

Gender mainstreaming advisory services to North Macedonia's administration at central level – Gender Equality Facility (GEF)

Project Factsheet

The Gender Equality Facility (GEF) is designed to ensure that gender equality is addressed in EU candidate countries during the accession process. This is best achieved by mainstreaming the Gender Equality acquis into the planning and programming related to the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis legislation and policies, in line with EU regulations and international obligations, as well as through the programming and financing of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy which involves the integration of a **gender perspective** into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures, and spending programmes, with a view to promoting **equality between women and men**, and combating discrimination. Gender mainstreaming ensures that policy-making and legislative work is of higher quality, and policies respond more effectively to the needs of all citizens – women and men, girls and boys. With gender mainstreaming, public interventions are more effective, ensuring that inequalities are not perpetuated.

Adapted from: European Institute for Gender Equality

Project title and main partners:

“Gender mainstreaming advisory services to North Macedonia's administration at central level”

The project has been designed in close collaboration with the **Secretariat for European Affairs (SEA)**, and in consultation with the **Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (MLSP) / Equal Access Opportunities Department**

Duration: 2021 – 2022 (24 months)

Source of funding:
Sweden

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About the project

The overall objective of the project is to **support the Government of North Macedonia in transposing the EU Gender Equality acquis as part of the EU accession agenda**. The term ‘EU Gender Equality acquis’ refers to all the relevant Treaty provisions, legislation and the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union in relation to gender equality. The project is also aimed at accomplishing gender equality outcomes in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 5: **Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**.

The project works with the Secretariat for European Affairs and the National Gender Machinery at central level to increase long-term capacities and skills of key Government personnel mandated for European Integration and Gender Equality, so GE goals are increasingly reflected in the country's planning and policy processes.

In the medium to longer-term, the project aims to secure implementation of gender equality legislation, policies and standards through policy dialogue, technical expertise and guidance, sharing of good practice, and strategic partnerships and cooperation.

Additional project partners and beneficiaries



In addition to SEA and MLSP as main project partners and beneficiaries, for specific components, the project will collaborate, among others, with the EU Delegation, the State Statistical Office of the Republic of North Macedonia (MAKSTAT), civil society/women's organizations (CSOs), and the Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MISA).

Overall, women and men, girls and boys in North Macedonia, including disadvantaged groups among them, will benefit from transformative gender-equal governance reform and service delivery.

Project's approach



Expert support is provided for the integration of gender equality perspectives into sector dialogue, policy revisions, COVID-19 recovery programmes, and ongoing reforms, including the National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis, EU-funded IPA programmes and actions, the Government's Annual Work Programme, and the strategic planning of line ministries on EU-related reforms. Project activities are geared towards achieving two main expected outcomes:

Output 1: SEA, IPA Units, Sector Working Groups, and selected decision-making bodies and coordination structures involved in EU accession have the knowledge and skills to include a gender perspective in programming, implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of IPA programmes. This is being achieved through:

- Preparation of knowledge products on gender mainstreaming;
- Capacity development on gender mainstreaming in IPA;
- Support for SEA's managerial, operational and human resources for gender mainstreaming;
- Technical input, feedback and comments on EU IPA planning and programming documents;
- Guidance on gender mainstreaming in priority reform areas and relevant EU Chapters to selected decision-making bodies and coordination structures involved in EU accession.



Output 2: National Gender Mechanisms (Equal Opportunities Department and related Equal Opportunity Coordinators/Gender Focal Points) have the administrative capacities to perform gender mainstreaming in planning processes related to the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis (NPAA), and implement EU Gender Equality legislation and policy, in line with EU regulations and international obligations. This is being achieved through:

- Capacity development for NPAA planning processes;
- Technical support to the National Statistical System for improved monitoring of gender indicators;
- Capacity development of CSOs and women's NGOs on gender mainstreaming in line with the EU GE acquis;
- Networking and knowledge transfer of good practices on gender mainstreaming in EU accession in the region;
- Communicating the nexus of gender equality, development, and EU accession to the general public.