

Seminar: The glass wall between SRHR science and policy

Tuesday 28 November 2017

Les ateliers des tanneurs, Rue des Tanneurs, 58-62, 1000 Brussels

The realms of science and policy keep on claiming that they need each other badly, and the references from one to the other are numerous. However, scientists tend to be frustrated because their recommendations are often neglected and are not implemented, and policy makers complain that scientists seldom come up with clear answers to policy questions and that the main conclusion of far too many research projects is that 'further research (and money) is needed'. Both worlds seem to be separated by a glass wall: they can look at each other but they don't hear what is said at the other side and they seldom team up to solve societal problems.

We want to open the floor to the aspirations and frustrations of both sides, present some good practices of cooperation between scientists and policy makers, and explore ways to make the glass wall less thick.

09:00 Registration and welcome coffee

09:30 Introduction

What makes communication between science and policy so difficult? – *Marleen Temmerman, former senator, currently professor at Aga Khan University, Nairobi, Kenya and Ghent University, Belgium*

How can science help SRHR policy making? – *Leonardo Chavane, Country Director Jhpiego Mozambique*

10:45 How can science help SRHR work on the ground? – *Tamar Khomasuridze, UNFPA Sexual and Reproductive Health Adviser for Eastern Europe and Central Asia*

11:00 Break

11:15 Panel debate: what can be done to bring both worlds closer together?

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Good practices and cases:

WHO European Regional SRH Action Plan – *Gunta Lazdane, Prof, Riga Stradins University, Latvia, former SRH Programme Manager, WHO Regional Office for Europe*

National SRHR plan in Moldova – *Rodica Scutelnic, state secretary*

National SRHR strategy in Georgia – *Eka Pestvenidze, the Adviser to the Deputy Minister*

15:00 Break

15:15 How science shaped FGM policies – *Hazel Barret, Coventry University, Research Professor CTPSR, Tammary Esho, Technical University of Kenya, Head of department Community and Public Health, Els Ley, Ghent University, Research Professor ICRH*

Science and policy around Sexual Assault Care Centres in Belgium – *Elke Sleurs, former Belgian secretary of state for Equal Opportunities and Science Policy*

16:00 Closing lecture: what answer can ANSER provide? – *Olivier Degomme, Ghent University, Science Director ICRH*

16:30 End

Participation is free, please register [HERE](#) before 21 November 2017.