Since its launch in 2017, the Contraception Atlas has significantly contributed to highlighting the need to improve access to contraception, supplies, counselling and online information into political and public debate. The Contraception Atlas has often served as an ‘eye-opener’ for politicians in terms of the shortcomings of their previously assumed satisfactory health policies.

Through presenting the Contraception Atlas in parliaments and to civil society groups across Europe, as well as the awareness raising by media coverage reflections on country rankings, the Contraception Atlas has successfully contributed to a number of legislative changes with the support of allied parliamentarians and partner civil society organisations. Below are country examples:

**LEGISLATIVE CHANGES SINCE ATLAS LAUNCH**

**National level**

**ANDORRA:**
As of June 2018, LNG and UPA Emergency pills are available over the counter from pharmacies for anyone over 16. Earlier — from 2008 until 2018 — national guidelines for pharmacists established that prescription was mandatory in order to purchase EC pills.

**BELGIUM (2020 ATLAS CHAMPION):**
As of 2020, the government will reimburse all contraceptives for women under 25 (previously, it was only under 21). Within the same measures, the morning after pill has become free of charge for women of all ages.

**BULGARIA:**
As of 2020, obstetricians/gynaecologists are reimbursed for some long-term reversible contraceptives (LARCS), namely IUDs, as a part of the framework contract with the Health Insurance Fund.

**FINLAND:**
Under the current government programme (2019) Finland will pilot free contraceptives to all Finnish young people under 25 as of 2021 as committed at the Nairobi Summit. In recent years, over 95 municipalities has already started offering free contraceptives to young people under 25 or under 20.

**ICELAND:**
In June 2019, the Icelandic Parliament decided to reduce the value added tax from 24% to 11% for all forms of contraception methods as well as menstrual products. Additionally, as of January 2020, hormone-related contraceptives fall under the drug participation system for women under 20 years of age to reduce the financial burden on young people and avoid unintended pregnancies.

**NETHERLANDS:**
As of 2019, a new Ministry of Health programme was launched to cover contraception for vulnerable groups. This is a part of a broader national programme to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

**NORTH MACEDONIA:**
As of 2019, a preventive programme for mother and child started to offer free contraceptives for vulnerable women at hospitals in Skopje. At present there is only a budget line for procuring the contraceptives while the Government must still roll out a delivery mechanism. The programme covers socially excluded groups of women residing in Skopje (such as those with repetitive abortions, underprivileged women and those receiving social assistance).
**SPAIN:**
As of November 2019, the Ministry of Health began reimbursing the contraception ring.\(^{viii}\)

**Pan European level**

**COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

**Resolution: Towards an ambitious Council of Europe agenda for gender equality**

In June 2019, at its plenary session the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution ‘Towards an ambitious Council of Europe agenda for gender equality’. It took into consideration the Atlas Recommendations to “guarantee access to affordable and modern methods of contraception, with a level of reimbursement equal to other services provided by national health systems, and adequate, comprehensible information made available to the general public” (para 16.6.2)\(^{ix}\).

**Draft resolution**: ‘Empowering women: promoting access to contraception in Europe’

In December 2019, The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Committee on Equality and Discrimination unanimously adopted the draft resolution ‘Empowering women: promoting access to contraception in Europe’.

This Draft Resolution also took into consideration the Atlas Recommendations and calls for all types of modern contraception, including long-acting reversible contraception (LARCs) to be “accessible and affordable for everyone”, irrespective of their sex, social or national origin and any other status, and should be “accompanied by reliable advice and information”.

Parliamentarians called for further research on the use of all methods of contraception, as well as the promotion of scientific research on male contraception methods. The draft resolution is due to be voted in the plenary in 2020.\(^{x}\)

**EUROPEAN UNION**

**Draft European Parliament Report on the situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU, in the frame of women’s health**

On 3 March 2020, the European Parliament Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality adopted the draft Report on the Situation of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the EU, in the Frame of Women’s Health. The Report explicitly references the findings of the Contraception Atlas 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and underlines inequalities in access to contraception in geographic Europe and the fact that the unmet need for contraception in some parts of Europe has largely gone unnoticed (page 3, para 6) and the need for scientifically accurate information (para G). It calls on Members States to ensure that contraception is covered under national reimbursement schemes and healthcare policies and to recognise that this coverage should be extended to all people of reproductive age. The report and the Resolution will be adopted in 2020.\(^{xi}\)


On 5 March 2020, the European Parliament tabled a Motion for a resolution on the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) (Nairobi Summit). In it, the European Parliament makes explicit reference to the Contraception Atlas by highlighting inequalities across Europe and the fact that the unmet need for contraception in some parts of Europe has gone largely unnoticed. It also points out that “that women and adolescents must not only have access to safe and modern contraceptives, but also be able to make an informed choice as to which method to use and to have access to that method. The motion is due to be voted at the EP Plenary in 2020.\(^{xv}\).
ONLINE INFORMATION

General trends
More countries understand the importance of online information in the era of fake news

ALBANIA: In 2020 Albanian civil society organisations started to explicitly recommend to the Albanian Government that it should create a government website with accurate information on contraceptives. While contraceptive provision is completely covered by the government, Albania still reports a very low contraceptives prevalence rate due to lack of demand which is in part attributable to persisting myths and lack of information among citizens\textsuperscript{xvi}.

GEORGIA: In 2019, Georgian civil society developed a new website on contraception and sexuality.

LUXEMBOURG: The Luxembourg National Centre for the Promotion of Emotional and Sexual health developed a new website about contraception following the guidelines of the Contraception Atlas.

MOLDOVA: The NGO website now includes information on where to find contraceptives\textsuperscript{xvii}.

SERBIA: Serbia will develop a website and an app with all relevant information on contraceptives in 2020.\textsuperscript{xviii} Additionally, many websites with information on contraception now include ‘decision aid’ — a quiz to help women determine which contraceptives most fits their needs. This is the case for Catalonia, France and Luxembourg\textsuperscript{xx}.

There is an overall trend of improvement of online information about contraception attributable to non-state actors. This is the case for Armenia, Malta, Poland, and Slovenia\textsuperscript{xx}.

While governmental websites are more difficult to find in some countries, this is compensated by private sector initiatives in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina which have provided high quality online resources.
MEDIA APPEARANCES

From 2018-2020, the Contraception Atlas and related information featured in 57 media appearances (articles, television and live interviews) in 14 countries. Articles are listed in alphabetical order:

1. **Armenia** - Factor - «Հակաբեղմնավորիչների եվրոպական ատլասի ներկայացում» - 11/07/2019
3. **Armenia** - 1in - «Հակաբեղմնավորիչների օգտագործման միջազգային փորձը.» - 11/07/2019
5. **Belgium** - The Parliament Magazine - *Europe’s contraceptive deficit* - 13/02/2019
6. **Belgium** - ESCRH - *The 2019 Contraception Atlas is now available. How does your country score?* - 12/02/2019
7. **Belgium** - De Standaard - *Anticonceptie mag geen luxeproduct zijn* - 08/02/2019
9. **Belgium** - Euro Babble - *European Nations Named And Shamed For Failing Citizens’ Sexual Health Needs* - 03/07/2018
10. **Belgium** - De Standaard - *Anticonceptie vind je makkelijkst bij ons* - 11/04/2018
11. **Belgium** - Third I - *Third-i works hand in hand with S&D Group and young advocates on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)* - 16/02/2018
12. **Cyprus** - in-cyprus - *Cyprus 30th among 46 countries on Europe’s contraception atlas* - 02/03/2019
13. **Czech Republic** - Transitions (TOL) - *Hungarians Less Healthy Than Neighbors, Have Less Access to Contraception*, 27/02/2019
14. **France** - Le Figaro - *Contraception: les femmes doivent avoir le choix* - 08/04/2019
15. **Ireland** - Irish Times - *Women to have access to free contraception from 2021 – Minister* - 10/10/2019
16. **Italy** - The Vision – *Perché In Italia È Così Difficile Accedere Alla Contracezione?* - 30/04/2020
17. **Italy** - Il Dolomiti - *Accesso alla contracezione, l’Italia tra i peggiori d’Europa ma il Trentino Alto*
Adige è al 5° posto nella classifica regionale - 01/03/2020

18. **Italy** - Io Donna - "Contracezione in Europa: i francesi ne sanno di più. E l’Italia è in coda" - 26/02/2018

19. **Lithuania** - LRT - Flawed family planning policy leads to high teen pregnancy and abortion rates in Lithuania - 08/06/2019

20. **Lithuania** - Ziniu Radijas - Kodel kasmet Lietuvoje padaroma iki 5000 abortų? - 30/05/2019

21. **Lithuania** - 15 min - Reprodukcinės sveikatos politikos grimasos: pastoja per savo „pirmajį kartą“, qimdo qirtos, qimdo 17-tą vaiką - 28/05/2019

22. **Lithuania** - Delfi - Geriausia kontracepcinė priemonė – susilaikymas: toks požiūris Lietuvai kasmet atneša neščias paaugles ir tūkstančius abortų - 28/05/2019

23. **Lithuania** - Diena - Lietuvoje kasmet padaroma iki 5 tūkst. abortų: tai lemta per brangi kontracepcija? - 28/05/2019

24. **Lithuania** - LRT - "Laba diena, Lietuva". Kontracepcija ir reprodukcinė sveikata: situacija Lietuvoje – nepavydėtina - 28/05/2019

25. **Lithuania** - LRT - Šeimos planavimas Lietuvoje: vietoj prezervatyvų – abortas, vietoj hormoninės spirališės – qimdos šalinimas - 28/05/2019

26. **Lithuania** - Lytras - Lietuva kontracepcijos žemėlapyje – tarp praščiausiai vertinamų valstybių - 28/05/2019

27. **Lithuania** - Newsbeезer - Geriausias kontraceptinė priemonė – susilaikymas: toks požiūris Lietuviją kasmet - 28/05/2019

28. **Lithuania** - INFA - Dovilės Šakalienės konferencija: „Reprodukcinė ir seksualinės sveikatos apsaugos iššūkiai" - 23/05/2019

29. **The Netherlands** - Sophie in t’ Veld Blog - Access to contraception remains a worry within the EU - 25/04/2018

30. **The Netherlands** - Rutgers - Contraceptives Knowledge File - 01/10/2018

31. **Poland** - Echodnia - Polska to kraj z najtrudniejszym dostępem do antykoncepcji w całej Europie - 05/03/2020

32. **Poland** - Naszemistapost - Polki maja najtrudniejszy dostęp do antykoncepcji w Europie - 05/03/2020

33. **Poland** - Krakow Post - Poland ranked worst in Europe for contraception access - 17/02/20

34. **Poland** - Aktualności24 - Polska Ostatnia W Rankingu Dostępności Do Antykoncepcji - 15/02/2019

35. **Poland** - Polytika - Polska z najgorszym dostępem do antykoncepcji w Europie - 15/02/2019

36. **Poland** - TVN24 - Polska ostatnia w rankingu dostępności antykoncepcji - 15/02/2019

37. **Poland** - GS24 - Partia Razem rozdawała prezerwatywy w Szczecinie. Z życzeniami bezpiecznego i udanego seksu - 14/02/2019

38. **Poland** - Puls Medyczny - Polska i Węgry z najgorszym dostępem do antykoncepcji w Europie - 14/02/2019

39. **Poland** - Szczecin Nasze Miasto - Partia Razem rozdawała “gumki” z życzeniami bezpiecznego seksu - 14/02/2019

40. **Poland** - Oto Torun - Partia polityczna będzie rozdawać mieszkańcom Torunia... prezerwatywy - 13/02/2019

41. **Poland** - Tylko Torun - W walentynki członkowie partii Razem będą rozdawać toruńianom prezerwatywy - 13/02/2019

42. **Poland** - Glamour - Polacy mają najgorszy dostęp do antykoncepcji w całej Europie - 11/02/2019

43. **Poland** - Medycyna Praktyczna - Antykoncepcja – Polska na ostatnim miejscu w Europie - 11/02/2019

44. **Poland** – Wyborcza - Polki z najgorszym dostępem do antykoncepcji w Europie - 11/02/2019

45. **Poland** - Kobieta - Polki mają najgorszy dostęp do antykoncepcji w Europie. Szukający raport - 10/02/2019

46. **Poland** - Salon24 - Różaniec do granic poskutkował. - 10/02/2019

47. **Poland** - Wykop - Raport: w Polsce trudniej o antykoncepcję niż w Rosji i na Białorusi - 10/02/2019

48. **Poland** - Donald - Raport: w Polsce trudniej o antykoncepcję niż w Rosji i na Białorusi - 09/02/2019

49. **Poland** - Elle - Dostęp do antykoncepcji w Polsce najgorszy w całej Europie. Tak wynika z badań - 09/02/2019

50. **Poland** - Ofeminin - Dostępność do antykoncepcji w Polsce jest najgorsza w całej Europie [raport] - 09/02/2019

51. **Poland** - NaTemat - Na bordowym końcu. Ta mapa pokazuje, jak tragicznie jest w Polsce pod istotnym względem - 08/02/2019

52. **Poland** - Wiadomości - Dostęp do antykoncepcji w Polsce najgorszy z całej Europy. Spadliśmy na samo dno [raport] - 08/02/2019

53. **Portugal** – SPDC - The 2019 Contraception Atlas is now available - 12/02/2019

54. **Spain** – Lavanguardia - Solo tres países europeos reembolsan el coste de los anticonceptivos - 06/02/2019
55. **UK** - My Voucher Codes - [The best countries to be a woman](https://myvouchercodes.co.uk) - 11/04/2019

56. **UK** - Daily Mail - [Europe's contraception map: Graphic reveals the countries where it's hardest to access birth control (and the UK is third best)](https://www.dailymail.co.uk) - 26/02/2019

57. **USA** - Pass Blue - [Europe's Contraception Gaps: They May Be Wider Than You Think](https://passblue.com) - 29/04/2018
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Organisations supporting the data collection for the Contraception Atlas (in alphabetical order of countries represented):

- Albanian Centre for Population and Development (Albania)
- Oesterreichische Gesellschaft fuer Familienplanung (Austrian Society for Family Planning)
- Sensoa (Belgium)
- Association XY (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association
- Solidarna (Croatia)
- Vaestoliitto (Finland)
- DSW - Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung
- German Foundation for World Population
- IFPA - Sexuality, Information, Reproductive Health and Rights (Ireland)
- AIDOS - Assoziane Italiana Donne per lo Sviluppo Italian Association of Women for Development (Italy)
- University of Iceland
- Seimos Planavimo Ir Seksualines Sveikatos Asociacija Family Planning and Sexual Health Association (Lithuania)
- Rutgers (The Netherlands)
- HERA (North Macedonia)
- Sex og Politik, (Norway)
- P&D Factor- Associação para a Cooperação sobre População e Desenvolvimento, Association for Cooperation on Population and Development (Portugal)
- SRH Serbia
- Federation de Planification Familial Estatal, Family Planning Federation (Spain)
- RFSU, (Sweden)
- Santé sexuelle Suisse Sexual Health Switzerland
- FSRH - the Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (United Kingdom)
- All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health, United Kingdom
ENDNOTES


ii Information provided by Sensoa Belgium through questionnaires sent by EPF and is available through these news outlets: Demorgen, VRT, Newsmonkey, HLN, GVA

iii Information provided by Safe Sex Bulgaria, IPPF EN Member Association through questionnaires sent by EPF

iv Programme of the Finnish Government

v Information provided by the University of Iceland and through the following news outlets: Kjarninn; Visir; Government of Iceland, Hringbraut;

vi Information provided by Rutgers through questionnaires sent by EPF and through the following news outlets: Volkskrant; Parliament of the Netherlands

vii Information provided by HERA from North Macedonia through questionnaires sent by EPF

viii Information provided by FPFE from Spain through EPF questionnaires and is available at this page of the Spanish government

ix Adopted Resolution 2290 (2019) Towards an ambitious Council of Europe agenda for gender equality

x Draft resolution means that the text is still under preparation by the relevant thematic Committee of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. At this stage it does not represent an official document. It becomes an official PACE document after it is adopted by all Members of PACE at a plenary vote

xi The report “Empowering women: promoting access to contraception in Europe” prepared by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, the draft Resolution and the explanatory memorandum can be retrieved here:

xii Draft report on the situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU, in the frame of women’s health (2019/2165(INI)) prepared by the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality is available here:

xiii Motion for a Resolution represents a first phase in the process of the legislative initiative. The next step would be the elaboration of a report and a draft Resolution by a thematically relevant Committee, its adoption at the Committee and finally at the Plenary. Only after the adoption at the Plenary the Resolution and the report become an official document of the European Parliament.

xiv Motion for a Resolution on the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) (Nairobi Summit), the text is available here:

xv Motion for a Resolution on the situation of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the EU, in the frame of women’s health (2019/2165(INI)) prepared by the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality is available here:

xvi Information provided by the Albanian Centre for Population and Development through the questionnaires sent by EPF.

xvii Information retrieved by EPF through desk research, the analysed website can be consulted here: https://www.cidsr.md/en/planificarea-familiala/contraceptivele-orale-combinate/

xviii Information provided by the SRH Serbia IPPF Member through the questionnaires sent by EPF

xix EPF noted these changes on the following websites: Catalonia, France, Luxembourg

xx EPF analysed the following websites for these countries: Armenia, Malta, Poland, Slovenia (website run by MSD) and Slovenia (second page)