



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

# UN Women in Europe and Central Asia



2014 results, challenges  
and opportunities

# Gender Inequality Commonalities in ECA

- Low participation of women in politics and public life
- Women's unequal participation in the labour market
- High rates of violence against women
- Many women suffer from multiple forms of discrimination – rural, elderly, disabilities
- Weak gender equality mechanisms – lack of influence and funding
- Strong normative frameworks but huge “implementation gap”

# Challenges for the ECA Region

- Adverse impact of the global financial crises and subsequent austerity policies
- Low capacities of women's CSOs – under-resourced, weak, fragmented
- Donors leaving the region – lack of ODA for gender equality and women's rights

# UN Women in Europe and Central Asia

- **Regional office** – Istanbul, Turkey
- **Multi-country office** – Almaty, Kazakhstan (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan)
- **Country offices** – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova
- **Programme presences** overseen by RO – Serbia, FYR Macedonia, Kosovo (as per UNSCR 1244)

# UN Women's Comparative Advantage in ECA

- Clear and compelling mandate to lead the UN system:
  - Programmatic
  - Normative
  - Coordination and coherence
  - Advocacy
- Normative expertise on gender equality and women's rights
- Strong and long-standing civil society partnerships and support

# UN Women Focus Areas

1. Expanding women's **voice, leadership and participation**
2. Ending **violence against women**
3. Strengthening implementation of the **women, peace and security agenda**
4. Enhancing women's **economic empowerment**
5. Making gender equality priorities central to **national, local and sectoral planning and budgeting**

# Results 2014

2014 annual work plans, the top **3 focus areas** for the region;

1. Women's economic empowerment
2. Women, peace and security and
3. Governance and national planning

# Results 2014

## Women's economic empowerment

### **Albania: A National Action Plan (NAP) for Women Entrepreneurs (2014 to 2020)**

- an allocation by Cabinet of \$250,000 fund to support women entrepreneurs is adopted by the Ministry of Economic Development Trade and Entrepreneurship
- UN Women instrumental in supporting and advising the Ministry as NAP was established
- the supporting fund is based on the Mid-Term Budgeting Programme, a direct result of Gender-Responsive Budgeting advice and support from the Ministry of Finance and directly by UN Women, the fund allocation of \$250,000 based on Council of Ministers decision



# Results 2014

## Women Peace and Security

### **Georgia: Enhance coordination, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the NAP 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security**

- Technical support to the Government of Georgia in the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325
- Mainstreaming of gender into the Security Sector Reform with the Ministry of Defense
- State Legal Aid Service - villages adjacent to the conflict zones
- Exploring economic opportunities and support to the enhancement of livelihoods of IDP and conflict affected women

# Results 2014

## Governance , planning and budgeting

### Promoting gender responsive policies in South East Europe and the Republic of Moldova” (2013-2016)

- **FYR Macedonia results:**
- New institutional **mechanisms, tools and capacities** for identifying the gender specific needs of women and men in policies, **tracking public allocations** from a gender perspective and **improving the oversight** of central and local government programs, policies and budgets towards gender equality commitments
  - Budget circular for central level budget users for 2014
  - Methodology on Gender Responsive Budgeting for Central Government Institutions developed
  - Six Ministries and one State Institution have conducted gender analyses

# Leading Coordination on GE

UN Women leads/co-chairs the UN Gender Theme Group or Human Rights Theme Group in 12 countries:

- Albania
- Bosnia Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kosovo (as per UNSCR 1244)
- Kyrgyzstan
- FYR Macedonia
- Moldova
- Serbia
- Tajikistan
- Turkey
- Uzbekistan

# Partnerships

- **Regional organizations** - OSCE – NAP 1325, CoE – Istanbul convention
- **Private sector** – Joint campaigns HeForShe, WEPs
- **Innovative partnerships** – Sports to engage men and boys

# Looking forward

- Deepening technical leadership and voice
- Support to roll out of the SDGs
- Gender advice in regional processes such as EU accession
- Expanding partnerships – Regional organizations and IFIs
- Being creative about advocacy and outreach
- Resource mobilization: Regional programmes, Private sector, joint RM

**Thank you!**