



FGM has become a European concern. It is estimated that around 600.000 women are living with the consequences of FGM in Europe and that a further 190.000 girls and women are at risk of undergoing the harmful practice in 17 European countries alone. This practice is widely recognized as a violation of human rights; the EU Parliament, in the recommendation “An EU strategy to put an end to female genital mutilation around the world” calls for urgent action. The project CHAT PLUS has the overall goal to prevent female genital mutilation (FGM) in Europe through young people activation. The strategy is shaped around the pivotal role of youth who are empowered to foster dialogue on FGM. The action is implemented with a wide European scope in Italy, Spain, Ireland, Portugal, and The Netherlands; a final event is planned to be implemented in Brussels, to reach members of EU Parliaments and EU stakeholders. WP1 covers management. In WP2 a call for participation engages youth to be trained as Young Change Makers (YCM). In WP3, 375 Behavioral Change Communication activities are carried on by YCM targeting diaspora, communities, potential perpetrators, local authorities, peers, and professionals. In WP4 multi agencies cooperation to fight FGM is boosted with the YCM participation; a Youth Final statement is presented during a meeting at the European Parliament. An in itinere impact evaluation measure change in attitude and practice towards FGM. CHAT Plus outcomes are: Young people with migrant origins stand up against FGM at community level; the capacity of professionals to develop an enabling environment to reduce FGM is enhanced; an effective multi-agency cooperation and partnership to improve practices and mechanisms against FGM is established. The long-term impact of the action is the reduction of the estimated number of girls at risk of FGM through a change in the attitude of the communities, starting from new generations.

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