



#AnserAnnualMeeting2017

How science shaped FGM policies: 2 case studies from Europe

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1. Daphne project: Towards a consensus on female genital mutilation in the EU (1998)

- Overall aim: to examine problems surrounding FGM in the EU and to propose recommendations
- Specific objectives:
 - To identify FGM resource groups (legal, medical and socio-cultural groups) in the EU
 - To study the degree of consensus among EU member states on medical, legal and socio-cultural aspects of FGM
 - To describe current legislation and its impact, and to propose methods of harmonising to achieve a unified legal stance.
 - To describe current medical activities and to suggest a code of conduct.
 - To understand socio-cultural differences and views and to integrate them into the European efforts towards eradication of FGM.

Results

- Short-term results (course of project):
 - Recommendations for European policy makers on the eradication of FGM in Europe with regard to legislation, education and prevention within communities and on medical aspects (1998)
 - Database and report
- Long-term results:
 - Framework for training of health professionals and guidelines for care of women with FGM in the EU (2000)
 - Research agenda on FGM in Europe (2000)
 - Creation of European Network for the Prevention of FGM (2002)
 - In-depth study of implementation of anti-FGM laws in Europe (2004)

Impact of research on policy making

- Input in the development of the 1st EP resolution on FGM (2001)
- Creation of European wide network of NGOs and academics (EuroNet-FGM) – led to END FGM European Campaign
- 1997 – 2006: EC Daphne programme funded 14 projects on FGM in Europe (2.4 million euro)
- Contributed to putting FGM on agenda in Europe

Key factors for success

- Funding of projects within same EC budget line and ICRH as key actor:
 - Sustainability
 - Avoiding duplication of efforts
 - Speeding up of abandonment of FGM in EU
- Multisectoral approach: academics, NGOs and policy makers

Key factors for success

- Involvement of policy makers:
 - Before: informed about the EC/EP's need for info on FGM in Europe
 - During: involvement of EP and EC at expert meeting
- After:
 - Report used for policy making: Expert meeting in EP, Strasbourg, April 2001 where a Joint Agenda for Action was presented to EC, EP and UN bodies → EP Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities report on FGM (Valenciano report) → 2001 adoption of resolution September 2001
 - Guided other Daphne projects on FGM

2. EIGE study: Female genital mutilation in the European Union - 2013:

- Study commissioned by Vice-president of EC V.Reding, responsible for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship (in 2012)
- Overall goal: to support and contribute to future development of strategies for the elimination of violence against women
- Specific objective: to assess and analyse current situation of FGM in all 28 EU MS, in particular on:
 - Current policies and policy development on FGM at EU and national level
 - Existing prevalence data
 - Current actors and their activities with regard to prevention, provision of care, protection and prosecution

Results

- Short – term (course of study):
 - Report “FGM in the EU and Croatia”
 - Report “Good practices in combating FGM”
 - 28 Country fact sheets
 - 28 country reports
 - Databases, available at EIGE Website: <http://eige.europa.eu>:
 - Methods and Tools (per country, language, type, target group and format)
 - Resources on FGM (per category, language or country)
 - Good practices in combating FGM (one per P)

Results

- Long-term:
 - Input for EC Communication ‘Towards the elimination of FGM’ (COM(2013) 833)
 - Input in Europe’s first-ever Action Plan Towards the Elimination of FGM (2013)
 - Input in END FGM’s policy document: The CoE Convention on Preventing and Combating VAW and Domestic Violence. A tool to end FGM” (2014)
 - Input in EIGE’s subsequent study: Estimation of girls at risk of FGM in the EU (2015 & 2017)
 - Used by many others (NGOs, academics, policy makers, etc).

Key factors of success

- Existence of a network of NGOs and other stakeholders, END FGM European Campaign
- Lobbying capacity by END FGM European Campaign towards EC Commissioner V. Reding – office in Brussels near EP and EC
- Study done by key actor ICRH (in-depth knowledge of topic) in collaboration with consultancy firm Yellow Window

Key elements for bridging gap science and policy makers

- Interaction with policy makers before, during and after is paramount
- Multisectoral approach (preferably through network)
- Sufficient resources (financial and time)
- Have lobbying capacities

Challenges

- Tendency towards short term consultancies for studies and research: tight time frames and budgets → quality? Policies often based on these studies
- Maintaining issue on political agenda:
 - “FGM”- fatigue?
 - Depends on personal commitment of individual politicians