



Press Note:

The Alliance for Maternal Health Equality welcomes spotlight on Europe during European Commission conference on maternal and newborn health.

In a Europe of ageing populations and decreasing birth rates, too many women still die during pregnancy and childbirth. In 2013 alone, there were an estimated 1900 maternal deaths in Europe.¹ The Alliance for Maternal Health Equality welcomes the focus on Europe's maternal health problems, and the call for evidence and data, arising from DG Research and Innovation's conference - "Together for the next generation: Research and innovation for maternal and newborn health."

The presence of both European and global stakeholders at DG Research and Innovation's conference - "Together for the next generation: Research and innovation for maternal and newborn health" – held in Brussels on 8th December 2015 is a clear indicator that the global South and the global North are no longer on opposite sides when it comes to maternal health. Quite the contrary; they are now working in partnership striving for improved futures for mothers throughout the world.

The Alliance for Maternal Health Equality welcomes this collective approach to the problem, and recognition of the fact that Europe also needs to make progress in maternal and newborn health.

Jacqueline Bowman Busato, Policy Lead for the Alliance highlighted the importance of the conference, *"The conference was timely in that it provided a forum to investigate how research and innovation can support the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals, whilst also taking stock of what was achieved, or not as is the case with maternal health, with the Millennium Development Goals. "*

A clear priority in tackling the problem is the need for real-life evidence and clear statistics on maternal health. This objective is included in the recently launched Manifesto² which calls on national health authorities and international organisations to measure and instigate systems which can hold health mechanisms to account on equitable and universal access to maternal health in Europe. Such systems should be uniform, in order to allow for meaningful comparisons of the situation in each country. Factors that go beyond the health sectors must also be taken into consideration in maternal healthcare assessments: those include poverty, nutrition, work and education status, as well as gender inequalities.

¹ Infographic / http://maternalhealthalliance.eu/policy_action

² Manifesto Objectives:

1. ensure access to high quality maternal healthcare for all by tackling both health policy as well as any other policies this issue touches upon
2. facilitate a more favourable social environment that empowers women to make an informed decision on motherhood
3. focus on real-life evidence and clear statistics on maternal health



The Alliance for Maternal Health Equality will continue to identify and engage with stakeholders to ensure that policies exist and are implemented to deliver equity of access to quality maternal health at all levels.

ABOUT

The Alliance for Maternal Health Equality brings together key actors at EU and national level to work towards ensuring that policies exist and are implemented to deliver equity of access to quality maternal health at all levels.

www.maternalhealthalliance.eu