

PROJECT BULLETIN

PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE

Issue №2 (August – December 2014)

AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2014

Mission to Kirovograd was held by the project team in August. Kirovograd, together with Lviv were identified by the beneficiary partner, the Ministry of Social Policy as the project pilot regions for the project expected result on cooperation between regional and/or local authorities, as well as relevant stakeholders aimed at providing effective assistance to victims and survivors of violence against women and domestic violence.

Meetings were held with the Kirovograd Regional State Administration representatives and local NGOs. In both the project general aims and expected results were presented. Project summaries, the Istanbul Convention legal explanatory report in Ukrainian and visibility items were distributed.



First meeting of the Istanbul Convention working group on data collection was held on September 24 in Kyiv. The aim of the group meeting was to discuss the current stage of data collection on violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine, as well as to introduce the project national expert to the key stakeholders.

Project partners present included representatives of the Ministry of Social Policy, State Court Administration, State Statistic Service, Ministry of Health, General Prosecutor Office, representative from the Gender Strategic Platform network and Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights. The Council of Europe publication Administrative data collection on domestic violence in Council of Europe states, translated into Ukrainian and published by the project was presented to all participants and distributed together with the pocket version of the Istanbul Convention. Ms Iryna Kalachova, Professor of theoretical and practical economics, statistics and demography of the National Unkrainian University of Taras Shevchenko, the Council of Europe national expert was presented. Her report is due early 2015.



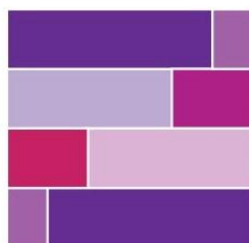
First meeting of the Istanbul Convention working group on legislation review was held on the 1st and 2nd of October in Kyiv region. The aim of this meeting was to discuss the initial findings, recommendations and suggestions by the CoE experts Mr Javier Truchero Cuevas and Ms Hanna Hrystova, regarding compliance of selected Ukrainian legislation with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Following the Istanbul Convention structure, the discussion centered around Chapters V and VI of the convention, namely Substantive Law and Investigation, prosecution, procedural law and protective measures, and the required changes in Ukrainian Criminal and Criminal Procedural Law, as well as the Draft Laws on Misdemeanors and on Domestic Violence.

The group breath of expertise and experiences brought some heated but thorough discussions on the best ways forward to ensure the compliance of Ukraine with the IC in these aspects. Final recommendations on this initial package of laws were provided to the main project partner and beneficiary, the Ministry of Social Policy at the beginning of November.



Annual Gender Strategic Platform (GSP) meeting, a network of Ukrainian women's right organisations and individual gender experts, was held in cooperation with the Project on 15-16th of October in Kyiv. One of the main aims of the meeting was to



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develop an advocacy strategy of civil society organisations for ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence by the Parliament of Ukraine.

During the meeting participants discussed and determined objectives, target groups, partners, timeline, and developed an expanded activity plan for implementation of the advocacy strategy clearly identifying the role and needs of civil society organizations for the successful ratification of the Istanbul Convention.



Second project Steering Committee meeting was held on November 14, 2014 in Kyiv. The meeting was chaired by Ms Nataliya Fedorovych, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine and attended by representatives of main project partners.

Council of Europe presented project update since the last Steering Committee meeting for the period of time from May to October 2014, with a special recognition to project partners for their support and participation in each of the project activities, together with the Project Workplan until February 2016. Overall assessment of the project to date, action undertaken, communication activities and achievements, such as the First Stage report of the Ukrainian legislation compliance with the Istanbul Convention had been already sent to partners.

The Ministry of Social Policy suggested during the meeting the revision of the workplan and proposed a list of activities, which will be reviewed under the prism of the project mandate and the Council of Europe added value.



Istanbul Convention Interagency Working Group, the ad hoc working group under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Policy charged with preparing the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, met on 18 December 2014 to discuss the next steps to be taken for the process of ratification the Istanbul Convention by the Ukrainian Government.

The meeting took place in the Ministry of Social Policy and was chaired by Ms Nataliya Fedorovych, then Deputy Minister of Social Policy. Council of Europe side was represented by Christos

Giakoumopoulos, Special advisor to Council of Europe's Secretary General for Ukraine, the full Project team and the Council of Europe project national experts.

Ms Ganna Khrystova, national expert on the Ukrainian legislation compliance with the Istanbul Convention, presented the First stage legislative report that followed the Istanbul Convention structure and was centered around Chapters V and VI of the convention, namely Substantive Law and Investigation, prosecution, procedural law and protective measures.

Ms Iryna Kalachova, national expert, presented briefly her initial findings regarding the current data collection on violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine, as well underlined the importance of data collection to good policy making and to prevention and protection victims of violence against women and domestic violence.

RESOURCES

The following Council of Europe **three reports** were translated into Ukrainian and published during September – October 2014:

- 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".

Council of Europe other relevant **report**, such as the **Legal Explanatory Report of the Council of Europe Convention on Combating and Preventing Violence against Women and Domestic Violence together with the Council of Europe Convention on Combating and Preventing Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (pocket version)** were translated published and distributed among project partners earlier.

All reports, publication and other relevant information are available at the project **website**, which is operational from September 2014.

Earlier project activities for April – July 2014 are covered in the first project **bulletin**, available in both **English** and **Ukrainian**.

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Council of Europe Project

"Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine"

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

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