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NEWSLETTER in NUMBERS

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In the news

EPF NEWS

EPF Study Tour Philippines 2019
MANILA, 5-10 August— Seven parliamentarians from European countries completed a week-long study tour to the Philippines to learn about reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) in the Southeast Asian country. The participating members of parliament are from Belgium, Finland, Germany, Norway, Portugal, and Spain.

Along with receiving comprehensive briefings about RMNCAH in the Philippines, the MPs held meetings with civil society, government officials, national parliamentarians and UN agencies. The delegation also made a number of site visits to observe the provision of RMNCA healthcare.

The Philippines has made considerable progress on RMNCAH in recent years. A particular stride forward was the adoption of the Reproductive Health Law in 2012, which passed despite strong opposition from the country’s influential catholic bishops. However, significant challenges remain. The unmet need for contraception is high and the teenage pregnancy rate is alarming. Over 500 adolescent girls give birth every day in the Philippines. More than 11 mothers still die every day of preventable causes, related to childbirth and abortion in the Philippines; and for every woman who dies, 20 more suffer complications with serious or long-lasting consequences.

As well as offering an insight into RMNCAH in the country, the study tour looked at how to deal with and overcome opposition on sexual and reproductive health and rights in a predominantly catholic country. Participants had the occasion to meet and talk to decision makers and learn more about arguments and recent developments with regard to sexual and reproductive health in the Philippines.

The study tour was hosted by the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) and organised by the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights.

View the Study Tour photo album
Registration for EWAG 2019 event, "Girls speak out in the European Parliament" now open

BRUSSELS, 31 August 2019 - On Wednesday 9th October, a group of around 20 global youth advocates, newly elected MEPs, civil society and other EU officials will meet in the European Parliament for a meaningful interaction between youth and MEPs on shaping the EU agenda to ensure the EU becomes a true global champion for girls.

This youth-led public event, organised with the support of the S&D Group and EU40, will aim at bringing together EWAG youth advocates and newly elected MEPs to have an exchange on how the EU can scale up its commitment for girls to pursue their goals and achieve their dreams. The European Union must strengthen its role as a global champion for girls supporting their right to decide about their own lives, creating a world in which they can actively participate and thrive.

The EU has made strong promises to girls in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its policies and initiatives such as the new EU Consensus on Development, the Spotlight Initiative, and the Gender Action
Plan II. Future EU leaders must continue putting girls at the centre of their external action and deliver on their promises!

Youth advocates will present the issues that matter most to them and will exchange with MEPs on steps to take to advance these issues. It will be also an opportunity for MEPs to ask questions to the youth and hear their perspectives on what is needed globally to ensure girls’ rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. Youth advocates will be speaking up on shaping the EU agenda to ensure the EU becomes a true global champion for girls.

Register for the event here. Registration closes on Wednesday 2 October.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT NEWS

European Parliament’s Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality calls for increase in SRHR budget line

BRUSSELS, 28 August 2019 – Several members of the European Parliament’s Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) called for an increase in the human development budget line under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) in the EU’s budget for 2020. This budget line can fund sexual and reproductive health and rights, family planning, youth empowerment, education and gender equality. MEPs tabled amendments to increase the line by EUR 450 million to reach a total amount of EUR 650,5 million in 2020. This would allow to partly compensate for the current gap in reaching the EU’s commitment to allocate at least 20% of its Official Development Aid to human development. The FEMM Committee will vote on the 2020 EU budget on 4 September 2019. See more information here.