

## PROJECT BULLETIN

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

Issue № 6 (January – April 2016)

This bulletin is also available in Ukrainian

### JANUARY TO APRIL 2016

Throughout the period January-April 2016, the Project team continued to accompany the efforts of the Ukrainian authorities towards the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and took part in a series of meetings involving representatives of the Government and Parliament of Ukraine.

A Co-ordination meeting on the decentralisation of social services in Ukraine took place in Kyiv on 31 March 2016. Organised and facilitated by the Council of Europe Projects "Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine" and "Decentralization and territorial consolidation in Ukraine", the meeting aim was to ensure that the decentralisation process planned for Ukraine takes into consideration its implications for violence against women and domestic violence issues, among other social policy issues. The meeting was co-chaired by Ms Nataliya Fedorovych, Head of Department on family, gender policy and human trafficking (MSP) and Mr Serhiyem Sharshovym, Head of Department on decentralization and territorial consolidation (Minregion).



The first Council of Europe Grant Award procedure has been organised in the framework of this Project. Its aim is to co-fund national projects aimed at promoting the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence through organisation of meetings, round-tables, awareness raising campaigns, media advertising, informative materials, or any other means of action. Two NGOs, La Strada Ukraine and Women's Perspective, have been selected throughout a competitive process.

During the period May-June 2016, these NGOs will organise several round tables at national and local level, including one with the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and will produce two videos and other informative materials.



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A Journalist Award for the best published article on the topic of violence against women and domestic violence was launched in February 2016. This activity has been inspired by Article 17 of the Istanbul Convention (in the picture) in which it is recognised the key role played by the private sector and the media in preventing violence against women and enhance respect for their dignity. The Council of Europe Project called all professional journalists and freelancers of local, regional and national media to participate in the competition and will award a prize to the three best articles following the decision of an eminent Jury, composed of:

Iryna Lutsenko, MP of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine;

Sergiy Ustymenko, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine;

Sergiy Shturhetski, Member of the Commission of Journalistic ethics, Head of Ukrainian Media Union

Ana Urrutia, Council of Europe Project Manager "Preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence in Ukraine."



On 18-19 April, a [meeting of the Working Group on multi-agency co-operation](#) for an integrated response to violence against women and domestic violence at local level took place in Kyiv. The meeting gathered representatives from national and local institutions, including from the two project pilot regions (Lviv and Kirovograd). The project international expert, Monika Kocaqi, presented the concept, benefits and core principles of the multi-agency co-operation mechanism. The presentation was followed by a working group discussion facilitated by national academics and NGOs' activists. The proposals put forward by the working groups will be the basis for the future work of the project international expert and will lead to a Protocol for co-operation between regional and local authorities.



On 26 April, an Ukrainian delegation (in the picture) composed of Iryna Ionova (MP), Oleksander Kulyk (Department Deputy Director at the Ministry of Social Policy), Maksym Kononenko and Oleksandra Popescu (Ukrainian Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe) participated in the 3rd meeting of the [Committee of the Parties](#) of the Istanbul Convention that took place in Strasbourg on 26 April. During this meeting, the delegation presented the steps undertaken so far towards the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Ukraine and looked for additional synergies with Council of Europe bodies, such as the Committee of Experts on Action against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) and the Committee of the Parties itself.



The [Project evaluation process](#) started in February with the selection of an independent international evaluator. Blanka Bellak (in the picture), a professional with more than 15 years of experience in results based management and project evaluation, was chosen.

In order to assess the overall project progress and the impact produced, she visited Strasbourg on 25-26 April to meet with Council of Europe staff members and key project partners. After a visit to Kyiv in May to meet all project partners and stakeholders, the evaluator will issue an evaluation report to be presented to project partners and stakeholders during the last Steering Committee.



### Resources

More information on the project activities as well as all project publications are available at the [Project website](#) in both English and Ukrainian.

Also, three more publications are now available in Ukrainian:

- ✚ The Istanbul Convention in brief;
- ✚ Brochure Frequently Asked Questions;
- ✚ Paper on Article 17 of the Istanbul Convention.

The Council of Europe [video](#) "A life without violence is every women's right" was translated into Ukrainian and is now available on the project website.

An informative section on data collection is now present in the project website. It includes a set of relevant materials gathered or developed throughout the project implementation phase.

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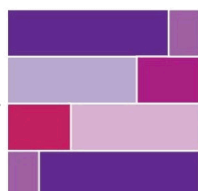
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