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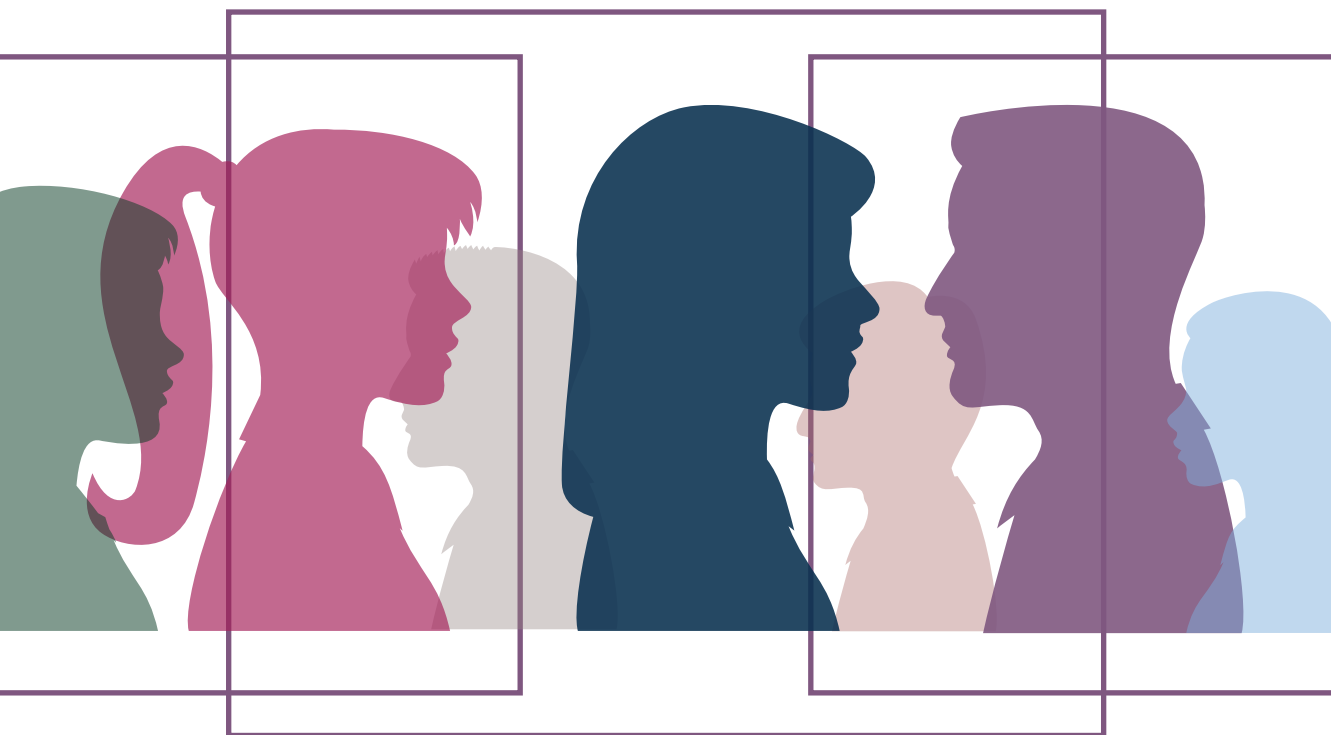


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Thinking Regionally- Acting Locally

Regional civil society networks making local impact on the path towards EU

SHORT SUMMARY



Implemented by:

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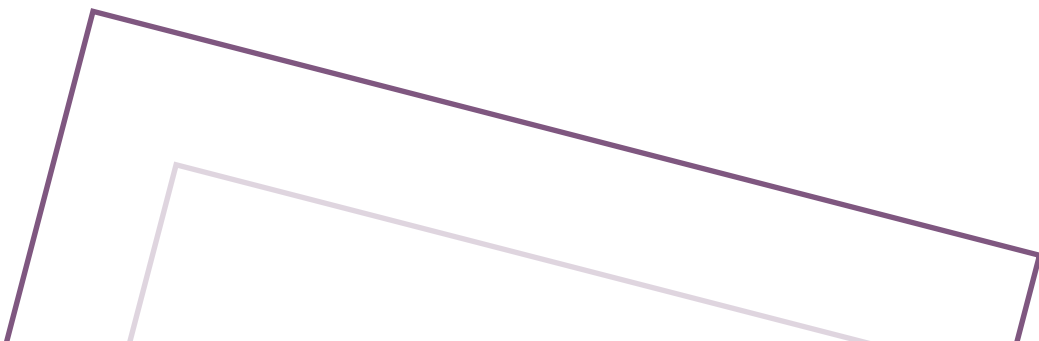
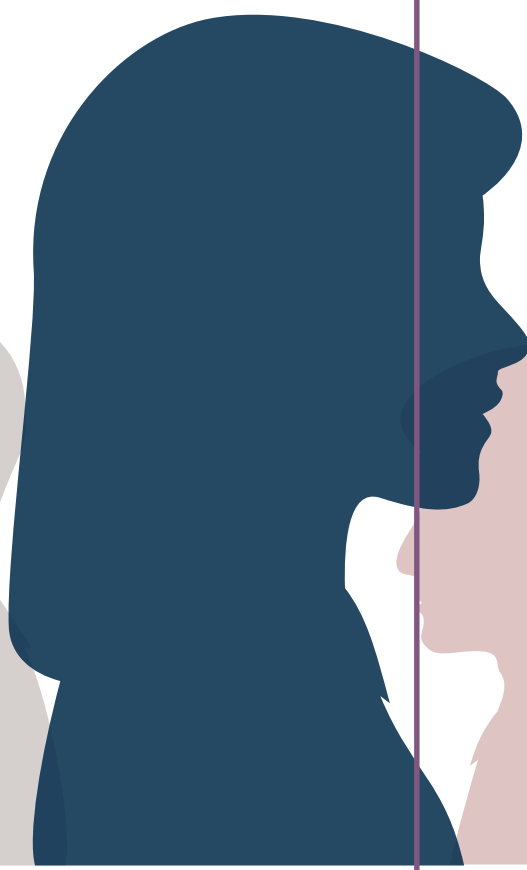
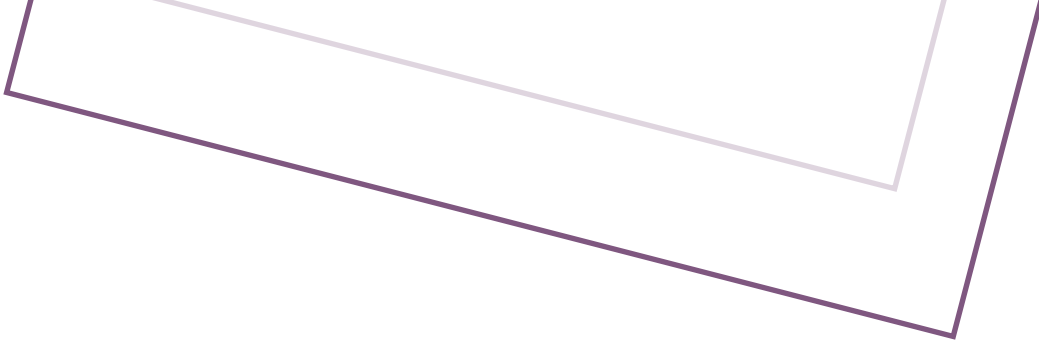
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Thinking Regionally-Acting Locally

Regional civil society networks making local impact on the path towards EU

SHORT SUMMARY

Skopje, 2023

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* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

As part of the regional Action “Furthering Gender Equality through the EU Accession Process”, Reactor – Research in Action and implementing partners have carried out a sub-granting component and provided financing support to third parties (FSTP) that resulted in:

- **30 grants** awarded to civil society organizations (CSOs), including **women civil society organizations** (WCSOs) from **6 countries** (North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Grants of up to 15.000 EUR per grant, **amounting to a total of 438.143 EUR**
- Projects implemented within 12-18 months, tackling issues regarding **gender equality and advancing the position of women in all segments of life, at local level.**
- **More than 1900 women benefited directly** by being trained, encouraged and informed about various aspects of advancing gender equality
- **More than 90 smaller organizations and grassroots initiatives indirectly supported** by strengthening their capacities in different areas.

In this document, we attempt to provide a glimpse at the vast scope of congruent activities and synergies that took place in the six Western Balkan countries, through the individual and joint initiatives of the supported organizations and their constituents, and under the guidance of the civil society think-tank organization Reactor - Research in Action and the implementing partner organizations AWEN, KWN,, Kvinna till Kvinna, Rights for All, and Women’s Rights Centre.

This wide-ranging and comprehensive adventure was part of the aforementioned four-year regional Action co-funded by the European Union and Sweden that attempted at giving voice to (W)CSOs in the region, including smaller local organizations and grassroots. This EU Action has 3 components focusing on (1) networking and cooperation, (2) capacity building through FSTP, and (3) monitoring the EU Accession process and analyzing unanalyzed sectors through gender lenses.

The summary of results and FSTP activities we present in this document aim at providing a short overview of the country-specific stories and the intersectional regional approach to gender equality, which ensured experience and knowledge transfer across countries (and between central and local level) and, once again, it confirmed the power of regional alliances and spontaneous networking of (W)CSOs that works beyond the limits of the supported actions and helps organizations learn from one another and grow stronger together.

The presented national figures are not final and some may vary across countries and organizations. This document was being concluded while we were still collecting information and harvesting results from the whole region, during the process of final evaluation and reporting, and trying to successfully close all the 30 FSTP contracts that were part of this Action.



Sub-granted organizations:

- Albanian Women in Audiovisual – AWA
- Albanian Legal and Territorial Research Institute - ALTRI
- Gender Alliance for Development Centre - GADC
- Together for life
- Useful to women, communities and people in need (Ne Dobi Te Komunitetit - SH.D.F.K.SH.P.)
- Women Center "Light Steps" (Qendra e Gruas "Hapa te Lehte")

ACHIEVED RESULTS:

Women that benefited directly	✓ 966 women trained and informed about various aspects of advancing gender equality	» 338 women, 74 youths and 45 officials trained in Kamez, Puka and Vlora
		» 305 community members from both Administrative Units-Gjinar and Labinot Fushë, 288 women and 17 men and boys were informed about the importance of enhancing the participation of women and girls in decision making processes
		» 340 women have been engaged from municipalities of Shkodra, Dibra and Vlora

Advocacy in practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The law for audiovisual media was amended to include the EU acquis on sexism with 9 other proposals to be considered in coming period in different laws; » 27 meetings held with local municipalities; » 3 open forums in Shkodra, Dibra and Vlora; » 2 budgeting participatory meetings in Gjinar and Labinot; » 4 inter-institutional tables were realized with the participation of women in Fushe Arrez Municipality, Has Municipality, Shkoder Municipality, Malesi e Madhe Municipality; » 17 information-awareness meeting were held in 17 villages of Administrative Units-Gjinar and Labinot Fushë; » Round table on environmental feminist alliances; » Round table on sexism in media; » 5 ongoing initiatives in three municipalities as a result of advocacy in Vlora municipality, Puka municipality and Kamza municipality focused on waste management, water drainage, and public spaces lighting.
Support to CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 13 CSOs were trained for Gender-based environmental advocacy; » 8 CSO improved their knowledge on EU gender aspects and sexism in the media; » 12 local women associations have a strengthened capacity for mobilization, advocacy from Municipalities of Shkoder, Malesi e Madhe, Has and Fushe-Arrez; » 12 CSOs from Lezha region increased their capacities for gender analysis and monitoring the gender engagements of institutions.
Reports produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 3 Monitoring Reports are prepared by local CSOs and Environmental Feminist Local Groups; » 1 Policy Paper for Gender and Environment; » Study on legal analyses about sexism in the audiovisual media; » A Study Report on identification of challenges and giving recommendations - Elbasan to increase the role of women in budget decision making; » Monitoring report analyzing the participatory budgeting and gender perspective in the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement and budgets of the targeted municipalities as well as its impact in Albanian EU Accession Bid has been drafted; » 1 monitoring report on consultative processes in policy processes on municipal level in Lezha region.

Promotion of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» 10 articles prepared and published by professional journalist on the role of CSOs in the design and implementation of local policies, the importance of including gender mainstreaming in local policies and interviews with 4 municipal representatives of Lezha region;» 6 infographics prepared on the importance of gender mainstreaming the European integration process as well as gender mainstreaming local policies;» 1 promotional video prepared.
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Sub-granted organizations:

- Centre to Support Organizations (Centar za podršku organizacijama) - CENSOR
- CURE Foundation (Fondacija CURE)
- Roma Women Association “Better Future” city of Tuzla (Udruzenje Zena Romkinja “Bolja buducnost” grada Tuzla)
- United Women Foundation - Banja Luka (Fondacija Udruzene Zene - Banja Luka)

ACHIEVED RESULTS:

Women that benefited directly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » At least 600 women from rural and urban areas engaged (through a survey) » At least 100 women and around 30 Roma women from different CSOs and individual Roma women activists
Advocacy in practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 3 public debates organized in Sarajevo, Tuzla and Kakanj to strengthen capacity and improve participation of various local women’s groups in EU accession, especially Roma Women Network members and individuals; » 6 advocacy meetings with stakeholders on Roma women participation; » Recommendations from the Analysis of the Implementation of the Gender Action Plan of the Municipality Centar Sarajevo incorporated in the draft Gender Action Plan. » 30 legal experts (lawyers and notaries), and at least 8 institutions from 3 regions engaged with the advocacy
Support to CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 4 Roma women’s organizations, members of women’s Roma networks acquired knowledge on EU accession process; » 5 CSOs trained on gender analysis of employment and business development policies, 13 CSOs involved in dialogue with municipalities on employment and business development programmes. » 3 Roma CSO networks from the WB region

<p>Reports produced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Analysis of the Implementation of the Gender Action Plan of the municipality Centar Sarajevo for the period 2016-2018 with Recommendations; » Evaluation report assessing relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of applied programmes for end beneficiaries; » Gender analysis of employment and business development programmes; » Publication 'Women as Property (Co)Owners in B&H'
<p>Promotion of activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 4 advocacy articles published on women's political participation



Sub-granted organizations:

- Advocacy Center for Democratic Culture – ACDC
- Committee of Blind Women of Kosovo (Komiteti i Grave te Verbera)
- Divine Women (Gruaja Hyjnore)
- EcoKosWomen – EKW
- Minority Communities Center (Centar Manjinske Zajednice)

ACHIEVED RESULTS:

Women that benefited directly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » At least 150 women participated in multiple trainings to raise their capacity in advocating for women's issues and interests, » Around 50 women representatives from political parties also benefited and were trained within this project » Over 1000 women and men reached through social networks and publications on social media
Advocacy in practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 32 meetings with stakeholders; » Public event to mark the International Earth Day; » 3 Round tables Gjilan, Viti and Partesh, for increasing women's participation; » 2 recommendations for advancing gender equality in Gjilan have been accepted.
Support to CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 11 environmental CSO members increased their capacities regarding gender equality and equal respect. » Additional

<p>Reports produced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A publication on the inclusion of women from non-majority communities in judiciary, police, and politics, with recommendations for the Government, civil society, and EU; » A policy brief with recommendations for harmonizing Kosovo's legislation with the EU accession process standards; » Research on the situation of blind and visually impaired women and girls - applicability of the legal framework, access to education, health, employment and society; » Guide on monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming in the drafting policies; » 1 report focused on the gender perspective integrated in the distribution of grants by MESPI; » Tool for assessment of local mechanisms for gender equality; » Research on the assessment of the population's general awareness of gender-responsive budgeting; » Gender analysis of the municipal budget in Gracanica and Novi Brdo
<p>Promotion of activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 5 videos were produced of interviewing prominent women as part of a campaign to promote participation in decision-making processes and outline challenges that women continue to face; » Video on awareness raising on gender equality, especially in the protection of the environment in the context of EU Accession was produced.



Sub-granted organizations:

- Association “Spectra”
- Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro (Udruzenje mladih sa hendikepom Crne Gore)
- Institute Alternative - IA
- Montenegrin LGBTIQ Association – Queer Montenegro
- Union of the blind of Montenegro (Savez slijepih Crne Gore)
- Women’s Alliance for Development (Zenska Alijansa za Razvoj)

ACHIEVED RESULTS:

Women that benefited directly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » At least 200 women, including women with disabilities and LBTQ women, as well as TGIV persons benefited from the action by attending different meetings and events, including a School on Gender Equality and European Integration (6), receiving legal aid (112), and other informative and advocacy events and discussions.
Advocacy in practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Conference on gender equality and the participation of WWDs in the EU accession process organized; » 53 meetings with stakeholders held; » 3 round tables on gender responsive budgeting processes were organized in Niksic, Bijelo Polje and Berane; » 1 panel discussion organized on the topic of inclusion of human rights of TIGV persons in gender equality state agendas and actions; » 1 panel discussion organized on the topic of inclusion of TIGV community in feminist agendas and actions; » Round table organized on gender mainstreaming and LBTQ women in EU accession process, intersectionality and cooperation between women CSOs and LGBTIQ CSOs; » Incentive measures proposed in the local budgets in the three municipalities in areas such as agriculture and rural development with some partly being accepted by municipalities.

<p>Support to CSOs</p>	<p>» 8 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from Niksic, Bijelo Polje, and Berane enhanced their capacities to effectively advocate for the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting and actively contribute to the adoption and implementation of gender equality policies in their local communities.</p>
<p>Reports produced</p>	<p>» Policy brief on the participation of women with disabilities in the EU accession process;</p> <p>» Report on human rights of TIGV persons in relation to gender equality and EU integration in Montenegro;</p> <p>» Gender analysis of local budgets, identification of the needs of targeted groups of women, and preparation of recommendations for improving the situation;</p> <p>» Three infographics containing analysis of IPA III projects in Montenegro;</p> <p>» Paper “Potentials of Early EU Integration of Montenegro for Gender Gender Equality”;</p> <p>» Monitoring report on presence of LBTQ women and TIGV persons in Montenegrin public policies regarding EU accession process for the period of 2018 – 2022;</p> <p>» Monitoring report of media coverage of issues regarding lesbian, bisexual, trans and queer women for the period 2019 – 2022;</p> <p>» Publication on the current situation, prejudices, recommendations for improvement in the field of gender-sensitive public services with focus on sexual and reproductive health.</p>
<p>Promotion of activities</p>	<p>» 19 media releases (radio and tv);</p> <p>» Campaign named “Our rights are your responsibility” was created as a series of social media carousel posts, educational social media campaign presenting differences in the treatment of fundamental human rights of the TIGV community in Montenegro and ones in the majority of EU countries;</p> <p>» 6 radio shows prepared.</p>



Sub-granted organizations:

- Association for Protection of Workers Rights “Loud Textile Worker” (Zdruzenie za zastita na rabotnicki prava “Glasi Tekstilec”)
- Finance Think - Economic Research & Policy Institute (Finance Think - Institut za ekonomski istrazuvanja i politiki)
- Helsinki Committee for Human Rights (Helsinski komitet za covekovi prava)
- Humanitarian Association “Mother” (Humanitarno Zdruzenie “Majka”)
- Rural Coalition (Ruralna Koalicija)
- Women’s Organization of Strumica (Organizacija na zeni od Strumica)

ACHIEVED RESULTS:

<p>Women that benefited directly</p>	<p>✓ 506 women trained, encouraged and informed about various aspects of advancing gender equality</p>	<p>» 200 Increased and improved their legal knowledge of what constitutes mobbing and how and where it can be reported to textile workers/women in rural and urban areas of the eastern region.</p>
		<p>» 136 rural women (from villages Rezhanovce, Gorno Konjare and 6 municipalities in the western part of N. Macedonia) mobilized and involved in activities related to gender related issues.</p>
		<p>» 20 women empowered to take active participation in the local decision-making process through initiatives.</p>
		<p>» 150 women were directly involved in the realization of the activities in Strumica, Novo Selo and Radovis.</p>

<p>Advocacy in practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 9 representatives of the local CSOs trained for monitoring and advocacy; » 3 urban, 5 rural meetings with women workers about gender equality, discrimination and mobbing » 9 conversations/interviews were conducted with representatives of the local governments of the municipalities Strumica, Novo Selo, Radovis (mayors, coordinators for equal opportunities etc.); » 3 Recommendation letters and advocacy cards were submitted to the representatives of the three local governments Strumica, Novo Selo, Radovis (mayors and councilors) on a personal meetings.
<p>Support to CSOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 10 grass root CSOs from 6 municipalities with improved knowledge and capacities; » Increased capacity of 7 local organizations for monitoring and advocacy on gender equality within the EU integration process; » Increased capacity of 3 local organizations through multiple trainings.
<p>Reports produced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 1 Policy study - Analysis of the gender component within the local budgeting process for municipality of Prilep and Krushevo; » 1 Research on the manner, extent and impact of harassment on mobbing victims; » 1 Monitoring Analysis of budget programs in the municipalities of Strumica, Novo Selo and Radovish; » 1 Gender Analysis of local programs, processes and activities that are implemented in the local community.

Promotion of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Over 500 textile women workers were reached through the educational campaign for gender equality, discrimination, and mobbing in 5 villages and 3 cities in the eastern part of North Macedonia;» 1 strategic forum on gender equality» 5 promotional campaign videos on the importance of GRB and mobbing on the workplace;» 12 brief info cards and graphs on gender sensitive integration were disseminated in Prilep and Krushevo;» 1 interactive event on gender responsible local planning in Prilep;» 6 open days in 6 municipalities for raising awareness on gender equality;» 1 press conference on the results of the GE analysis» 1 final conference on the research on the manner, scope and impact of harassment on victims of mobbing;» 1 final conference about the findings and recommendations from the analysis of the gender component of the programs for equal opportunities.
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Sub-granted organizations:

- A 11 – Initiative for Economic and Social Rights (A11 - Inicijativa za ekonomska i socijalna prava)
- Association for Development of Creativity (Društvo za Razvoj Kreativnosti)
- Foundation ARKA (Fondacija ARKA)

ACHIEVED RESULTS:

Women that benefited directly	✓ At least 100 women engaged, trained, encouraged and informed about different aspects of gender equality	» 15 young women from the municipalities of Niš, Leskovac, Jagodina, Sremska Mitrovica, Bajina Bašta, Indija, Ruma, Kraljevo, Smederevska Palanka, Aleksandrovac, Trstenik, Petrovac na Mlavi, Vranje and
		» Bačka Palanka, gained knowledge and skills to engage in local policy dialogue
		» 85 women from 8 local WCSOs
Advocacy in practice	» 9 meetings with stakeholders; » 9 successfully held local initiatives that further gathered 103 young people across different local communities in Serbia, mostly rural and remote; » 1 conference on youth participation in decision making; » 1 conference on women’s participation.	

Support to CSOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» 8 WCSOs increased knowledge on gender equality policies, monitoring and gender analysis;» Network of WCSOs was formed.
Reports produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» 3 gender analysis of local policies of the Municipality of Aleksinac;» 1 publication on women participation in the EU integration process on a local level.
Promotion of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» 4 radio shows and 1 radio spot produced promoting women's participation in decision making;» 24 posts on social media and 5 blog posts promoting local initiative by young women and girls.



**FURTHERING GENDER EQUALITY
THROUGH THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS**