

## PROJECT BULLETIN

# PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE

Issue №1 (April–July 2014)

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome to the first issue of the bulletin of the “**Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in Ukraine**” project, funded by the Government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (*Sida*) and implemented by the Council of Europe.

The 30 months project aims to enhance the capacity of national institutions, and to increase the awareness of the relevant law and policy makers responsible for providing effective assistance and redress to victims of violence against women and domestic violence. In particular, it aims at the ratification of the [Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence](#) (Istanbul Convention) by Ukrainian authorities through legislative review, minimum common categories on data collection and recommendation on cooperation at the local level.

During the inception phase, September 2013 – April 2014, a project planning was carried out based on a reassessment of the project environment, adapting to changed conditions, to project beneficiaries’ needs and context in line with the Council of Europe project criteria, namely: relevance, added value, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. A new revised project proposal was drafted and shared with all and each of the stakeholders bilaterally to obtain their feedback, inputs and approval, and as a group during the **Inception Workshop** that took place on March 13. After the Steering Committee approval of the final and agreed Project Document, the implementation phase started; officially on May 1, 2014.

We hope to continue our fruitful collaboration, and to achieve the project results together, for the benefit of Ukraine and of victims and survivors of violence against women and domestic violence.

Sincerely yours,  
**Ana Urrutia-Enciso**  
Project Manager

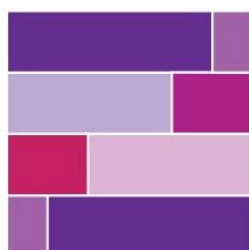
## STAGE OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION APRIL TO JULY



**Project Steering Committee meeting** was held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Project partners discussed the situation of violence against women in Ukraine, action undertaken, achievements and outstanding challenges. The Council of Europe project intervention and logic were welcomed. The project documentation together with the project workplan and logical framework, which lays out the basis of future work and activities, was presented to all partners and approved unanimously.

**Tender for national experts** was carried out. Ms Ganna Khrystova, Associate Professor of the Yaroslav the Wise National Law Academy of Ukraine, was selected as a national expert for the project based on her expertise and level of English. Ms Khrystova has experience in developing legislation, in particular draft law of Ukraine “On preventing of family violence” (1999-2001) and draft law of Ukraine “On preventing and combating domestic violence” (2010), and was a member to the national expert group on improvement of legislation on Equal Rights and Opportunities and Prevention of Gender Based Violence in Ukraine (2009 – 20112).

**One international expert**, Mr Javier Truchero, was selected from the Council of Europe international pool of experts and hired for the project. Mr Truchero was one of the experts that participated in the drafting of the Istanbul Convention; he is a lawyer (Madrid Bar Association), holds a Master degree in Law from Columbia University and has consulted with law firms, and international organizations on law and public policy. He has been lecturer and a legal advisor at the Spanish Ministry of Justice, Secretary of State (2008-2011).



<http://www.coe.int/web/stop-violence-against-women-ukraine>

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**A first Istanbul Convention Interagency Working Group** was organised in collaboration with the main beneficiary, the Ministry of Social Policy, and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on June 24. Project partners together with the project experts discussed the legislation of Ukraine that needs to be revised in line with the Istanbul Convention, and that will be undertaken in the context of the Council of Europe Project.



**A one day Workshop** on the **Istanbul Convention** was organised for civil society representatives and civil servants from various Ministries on June 25. Mr Truchero, the CoE international expert explained how the Istanbul Convention is first legally-binding instrument in Europe in the field of violence against women and domestic violence, and in terms of scope, the most far reaching international treaty to tackle this serious violation of human rights. The Ukrainian version of his presentation will be made available in the project website and can be requested from the team anytime. Ms Oreshkina, from the CoE in Strasbourg explained that the Convention will come into force on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and some of the activities that will take place around it.

**Pilot regions Lviv and Kirovograd**, have been identified by the beneficiary partner, the Ministry of Social Policy. Official communication from both pilot regions agreeing to collaborate with the project has been received. A mission to Lviv was carried out at the end of June and meetings with the local authorities and local NGOs were held. A similar mission to Kirovograd is scheduled for mid-August.

## RESOURCES

Council of Europe relevant **reports** have been translated into Ukrainian and the first of these, the **Legal Explanatory Report of the Council of Europe Convention on Combating and Preventing Violence against Women and Domestic Violence** has been published and distributed among project partners. The following three reports are to be published during September:

- ✚ Administrative data collection on domestic violence in Council of Europe member States;
- ✚ Handbook for parliamentarians of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
- ✚ Setting the Standard: Proposals for Minimum Standards for Violence Against Women Support Services”.

## FOLLOW UP ACTION:

We aim to brief you about the status of the project, as well as to keep you regularly informed and updated about our latest activities, so we would like to introduce you to:

- ✚ our quarterly bulletins, of which you are reading the first
- ✚ the project website

<http://www.coe.int/web/stop-violence-against-women-ukraine> which will be operational from September 1, 2014.

We welcome your **suggestions** and **ideas**, which will certainly be useful and valuable for the preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine.

In light of current important judicial, legislative and constitutional reforms taking place in Ukraine, it is important to consider gender equality as a central issue, in particular given the [Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-17](#)

### Contact details

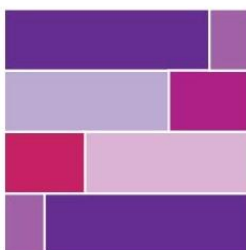
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### Council of Europe Project

“Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine”

### Project team

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