

Strengthening
and Protecting
Women's and
Children's Rights
in Ukraine



Project Budget:
€1.2 million

Duration:
September 2008 – August 2010

Funded by:
European Union

Country of Implementation:
Ukraine

Project implementing partner:
Council of Europe

Key Project Partners and Beneficiaries:
Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Ukraine

Project Objectives and Tasks:

Overall objective:

To bring existing Ukrainian legislation, practices and mechanisms into conformity with the European standards as regards protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse, and gender equality and protection of women and children against violence.

Project Activities:

- To enhance skills on standards and required reforms with regard to gender equality and children's rights and issues in line with the Revised European Social Charter;
- To draft a legal compatibility study which will address to what extent relevant Ukrainian legislation is in line with the European standards and identify areas that need improvement with regard to prosecution and prevention of violence against women and children;
- To prepare new scenarios regarding the existing legal framework for the prosecution and prevention of violence against women and children;
- To revise and reform legal framework, policy and practices for dealing with sexual exploitation and abuse of children in line with the standards of the Convention of the Council of Europe on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS 201).

Expected results:

- Adoption and implementation of required standards and reforms with regard to women's and children's rights and issues in line with the Revised Social Charter and Council of Europe Convention on the protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, and other relevant European and international legal instruments;
- Improved legislation and trained staff in legal and administrative areas that are necessary to meet the standards of the Revised Charter with regard to the rights and violence against women and children;
- A holistic approach in combating and preventing violence against women, including domestic violence and use of tools to effectively protect women from violence;
- Improved legal framework and its implementation on issues related to sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

Project's Achievements to date:

- A series of seminars and workshops were conducted in the framework of the Project:
 - Workshop on building a child helpline in Ukraine – 17-18 June 2009;
 - Seminar on the women's rights standards of the Revised European Social Charter and other international Instruments – 28-29 April 2009;
 - Workshop on the implementation of international standards related to investigation, prosecution and procedural law in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of children – 25-26 March 2009;
 - Seminar on gender equality standards of the European Social Charter conducted – 4-5 March 2009;
 - Workshop on the protective measures and assistance to child victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse – 11-12 February 2009.
- Translation of Charter materials, in particular excerpts from the case law of the European Committee of Social Rights, is currently under way;
- Preparation on Recommendations for a teacher for the lesson for secondary schools on eradicating human trafficking and the worst forms of child labour in Ukraine is currently under way.

ENPI - European Neighbourhood
and Partnership Instrument

The European Union is the largest donor to Ukraine. EU assistance to Ukraine over 2007-2013 will principally be provided under the new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) which is being established to promote the development of an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness between the EU and the partner countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.

ENPI envelope for Ukraine will focus on the following three priority areas:

Support for Democratic Development and Good Governance

- Public administration reform and public finance management
- Rule of law and judicial reform
- Human rights, civil society development and local government
- Education, science and people-to-people contacts/exchanges

Support for Regulatory Reform and Administrative Capacity Building

- Promoting mutual trade, improving the investment climate and strengthening social reform
- Sector-specific regulatory aspects

Support for Infrastructure Development

- Energy
- Transport
- Environment
- Border management and migration including re-admission related issues

Indicative budget for Ukraine for the period 2007-2010 is €494 million:

Support for Democratic Development and Good Governance: €148.2 million (30%)

Support for Regulatory Reform and Administrative Capacity Building: €148.2 million (30%)

Support for Infrastructure Development: €197.6 million (40%)



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Gender equality is an important issue for the EU. It has been enshrined in EU legislation since the Treaty of Rome over 50 years ago. Similarly children's rights are specifically addressed in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. In Ukraine, a number of persistent problems linger. Violence against women remains a serious problem, especially spousal abuse. In the workplace, women are not always paid as their male colleagues and have less opportunity for career advancement. The issue of trafficking women and children remains a serious challenge for Ukraine.

The EC has provided a number of small grants related to gender equality and children's rights as part of European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights as well as in the framework of Investing in People programme. In the framework of the Action Plan 2006 for Ukraine the EC allocated €14 million to support the protection and promotion of women's and children's rights in Ukraine. This allocation is implemented in close cooperation with other donor agencies and international organisations taking into account their specific expertise. The projects with a total value of more than €7 million with a 90% financial contribution by the EC started already in September 2008. The €5.7 million project on Women's Rights in Ukraine is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme to help Ukraine develop and introduce legislation on gender equality; develop educational materials free from gender stereotypes and integrate gender equality principles in educational processes.

The €1.2 million project on Gender Equality in Labour is implemented by the International Labour Organization and is aimed at prevention of gender-related discrimination in labour relations, support for women-entrepreneurs, development of gender-sensitive programmes and services in the area of employment. Another €1.2 million project of the Council of Europe, also funded by the EC, will focus on the analysis and improvement of the Ukrainian legislation related to gender equality, children's rights, and prevention of sexual exploitation.

In July 2009 the EC signed a contribution agreement with UNICEF to implement the project "Development of gate-keeping policies and systems for institutionalised and other vulnerable children". This project with a budget of € 466,000 and 86% funded by the EU is going to support Ukrainian authorities in developing model for the transformation of the current institutions-based system of state care of children without parental care into a family based system. Starting from August 2009, these projects are supported by a communication campaign to be managed by the European Commission and worth a further €6 million.