

## GIZ Gender Competition 2016

### Project “Modernization of local public services in the Republic of Moldova” Intervention area “Local Public Services”

#### I. Context

The European Union refers to gender mainstreaming as the ‘integration of equal opportunities’ in all policy actions, including legislation and programs, in all areas and at all levels. In the context of EU integration, Moldova is one the way to improve the level of gender integration, and ultimately equity, in local governments operations, policies, plans, and budgets. Currently, Moldova has a strong legislative framework to support gender equality:

- **1994-** Moldova Ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- **2005-** Law on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was adopted
- **2006-** Ratified the Optional Protocol of CEDAW
- **2006-** Ratified Law on Ensuring the Equality of Opportunities between Women and Men
- **2008-** Law on Prevention and Combating Violence in the Family was adopted
- **2010-2015-** Adoption of National Strategy on Gender Equality (NSGE) and associated National Action Plan (NAP)
- **2012-** Adoption of Decentralization Strategy which require Gender Focal Points for Local Municipalities.

Even though Moldova has a strong legislative framework to support gender equality, still there are profound challenges in this regards, as follows:

- 19 % of Parliament (21 out of 101)
- 20 % of the Council of Ministers/Government (4 out of 20)
- 18 % of mayors (164 out of 898).
- under 20 %<sup>1</sup> district councilors
- under 20 % Upper management of communal services providers<sup>2</sup>
- 5% of the members of water user associations<sup>3</sup>.

Gender imbalance in representation means policies, plans, budgets, and municipal services are unlikely to accurately reflect the needs of both men and women and limits women’s representation in the Local Government decision-making process.

#### II. Gender mainstreaming in GIZ Project ‘Modernization of Local Public Services in the Republic of Moldova

MLPS Project has a gender marker G1, which according to OECD DAC criteria suggests it carries out its interventions in a gender aware and gender sensitive way. Gender mainstreaming is considered in MLPS project as a cross cutting issue to ensure that women, men and

<sup>1</sup>: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/parliaments-and-local-governance#sthash.mjoHeYnh.dpuf>

<sup>2</sup> Government of Moldova, National Bureau of Statistics (2008) 230.

<sup>3</sup> USAID 34.

disadvantaged groups can equally participate in and benefit from the implementation of all the measures of the project.

One of the success indicators of the Projects states that *'In 35 communities, 50% of implemented measures in the three project priority sectors have improved access of women to local public services'*. Following impact logic the indicator implied that specifically women's needs will be taken into account during project implementation. The results in the area of gender equality are an integral part of the M&E system and systematic recorded. The measurement of the result is documented in quarterly and annual reports of the MLPS Project.

In order to integrate gender in Project's activities, a set of general mainstreaming principles have been developed to guide the gender mainstreaming, as follows:

- *using gender (sex-) disaggregated data in developing studies and reports,*
- *tracking male and female participation of events,*
- *reporting on gender related outcomes using M&E tools,*
- *promoting women's participation in public consultations and decision making process,*
- *considering gender dimensions during capacity building measures,*
- *including gender dimension in awareness raising campaigns,*
- *Including gender in feasibility studies, business plans and other products of the*

## II. **Cooperation and Capacity Development**

According to MoU between the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM) and MLPS/GIZ Project, signed on 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2015, one important area of cooperation refers to gender mainstreaming and vulnerable groups' perspective in planning and decision making at the level of local governments.

For 2015, MLPS/GIZ and CALM planned to organize one national conference and six workshops/sessions with CALM members (women) aiming at enhance the understanding newly elected governments on gender equality were organized in 2015.

Gender equality cannot be achieved by individuals alone. It is a joint task of the national stakeholders and the development partners to assure that the measures are synchronized for the maximum efficiency for the beneficiaries. This is why, the Project rise the interest of other development partners to join the efforts and support the initiative of CALM of the activities mentioned above. In this regards, a Gender Working Group was organized and an responsibilities' matrix was developed with GIZ support.

As a result, the following activities were organized:

### 1. **WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT: AUTHORITY, POWER AND LEADERSHIP**

On 4th of March 2015, during Gender Week and close to the International Women's Day, the best female mayors from the Republic of Moldova were honored for the successes obtained at the local level. The female mayors shared with their positive experience in various fields, as for example the maintenance of national values, establishment of quality local public services, promotion of traditions and culture of different ethnic groups. The best models in this respect received awards. The event was organized by CALM with the support of GIZ Moldova, UNDP, UN Women and USAID.

## 2. **CALM Gender Week**

In the week of 9-13 November 2015, the Congress of Local authorities from Moldova (CALM) with the support of GIZ, UNWomen and USAID organized six trainings for local governments representatives related to gender at local level.

The trainees found out about the gender concept, the legal framework in the domain, what is gender balanced local planning, why it is needed and how to mainstream gender in local public services, in infrastructure projects development and implementation, what are gender responsive budgets and also found out about the duties and responsibilities of the local gender focal point.

The aim of trainings was capacity building of local governments so LGs will be able to:

- Use gender-disaggregated data to track male and female participation in events, promote women's participation in public consultations and decision-making process in local planning and programming, and conduct M&E reporting on gender-specific indicators;
- Include the gender dimension in feasibility studies for infrastructure projects;
- Consider gender dimensions during capacity development measures, development of operator's manuals, and other efforts to improve delivering of effective and efficient communal services;
- Including the gender dimension in awareness raising campaigns and other activities related to mobilizing citizens to efficiently use local public services;
- Implement Program Based Budgeting (with principles of gender sensitive budgeting included).



### **The 3 success factors of the activities organized in 2015 were the following:**

1. Cooperation and agreement between the development partners to support together in a synchronized way the measures to support the gender mainstreaming activities
2. Identifying one national partners and later, Ownership that CALM took in order to organize the national events regarding gender mainstreaming;
3. Proactive support of the individual project, one of the m being , MLPS of GIZ in order to implement the activities in gender sensitive way and continuous on job capacity development of the partner institutions, such as LPAs, RDAs, MRDC, CALM etc

### **Still, severe challenges were faced during the implementation, such as:**

1. Low level of interest from local governments to delegate representatives to the activities related to gender subjects,

2. Delegate gender focal points at the level of the organizations and institutions and allocate resources for the appointed gender focal points,
3. Develop Gender Action Plans at local level and mainstream gender equity principles in decision making process.

**After the events, CALM President, Tatiana Badan, thanked the MLPS Project for the support offered in promoting gender equity to local governments.**