

**CONSULTATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN THE PREPARATION OF THE
INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA III)**

Input for Advancing Gender Equality within IPA III

1. Advancing gender equality on a structural level

“Gender equality” is mentioned only twice in the whole IPA III proposal document in terms of the regulations (page 13 and 21). Only the first mention (p.13) refers to gender equality as part of the listed focus areas which beneficiaries should *promote*. Gender equality is also introduced as a horizontal objective through mainstreaming gender, however put secondary to mainstreaming climate change and environmental protection. Elsewhere, gender equality is not explicitly introduced, i.e. nor in the listed political priorities, or in the specific objectives. While climate change is prioritized throughout the document for which mainstreaming is foreseen 25% of the EU budget, and 16% to the overall financial envelope climate objectives should be contributed by this IPA programme, such budgetary implications and objectives are not predicted for mainstreaming gender in this programme.

Recommendation: Replicate the budgetary model for mainstreaming climate change action to mainstreaming gender as a horizontal objective. Additionally, introduce gender equality as a specific objective next to strengthening the respect for human and fundamental rights, rule of law, etc.¹.

2. Conducting gender evaluations and improving coherence between programmes and action plans

The proposed document for IPA III states that after the external evaluations of the content and the implementation of the IPA II programme it has been concluded that IPA II had positive effects; hence the IPA III will be programmed and implemented in a similar way with little modifications (p. 31). However, Kosovo Women’s Networks Analysis: “A Gendered Reading of the ‘External Evaluation of the Instrument for The Pre-Accession Assistance’” concluded that a gender-aware analysis of the IPA II programme was lacking and such analysis would show IPA II has not been harmonized with the implementation of GAP II. Furthermore, from the total 14 CSOs consulted in the evaluation process, only one organization was explicitly dealing with gender equality and women’s rights.²

¹ Similar conclusions and recommendations are offered in the EIGE report on mainstreaming gender in the EU budget and the Multiannual Financial Framework. See: Gender budgeting. EIGE. (2018) *Mainstreaming gender into the EU budget and macroeconomic policy framework*. Достапно на <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/gender-budgeting-mainstreaming-gender-eu-budget-and-macroeconomic-policy-framework>

² Farnsworth. N, Banjska. I. (2017) *A Gendered Reading of the ‘External Evaluation of the Instrument for The Pre-Accession Assistance’*. Kosovo Women’s Network: Kosovo. Достапно на: <https://womensnetwork.org/publications/a-gendered-reading-of-the-external-evaluation-of-the-instrument-for-the-pre-accession-assistance/>

Recommendation: To harmonize the IPA III programme with GAP III while taking into consideration the gender analyses already conducted by CSOs for the implementation of IPA II as lessons learned. Additionally, when consulting CSOs on IPA programming and its implementation to insist on participation and contribution of women's organizations or organizations explicitly dealing with gender equality.

3. Simplifying and easing the procedures in order to increase effectiveness of CSOs

The IPA III proposal presents the major conclusions of the conducted mid-term evaluation of IPA II and the stakeholders' feedback for future programming. The major recommendations listed are: flexibility of the new finance instruments in order to answer arising challenges, better coherence between different policies, instruments and stakeholders, simplification of the cumbersome administrative and financial procedures and increased leverage of public and private financing for Union external assistance. The proposal document for IPA III acknowledges the majority of these recommendations and offers measures for their implementation. However it offers limited explanation of the way it will incorporate the recommendation for simplification of the administrative and financial procedures.

Recommendation: To state explicitly whether the recommendations for simplifications of the administrative and the financial procedures are accepted and in what way will be incorporated through IPA III.