

Conference announcement & call for abstracts

Sexual and reproductive health and rights policy research

Last September, 193 governments formally approved a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as a follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). In line with the MDGs, maternal and child health remain essential topics, but in this new framework other aspects of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) play an equally important role in some –if not all– of the Goals.

In order to achieve the targets set for these goals, governments across the world will develop and implement new policies in the coming years which will necessitate an evidence base to ensure their adequacy and effectiveness and to avoid unwanted side effects. Furthermore, the success of their implementation is closely linked to reliable follow-up and monitoring by professionals with the required training and expertise. Finally, regular exchange of knowledge and sharing of experiences between different types of stakeholders and different countries can contribute to improving existing approaches.

Together with 16 international institutions, Ghent University took the initiative of establishing an **Academic Network for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) policy research** to contribute to the translation of the SDGs into practice. The network aims to become a leading group for SRHR policy research and advice, having a profound impact on policies at different levels.



On 30 November 2016, the Network will be officially launched, followed by a conference on SRHR policy research on 1 and 2 December. The conference is open to all researchers, policy makers, students and others that are interested in SRHR policy research. The conference will consist of three parallel thematic sessions per day, with open sessions for all participants and closed sessions for Network members.



Call for abstracts

We are pleased to give our colleagues and students from universities and organisations worldwide the opportunity to present their research on sexual and reproductive health during this conference. The presentations have to address a topic related to SRHR and should make a link to policy. The best abstracts will be selected for oral and poster presentation.

Procedures:

Abstracts should be limited to maximum 2,000 characters and follow this structure:

- Title, authors, affiliation
- Background / problem statement
- Objectives
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusions/Discussion
- Key words: 3–5

Abstracts have to be submitted to anser@ugent.be before 15 October 2016. A scientific committee of senior experts from Network member institutions will conduct a peer review and the final selection of the posters will be announced before 31 October 2016.

Practical information

Venue:

- 30 November 2016 - 17-19u

Official launch of the Academic Network for SRHR Policy Research
Zebrstraat 32/001, 9000 Gent, Belgium

- 1-2 December 2016

Conference on SRHR Policy Research
Het Pand, Onderbergen 1, 9000 Gent, Belgium



Registration fee for non–Network members is 30 euro for one day, 50 euro for both days and includes morning and afternoon refreshments as well as a lunch. Students qualify for a discount fee of 10 euro per day. (All amounts are VAT included). Registration is free for staff of Network partners.

Registration will open as of 10 August 2016

