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NEWSLETTER



TAKING GENDER EQUALITY SAILING

Surveys show that learning in nature has a lot of benefits including students who were able to retain more information from lessons on gender studies taught outdoors, to positive effects on stress relief and rejuvenated attention. Therefore, we decided to take our training session on gender equality to a boat sailing from Belgrade to Golubac fortress on the Danube River.

Enjoying the beautiful scenery, as many as **48 participants** (37 women and 11 men) comprising task managers of the EU Delegation in Serbia, representatives of the Ministry of European Integration of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and gender focal points from the EU Delegations from the Western Balkan countries and Turkey got to learn more on how to include gender perspective in the programming.

It all started with a quiz designed by our gender equality experts, Sanja Nikolin and Visnja Bacanovic, as a warming up to get them on board for more complicated topics that followed. This included introducing gender mainstreaming tools to the participants and through practical assignments increasing their capacity to apply gender mainstreaming tools in preparation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects.

In addition, representative of DG NEAR Olga Martin Gonzales introduced the EU gender Action plan, as well as roles and responsibilities of the national and EU staff regarding gender equality and the EU accession process. After the training had come to an end, a more relaxing part came in - a visit to Golubac fortress, one of the most important cultural and historic monuments built in the 14th century currently under reconstruction supported by the EU.



RESULT 1

In a bid to support gender equality mechanisms in implementing Local Action Plans for gender equality, UN Women signed a Letter of Agreement with **8 local-self-governments**: Municipality of Aleksinac, Municipality of Knjazevac, Municipality of Krusevac, City of Sabac, Municipality of Temerin, Municipality of Tutin, City of Uzice and Municipality of Zitiste.

This came after rigorous selection process encompassing desk research of 144 local self-government units of the Republic of Serbia covering local institutional gender equality framework, financing, and existence of other gender equality initiatives at the local level.



RESULT 2

As UN Women seeks to support gender mainstreaming of the key government document for planning and programming of donor assistance, the representatives of UN Women and gender consultants participated in more than **20 consultancy meetings with more than 100 representatives** of national institutions, civil society organizations and donor community. Consequently, a long list of priorities for international assistance has been developed. The Ministry of European Integration, with the UN Women support, further developed criteria for prioritization of activities with specific focus on gender equality and antidiscrimination.

In addition, capacity assesment of civil servants working in the Ministry of European Integration and IPA units of the line ministries for gender responsive planning and implementation of EU funds was conducted, with the objective to develop a training programme based on the assesment results.



RESULT 3

A total of 8 women CSOs have been selected as Responsible Parties to implement projects in the area of women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment of rural women. UN Women signed **8 Project Cooperation Agreements** with following CSOs:

- Atina, Association of Business Women in Serbia and Women' Forum Prijepolje, to implement projects in the area of women's entrepreneurship;
- Ethno-Forum Svrlijig, Equal Opportunities, Women's Centre Uzice, Luznice Handicrafts and 'Udahni zivot', to implement project in the area of economic empowerment of rural women.

As a result of these projects, **70 women** in total will be employed and/or initiate agriculture and organic production, 9 will be supported to officially register their ongoing businesses, 16 will develop their business plans and web presentations, while 45 will receive greenhouses. Further, **more than 580 women** will be trained in economic empowerment, agriculture production and ways to establish successful businesses and 10 women CSOs will be trained on benefits of establishment of women's social entrepreneurship.

The programme entitled "Support to Priority Actions for Gender Equality in Serbia" is funded by the European Commission within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) II.



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

"As a mother of a child with disability I have come across a lot of barriers, and they were often coming from those who were in the same or similar position as me. They did not believe in change, especially if they had an older child with disability, but at the end of the day all these parents who opposed it and did not believe in change came here and loved it."

Ana Knezevic,
founder of social enterprise and
inclusion center **Evo Ruka**



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2018

- Together with the Coordination Body for Gender Equality, UN Women will mark the International Day of Rural Women on October 15 with a field visit to one of the Serbian villages and a discussion on the issues and challenges rural women in Serbia are facing.