

**Request for extension of project 62627:
Implementation of the RBEC Gender Equality Strategy 2008-2011**

Background and justification for request made:

The RBEC Gender Equality Strategy (2008-11) describes in concrete terms how the Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS (RBEC) contributes towards the gender equality outcomes defined for the organization as a whole in its global Strategic Plan (SP) and the parallel and complementary UNDP Gender Equality Strategy (GES) 2008-2011. The project 62627 has been designed as the vehicle to implement RBEC's Gender Equality Strategy for the period 2008-2011 which is being done by following a two-fold approach:

1. Development of national capacities to shape an enabling environment for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment
2. Development of UNDP internal capacities for effective and targeted gender-sensitive programming both at country and regional level.

As such, the project 62627 provides an overall framework for the implementation of the RBEC GES with a strong focus on knowledge management and cross-practice collaboration. Consequently, the Outcome and Outputs of the project have been defined as follows:

EUR_OUTCOME34: Enhanced capacity and skills to apply gender analysis and mainstreaming for more effective policymaking and planning

Output 1. Enabled environments at the national and sub-regional levels for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment from theory to concrete, result-oriented practices and developed partner capacities

Output 2. Strengthened core Gender mainstreaming capacity among gender practitioners in the region

In 2010, the RBEC Gender Steering Committee has recommended the revision and extension of the current RBEC Gender Equality Strategy (2008-2011) for the time period of 2012-2013. Furthermore, UNDP's Corporate Gender Equality Strategy (on which the RBEC GES builds upon) has been extended to 2012-2013. While thematic details of the revised RBEC GES will be informed by the findings of a regional Gender Mapping (currently ongoing), the overall approach in terms of internal and external capacity development for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment will remain the same. Consequently, the outputs of an extended project 62627 would also remain the same. Equally, the majority of targets established in the RRF for 2010-2011 would remain valid in an extended project for the period of 2012-2013 (with the exception of those targets that refer to specific knowledge tools and workshops that have been already finalized, such as the mentioned regional report on women in decision making). The annual targets that are suggested to be taken forward in an extended project are therefore as follows:

Output 1:

- ❖ At least one updated Research and Report produced
- ❖ At least three COs supported with Gender related initiatives

Output 2:

- ❖ At least two main practice areas mainstreamed gender in the Region
- ❖ At least four Cos received support in the area of Gender mainstreaming
- ❖ Regional Gender KM Portal/workspace maintained

The Outcome defined under the 2008-2011 project are still applicable substance wise, had the regional programming framework not changed in the meanwhile. Under the new Regional Project document for 2011-2013, the project will contribute to **Focus area 4/Outcome 5** of UNDP's Regional Programme document for ECIS (By 2013, governance structures and institutional capacities in the region are strengthened for more equitable public service delivery, improved transparency and accountability).

Programming regarding specific thematic areas (such as women's political participation/equal opportunities in decision-making) will be covered under the chapeau of separate projects.

Given the above outlined background, including the continued relevance and validity of project outputs and strategy, the Gender Team requests an extension of project 62627 to cover the time period 2012-2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Julie', written in a cursive style.