

Regional Experts Meeting from Western Balkans and Turkey

To discuss the draft Guidelines on Strengthening Data System on Violence Against Women (VAW)

Concept note

Date/time: Wednesday, 30 June 2021, 9:00-13:30 (CET) / 10:00-14:30 (EET)

Location: online, *Zoom* (hosted by UN Women)

Participants: Experts from EU candidate countries and potential candidates in Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo^{*1}, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) and Turkey working with VAW data on operational level (~3 experts per country), EIGE and UN Women.

Background information:

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) and gender-based violence is one of the most widespread human rights violations in the world and a manifestation of the power imbalance between women and men. Countries in the region of Western Balkans and Turkey have increased data collection on violence against women. That contributes to a better understanding of VAW prevalence and provides an important tool to monitor the implementation of policies aimed at reducing and preventing such violence and to assess the effectiveness of the national response. However, gaps in comprehensive, disaggregated data on various forms of VAW pose a barrier to fully understanding the scope and scale of violence in the region.

In December 2020, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the UN Regional Issue-based Coalition on Gender Equality (IBC-Gender) for Europe and Central Asia convened a [Joint Regional Workshop on Strengthening data system on Violence against women](#) for the region of Western Balkans and Turkey, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The workshop has gathered 147 participants from 18 countries, including seven IPA beneficiaries. As a follow-up, EIGE developed the draft Guidelines on Strengthening Data System on Violence Against Women, funded by the European Commission under the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). They are based on contributions from the participants and speakers at the regional workshop, including UN Women and UNFPA counterparts, follow international standards and EIGE's work on administrative data on VAW. EIGE in cooperation with

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



UN Women will continue the work on finalising the Guidelines and assessing the key issues in administrative data collection, mainly in the areas of crime and criminal justice data.

The Guidelines aim to provide a step by step guide for key national stakeholders working on implementation of Istanbul Convention and international standards of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on how to collect, administrate and report data on VAW.

The Guidelines emphasize that data collection and research are essential on evaluating the effectiveness of policies and measures undertaken on preventing and fighting VAW and domestic violence.

Objectives of the meeting:

1. To present the draft Guidelines and their objectives to the local stakeholders and institutions in the Western Balkans and Turkey, who could be potentially using them, once the publication is finalised;
2. To get input from the national stakeholders in the region on what is needed that the Guidelines could be practically applied in the national practices and data collection methods. To get insights on what information and guidance would be useful in strengthening local capacities, improving and coordinating the data collection, production and reporting of VAW statistics.

Draft agenda

9:00-9:05 Welcome and brief introduction from the organisers

9:05-9:15 Introductory *Tour de table*

9:15-9:25 Introduction to the process of developing Guidelines

9:25 – 09:45 Presentation of the Draft Guidelines

9:45-11:15 Expert's Tour de table: presenting step by step process of data collection in their country/institution (20 min per IPA beneficiary)

11:15-11:45 *Virtual break*

11:45-12:15 Continuation of Expert's Tour de table



12:15-12:45 Experts' contributions and comments for the guidelines

12:45-13:15 Summary of the discussion by EIGE's external consultant

13:15-13:30 Closing of the meeting and next steps

Meeting moderator: Milana Lazic, Project Manager – Assistance to Pre-Accession, EIGE

Guiding Questions for discussion on data collection processes, coordination and institutional arrangements:

The **following guiding questions are provided** to assess the needs of the data producers/providers. You are kindly asked to prepare an input based on the following questions. Each IPA beneficiary will have up to 20 minutes in the meeting, so please prepare your constructive input to fit both time and purpose.

Guiding questions:

- Type of data that you collect?
- Data collection method?
 - o Process of recording (at which stage data is recorded, by who..)
 - o Storage
 - o Analysis of data – Publicly available
- Treatment of the data?
 - o Confidentiality/ Data protection issues
 - o Coordination: is data shared with others?
- Data collection:
 - o Identification of indicators and variables to meet the IC requirements and other international standards (CEDAW)...
 - o Metadata: EU standards
- What challenges (e.g. cross cutting and/or gaps in your national data collection you recognise)?
- Should the Guidelines focus on technical shortcomings (unit of measurement, counting rules etc) and should they also touch upon institutional, legal and policy shortcomings?
- What guidance would be most relevant for your daily work in VAW data collection?





- Should the Guidelines be a universal step by step guide or should rather provide recommendations for each specific country and its context?
- What are the priority challenges you would like that these Guidelines tackle?

Logistical information: Link to zoom will be shared before the meeting. Kindly let us know should you need a translation and please specify for which language.

Thank you for your cooperation!



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