



Concept note

Regional workshop on Strengthening data system on Violence Against Women for Western Balkans and Turkey, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Virtual Workshop, 7-9 December 2020

Background

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) and gender-based violence continues to be one of the most widespread human rights violations in the world. It threatens the security and safety of countless women and girls and has short and long-term consequences on their physical and psychological well-being and health. Countries in Western Balkans, Turkey, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) region have increased data collection on violence against women, contributing to a better understanding of trends. However, gaps in comprehensive, disaggregated data on various forms of violence against women pose a barrier to fully understanding the scope and scale of violence against women in the region.

Regional report submitted to the Beijing Platform for Action+25 showed that in Western Balkans and Turkey, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) progress in the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender-disaggregated statistics remains uneven in the region, reflecting limited technical capacity, lack of financing for collection and analysis of data, and political will. Some countries remain unable to provide national data for a specific gender-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator, such as un-paid work, gender pay gap, prevalence of violence against women, etc. Several countries that have recently started collecting sex-disaggregated data continue to face challenges in the de facto analysis and use of such data¹.

In order to take stock of the practical knowledge on how to harmonize, collect, analyze and report data on VAWG from different data sources and providers, UN Regional Issue-based Coalition on Gender Equality (IBC-Gender) for Europe and Central Asia in partnership with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) is convening 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.

Given the importance of and challenges in data collection on VAWG during the COVID 19 pandemic, the workshop will also look at the new face of reality in terms of the most appropriate data collection method and source as well as the guiding principles for data collection.

¹ http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/RCM_Website/ECE_AC.28_2019_3-e_rev.pdf



Key area for discussion:

- Understanding of VAW data from different sources, focusing on sectoral administrative data from different sectors.
- International recommendations and best national practices, including those from the European Union, on the planning and implementation of national mechanism and systems to collect and report data on VAW.
- EIGE's Gender Equality Index and development of measurement framework of violence against women.
- Experiences and lessons learned and build synergies on VAW measurements across countries in the region.
- Building consensus on 'coordination and synergy' among various institutions in undertaking data collection and analysis.

Expected outputs:

- Technical and conceptual clarity around importance and methodology of violence against women data.
- Steps in developing a measurement framework for VAW stemming from EU Gender Equality Index, IMS and its components for managing administrative data from different sectors.
- Country challenges and capacity needs identification.
- List of priorities and technical issues that require further discussion.

Participants: up to 5 participants per country. The workshop will bring together data/statistical officers, representatives of key ministries and agencies, key experts from participating countries, civil society, UN agencies and EIGE experts to discuss and share practical knowledge on strengthening national mechanisms, data collection stemming from the EU methodologies and Information Management Systems (IMS) on measuring GBV and explore innovative and systematic ways of data collection by institutions.

Workshop Mechanics/Methodology:

The workshop will be drawn on participants' expertise and practical experience. It will be organized in a workshop mode where participants will have hands-on and practical opportunities to interact with experts and colleagues from other countries, and to share best practices and get knowledge on specific topics related to data collection and harmonization, data governance and coordination, use of data to inform policy decisions and interventions.