I would like to begin this editorial by thanking everyone for their support and active involvement in the development of the “Action plan for sexual and reproductive health: towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe – leaving no one behind”. Despite the diverse beliefs and attitudes towards sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and rights in the WHO European Region, the Action plan and its resolution were adopted by the 66th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in September 2016. Three countries - Hungary, Poland and Turkey - disassociated themselves from the Action plan. Full consensus was not achieved, however the core message that in the 21st century the European Region is ready to discuss the positive aspects of SRH using a life-course approach remained intact. This was in large part due to the hard work and dedication of many people and organizations involved in drafting the document. The adopted document is not a “must” to all but is based on available evidence meant to inspire countries and people to acknowledge that achieving full potential for SRH and well-being is not possible without: 1) respecting the human rights related to SRH; and 2) implementing suggested actions to decrease the SRH inequities and inequalities between and within countries.

Thus it seems fitting that this shifting awareness and recognition of what is required to promote and achieve positive SRH and well-being for all be the main theme of this last issue of the European Magazine for Sexual and Reproductive Health “Entre Nous”.

During its 35 years of existence, Entre Nous presented readers with the existing challenges and successes in SRH within the Region. The magazine changed from the only source of information on SRH in the early 1980’s to a magazine that provides the trends in and overviews of different aspects of SRH through the life-course. From its initial beginnings prior to the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 to its conclusion during the era of the Sustainable Development Goals, magazine topics have been varied and relevant, ranging from preconception to pregnancy and safe motherhood; adolescent and youth SRH and rights; linkages between SRH and noncommunicable disease; child marriage; and the sexual health of older people. While not an exhaustive list of the topical issues that were covered, each issue of Entre Nous was designed to reflect the important and changing discourse and actions that were occurring over time with regards to the field of SRH and rights in the European Region.

The world has changed during the last 30-40 years. In 1991 the geography of Europe changed and the ability to question and discuss issues in SRH and rights became possible for countries that had not previously enjoyed this opportunity. Evidence based medicine in SRH lead to a transition away from a medical and narrow perspective of SRH to broader concepts of SRH that included health promotion, public health and human rights. During this period many substantial achievements in SRH, including maternal and newborn health, occurred. Yet, it is important for us all to acknowledge that these achievements have not been universal across our Region. We must not forget that much work and effort remains to achieve universal SRH and well-being for all.

What has been the role of Entre Nous in this process? It is not easily quantifiable. External and internal evaluations conducted by the Advisory Editorial Board Members, the UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the WHO Regional Office for Europe have all documented overwhelming positive feedback and support for the magazine by readers and end users. One of our greatest achievements has been the breadth of end users who find the magazine pertinent - from policy makers to programme managers to service providers to civil society.

The digital age has transformed the way we learn and interact; webinars, e-learning and other modern methods of sharing knowledge and experience have replaced expensive congresses and conferences. With this new technical reality, bidding “farewell” to Entre Nous seemed appropriate.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who has helped keep Entre Nous alive for so many years, who believe in better SRH for all and who have helped to make this goal a reality; our readers; our authors and our editors; members of our Editorial Advisory Board and of the European Regional Advisory Board in Research and Training in Reproductive Health; our sister agency UNFPA; and the WHO staff in Geneva and in the Regional Office for Europe. Although we are saying “adieu”, we will not be forgotten: a digital archive of all issues of Entre Nous will be available and downloadable at: http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Life-stages/sexual-and-reproductive-health/publications/entre-nous/entre-nous

This final issue of Entre Nous links the past with the future. It very much reflects the recently adopted vision from the Action Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health that “The WHO European Region is a region in which all people, regardless of sex, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic condition, ethnicity, cultural background and legal status, are enabled and supported in achieving their full potential for SRH and well-being: a region where their human rights related to SRH are respected, protected and fulfilled; and a region in which countries, individually and jointly, work towards reducing inequities in sexual and reproductive health and rights.” I hope that you will enjoy reading it.

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