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Sent: 07 March 2020 10:22
To: welcome@tacso.eu
Subject: ***SPAM*** Request for IPAIII to take gender equality as high priority

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Madam/Sir

Please see below our thoughts for the consultation process in IPA III preparation phase. We work with girls and women nationally and regionally and taking into consideration the challenges they face in everyday life we believe that IPA III should have specific focus for gender equality programmes and projects. Please find below some specific areas we suggest to be top priority for IPA III.

1. Considering the significant gender inequalities in the Western Balkans, there should be a specific percentage of funding set regarding how much funding should go to gender equality, including within "gender mainstreamed" projects, similar as it is now for the environment;
2. There should be a clear indicator (or more) related to gender equality, rather than burying it within an index, as proposed;
3. There should be earmarked funding for qualified, autonomous women's rights organisations that have several years of experience as service providers for women and children who have suffered violence, similar to Daphne, as a separate budget line within IPA III; and
4. Civil society facility should **not** go through governments, as considering the actual situation in the region, it will run the risk of GONGOs (those supportive of ruling governments) receiving all funding as well as jeopardize the autonomy CSOs whose independence is crucial for rule of law and holding government accountable.

The Gender Alliance for Development Centre (GADC) is an Albanian non-profit organization operating all over Albania since 1995. GADC is a voice for Albanian women and a force for change. Our organization works to empower women and to create an equal and just future for low-income girls and women to get out of poverty and exclusion all over Albania. In the foundations of GADC are the principles of gender equality and human rights. GADC's main thematic areas of expertise are:

- *Furthering women's right in the labour market and fighting against discrimination*
- *Building peace and ending gender-based violence*
- *Empower citizens to monitor local gender agenda*
- *Educate the younger generation on Albanian legal framework against rape and blackmail.*
- *Expanding women's participation in politics and decision making*
- *Empower women in rural areas*



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