



The Director-General



Secretary General

<p style="text-align: center;">Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025 Country Level Implementation Plan – CLIP [Thailand]</p>

The EU Delegation to Thailand recommends to keep the CLIP Thailand in the current format. Justifications are as follows:

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

Thailand's gender parity scores have improved, from being ranked 79 in 2022 to 74 out of 146 countries in the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Global Gender Gap Index 2023. Thailand made significant improvement on gender parity in the category of educational attainment with a score of 0.995 percentage points, ranked 61st up from 92nd in 2022. It also scored 0.772 percentage points in economic participation and opportunity, rising to 24th in the list. The scores in these two categories pushed the overall ranking up from 79th to 74th. However, in the category of political empowerment, Thailand scored only 0.101 percentage points, ranking it at 120th.

The General Election of May 2023 saw the former opposition and second-runner Pheu Thai Party forming a coalition with conservative parties from the previous government. When in opposition, Pheu Thai had previously supported the draft marriage equality bill, which would allow for individuals to be legally married regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, but it was not finalised before the parliament was dissolved. In August, the opposition Move Forward Party submitted its marriage equality bill to the parliament. The Cabinet approved its own draft bill on 21 November, expected to be submitted to the next parliamentary session in December. If passed into law, Thailand would become the first Southeast Asian country to legalise marriage equality of LGBTI people.

In addition, Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has pledged to push two more bills aimed at allowing transgender Thais to change gender registration title and legalising sex work. The three bills share the goals of ensuring rights and equal treatment of individuals regardless of their gender, sexual identity or profession.

Overall, political developments in Thailand are not expected to impact the EU engagement on gender quality and women's empowerment in the country. **Supporting the equality of gender diverse groups is among a policy proposal of the new government, while the context for EU gender action in Thailand is still valid.**

2. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives

The overall objective of the EU action in Thailand for gender equality and women's empowerment is to strengthen the partnership with Thailand on promoting gender equality through capacity development and outreach on GAP III with the Royal Thai Government and relevant Ministries, civil society and other interlocutors.

Conclusion drawn from the consultations with EU Member States, government counterparts and civil society organisations is that **the update of the CLIP priorities and approaches is not required**. The following **priority areas of CLIP Thailand are still relevant**:

- 1) Challenge gender norms and power inequalities;
- 2) Fight against gender based violence, including against the one targeting the LGBTI community;
- 3) Empowerment of women and advancing equal political participation and leadership;
- 4) Furthering the Women Peace and Security Agenda in Thailand;
- 5) Addressing the gender gap in the green and digital transitions.

The priorities of the CLIP Thailand (particularly areas 1, 2, 4, and 5) are aligned with the six pillars of the new Thailand's Action Plan on Women Development (2023-2027), and the ongoing and intended initiatives of the government counterparts.

Alignment of Government initiatives with priorities of CLIP Thailand:

- *Area 1 Challenge gender norms and power inequalities*
 - Thailand, as the representative in the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), is developing an ASEAN guideline on the elimination of gender stereotypes.
 - Thailand is developing a gender recognition bill.
- *Area 2 Fight against gender based violence, including against the one targeting the LGBTI community*
 - Thailand has been implementing gender responsive budgeting by establishing pilot projects with local administrative organisations.
- *Area 4 Furthering the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Thailand*
 - Thailand expressed its intention to further the agenda on Women, Peace and Security in the Deep South by developing capacity-building training for women and promoting engagement of women in peace and security areas.
- *Area 5 Addressing the gender gap in the green and digital transitions*
 - Thailand expressed its intention to develop initiatives aimed at strengthening competency of women in Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Structured consultation with women's rights and other civil society organisations on the implementation of the CLIP Thailand will be organised in early 2024 in the framework of EUD Thailand's structured dialogue with CSOs under the Thailand Cooperation Facility.

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

One gender-targeted action (G2) under the Thailand CSO programme will be signed in December 2023. The action aims to enhance CSOs' participation and representativeness of women's, youths' and children's voice in local and national social and economic policy dialogue in Thailand. The action will start in January 2024 with an implementation period of 48 months.

4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment

EU priorities, including those on gender, were discussed during the negotiations of the EU-Thailand Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) which was signed in December 2022. The PCA foresees cooperation between the EU and Thailand to promote Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and girls (Art 21).

In Thailand, the main interlocutor for gender equality and women empowerment is the Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development (DWF) of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS). Another important interlocutor is the Rights and Liberties Protection Department (RLPD) of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). EUD regularly engages with them; both ministries had previously contributed to the CLIP Thailand and were consulted again in the updating exercise.

5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

In July 2023, EUD Thailand reached out to DWF and RLPD to further engage on gender issues. The CLIP priorities and potential areas of collaboration on gender equality and women's empowerment through the EU's Thailand Cooperation Facility instrument were discussed and both Ministries stated their continuing relevance. Key areas of cooperation with the two Ministries on implementation of CLIP Thailand are as follows:

Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security:

- Technical assistance and shared experience on gender responsive budgeting;
- Technical assistance and shared experience on elimination of gender stereotype in education system;
- Conducting rapid assessment on gender gap on green and digital economy;
- Women's participation in climate actions.

The Rights and Liberties Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice made a request for support and technical assistance from the EU in developing legally binding measures for Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) in business operations. As a result of this outreach, EUD Thailand is developing an activity to be funded under the Thailand Cooperation Facility Instrument.

During the first phase of the CLIP implementation, EU Member States and the EU Delegation organised and/or participated in various events or activities, aiming at gender or LGBTI promotion, as well as engaged with Thai authorities, UN agencies, civil society organisations, other relevant partners as well as the wider Thai society, including through targeted social media campaigns. For example, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, co-organised with UN agencies and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) cycling events in 2022 and 2023 in the context of the UN campaign 'Orange the World' for the elimination of violence against women to raise awareness on gender-based violence, prevent it and support local organisations acting against it. Several EU embassies joined the UN campaign. Many EU embassies co-participated in the 'Ambassador for a Day' initiative in March 2023 with a video contest on gender equality, with Belgium hosting the opening event at the Residence of the Ambassador. France organised an LGBTI film festival in partnership with Bangkok Screening Room in January 2023, provided support to the event 'Spill the Disability-tea' on the situation of

LGBTI persons with disabilities in February 2023 and screened a Cannes Award-winning on World AIDS day. In 2022 and 2023, the EU family together with like-minded countries and UN agencies participated in the Pride Parade supported by the BMA as well as the Pride HEROES Awards ceremony.

EUD focused its public diplomacy efforts on 17 May (IDAHOT Day) and the Pride Month in June 2023. Social media posts were published on EUD Thailand's official channels to raise awareness and increase the visibility of the EU's policies on promoting gender equality. EUD notably launched the 'Pride Heroes' initiative by sharing testimonials of local heroes who promote the human rights of LGBTI persons in Thailand. EUD Thailand and Member States participated in the Bangkok Pride Parade on 4 June 2023. In November 2023, EUD also joined the UN campaign "Orange the World".

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

Following EUD Thailand's outreach to the Rights and Liberties Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice, one activity is foreseen under the Cooperation Facility:

- Technical assistance and capacity building activities related to Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) in Thailand (to start in January 2024).

This activity aims to provide technical assistance to the Thai government in conducting a comparative study on Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) laws and legal frameworks of the EU and EU Member States with the view to assisting Thailand to develop new policies and legislation on mandatory HRDD in business operation. The promotion of gender equality, including non-discrimination in workplace on the grounds of gender, will be incorporated in the analysis of the comparative study and in the policy recommendations.

On the Member States' side, Belgium supported the work of the Southeast Asia Women Peace Mediators (SEAWPM) on Myanmar with one mediator based in Thailand. Finland is supporting a project via the Local Cooperation Fund of the Embassy of Finland to train and empower young female and LGBTI journalists in Thailand, especially in the rural areas, including the Deep South. France organised an experience sharing seminar on marriage and civil partnership with French experts and representatives of the Thai authorities involved in the drafting of the bills on equal marriage and civil partnership in Thailand. France also organised a mock trial on domestic violence with Thai students.

Date:

Signature by Head of Delegation: