

Field Visit Report

Date of visit: 13 December, 2017

Subject of visit: *Consultations on the Methodology for assessing the gender-responsiveness of the local public administration institutions (LPA) in the Republic of Moldova*

Venue: Hotel Regency, Sfatul Tarii, 17 St., Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

Reference to project: Women in Politics Programme/ UNDP Component/ Project ID 00080809

Purpose of the field visit: Participate in the public consultations of the Gender Seal Methodology adapted for local government context and provide strategic guidance on advancing the implementation of the methodology beyond 2017

Outcome	Update on outcomes	Outputs	Update on outputs	Reasons if progress below target	Update on partnership strategies	Recommendations and proposed action
Legal frameworks and policies to advance women's right to participate in decision making at national and local levels are reformed/adopted and/or implemented.	The mini-project financed by the UNDP HQ Gender Team allowed to contribute to enhancing the outcome of promoting gender sensitive institutions and practices in alignment with the strategic priorities of UNDP in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment	Gender Seal Benchmarking Matrix for Central Public Institutions adapted for Local Governments through extensive consultations, focus group discussions with key stakeholders	The Output was delivered as planned	N/A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership was established with over 20 mayors, including 9 men representing all regions of Moldova, including Gagauzia autonomy Partnership established with Congress of Local Public Authorities in view of future ownership over GES Partnership established with Centre for Excellence in Public Administration as potential centre of LPA expertise provision during GES piloting (and beyond) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Submit proposal to HQ to support the implementation of the pilot phase in selected local governments Consider piloting in 1-2 central government institutions

PROJECT PERFORMANCE—IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

Challenges:

- Unclear financial coverage for the actual piloting/implementation of the Gender Equality Seal in local governments in Moldova;
- Resistance of some donors to support the implementation of Gender Equality. The GES component has been incorporated in several project concepts and proposals developed by Moldova CO and submitted to Canada, Sweden, Germans and have been unsuccessful due to, in large, limited trust of the development partners in the current governance set-up of Moldova and the on-going Public Administration Reform that will likely result in a different organisation of the local government authorities.

Way forward:

- Enhance efforts for resource mobilization in support of piloting the GES for local, and possibly central Government institutions
- Advocate for voluntary implementation of GES standards in local and central government. The tool provides a clear roadmap for the achievement of minimum mandatory gender equality standards that the local governments have to comply in line with the provisions of the current legal framework (gender legislation, local public administration).

PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS:

- The results envisaged for the activity were achieved: (1) The GES Methodology for Local Governments has been revised, updated, consulted with relevant staff and officials from local government and endorsed; (2) A public presentation of the final GES Methodology for LPA was carried out with a gender balanced public (9 men/ 10 women) - mayors and representatives of local public administration.
- The mayoralities engaged in the focus group consultations and final presentation of the tool have shown great interest in piloting the GES in their LPAs proved technical guidance is offered by UNDP on the process.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Engagement of a balanced group of women and men mayors in the process of adaptation and localising of the GES methodology to local government context proved to be an effective way to collect gender inclusive views and gain buy-in for implementation.
- Teaming up a gender expert with a local governance expert proved to be a suitable approach that resulted in a high quality and relevant document as attested by the Gender Team in HQ.

Participants in the field visit: Alla Skvortova, Programme Specialist/Cluster Leader Effective Governance"

Prepared by: 

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Annexes:

Annex 1: Agenda

Agenda

10:30-11:00	Registration of participants. Welcome tea/coffee
11:00-11:20	Introductory remarks <i>Alla Skvortova, Governance, Justice and Human Rights Portfolio Manager, UNDP Moldova</i>
11:20-12:00	Presentation of the draft methodology for assessing LPAs from a gender perspective <i>Loreta Handrabura, Gender Expert, Assoc.Prof., UPS „I. Creangă”</i> <i>Tatiana Savca, Public Administration Expert, Senior Prof., AAP</i>
12:00-12:40	Debate on the presented draft methodology. Questions & answers to experts.
12:40 – 13:00	Presentation of the conditions and contest criteria for mayoralities that will apply for piloting the evaluation tool in 2017-2018 <i>Loreta Handrabura, Gender Expert, Assoc.Prof., UPS „I. Creangă”</i> <i>Tatiana Savca, Public Administration Expert, Senior Prof., AAP</i>
13:00 – 13:30	Concluding remarks