

Gender equality at local level: challenges and opportunities in Ukraine

Kyiv, Ukraine, 21-22 February 2018

Programme

Context

Gender equality is achieved when women and men enjoy the same rights and opportunities across all sectors of society, including economic participation and decision-making, and when the different behaviours, aspirations and needs of women and men are equally valued and favoured.

The Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (the Congress) is organising jointly with the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) a workshop to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to gender equality at local level in Ukraine. This workshop aims to promote gender mainstreaming in the work of local authorities, and more particularly the role of national associations of local authorities in supporting their members in this respect.

Through an interactive programme which combines peer exchanges between representatives of European associations of local and regional authorities and inputs from local and international experts, the participants of the workshop will debate on topical issues specific to gender equality, gender mainstreaming and gender sensitive policies at local level.

The workshop is organised within the Council of Europe Congress project "Strengthening capacity of local elected authorities which aims to improve the implementation of democratic principles in Ukraine by enhancing the institutional and leadership capacities of local elected representatives, and by disseminating nationwide good practices of local democracy.

Contact

Council of Europe Office in Ukraine

Svitlana Gryshchenko
Programme Manager

Mob: +380 96 340 13 83

E-mail: svitlana.gryshchenko@coe.int

Congress Secretariat in Strasbourg (France)

Marité Moras
Head of Unit, Co-operation and External Relations
Department

Tel: +33 3 88 41 22 33

E-mail: marite.moras@coe.int

*The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
is an institution of the Council of Europe,
responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 47 member states.
Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions –
and three committees, it brings together 648 elected officials representing
more than 200 000 local and regional authorities*
<http://www.coe.int/t/congress>

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2018

13:30 – 14:00 **Registration and welcoming coffee**

14:00 – 15:00 **Opening, welcome and introduction**

Moderation: Marité MORAS, Head of Unit, Co-operation and External Relations Department, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Volodymyr PROKOPIV, member of the Management Board of the Association of Ukrainian Cities, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of Kyiv City Council

Oksana PRODAN, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, Representative of the President of Association of Ukrainian Cities at the Parliament.

Olena LYTVYENKO, Deputy Head of the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine

Barbara TOCE, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, former Mayor of Pedaso, Italy

15:00 – 16:00 **Gender equality – why does it matter at local level?**

Moderation: Marité MORAS, Head of Unit, Co-operation and External Relations Department, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Kateryna LEVCHENKO, Ukraine, Commissioner on Gender Equality (tbc)

Višnja BAČANOVIĆ, Serbia, Gender Knowledge Hub

Olexandr SLOBOZHAN, Executive Director of the Association of Ukrainian Cities

In Ukraine, the situation regarding gender equality is similar as in the majority of transitional countries: international framework and standards are integrated in national laws and policies, but there is still no institutional practice to support the implementation of this new legislation. Consequently, the results remain limited when it comes to the level of policy implementation and the impact on a balanced representation of women and men in the society.

How could local authorities and their national associations further promote gender equality and ensure that a gender perspective is included in their governance?

→ Coffee break (16:00 – 16:30)

16:30 – 18:30 **Deconstructing gender stereotypes and promoting gender equality**

Moderation: Paolo CRUGNOLA, International expert

Olha GERASYMYUK, Ukraine, Vice Chair of the National Council of TV Radio Broadcasting

Birgitta ROOS, Chief Executive of the City of Gothenburg, Sweden

Carmen CASTELLUCCIO, Equal Opportunities Office, National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI)

Meija TUOMINEN, Planning officer, Citizen Services of the City of Vantaa, Finland

Semra AMET, Project Assistant on Gender issues, Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)

Gender stereotypes are integrated by the society and among decision makers. It is therefore essential to promote gender mainstreaming as a principle of good governance, in particular at the local level.

Local media could have a significant role to play in this respect, not only to promote gender equality, but also to inform citizens on the actions and policies taken by local authorities, and to raise the awareness of women of their rights.

Issues to be discussed by the panel: gender equality; gender mainstreaming tools; concrete examples of actions aimed at deconstructing stereotypes; promotion of political participation of women at local level, etc...

→ Dinner (19:30 – 21:30)

Thursday 22 February 2018

09:00 – 09:30 Warm-up and recollection of Day I

Moderation: Paolo CRUGNOLA, International expert

09:30 – 11:00 Developing local plan of actions for further gender equality

Introduction to the work in groups by: Višnja BAĆANOVIĆ, Gender Knowledge Hub, Serbia

Gender equality mechanisms have been introduced at the national level in Ukraine. Various projects are implemented in the field, together with the development of a number of women's movements and organisations.

How can national associations support the efforts of local authorities implementing gender sensitive policies? How to coordinate between national strategies and individual initiatives implemented at the local level?

→ *Coffee break (11:00 – 11:30)*

11:30 – 13:00 Next steps and conclusions

→ *Lunch (13:00 – 14:00)*

14:30 – 15:30 *Debriefing with local and international experts*

15:45 – 17.45 *Meeting of representatives of associations of local and regional authorities*