

Shaping an African-European Partnership on Health – Perspectives from Civil Society

Virtual Conference

On 7 December 2021, VENRO will host the international conference *Shaping an African-European Partnership on Health – Perspectives from Civil Society* in cooperation with CONCORD, Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD and SLOGA. The event will bring together representatives from civil society, government and academia from throughout Europe and Africa to highlight the urgent need for stronger health policies based on solidarity. The conference focuses on the relations between the continents, the opportunities for joint action and the demands of civil society. The following questions will be addressed:

1. How can human rights-based and more resilient health policies be developed? What strategies are needed on the scale of the Africa-EU Partnership?
2. What is the role of civil society in health cooperation between the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU)? How can civil society actors in Africa and Europe be strengthened to play a more active role in shaping health policy?

The challenges facing health systems across the African continent are not new. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of comprehensive cooperation in working towards health equity. In recent years, Germany and the EU have repeatedly emphasised the prioritisation of partnering with Africa. However, the new EU-Africa Strategy only marginally engages with health topics. In this context, the conference aims to promote international cooperation and solidarity in the pursuit of coherent and people-centred health policies. Civil society organisations on both continents can contribute to health equity strategies by making demands and recommendations while ensuring transparency in resilience building.

DATE AND TIME:

7 December 2021

10:00 am – 4:30 pm CET

LOCATION:

Online

Link to the landing page will be sent in the week prior to the event

REGISTRATION:

We kindly ask participants to register **by 2 December 2021**:

↳ [Register here](#)

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AGENDA

Facilitation: Maike Röttger

10:00 am **Welcoming remarks**

Tanya Cox, Director, CONCORD

Maike Röttger, Vice-Chair of the Board, VENRO

10:30 am **Online workshops (Zoom)**

Workshop 1 – How to accelerate the equitable distribution of vaccines on the African continent?

Workshop 2 – How can digitization help enhance healthcare outreach and support the fight against pandemics?

Workshop 3 – How to ensure sexual and reproductive health and rights for all?

Workshop 4 – How can the access to prevention, treatment, care and the consideration of key populations be strengthened within Universal Health Coverage (UHC)?

12:00 pm **Lunch Break**

1:30 pm **Presentation of workshop results and demands from civil society**

Workshop 1 – **Mareike Haase**, Bread for the World

Workshop 2 – **Judith Aßländer and Carolin Gunesch**, German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Association (GLRA)

Workshop 3 – **Caroline Kwamboka**, European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual & Reproductive Rights (EPF)

Workshop 4 – **Melanie Otto**, Action against AIDS Germany

2:30 pm **Break**



The project "Towards an open, fair and sustainable Europe in the world – EU Presidency Project 2020-2022" is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs (VENRO), the Portuguese Non-Governmental Development Organizations Platform (Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD), the Slovenian NGO Platform for Development, Global Education and Humanitarian Aid (SLOGA), and the European NGO confederation for relief and development (CONCORD).

2:45 pm **Advancing Africa-Europe Cooperation on Health – Potential and Challenges for Civil Society**

Digital round table (livestream)

Dr Bernhard Braune, Head of Division Global Health Policy and Financing, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Prof Dr Walter Bruchhausen, Co-Speaker of the Steering Committee, German Alliance for Global Health Research (GLOHRA)

Dr Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana, Member of the European Parliament – Greens/EFA

Cecilia Lodonu-Senoo, Executive Director, Hope for Future Generations (HFFG)

4:15 pm **Closing words**

Albin Keuc, Director of Slovenian Global Action (SLOGA)

4:30 pm **End**

