into Practice



- Research
- Clinical Trials Regulation
- Gender equity in health
  - Healthcare professional education
- Health inequities
- Cancer programmes
- Tobacco Control Directive
- Vaccination
- EIWH Policy Brief Series
  - Setting the agenda

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*



# EIWH Objectives



- Promote health throughout the lifespan in women and their families
- Ensure quality and equity in health policy, research, treatment and care for all
- Draw policymaker's attention to obstacles that women in minority and socio-economically disadvantaged groups face
- Empower individuals to play an active part in their own health management
- Promote gender specific biomedical and socio economic research that addresses sex and gender-based differences so ensuring access to quality treatment and care for women across their lifespan

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*



# Join the Discussion



## **Tweet:**

@EIWH

#WomensHealth

## **Join our network, become a member:**

<http://membership.eurohealth.ie>

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*



# Thank you



## **European Institute of Women's Health, CLG**

33 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Register Charity Number 20035167

CHY Number 12184

Telephone: +353-1-671 5691

Fax: +353-1-671 56 62

Email: [info@eurohealth.ie](mailto:info@eurohealth.ie)

Website: <https://www.eurohealth.ie>

*Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health*