



Draft Project Document

Project Title Promotion of Women's Political Participation in the ECIS Region

Regional Programme Outcome(s): EUR_OUTCOME 34 Enhanced capacity and skills to apply gender analysis and mainstreaming for more effective policymaking and planning

Expected CP Outcome(s): N/A
(Those linked to the project and extracted from the CP)

Expected Output(s): Parliamentarians, Civil Servants at Decision-Making Levels and CSOs Capacitated to Enhance Women's Political Participation in Target Countries
(Those that will result from the project)

Executing Entity: UNDP Bratislava Regional Center

Implementing Agencies/Partners: UNDP Bratislava Regional Center in partnership with UNDP Country Offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey

Brief Description

Transition and development processes in the region occur without the full participation of women, weakening women's position in political and socio-economic life. These trends need to be reversed, in order to ensure that women and men equally contribute to and benefit from the transition process. In order to address existing challenges related to women's political participation in the region, the UNDP Bratislava Regional Center has designed a policy advocacy tool for the promotion of women's political participation, addressing Parliamentarians, civil servants at decision-making levels and non-state actors.

The proposed project intends to take forward the recommendations made in the advocacy tool and to operationalize them at the country level to bring about concrete changes in women's participation in governance in the ECIS region. To this end, the project aims to capacitate parliamentarians, civil servants at decision-making levels and CSOs to enhance women's political participation in the target countries. By righting gender balance in government, business and management and mobilizing all talents, existing governance structures will be strengthened, making them also less vulnerable during times of economic and financial crisis. The project is contributing to the implementation of the RBEC Gender Equality Strategy and its Action Plan and is also in line with the priorities set in UNDP's global Gender Equality Strategy (GES). Political participation, being a strategic gender priority in the region will be also aligned with the work in UNDP's core practices, as set out in RBEC's Strategy for 2008-2011.

Programme Period:	2009-2012	Total resources required	207,000 USD
Key Result Area (Strategic Plan)	Gender	Total allocated resources:	
Atlas Award ID:	_____	• Regular _____	
Start date:	December 2009	• Other:	
End Date:	July 2012	Donor	UNDP-JWID Fund (TBC)
PAC Meeting Date	__25 June 2009__	○ Donor _____	
Management Arrangements	_____	○ Donor _____	
		○ Government _____	
		Unfunded budget: 207,000 USD*	
		In-kind Contributions: Human resources required for coordination	

* Discussions with BDP/UNDP-JWID Fund ongoing

Agreed by (UNDP):

I. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Transition and development processes in the region occur without the full participation of women, weakening women's position in political and socio-economic life. These trends need to be reversed, in order to ensure that women and men equally contribute to and benefit from the transition process. Major challenges identified in the area of political participation and leadership include: (a) lack of data and analysis on the ongoing processes of participation of women in political life; (b) lack of understanding of the root-causes of women's low political participation; and (c) under-developed state capacity to, including, implement gender equality legislation and foster cooperation with the non-state actors to produce greater gender equality; and ensure full and equal participation of women in public life, including in decision making processes, in line with the international commitments and national legislation.

The proportion of women members of parliament in most of the Region is slowly rising though it is still below the critical mass of 30 % considered necessary for women to contribute meaningfully to politics. The average number of women members of national parliaments in the ECIS region is still just above 15%. This figure however, masks considerable regional variation. Women in Turkey, Armenia and Romania currently hold approximately 9% of seats, in Georgia and Albania, they hold around 6-7% of seats, while in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Belarus they hold just below 30% of national seats.

Since 1998, the Election system in BiH has introduced a quota system which ensured in 1998 the entering of a critical mass of women in the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly BiH. However, the Election Law of BiH adopted in 2001 also introduced a system of open lists which negatively impacted on women's political participation. All elections from 2002 have seen a decline in the percentage of women elected to governance bodies, even though the quota system has helped to contribute to a favorable climate for gender equality. Women's advocacy groups are working with various government bodies such as the Committee of Human Rights calling for the harmonization of the quota system with the Gender Equality Law and the implementation of special measures in conjunction with the statutory quotas in order to achieve higher representation of women in all legislative and executive bodies.

In Kyrgyzstan, quotas together with long term involvement of women NGOs led to major improvement in women's political participation in Kyrgyzstan. Thanks to the quota system introduced in 2006 and the new Elections Code adopted in October 2007 there are now 26.6% of women in Parliament. This is the highest women's representation in Central Asia. However, there is an increasing trend for traditionalist and patriarchal patterns to get stronger in society which washes out women from participation processes. Thus, elections to local councils in October 2008 showed that women still experience significant barriers while running for political positions at local level. Moreover, the number of women who participated in local elections decreased as compared to the 2004 elections reaching only 17%.

Women's political representation and participation in Turkey has been a challenge in every period and political structure. The rate of women's representation, which stood at 4.36% before the 2007 elections, doubled to 50 women, reaching 9.1% of the total seats in Parliament. Although this increase is far from the 17% target set by the Government in relation to MDGs Goal 3 by 2015, it is a positive incentive to move towards equality between men and women. One of the latest important achievements, concluding 12 years of lobbying by NGOs, has been the final approval of the law for the establishment of a specialized commission for Gender equality at the Turkish Grand National Assembly, the "Women-Men equal Opportunities Commission".

Developing Capacities for Women's Increased Participation in Governance

In order to address the challenges highlighted above, the UNDP Bratislava Regional Center has designed a policy advocacy tool for the promotion of women's political participation, addressing Parliamentarians, civil servants at decision-making levels and CSOs. This tool is based on analysis of regional data and detailed inputs from six national round tables (Bosnia and

Herzegovina (BiH), Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Turkey and Ukraine) held in 2008, which culminated in a regional conference in Istanbul in December 2008. A gender knowledge platform was created as a "living tool" in order to stimulate the exchange of relevant expertise and to manage knowledge provided by practitioners, and also contributed to the development of the advocacy tool.

As outlined in this regional advocacy tool (funded by BDP), accelerating the pace of change will require increased political will and concrete measures to address these challenges including affirmative action such as the use of quotas, support of women candidates and equal sharing of family responsibilities between men and women. The below table¹ shows the predictions made for the six round table countries of achieving MDG 3 - 20% proportion of seats held by women.

BiH	On track
Georgia	On track
Kyrgyzstan	No measure but likely given last election result
Poland	Achieved
Turkey	Unlikely
Ukraine	Unlikely at parliamentary or management levels but likely in rural office and village level

The advocacy tool highlights that effective interventions to improve and increase women's political participation require

- as a basis, adequate legal and institutional frameworks for women's political participation in line with the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- mechanisms and strategies (e.g. quotas/positive measures as outlined in CEDAW, alliances of women across party lines through hearings, committees and dialogue etc); as well as
- partnerships for women's political participation including with women's organizations and the media.

In this context, the advocacy tool also underlines that effective interventions require more than just additional number of women in more visible and responsible positions; they require capacities of both male and female Parliamentarians, Government officials and civil servants in key decision making processes to actually follow a gender equality agenda, as well as capacities of women's organizations and media to help empower that women claim and exercise their right to participate in public life.

The proposed project intends to take forward the recommendations made in the advocacy tool and to operationalize them at the country level to bring about concrete changes in women's participation in governance in the ECIS region. Where applicable, it will also take into consideration local governance specifics, in particular when implementing national level pilots (activity 2).²

By fostering the inclusiveness and representativeness of existing governance structures, this project will also contribute to making governance structures more stable and societies thus less vulnerable when facing economic and financial crisis. The crisis thus can be an important opportunity to invest in the Region righting the gender balance in government, business and management in order to improve state governance institutions, mobilizing all talents available to weather this crisis.

¹ UNDP BRC report 'National Millennium Development Goals: A framework for Action' <http://europeandcis.undp.org/home/show/EAB2523F-F203-1EE9-BE0CAB363E1F1A91>

² Several studies have shown that politically women at the local level have done better than at the provincial/state or national level.

The project is contributing to the implementation of the RBEC Gender Equality Strategy and its Action Plan³ and is also in line with the priorities set in UNDP's global Gender Equality Strategy (GES)⁴. In this context, the project will also support the implementation of national gender equality legislation and strategies. Political participation, being a strategic gender priority in the region, will also be aligned with the work in UNDP's core practices, as set out in RBEC's Strategy for 2008-2011⁵.

II. STRATEGY

The project will contribute to the following

Outcome:

Enhanced capacity and skills to apply gender analysis and mainstreaming for more effective policymaking and planning

Contributing to this outcome, women and men will be supported to equally participate in political life in the ECIS region; and equitable and sustainable service delivery by public institutions will be enhanced so women are actually and meaningfully able to contribute, following a gender-responsive policy agenda.

Direct beneficiaries are national stakeholders (Parliamentarians, civil servants in decision making levels as well as CSOs) from the target countries BiH, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey, who will be capacitated to enhance women's political participation in national context.

The output and activities are as follows:

Output:

Parliamentarians, Civil Servants at Decision-Making Levels Capacitated to Enhance Women's Political Participation in the Target Countries (BiH, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey)⁶

In order to achieve this output, the following activities are proposed:

Activity 1:

Initiation of Policy Dialogue with Parliamentarians, Civil Servants at Decision-Making Levels and CSOs on Enhancing Women's Political Participation in the Target Countries

³ See p. 26 of the RBEC GES (<http://europeandcis.undp.org/uploads/public1/files/RBEC%20%20Gender%20Equality%20Strategy%20%202008%20-%202011%20revised%20FINAL.doc>): Sub-regional stakeholder consultation on priorities for advancing gender equality and women's political participation (government and civil society participants, together with UNDP and common-system partner staff members as appropriate).

⁴ See p. 24 of UNDP's Corporate GES (www.undp.org/women/docs/Gender-Equality-Strategy-2008-2011.doc): In addressing barriers to women's political participation as candidates, voters and observers in electoral processes, UNDP will help electoral commissions and legislative bodies bolster capacities to review electoral laws and ensure non-discrimination. It will aim to assist women's participation in post-crisis democratization processes through consultations and networking opportunities for sharing best practices and experiences between countries.

⁵ See p. 11 of RBEC's Strategy for 2008-2011.

⁶ In all three target countries, the proposed project is well anchored; responding to existing needs at country level, benefiting from already established local partnerships and building up/complementing ongoing/planned initiatives. For further details see also Annex VIII.3.

A regional policy dialogue will be held with Parliamentarians, civil servants at key decision-making levels, academia and civil society from target countries to engage them in a policy debate on measures to increase and improve women's participation in governance. This will include:

- discussions on measures related to women and men MPs and their role in promoting gender equality as per their legislative role;
- discussions on innovative approaches for politicians/key decision makers to address challenges such as the risk of a deterioration of women's social and economic status during times of the economic crisis.

The regional dialogue will also serve as a follow up to the Regional Conference held in Istanbul in December 2008 where elements for a regional advocacy tool for the promotion of women's political participation were discussed. As such, the regional dialogue will also provide the opportunity to present the finalized version of a regional policy advocacy tool for the promotion of women's political participation in order to prompt discussions.

The policy dialogue is envisaged to take place in Turkey where UNDP has been approached by the newly created General Directorate on Women's Affairs (KSGM) and the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) to co-organize such a regional event with UNDP on the occasion of IFUW's 60 year anniversary. This is considered an excellent opportunity both due to the regional dialogue's nature as follow up to the 2008 Istanbul Conference as well as due to relevant national developments such as the approval of the 2008-2013 Gender Equality National Action Plan by the KSGM and the recent creation of a "Men Women Equal Opportunities Commission" in the Turkish Parliament.

The Regional Dialogue will also serve as an opportunity to launch country level capacity development pilots (activity 2) as well as the envisaged regional network (activity 3).

The regional dialogue will tentatively take place on the 10 and 11 December 2009 (Human Rights Day).

Depending on the availability of additional funding, the scope of participation in the Regional Dialogue might be broadened, going beyond the group of core practitioners from each of the target countries which this project intends to cover.

Activity 2:

Implementation of Country Level Capacity Development Pilots to Enhance Women's Political Participation in the Target Countries

Taking into consideration the specific experiences and practices from the target countries as outlined in the regional advocacy tool for the promotion of women's political participation and major findings from the thematic discussions during the envisaged regional dialogue, country level capacity development pilots will be implemented to:

- build on and complement already ongoing experiences and initiatives both by UNDP and other actors;
- leverage local partnerships, including with existing CSO networks, relevant to women's political participation;
- aim at attracting additional funding for further, complementary programming efforts, both by international donors and host Governments.

The pilots will contribute to the following components which form the overall umbrella for country level activities:

- strengthening legal and institutional frameworks for women's political participation in line with the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); - see Pilot A – BiH and Pilot C – Turkey.
- mechanisms and strategies (e.g. alliances of women across party lines through hearings, interactive workshops, specific sessions etc); - see Pilot A – BiH and Pilot B – Kyrgyzstan.
- partnerships for women's political participation including with women's organizations and the media; see - see Pilot A – BiH and Pilot B – Kyrgyzstan.

In order to implement these strategic and complementary pilot interventions, *small grants* will be provided to each of the target countries.

Strategic interventions proposed for each of the target countries are elaborated below. For detailed country specifics that create a momentum to promote women's political participation in each of the target countries, related ongoing/planned initiatives as well as relevant local partnerships this project is able to build upon, see Annex VIII.3.

Pilot A – Bosnia and Herzegovina

Strategic interventions proposed within the scope of this project, anchored in partnership with local partners

According to the 2009 and 2010 Working Plans of the BiH Gender Mechanisms, the amendment of the Election Law and the Law on Political Parties remains a key area to enhance women's political participation. The BiH Gender Mechanisms plan the implementation of a participatory process to amend these laws as outlined in the Public Life Working Group Recommendations.

The pilot country initiative of this project will create synergy with this process by enabling the BiH Gender Mechanisms to:

- hold multi-stakeholder coordination meetings of key stakeholders to identify necessary elements for the amendment of the Election Law and the Law on Political Parties (BiH Gender Coordination Board, BiH Parliament Gender Equality Commission, CSOs, media, UNDP);
- hold targeted sessions on women's political participation to raise awareness on women's political participation among key stakeholders (especially in the context of the BiH Parliament Gender Equality Commission).

The activities implemented through the small grants under this project are thus strongly situated in the existing initiatives within governmental and non-governmental structures in BiH, and have the potential to greatly complement additional programming efforts of the UNDP CO which are geared towards the implementation of the Gender Equality Law, the Recommendations of the Working Group on Public Life⁷ as well as the Gender Action Plan including processes to engender existing party structures.

Pilot B – Kyrgyzstan

Strategic interventions proposed within the scope of this project, anchored in partnership with local partners

In Kyrgyzstan, UNDP has been engaged in the promotion of women's political participation through various initiatives resulting in the development of crucial partnerships with key stakeholders, ranging from governmental partners to CSO networks. UNDP's work include the following projects: "Promotion of Women to Civil Service and Politics" (funded by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)), "Promotion of Women to Decision Making Positions" supported by the Finnish government, and "Improving Institutionalization of Gender Mainstreaming Practices into National Policies" (UNDP core budget). For further details see Annex VIII.3.

This project's small grants to the UNDP CO in Kyrgyzstan will strengthen the ongoing and past initiatives and expedite the enhanced women's political participation through:

- An interactive workshop for female members of political parties across party lines with which the UNDP CO is already working (in total, 5 pilot parties) in order to include a gender dimension in responding to key development challenges including the financial crisis and its consequences for rural women, gender-based violence, and environmental protection.

⁷ The Recommendations of the working group were developed within the scope of a UNDP project entitled "Implementation of Gender Equality Law Project", supported by the UNDP-JWID Fund (2003 – 2006).

- Supporting the women's network (AWLI) and its inclusion in national political discussions: The Alliance of Women's Legislative Initiatives (AWLI) has been established within a SIDA project on the "Promotion of Women to Civil Service and Politics" which unites women MPs, gender experts and activists of women's non-governmental organizations from all regions of Kyrgyzstan. AWLI holds gender expertise in the area of legislation and informational campaigns on gender issues. The proposed project will leverage partnerships with these networks both for country level activities (activity 2) as well as for regional activities (1,3,4) and thus also enable cross-fertilisation with other target countries to enhance East-East Cooperation.

Pilot C - Turkey

Strategic interventions proposed within the scope of this project, anchored in partnership with local partners

Responding to the latest CEDAW Recommendations, there is an urgent need to increase awareness on the importance of adequate legal frameworks to provide a basis for women's political participation, including on potential amendments that might be required related to the Political Party Law and the Electoral Law. Comprehensive multi-stakeholder discussions need to take place. The recently established Equal Opportunities Commission in the Parliament would be entrusted to play a major role in spearheading the process of amending these laws.

As a useful and strategic intervention within the scope of this project, it is proposed to organise a series of *multi-stakeholder consultations* where all key stakeholders for the promotion of women's political participation will be gathered, with the objective to further strategize and develop a road map for potential amendments to the Political Party Law and Electoral Law, spearheaded by the recently created Equal Opportunities Commission in the Parliament. This road map shall also serve as a strong tool for the Equal Opportunities Commission to further advocate this process. The target beneficiaries of the multi-stakeholder consultation will include governmental partners (as the representatives from KSGM and the Equal Opportunities Commission in Parliament), CSO representatives and representatives from international organizations. Emphasis will be given to strong visibility. In order to do so, UNDP will be able to build on already established partnerships, most importantly through UNDP's project "Enhancing women's participation in politics and decision making" which included a strong media component at the national and the local level to promote awareness building among citizens.

Activity 3:

Set-up and Facilitation of a Regional Network to Support the Implementation of Country-Level Capacity Development Initiatives to Promote Women's Political Participation in the Target Countries

In order to support the implementation of country-level capacity development initiatives designed and implemented under Activity 2, a regional network will be established with participants from the target countries' policy makers, gender experts, representatives of civil society organizations and UNDP practitioners. The network will support a collective learning space for the members where knowledge and expertise are made available in a practical fashion, leveraging local partnerships from within the target countries to the highest extent possible. The network will track, capture and analyze good practices and lessons learned throughout the design and implementation of the capacity development initiatives under Activity 2. It will also facilitate discussions among network members on common development challenges that may impact on women's political participation including the global economic crisis. Furthermore, the network will provide an imperative evidence base for future action as well as a methodology to capture changes in capacities related to women's political participation.

Being well positioned to play a vital role in facilitating a regional network for advocating and monitoring required changes to increase and improve women's participation in governance, UNDP BRC will host this network for the purpose of this project. Wherever possible, this regional network will link up with the global "iknow politics" network, drawing from resources available and creating a mechanism to directly feed back experiences made and knowledge generated through the implementation of this project. Upon finalization of this project, best practices, lessons learned and

additional knowledge captured throughout the project, being of relevance beyond the scope of this project will be fully transferred to the "iknow politics" network, thus guaranteeing the sustainability of the project's networking results. Experiences made with the CEE network operating with EU countries in the region will be also used.

Activity 4:

Organization of a Regional Seminar to Capture and Exchange Best Practices and Lessons Learned

The results of the country-level initiatives will be analyzed, presented and discussed at a regional event. Evidence based lessons-learned and good practices that have the potential of being replicated in different country context will be analyzed and compiled. Experiences collected will be fed back into the "iknow politics" network and thus guarantee sustainability of project results beyond the scope of this project. The Regional Seminar will also provide the opportunity to present and summarize results from the network discussions on common development challenges that may impact on women's political participation including a global economic crisis, as well as suggested ways forward. Buy-ins will be sought from participating policy-makers from other countries of the region to take the successes forward in their own national contexts.

PROPOSED APPROACH INCLUDING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE

Direct beneficiaries of this project are national stakeholders (Parliamentarians, civil servants in decision making levels as well as CSOs) from the target countries, i.e., BiH, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey, who will be capacitated to enhance women's political participation in their national contexts.

The project will work towards the outcome and proposed output through tailor-made capacity development initiatives both at regional and national level (pilot initiatives on the ground, based on results from baseline data gathered through the 2008 national roundtables, the regional policy-level dialogue proposed under activity 1, accompanied by regional networking (activity 3) and exchange of lessons learned (activity 4)). This approach will sustain policy-level commitment and create demonstrable results to support future evidence-based initiatives. The project will be complemented by tailor-made technical assistance from the RBEC Gender Practice towards the country-level pilot initiatives. The knowledge and expertise made available through the network will be codified and captured through the on-line network platform. In addition, all major experiences captured and of relevance beyond the scope of this project will be shared with the global "iknow politics" network for further utilization. The regional perspective brought into the project, in particular through activities 1, 3 and 4 will ensure a strong East-East Cooperation, providing a platform where best practices and lessons learned can be exchanged for potential consideration and replication in other countries of the region. Activity 2 will be implemented by the respective Country Offices, in close cooperation with BRC.

The capacity of policy-makers strengthened through the project implementation to design and implement concrete measures to increase and improve women's participation in governance will provide for the sustainability of the efforts generated by the proposed project. The project will also strongly build on the existing networks and knowledge available through CSOs in the target countries, leveraging their on-going work and thus ensuring impact of the project. Cooperation with other organizations working on the political participation agenda will be sought as well (e.g. the National Democratic Institution (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI) and others). The project will be implemented through DEX modality with BRC functioning as executing entity.

Resource Mobilization:

Enhancing women's political participation is in line with the priorities set out by the UNDP/Japan Women in Development Fund (UNDP JWIDF). The latter is being approached for funding of project activities 2, 3 and 4, while UNDP BDP will be approached for funding of activity 1 (Regional Dialogue). BDP has also funded the development and drafting of the outlined regional advocacy tool for the promotion of women's political participation. For the purposes of resource mobilization,

separate project documents will be prepared for the UNDP-JWID Fund and UNDP BDP. If necessary for reasons of resource mobilization, the scope of activity 1 could be revised, focusing on the launch of the regional advocacy tool and a related dialogue among a small core group of key practitioners from target countries.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CROSS-PRACTICE COLLABORATION

The proposed project will contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for good governance at the national and sub-regional levels which is a prerequisite for strengthening women's political participation and leadership. Cross-practice collaboration with BRC's Democratic Governance Practice will thus be sought throughout the project, considering the practice's long standing experience and expertise in addressing key issues such as low capacities of public institutions to implement pro-poor policies, ineffective government services, and low level of citizen participation in governance processes.⁸

Given the project's strategic approach and emphasis on capacity development, collaboration will also be sought with BRC's Capacity Development Practice.

⁸ A similar approach was already taken in the design of the advocacy tool for the promotion of women's political participation where members from the BRC Democratic Governance Practice were part of the project's advisory committee as well as participating in peer reviewing the document.

III. RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

<p>Intended Outcome as stated in the Regional Programme Document: EUR_OUTCOME 34 Enhanced capacity and skills to apply gender analysis and mainstreaming for more effective policymaking and planning</p> <p>Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:</p> <p>1. Number of regional projects integrating gender analysis, gender mainstreaming and gender equality programming goals. 2. Extent to which Gender Equality Laws in selected countries are implemented 3. Number of country office initiatives integrating gender analysis, gender mainstreaming and gender equality programming goals</p> <p>Applicable Key Result Area (from 2008-11 Strategic Plan): 1.1. Promoting inclusive growth, gender equality and MDG achievement; 2.1. Fostering inclusive participation: empowering the poor, women, youth, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized groups, through expanding the core channels of civic engagement, at the national, regional and local levels</p> <p>Partnership Strategy – see Annex VIII.1</p>			
<p>Project title and ID (ATLAS Award ID): Promotion of Women's Political Participation in Governance in the ECIS Region</p>			
INTENDED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT TARGETS FOR (YEARS)	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES
<p>Output 1 Parliamentarians, Civil Servants at Decision-Making Levels and CSOs Capacitated to Enhance Women's Political Participation in the Target Countries (BiH, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey)</p> <p>Baseline: Advocacy tool for the promotion of women's political participation to prompt discussions tailored to key Governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the region not accessible (see Ind. #1,2) Limited scope of multi-stakeholder</p>	<p>Targets (year 2010) - Policy dialogue initiated; (see Ind. #1, #2) - Country level capacity development pilots started off; (see Ind. #3, #4) - Regional network to support implementation of country-level capacity development initiatives set up and facilitated. (see Ind. #5)</p> <p>Targets (year 2011) - Country level capacity development pilots further implemented; (see Ind. #3, #4)</p>	<p><i>Activity 1</i> Policy Dialogue with Parliamentarians, Civil Servants at Decision-Making Levels and CSOs initiated on how to enhance Women's Political Participation in the Target Countries -Translation of the regional advocacy tool into Russian including language editing -Publication, print and distribution of regional advocacy tool -Preparation and organisation of a face to face regional policy dialogue</p> <p><i>Activity 2</i> Country level capacity</p>	<p>UNDP BRC in cooperation with respective UNDP COs</p> <p>8k (consultancy) 10k (publication/print) 43k (regional meeting)</p> <p>UNDP BRC, UNDP</p>

<p>consultations tackling challenges related to women's political participation (see Ind. #2,3)</p> <p>Limited capacity of governmental and non-governmental partners in target countries to promote women's political participation (see Ind. #3,4,5)</p> <p>Limited cooperation and networking among key stakeholders to promote women's political participation. (see Ind. #5)</p> <p>Lack of access to best practices and lessons learned on how to promote women's political participation within the region (see Ind. #6)</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>#1: Regional advocacy tool made available to target audience to promote women's political participation</p> <p>#2: Contributions made by key stakeholders during Regional Dialogue based on findings of regional advocacy tool to promote women's political participation</p> <p>#3: Capacity development initiatives implemented at country level to promote women's political participation</p> <p>#4: Recommendations formulated based on expert missions to target countries, providing inputs on the implementation of national capacity</p>	<p>- Regional network to support implementation of country-level capacity development and initiatives facilitated and further strengthened; (see Ind. #5)</p> <p>Best Practices and lessons learned identified through Regional Seminar (see Ind. #6)</p>	<p>development pilots to enhance women's political participation in the target countries designed and implemented</p> <p>-Providing of small grants (18k x 3 target countries)</p> <p>-Technical assistance/expert missions</p> <p><u>Activity 3</u></p> <p>Regional network to support the implementation of country-level capacity development initiatives to promote women's political participation in the target countries set up and facilitated</p> <p>-Nat. Consultant (3k x 15 months)</p> <p><u>Activity 4</u></p> <p>Regional Seminar to capture and exchange best practices and lessons learned organized</p> <p>-Organisation of seminar including travel of participants</p> <p>-Int. Consultant (conference facilitation, and draft of KM product)</p>	<p>COs in target countries</p> <p>UNDP BRC</p> <p>UNDP BRC in cooperation with respective UNDP COs</p>	<p>54k (small grants) 6k (travel)</p> <p>45k (consultancy)</p> <p>36k (regional meeting) 5k (consultant)</p>
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<p>development initiatives to promote women's political participation</p> <p>#5: No. of resources and case studies made available by practitioners through the Regional Network to support country-level capacity development initiatives promoting women's political participation</p> <p>#6: No. of best practices and lessons learned captured and shared to promote women's political participation</p>				
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IV. ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Year: 2010

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Funding Source	Budget Description	Amount
<p>Output 1</p> <p>Parliamentarians, Civil Servants at Decision-Making Levels and CSOs Capacitated to Enhance Women's Political Participation in the Target Countries</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u></p> <p>Limited capacity of parliamentarians, civil servants at decision-making levels and CSOs to enhance women's political participation</p> <p>Limited number of women as MPs in national Parliaments</p> <p>Limited number of women in key decision making positions in civil service</p> <p>Limited number of women in leadership positions in political parties</p> <p>Limited number of females candidates nominated for elections</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u></p> <p>Knowledge product (regional advocacy tool) made available to target audience to promote women's political participation</p> <p>Recommendations formulated in the technical assistance/expert missions report</p> <p>No. of capacity development initiatives designed and implemented at country level</p> <p>No. of contributions provided to the Regional Network to support country-level capacity development initiatives</p> <p>No. of best practices and lessons learned captured and shared</p>	<p><i>Activity 1</i></p> <p>Policy Dialogue with Parliamentarians, Civil Servants at Decision-Making Levels and CSOs on Enhancing Women's Political Participation in the Target Countries Initiated</p> <p>- Translation of regional advocacy tool into Russian plus language editing</p> <p>- Publication, print and distribution of regional advocacy tool</p> <p>- Organisation of face to face policy dialogue</p> <p>a) travel of participants (app 25 part. plus organizers)</p> <p>b) Accommodation, meals and misc</p> <p>c) Int. Consultant</p> <p>d) Venue, administration, communications</p> <p>e) Dissemination of training materials/advocacy tool</p>		X	X					
						UNDP BRC in cooperation with respective UNDP COs		Non-core	8k 10k 25k 6k 5k 5k 2k

EXPECTED OUTPUTS <i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List activity results and associated actions</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Funding Source	Budget Description
Targets (year 2010) - Regional Policy dialogue initiated; - Country level capacity development pilots kicked off; - Regional network launched and set off to support implementation of country-level pilots.	Activity 2 Country Level Capacity Development Pilots to Enhance Women's Political Participation in the Target Countries -Small grants (18k x 3 target countries) -Travel, DSA for 3 country missions (TA)		X	X	X	UNDP BRC, UNDP COs in target countries	Non-core	54k 6k
Targets (year 2011) - Country level capacity development pilots further implemented; - Regional network to support implementation of country-level capacity development initiatives facilitated and further strengthened; - Regional Seminar to capture and exchange best practices and lessons learned organized.	Activity 3 Set up and Facilitation of a Regional Network to Support the Implementation of Country-Level Capacity Development Initiatives to Promote Women's Political Participation in the Target Countries -Nat. Consultant (3k x 15 months)		X	X	X	UNDP BRC	Non-core	45k
	Activity 4 Organization of a Regional Seminar to Capture and Exchange Best Practices and Lessons Learned -Travel costs of participants (app 25 plus organizers) -Accommodation, meals and misc -Int. Consultant (conference plus draft of KM product) -Venue, administration, communications					UNDP BRC in cooperation with respective UNDP COs	Non-core	25k 6k 5k 5k
TOTAL							USD	207.000

V. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

UNDP BRC will be the Implementing Partner for the project, using the DEX modality applied to RBEC Regional Projects. The Gender Practice of the Bratislava Regional Centre will run the project on a day-to-day basis, within the constraints laid down by the Project Board (see below). It will be responsible for the overall management, backstopping, decision making for the project and monitoring of the project under the (regional) DEX modality. Country specific pilots will be implemented through the respective Country Offices.

For the purpose of this project, a **Project Board** will be set up, being responsible for making management decisions by consensus, where specific guidance for the Project Manager is required.

The Project Board will consist of the following functions:

- Executive: an individual representing the project ownership to chair the group.
- Senior Supplier: individual or group representing the interests of the parties concerned which provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project. The Senior Supplier's primary function is to provide guidance regarding the technical feasibility of the project.
- Senior Beneficiary: individual or group of individuals representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Senior Beneficiary's primary function within the Board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Senior beneficiaries will be the designated Focal Points from COs in each of the target countries as well as representatives from Governmental partners and CSOs, to be identified jointly with CO Focal points.

Where feasible, activities under this project will be conducted in coordination and collaboration with internal and external partners, as to leverage synergies. Sub- activities may also be outsourced to independent experts or other partners and organizations, based on TOR drafted on a case-to-case basis and UNDP's contracting rules and regulations.

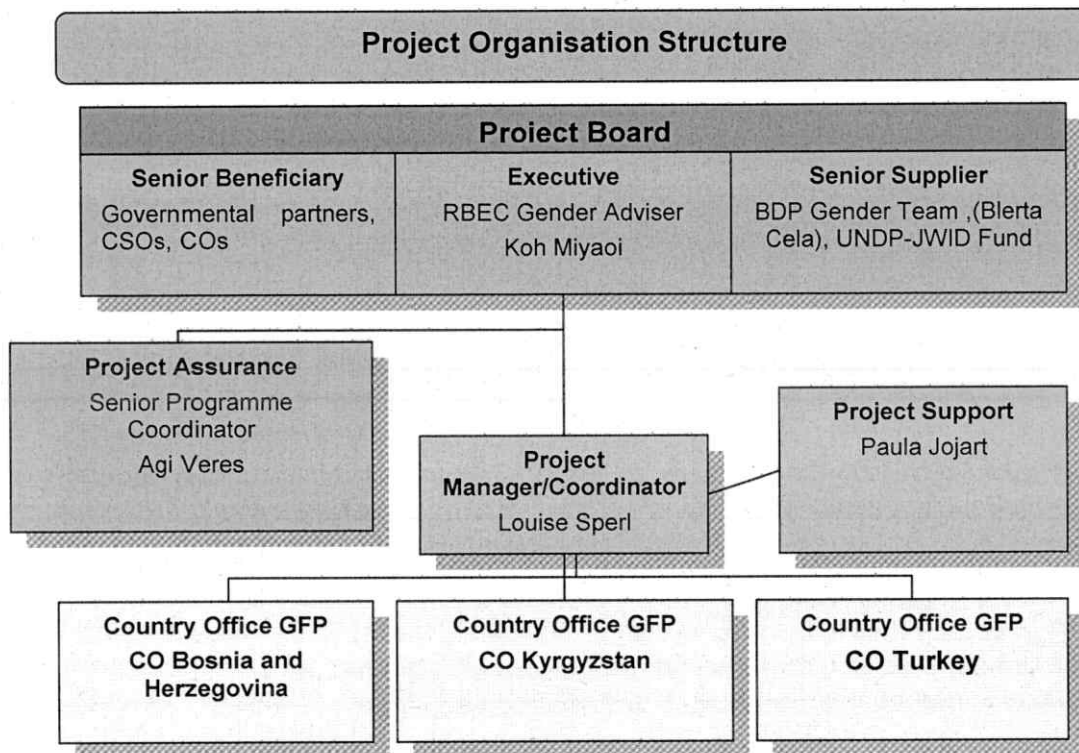
As already outlined, country level activities envisaged within this project, will feed in and complement ongoing and planned programming efforts by Country Offices in related areas (for further details on complementary, ongoing and planned programming at CO level, see Annex VIII.3) . The CO project focal points, active members of the Regional Gender CoP, are – in all three target countries - also responsible for related CO projects in this area and thus best positioned to ensure ongoing collaboration with related projects on a day-to-day basis. These linkages will be further institutionalised by the inclusion of designated CO Representatives in the Project Board. Small grants for the implementation of country level activities (activity set 2) will be directly transferred to Country Offices.

The project is contributing to the implementation of the RBEC Gender Equality Strategy and its Action Plan⁹ and is also in line with the priorities set in UNDP's Corporate Gender Equality Strategy (GES).¹⁰

⁹ See p. 26 of the RBEC GES

(<http://europeandcis.undp.org/uploads/public1/files/RBEC%20%20Gender%20Equality%20Strategy%20%202008%20-%202011%20revised%20FINAL.doc>): Sub-regional stakeholder consultation on priorities for advancing gender equality and women's political participation (government and civil society participants, together with UNDP and common-system partner staff members as appropriate).

¹⁰ See p. 24 of UNDP's Corporate GES (www.undp.org/women/docs/Gender-Equality-Strategy-2008-2011.doc): In addressing barriers to women's political participation as candidates, voters and observers in electoral processes, UNDP will help electoral commissions and legislative bodies bolster capacities to review electoral laws and ensure non-discrimination. It will aim to assist women's participation in post-crisis democratization processes through consultations and networking opportunities for sharing best practices and experiences between countries.



VI. MONITORING FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION

In accordance with the programming policies and procedures outlined in the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies & Procedures, the project will be monitored through the following:

Within the annual cycle

- On a quarterly and mid-term basis, a quality assessment shall record progress towards the completion of key results, based on quality criteria and methods captured in the Quality Management table below.
- Signed quarterly and annual reports will be also submitted to donors of the project. In addition, compliance will be ensured with any additional reporting requirements donors of the project might have (e.g. in line with specific templates).
- An Issue Log shall be activated in Atlas and updated by the Project Manager to facilitate tracking and resolution of potential problems or requests for change.
- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted (see annex 1), a risk log shall be activated in Atlas and regularly updated by reviewing the external environment that may affect the project implementation.
- Based on the above information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) shall be submitted by the Project Manager/Coordinator to the Project Board through Project Assurance, using the standard report format available in the Executive Snapshot.
- a project Lesson-learned log shall be activated and regularly updated to ensure on-going learning and adaptation within the organization, and to facilitate the preparation of the Lessons-learned Report at the end of the project
- a Monitoring Schedule Plan shall be activated in Atlas and updated to track key management actions/events

Annually

- **Annual Review Report.** An Annual Review Report shall be prepared by the Project Manager and shared with the Project Board and the Outcome Board. The Annual Review

Report shall consist of the Atlas standard format for the QPR covering the whole year with updated information for each above element of the QPR as well as a summary of results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level.

- **Annual Project Review.** Based on the above report, an annual project review shall be conducted during the fourth quarter of the year or soon after, to assess the performance of the project and appraise the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for the following year. In the last year, this review will be a final assessment. This review is driven by the Project Board and may involve other stakeholders as required. It shall focus on the extent to which progress is being made towards outputs, and that these remain aligned to appropriate outcomes.

Quality Management for Project Activity Results

Replicate the table for each activity result of the AWP to provide information on monitoring actions based on quality criteria. To be completed during the process "Defining a Project" if the information is available. This table shall be further refined during the process "Initiating a Project".

OUTPUT 1: Parliamentarians, Civil Servants at Decision-Making Levels and CSOs Capacitated to Enhance Women's Political Participation in the Target Countries (BiH, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey)		
Activity Result 1 (Atlas Activity ID)	<i>Short title to be used for Atlas Activity ID</i> Regional Policy Dialogue	Start Date: End Date:
Purpose	<i>What is the purpose of the activity?</i> To engage key stakeholders (Parliamentarians, civil servants at key decision-making levels, academia and civil society from target countries) in a policy debate on measures to increase and improve women's participation in governance	
Description	<i>Planned actions to produce the activity result.</i> -Translation of regional advocacy tool into Russian plus language editing - Publication, print and distribution of regional advocacy tool -Preparation and organisation of a face to face regional policy dialogue	
Quality Criteria <i>how/with what indicators the quality of the activity result will be measured?</i>	Quality Method <i>Means of verification. what method will be used to determine if quality criteria has been met?</i>	Date of Assessment <i>When will the assessment of quality be performed?</i>
Contributions provided by high-level key stakeholders to the Regional Policy Dialogue	Report	
Recommendations from Policy Dialogue	Report capturing recommendations and major outcomes of the Policy Dialogue	
Activity Result 2 (Atlas Activity ID)	<i>Short title to be used for Atlas Activity ID</i> Country Level Capacity Development Pilots	Start Date: End Date:
Purpose	<i>What is the purpose of the activity?</i> Implementation of country level capacity development pilots to enhance capacities for women's political participation in target countries	
Description	<i>Planned actions to produce the activity result.</i> -Providing of small grants (18k x 3 target countries) -Technical assistance/expert missions	
Quality Criteria <i>how/with what indicators the quality of the activity result will be measured?</i>	Quality Method <i>Means of verification. what method will be used to determine if quality criteria has been met?</i>	Date of Assessment <i>When will the assessment of quality be performed?</i>
No. of national level capacity development initiatives implemented	Reports	

Level of satisfaction of participants in national level workshops and meetings	Questionnaire	
Activity Result 3 (Atlas Activity ID)	<i>Short title to be used for Atlas Activity ID</i> Regional Network	Start Date: End Date:
Purpose	<i>What is the purpose of the activity?</i> Purpose: Set up and Facilitation of a Regional Network to Support the Implementation of Country-Level Capacity Development Initiatives (Activity 2)	
Description	<i>Planned actions to produce the activity result.</i> - Hiring of Nat. Consultant (3k x 15 months) for setting up/facilitating the network	
Quality Criteria <i>how/with what indicators the quality of the activity result will be measured?</i>	Quality Method <i>Means of verification. what method will be used to determine if quality criteria has been met?</i>	Date of Assessment <i>When will the assessment of quality be performed?</i>
Contributions made to Regional Network by participants	Report	
Resources made available by facilitator	Report	
Level of satisfaction of participants with resources made available/networking possibilities offered through the network	Questionnaire	
Activity Result 4 (Atlas Activity ID)	<i>Short title to be used for Atlas Activity ID</i> Regional Seminar	Start Date: End Date:
Purpose	<i>What is the purpose of the activity?</i> Purpose: to Capture and Exchange Best Practices and Lessons Learned from Implementation of Pilot Initiatives	
Description	<i>Planned actions to produce the activity result.</i> Organisation of seminar including travel of participants Hiring of Int. Consultant (conference facilitation, and draft of KM product)	
Quality Criteria <i>how/with what indicators the quality of the activity result will be measured?</i>	Quality Method <i>Means of verification. what method will be used to determine if quality criteria has been met?</i>	Date of Assessment <i>When will the assessment of quality be performed?</i>
No of best practices and lessons learned captured	Report	
No of best practices and lessons learned that can be transferred to the iknow politics network	Report	
Level of satisfaction of participants with Regional Seminar	Questionnaire	

VII. LEGAL CONTEXT

This regional project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article I of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Governments participating and the United Nations Development Programme

VIII. ANNEXES

VIII.1. Risk Analysis.

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Lack of funding	March 09	Financial	<p>Medium I = 5</p> <p>Without confirmed funding, the project cannot be implemented. P = 3</p> <p>Ongoing discussions with the UNDP-JWID Fund indicate good chances for funding; BDP will be approached for additional funds that might be required (having funded also the development of the regional advocacy tool this project builds upon)</p>	<p>Approach additional donors to potentially fund the project; if needed scale down scope of activity 1</p>	Project Manager/Executive			
2	Lack of political will to enhance women's political participation by Governments in target countries	March 09	Political	<p>Medium I = 5</p> <p>Lack of political will would hamper success of implementation. P = 3</p> <p>Already existing partnerships with key stakeholders at national and regional level make this a moderate risk.</p>	<p>Thorough consultations with key national partners. Selection of target countries that provide a certain openness to change</p>	Project Manager/Executive			

3	Difficulties in coordinating the different organisational layers involved (BRC, Cos, BDP, RBEC, Governments, CSOs)	March 09	Operational, organisational	<p>Low/Medium I=3</p> <p>This challenge is pertinent for the implementation of regional project.</p> <p>P=2</p> <p>Given BRC's experience in the coordination and implementation of regional projects, this risk is a low/medium risk.</p>	Design of clear coordination mechanisms and a clear project management structure	Project Manager/Executive			
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VIII.2. Partnership Matrix

PARTNERSHIP ANALYSIS MATRIX					
Actors	Characteristics	Interests	What they could provide	What they may need in return	Actions required to engage
National stakeholders: Parliamentarians, civil servants in decision making levels, CSOs and academia in the three target countries (BiH, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey)	Governmental and non-governmental	Design and implementation of national laws and policies in line with international obligations	Time, openness to change and readiness to engage into the project being its target audience and key beneficiaries	Initial meetings with national stakeholders to discuss needs, objectives and expected results of project; capacity development initiatives tailored to needs identified as outlined in section 3	Draft of standard agreements or other documents (e.g. MoUs) as and if appropriate / recommended by respective UNDP COs
Other relevant stakeholders and organisations in given target countries (e.g. national institutional frameworks for gender equality, UNIFEM, EC, OSI etc)	UN, EC, national institutional frameworks for gender equality, foundations/academia, think tanks	Compliance international obligations regarding gender equality	Exchange of experience and ideas on potential opportunities and challenges in the implementation of the project	Initial meetings to share information on envisaged project; identification of potential areas of cooperation	Identification of and contact with potentially relevant actors
UNDP: BRC, COs, BDP	UN	Compliance international obligations regarding gender equality	Coordination and implementation of the project in close consultation with national stakeholders	Thorough consultations with GFPs on the feasibility and detailed design of the project; exchange of information and soliciting feedback from BDP and BRC practices (DG, CD)	Terms of reference or job descriptions for key project functions (project board, regional and national project coordination) Nomination of project board
JWID Fund and other potential donors	Potential donor	Compliance international obligations regarding gender equality	Providing of financial resources for the implementation of the project	Thorough consultation on the design of the project	Nomination as project board member

VIII.3. Country Context - Target Countries

Pilot A – Bosnia and Herzegovina

a.) Country context/country specifics that create a momentum to work on women's political participation

The Former Socialist Federal Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina had a system of reserved seats for women officials. In fact, at different points in time, women constituted 20 percent (1968–1975) or 27 percent (during the 1980s) of the Communist Party membership even though the relatively large number of women in elected office did not actually translate into real political power. The loss of reserved seats in the 1990 elections resulted in the disappearance of women from elected political bodies and state institutions. Of the 240 elected representatives in the People's Assembly of the Republic of BiH, only seven were women (2.9 percent). Between 1990 and 1996—the years leading up to the war and its conclusion—women withdrew to the margins of political power and influence and traditional gender roles were reinforced. After the war in the elections from 1996, women remained under-represented. With regard to the 42-seat House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly (representing both BiH Entities), there were only 9.4 percent women candidates and only one woman was elected (2.4 percent). Since 1998 the Election system in BiH has introduced a quota system which ensured in 1998 the entering of a critical mass of women in the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly BiH. However, the new Election Law of BiH adopted in 2001 beside quotas also introduced the system of open lists which had a negative impact on the political participation of women.

Unfortunately, women in BiH, although placed on the candidate lists, do not get nominated on the positions made accessible through the quota system, to the effect that BiH, by the percentage of women participating in the governance bodies, is among those countries that do not use a quota system at all. The analysis of the attitudes of some major political parties toward the issue of political participation of women shows that the governing parties fail to recognize this issue altogether as a crucial pillar of democratic development, with the consequence that the mechanisms ensuring gender equality have not been integrated in either their party structures or the political documents used as the basis of their activity. This reveals a sophisticated discrimination of women in the political life of BiH and the lack of political culture, particularly manifested during the election campaigns in which the political parties do not promote their male and female candidates in equal terms.

In this context, key stakeholders have also identified the need to re-examine Article 15 of the Gender Equality Law which addresses equal participation of women and men in the public sphere. Experience in the implementation of Article 15 suggests the necessity of its modification so as to specifically define the participation of women in the legislative and executive branch. Furthermore, the Election Law needs to be harmonized with the Gender Equality Law - as suggested in several UN reports¹¹ - as well as the Law on Financing Political Parties. Given this background, the BiH Gender mechanisms have jointly with CSOs started to work on a campaign to amend the Election Law and the Law on Financing Political Parties. This campaign shall also raise the awareness of all key stakeholders to promote women's participation in the political sphere and in decision making positions.

¹¹ See for example Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; discussion of BiH's Initial Report on the implementation of the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in November 2005 (E/C.12/BiH/CO/1).

b.) Ongoing/planned initiatives in this area and relevant local partnerships this project is able to build upon

Given the above context and the needs recognized by key stakeholders in BiH through various consultations, the UNDP CO in BiH is planning to support the following efforts in close coordination with the BiH Gender Coordination Board, BiH Parliament Gender Equality Commission, CSOs and media:

1. Implementation of the Gender Equality Law, Section IX Public life, Article 15 (women's political participation)
2. Implementation of Recommendations of the Working Group on Public Life related to women's political participation¹²
3. Implementation of the BiH Gender Action Plan, Chapter V Political Life and Decision Making

To this end, the UNDP CO will also interact with CSOs offering support in order to explore ways on how to engender party manifestos. The iknow politics networks is being used throughout the ongoing project design phase to collect information and expertise to build up a strong national network of MPs, CSOs and media dedicated to the promotion of women's political participation. Project funding is being sought through different channels.

Pilot B – Kyrgyzstan

a.) Country context/country specifics that create a momentum to work on women's political participation

In the Kyrgyz Republic, gender equality is guaranteed through national legislation such as special laws, Decrees of the President of the KR and regulations of the Government of the KR on achieving gender equality. A National Action Plan on achieving gender equality in the KR for 2007-2010 (NAP) is in the process of implementation, forming also an element of the Country's Development Strategy (CDS). In addition, the Kyrgyz Republic has adopted several international commitments on achieving gender equality by ratifying basic international documents on women's rights, including CEDAW and the Beijing Platform of Action.

These documents also highlight issues of female political leadership and the promotion of women candidates which in Kyrgyzstan are very critical at the moment. It is important to note that thanks to the active lobbying by women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan, the Election Code includes a 30% gender quota related to the nomination procedure for parliamentary candidates. The Women's movement is very strong and active in the country and 70% of heads of NGOs are women. Quotas together with long term involvement of women NGOs led to major improvement in women's political participation in Kyrgyzstan. Thanks to the quota system introduced in 2006 and the new Elections Code adopted in October 2007 there are now 26.6% of women in Parliament. This is the highest women's representation in Central Asian region and second place in CIS region.¹³

However, there is an increasing trend for traditionalist and patriarchal patterns to get stronger in society which washes out women from participation processes. Thus, elections to local councils in October 2008 showed that women still experience significant barriers while running for political positions at local level. Moreover, the number of women who participated in local elections decreased as compared to the 2004 elections reaching only 17%.

¹² The Recommendations of the working group were developed within the scope of a UNDP project entitled "Implementation of Gender Equality Law Project", supported by the UNDP-JWID Fund (2003 – 2006).

¹³ See presentation at the UNDP International Conference on Women and Governance in Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent states, Istanbul 1-3 December 2008
<http://europeandcis.undp.org/gender/regionalprogramming/show/CDD045BB-F203-1EE9-BD4A0AD9CAA8E7E>

These barriers include but are not limited to: lack of gender quota into elections to local councils, the requirement of an election deposit which is not affordable for many women, the availability of administrative and financial resources that are also a prerequisite for visibility during election campaigns, corruption, and domination of cultural norms and stereotypes.

b.) Ongoing/planned initiatives in this area (both UNDP and other actors) and relevant local partnerships this project is able to build upon

UNDP is already strongly engaged in this area through various initiatives which facilitated the development of crucial partnerships with key stakeholders, ranging from governmental partners to CSO networks. These include the following projects: "Promotion of Women to Civil Service and Politics" (funded by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)), "Promotion of Women to Decision Making Positions" supported by the Finnish government, and "Improving Institutionalization of Gender Mainstreaming Practices into National Policies" (UNDP core funding). In order to assist the Government in improving national gender policies and providing equal opportunities for men and women, UNDP is working in the following three dimensions:

- a) Policy analysis;
- b) Capacity development of female members of political parties, women parliamentarians, mass media and NGOs;
- c) Strengthening women's networks.

Within the first dimension, efforts are ongoing to analyze the current legislation and identify obstacles which prevent women from running for political and decision making positions. A study entitled "Gender Analysis of the Civil Service in the Kyrgyz Republic" is currently in development. The study is supposed to identify recommendations for the formulation of a comprehensive gender approach in the implementation of human resource policies for public administration agencies on the basis of substantial, structural and institutional changes in their activity. In the long-term perspective it is expected that the findings of the study will contribute to the introduction of changes in normative regulations, formulation of management standards, organizational and personnel culture, sensitive to equality issues as well as development of educational systems.

Other relevant studies commissioned by UNDP include

- a baseline research on "Gender Analysis of Kyrgyz Political Parties" analysing manifestos and ideology of political parties from a gender perspective;
- "Country Gender Assessment in the Area of Politics" from 2008: The assessment was conducted in the context of the elections to local councils/parliaments, which were held in Kyrgyzstan in October 2008, as well as of the current convocation of the Kyrgyz Parliament, elected for the first time by proportional principle with inclusion of gender quotas in December 2007. These two evaluations revealed interesting data regarding the environment which shapes women politicians, opportunities for career promotion in politics, strategies used for women's political participation and difficulties/stereotypes which serve as social barriers for the promotion in existing power structures.

Based on the above mentioned research, capacity development initiatives have been designed and implemented in order to promote women - especially young women - into parties' decision making levels; in particular support was provided to women's wings of political parties through a series of seminars on strengthening gender mainstreaming in parties' management, internal structures, political programmes and communications. Young women - members of political parties were trained on gender and political leadership through study tours and annual summer schools on leadership. As a result, three Kyrgyz political parties officially announced the establishment of women's wings within their parties.

Within the SIDA project on "Promotion of Women to Civil Service and Politics" an Alliance of Women's Legislative Initiatives (AWLI) has been established which unites women MPs, gender experts and activists of women's non-governmental organizations from all regions of Kyrgyzstan.

AWLI holds gender expertise in the area of legislation and informational campaigns on gender issues. The proposed project will leverage partnerships with these networks both for country level activities (activity 2) as well as for regional activities and also enable cross-fertilisation with other target countries to enhance East-East Cooperation.

Pilot C – Turkey

a.) Country context/country specifics that create a momentum to work on women's political participation

Although Turkey is a middle income country (MIC) with a growing economy and aspiring to be a EU member, the basic development indicators for women are far behind comparable MICs and much further behind the new EU member states. Women are significantly underrepresented in all areas of political and public life and progress towards achieving equality, particularly at decision-making levels, both national and local, has been regrettably slow. However, the constant advocacy work of women's organizations, together with other International Organizations, including UNDP, has been creating a solid ground that gives the hope that a leap forward will take place in the coming future.

First of all, in terms of legal framework, the General Directorate of Women's affairs (KSGM) approved last year the Gender Equality Action Plan 2008-2013, where the promotion of women's participation in decision making is stated as an objective in the following manner: "Objective 1: The level of information and awareness will be increased in order to increase the representation of women in power and decision-making processes". During the previous period to the Local Elections in April 2009, several initiatives that aimed at raising awareness and promoting women's participation in decision-making were implemented by several women's NGO's, including UNDP's project, entitled "Enhancing women's participation in politics and decision making". The Project is funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and directly executed by UNDP as the implementing agency with the technical expertise of Ankara branch Association for Supporting and Training Women Candidates (KA-DER). The project aims on the one hand, to build capacities of women politicians and activists by promoting their engagement and leadership into policy-making processes and, on the other hand, to work with media at the national and the local level to promote the awareness building among the citizens¹⁴. After low results, in terms of the number of women elected for local elections, it has been reiterated how gender equality still remains a major challenge and how the continuous support from the political party perspective is needed.

One of the latest important achievements, after more than 12 years of struggling and lobbying, has been the final approval of the law for the establishment of a specialized commission for Gender equality at the Turkish Grand National Assembly with the name of "Women-Men equal opportunities commission". It is important to highlight that the consensus of all political parties on the establishment of the Commission has been historical. Women parliamentarians have been acting together collaboratively with the lobby and support of women's movement. This shows the positive impact of the increase in their presence in the Parliament from 24 to 50 in 2007 General Elections and the big and unanimous support given by international organizations, academia and CSO. The establishment of the parliamentary commission is a milestone in the sense that it can also trigger the institutional bases for gender equality at all decision making including local level. It also represents a turning point for the struggle of women's movement in Turkey supported and backed by recommendations of UN-CEDAW Committee in 2005 and the European Parliament's reports that had reiterate in multiple occasions the need for the establishment of a Commission on Equality between Women and Men.

¹⁴ As recommended in the 2005 CEDAW concluding comments (CEDAW/C/TUR/CC/4-5).

b.) Ongoing/planned initiatives in this area and relevant local partnerships this project is able to build upon

Taking into account the above context UNDP Turkey is planning to work on the following directions:

- Supporting KSGM for the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy (as the Turkish legal framework for action), in coordination with EC Delegation in Turkey.
- Working with the Media Organizations (Turkish Federation of Journalist; The local associations of journalists; Reporters of Parliament Association), in line with the Media component of the women in politics project that envisages awareness building activities to provide education for women and men and raise awareness on the importance of women's participation in politics and decision making.
- Contribute to the effective establishment of the Gender Equality Commission in the Parliament. In this sense, 2 Study Visit tours are being organized to Sweden and Spain, within the scope of the Women in Politics project funded by Sida. Although still draft, other possible activities are being planned in collaboration with the World Bank.
- Working with Academia and Women Research Centers and University (to increase the awareness among the youth and to consolidate the information flow between the state and the academia) (the partners in this component have not been yet clarified; possibility of collaboration with the women's NGO Flying Broom).
- Promoting access to ICT (to ensure access to information about women's rights and to enforce national women's networks and connect Turkish networks with International ones) with the financial support of INTEL.

