



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Secretary General
Gender Section

Vienna, 11 November 2016

Quarterly 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 10 OSCE participating States covering a broad geographical area, including South East Europe, Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. 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 EU Member 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. Past research has shown that surveys are an important tool to show a truer picture of the extent of violence against women, as the cases reported to the police and other institutions are an undercount of the real prevalence of violence against women.

In order to develop and design the specific conflict module of the survey, the Gender Section reached out to international experts and received their inputs during a virtual meeting in May. This was followed up with an **expert meeting** in Vienna which took place from **23-24 June 2016** bringing together Gender Focal Points from different OSCE field operations as well as external experts. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the survey questionnaire that will also include questions related to forms of violence experienced by women in conflict situations as well as the consequences for victims.

On 21 July 2016 the Gender Section organized a **project briefing session**, addressing members of OSCE delegations in Vienna. The participants were provided with an overview of the OSCE project and its implementation stages, leaving the participants also the possibility for questions and answers. Another objective of the presentation was to explore further funding possibilities for the OSCE survey since 80% of the project will be funded by the EU instrument



for Peace and Security. Joanna Goodey, Head of the Freedoms and Justice Department, and Sami

Nevala, Head of Sector Statistics and Surveys, from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), were invited and gave valuable insight on the objectives and results of the FRA survey which was published in 2014. The presentation was closely linked to the topic of the Conference on “Combating Violence Against Women in the OSCE Region – Bringing Security Home” that took place on 22 July 2016 and was co-organized by the OSCE Gender Section and the OSCE German Chairmanship. A conference report will be available soon on the OSCE website.

The Gender Section has also informed relevant actors in the OSCE as well as external key players (UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP) about the project to ensure it is well linked to other ongoing activities.

Important dates/upcoming events:

- **22 November 2016**

The Steering Committee, which consists of representatives from the EU, FRA and OSCE, will get together on the 22nd of November in the OSCE Secretariat in order to discuss further developments of the project as well as remaining challenges and other pending issues.

- **25 November 2016 - 10 December 2016: 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign**

- On 25th of November, the Project Manager will present the OSCE survey during the conference called “Comprehensive Approach in Combating Violence against Women in Serbia”, which will be held in Belgrade, Serbia.
- On 25th November, the OSCE Gender Section is organizing an expert group meeting on femicide, to raise awareness and exchange experiences on the establishment of Femicide Watches. Key-note speaker will be Dr. Dubravka Simonovic, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its causes and consequences. There will also be a presentation by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) related to the survey on the well-being and safety of women in EU member states.
- The Gender Section will conduct a campaign during the 16 days of activism to raise awareness against gender based violence.

- **28 November 2016**

The first meeting of the High Level Advisory group will take place on 28 November 2016. The High-Level Advisory Group consists of representatives of international organizations and will provide conceptual guidance for the project and ensure synergies with other ongoing initiatives.

Should you have any further questions about the project or activities, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact Details:

Ms. Serani Siegel, Project Manager, Gender Section, Office of the Secretary General (e-mail: serani.siegel@osce.org, tel.: +43 676 4471 736, ext. 6181)

Ms. Dusica Djukic, Administrative Assistant, Gender Section, Office of the Secretary General (e-mail: dusica.djukic@osce.org, tel.: +43 664 8590 812, ext. 6927)