



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Secretary General
Gender Section

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Update on the Survey on the Well-being and Security of Women Project

The Gender Section Project Team of the three year Extra-Budgetary project “OSCE Survey on the Well-being and Security of Women” kicked off the project on 1st of April 2016. The survey is planned to be implemented in South East Europe, Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus¹. The survey will be based on the questionnaire and methodology of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) violence against women survey that covered 28 OSCE participating States. Furthermore, the OSCE’s survey will focus on violence against women in conflict through a specific conflict module, which will explore forms of violence experienced by women in conflict and post-conflict situations as well as the consequences for victims. The project will create an evidence base on different forms of violence against women to be used for improved policymaking by national actors, as well as international stakeholders working on related programming and policy-making in 10 OSCE participating States.



(L-r): OSCE: Serani Siegel, Project Manager; Ambassador Miroslava Beham; Senior Adviser on Gender Issues; UN Women: Ingibjörg Gísladóttir, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia and Representative to Turkey; Päivi Kannisto, Chief of the Peace and Security Section; UNDP: Louisa Vinton, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative; UN: Dubravka Šimonović, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences; EIGE: Kristaps Petermanis, International Cooperation; EEAS: Mara Marinaki, Principal Adviser on gender and on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; UNFPA: Ugochi Daniels, Chief of the Humanitarian and Fragile Context Branch. (OSCE/Ben Erasin)

On 28 November 2016 the first meeting of the High-Level Advisory Group on the OSCE Survey on the Well-being and Security of Women convened in Vienna. The High-Level Advisory Group, which consists of representatives of UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, EIGE and the EU, will provide conceptual guidance for the project and ensure that the survey findings are linked to the international agenda.

Participants of the meeting discussed possible entry points for their engagement, broader cooperation with the OSCE as well as how they could contribute to the dissemination of the findings, once they are available. All representatives welcomed OSCE’s initiative in reaching out to other international organizations and highlighted the importance of data collection in this field.

¹ Proposed coverage: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Moldova, Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The survey will also be conducted in Kosovo (all references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244).

The findings of the survey could be used for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that have been introduced by the United Nations in 2015. The SDGs provide a set of 17 aspirational “Global Goals” for development, that build upon the Millennium Development Goals and that the UN will be focusing on in the next 15 years. More specifically the survey findings could provide valuable data for the **SDGs goal 5² “Achieve gender Equality and empower all women and girls”** as well as **SDG 16** to “**promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**”. Furthermore, the data collected by the OSCE could be used by states for reporting purposes laid down in international framework conventions, such as the Istanbul Convention and the CEDAW³. The Istanbul Convention urges its signatory states in Article 11 to collect data and conduct research on different forms of physical, sexual and psychological violence. General Recommendation No. 19 of the CEDAW specifies the obligations of states in the context of gender based violence, including the obligation to collect statistics and research on the extent, causes and effects of violence, and on the effectiveness of measures to prevent and respond to violence.

In the forthcoming period the survey project team will, through the help and support of our colleagues in the Field Operations, reach out to relevant key local governmental and non-governmental stakeholders working on preventing and combating violence against women in the countries in which the survey is planned to be implemented. As communication and coordination is of utmost importance for the success of the project, key actors in the survey countries, such as international organizations, ministries, gender equality mechanisms, social and health services, parliamentarians, national statistical offices and NGOs, will be informed about the project and their role during the implementation and dissemination phase. The goal of the meetings will be to make sure that all actors involved are on board and aware of the project.

We have worked on the draft questionnaire and would like to thank those of you who have provided their comments to the latest version of the questionnaire. The field phase of the project is planned to start early next year and will continue throughout 2017 and 2018. First results will be available in 2018. The next project update will be shared in about three months’ time.

Important dates/upcoming events:

- January /February/March 2017: WebEx meetings with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders as well as country visits.
- March 2017: Attending the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

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² Indicators:

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

³ The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women