

Tracking What Counts

A Trends Analysis of European Donor Support to Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights & Family Planning

2023 / 2024

Countdown 2030 Europe is the ‘go-to’ cross-country sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) expert Consortium in Europe seeking to increase European SRHR funding in international cooperation and strengthen political support for sexual and reproductive freedom worldwide. The Consortium is made up of 15 leading European non-governmental organisations and is coordinated by IPPF European Network.

To support these advocacy and accountability efforts, partners track since 2009 yearly policy and financial trends specifically for sexual and reproductive health and family planning (SRH/FP) in their respective countries, namely: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK, in addition to the EU institutions.

This report presents the outcomes of the policy and financial tracking for the last year (financial data for 2023, policy updates for 2024).

The C2030E has embarked on a journey towards decoloniality and in this light, we are trying to do the ‘Tracking What Counts’ report a bit differently this year. In this framework, we want to acknowledge and question the existence of historical and current power imbalances that are still reproduced and maintained by the social and economic power structures we currently work within and strive towards systems based more on global solidarity and equal partnerships. We hope that as we continue working together with donors, and European and Global South partners and allies, we will be able to progressively transform the SRHR and ‘development’ sector, and by extension the nature of this report, towards one analysing more equitable relationships.

Added value of Tracking What Counts

For more details please refer to the methodology section in Annex 1 of the full report



An accurate analysis of real country expenditures towards SRH/FP and SRHR



Matching policy prioritisation with funding landscape



A qualitative lens on European funding for SRHR/FP



An important breakdown per funding channels



A success story of trusted relationships and close advocacy with governments



A long-term trends analysis through an online interactive data tool

Policy trends and highlights

European donors continue to be vocal about the importance of SRH/FP and SRHR in international cooperation. **10 new SRHR related European policy documents** were endorsed by European countries, with different focus: from SRHR being prioritised in foreign, international cooperation, global health and humanitarian strategies, to policies focused on specific regions, particularly Africa.

Where is the money going?

European donors' contributions to SRH/FP in 2023 supported reproductive freedom and helped avert over 4 million unsafe abortions and save almost 10.000 women's and girls' lives¹.

In 2023, European donors **kept the same level of contribution to SRH/FP** as in 2022, providing a total of **1.661 billion Euros** (19 million Euros more than in the previous year), while **overall support to SRHR² increased by 10%** (a total of **3.205 billion Euros**, bringing in additional 286 million Euros). This reveals that in 2023 donors opted to strengthen support to the rights-based agenda or other key SRHR elements such as HIV control, after having prioritised SRH/FP as a core element of this package in 2022.

FEATURED FOCUS: European donors' funding linking SRHR and climate adaptation and resilience

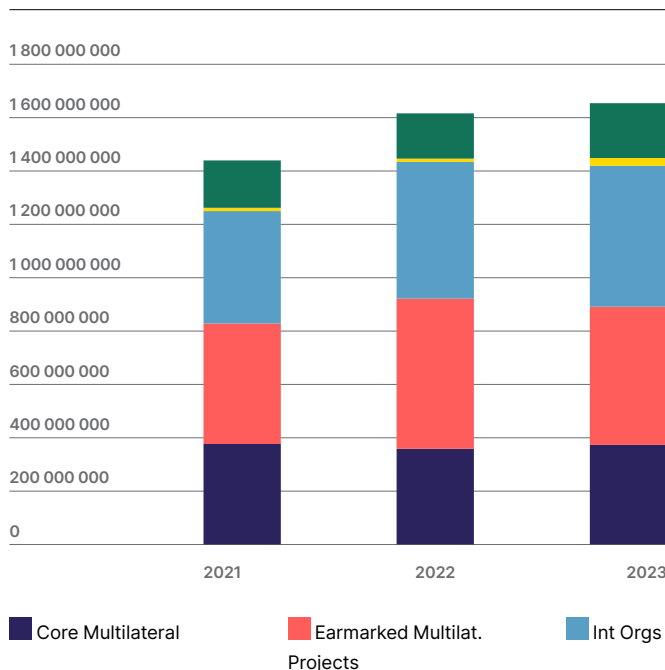


The climate crisis and gender (in)equality are intrinsically linked. SRHR are a pre-condition to achieve gender equality and are thus crucial to adapt and build resilience to the climate crisis gendered impacts. When SRHR are fully realised, people are able to make informed decisions about their lives and the life of their ecosystem, to better manage risks, participate in the public sphere politics and engage in collective climate action.

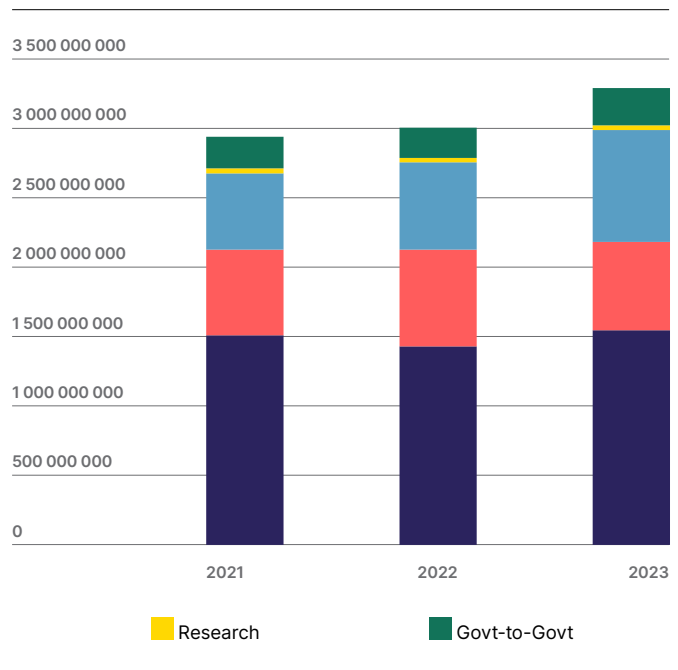
While all 14 European donors under review identify both access to SRHR and the fight against climate change as priorities in their framework for international cooperation, research carried out by C2030E shows that the interlinkage between these two areas is seldom acknowledged in respective policy agendas. This thin recognition at the policy level is also reflected into how European donors programme their funds: only a very small share of resources does in fact target the links between SRHR and climate action.

As the climate crisis is expected to become more severe in the future, and given the **increasing surge in far-right parties across the globe**, **European donors must increase their efforts towards climate solutions that are grounded in reproductive justice**, by politically acknowledging the links between SRHR and climate action, and investing in intersectional approaches that address both.

European donors' support to SRH/FP (Euros)

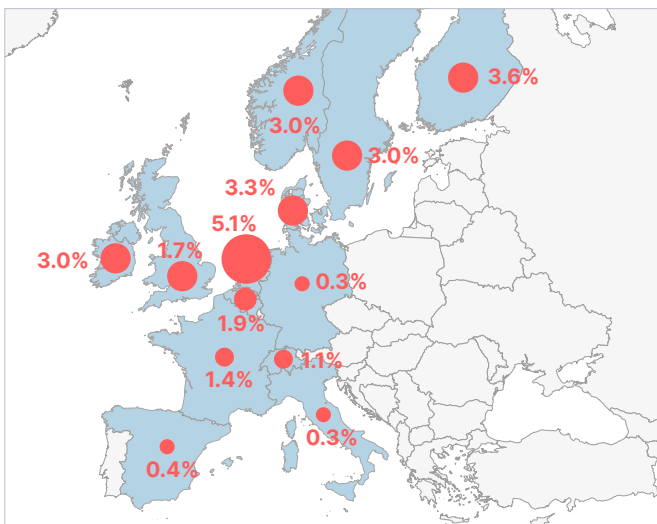


European donors' support to SRHR (Euros)

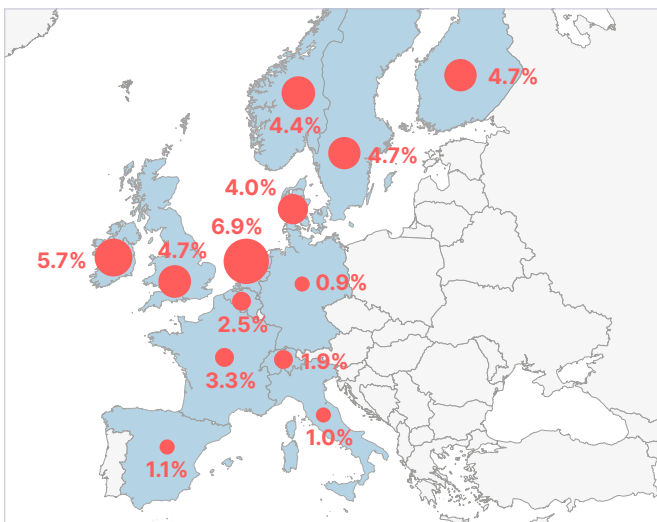


There continues to be significant room to scale up the weight of both SRH/FP and SRHR as a share of countries' annual Official Development Assistance (ODA). In 2023, **individual European donors allocated between 0.2 – 5.1% of their ODA to SRH/FP** (against 0.3 – 4.8% in 2022 and 0.3 – 5.7% in 2021) and **between 0.4 – 6.9% to SRHR** (against 0.9 – 5.9% and 0.8 – 7.5% in the previous years, respectively). This decrease of minimum spending on SRH/FP or SRHR as a part of ODA, while respective volumes of funding have either been kept or increased, is justified by a new historical high of ODA, dating back to 1960.

SRH/FP as % of ODA



SRHR as % of ODA

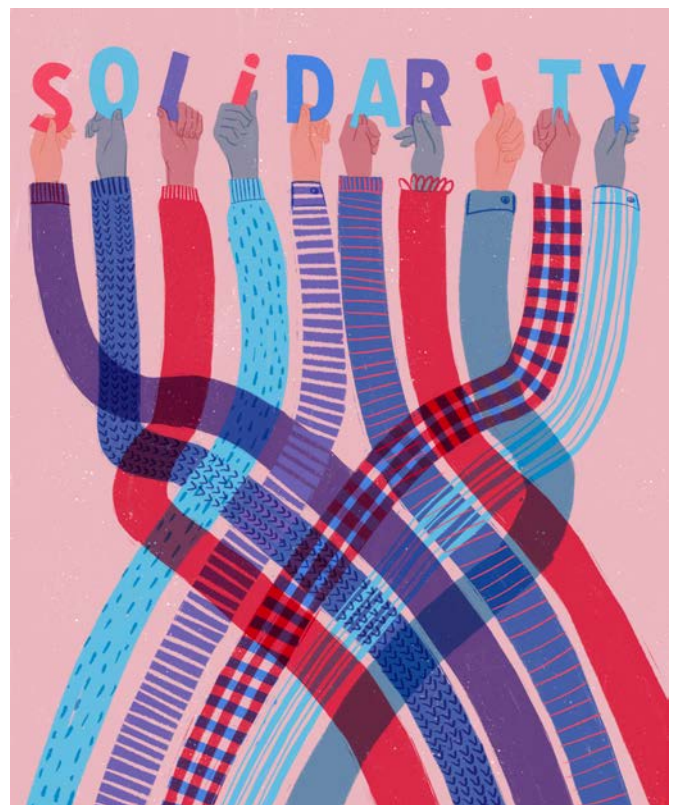


A snapshot of the detailed trends analysis:

Although the overall volume of funds was kept at the same level as in 2022 for SRH/FP and increased for SRHR, this is the first time since many years that C2030E finds **more countries decreasing funding rather than increasing it**³.

The **multilateral system** remains the most used stream for European donors' support to both SRH/FP and SRHR, followed by international organisations & initiatives and government-to-government cooperation. European donors kept the same use of the multilateral system to advance access to SRH/FP and SRHR, most of which was observed in support to multilateral earmarked programmes, including, but not only, the UNFPA Supplies Partnership and humanitarian efforts.

For the first time since 2019, European donors decreased funding to UNFPA. Overall, European governments provided over **653 million Euros** to the agency in support of SRH/FP in 2023, and **674 million Euros** of SRHR, which is 14% and 15% less than in the previous year. Core funding remained the largest type of contribution to the agency, while contributions to the Supplies Partnership programme were the most curtailed, with reductions of 31%.



Erica Borgato

Are European donors keeping up with their international commitments?

European donors have proven to be politically and financially committed to SRHR on several occasions. In 2024 the international community celebrated the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), during which European donors politically recommitted to the agenda, but did not make any new financial pledges. 2025 offers another key outlet to take stock of progress made and implementation of commitments, given that it is the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). Four years after the 25th anniversary of this important milestone, celebrated during the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), our report shows that overall **European donors are on track** to fulfil the financial commitments made on that occasion.

Whether these pledges were ambitious enough or not, it is crucial to note that **the world has changed meanwhile and that SRHR are increasingly under attack**, be it due to the growing crises that hamper access to life-saving services or to a prevailing right-wing shift in power in Europe and worldwide. It is thus more important than ever to raise the level of ambition: on the one hand, European donors must ensure that the promises made at the GEF are indeed delivered, despite announced budget cuts by some governments; on the other, these promises should be scaled up and aligned with partners' countries undeniable growing SRHR needs.

Going forward, the C2030E Consortium is, as always, committed to continue its role in calling for increased investments in this field, whilst ensuring accountability by tracking financial expenditures and the implementation of policy commitments.



Cecilia Castelli

1. Based on the Gutmacher's Family Planning Investment Impact Calculator. This includes only some projects support by European donors and reported as FP, so the numbers would significantly increase if the broader SRHR agenda was also included.
2. More information about what is considered to SRHR can be found in the methodology annex.
3. For further details please consult the full report.



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