|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| EUROPEAN COMMISSION  DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT | EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE |
|  |  |
| The Director-General | Secretary General |

**Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025**

**Country Level Implementation Plan – CLIP Ukraine**

**CLIP Ukraine**

1. **Context for EU action gender equality and women’s empowerment in the country**

Ukraine scores 74 both in the Global Gender Gap Report 2020 and the Gender Inequality Index (2020), the latter highlighting that key challenges that lower Ukraine’s rating are gender gaps in the labour force participation rate and the share of seats in Parliament held by women.

The number of women elected officials remains low – 33% of the seats in the city councils and 28% of the seats in oblast (regional) councils as of 2020, in the presence of a mandatory 40% gender quota for candidates.

Domestic violence against women remained a serious problem. In the first six months of 2020, police received 101,000 domestic violence reports, a 40% increase compared with the same period in 2019. The UN’s Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine reported that the spread of COVID-19 and the implementation of quarantine measures exacerbated the situation.

The Government of Ukraine addresses gender inequality through a number of policy instruments: the State Gender Equality Strategy (National Action Plan - NAP) until 2021, the NAP on implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 “Women, Peace and Security” until 2025, and the NAP on implementation of concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee to Ukraine’s 8th report until 2021. Certain sectorial/agency instruments are also available, such as the gender action plans of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Guard of Ukraine. In 2020, the Government evaluated the progress of the NAP on implementation of UNSCR 1325 until 2020 and approved the NAP for the subsequent five years (2021-2025). National policy aims to address a wide-ranging set of issues affecting women, from increasing their awareness of their legal rights and combating gender stereotypes to improving access to educational opportunities, medical services and basic infrastructure and combating poverty.

The current CLIP is based on the Gender Country Profile elaborated by the EU4Gender Helpdesk, consultations with the government gender focal points and the national ombudsperson for gender equality, civil society organisations, UNWomen and UNFPA and written in consultation with EU Member State representatives.

1. **Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives**

**Overall objectives of EU action in Ukraine for gender equality and women’s empowerment:**

* All people are free from all forms of gender-based violence in the public and private spheres, in the work place and online.
* Strengthening economic and social rights and empowering girls and women.
* All people, in all their diversity, participate equally in decision-making processes, in all spheres and at all levels of political and public life, including online, to take on leadership roles, to enjoy and exercise their human rights and seek redress if these rights are denied.
* Women and girls in all their diversity access universal health and fully enjoy their health and sexual and reproductive rights

**Selected “areas of engagement” on gender equality and women’s empowerment**

* Strengthening women's rights organisations and social movements as well as civil society organisations (CSOs) working on the intersectional dimension of gender-based violence and of conflict-related sexual violence.
* Creating an enabling environment for women’s economic activities and access to productive resources and eco-system services, including women’s access to land, technology, internet, finance including access to safe and affordable transport options; supporting women entrepreneurship and women-led businesses, including social entrepreneurship, addressing the market’s failure to reach women and promoting the creation of SMEs.
* Promoting an enabling and safe environment, including online, for civil society, girls and women’s rights organisations, women’s human rights defenders, peacebuilders, women journalists and representatives of ethnic and minority groups.
* promoting universal health coverage through sustainable and resilient health systems and equitable access to essential services and information, including sexual and reproductive health, maternal care and capacity to address communicable and non-communicable diseases, with a particular attention to women and girls with disabilities; taking into account the disruptions to access to care that were caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;
* Support women’s rights organisations in their engagement into the areas of peace and security and ensure the rights of women and girls affected by conflict are protected.
* Creating enabling environment for women that face multiple discriminations based on SOGI, ethnicity and/or religious beliefs.

**Expected EU priorities for the period in question**

*\*Increase the resilience, sustainability and integration of the economy*

The assistance will contribute to developing inclusive economic policies that benefit all citizens and promote equal opportunities, including by creating conditions for the economic empowerment of women. EU support will seek to promote **an enabling business environment** with fair competition and sustaining value adding and job creating sectors, in particular by improving the access to finance, services and markets for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including women-led.

*\*Reinforce the accountability of institutions and promote rule of law and security*

Under this priority area, the EU will seek to contribute to advancing Ukraine’s **gender-sensitive good governance and democratic institutions**, security, rule of law, successful anti-corruption policies and the fight against organised crime and security.

*\*Support a resilient and inclusive society, including through response to conflict*

Support to the **conflict-affected regions** will continue to be deployed, through social and economic recovery means and enhanced human security, inter alia by improving physical, smooth and secure access to and from the currently non- government-controlled areas and access to finance, services and markets for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including women-led, in conflict-affected regions, thus increasing the capacities of local communities for citizen dialogue, engagement and reconciliation, as well as women’s empowerment in community processes and decision-making.

**Social cohesion** is an Association Agreement goal, pursued through dialogue and cooperation on the decent work agenda, employment policy, health and safety at work, social dialogue, protection and inclusion, and gender equality and non-discrimination. It is further advanced through the commitment to cultural diversity, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and groups that may be vulnerable otherwise. EU support will seek to ensure an increased participation of all Ukrainian women and men, including those coming from non-government-controlled areas and from different social, ethnic and minority groups in social, cultural and political life exercising their political, economic, social and cultural rights. Support for strengthening gender equality will also be provided.

Supporting a **strong healthcare system**, including by addressing COVID-19, and strengthening public health in line with the provisions of the Association Agreement, which include communicable and non-communicable diseases, epidemiological surveillance, safety of donor blood and blood products and tobacco control, including at the line of contact with currently non-government-controlled areas.

1. **Targeted action(s) supporting gender equality and women’s empowerment**

The thematic areas envisaged by the EU financed action in 2021 is gender-based violence and women’s participation in economic and public life. These issues to be addressed through the UNFPA implemented We Act project amounting EUR 1 mln. The Programme has been formed on the basis of UN analyses, recent studies on COVID-19 aftermath implications, and consultations with the respective stakeholders. The action is expected to enable Ukrainian CSOs to provide effective services to GBV/DV survivors, including those with disabilities and through modalities adapted to mobility restrictions imposed by COVID-19 pandemic response measures as well as to support the sectoral CSOs capacities to elaborate and deliver gender-sensitive projects. The action results will be measured through the number of CSOs trained and received financial support.

The EU Gender Helpdesk provides regular support to the national gender machinery though consultations, awareness-raising and capacity building activities.

Further specific actions will be elaborated in the coming years in accordance with the priority areas outlined in the MIP.

1. **Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment**

Gender Equality is an important part of the EU-UA Government communication both within the framework of the Association Agreement implementation dialogue and through the Donor Coordination Mechanism with a dedicated Gender equality Sectoral Working Group.

The CSO Roadmap for 2018-2020 extended in 2021 envisages regular consultations mechanism with CSOs in Ukraine. It is envisaged that the consultations will include gender equality and women empowerment issues into their agenda at least once a year. Both women rights CSOs and other organisation active in the sectors like media, social and economic rights, national minorities issues will participate in the consultations to reflect the cross-cutting nature of the GEWE.

**5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities**

At project’s level public outreach will be organised in the framework of the regional EU4Gender Equality Project, national WeAct project, implemented by the UNFPA, grants to be awarded under various Calls for proposals and other upcoming national projects. The communication strategies of the above-mentioned actions envisage regular dialogue with civils society organisations, targeted media and social media campaigns, participation in various sectoral events, the distribution of promo items, contests etc. Another regional initiative, the EU Gender Helpdesk maintains regular communication with governmental officials, providing them with expertise and regular updates on EU gender equality actions and standards, including the translated versions of the GAPIII and other reference tools.

The EU Delegation actively highlights international commemoration days and periods, such as International Women’s Day, 16 days against gender-based violence and IDAHOT, stressing the importance of the commemorated issues in its social media posts, sharing relevant information materials, interviews of the Head of mission, other senior officials. The EU representatives together with the MS participate in events of different levels targeting gender equality and women’s empowerment: from the high-profile yearly International Women’s Congress with participation of the top officials to the local training for female activists organised by EU-funded grants.

**6. Technical Facility and/or financial resources allocated to support GAP III implementation**

The regional EU Gender Helpdesk is used to develop the National Gender Profile, further enhanced with the sector analyses for health, business and environment, the latter to be completed by October 2021. The project will provide consultations and trainings to Ukrainian governmental counterparts. The EU Delegation Communication support project will also contribute to the promotion of gender equality through the information and communication activities.

*Date: …………………………………………………………………………………….*

*Signature by Head of Delegation: ……………………………………………………………………*