

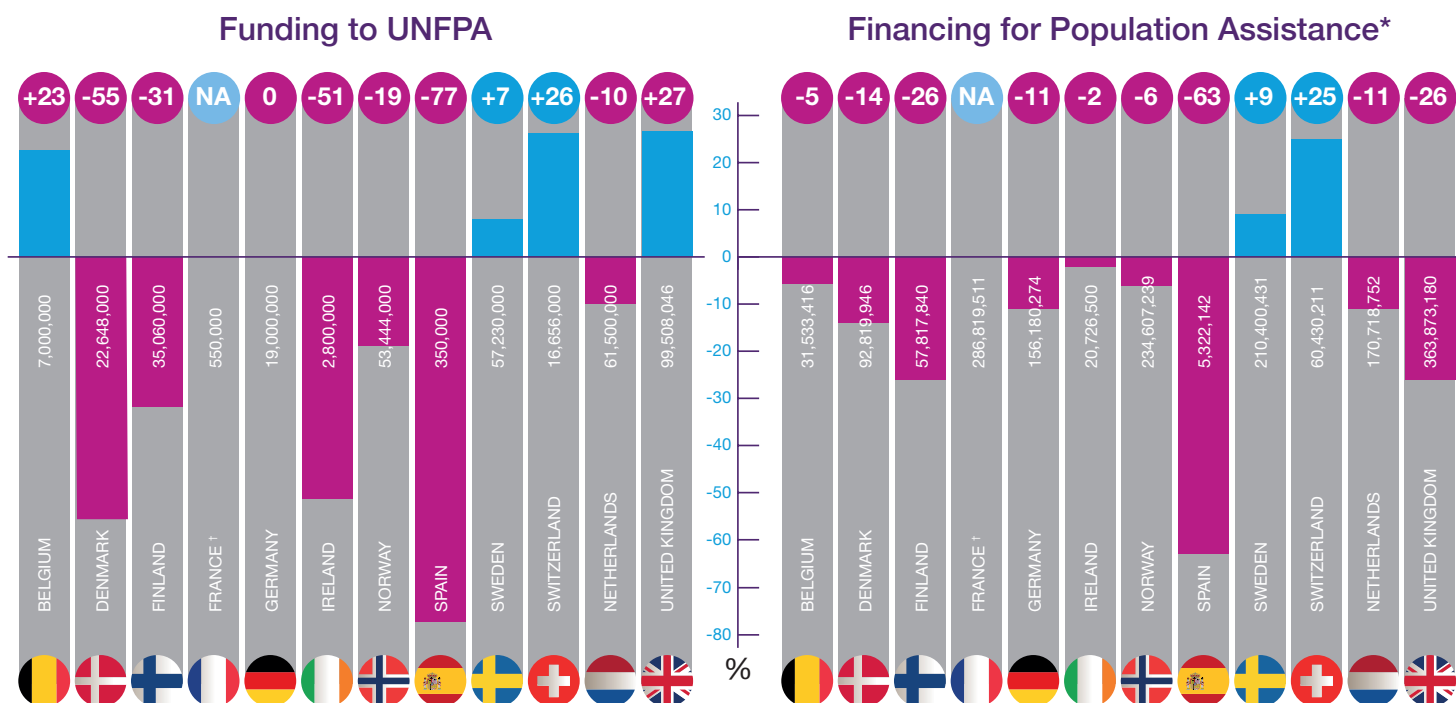
European Donor Support to Sexual & Reproductive Health & Family Planning

Countdown 2030 Europe (C2030E) is a consortium of European NGOs advocating to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and family planning (FP) in developing countries through holding European governments to account on their international policy and financial commitments on SRH/FP.

To achieve this mission, amongst other activities, the consortium partners track policy and financial trends in their respective countries. This report presents the outcomes of the policy and financial tracking for the year 2015-2016.

Funding trends:

Snapshot view of European trends in SRH/FP financing:



European institutions remained the fourth biggest Official Development Assistance donor globally

Despite significant challenges and political change over the last year, European donors remain committed to improving sexual and reproductive health and family planning.

Nevertheless, between 2012 and 2015, Population Assistance has seen an increase over the last 3 years:



* Funding to population assistance (through all streams except country to country bilateral funding); percentage variance of 2015 compared to reporting for 2014.

† Due to low data confidence in 2014, the percentage change has not been calculated.

Policy trends:



NEW European SRH/FP related policy documents:



Belgium:
Strategic note on gender and consequent action plan towards the integration of the gender dimension (2016), SRHR is 1 of 4 priorities



EU Institutions:
Two sets of Council Conclusions on EU priorities that recommit to SRHR in the context of ICPD and Beijing programmes of action



Finland:
In 2016 Finland launched the Government Report on Development Policy: One World, One Future – Towards Sustainable Development

A YEAR OF POLITICAL CHANGE:



Major European Elections in 2017, and the recent outcome of the American elections, likely means a stronger conservative voice on SRH/FP globally, as well as in Europe.

Increased advocacy efforts will be needed to sustain a strong European voice in support of SRH /FP in the coming years.



France:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs published a Population/SRHR Strategic Paper (2016-2020); the first ever reference document on the issue



Norway:
Action-plan on women's rights and gender equality launched on the 2nd of September. SRHR, including FP, is one of the five pillars



Sweden:
Swedish Foreign Service action plan sets the operational plan and agenda of foreign policy and the SDC until 2018



Switzerland:
Dispatch of the Federal Council on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2017-2020



CHALLENGES

- Shrinking Official Development Assistance (ODA) budgets;
- Huge political change, both within Europe as well as in other parts of the world;
- A more conservative and budget-restrictive approach



COMMITMENTS

- Denmark, European Institutions, Netherlands and Sweden fulfilled their FP2020 pledge
- Germany, Norway and the UK are on track to fulfill their commitment



SUCCESSES

- Across Europe, SRH/FP continues to feature prominently within ODA policies
- Numerous new policy documents, strategic papers and action plans endorsed by European governments
- Vocal government representatives placing SRH/FP at the centre of their strategies for development overseas

ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF EUROPEAN VOICES FOR SRH/FP WITHIN THE BROADER GLOBAL HEALTH ARENA
5 C2030E countries featured (Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Switzerland) out of 22 national voluntary reviews at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2016



Looking Forward:

The strong policy commitment of European governments for SRH/FP continued through 2016 despite considerable challenges posed by falling levels of ODA and a growing pressure on resources due to the refugee crisis. Advocacy will continue to be key to ensuring a continued focus on the critical issues of SRH/FP.

2017 will bring:



- A continued focus on implementing the 2030 Agenda, with four C2030E countries (Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium) going through the process of national voluntary review, and the monitoring of SDG3 and 5 presenting important dialogue and advocacy opportunities around SRH/FP.
- Further research and advocacy work around new funding modalities, such as the Global Financing Facility and Trust Funds.
- Addressing the funding crisis facing global family planning programmes, ensuring increased funding levels for RH commodities.