

Inter-regional DA project on social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion in the Millennium Development Goals

UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Aligning the MDGs with the needs of the ECE region

Mainstreaming gender into economic policies to reach MDG goals

Call for Contributions

RATIONALE

Countries in Central Asia and in the South Caucasus have the highest levels of poverty among ECE countries and are at risk of missing Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Drastic deterioration of women's position in the economy resulted in de facto labour discrimination and feminization of poverty in the region. This decline is typical for transition processes. Women bear a major share of transition costs and cuts in social protection, and benefited little from the privatization process and development of the private sector. This leads not only to deterioration of women's position in the economy, but also to overall economic losses, as gender equality is an economic asset.

PROJECT

Project implementation is policy oriented and focuses on additional targets and indicators to measure progress in mainstreaming gender into economic policy.

Expected output of the project

- Policy oriented research and recommendations in the area of gender and economy
- Additional region-specific targets and indicators on gender equality in economic area for the inclusion into national MDG Strategies and, if relevant PRSPs.
- MDG knowledge hubs to disseminate relevant information, analysis and advocacy reports.

The project is implemented by the ECE through the Multi-Stakeholder Expert Network (MSN) representing academia, gender/economic policy makers and statisticians. The first meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Network will take place in Geneva in the spring of 2007, and the second meeting is planned for the autumn of 2007.

Interested parties are invited (i) to submit at any time existing works or materials related to the core areas of the project (listed below) for possible inclusion to the project website which is currently being developed by the ECE, (ii) to submit a proposal for a new research in the area of gender and economy.

CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF THE RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Research studies will be commissioned under the project. The research should cover the area of gender and economy in one or more countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.)

The crosscutting concerns cover gender dimension of poverty, the disparities between rural and urban areas, and unequal development of the regions within a country. The specific areas include

- Access to assets (credits, privatization, transition processes)
- Employment (pay gap, sectoral occupation, employment for disadvantaged women, employment in informal sector, time use)
- Self-employment and entrepreneurship (access to ICT and training, ownership of private business/farm)
- Public expenditure (social assistance, pension benefits, unpaid household work)
- Institutional mechanism for mainstreaming gender into economic policies (national capacities, women participation in economic decision making)
- Measuring of women participation in the economy (quantifying issues, qualities and availabilities of measurements)
- Additional MDG targets specific to the above mentioned countries in reaching goal 1 (Poverty) and 3 (Gender Equality)
- Information dissemination in the area of gender and economy (channels)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submission is open for the **researchers and statisticians** with proven expertise in the area of **gender and economy** specific for the countries of Central Asia and Caucasus.

Language of submission: Russian or English

Deadline for project proposals: 28 February 2007.

Format of project proposals:

Your proposals in the MSWord format (your_surname.doc) should be submitted to Ewa Zimny ewa.zimny@unece.org (cc: olga.skorobogatova@unece.org) and include

1st page: 1) Name, 2) Current institutional affiliation, 3) Title/position, 4) E-mail, 5) Postal address, 6) Telephone, 7) Fax, 8) Proposed policy oriented research theme.

2nd page: A one-page CV

3rd page: Your abstract, which should be 300 to 400 words and should include 1) The topic of your paper, 2) Your research method and/or sources, 3) Your specific argument and/or central findings, 4) The place of your argument or findings within the framework of the ECE project.