



FURTHERING GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS

Gender equality is a fundamental value of the European Union (EU), and, as such, must be streamlined in the EU Accession Process of the Western Balkans (WB). Ensuring that a gender perspective is integrated in all programs, as well as Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA), involves joint efforts of institutions, governments, National IPA coordinators (NIPACs), line ministries, EU officials, as well as women's rights civil society organisations' (WCSOs). WCSOs' expertise and knowledge is key in supporting WB governments in mainstreaming gender in their programs and ensuring attention to gender equality during the EU Accession process.

This Action aims to further gender equality in the WB through the EU Accession Process.

Action duration: 01/03/2020 - 29/02/2024

Total budget: 1.655.379,54 EUR

EU contribution: 1.241.534,65 EUR

Sweden contribution: 413.844,88 EUR

Objectives

The overall objective of this four-year Action (2020-2024) is to enhance and broaden existing regional cooperation, to strengthen participatory democracies and to bring about an inclusive gender-sensitive EU Approximation process. Towards this aim, the Action's specific objectives include:

- To enhance WCSO capacities to effectively engage with governments, EU Delegations and Office (EUD/EUO), local CSOs and other CSOs in the region, making all involved actors aware of the gender dimensions of the EU Accession process;
- To improve accountability of governments and EUD/EUO in implementing commitments to gender equality and women's rights during the EU Accession process.

Activities

- Networking and experience exchange meetings and events for the regional network of WCSOs aimed at strengthening their influence on the EU Accession process and expanding the existing regional network of WCSOs;
- Capacity building and awareness-raising for diverse CSOs on gender aspects of the EU Accession process;
- A high-level Regional Forum on Gender Equality in the EU Accession;
- Producing gender analyses for different sectors at a national level, particularly where such analyses are lacking;
- Collaborating with local WCSOs for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of gender equality commitments by governments;
- Monitoring and preparing reports to inform and gender mainstream EC Country Reports and political dialogue related to EU accession; and
- Advocating for an improved gender perspective in the EU Accession process at national and regional levels.

Target Groups

- WCSOs and CSOs working in the areas of gender equality and EU Accession in the WB, including local and grassroots organisations in the region;
- Other CSOs from WB countries operating in different sectors;
- Government officials and institutions particularly those engaged in the EU Accession process, such as institutions and/or sectors for EU integration within governments, National IPA coordinators, National Gender Equality Mechanisms, State statistical offices and others;
- EU Delegations and Office in each country, the European Commission, European Parliament and EU Member States;
- The general public in WB countries.

Key results

- Improved networking and participation of existing regional women's rights advocacy network to mainstream gender in the EU Accession process;
- Contribution to policy and decision-making processes by direct involvement of CSOs in these processes at national, regional and EU level;
- Successful sub-granting component, providing 30 grants awarded to civil society organizations (CSOs) from 6 countries (North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina), amounting to € 438.143;
- Over 1300 women benefiting directly through different trainings, capacity buildings, legal aid, etc. in 6 WB countries;
- Diverse local women's rights groups' strengthened capacities that enable increased and improved participation in the EU Accession process;
- Enhanced capacities of CSOs to effectively engage with governments, EUD/EUO and other CSOs in the region, making these actors more aware of the gender dimensions of the EU Accession process, their importance and agency;
- Improved accountability of governments and EUD/EUO in implementing commitments to gender equality and women's rights during the EU Accession process and mainstreaming gender in EU Accession process, politically and financially;
- Over 10 evidence-based baseline and endline reports, (over 15 by the end of the Action, including three per WB country and up to three regional reports and summaries), improving knowledge and understanding the gender mainstreaming of the EU accession processes, through continuous monitoring of these in each of the WB countries;
- Over 10 national gender analyses of unanalyzed sectors (over 15 by the end of the Action) in two languages that inform stakeholders and relevant target audiences and contribute to the mainstreaming of the EU accession processes in each partner country.

Implementing Partners' Contact Information

North Macedonia

Reactor – Research in Action
Tania Ivanova
tania@reactor.org.mk

Kosovo

Kosovo Women's Network
Nicole Farnsworth
nicole@womensnetwork.org

Albania

Albanian Women's Empowerment Network (AWEN)
Ines Leskaj
Ines.leskaj@awenetwork.org
awencoordinator@hotmail.com

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Rights for All
Diana Šehić
diana.sehic@pravazasve.ba

Montenegro

Women's Rights Centre
Maja Raičević
majaraicevic.wrc@gmail.com

The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
(North Macedonia Office)

Voskre Naumoska Ilieva
voskre.naumoska.ilieva@kvinnatillkvinna.se

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