

Council of Europe
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Project on strengthening and protecting women's and children's rights in Ukraine

- project summary -

Project title:	Project on strengthening and protecting women's and children's rights in Ukraine
Project area:	Ukraine
Budget:	Euro 1 200 000
Funding:	European Commission (90%) and Council of Europe (10%)
Implementation:	Council of Europe (Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs / Directorate of Co-operation / Economic Crime Division)
Duration:	24 months (29 August 2008 – 28 August 2010 + 7 months budget neutral extension)

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The promotion of equality of rights and opportunities between women and men, and promotion of children's rights are core European values, and are enshrined in a number of formal commitments. Ukraine has signed most international agreements in this area, which are also supported by the EU and ratified by all Member States. This set of conventions and treaties constitutes the framework of reference for any future work on women's and children's rights, and will provide the direction for any legislative approximation work, as well as for enforcement efforts. Major studies and surveys led by other donors in the past ten years, as well as a number of small-size projects, have developed a solid basis of knowledge on existing gaps.

Article 24 of the Ukrainian *Constitution* guarantees equal rights for women and men, as well as the right for women to combine work and motherhood. In addition, Ukraine has signed all major international conventions on women's and children's rights. A large enforcement gap, however, remains to be closed between legal and constitutional commitments on the one hand, and daily life of women and children on the other hand. Since January 2005, this discrepancy has increasingly been acknowledged by the Government of Ukraine.

One of the main objectives of the proposed project is to undertake a strategic approach and detailed mapping of the problems and needs relating to women's and children's rights that will have to be addressed in order for Ukraine to be able to meet its obligations under the relevant international instruments. The project addresses a range of needs, in particular need to address issues of gender equality and Social Charter (non-discrimination, violence against women), the protection of children's rights (child labour, ill-treatment and abuse of children), the protection of children, including from trafficking and sexual exploitation.

PURPOSES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

Objective	The objective of the project is to examine and improve the compatibility of existing laws and practice in Ukraine in the fields of gender equality and children's rights, and to contribute to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse of children in line with the Revised Social Charter, the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, and other relevant European and international instruments.
Output 1	Skills enhanced on standards and required reforms with regard to gender equality and children's rights and issues in line with the Revised Social Charter
Target Group	Parliament, government, courts, prosecution and relevant implementing agencies
Activity 1.1	2 trainings for key actors on the gender equality standards of the Revised Charter and general awareness of the Treaty
Activity 1.2	International conference on the standards of the Revised Social Charter and other relevant international instruments
Activity 1.3	Seminar on the children's rights standards of the Revised Social Charter and other international instruments
Activity 1.4	Seminar on the women's rights standards of the Revised Social Charter and other international instruments
Activity 1.5	Translation of Charter materials, in particular excerpts from the case law of the European Committee of Social Rights
Output 2	A legal compatibility study available which will address to what extent relevant Ukrainian legislation is in line with European standards and identification of areas that need improvement with regard to prosecution and prevention of violence against women and children
Target Group	Parliamentarians, Ministry of Justice, government officials at relevant levels (national, regional, local), representatives of courts and other relevant judicial or quasi-judicial bodies, as well as representatives of civil society where appropriate
Activity 2.1	First fact-finding mission of the CoE experts to collect information and legislation and conduct interviews and discussions with key actors
Activity 2.2	Second assessment mission to review legislation and institutional set up and discuss with key actors the preliminary results of the compatibility study
Activity 2.3	Through the compatibility study provide recommendations that address policy, institutional and legislative issues of existing legislation, implementation mechanisms and practices in line with the requirements of the Revised Charter and other European and international instruments
Output 3	New scenarios available regarding the existing legal framework for the prosecution and prevention of violence against women and children.
Target Group	Ministry of Justice, Codification Department, Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports; Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; Social Services
Activity 3.1	Legal Expert Opinion on existing or proposed legislation with regard to prosecution of violence against women
Activity 3.2	Workshop on legislation with regard to prosecution of violence against women with aim of its introduction or improvement
Activity 3.3	Legal Expert Opinion on existing or proposed legislation with regard to prosecution of violence against children
Activity 3.4	Workshop on legislation with regard to prosecution of violence against children with aim of its introduction or improvement
Output 4	Revised and reformed legal framework, policy and practices available for dealing with sexual exploitation and abuse of children in line with the standards of the Convention of the Council of Europe on the Protection of Children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (CETS 201).
Target Group	Presidential secretariat; parliament; Ministry of Justice (legislative drafting department); judiciary; prosecution services; Police (Special Units); health and social services; NGOs and implementing agencies
Activity 4.1	Development of a national strategy for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse, including legislative and institutional sector areas (judiciary and prosecution services)
Activity 4.2	Assessment of the existing legislation and analysis of police and court practices in

	cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of children
Activity 4.3	International conference on measures to protect children in line with the Convention of the Council of Europe on the Protection of Children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (CETS 201)
Activity 4.4	Provision of 3 legal trainings and drafting workshops on the application of international standards related to the <i>Preventive and Proactive Measures and Assistance to Victims</i> as foreseen by the Convention and introduction of recommendations for improvement
Activity 4.5	Provision of 2 legal training and drafting workshops on the application of international standards related to the <i>Substantive Criminal Law</i> and introduction of recommendations for improvement
Activity 4.6	Provision of 2 legal training and drafting workshops on the application of international standards related to the <i>Investigation, Prosecution and Criminal Procedure Law</i> and introduction of recommendations for improvement
Activity 4.7	Provision of one multidisciplinary workshop on <i>specialised and coordinating bodies, and Intervention Programmes and Measures</i> aimed at protection and prevention of children being sexually exploited and abused and introduction of recommendations for improvement
Activity 4.8	Seminar on legal cross-cutting issues related to the nexus between Cybercrime and child pornography for the purposes of sexual exploitation and abuse

BENEFICIARIES/PARTNERS

Presidential Secretariat
 Parliament
 Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
 Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports
 Ministry of Justice
 Judiciary - Judges
 Prosecution Services
 Police
 Health and social service agencies
 Professional groups (doctors, nurses, teachers, psychologists, social workers, journalists)
 NGOs and other *fora*
 Media and Journalists

EXPECTED IMPACT

Adoption and implementation of required standards and reforms with regard to women's and children's rights and issues in line with the Revised Social Charter and Council of Europe Convention on the protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, and other relevant European and international legal instruments;

Improved legislation and trained staff in legal and administrative areas that are necessary to meet the standards of the Revised Charter with regard to the rights and violence against women and children;

A holistic approach in combating and preventing violence against women, including domestic violence and use of tools to effectively protect women from violence;

Improved legal framework and its implementation on issues related to sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

CONTACT

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