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IMPACT REPORT 2025



End FGM
EUROPEAN NETWORK



PICTURES FROM OUR 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 JUNE 2025 - BRUSSELS TOWN HALL



DID YOU KNOW BRUSSELS HAS A FEMINIST FOUNTAIN?

JUST A FEW MINUTES FROM BRUSSELS' GRAND PLACE STANDS THE **FEMINE COUNTERPART** TO THE **FAMOUS MANNEKEN PIS**. **JEANNEKE PIS** WAS INSTALLED IN **1987** TO HELP **"RESTORE EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN."**



THE IDEA REPORTEDLY CAME TO ITS CREATOR OVER BREAKFAST, WHEN HE SKETCHED THE DESIGN ON A PAPER TABLECLOTH. AFTER FINISHING THE DRAWING, HE IS SAID TO HAVE DECLARED: **"NOW WE HAVE GENDER EQUALITY."**



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2025 IN NUMBERS

THE REALITY



230M+ WOMEN AND GIRLS AFFECTED BY FGM GLOBALLY (UNICEF 2024)



94 COUNTRIES ACROSS THE WORLD HAVE DOCUMENTED CASES OF FGM



600,000+ WOMEN & GIRLS LIVING WITH FGM IN EUROPE



190,000+ GIRLS AT RISK IN EUROPE WITHOUT SUSTAINED PREVENTION WORK AND SYSTEMS

THE NETWORK

42

42 MEMBER ORGANISATIONS ACROSS **16 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**



3 NEW MEMBERS JOINED IN 2025, EXCEEDING ANNUAL TARGET OF 2



19 ACTIVE AMBASSADORS FROM 8 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

SYSTEMIC IMPACT



1,095 PROFESSIONALS TRAINED THROUGH THE END FGM E-CAMPUS



LAUNCH A €120,000 ANNUAL REGRANTING BUDGET FOR SURVIVOR-LED GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS



DOZENS OF MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT JOINING THE #MEPS2ENDFGM INITIATIVE



2 EU PRESIDENCIES ENGAGED + 4 EU CONSULTATION SUBMISSIONS

REACH AND VISIBILITY



340,030 SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS ACROSS ALL PLATFORMS



25,817 FOLLOWERS

REACH AND VISIBILITY



15 MEDIA APPEARANCES
INCLUDING BBC, RTE,
EUOBSERVER, NATURE...

B B C **RTE**
euobserver

Purple Chair



3,500+ LISTENERS OF
THE PURPLE CHAIR PODCAST
ON VARIOUS PLATFORMS,
SUCH AS YOUTUBE,
SPOTIFY, AMAZON MUSIC,
TRIPLING THE ORIGINAL TARGET

ORGANISATIONAL STRENGTH



93% OF SURVEY
RESPONDENTS
CONFIRM STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVES REMAIN
VERY RELEVANT



71% RATE
NETWORK
MEMBERSHIP
AS **HIGHLY**
BENEFICIAL



43% FINANCIAL
SUSTAINABILITY SCORE
TOP STRUCTURAL
PRIORITY FOR
2026–2027

A WORD FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS

"WHAT GIVES ME HOPE IS SEEING YOUNG ACTIVISTS, VICTIM/SURVIVORS, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS SHAPING CONVERSATIONS AT EVERY LEVEL; FROM LOCAL SPACES TO EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS. THE FUTURE OF THIS MOVEMENT DEPENDS ON TRUSTING AND RESOURCING THOSE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE TO LEAD LASTING CHANGE, SO FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN LIVE FREE FROM FGM."

AMINATA SIDIBE CO-PRESIDENT OF END FGM EUROPEAN NETWORK

In 2025, the movement to end female genital mutilation (FGM) in Europe kept demonstrating a fundamental truth: when survivors, affected communities, activists, frontline professionals, and organisations work together, change becomes possible.

Across Europe, our 19 Ambassadors, young activists, and women and girls from affected communities contributed to strengthening engagement and shaping key conversations. They participated in national consultations, engaged with European institutions, facilitated dialogue with decision-makers, delivered training to professionals, and **challenged harmful narratives that continue to stigmatise affected communities.**

This work remains essential because the risks are still real. Girls continue to face protection gaps. Survivors and affected women and girls encounter persistent barriers in healthcare, asylum systems, child protection structures, and access to justice.

In several European countries and in international fora, anti-rights movements have increasingly **instrumentalised FGM to fuel racism and anti-migrant discourse.**

We have firmly rejected this instrumentalisation of our work. FGM is a severe form of gender-based violence and a serious violation of human rights, causing long-term physical and psychological harm.

It is rooted in structural inequality and patriarchy, and it cannot be reduced to a political tool. Throughout 2025, End FGM EU continued to **engage in institutional spaces, including the European Parliament,** to ensure that FGM is addressed as a human rights and gender-based violence issue, and not instrumentalised for political purposes.

This year, End FGM EU further strengthened its role as a European feminist network.

For the first time, **grassroots and community-based organisations have accessed dedicated financial support** through the regranting scheme, with grants of €24,000 to €30,000 per organisation for 4–5 organisations annually. Survivor-led expertise continued to inform advocacy at both national and European levels, and intergenerational dialogue spaces were reinforced across the Network.



Aminata Sidibé and Rohma Ullah at our 2025 General Assembly

"2025 SHOWED THAT PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE WHEN SURVIVORS, ACTIVISTS, GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS, AND ALLIES WORK TOGETHER FOR CHANGE. BUT ENDING FGM REQUIRES SUSTAINED POLITICAL COURAGE AND LONG TERM INVESTMENT. A SYSTEMIC FORM OF VIOLENCE NEEDS SYSTEMIC LONG TERM SOLUTIONS, INCLUDING SUSTAINABLE SUPPORT FOR GRASSROOTS FEMINIST ORGANISATIONS AND SURVIVOR LED MOVEMENTS DRIVING CHANGE ACROSS EUROPE AND BEYOND."

ROHMA ULLAH CO-PRESIDENT OF END FGM EUROPEAN NETWORK

This direct investment in grassroots leadership marks a shift in how the Network supports those closest to affected communities from coordination to concrete resourcing.

Nonetheless, we must confront the persisting challenges we are faced with. **Progress remains fragile.** Gains achieved over the past decade are increasingly under pressure, and nothing can be taken for granted.

Feminist organisations across Europe operate in an increasingly constrained environment marked by shrinking civic space and financial insecurity.

Sustaining this work requires political commitment, feminist financing, and long-term investment.

Today, more than ever, we call on institutions, governments, donors, partners, allies, and stakeholders to join us in **building a future free from FGM**. In a context of shrinking civic space, rising anti-rights movements, and increasing pressure on feminist civil society, long-term investment is essential.

Our 2025 campaign focused on the theme **#Invest2PreventFGM**; which was, and remains, a call to sustained action.

**Aminata Sidibé and
Rohma Ullah**

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR



"IN 2025 THE ORGANISATION MOVED FROM PRIMARILY REPORTING ACTIVITIES TOWARDS STRENGTHENING THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR ITS LONG-TERM IMPACT AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTRIBUTION "

MARIANNE NGUENA KANA DIRECTOR OF END FGM EU

2025 marked a decisive year of strategic transition for End FGM EU. It was the year the organisation moved from primarily reporting on activities to strengthening the evidence base for its long-term impact and institutional contribution. It also marked the beginning of implementing the recommendations and action plan from the Network's ten-year evaluation, alongside the consolidation of new management across the organisation.

The external Mid-Term Strategic Review of the 2023–2027 Strategic Plan, conducted by ODS (Organisation Development Support) - Greater impact in December 2025, confirmed both the legitimacy and the growing influence of End FGM EU across Europe. It also identified priority areas for strengthening, including impact measurement, monitoring systems, documentation of national-level influence, and financial resilience. These recommendations are now being integrated into the Strategic Plan's implementation phase.

Three structural decisions shaped 2025:

First, we initiated a redesign of some organisational activities for 2026, redesigning lower-impact activities to prioritise measurable outcomes

Second, we launched a new mechanism to deepen the inclusivity and reach of the Network: the regrantsing scheme, with an annual budget of €120,000 and grants of €24,000–€30,000 per organisation for 4–5 organisations annually. This provides direct, semi-flexible support to survivor-led, grassroots, and community-based organisations working in high-prevalence or under-resourced contexts across Europe.

Each sub-grantee also benefits from tailored non-financial organisational support. In parallel, peer-learning exchanges were relaunched across the full membership.

Third, we accelerated financial diversification. The Framework Partnership Agreement 2026–2028 provided increased stability for the period ahead, alongside the onboarding of new philanthropic partners in 2025. This year also marked the conclusion of a long-standing and highly valued partnership: after seven years of foundational support, the Sigrid Rausing Trust concluded its grant to End FGM EU. Their investment has been essential to the development of the Network, and we are deeply grateful.

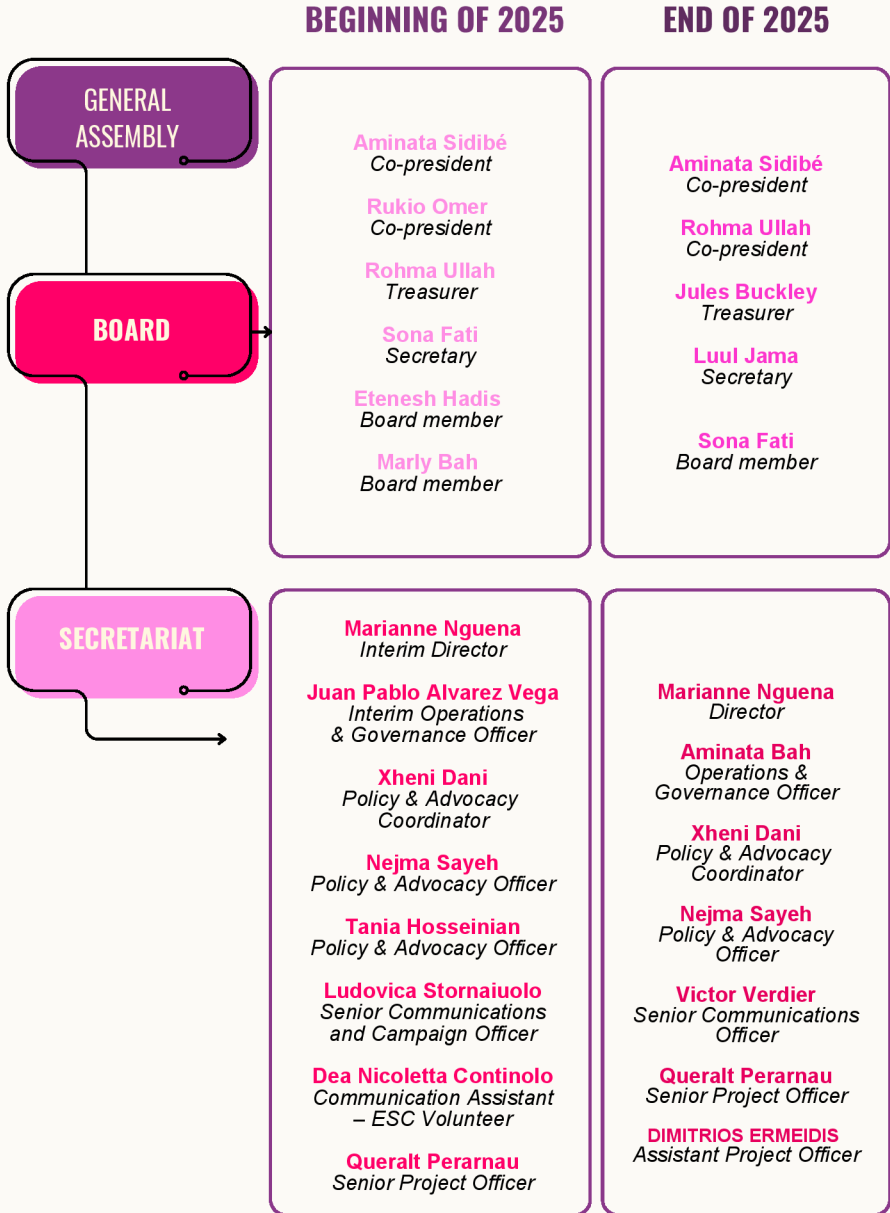
The political environment demands greater focus, not less. With anti-rights movements gaining ground across Europe, feminist civil society under increasing pressure, and funding for gender equality becoming more uncertain, the coming period will require both strategic clarity and organisational resilience. Our priorities are clear: strengthening national-level influence through our Members, reinforcing long-term financial sustainability, and further embedding intersectionality as an operational practice and a framework for impact measurement. End FGM EU enters the second half of its 2023–2027 Strategic Plan with a clear sense of what we are delivering well, what we need to adjust, and with clarity about both the challenges ahead and the responsibility we carry.

As you read this report, I invite you to look beyond the activities documented here and to see the movement they represent. Eleven years of collective work, carried by the communities at the heart of everything we do. What we have built together is not only a Network. It is a shared commitment to a world free from FGM, sustained through some of the most difficult conditions that feminist civil society is facing.

The work continues. And we are glad to have you with us!

Marianne Nguena Kana

WHO ARE WE?



FGM IN EUROPE TODAY:

WHY INVESTING IN PREVENTION CANNOT WAIT

"IN 2025, ANTI RIGHTS MOVEMENTS HAVE INSTRUMENTALISED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, INCLUDING FGM, TO ADVANCE ANTI MIGRATION NARRATIVES."



600,000+
WOMEN & GIRLS
LIVING WITH FGM IN
EUROPE



190,000+
GIRLS AT RISK WITHOUT
SUSTAINED PREVENTION
WORK AND SYSTEMS



10+
YEARS OF
WORK TO END FGM
IN EUROPE AND
BEYOND

Globally, **230 million women and girls are affected by FGM** worldwide (UNICEF 2024), and FGM is documented in at least 94 countries (The Time is Now: End FGM, An Urgent Need for Global Response 2025). **In Europe, more than 600,000 women and girls live with the consequences of FGM**, while at least 190,000 girls remain at risk in the absence of sustained prevention systems. These figures are likely higher.

FGM is a severe form of gender-based violence and a serious violation of human rights. It causes long-term physical and psychological harm, undermines bodily integrity and autonomy, and perpetuates structural gender inequality. It also generates significant social and economic costs for individuals, communities, and public systems.

Evidence highlights the scale of impact. Prevention is first and foremost a human rights imperative. It is also a cost-effective structural investment. Women who have undergone FGM face significantly higher rates of childbirth complications, including a 30% increase in obstetric complications;¹the lifetime costs associated with FGM, including healthcare, loss of productivity, and broader system-level burdens, are estimated at over \$50,000 per woman; and girls affected by FGM are significantly less likely to complete primary education (UNFPA, WHO, WORLD BANK).

Ending FGM breaks intergenerational cycles of violence. It strengthens health systems, supports gender equality, and contributes to the full participation of women and girls in society.

As **the only European Network representing FGM survivors and affected communities**, our work is essential to ensure that adequate legal frameworks, measures, investments and services are put in place at the European level and implemented accordingly at the national level. Key decisions that affect the lives of millions are made at the EU level every day.

Our role is to ensure that these decisions do not overlook FGM affected communities or infringe upon their fundamental rights. We are here to **hold EU institutions and Member States accountable on their obligations to protect women and girls** from violence, support those who survived it, and proactively create prevention measures.

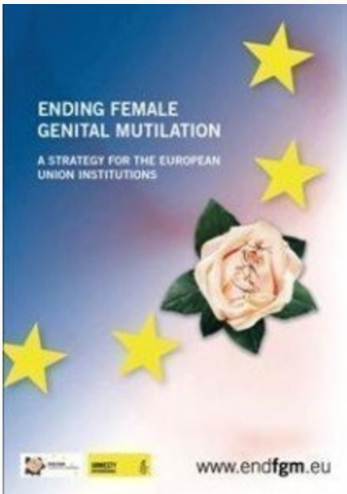
In 2025, the political context in Europe became increasingly complex. In several Member States, anti-rights movements have instrumentalised violence against women and girls, including FGM, to advance anti-migration narratives rather than strengthen human rights protections. Feminist civil society has faced shrinking civic space, **increased funding insecurity**, and growing pressure on its ability to operate.



2025 marked a rise in AI generated propaganda using women's safety narratives to promote anti migrant rhetoric

Established in 2014, End FGM EU now brings together **42 member organisations across 16 European countries**, forming a coordinated European network for change. The Network works to influence policy, support grassroots action, strengthen evidence, and amplify the voices of FGM-affected communities.

2014



2024



Network Growth in 2025 - a strategic expansion

In 2025, End FGM EU welcomed 3 new member organisations, exceeding the annual target of 2.



- **Ahcama** (Spain) - strengthening the Network's grassroots presence and visibility in the Iberian Peninsula;
- **Nosotras Onlus** (Italy) - reinforcing grassroots capacity in one of Europe's highest-prevalence countries;
- **Réparons l'Excision** - hospital unit (France): the first medical institution to join the Network.

In 2025, our advocacy focused on **supporting the implementation of the EU Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence**, and the EU implementation monitoring of the Istanbul Convention. We consolidated our role as a key civil society player in human rights policy-making, through enhanced engagement with institutions at the EU, Council of Europe and UN levels. We further strengthened the evidence base through our interactive European prevalence map and contributed to the 2025 Global Report on FGM/C, co-produced with Equality Now and the US End FGM/C Network.



Through the **#Invest2PreventFGM** campaign, we called on institutions, donors, and civil society to prioritise prevention, scale community-led solutions, and address gaps in laws, funding, and policy. In parallel, we invested in the long-term sustainability of the movement by expanding professional training through the End FGM EU E-Campus, launching a €120,000 annual regranting scheme for survivor-led and grassroots organisations over three years, strengthening structured peer learning across the Network, and initiating a strategic redesign of activities following the 2023–2027 Mid-Term Strategic Review.

Prioritising prevention across all sectors is essential to ensure the health, autonomy, and rights of women and girls, break cycles of violence, and advance gender equality. **Effective prevention requires coordinated action** across policy, funding, and community systems. This is what End FGM EU exists to deliver.

WHAT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS:

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE EXTERNAL MID-TERM STRATEGIC REVIEW

At the end of 2025, as part of its internal strategic processes, End FGM EU commissioned an **external Mid-Term Strategic Review of its 2023–2027 Strategic Plan**, conducted by ODS (Organisation Development Support) - Greater Impact. The review drew on a membership and Ambassador survey, as well as in-depth interviews with a wide range of stakeholders, including external partners and institutional actors.

Sharing the key findings is part of End FGM EU's **commitment to transparency and accountability** toward its Members, staff, Ambassadors, funders, partners and the communities affected by female genital mutilation that it serves.



What the survey told us:

71%

RATE
MEMBERSHIP
AS
HIGHLY
BENEFICIAL

93%

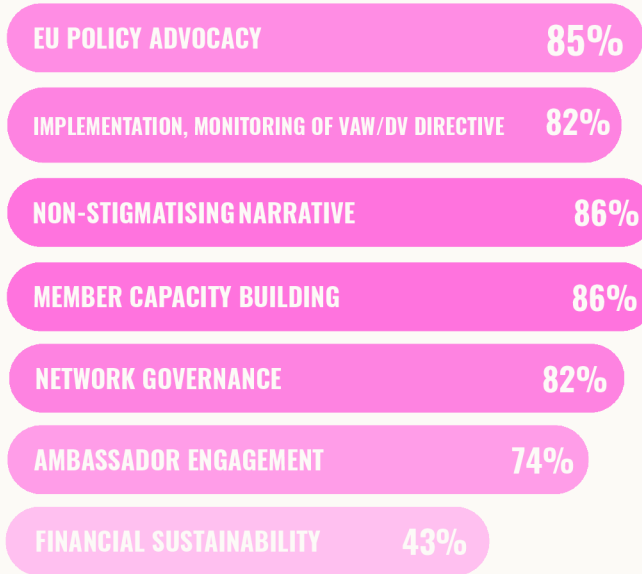
SAY STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVES
REMAIN
VERY
RELEVANT

71%

CONFIRM
THE NETWORK
APPLIES
AN INTERSECTIONAL
LENS

Progress on the Strategic Objectives

Percentage of respondents reporting 'some' or 'strong' progress on each objective.



The numbers tell a consistent story. Across the membership, **93% of respondents confirm that the Network's Strategic Objectives remain highly relevant, a signal of strong collective direction.** 71% rate membership as highly beneficial, and the same proportion confirm that the Network applies an intersectional lens in its work, reflecting both value creation and progress in embedding intersectionality as an operational approach.

Progress across the Strategic Objectives is strong. Narrative change and member capacity building both score 86%, followed closely by EU policy advocacy at 85% and network governance at 82%. Implementation of the VAW/DV Directive is already at 82%, despite entering into force only in 2024, reflecting the Network's early operational readiness. Ambassador engagement stands at 74%, highlighting strong programme performance alongside the need for more systematic documentation of national-level impact.

Financial sustainability remains the only area of significant concern, at 43%. This reflects the ongoing constraints of short-term project funding, which limit the Network's ability to plan and operate at the level required by its institutional role. In response, 2025 marked a structural shift: securing the Framework Partnership Agreement 2026–2028, expanding philanthropic partnerships, and obtaining a formal Board commitment to increase unrestricted income. The trajectory is set; implementation is now the priority.

Financial sustainability shows the greatest scope for progress and has triggered the most decisive action. In 2025, End FGM EU secured the FPA 2026 - 2028, welcomed new funders, and the Board formally **committed to financial resilience as the top structural priority** for 2026 -2027.

Five key findings from the mid-term Review



GREATER ORGANISATIONAL STABILITY

THE REVIEW FINDS END FGM EU HAS SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHENED ITS **ORGANISATIONAL STABILITY** AND **OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS** COMPARED TO PREVIOUS STRATEGY CYCLES. THE SECRETARIAT IS WIDELY DESCRIBED AS **MORE STABLE**, WITH IMPROVED COORDINATION, CLEARER COMMUNICATION, AND STRONGER OUTREACH TO MEMBERS INCLUDING SMALLER ORGANISATIONS.



STRONG EU ADVOCACY, GROWING NATIONAL REACH

END FGM EU HAS CONTRIBUTED TO KEEPING FGM ON THE EU POLICY AGENDA THROUGH SUSTAINED, EVIDENCE-BASED ADVOCACY. THE REVIEW RECOMMENDS STRENGTHENING SYSTEMATIC DOCUMENTATION OF MEMBERS' NATIONAL-LEVEL WORK A PRIORITY ACTIVELY BEING ADDRESSED FOR THE NEXT STRATEGY CYCLES.



PEER LEARNING: FORMALISING WHAT ALREADY WORKS

MEMBERS CONSISTENTLY CITE KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE, CROSS-NETWORK LEARNING, AND PEER SOLIDARITY AS THE MOST VALUABLE DIMENSIONS OF NETWORK MEMBERSHIP. THE REVIEW LED DIRECTLY TO THE INTRODUCTION OF END FGM EU'S RELAUNCH OF THE PEER LEARNING PROGRAMME.



REGANTING: INVESTING DIRECTLY IN GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP

THE NEW REGANTING SCHEME €120,000 PER YEAR OVER THREE YEARS, SUPPORTING 4–5 SURVIVOR-LED OR COMMUNITY-BASED MEMBER ORGANISATIONS PER CYCLE WITH GRANTS OF €24,000 TO €30,000 TRANSLATES END FGM EU'S INTERSECTIONALITY COMMITMENTS INTO CONCRETE FINANCIAL PRACTICE. EACH ORGANISATION ALSO RECEIVES MENTORING, LEARNING CONVERSATIONS, AND PEER EXCHANGE.



FINANCIAL RESILIENCE: STRUCTURAL CHALLENGE, ACTIVE RESPONSE

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY IS THE PRINCIPAL STRUCTURAL CHALLENGE IDENTIFIED BY THE REVIEW. END FGM EU IS ADDRESSING IT THROUGH THE FPA 2026–2028, NEW PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERSHIPS, AND A STRONG BOARD COMMITMENT TO INCREASING THE NETWORK UNRESTRICTED INCOME.

ADVANCING EUROPEAN POLICIES TO END FGM

EU LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY OUTCOMES 2025

During 2025, our advocacy efforts focused on three interconnected priorities: **maintaining and increasing action on the elimination of FGM** through participation in policy-making processes and monitoring; strengthening relations with policy-makers and civil society partners; consolidating our presence in the EU, European and international spaces as a leading actor in the movement to eliminate FGM and GBV.

Key moments:



Annual Campaign Launch of #Invest2PreventFGM:

Building a Future Free from FGM 4 February 2025, European Parliament, on **the occasion of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM**. This was a key opportunity to reconsolidate alliances with policymakers and reaffirm joint commitments towards a world free from gender-based violence, such as FGM.

The launch event was co-hosted with MEP Maria Noichl (S&D, Germany) and featured several members and the presentation of our year-long campaign spanning sectors, with a comprehensive toolkit for coordinated advocacy at the local, national, and European levels.

Formal engagement with EU Council Presidencies:

End FGM EU engaged through meetings and formal written recommendations with the rotating **Presidencies of the EU Council, Poland and Denmark**. The recommendations responded to the presidencies' priorities and programmes, calling for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention and VAW/DV Directive, increased protection and prevention mechanisms for FGM-affected women, in particular in the context of asylum processes, improved and systematised GBV data collection and civil society funding and participation.





European Week of Action for Girls (EWAG) 2025:

In 2025, two of our Youth Ambassadors joined the **delegation of youth advocates** coming to Brussels for direct advocacy with EU institutions, on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child (11 October). Advocacy actions included a takeover with MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen, a flagship European Parliament event with MEPs from the LIBE/FEMM/DEVE committees, a full-day takeover with Commissioner for Equality Hadja Lahbib, and meetings with representatives from various EU Member States, hosted by the Swedish Permanent Representation.

These activities were organised as part of a broader coalition effort with partners including Plan International, IPPF EN, EPF, and DSW.

Knowledge Sharing Event (June 2025):

A participatory event held with members and led by the Secretariat Policy and Advocacy team, we focused on **Countering anti-rights narratives and the instrumentalisation of FGM**, sharing experiences, perspectives, and tools to increase our network's resilience towards anti-rights actors. In September 2025, End FGM EU, together with Members of the European Parliament, issued a joint press release condemning the weaponisation of women's rights in the European Parliament plenary debate on migration, reinforcing the Network's role as both an advocacy actor and a defender of democratic and feminist values.



Recognition of our expertise:

The End FGM EU Director was invited to provide expert views in the European Parliament's **exchange of views on female genital mutilation**, as well as consulted by the European Commission and Member States regarding the transposition of the EU Directive on combating violence against women.

Contributions to EU strategic consultations in 2025: including the Civil Society Strategy, Roadmap and Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030, Anti-Racism Strategy 2026-2030, LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026-2030.



Consolidation of the Advocacy Working Group with regular meetings, resource and knowledge sharing



Monitoring the implementation of the EU Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence, and participating in implementation workshops organised by the European Commission for Member States authorities. **Being invited to these otherwise inaccessible spaces for civil society organisations demonstrates the recognition of our tireless work and the improved partnerships that result from these efforts.**

In 2025, the policy and advocacy team started a mapping of the Directive implementation, focusing on the articles most relevant for the elimination of female genital mutilation. Based on the collected responses, the initial findings indicated several implementation gaps.

What the monitoring reveals:

- Criminalisation exists: FGM is illegal in all responding Member States.
- Specialist services remain underfunded: Art. 27 obligations (specialist FGM survivor support) are partially or insufficiently implemented across all responding countries.
- Implementation gap persists: the distance between legal text and operational reality remains significant, and civil society organisations continue to fill state obligations.
- National monitoring is fragmented: comparable data across Member States is still unavailable, limiting accountability.
- Survivor-centred services are inconsistent: access to FGM-specific healthcare, legal advice, and psychosocial support depends on geography or socio-economic privilege rather than rights.

These findings directly informed the VAW/DV Directive monitoring questionnaire, **creating a coherent accountability chain** that supports implementation.



Belgium shadow report key data (GAMS / End FGM EU, January 2025)

In 2025, the policy and advocacy team joined forces with GAMS Belgium to develop a **shadow report** for the first thematic evaluation of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention by Belgium and had the opportunity to exchange jointly with the group of experts on action against violence against women and domestic violence (GREVIO).



What emerged from this report is that **35,000 women and girls are affected nationally**, including 16,500 in Flanders, the least-funded region. Zero convictions under Art. 409 Belgian Criminal Code criminalising FGM. GAMS Belgium forced to emergency fundraise in 2024 to avoid redundancies. The shadow report's findings directly informed the VAW/DV Directive monitoring questionnaire, creating a coherent accountability mechanism linking GREVIO monitoring and EU Directive implementation.



Engagement at the national level through Members:

2025 was a **particularly difficult year for members' capacity**, due to funding cuts, increasing and concurrent priorities, and attacks on their work. To support advocacy efforts at the national level, the Policy and Advocacy team engaged the membership through the Advocacy Working Group, ensuring that End FGM EU's advocacy reflected the needs of members' national contexts and that recommendations on key policies were available for use at the national level.



In 2025, the Network developed **accessible resources** designed for direct use by members: MFF recommendations tailored to national advocacy efforts around the next European long-term budget, developed in consultation with the Advocacy Working Group and partners; and executive summaries of the position papers on racism and FGM and on religious discrimination and FGM, condensed into clear and concise briefs for national advocacy purposes.

International partnerships in line with the European agenda



In 2025, the Network strengthened its global work and impact through partnerships and participation in key events.

Development of new resources. In 2025, we launched in collaboration with Equality Now and the US End FGM/C Network an update of the global report: **“The time is now: End Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, an urgent need for a global response”**. This report, available in English, French, Arabic and Italian, highlights the urgent need to eradicate FGM by 2030 while showcasing the latest data available and amplifying Survivors’ voices with the overall objective of stressing the global aspect of FGM and the need for increased investment and prevention.

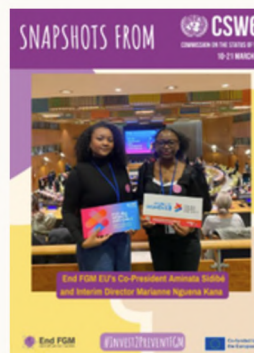
Strengthening global partnerships:

The Network actively engaged with global and regional partners, including through joint work with the Global Platform for Action to End FGM/C, to coordinate advocacy efforts. Key international moments included:

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69):

The Network strengthened its role in shaping global responses to FGM/C by co-organising two high-level side events with the Global Platform for Action to End FGM/C, bringing together governments, survivors, researchers, and donors to advance coordinated action towards 2030.

The Network also contributed to discussions within the FGM Donor Working Group on the implications of a rapidly shifting funding landscape and the need for coordinated responses amid declining international resources.



World Health Summit:

At the 2025 World Health Summit in Berlin, the End FGM European Network joined global partners to host a powerful roundtable on the 14th of October titled “Addressing Female Genital Mutilation / Cutting and its Medicalisation as a Global Health Emergency.”

Donors Working Group (October 2025):

End FGM EU took part in a 3 days event in Pretoria, South Africa on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Donors Working Group to end female genital mutilation. The first two days were an opportunity for civil society focusing ending FGM in Africa to exchange experiences and good practices and build joint recommendations for Donors. The third day, civil society was invited to discuss directly with Donors and reflect on priorities for the future, focusing on supporting the End FGM/C African Network.

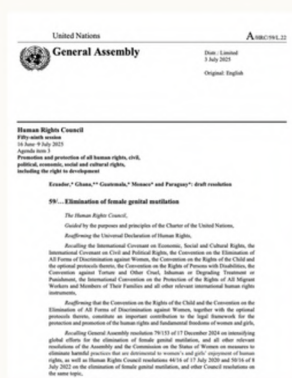


Investing in global spaces:

The Network officially was granted the consultative status with ECOSOC, allowing us to participate directly and more meaningfully in UN processes.

The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a new resolution calling for the acceleration of efforts to end FGM globally

The focus of the resolution is on the transformative power of digital tools and calls for the development and investment in innovation while acknowledging the danger medicalisation and cross-border FGM represents. In an effort led by the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso, the Network was consulted during the preparatory phase, we also had the opportunity together with other partners to share our proposed amendments and recommendations. As part of the process, our new young ambassador Riham Ibrahim and former co-president Rukio Omer both participated in a closed-door retreat organised by the Permanent Missions of the African Group to share their views, experience and expertise on the topic.



FGM recognised for the first time in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly annual declaration

We participated in a civil society consultation organised by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on the topic of Sexual and reproductive rights, ahead of the annual meeting of the assembly. We made the case for the outcome document to recognise, for the first time, female genital mutilation as an issue within the countries of the OSCE, as a form of gender-based violence deserving particular attention in the provision of SRHR - a direct result of sustained civil society advocacy by End FGM EU and its partners.



Enhancing global solidarity:

End FGM EU issued statements throughout 2025, Reaffirming our commitment to intersectional feminism and global solidarity, in 2025, it was more than ever necessary to ensure our movement was standing strong and in solidarity with the world.

Expressing deep solidarity following the tragic, preventable **death of a one-month-old baby girl in The Gambia due to FGM**, calling for immediate investigation, strict enforcement of the 2015 ban, and increased international funding for prevention; denouncing the introduction of a **US bill amending FGM law to include gender-affirming care for anyone under the age of 18**.



Urgent call for EU action to protect women and girls in Sudan

In November, the End FGM European Network and members of the Sudanese diaspora called on the European Union to **strengthen its action in Sudan** and protect women and girls affected by female genital mutilation. With ongoing conflict, displacement, collapsed health services and widespread sexual and gender-based violence, women and girls in a country with one of the highest FGM prevalence rates face increased risk. The letter urges the European Union to take immediate action to end hostilities and ensure protection and support.

Expression of solidarity with Palestine

The Network issued a **joint statement standing with Palestine** and condemning the inaction of EU governments in the face of the ongoing genocide and apartheid highlighting that the movement against gender-based violence and FGM cannot be separated from the broader struggle against all forms of oppression and violence.





OUR PROGRAMMES

PROJECT SUMMARY TABLE FOR 2025

In 2025, End FGM EU implemented five active projects, each contributing to the Network's twin strategic priorities of advancing the end-FGM agenda in Europe and consolidating the Network as a sustainable collective force.

This year also marked the launch of SAFE, a new transnational project addressing FGM and Early and Forced Marriage.

PROJECT	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	KEY RESULTS 2025	POPULATION REACHED
 <p>End FGM E-Campus</p>	<p>Designing a communication, dissemination, and endorsement strategy to promote and ensure visibility of the End FGM E-Campus.</p>	<p>1,095 registered active users (June 2025). Endorsed by 50+ organisations, including UNHCR.</p>	<p>Professionals from 8 European countries; from health, child protection, asylum, education sectors,...</p>
 <p>Join Our Chain</p>	<p>Prevention and elimination of FGM and Early and Forced Marriage (EFM) through awareness-raising and behaviour change, giving a voice to community concerns and needs at the political level, putting EU political resolution into practice.</p>	<p>International conference at EU level with 45 participants and 287 onlineviewers. Community engagement with EU policy-makers with bilateral meetings including Hadja Lahbib, Commissioner on Equality; Preparedness and Crisis Management.</p>	<p>European wide campaign and advocacy actions together with our members from Italy, Germany and Ireland.</p>
 <p>Purple Chair Podcast (Erasmus+)</p>	<p>Purple Chair Podcast (Erasmus+) Increase awareness among European youth and residents about FGM and other forms of gender-based violence through accessible and youth-friendly digital content.</p>	<p>The Purple Chair series achieved over 3.500 listeners in 2025, tripling the original target.</p>	<p>The Purple Chair podcast is available worldwide through platforms like Spotify and YouTube.</p>

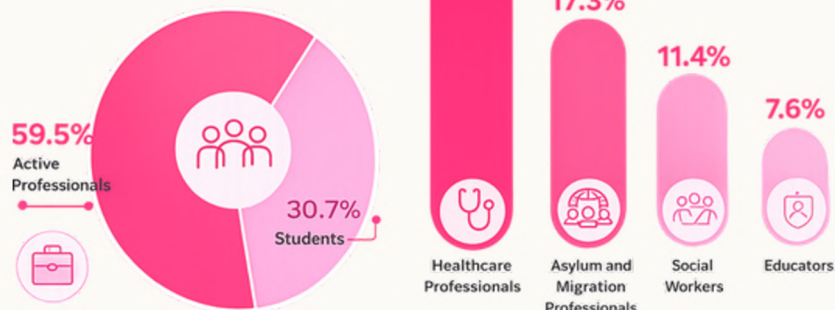
PROJECT	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	KEY RESULTS 2025	POPULATION REACHED
 <p>SAFE (CERV-Daphne)</p>	<p>Prevention and fight against FGM and EFM through sensitisation of community members through an awareness-raising social media Channel.</p>	<p>Launching of the SAFE social media channels including Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook.</p>	<p>European wide campaign together with our members from Italy, Germany, Ireland, Spain and France.</p>
 <p>ESC - Community Voices</p>	<p>Help youth gain skills and work experience to facilitate integration into the labour market.</p>	<p>After an ESC position at End FGM EU both of our volunteers achieved full-time employment.</p>	<p>2 young people from Italy and Greece.</p>

END FGM E-CAMPUS AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The End FGM EU E-Campus is **our most scalable and demonstrable achievement**: a digital infrastructure that increases impact without raising costs, and a replicable model for the anti-FGM sector. In 2025, the platform was substantially expanded in reach, visibility, and institutional recognition.

The platform successfully engaged more than **1,095 registered active users** as of June 2025. The vast majority are based within the key project consortium countries, led by Belgium (289 users), Cyprus (240), Portugal (188), and Italy (174). Beyond these central partners, the platform established a broader regional and international footprint, reaching more than 100 users across other EU Member States (including Germany, Greece, France, and Spain), 27 users from non-EU European nations, and 41 users across the African continent.





Regarding professional profiles, active professionals make up 59.5% of the user base, with students comprising 30.7%. Healthcare professionals represent the single largest sector at 37% **highlighting the platform's vital role in training medical first responders**. The remaining trained cohorts span critical protection sectors: asylum and migration professionals (17.3%), social workers (11.4%), educators (7.6%), and child care and protection specialists (4.3%).

STAKEHOLDERS MEETING
END FGM e-campus
An online tool for practitioners

Friday, 7th February 2025
09.00 - 12.00 CET

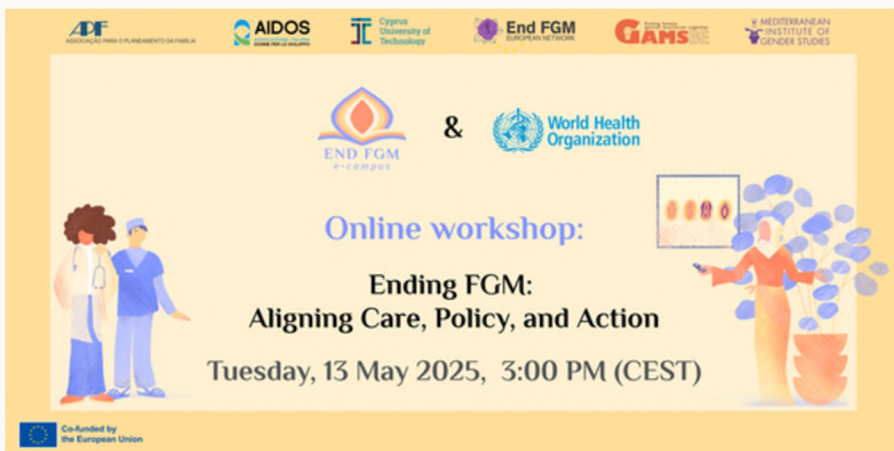
Invitation Only

Venue: British Residence,
Rue Ducale 17, 1000 Brussels
Co-hosted with UK Mission to
the EU

Logos: GANES, End FGM, ADOS, UK Mission to the European Union

The platform was officially launched through **two high-profile EU-wide online events** gathering 384 participants from across Europe and beyond. The first, a masterclass led by Dr Jasmine Abdulcadir gynaecologist and leader of Switzerland's first specialist clinic dedicated to FGM explored the social, political, educational, and medical challenges surrounding FGM in Europe. The second launch webinar brought together UNHCR and the Belgian Secretary of State for Gender Equality to discuss institutional support and the long-term sustainability of the platform. Both events significantly exceeded participation targets.

Additionally, **12 national information events were organised** across Italy, Cyprus, Belgium, and Portugal, reaching over 700 participants through conferences, webinars, workshops, and awareness-raising sessions, engaging professionals, public institutions, civil society organisations, and community actors.



Three institutional endorsement meetings were held in collaboration with the UK Mission to the EU, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization, engaging over 200 participants including policymakers, healthcare professionals, gender experts, and advocacy networks. Through live platform demonstrations and expert discussions, these meetings fostered commitments for future collaboration and long-term sustainability.



Qualitative feedback from focus groups across partner countries confirms that **the platform significantly improved professionals' capability to handle FGM cases safely and responsively**. Frontline workers highlighted that the e-learning courses provided immediate, ready-to-use practical instructions. A participant who completed the protection module noted that, despite starting with very little prior knowledge, the curriculum gave them clear, actionable steps on how to approach the topic legally and with cultural sensitivity.

AMBASSADORS AND FGM-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Phase 4 of the Ambassadors programme, launched

Since 2016 and 2017 respectively, End FGM EU has developed both the Senior Ambassadors and Youth Ambassadors programmes to strengthen the involvement of FGM-affected communities and young people as drivers of social change in Europe and beyond. Bringing together professionals, advocates, and youth leaders from across member organisations, **the programmes create spaces for mutual learning, intergenerational exchange, and European and international advocacy.** Through targeted training, community engagement, and awareness-raising activities, Ambassadors contribute grassroots expertise, promote survivor-centred and intersectional approaches, and engage audiences ranging from affected communities to European decision-makers.

Co-funded by the European Union

MEET OUR 2025-2027 YOUTH AMBASSADORS!

SAMSAM HUSSEIN HASSAN MOHAMED
"For me, fighting FGM also means opposing all violence against women and all minorities."

BASSMALA MOHAMMED MORKAZ
"I will utilise my voice to amplify the stories of FGM survivors and initiate crucial conversations in affected communities."

FATIMA AMINA RAFAEL
She develops awareness and prevention projects on FGM, contributing to the protection of women's dignity.

End FGM EUROPEAN NETWORK

End FGM EUROPEAN NETWORK

MEET OUR 2025-2027 SENIOR AMBASSADORS!

DERRIKAN ODEWOTISSE BLANKSON (ONIAB)
A lawyer and trauma studies expert creating inclusive, trauma-informed community spaces.

STELLA OKUNBORWA
"I have earned recognition for my community contributions, particularly with ActionAid since 2019 as a community trainer against FGM/EFM practices."

FRAZS EVALISTE KAPNANG
He is committed to raising awareness, particularly among men in affected communities.

Co-funded by the European Union

Phase 4 of the Ambassadors programme, launched in early 2025, brings together 19 active Ambassadors from 8 European countries: Ireland, the United Kingdom, Italy, Portugal, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, and Spain in collaboration with member organisations including AkiDWA, Forward UK, Amref, FSAN, Terre des Femmes, GAMS, ActionAid, APF, and UNAF. The cohort represents a **highly diverse and intersectional range of profiles**: lawyers, social workers, researchers, psychologists, biomedical engineering and nursing students, sexual health mediators, community trainers, cultural mediators, artists, and human rights advocates. Many Ambassadors come directly from FGM-affected communities, combining lived experience with professional expertise in areas such as gender-based violence prevention, trauma-informed care, children's rights, public health, feminist legal theory, and community mobilisation.

Ambassadors Intergenerational training - 11–12 October 2025, Brussels



In October 2025, End FGM EU organised a two-day intergenerational training event in Brussels, bringing together 10 Ambassadors (8 women, 2 men) from 7 European countries. The training strengthened participants' skills in policy and advocacy, communication, survivor-centred approaches, and community engagement through interactive workshops delivered by the Secretariat and peer-led presentations.

Day 1 focused on advocacy and knowledge-sharing: Ambassador-led sessions by Fatima Amina Rafael on the Islamic perspective on FGM and by Hellen Namuli on holistic care for survivors; a workshop on how EU institutions function and how to influence policymaking, delivered by the Advocacy & Policy Team; and a workshop on countering the instrumentalisation of FGM and GBV in political discourse; a presentation by Saarah Ray on the legal and ethical implications of female genital cosmetic surgery (FGCS) versus FGM; and deep-dive focus groups on the VAW/DV Directive and the Pact on Asylum and Migration.



Day 2 focused on communications and storytelling, with sessions delivered by the Communications Team on crafting impactful messages on FGM, storytelling for change, digital communication and social media advocacy, content co-creation, and developing effective elevator pitches for engaging decision-makers, media, and community leaders, complemented by an Ambassador-led storytelling session by Istahil Abdulahi.

Through storytelling sessions and intergenerational dialogue, Ambassadors **strengthened their capacity to represent survivor and community perspectives in institutional and policy spaces at both national and European levels**, and planned their advocacy priorities for 2026.

Regranting: direct investment in grassroots leadership



At the end of 2025, End FGM EU launched a **new regranting scheme** aimed at strengthening survivor-led, grassroots, and community-based organisations working to end FGM in Europe. The scheme has an allocated annual budget of €120,000, with grants ranging from **€24,000 to €30,000** per organisation, for 4 to 5 member organisations annually operating in critically under-resourced contexts and high-prevalence countries. The scheme focuses on increasing organisational resilience, supporting survivor leadership, and expanding access to prevention and support services for isolated and underserved FGM-affected communities.

Each sub-grantee receives a structured **non-financial support package** alongside funding: a kick-off session, bi-monthly check-in calls, a mid-term learning conversation, and a final peer learning session ensuring that financial support is complemented by ongoing accompaniment and capacity development.



The first selection cycle is underway, with **the first sub-grantees to be confirmed in early 2026**. This represents a structural shift from coordination to direct financial resourcing of the organisations closest to affected communities.

Peer Learning Exchanges Programme - Launched December 2025

In parallel, End FGM EU relaunched in December 2025 the **Peer Learning Exchanges Programme**, building on the 2017-2018 Membership Twinning pilot. The Call for Expressions of Interest was launched on 9 December 2025. The programme structure: 4 exchanges per year over 3 years (2026-2028), approximately €1,000 per exchange, reciprocal in-person visits of 2–4 days between paired member organisations.

Key innovations compared to the 2017-2018 pilot where only 25-30% of planned exchanges produced complete reports include: mandatory co-designed learning plans with measurable objectives; structured reporting templates; mid-term MEL check-ins; and mandatory network-wide knowledge-sharing outputs after each exchange.

Together, regranting and peer learning transform End FGM EU **from a coordination network into a movement infrastructure** one that directly resources, connects, and builds the capacity of the organisations closest to affected communities. This is the operational meaning of the Network's commitment to intersectionality and grassroots leadership.



Community Voices project

Many women and girls affected by FGM across Europe face isolation, stigma, and limited access to culturally sensitive support. Survivors often lack safe spaces to speak openly, while frontline professionals are not adequately trained to identify or respond to FGM-related needs. **Community activists report that their expertise is frequently excluded from policy and institutional spaces.**

COMMUNITY VOICES

Through the Understanding Community Voices project, End FGM EU worked with members and grassroots activists across six European countries, using semi-structured qualitative interviews with **six activists** and creating spaces for survivors and community leaders to document their experiences, challenges, and needs.

The project documented concrete gaps in professional training, policy inclusion, and survivor support, while highlighting measurable community-level change. Activists reported increased confidence among women participating in community discussions and stronger engagement in conversations around prevention and bodily autonomy. Actionable recommendations were produced for national governments and European institutions: mandatory training for frontline professionals; increased long-term funding for grassroots organisations; and inclusion of community voices in national strategies addressing FGM.



"AT A SMALL GATHERING OF 10 WOMEN, ONE SAID: 'I NEVER HAD THE COURAGE TO SPEAK ABOUT FGM, BUT NOW I SEE IT WAS JUST IN MY HEAD. I WON'T LET IT BE DONE TO MY DAUGHTER.'"

RIHAM IBRAHIM
END FGM EU YOUTH AMBASSADOR

2025 STRATEGIC

Across 2025, three developments represent not merely activities completed, but structural shifts in how End FGM EU operates, is perceived, and delivers change.

Strategic Breakthrough 1:

From legislation to implementation, End FGM EU is shaping how the VAW/DV Directive is applied. End FGM EU is actively contributing to monitoring the implementation of the Directive on VAW/DV (Directive 2024/1385) and the Istanbul Convention. Questionnaires were distributed to members across the EU, with responses received from six countries. Preliminary findings were shared through the Advocacy Working Group and used to initiate dialogue between members and national authorities. In parallel, the Network actively engaged key European and international policy processes throughout 2025, contributing to spaces shaping the legislative and strategic agenda on FGM and gender-based violence.

Change:

In 2025, End FGM EU saw a remarkable strengthening of its role in the European anti-GBV policy landscape. This shift is evidenced by participation in the European Commission's VAW/DV Directive transposition workshop, engagement in the European Parliament's exchange of views on FGM, receipt of ECOSOC consultative status at the UN, and the inclusion of FGM in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly annual declaration for the first time. These milestones reflect a decade of sustained, evidence-based engagement that has translated into structured influence and stronger institutional recognition.

Next:

Expand Directive monitoring across 14 EU Member States in 2026, finalise a country-specific advocacy toolkit, and deliver targeted recommendations to Member States at risk of incomplete transposition, alongside publication of the counter-narratives tool.

Strategic Breakthrough 2:

From coordination network to movement infrastructure

End FGM EU launched two direct investment mechanisms in 2025: a regrants scheme providing annual grants to survivor-led and grassroots member organisations, and the Peer Learning Exchanges Programme, shifting the Network's relationship with its members from information-sharing to concrete financial and technical support.

Change:

End FGM EU is no longer solely a coordination and advocacy network. It has become a direct financial and technical partner to the organisations working most closely with affected communities, shifting from convening actors to enabling action. This structural transformation responds to the mid-term review's central finding: that strengthening the movement requires not only recognition of member organisations, but sustained resourcing of their capacity.

Next:

First sub-grantees confirmed in early 2026. First cohort of peer learning exchanges implemented May–September 2026. Network-wide knowledge-sharing outputs published September–November 2026.

COMMUNICATION

Impact of communications and changes in narrative

Throughout 2025, End FGM EU continued to strengthen its communications work as a **strategic tool for advocacy**, movement building, and narrative change. Beyond visibility alone, communications activities contributed to shaping public discourse around FGM, amplifying survivor and community voices, and reinforcing rights based and decolonial approaches to advocacy.

Annual Campaign Reach and Visibility

As part of the 2025 annual campaign, End FGM EU strengthened its digital visibility and audience engagement across social media platforms, newsletters, and media outreach.

In 2025, the Network sent out three seasonal newsletters to more than 1,600 subscribers. The newsletters included updates from the Secretariat, Members, and Ambassadors, as well as recent publications, advocacy developments, and upcoming events.

Across all social media platforms, End FGM EU generated more than **340,030 impressions throughout 2025**, contributing to increased visibility around FGM, bodily autonomy, and gender equality. The Network also expanded its digital presence by launching a new TikTok account in 2025, aiming to reach younger audiences and diversify its communication formats and engagement strategies.



HOW CAN THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF ORGANISATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ABANDONMENT OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATIONS IN EUROPE BE ASSESSED?

Methodology guide and indicators reference framework

CAHVE FOUNDATION END FGM ESSE

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Rebrand and New Website

In 2025, End FGM EU launched an important rebranding and website redevelopment process, which will continue into 2026. As part of this process, the Network published the Terms of Reference for the rebranding and redevelopment of the End FGM EU website in 2025, marking an important milestone in **strengthening the organisation's digital presence**, accessibility, strategic positioning, and communications impact. Following the publication of the call, End FGM EU received several candidacies throughout 2025. In 2026, the Network will finalise the selection process and choose the future provider responsible for the rebranding and redevelopment of the website. The rebrand aims to **modernise the Network's visual identity**, elevate the visibility and positioning of End FGM EU, and develop a more accessible, up to date, and dynamic website aligned with the evolution of the movement and the Network's long term strategic priorities. The rebrand represents not only a visual transformation, but also an opportunity to rethink how End FGM EU communicates its impact, values, advocacy priorities, and collective identity to different audiences.

Communications for advocacy

Throughout 2025, communications activities directly supported advocacy and policy influence work by increasing visibility around key political priorities and amplifying collective messages from the Network. Examples of communications contributing to institutional or political impact include:



- The **#MEPs2EndFGM** initiative, which mobilised Members of the European Parliament to publicly engage on ending FGM and advancing women's and girls' rights at EU level, alongside the creation of a dedicated **#MEPs2EndFGM** webpage and social media initiative to increase political visibility, public engagement, and institutional accountability around commitments to end FGM.

- Public communications through articles and media content amplified advocacy work and highlighted consultations linked to the development of EU strategies and policy initiatives related to FGM, gender equality, and violence against women and girls.

- Advocacy driven communications also played a whistleblower role by raising awareness about **growing threats to democracy**, gender equality, and human rights within European political spaces. Through articles and advocacy statements, End FGM EU highlighted and condemned the weaponisation of women's rights in migration and anti rights political debates within the European Parliament. One example was the Network's public reaction to the European Parliament Plenary debate held on Wednesday 10 September in Strasbourg under the title "*After 10 years, time to end mass migration now - protect our women and children*", which instrumentalised women's rights within anti migration narratives. This reinforced the Network's role as both an advocacy actor and a defender of democratic and feminist values.

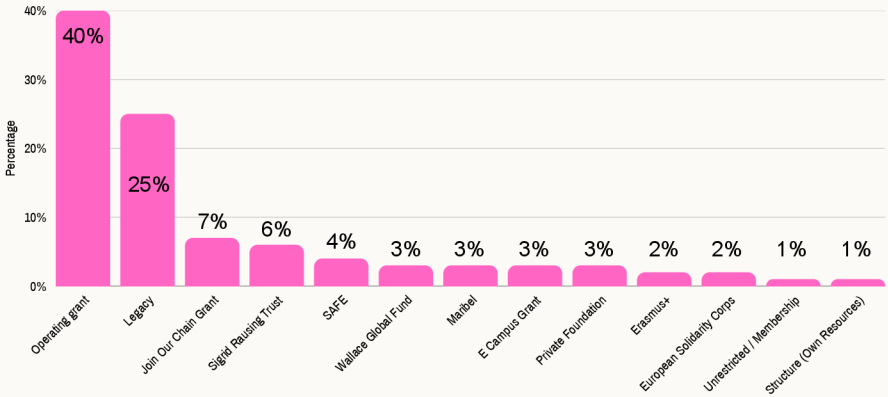
FINANCES, FUNDERS, AND THE PATH TO GREATER RESILIENCE

End FGM EU is committed to financial transparency and accountability. This section provides an **overview of our 2025 income structure**, expenditure by impact pillar, and the concrete ways in which donors can invest in sustaining and strengthening the movement to end FGM.

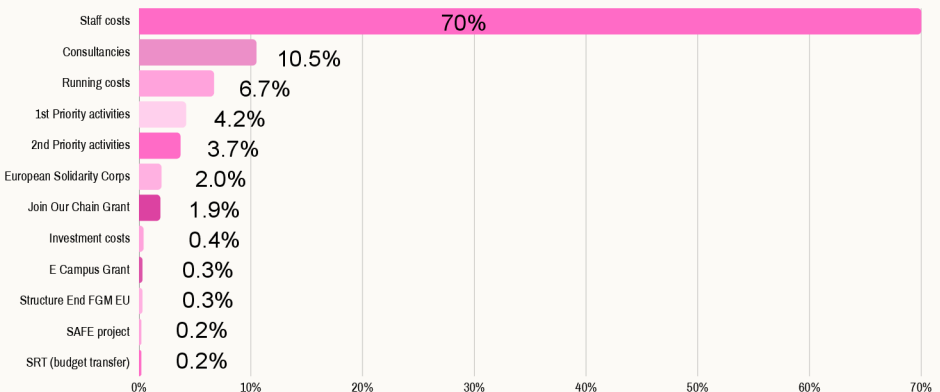
Revenue by source 2025

Our 2025 funding structure reflects both the strength of our partnerships and the broader structural challenges facing feminist civil society organisations across Europe. As funding environments become increasingly uncertain, End FGM EU remains committed to building a more resilient and sustainable financial model capable of supporting long-term advocacy, prevention, and survivor-led change.

Revenue 2025



Expenditure 2025



#Invest2PreventFGM - what your investment makes possible

Now more than ever, the work of End FGM EU and its members, including grassroots and survivor-led organisations that make up our movement, requires **strong, sustained support, commitment** and **solidarity** from allies, funders, and partners willing to invest for the long term. The political moment is urgent. Across Europe and globally, dedicated funding for feminist civil society is under pressure, anti-rights movements are gaining ground, and gaps in laws, funding, and policy are widening. We all have a role to play in ensuring prevention is prioritised and these gaps are addressed.

We call on all allies to step up and join the movement. Invest not only in programmes, but also in the conditions that enable our Network and its members to endure, advocate, and lead lasting change beyond any single grant cycle.

#Invest2PreventFGM is an invitation: to contribute to building a future free from FGM and to become one of the allies making that future possible.

INVESTMENT LEVEL	WHAT IT FUNDS	EXPECTED IMPACT
€50,000	Training 100 professionals through the End FGM E-Campus across 3 countries + one regranting grant to a survivor-led grassroots organisation	Better-equipped frontline professionals able to identify, prevent, and respond to FGM.
€100,000	Expansion of the END FGM EU E-Campus; capacity support for 5 national member organisations on major EU developments; peer-learning sessions across the Network; and a partial regranting cycle.	Up to 1,000 additional professionals trained; 5 member organisations better equipped to influence national implementation of EU legislation; stronger collective expertise across 16 countries.
€200,000 – €500,000	Two years of unrestricted core funding supporting one dedicated staff position, a full regranting cycle for 4-5 grassroots organisations (€2 4,000 - €30,000 each), peer learning, and international advocacy. This investment directly reduces structural dependence on short-term project funding.	A more resilient organisation and stronger movement, better equipped to respond to political crises, funding cuts, and sustain long-term advocacy and prevention efforts. This is the highest-leverage investment in lasting systemic change.

Gratitude, continuity, and new beginnings

With deep gratitude: the Sigrid Rausing Trust

SIGRID RAUSING TRUST

After seven years of partnership, 2025 marks the **conclusion** of the Sigrid Rausing Trust's grant support to End FGM EU. Since 2018, the Trust has been one of the Network's most consistent and committed supporters, providing not only the financial resources needed to sustain our work, but also the kind of long-term confidence in feminist civil society that is both rare and essential.

The Trust's investment has been foundational in building End FGM EU into a credible, sustainable, and influential European network that advocates at the highest institutional levels while remaining deeply rooted in affected-community expertise. Years of investment in a feminist, survivor-led approach to ending FGM in Europe and beyond have made a tangible difference.

To the Sigrid Rausing Trust, and to everyone who championed this partnership: **thank you**. Your support is embedded in everything we have built and everything that will continue beyond this grant.

#Invest2PreventFGM

Are you a donor, ally, or partner committed to building a future free from FGM?

We all have a role to play in ensuring prevention is prioritised and that existing gaps in laws, funding, and policy are addressed. Share your prevention stories, strategies, and successes. Amplify survivor-led voices. Invest in long-term, sustainable change.



#Invest2PreventFGM is not just a campaign hashtag. It is a call to action.

To discuss partnership opportunities, please contact the Director of End FGM EU:

mnguenakana@endfgm.eu

PRIORITIES FOR 2026–2027: BUILDING ON WHAT WORKS

The recommendations of the 2025 Mid-Term Strategic plan Review are clear: **consolidate what works**, phase out what does not demonstrate impact, and concentrate resources where the Network can generate the greatest systemic change. The priorities below have been **endorsed by the Board** and are defined in terms of measurable outcomes for women and girls across Europe.

CONSOLIDATE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE INFLUENCE



By the end of 2026, increase the capacity of member organisations to document and demonstrate their contribution to the implementation of the EU Directive on violence against women and domestic violence and the Istanbul Convention at national level, including engagement with the first EU-wide GREVIO baseline assessment. End FGM EU will provide tools, coordination, and targeted support to strengthen members' engagement with national authorities.

INCREASE FINANCIAL RESILIENCE OF THE NETWORK



Increase the share of unrestricted income from below 2% towards 5-8%, while strengthening structured donor engagement and long-term partnership development to improve financial predictability and organisational resilience.

OPERATIONALISE INTERSECTIONALITY ACROSS ALL WORKSTREAMS



By the end of 2027, intersectionality will be systematically integrated across policy, advocacy, and communications outputs. This includes the development and dissemination of a counter-narrative framework addressing the instrumentalisation of FGM in anti-migration discourse, for use by members, policymakers, and media actors.

REGANTING: INVESTING DIRECTLY IN GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP



Between 20 - 30% of activities not demonstrating clear contribution to strategic objectives will be redesigned for higher-impact interventions and stronger evidence generation.

End FGM EU enters this next phase with clarity about both the challenges ahead and the responsibility we carry.

CONCLUSION

End FGM EU is shaping the European response to FGM. The 2025 Mid-Term Strategic Review confirms a clear shift: the Network is now more stable, more credible, and more influential than at any previous point in its history. Yet **credibility alone is not enough**. Across Europe, implementation gaps persist, specialist services remain uneven, and too many girls remain at risk despite existing legal frameworks.

In 2025, End FGM EU consolidated a new role: from a **coordination network** to a **movement infrastructure**. Through member-led EU-wide monitoring of the VAW/DV Directive and the launch of direct resourcing mechanisms, including regranting and peer learning exchanges, the Network is now both generating evidence for accountability and strengthening the operational capacity of those closest to affected communities.



This shift responds to a structural reality: **policy progress without implementation capacity does not translate into protection**. End FGM EU's role is therefore not only to advocate, but to enable systems that can deliver rights in practice.

As Europe faces increasing pressure on civic space and on funding for feminist organisations, sustained and flexible investment in prevention and grassroots capacity is not optional; it is a structural requirement for the effective implementation of EU and international commitments.

End FGM EU enters 2026 with a clear mandate: to **strengthen implementation of EU and international frameworks, reinforce national accountability, and ensure that prevention systems are resourced to close the gap between law and lived reality**. Delivering on this mandate requires the long-term structural commitment of institutions, funders, and partners willing to invest beyond single grant cycles.



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Get in touch at info@endfgm.eu

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