

Assistance of International Agencies in the Field of SRH for the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe

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Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) are areas of special concern in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE): (1) CCEE show the highest abortion rates in the world; (2) 25-30% of maternal deaths in Newly Independent States are due to abortion; (3) modern contraception is hardly affordable to large parts of the population in the CCEE; (4) the contraceptive prevalence rates range from around 10-70%. Increased external assistance has been provided to the CCEE and NIS during the 1990s. International Planned Parenthood Federation has provided assistance in organizing national family planning associations (FPA). FPAs in Albania, Armenia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Ukraine have joined the IPPF family in these years and those of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia are planning to apply for IPPF membership in the next future. World Health Organization and its Regional Office for Europe have played the main role in organizing the collaboration between governments, NGOs and international agencies. Multiple conferences and evaluation tours have resulted in the WHO Regional Strategy on Sexual and Reproductive Health produced by WHO Regional Office for Europe. Several projects have been carried out by UNDP, UNFPA, USAIO, Population Council, the Population Institute and other organizations.

Conclusion: strong collaboration and networking between international agencies is necessary to improve the effectiveness of the proposed strategies and programs in the field of SRH in the CCEE.