#### **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

#### **EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE**

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS







Secretary General

# Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025 Country Level Implementation Plan – CLIP Kyrgyz Republic

#### 1. Context for EU action gender equality and women's empowerment in the country

#### **International Gender-responsive Commitments**

The Kyrgyz Republic has ratified several key international conventions on human rights and gender equality. These include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 10 February 1997, and the Optional Protocol of CEDAW (OP-CEDAW) on 22 June 2002. In 2000, the country submitted its first report on the implementation of the CEDAW Convention to the CEDAW Committee. The second periodic report was presented to the committee in January 2004, the third one in 2008, and the fourth was submitted in 2015. The country has specific obligations under Article 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 3 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to ensure the enjoyment of equal rights by both men and women as set forth in the covenants (Equal Rights Trust 2016).

A government resolution in December 2015 established the Coordinating Committee for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Adaptation, Implementation and Monitoring until the year 2030 to address the issues of coordination and harmonization of statistical data and other information. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Kyrgyzstan is elevated to the highest level of Government within the National Sustainable Development Council chaired by the President. The Coordination Committee for the Achievement of the SDGs, comprised of representatives from Parliament, government offices, line ministries, development partners and the National Statistical Committee (NSC) is responsible for implementation. An interagency working group, led by the NSC, is working on integrating the indicators of the SDGs into the national development plan and a statistical monitoring and reporting system is being developed.

In 1995, the country became a signatory to the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) that seeks to promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women throughout their lives. The BPFA served as basis for the country's national strategy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Report of the UN Interagency MAPS Mission Team For Submission to the Government of Kyrgyzstan, January 2019, https://kyrgyzstan.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/MAPS%20Report\_ENG\_Final\_15May2019.pdf

on gender equality (UNDP 2016d). As part of the global community, the Kyrgyz Republic has worked actively to prepare a comprehensive national-level review of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation the BPFA<sup>2</sup> which was published in 2019. The status of women and girls was reviewed against the national commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and BPFA. As key challenges preventing the promotion of gender equality the following ones were highlighted: (i) lack of gender-responsive budgeting, (ii) low political participation and representation, (iii) slow changing of negative social norms and gender stereotypes – polarisation of public opinion on women's rights and gender equality; (iv) radicalisation, (v) labour migration. The following top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in Kyrgyzstan for the coming five years through laws, policies, and/or programmes were highlighted: (i) quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls; (ii) eliminating violence against women and girls; (iii) gender-responsive budgeting; (iv) digital and financial inclusion for women; v) girls rights.

# Gender-Responsive National Documentation and Legislation

The Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, amended in 2021, enshrines the principles of inalienable human rights and gender equality in Articles 13 (representation of all ethnic groups) and 24 (equality between women and men).<sup>3</sup>

A Law "On State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women" was passed in August 2008. This law is the most significant, comprehensive piece of legislation designed to ensure equality between women and men. The law prohibits acts based on traditional or customary laws that contravene the principles of equality it enshrines. It also sets out provisions for ensuring its effective implementation, including requiring state bodies and local government authorities to submit annual reports for the systematic collection of statistical data, and for enforcement processes where alleged breaches of the law can be formally reviewed.

In April 2017 a new Law "On Safeguarding and Protection Against Domestic Violence" was adopted. This Law replaced the previous, 2013, Law and addresses existing gaps. Specifically, the 2017 Law establishes that anyone who is aware of an incident of domestic violence can report it to the police. The 2017 Law further defines clear roles and responsibilities of State and local self-government bodies in protecting against domestic violence; it stipulates a coordinated response to addressing domestic violence; it introduces a behaviour correction programme for perpetrators and an improved procedure for issuance of protective orders.

Bride kidnapping is criminalized by the Criminal Code, which also prohibits forcing an adult woman into marriage, preventing an adult woman from marrying and abducting a woman against her will for the purpose of marriage. In 2016, the country adopted Act 179 that amended the Family Code and Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic to prohibit early marriage of minors.

<sup>2</sup> BEIJING+25: National-level review of the Kyrgyz Republic on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Beijing platform for action, May 2019, available at <a href="https://kyrgyzstan.un.org/en/15417-beijing25-national-level-review-implementation-bpfa">https://kyrgyzstan.un.org/en/15417-beijing25-national-level-review-implementation-bpfa</a>

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  Joint Opinion of the Venice Commission on the Draft Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, Opinion N1021/2021, 19.03.2021.

A 30% gender quota on elective posts was introduced in 2007. Subsequently, in 2017, amendments promoting gender equality were made to the Law on the Election of the President and Deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament). According to the changes, a female deputy who resigns early should be replaced by a woman, and a male deputy by a man. These changes were to ensure the maintenance of 30% women representation in the Parliament. A law establishing gender quotas for local councils passed in June 2019. The law reserves 30 percent of seats in each village council for women.

The Kyrgyz Republic's first long-term National Gender Strategy on Achieving Gender Equality (NGS) by 2020 was adopted in 2012 in compliance with CEDAW. The NGS is elucidated through the 3-year National Action Plan on Gender Equality (NAPGE) for the periods 2012-2014, 2015-2017, 2018-2020. It highlights the following four core priorities: (i) women's economic empowerment, (ii) developing a system of functional education, (iii) eliminating gender discrimination and improving access to justice, and (iv) gender parity in decision-making and expanding women's political participation. In 2013, a NAPGE for the implementation of Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council was approved. It emphasized the importance of ensuring equal, comprehensive, and active participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution, peace building, and peacekeeping. It also promoted the development of gender-responsive civil society, the systematic generation of national gender statistics, the establishment of gender expertise mechanisms, and the introduction of special measures to support women in politics and governance spheres. A significant challenge to the implementation of the strategy and action plan is the lack of dedicated resources. The concept of gender-responsive budgeting has yet to be mainstreamed in government policy, plans, programs, service delivery, and monitoring and evaluation. The new National Gender Strategy on Achieving Gender Equality by 2030 and its Action Plan 2021-2023 is to be adopted by the end of 2021.

At government level, a National Council for Gender Development was established in May 2012 as an advisory body that coordinates the development and implementation of state policy on gender development. It comprises ministers, deputy ministers, and heads of oblasts (regional governments). At ministerial level, the Gender Policy Department of the Ministry of Health and Social Development oversees the implementation of the NGS. The National Statistics Committee produces and publishes gender statistics, including the annual report, *Women and Men in the Kyrgyz Republic*.

Nongovernment organizations (NGOs) in the country play an important role in gender-responsive advocacy and program implementation. The women's NGOs have taken the initiative to establish safe houses and counselling services for victims of domestic violence. The Association of Crisis Centres in the Kyrgyz Republic was established in 2001. In 2018, the association included 12 crisis centres where domestic violence survivors could seek legal advice and medical assistance.

In 2020 the Kyrgyz Republic experienced widespread social unrest, a political uprising, and a stalling economy, all of which was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and related health measures. Domestic and gender-based violence surged, with a 62% rise in the number of domestic violence cases reported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the first quarter of 2020 over that of 2019, while overall some 8,337 cases of domestic violence were recorded from 1 January to 1 December 2020, a 12% increase from the same 11-month period in 2019.

The UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia initiated a gender rapid assessment (GRA) of COVID-19 impacts as part of the Women Count program for gender statistics improvement in 2020 under the Spotlight Initiative Programme for Kyrgyzstan (a multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.). The survey results showed that the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted both women and men in the Kyrgyz Republic, having particularly increased the burden on women. Self-isolation, economic crisis, strict travel restrictions, overloaded healthcare and social systems, and distant learning for all children and students at nearly all levels of education have increased the loads on all groups of population. The COVID-19 outbreak has significantly impacted the businesses of women entrepreneurs. Based on official data, violence against women and girls increased by 65 percent compared to the same period last year. Hotlines were functioning during the lockdown.

## Gender mainstreaming through the EU action

Gender inequality remains a major barrier to human development. With a Gender Inequality Index (GII) of 0.369 and a Gender Development Index (GDI) of 0.957 (2019), the Kyrgyz Republic is classed as a Group 2 country, with a medium-high equality ranking for Human Development achievements between women and men.

Political developments in Kyrgyzstan and the COVID-19 pandemic pose particular challenges to the effective exercise and protection of human rights, especially for women and youth. This also includes labour rights, as the EU continues to prioritise decent work and respect for international labour standards. This is in line with the GSP+ regime, under which Kyrgyzstan commits to effectively implement a number of international conventions on human and labour rights (CEDAW among core conventions), environmental regulations and good governance principles. GSP+ regime is accompanied by the rigid monitoring mechanism, which involves regular dialogue with the authorities and civil society alike and holds former accountable as regards developments in respective areas.

The Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy of the Kyrgyz Republic (2021-2024) and the CSO roadmap for engagement with the civil society post-2020 integrated the significant objectives to enhance contributions of the CSOs to promoting human development, focusing on inclusive quality education and skills development, and promoting gender equality and youth empowerment, as well strengthening of civil society and promotion of a favourable environment for its activities.

In Kyrgyzstan, the EU Delegation and EU Member States have collectively been the key players in development cooperation. The EU has been supporting gender-equality initiatives at local, national and regional levels – for which effective partnership has been built with the UN, the private sector, and the women's organisations.

The Spotlight Initiative Kyrgyzstan Country Programme, the UN-implemented programme to end all forms of violence against women and girls was launched in January 2020 and will be implement till December 2022. Taking on board lessons learnt resulting from an EIDHR (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights) project challenging a culture of acceptance of bride kidnapping of women and girls, the Spotlight Initiative promotes both

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> UN WOMEN gender rapid assessment of the COVID-19 impacts, May 2020, available at <a href="https://kyrgyzstan.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/eng\_gender\_rapid\_assessment\_of\_covid-19">https://kyrgyzstan.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/eng\_gender\_rapid\_assessment\_of\_covid-19</a> impact\_june 2020 final 0.pdf

gender responsive and gender transformative approaches. In particular SI tries to address the root causes of gender inequality, including harmful social and economic practices, challenging traditional gender stereotypes.

The annual EU-Kyrgyz Republic Gender Workshop provides a high level of participation of Government agencies, national and local CSOs, including women and youth organisations which ensures a participatory policymaking by enabling them to understand the policy issues, challenges and opportunities for gender mainstreaming. The last gender workshop report "A Roadmap for Gender Mainstreaming in the Kyrgyz Republic" (2020) demonstrated alignment between the EU GAP II and the National Action Plan on gender equality 2018-2020 of the KR. It was explained that the approach to mainstreaming gender equality in development cooperation involves systematic consideration of the differences between the conditions, situations and needs of women and men in all policies and actions. Moreover, it recognized that women and men have to be equally involved in setting goals, and elaborating strategies and plans so that development objectives are gender-sensitive. The EU GAP II and NAP on gender equality of the KR focus on similar issues, i.e. women's empowerment, fighting gender-based violence, education, political participation of women.

A series of consultations were held in December 2020 and February 2021 with CSO representatives including women and youth organisations, private sector and Women entrepreneurship organisation and associations, development partner organisations and EU MS, and key Government agencies to discuss the EU programming priorities for 2021-2027 and the EU action on gender mainstreaming of all new actions. Civil society and youth are also critical stakeholders, whose engagement in activities and policy dialogues is essential. During the consultations, CSOs have also commended on how the EU's priority areas allowed linkages across some acute and related challenges. Thus, the focus on women empowerment sat very well with the priority of digitalisation. One participant spoke of how critical it was to train young women in rural areas on the basics of entrepreneurship, including applying digital tools in the business.

The Country-level implementation plan (CLIP) has been carried out by the EU Delegation on the basis of the gender country profile; progress reports of the Spotlight Initiative Country Programme of the Kyrgyz Republic and the EIDHR-funded project "HERo – New narratives towards a gender equal society"; reports of the annual Gender Workshop 2018, 2019, 2020; BEIJING+25: National-level review of the Kyrgyz Republic on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Beijing platform for action, and the Voluntary national review of the Kyrgyz Republic on implementation of the SDG. The Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025) and the EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy 2021-2024 were presented at the consultations on the EU programming priorities for 2021-2027. The CLIP takes into account the EU Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy 2021-2024 and the EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society. The CLIP and the CSO Roadmap were presented to the EU Member States: Germany, France, Hungary.

#### 2. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives

The main basis for programming in the Kyrgyz Republic is the National Development Strategy 2040 (NDS), which was adopted in November 2018 and sets out a long-term roadmap for KR to emerge as a strong, self-sufficient and developed state by 2040. The focal sectors take into account priorities outlined in complementary development strategies including 'Unity, Trust, Creation 2018-2022', the National Gender Strategy on Achieving Gender Equality 2021-2030, the Digital Kyrgyzstan Concept 2019-2023, Cybersecurity Strategy 2019-2023, Education Development Programme 2021-2040, Development of Judicial System in KR 2019-2022, and the Green Economy Development Programme for 2019-2023.

The NDS and Kyrgyz priorities are in line with EU interests and priorities, and the EU Central Asia strategy (2019), which reaffirms the strategic importance of the region and outlines building resilience and prosperity as two guiding principles of EU future engagement. The priorities outlined in the NDS, focusing on human development, economic well-being, public administration, and transformation of the development system.

The EU includes the conclusions of the Presidency of the Council on the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III as an "ambitious agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external action", clear guidance for the implementation of GAP III at country level and the framework for performance measurement in each of the GAP's priority areas.

With the objective to reach the 85% target of all new actions will have gender equality as a significant (Gender Marker 1) or principal objective (Gender marker 2), the design of all external EU-funded programmes will apply the following minimum standards: a) conducting and using updated gender analyses to inform decision-making on future action and integrating these into all relevant dialogues, policies, strategies, programmes and operations; b) applying gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated indicators and statistics to monitoring and evaluation.

GAP III puts forward "key thematic areas of engagement" <sup>5</sup>. The following 'thematic areas of engagement' for gender equality and women's empowerment will be ensured in the proposed priority areas of the MIP 2021-2027:

- Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence
- Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women
- Promoting equal participation and leadership
- Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation
- Integrating the women, peace and security agenda

The EU proposes the following priority areas for EU cooperation with the Kyrgyz Republic during 2021-2027:

- Governance and Digital Transformation
- Human Development
- Green and Climate Resilient Economy

Priority area 1: Governance and Digital Transformation

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Part II of the Staff Working Document on GAP III

This action aims to harness the transformational power of digitalisation to strengthen governance, rule of law and public administration reform, including in remote, underdeveloped areas. Digital technologies such as e-governance can strengthen democracy by providing more accountable services to citizens, while improved planning and execution of the budget and efficiency gains in managing public expenditures can expand the fiscal space without raising taxes. Improving governance, transparency and accountability of public institutions as well as compliance with the rule of law are directly related to four SDGs<sup>6</sup>. This action also aims to strengthen digital rights and laws in the Kyrgyz Republic in compliance with international human rights laws, civil rights and international digital governance frameworks. Building on the EU's human-centric digitalisation model and on lessons learned of previous activities, the EU will support programmes and projects that build:

- (i) local capacities of legal, judicial and security officials and institutions to implement digital agenda and address violations of digital rights;
- (ii) national and community level civil society organisations' capacities to productively advocate and oversight the government transparency, accountability and implementation of human rights commitments.

Specific objectives related to the priority area

SO 1 - Promoting Rule of Law and Respect of Human Rights (SDGs 5, 16. DAC code: 151 –
Government & Civil Society, "gender internal marker")

Promoting legal and judicial reform continues to be on the top of the political agenda sustained by large use of information technologies, making justice sector institutions' actions more transparent and citizens' access to justice more effective. EU actions will target law enforcement, prosecutors, courts and National Human Rights Institutions to support legal and judicial reform, including reform of law enforcement and prosecutors. The support will promote alignment to international standards of judiciary independence and fundamentally pursue further humanisation of criminal justice. The actions aim to result in independent, impartial, accountable justice sector institutions that will protect people's rights, in particular the most vulnerable, such as women and girls, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and minority groups. Every action funded under this area will constitute discussion platforms between authorities and civil society, including business and other sectors of the society, ensuring maximum accountability of duty bearers and full involvement of rights holders.

# SO 2 - Improvement of Governance (SDG 16. DAC Code: 151 – Government & Civil Society, "gender internal marker")

By helping to strengthen governance frameworks, EU actions will help to strengthen public expenditure management, increase revenue collection, improve the quality and availability of information and statistical data and enhance the transparency of public finances. Effective digitalisation will expedite Public Finance Management (PFM) functions and strengthen accountability by providing a more reliable audit trail, reducing costs, increasing transparency and curbing corruption. Digitalisation can also help shrink opportunities for tax evasion. The digitalisation of payments, transfers, and remittances contribute to the G20 goals of broadbased economic growth, financial inclusion, and women's economic empowerment. Experience indicates that shifting to digital financial services is generally safer, especially for women, and more efficient in reaching the financially excluded. Digitisation has a potential to reshape fiscal policy by transforming how the government collects, processes, shares, and acts on information. More and higher-quality information can improve not only policy design for

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> SDG: 8. Economic growth and jobs, 12. Sustainable consumption and production, 16. Building effective institutions, 17. Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, strengthening macro-economic stability.

tax and spending, but also PFM, resource administration and compliance, budget formulation and execution, delivery of public services, administration of social programs in line with the country PFM strategy 2025. The engagement of civil society organisations will be mainstreamed throughout interventions enabling them to oversee the government's accountability and advocate for fair, open and democratic governance.

SO 3 - Building of effective, confident and non-discriminatory digitalisation (SDGs 4, 5, 8, 9. Markers (no relevant DAC code): "digitalisation internal marker", "gender internal marker")

EU actions will contribute towards creating the necessary digital environment to allow Kyrgyzstan to benefit from innovative technologies, including in rural and urban areas, across genders, age and income levels. The lack of data protection and privacy laws as well as the low level of compliance and enforcement of existing rules on cybersecurity are infringing human rights and promoting systematic abuses from public and private entities. Mainstreaming cybersecurity in development cooperation is key to enable more resilient and sustainable development. The digital gender divide reduces the chances for girls and women to equally participate in digital society. If appropriately addressed, the promotion of inclusive accessibility to digital means could also enhance the potential for economic growth.

The investment in women's empowerment has been defined as the most direct and effective way to promote economic growth, peace, and prosperity. The role of CSOs in ensuring protection of human rights will be strengthened by the specific complementary grant programmes, which will prioritise activities linked to the Guidelines on freedom of expression online and offline (2014) and standards on data protection and privacy (GDPR). Meaningful initiatives to boost digital entrepreneurship, especially among women, youth and vulnerable population will also be strongly encouraged by the envisaged Calls for Proposals for civil society organisations and non-commercial service providers.

#### Priority area 2: Human Development

The EU will continue supporting education and skills development, formal and non-formal primary and secondary education and access to education for all. It will support education sector policy, e-school, and teacher education. The EU will support digital and media literacy and skills as well as upskilling, with specific attention to the development of the skills and qualifications required for the transition towards a green, carbon-neutral and climate-resilient economy. On-the-job training, apprenticeships and advisory services will be supported, especially for women and youth. The promotion of gender equality, women and youth empowerment and human rights are a key foundation of this priority. This priority also serves to act against the root causes of violent extremism, such as lack of quality education.

The EU will continue strong support to ending violence against women and girls, the political participation and representation of women, as well as youth and women empowerment and human rights for all minorities, including persons with disabilities. It will aim to tackle discrimination against minorities and decreasing employment rate for women, including by empowering CSOs and ensuring open media and free flow of information.

Specific objectives related to the priority area

SO 1 - Development of inclusive and equitable quality education as well as improvement of digital, media and green skills (SDGs 4, 5, 8, 9. DAC codes: 110- Education, "disability internal marker", "gender internal marker", "digitalisation internal marker")

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> GSMA. (2019). The Mobile Gender Gap Report.

Good quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning provide opportunities for everybody to develop key competences. Inclusive education improves learning for all children, promotes understanding, reduces prejudice and strengthens social integration.

Digital, media and green skills development will be supported by better linking the development of basic skills and more advanced competencies as children progress through the education cycle. In this sense, improving the quality of teaching and upskilling in response to new digital demands is far more cost-effective than trying to provide post-school remedial education.

Extensive educational training is needed to reach a reasonable level of digital capability in the country, including key aspects of media literacy. An improvement in digital knowledge also depends on creation of more internet content in local languages, which is currently lacking. Globalisation, structural changes in the labour market and the rapid development of new technologies require the country to develop and update digital and green skills as well as media literacy throughout life.

SO-2 Gender equality, youth empowerment and Human rights (SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16. DAC Code: 151 – Government & Civil Society "gender internal marker")

The EU intends to support the National Strategy for the achievement of Gender Equality which is being drafted for a period of 2021 till 2030. The EU's approach will address structural causes of gender inequality and gender-based discrimination. The EU will focus on the key thematic areas of engagement, including fighting against gender-based violence and promoting the economic, social and political empowerment and participation of women and girls, which impact SDGs 3, 4, 5, 10 and 16. EU actions in this sector will also support the meaningful inclusion and participation of women and youth at all levels of society, both in economic and political life. It will support building life skills to enhance leadership and strengthen professional and entrepreneurial skills among women and youth, as well as increasing civic participation to enable them to better compete in the labour market. The role of CSOs in ensuring protection of human rights will be strengthened by the specific complementary grant programmes.

#### Priority area 3 – Green and Climate Resilient Economy

Specific objectives related to the priority area

SO 1 – Support climate and environmental action and promote integrated water resource management (SDG 3, SDG 6, SDG 12, SDG 13, and SDG 15. DAC Codes: 140 – Water supply & sanitation; 410 – General Environment Protection, "gender internal marker")

In spite of abundant water resources, Kyrgyzstan still faces significant challenges when it comes to access to safe drinking water and sanitation due to outdated infrastructure and poor management practices. In the medium-long term, climate change will increase the competition for water. The implementation of reforms towards integrated water resource management (IWRM), and taking into account the energy-water-food systems nexus, could promote a more efficient use of resources and ensure water-security at regional level.

Kyrgyzstan also faces environmental challenges such as deforestation and land degradation, air and environmental pollution, including waste, increasing the risk to public health and climate-induced migration. Modern waste management practices should be adopted, including to take advantage of the huge potential for recycling.

# SO 2 – Support the development of green business and green economy (SDG7, SDG8, SDG12, and SDG13. DAC Codes: 250 – Business & other services; gender internal marker).

Agriculture accounts for approximately 48% of Kyrgyzstan's labour force and plays a crucial role in ensuring food security. However, only about 7% of Kyrgyz land is arable and current agricultural practices are inefficient. Land degradation and desertification caused by overgrazing, and inefficient water management systems pose serious threats to food security and the overall socio-economic development of the country. Climate change is expected to have an impact on food production, further aggravating ongoing desertification processes and collapse in household income.

The EU will continue to support green SMEs, with a focus on jobs and growth, especially for women and youth, and green income generating activities in rural areas will be supported. The priority will also address recycling of waste, support modern mechanisms of waste management under a circular economy approach, and promote biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Particular attention will be given to improve capacity of advocacy of CSOs to promote green economy.

#### 3. Targeted action(s) supporting gender equality and women's empowerment

GAP III aims at increasing the number and effectiveness of actions having gender equality as principal objective<sup>8</sup> with a target of a least one G2 action implemented in each country by 2025.

#### **Priority area 1: Governance and Digital Transformation**

#### **GAP** specific thematic objectives:

- 1. Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity participate equally in policy- and decision-making for the digital world, on local, national, regional and international levels, and are represented in these policies and decisions
- 2. Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have equal access to affordable and secure broadband, technology and digital tools
- 3. Women, men, girls and boys are equally provided with and using equally public digital literacy
- 4. Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity participate equally in policy- and decision-making for the digital world, on local, national, regional and international levels, and are represented in these policies and decisions
- 5. Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity have equal access to affordable and secure broadband, technology and digital tools
- 6. Women, men, girls and boys are equally provided with and using equally public digital literacy

# Specific objective 1: Promoting Rule of Law and respect of human rights

- a) Improved access to justice for all
- b) Right to a fair trial and equality before the law is ensured
- c) Improved accountability, transparency and credibility of the justice system
- d) Improved efficiency and quality of justice

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Defined as G2 actions in line with OECD gender maker <u>G2</u>. These actions should aim at achieving a long-lasting change tackling harmful gender norms and stereotypes, by implementing a comprehensive and gender-transformative approach.

e) Improved individual and institutional independence and impartiality of the justice system

#### Specific objective 2: Improvement of the Governance

- a) More effective and transparent PFM system
- b) Strengthening capacity in Domestic Revenue Mobilisation
- c) Improved governance and anti-corruption functions

# Specific objective 3: Building of effective, confident and non-discriminatory digitalisation

- a) Strengthened cybersecurity, privacy and data protection
- b) Increased access to public electronic services
- c) Reduced digital divide (e.g. gender digital divide, rural-urban digital divide)

#### 1.1.1. Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

## SO 1: Promoting Rule of Law and respect of human rights

## (a) Improved access to justice for all:

- **A1.** Number of people directly benefiting from legal aid interventions supported by the EU<sup>9</sup> (baseline: 12,500, 2020; target: 25,000, 2027).
- **A2.** People can access and afford civil justice (baseline: 0.60 WJP-ROLI-2020; target: 0.63 WJP-ROLI-2027).
- **A3.** Due process of the law and rights of the accused (baseline: 0.35 WJP-ROLI 2020; target: 0.38 WJP-ROLI 2027).

## (b) Right to a fair trial and equality before the law is ensured:

- **B1.** Civil justice is free of discrimination (baseline: 0.56 WJP-ROLI 2020; target: 0.60 WJP-ROLI 2027).
- **B2.** Criminal justice system is impartial (baseline: 0.33 WJP-ROLI 2020; target: 0.36 WJP-ROLI 2027).
- **B3.** Criminal justice system is free of improper government influence (baseline: 0.21 WJP-ROLI 2020; target: 0.24 WJP-ROLI 2027).

## (c) Improved accountability, transparency and credibility of the justice system:

- **C1.** Judiciary Independence Index (Word Economic Forum) (baseline: 3.11, WEF 2017-2018; target: 3.4 WEF 2027-2028).
- **C2.** Independent Judiciary (Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI) (baseline: 4, BTI 2020; target: 4.5 BTI 2027).

#### (d) Improved efficiency and quality of justice:

- **D1.** Civil justice is not subject to unreasonable delay (baseline: 0.51 WJP-ROLI-2020; target: 0.55 WJP-ROLI-2027).
- **D2**. Civil justice is effectively enforced (baseline: 0.39 WJP-ROLI-2020; target: 0.42 WJP-ROLI-2027).
- **D3.** Criminal investigation system is effective (baseline: 0.39 WJP-ROLI-2020; target: 0.42 WJP-ROLI-2027).
- **D4.** Criminal adjudication system is timely and effective (baseline: 0.50 WJP-ROLI-2020; target: 0.53 WJP-ROLI-2027).

# (e) Improved individual and institutional independence and impartiality of the justice system:

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> EU-RF indicator.

**E1.** Percentage of members of the Judiciary Council who are elected by their peers <sup>10</sup> (baseline: 33%, 2020; target: 35%, 2027).

**E2.** Percentage of judges who have permanent tenure<sup>11</sup> (baseline: 20%, 2021; target: 25%, 2027).

#### SO 2: Improvement of Governance

# a) More effective and transparent PFM system:

**A1.** PEFA<sup>12</sup> assessment country scoring (baseline: Draft PEFA 2021: PI-2: Expenditure composition outturn D<sup>+</sup>; target 2027: Expenditure composition outturn C).

**A2.** Open budget, better budget oversight and more active public participation (baseline 2019 OBS score: transparency 63, public participation 33 and budget oversight 78; target 2027: OBS score: transparency 65, public participation 40 and budget oversight 82).

# b) Strengthening capacity in Domestic Revenue Mobilisation:

**B1.** Tax collection rate (baseline: 2019 Tax revenue was 19.6% of GDP; target: 2027, Tax revenue is 22% of the GDP).

#### c) Improved governance and anti-corruption functions:

**C1.** Worldwide Governance Indicators/WGI Country Score (baseline: 2019, Estimate ranges from approximately -2.5 (weak) to 2.5 (strong) performance: Governance Effectiveness (-0.68), Control of Corruption (-0.95), Voice and Accountability (-0.46); target 2027: Governance Effectiveness (-0.38), Control of Corruption (-0.55), Voice and Accountability (-0.16)).

#### SO 3: Building of effective, confident and non-discriminatory digitalisation

#### a) Strengthened cybersecurity, privacy and data protection:

**A1**. Global Cybersecurity Survey/Country Score (baseline: 2018 Global Cybersecurity Survey Score - 0.254; target: 2027, Country Cybersecurity Score - 0.3).

**A2.** Online public awareness platform on data protection, data privacy and citizen's rights on data protection is accessible and continuously functioning (baseline: Online public awareness platform on data protection is not yet activated in 2020; target: 2027, Public awareness platform on data protection, data privacy and citizen's rights on data protection is accessible and functioning).

#### b) Increased access to public electronic services:

**B1**. Digital Evolution Index/ Country Score: Digital Evolution Index at the start and at the end of the interventions (baseline: 2020 UN Global e-Government Score - 0.6749; target: 2027, Country Digital Evolution Index – 0.7).

**B2**. Number of digital public services and registered users <sup>13</sup> (disaggregated by sex and age) (baseline: April 2021, Tunduk system services - 756, registered users -102 693; target: 2027, 30% increase in digital services and registered users. Users are disaggregated by sex and age).

B3. Number of e-governance systems and services established and/or improved

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> EU-RF indicator.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> EU-RF indicator.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability: <a href="https://www.pefa.org/">https://www.pefa.org/</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> It contributes to EURF ID 12: Number of people supported by the EU with enhanced access to digital government services

with support of the EU Action by the end of the intervention<sup>14</sup> (baseline: 2020, 0. target: **2027,** 10 new or improved e-governance systems and services with EU support)

c) Reduced digital divide (e.g. gender digital divide, rural-urban digital divide):

C1. Number of people with access to fixed or mobile broadband connectivity<sup>15</sup> (disaggregated by sex, age, urban/rural) (baseline<sup>16</sup>: 2020 data, 70% of the population have access to broadband connectivity. Rural population is 30% less likely to use the internet than urban, and women are 23% less likely to use the Internet than men; target: 2027, 20% increase of people having access to fixed or mobile broadband connectivity; 20% reduced rural/urban and gender disparity in access to internet).

#### **Priority area 2: Human Development**

# **GAP** specific thematic objectives:

- 1. Reduction in gender disparities in enrolment, progression and retention at all levels of education and lifelong learning for women, men, girls and boys
- 2. Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, fully enjoy and exercise their equal economic, labour and social rights
- 3. Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, are agents of change regarding discriminatory social norms, gender stereotypes, and gender-drivers of conflict
- 4. Women's rights organisations, social movements and other civil society organisations are influential in ending gender-based violence
- 5. Improved access for women in all their diversity to managerial and leadership roles in social and economic sectors
- 6. Women in all their diversity have improved access to entrepreneurship opportunities, including social entrepreneurship, and alternative livelihoods and strengthened participation in the green and circular economy

#### 1.1.2. Expected results per specific objective

The expected results per specific objective are:

- 1. Development of inclusive and equitable quality education as well as improvement of digital, media and green skills.
  - a) More inclusive and equitable quality education;
  - b) Improved digital skills,
  - c) Improved media literacy;
  - d) Improved green skills.
- 2. Gender equality, youth empowerment, strengthened Human Rights.
  - a) Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, fully enjoy and exercise their equal economic, labour and social rights
  - b) Strengthened environment for civic engagement of youth
  - c) Increased capacity of CSOs to contribute to the development of accountable,

<sup>16</sup> http://www.stat.kg/ru/news/den-inte<u>rneta-99-kyrgyzstancev-ohvacheny-mobilnymi-setyami/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> It contributes to EURF ID 12: Number of people supported by the EU with enhanced access to digital government services

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> It contributes to EURF ID 11: Number of people with access to Internet with EU support

1.1.3. Indicators (including baseline and targets<sup>17</sup>), per expected result
Specific objective 1: Development of inclusive and equitable quality education, as well as improvement of digital, media and green skills

#### a) More inclusive and equitable quality education:

- **A1**. Better country score for Human Development Index (HDI), incl. Gender Inequality Index (GII), at the end of the EU intervention (baseline: 2019 HDI-0.697 and GII-0.369; target: 2027, HDI-0.7 and GII-0.38).
- **A2**. Proportion of children and young people: (a) at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and comprehension; and (b) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in STEM, by sex (baseline: 2009 PISA for KR, over 80% of 15-year-old population is functionally illiterate; target: The latest available PISA and/or National Assessment for KR, 10% reduction of percentage of 15-year-old population functionally illiterate, disaggregated by sex, rural/urban.
- **A3**. Status of gender analysis to reduce gender stereotypes of all new teaching and learning materials (e.g. the promotion of gender equality and positive images of girls and boys, and their abilities and aspirations) (baseline: 2020: Compulsory gender expertise was adopted by MoES in 2019 and the gender experts database is being developed; target: 2027, at least 80% new teaching and learning material revised following compulsory gender expertise adopted by MoES in 2019).
- **A4**. Number of inclusive education schools enabling joint learning of children with disabilities and without (gender and urban/rural disaggregated) (baseline: 2019/2020: No inclusive public schools; target: 2027, at least 5 inclusive education schools enabling joint learning of children with disabilities and without (gender and urban/rural disaggregated).

## b) Improved digital skills:

- **B1**. Computer/student ratio enabling students to use a computer at school at least once a week (disaggregated by age group, sex, urban/rural) (baseline: 2019/2020 computer/student ratio is 1/30; target: 2026-2027, computer/student ratio is 1/13 enabling to increase percentage of students using a computer at school at least once a week (disaggregated by age group, sex, urban/rural).
- B2) Number of teachers trained in ICT skills (gender-and urban/rural disaggregated) (baseline: 2019/2020: 0; target: 2026-2027, annually 3% of teachers trained in ICT skills (gender-and urban/rural disaggregated).

## c) Improved media literacy:

C1. Number of teachers and students trained in media literacy (gender-and urban/rural disaggregated) (baseline: 2019/2020: 0; target: 2026-2027, one third of relevant education level teachers and students trained in media literacy (gender-and urban/rural disaggregated).

## d) Improved green skills:

**D1**. Number of teachers and students having acquired skills and/or qualifications

 $<sup>^{17}</sup>$  All targets indicated are until 2027 unless otherwise stated.

relevant to the transition towards a green, carbon-neutral, climate-resilient economy (by educational level) (baseline: 2019/2020: 0; target: One third of relevant education level teachers and students having acquired skills and/or qualifications relevant to the transition towards a green, carbon-neutral, climate-resilient economy (by educational level).

#### Specific objective 2: Gender equality, youth empowerment and Human rights

- a) Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, fully enjoy and exercise their equal economic, labour and social rights:
  - **A1**. Number of women empowered by the EU intervention (baseline: 2020, 0 as percentage of the target population at the start of the EU intervention; target: 2027, 20%).
  - **A2.** Number of CSOs trained on the HRBA approach and gender mainstreaming (disaggregated by age group, sex, urban/rural) (baseline: 2020, 0; target: 2027, 100).
- b) Strengthened environment for civic engagement of youth:
  - **B1.** Number of youth empowered by the EU intervention (disaggregated by age group, sex, urban/rural) (baseline: 2027, 0; target: 2027, 1,000).
- c) Increased capacity of CSOs to contribute to the development of accountable, transparent and democratic institutions, social and economic development:
- **C1.** Country score for Human Rights Report, Human Development Index, incl. Gender Inequality Score and Gender Development Index, at the end of the EU intervention (baseline: 2019, GII- 0,381, GDI 0.957; target: 2027, GII 0,360, GDI 0,965).

#### **Priority area 2: Green and Climate Resilient Economy**

#### **GAP** specific thematic objectives:

- 1. Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, fully enjoy and exercise their equal economic, labour and social rights
- 2. Improved access to safe water and sanitation facilities
- 3. Strategies and agreements on climate mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity are more gender-responsive, at local, national, regional and international level
- 4. Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, addressing climate change in their daily lives and preserving the natural environment are supported
- 5. Women in all their diversity increasingly participate in and have improved access to jobs, entrepreneurship opportunities in the green economy and the circular economy

# $SO\ 1-Support\ climate\ and\ environmental\ action\ and\ promote\ integrated\ water\ resource\ management$

1. The institutional and regulatory framework is aligned with the principles of IWRM and gender equality and the capacities of national and local water authorities have been strengthened.

- 2. Improved drinking water security, accessibility, availability and reliability and improved access to sanitation /waste water management.
- 3. Improved sustainable and climate resilient irrigation water supply.

#### SO 2 – Support the development of green business and green economy

- 1. The awareness of consumers on the impact of the products they buy is improved.
- 2. Enabling frameworks for Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) are in place (i.e. ensuring coherence between economic and environment policies across relevant areas such as the business environment, finance and investments, employment).
- 3. Economic growth starts to become decoupled from environmental degradation and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are reduced.
- 4. Uptake of Sustainable Consumption and Production practices by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises is increased.
- 5. Business performance of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises is improved.
- 6. Financial sector is incentivised to improve green financing possibilities

#### 2.3.3. Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

# SO 1 – Support climate and environmental action and promote integrated water resource management

# a - The institutional and regulatory framework is aligned with the principles of Integrated Water Resource Management and gender equality and the capacities of national and local water authorities has been strengthened:

- **A1** National Water Strategy adopted and River Basin established: (baseline: 2020: National water strategy not adopted, River basin administrations not established; target: 2027, National water strategy adopted and implemented, River Basin Administrations established).
- **A2.** A cross-sectoral, coherent and integrated perspective of assessing and prioritising investments is established following the "Nexus approach" highlighting the interdependence of water, energy and food security and natural resources in the context of a changing climate (baseline: 2021: Basin management plans with clear prioritisation of investment needs not in place; target: 2027 Climate-resilient River Basin Management Plans adopted and implemented).
- A3. Number of government, regional and (transboundary institutions), CSOs, service providers' and community representatives trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills on WSS/IWRM policies and regulation (baseline: Baseline: 2021, 0; Target: 2027, 1,000)

# **b** - Improved drinking water security, accessibility, availability and reliability and improved access to sanitation /waste water management:

**B1.** Number of people (disaggregated by sex, age and other social, demographic variables where possible) with access to improved drinking water source and/or sanitation facility with EU support (baseline: 2020, 0; target: 2027, 250,000.

#### c - Improved Sustainable irrigation water supply:

C1. Number of farmers (disaggregated by sex, age and other social, demographic

variables where possible) benefiting from new or improved sustainable irrigation or drainage services with EU support (baseline: 2020, 0; target: 2027, 40,000).

**C2**. Total area provided with new or improved sustainable irrigation or drainage services with EU support (baseline: 2020, 0, target: 2027, 8,000 ha).

# SO 2 – Support the development of green business

- a) The awareness of consumers on the impact of the products they buy is improved:
  - **A1.** Number of consumers awareness activities (e.g. campaigns) run with EU's support (baseline, 2020, 0; target: 2027, 100).
- b) Enabling frameworks for Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) in place in target countries (i.e. ensuring coherence between economic and environment policies across relevant areas such as the business environment, finance and investments, employment):
  - **B1.** Number of Inclusive Green Economy policy instruments adopted / implemented (baseline: 2020, 0; target: 2027, 3).
- c) Economic growth starts to become decoupled from environmental degradation and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are reduced:
  - **C1.** Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduced (tonnes CO2eq) with EU support (baseline: 2012: 13,795; target: 2027, -3%).
- d) Uptake of Sustainable Consumption and Production practices by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises is increased:
  - **D1.** Number of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises or local (informal) entrepreneurs reporting the adoption of Sustainable Consumption and Production practices baseline 2020: 0, target 2027: 2,500.
- e) Business performance of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises is improved:
  - **E1.** Number of full-time or seasonal green jobs sustained/created (baseline: 2020, 0; target: 2027, 3,000).
  - **E2.** Number of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises reporting increased turnover as a direct result of support received (baseline: 2020, 0; target: 2027, 200).
- f) Financial sector is incentivised to improve green financing possibilities:
  - **F1.** Number of financial institutions report offering financial services/advisory promoting green economic investments (baseline: 2020, 0; target: 2027, 30).

Apart from the geographic programmes to support the CSOs, the Human Rights and Democracy and CSO, thematic programmes will also aim to target gender equality and women's empowerment, where women will be strongly encouraged to facilitate their engagement in social, civic, political and economic life, and ensure their contribution to inclusive growth and sustainable development through the country digital transformation and climate- neutrality targets. Both geographic and thematic grant programmes will direct resources towards supporting women organisations to ensure that voices of women and people with disabilities are heard and taken into account, including from remote locations and disadvantaged groups that are harder to reach.

#### **Financial overview**

Overall indicative amount (for first MIP period until synchronised review for Country MIPs and mid-term review for multi-country/regional MIP).

Priority area 1: Governance and Digital Transformation	7MEUR	11% of total
Expected contribution to gender equality as "significant objective"	7MEUR	11% of total
Priority area 2: Human Development	37MEUR	60% of total
Expected contribution to gender equality as "significant objective"	37MEUR	60% of total
Priority area 3: GREEN AND RESILIENT ECONOMY	18MEUR	29% of total>
Expected contribution to gender equality as "significant objective"	18MEUR	29% of total
TOTAL for initial period	62 MEUR	100%
Expected contribution to gender equality "significant objective", including one action having gender as "main objective"	62MEUR	100% of total
TOTAL indicative amount for second period <sup>18</sup>	41 MEUR	

Spotlight Initiative Country Programme in the Kyrgyz Republic: (2020-2022), total cost 6.612.919 EUR (USD 7,816,459).

The Spotlight Initiative (SI) in Kyrgyzstan will use a comprehensive set of approaches on the basis of HRBA, social innovation, and multi-sectoral, survivor-centred principles to the planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring of interventions across the six Pillars/Outcome Areas. Particular emphasis will be placed on integrating the voices and experiences and solutions of women and girls who face multiple forms of discrimination, in line with the SDG principle of LNOB Behind (Leaving no one behind).

The following six pillars are being implemented: (i) policies and legislation, (ii) institutional strengthening; (iii) prevention of violence, (iv) available accessible and acceptable quality services, (v) quality and reliable data (vi) women's movement and civil society. In one of the most innovative practices implemented during the SI Programme, new tools such as adaptive leadership, positive deviance, and the Oxford Scenario Planning Approach (OSPA) were integrating into the process of drafting the Gender Equality Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2030.

implementation of the initial indicative allocation.

This amount is purely indicative and may be available after a decision by the Commission within the last 6 months of the initial period. This decision will be preceded by a dialogue with the partner country on the

#### 4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment

The EU-Kyrgyz Republic annual Human Rights Dialogue is the main political dialogue where human rights issues are raised systematically and in a detailed way. The Dialogue is followed up by higher level formats such as the EU – Kyrgyzstan Cooperation Committee; Cooperation Council; Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, as well as at regional level at the EU – Central Asia Ministerial Meetings.

The EU and its Member States will promote the gender equality and women's empowerment through funding development assistance activities. It will also keep highlighting gender issues in the dialogue with the Government at all levels, in particular at the National Council for Gender Development.

The EU and the Member States will engage in discussions with relevant ministries, awareness raising activities to promote women's economic empowerment and equal pay; support to revise the legal framework; support to implement the principle of equal pay between men and women for work of equal value (enshrined in ILO Convention 100) and to enhance the capacity of labour inspectors to deal with cases of wage discrimination. Particular efforts will be made to promote legislation and policy for preventing physical, sexual, psychological, social and economic violence against women and girls. The EU and the Member States will advocate for stronger efforts to combat gender based violence and will support Kyrgyzstan's efforts to fight domestic violence including through expertise sharing and technical assistance. They will demand stronger implementation of existing laws and policies, such as the law on domestic violence, law on child marriage and religious marriages and others – to encourage more decisive measures against gender-based violence.

A gender perspective is integrated in the Political, security and sectoral policy dialogues by engaging in dialogue on GEWE with governments and national gender equality mechanisms, parliaments, other key institutional actors, local authorities and women organisations) in the framework of EU Roadmaps for engagement with Civil Society .

The annual EU-KR Gender Workshop has been organised by the Delegation of the European Union (EU) to the Kyrgyz Republic since 2018. The Workshop's aim is to develop possible contribution of EU-funded projects to the implementation of the Action Plan of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Achievement of Gender Equality in line with the objectives of the EU Gender Action Plan.

#### 5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

Public diplomacy events will be conducted in order to increase the visibility of EU-funded activities regarding women's rights, including in relation to the International Women's Day (March 8), International Day for Fighting Violence against Women (November 25).

Traditionally the EU Delegation and Member States Embassies takes active part in the celebration of *the Human Rights Day* and in the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign* that calls for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. The annually commemorated global campaign commences on November 25, the International Day of the Elimination of all Forms of Violence Against Women runs until December 10, International Human Rights Day.

Strong media campaign is geared by the EU Delegation to cover its annual Gender Workshop and Civil Society Seminar, the agenda of which consistently includes topics related to gender equality and human rights. Several EU and Member States financed projects related to human rights have strongly visible public profile, for example projects providing legal aid, combating violence against children and women, preventing torture in detention facilities.

Despite Covid-19 related challenges, the EU and its Member States continue systematic outreach to the general public on human rights agenda. The EU-funded projects organized a round table on "The impact of the state of emergency on the protection of victims of family violence: current situation and prospects", which was held online on April 30, 2020.

Implementation of the EU-funded bilateral as well as thematic instrument projects involve public diplomacy element. Gender equality and women rights, gender-sensitive media, and access to information are particularly prominent among the topics of outreach activities.

Social media channels and other web platforms are becoming important and effective way of communication. In light of that, online campaigns related to human rights are planned to be organised by the EU and the Member States on annual basis. For instance, the contest of video clips concerning subjects such as gender equality, rights of people with disabilities and freedom of speech was organised in June 2021 dedicated to the EU Day. During 2021-2023, campaign promoting gender equality will include contests for the journalists and the youth, as well as success stories of beneficiaries, under the contract "Communications and visibility of the EU in the Kyrgyz Republic".

# 6. Technical Facility and/or financial resources allocated to support GAP III implementation

A specific amount has been earmarked in the EUD's cooperation facility to support the implementation of GAP III at country level under the MIP priority area 2 "Human Development":

Specific objective 1: Development of inclusive and equitable quality education, as well as improvement of digital, media and green skills

- Status of gender analysis to reduce gender stereotypes of all new teaching and learning materials will be provided (e.g. the promotion of gender equality and positive images of girls and boys, and their abilities and aspirations). *Baseline:* Compulsory gender expertise of all new teaching and learning materials was adopted by the Ministry of Education in 2019. *Target 2027:* At least 80% new teaching and learning material revised following compulsory gender expertise adopted by MoES

Specific objective 2 "Gender equality, youth empowerment and Human rights"

- Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, fully enjoy and exercise their equal economic, labour and social rights (GAP III thematic area of engagement).

The annual Gender workshop of the EU Delegation will provide with an understanding of gender mainstreaming embedded in EU policies and how the EU gender perspective can be integrated more effectively in EU programmes.

Date: 23 July 2021, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Eduard AUER

 $Head\ of\ Delegation$ 

/e-signed/