## 21 st Gender Equality Commission



**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:** 

**ENSURE THE EQUAL ACCESS OF WOMEN TO JUSTICE** 



Anca Sandescu, Gender Equality Division May 2022



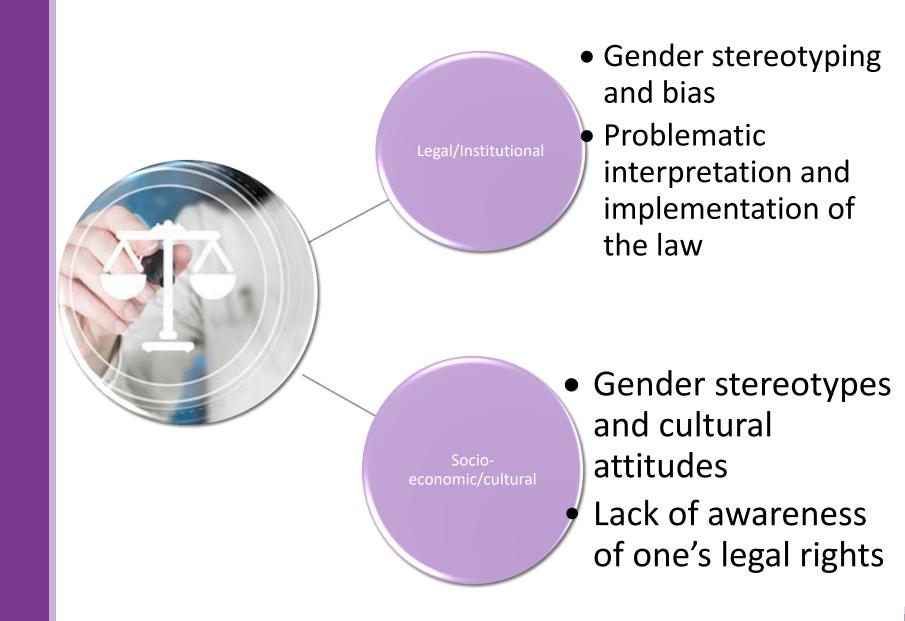






Council of Europe approach and added value

## Barriers to women's access to justice



### Current state of affairs

2 Ongoing projects



3 Upcoming projects AIMS: To strengthen women's access to justice in line with international and European standards, and to contribute towards ratification and full implementation of the Istanbul Convention

TARGET GROUPS: Legal professionals

#### Main results: Capacity building of professionals

### **Women's Access** to Justice HELP Introduction

- Strengthen competences on women's access to justice and VAW/DV topics
- Enhance skills and knowledge for legal aid lawyers on how to better respond to the justice needs of women, victims of violence



#### Main results: Women's legal empowerment

 Increase women's awareness about their rights and how to access to remedies, especially among women victims of violence HF II TK: training programme and handbook on **strategic litigation** to defend and promote women's human rights

#### Future plans

HF II TK: a **research study** on barriers to women's access to justice and legal aid in Turkey

PGG II EaP: a **research study** on impact of Covid-19 on Women's Access to Justice

# Research Impact of Covid 19 on Women's Access to Justice

#### -Questionnaire-



- ➤ A Europe wide research with:
  - in-depth case studies from EaP countries
  - Up-to-date data from all 46 Council of Europe member States
- Focused on challenges/trends and good practices
- > Covers the period between March 2019-present

#### **Questionnaire**

- a useful tool for harmonised data collection
- Covers THREE main areas:
  - Pandemic related issues
  - Justice sector impact
  - Gender based violence

# Research Impact of Covid 19 on Women's Access to Justice

-timeline-



**17 November**: launch during the GEC 22 plenary meeting.



August/September: finalisation of report



**24 June:** deadline for receiving answers from Member States



16 May: If approved, questionnaire will go out



12 May: GEC will consider the questionnaire

Making gender equality standards a reality in Europe!

Thank you!

