



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
Department of Equal Opportunities Policies



National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality and Domestic Violence

Prepared : Valbona Jaupllari

**National Strategy on Gender Equality and
Domestic Violence approved by Council of
Ministers Decision No.913, data 17.12.2007**

**The Strategy looks at and addresses two major
issues: Gender Equality, and Prevention of
Domestic Violence.**

NSGEDV

Strategy aims at:

- **Achieving gender equality in Albania through mainstreaming the gender perspective into all the aspects of the policies developed and applied. This means equal participation of women and young women, and men and young men in the social, economic and political life of the country, as well as equal opportunities for them to enjoy all their rights and to place their individual potential at the service of the society.**
- **Improving protection, performance of the judiciary system, and support for the victims of domestic violence, and focusing more specifically on prevention, attacking the root causes of domestic violence and abuse.**

3

PROCESS OF NSGE/DV COMPILATION

The National Strategy on Gender Equality is the product of an interrelated and inclusive process, which involved:

- **MoLSAEO/Department of Equal Opportunities Policies**
- **NGO-s (Contribution with expertise and participation throughout process of NSGE/DV compilation)**
- **Diferent governmental institutions at a central and local level**
- **International Organisations (Support with technical and financial assistance in compliance with agreed upon agenda) UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNDP, OSCE.**
- **Representatives of the academic field**
- **Different interest groups**
- **Representatives of the political forces especially Women Political Forums .**

4

PROCESS OF NSGE/DV COMPILATION

Elaboration of NSGE/DV process includes:

- **Identification of priority areas** taking into consideration the actual situation of Albania and 12 priorities of Beijing Conference 1995.
- **Setting up of working groups**, definition of the working procedure for each group with governmental institution, NGO-s, representatives and expert on gender issues.
- **Setting up of Steering Committee**. Main duty of this committee was to address and monitor the function of working groups until the compilation of final strategy;
- **Data collection and aggregation of existing national and international information** on issues regarding gender equality using primary and secondary resources and situation analysis in Albania.
- Introduction of the draft strategy and action plan through **workshops** organised with participants coming from different NGOs, public institutions and international organisations. All the remarks/suggestions will be duly reflected from the group of experts in the draft strategy.

5

PROCESS OF NSGE/DV COMPILATION

NSDGE/DV strategy set up supported to international documents as:

- **Action Plan of Beijing**. The Beijing Plan of Action includes 12 main areas and it obligates the governments to prepare national Action Plans for women according to respective national priorities.
- **The Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979**, recommends that member states take all appropriate measures, i.e. improve or prepare the right legislation, preparation of strategies and action plans, to improve the economic, social-cultural and political life of women.
- **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**. The Millennium Declaration requires member states "to support gender equality and women empowerment as efficient ways to fight poverty, hunger and diseases and to promote development, so that it is really sustainable".
- **Stabilization Association Agreement**

6

NSGE/DV- STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1. Strengthening legal mechanisms and institutions with the aim of ensuring gender equality in Albania.**
- 2. Empowerment of women through participation in decision making;**
- 3. Economic empowerment of women and increasing employment opportunities and professional training;**
- 4. Promoting equal access of women and girls to quality education;**
- 5. Improving social situation of vulnerable women through increasing their access to quality social services.**

7

NSGE/DV- STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 6. Improving population's health through increasing response of the health system to the particular health needs of men and women.**
- 7. Eliminate gender stereotypes in mass media as well as representation of women in this vocation.**
- 8. Raise of awareness toward violence phenomenon , legal and administrative protection and providing support for victims of domestic violence and violators.**

8

PRIORITY - Strengthening legal mechanisms and institutions with the aim of ensuring gender equality in Albania.

1. Review of Law nr. 9198 date. 01.07.2004 "For gender equality in society" with the aim of ensuring a more effective protection against gender equality violations such as, improving further the process of equal implementation of women and men rights in place as well as fulfilling new obligations of integration in the EU in the field of equal opportunities as well

2. Completion of sub-legal acts of gender equality legislation further to the, approval of the new Gender Equality Law on, with the aim to make it feasible.

3. Organisation of Awareness-Raising Campaigns: "Women rights are human rights", as well as trainings of government officials and state structures, to improve the knowledge about domestic and international legislation on issues of protection of women rights, as well as gender issues and gender integrity.

● Review of legislation from the gender point of view in accordance to the international standards.

● Raising self-awareness of public opinion, in particular of women and young females, pertaining to the legal rights they are entitled to.

PRIORITY - Empowerment of women through participation in decision making.

1. Review of the electoral law and support of activities aimed at increasing the number of women in parliament or decision-making structures at the local level.

2. Addressing gender-based discrimination in Albanian politics not as a disturbing problem for women only, but also as an inability of political parties and Albanian society as a whole.

3. Increase of consciousness of Albanian society regarding to the fact that active participation of women in politics will improve society through new values, new ways of addressing social needs and by increasing solidarity and equality in building a more democratic and peaceful society.

● Increase of consciousness of Albanian society for an active role of women in politics.

● Empowerment of women through participation in decision making

PRIORITY 3 - Economic empowerment of women and increasing employment opportunities and professional training.

1. Undertaking a number of studies on women's participation in economy and in the work market, about the place she takes in informal employment and on opportunities about the proportion of the demand in employment market with offer.

2. Extend service for employment for women in need and increase of inclusion of this target in programs for employment and professional training impetus.

3. Encouraging development of small businesses managed by women, improvement of their revenues through programs of intensive reconstruction, financial and marketing advice, management trainings, improvement of products, restructuring human resources

■ Increase number of projects or programs which impetus professional training and employment of women, as well as extension of these project in rural areas.

■ Increasing number of women entrepreneur through providing opportunities for more access into property, capital and loans.

11

PRIORITY 4 - Promoting equal access of women and girls to quality education.

1. Treatment of gender through particular themes in respective courses, as well as through introducing particular courses on this topic, as of compiling of teaching university curriculum

2. Improvement and continuous review of school programs and teaching text-books, about gender stereotypes.

3. Preparing training modules for teachers integrating gender as a specific theme and where dialogue parent-teacher is encouraged.

4. Organize seminars and training sessions to eliminate stereotypes that encourage gender inequality in schools.

■ Improvement school programs that promote gender equality, as well as improvement of women participation in teaching, planning and managing education

■ Strengthening of capacities of educational institutions in integrating issues and concepts of gender equality in planning, implementing and monitoring in education.

12

PRIORITY 5 - Improving social situation of vulnerable women through increasing their access to quality social services

Spread of the community services in the whole country for women with social problems. Nation-wide distribution of community services for women with social problems

2. Training of staff for local governance (newly created structures at central, county and municipal level) that covers assistance programs and social services for women in need

3. Increase of access for women in need to be informed about legal frameworks and policies/programmes that insure social protection, as well as public and private institutions that offer these services

• Improving social situation of vulnerable women through increasing their access to quality social services.

• Support of poor families and individuals and groups in need for reduction of poverty, with cash payments and social services, with priority on families with women head of households, mothers with many children and orphans.

13

PRIORITY 6 - Improving population's health through increasing response of the health system to the particular health needs of men and women.

1. Development of health policies that take into consideration the age of individuals and their specific needs based on their life cycle.

2. Collection and annual reporting of gender disaggregated data to follow health indicators for women and men.

3. Educational and informational campaigns to promote the idea that women and men share equal responsibilities regarding health and family.

4. Engagement of necessary sources for the training of women as providers of health care in all levels of health services providing system

• Creation and improvement of policies and health programs in order to correspond to gender differences and health needs of women and men.

□ Support of giving effective health services for women and men, as well as promoting good health through prevention means and decrease of risk factors in women's health.

14

PRIORITY 7 - Eliminate gender stereotypes in mass media as well as representation of women in this vocation. .

1. Construct/implement informative public campaigns related to gender problems and issues in Albania.

2. Investigation, monitoring and evaluation of media, with the aim of determining fields where interventions are necessary in order to increase quality and effectiveness of media representatives, so that the quantity/quality improvement informing and raising-self awareness of public occurs. .

■ Increase of awareness and quality of public information about overcoming gender stereotypes and importance in achieving gender equality in society, through policies and different products in the area of media.

15

PRIORITY 8 - Raise of awareness toward violence phenomenon , legal and administrative protection and support for victims of domestic violence and violators.

1. Improvement of cooperation of institutions/mechanisms/actors to address domestic violence through social and health services.

2. The employees of the judiciary should receive training on domestic violence, and special measures with regard to victims should be put in place.

4. Educating children and young people at school in a way that future generations become aware of the healthy relations and are informed that domestic violence is a crime and is unacceptable

■ Increase and development of society awareness against domestic violence and taking measures to aid the victims through the change of approach

■ Education of children and youth and society in general that domestic violence is unacceptable and to enable them to make well-informed choices

16

IMPLEMENTATION

- After the elaboration of NSGE/DV has started the implementation that most important phase and no easy , where the MOLSAEO and especially Department for Equal Opportunities Policies (DEOP) is playing the main leading role .
- Implementation asked **the closed collaboration among actors**, responsibility and seriousness in realization of objectives by specific fields and a good coordination of institutions with each other in.

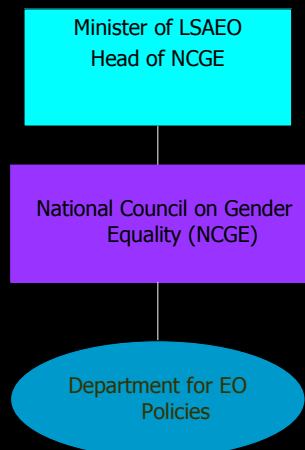
17

- With approval of **Law No. No.9970**, date 24.07.2008 "For gender equality in society" is setting up the NCGE.

- **NCGE is an advisory body** established by an order of the Prime Minister, with the proposal of the minister who covers the issues of gender equality .

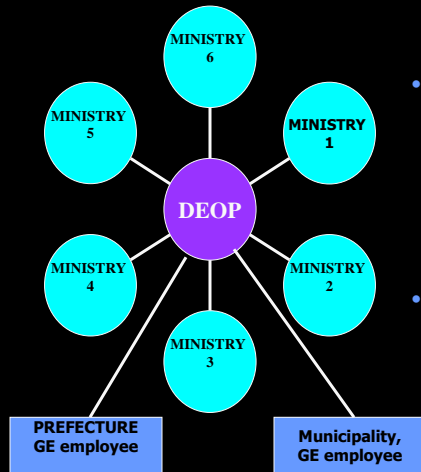
- **Duties of NCGE**

- Ensuring gender mainstreaming in all fields, especially in the political, social, economic, and cultural ones;
- Proposing the CoM main programs for encouraging and achieving gender equality in Albania.
- Evaluating the actual situation of gender equality in the country, coming up with guidelines on the structure of gender equality issues as well as proposals and recommendations to the government on the improvement of the situation.



18

Network of Focal Point on gender equality in central and local level



By Law No. No.9970, data 24.07.2008 "For gender equality in society", Article no.

- State institutions at the central and local level shall have the legal obligation to collaborate with the respective minister for exchanging information and facilitating the accomplishment of his function. For this reason there shall be a gender equality employee appointed in every ministry
- "Gender equality employee" shall be a central or local public administration employee, who has specific training and knowledge on gender equality and dedicates his/her time to work on achieving gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the respective sector or territory.

19

Inter-sectorial Development Document on Aging

National Strategy for Gender Equality and Domestic Violence 2007-2010

Social Inclusion Crosscutting Strategy 2007-2013

Social protection sector strategy 2007-2013



Is carrying out Inter- sectorial Development Document on Aging

20

Inter-sectorial Development Document on Aging

With the support of the UNFPA, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities has initiated the drafting of Inter-sectorial Development Document on Aging, which is a transparent and all-inclusive process.

- **This Document shall be part of the Social Protection Strategy and its aim will be to :**

'Improve the social and economic status of elder persons based on the priorities of the Albanian Government for 2005-2009, the present conditions of our countries, as well as on the international documents, recommendations and instruments" .

21

Thank you for your attention!

22