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EU Gender Action Plan II

**Gender equality and Women's Empowerment: Transformation the Lives of Girls and
Women through EU External relations 2016-2020**

Annual Implementation Report 2017

Annexes

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ANNEX 1 METHODOLOGY AND TEMPLATES USED FOR THE GAP IMPLEMENTATION REPORT FOR 2017

One of the lessons learned from the first GAP II reporting exercise was the need to refine the data collection methodology. The 2016 reporting format was easy to complete, but did not allow for the systematisation of data and the capturing of detailed progress against all objectives and indicators.

The main revisions of the updated methodology were:

- designed on the basis of the GAP II monitoring framework, incorporating a more elaborate analysis and systematisation of data sources and different collection methods;
- the creation of data collection tools that required informants to directly input into databases that are comparable across years;
- allowing for the triangulation of subjective information provided by informants using new templates (e.g. whether an action contributes to GAP II objectives) with data already officially contained in other European Commission information management systems, so as to guarantee the maximum reliability of results and, eventually, with a view to integrating the data collection into existing systems;
- strengthening aspects to familiarise all involved actors with the GAP II itself, raising their awareness of their specific role in data collection and analysis throughout the year;
- the establishment of a system that can be easily replicated, facilitating and reducing the burden on future reporting and data analysis processes.

Data sources

The data and information used for this report were provided by the following informants:

- EU delegations (facilitated by the gender focal person);
- Member States' representations in partner countries (data collection facilitated by the EU delegation gender focal person and the gender coordination group);
- Member States (data from centrally managed actions);
- Commission services, mainly at headquarters (particularly on actions managed at headquarter level).

The information provided by these actors were supplemented and cross-tabulated with extracts from databases and information management and reporting systems officially in use at the Commission services for International Cooperation and Development, as listed below.

Data sources and collection tools

1. Tools specifically developed for the GAP II reporting exercise were:
 - a. An EU Survey **questionnaire** was used to collect information and measure progress under priority A, Institutional culture shift in the European Union external relations. The questionnaire asked respondents to provide information on how their delegation, mission or service contributes to meet the objectives of the priority. Replies were compiled and analysed in an excel database.

The questionnaire was disseminated to:

- EU delegations
- Member States
- Commission services, mainly at headquarters

- b. An **action database**, which is an excel-supported database to collect information and measure progress on the thematic priority B, Physical and psychological integrity, priority C,

Economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, and priority D, Political and civil rights - voice and participation.

The excel template was disseminated, using the EU Survey on-line platform to:

- EU delegations (facilitated by the gender focal person).
- Member States' representations in partner countries facilitated by EU delegation gender focal person and gender coordination group).
- Member States (data on centrally managed actions), and,
- Commission Services/ headquarters (data on headquarters managed actions, provided by relevant units).

The action database asks respondents to record lists of EU donor financing decisions (in different modalities) and indicate how they align to the various GAP II indicators and describe in a quantitative and verifiable manner how they advance GAP II priorities.

Both the questionnaire and action database were customised to meet the specific needs of the four categories of respondents.

- c. **On-line GFP survey**, in the form of a questionnaire that collected the individual perceptions of the gender focal persons across Commission services and EU delegations, disseminated via SurveyMonkey.
 - d. Semi-structured **inputs** collected without a specific template **from other Commission services**, that deal with EU policies but also have activities connected with external relations. This activity was requested by the Parliament and the Council. Requests were channelled through the institutional coordinating group on gender and via e-mail.
2. Existing information and other information systems in use at Commission Services for International Cooperation and Development were used, namely the:
- **External Assistance Management Report (EAMR)**: specific questions related to the GAP implementation assessment criteria (the minimum standards specified in the GAP II itself) were included in the EAMR.
 - **OECD Creditor Reporting System**.
 - **Annual Reports** of the Commission services as relevant.

The EU delegations to international organisations (UN, FAO, OECD, etc.) were not invited to report since their corresponding units at headquarters reported on the activities they perform.

The GAP II reporting templates included specific questions that collected information on the revised indicators for the comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security. The purpose of this was to streamline reporting requests to delegations as the processing of data for this specific issue is done by the European External Action Service.

Commission services for International Development and Cooperation facilitated the overall process, while the preparation of the methodology involved a core group of staff members from Commission services for International Development and Cooperation, Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, the European External Action Service, the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. This coordination was set up deliberately to foster ownership over the report (in terms of process and output), and, importantly, to increase its quality. Each service managed the internal communication as well as the drafting portion of the report, relevant to their activity.

The templates were piloted in September 2017, while in October 2017 they were further discussed and refined at the gender focal persons' annual meeting in Brussels. An early notice was sent to the gender focal persons network with the **final templates in December 2017**. The official launch of the call for submissions was sent by a letter co-signed by the Commission services for International Development and Cooperation, Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations and the European External Action Service in **February 2018**, and addressed to all heads of EU delegations. The Member States' Gender Expert Network was requested to report in **January 2018** via e-mail as well as via the Councils Working Party on Development Cooperation. The original deadline was set for the end of **March 2018 and was extended until 16 April 2018**.

Although this section describes the methodology, it is important to include the key observations and lessons learned that will inform the preparation and implementation of the exercise in the future.

Notes on technical challenges

The use of the EU Survey tool made it difficult to manage multiple layers of replies that were required by some questions. There were also issues concerning the lack of familiarity of some users with the platform. Moreover, there were certain limitations on facilitating the collaborative completion of the survey by multiple users from the same team or country and the ability to print a draft version of the questionnaire, etc. On the other hand, the platform allowed for the systematic recording and collection of all submissions.

The online **Institutional Culture Shift Questionnaire** included a mix of progress and result indicators, the large majority of which were quantitative indicators. The three versions of this Questionnaire – for EU delegations, for Commission services and for Member States – comprised only the questions necessary to measure the indicators that every EU actor was requested to report upon. Therefore, the number of indicators in the custom-made questionnaires varied. In order to avoid discrepancies and gaps in data collection, the large majority of questions were mandatory and, in some cases, this confused users and required extra effort to be able to submit the completed questionnaire.

The **action database** comprised of two sheets: the first one was to be used to enter demographic information for each individual action contributing to GAP II, including how it contributed to the institutional culture shift objectives, and progress made in comparison to 2016 submissions. The second sheet presented the list of actions entered in the first sheet, asking to match each action with the relevant GAP II priorities, objectives and indicators. Some respondents found these sheets difficult to fill-in, creating some discrepancies in relation to the total list of reported actions. In the future, it will be important to ensure that data relating to actions already included in the previous year's report are clearly separated from the new ones.

The use of the on-line survey was mandatory and was the primary way of submitting the report. To acknowledge the work done by the EU delegations' gender focal persons, it was suggested at the October 2017 meeting that the report, signed by the head of delegation, be sent via ARES. In a few cases, this created confusion for the user, causing additional work to be done manually for the drafting team.

Intensive work was also done to clarify the methodology as well as give technical support once the reporting work had started. The process was very labour intensive and involved training (at the GFP annual meeting), for headquarter services, briefing sessions, various webinars to explain the methodology and templates in three languages (EN, FR and ES), e-mail exchanges, phone calls, sharing of the inventory of Q&A on reporting with the GFP network and publication on the capacity4dev.eu private GFP group. Some sessions for EU delegations were incorporated into other events or training.

Notes on information synthesis challenges

The reporting templates established a clearer connection and allowed for the better synthesis of the contributions actions made to the priorities and objectives, in line with the set indicators of the GAP II.

There are certain issues that remain and need clarification before the next round of reporting, there are:

- Some terminology needs to be made more generic to avoid confusion (what is an action/ project/ etc.). This impacted on the homogeneity of the information provided.
- Some terms such as 'gender champion' raised many questions as it became evident that the definition provided had been interpreted in diverging ways, resulting in some data distortion effect.
- In some cases, the instructions were not fully adhered to, therefore some reports included a very high number of projects, which was disproportionate in comparison with other reports. In a few cases, the start date of the selected actions was not respected, which affected the counting of actions that started in 2017.
- The GAP II report provides information on a selection of actions that are considered to contribute to the achievement of the GAP II and not on the full portfolio of the entities reporting.
- Striking a balance between quantitative and qualitative information remains a challenge. The 2017 report draws heavily on quantitative data but seeks to complement it with examples of good practice.
- Due to the fact that the two sheets comprised in the action database often counted a different total number, it was decided that the actions effectively listed in the sheet, Contribution to GAP II, with an explicit reference to the priorities, objectives and indicators of GAP II, would be the reference used to calculate the total number of actions. The information contained in the first sheet was however extremely useful to draw out information and conclusions on the institutional culture shift related indicators.

ANNEX 2 PROGRESS ON INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE SHIFT BY REGION

Introduction

Reports on actions taken to fulfil the six-mandatory institution culture shift objectives were received from EU delegations, prepared in coordination with Member States based in partner countries, the European External Action Service, Commission services for International Cooperation and Development, Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Foreign Policy Instruments, and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and from the Member States.

The information and **data from these reports is summarised in this chapter per actor**, starting with the EU delegations and Member States present in partner countries, **divided by geographical region** (Africa east and south and the Indian Ocean, Africa central and west, Latin and Central America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, The Gulf States, EU Neighbourhood and Russia - Enlargement, south, and east).

1.1. Africa East and Southern and Indian Ocean

The following EU delegations submitted a report: African Union, Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius and Seychelles, Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The Member States that reported are: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

Objective 1, Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States:

EU delegations and Member States have engaged in a total of 104 gender sensitive policy or political dialogues with other partners during 2017, which shows a decrease with respect to the 2016 figure of 199. The highest number of political or policy dialogues with a focus on gender issues took place in Angola, Somalia and Swaziland with 12 dialogues each. The Delegation to Lesotho, the Delegation to South Africa and the Delegation to Malawi reported a total of 11, 10 and 9 dialogues respectively.

Thematically, EU delegations actively discussed gender and human rights issues, and VAWG (22 EU Delegations respectively). Sexual and reproductive health and rights were also taken on board by 18 EU Delegations, followed by democracy, health, and gender in agriculture, fisheries, food and nutrition, which were addressed by 16 EU Delegations respectively. Education and governance, accountability and transparency were tackled by 15 EU Delegations, and 14 reported on gender equality and access to decent work, gender and poverty, the rule of law, social protection, and the environment and climate change. Water management/WASH and WPS issues were taken up by 12 EU Delegations, and security and conflict, migration, and energy efficiency and sustainable energy were addressed by 11 and 10 EU Delegations respectively. Gender sensitive budgeting, public administration reform (PAR), and public finance management (PFM) were approached least from a gender lens. While transport and infrastructure, and trade were approached from a gender lens in just a few instances (6 and 7 EU Delegations respectively).

Although the Heads of Delegations, Heads of Missions, delegation's political sections, GFPs and programme managers were involved to a higher or lesser degree in these dialogues, the majority were carried out by programme managers (17 EU Delegations), followed closely by heads of missions, and then the heads of delegations. In just a few cases did the political section or GFP led the discussion.

Interestingly, this trend was reversed by the Member States, with heads of cooperation leading gender sensitive policy or political dialogues for the most part, followed by programme managers, and then heads of delegations. The most recurrently discussed topics by Member States were VAWG, poverty and national development planning, and human rights issues. As with EU delegations, gender issues were less discussed on dialogues on transport and infrastructure, trade, PAR, PFM, and GRB. However, in contrast with EU delegations, Member States did take on board migration and trafficking from a gender perspective in 15 and 13 cases, which was double the delegations' figures.

EU delegations and MS adopted burden-sharing measures (GAP II activity 1.4) in 14 countries in the region, which shows significant progress compared to 2016, when burden-sharing measures were carried-out in only three countries. These agreements covered GAP II implementation, information sharing and joint advocacy and programming, and the preparation of national gender analyses and strategies. The division of labour on policy dialogue was sector specific, including areas such as VAWG, PAR, nutrition, education, women's socio-economic empowerment, agriculture and food security, water and health (i.e. Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe).

Gender donor co-ordination mechanisms were led by the EU in 54 % of the cases, mostly by EU delegations in ten countries and two Member States. In 22 % of the reported cases, the gender donor co-ordination mechanism tackled WPS issues, and 14 % of the countries reported positively on having a specific coordination group on WPS priorities.

Objective 2, Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl's and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States: Some progress was reported across the region in the appointment of gender champions. Although some EU delegations have still not officially appointed this gender advocate, many have reported to have vocal senior leaders who ensure gender issues are on the political and policy agendas, (i.e. Delegation to Botswana). Notably, there are examples in which EU delegations have appointed two gender champions, such as the Delegation to Swaziland, where the Head of Delegation and Head of Cooperation play this role, and both tackle political and policy issues from a gender perspective. In the case of Namibia, the Delegation and Member State's Head of Missions decided to be gender champions, in a noteworthy coordination exercise to harmonise gender advocacy efforts.

Heads of Delegations are appointed as gender champions in the EU Delegations to the DRC, Zambia and Zimbabwe. They ensure gender mainstreaming throughout the project and programme cycle, and maintain dialogue with the government on gender issues, giving visibility to the EU delegation's and the EU's GEWE commitments and agenda. The EU Delegation to Zambia, for example, conducted a gender analysis for all focal sectors of the Zambia National Indicative Programme, through either in-house expertise or by external consultants. Another interesting initiative was the appointment of a specific EU delegation *per se* as an institutional gender champion within specific fora. For instance, the EU Delegation to Tanzania is the champion in the Heads of Cooperation group. For the most part, gender champions focused actively on gender advocacy and awareness raising of GEWE issues.

Thirteen countries reported on having mechanisms to consult external senior expertise strategically and on an ad-hoc basis. Most delegations involve women's CSOs in their consultations, such as the EU Delegation to Lesotho, although other stakeholders are also consulted. The EU Delegation to Sudan consults with the International Partnership Forum, which has women's human rights at the heart of their activities. In Botswana, for example, the National Gender Dialogue is considered a consultative forum, as it is co-chaired by the EU and UN Women, bringing expertise from CSOs and NGEM. The EU Delegation to Ethiopia, on its part, holds regular meetings between donor coordination groups and other stakeholders (i.e. private sector representatives, CSOs and academia), and occasionally, consultation is carried out in Malawi, with gender experts that support the EU Delegation in targeted intervention sectors. In Zimbabwe, the UN Gender Results Group plays this gender expert consultative role.

The good practices reported by EU delegations were varied in nature and tackle important pillars of the gender mainstreaming process at both the policy and political levels, contributing to the implementation of the institutional culture shift objectives. In relation to gender mainstreaming throughout the PPCM, EU delegations reported on the following measures:

- Adopting a gender positive and transformative lens for all new actions.
- A gender analysis (GA) for new actions at national, regional and sector specific levels are conducted. The EU Delegation to Botswana, for instance, carried out national and regional GAs to ensure gender sensitive programming, with gender as a significant objective, aligned with GAP II priorities and targets.

- Gender-sensitive AD screening for internal quality revisions (EU Delegation to Mauritius and Seychelles).
- The use of sex-disaggregated data, with GAP II sensitive indicators for EDF 10 and EDF 11 programmes (i.e. EU Delegation to Malawi and EU Delegation to Eritrea).
- Selection and reporting on GAP II objectives.
- OECD/DAC gender marker: Some EU delegations reported on gender equality as a priority for all the thematic calls for proposals managed by the EU delegation (EU Delegations to Eritrea and to Malawi). The EU Delegations to Zambia and to Sudan reported no new actions marked GM0. EU delegations that still use GM0, express their commitment to always justify it.
- Gender issues addressed in all actions under the EIDHR and CSO calls for proposals.

In terms of capacity building, the EU Delegation to Sudan elaborated on the benefits of Rights-Based Approach (RBA) trainings for both EU Delegation staff members and Member States, and of a training programme for beneficiaries of specific grants (i.e. human rights grant). Specific trainings for GFPs and programme managers were also identified as good practices. Another interesting initiative was the gender-sensitive brown-bag lunch series, organised by the EU Delegation to Eritrea. Given the importance of the institutional culture shift objective and the difficulty sometimes in motivating operational staff to undertake gender training, the Head of Delegation agreed to organise this initiative to specifically address GAP II standards of performance.

Appointing new gender champions and gender focal persons was identified as a good practice to ensure institutional culture shift, facilitate gender mainstreaming at operational level, and advance the GAP II. Having dedicated GFPs in both cooperation and political sections was highlighted as a valuable practice to ensure gender was holistically and comprehensively mainstreamed in EU delegation actions of all sorts.

In this light, the **EU Delegation to Mauritius and Seychelles** reported on **parallel processes of gender mainstreaming at the policy and political level**. Accordingly, policy dialogue on gender allowed the identification of objectives and indicators relevant to Mauritius from the EU gender action plan. Gender advocacy at political level (Article 8 political dialogue, May 2017, enabled the EU to support the Ministry of Gender Equality in the elaboration of the Gender Equality Bill, Children Bill and Adoption Bill. Targeted and gender specific technical assistance and gender sensitive capacity building were used in the process.

Strengthening joint networks and collaboration with multiple stakeholders was identified as a successful measure to advance the EU's gender equality agenda. Keeping a fluid and open dialogue, and synchronised actions with Member States, CSOs and other local stakeholders is relevant to keeping GEWE as a priority, not only on selected objectives, but also more broadly.

EU delegations reported on the benefits of joining advocacy and technical efforts with other stakeholders, such as UN agencies, which facilitates gender sensitive capacity building on very specific areas such as the judiciary and the security sector. The **EU Delegation to Madagascar** highlighted the importance of working with local NGOs on VAWG issues that not only include women victims, but also perpetrators.

Finally, gender mainstreaming in new sectors such as PFM, energy, rural competitiveness, biodiversity, climate change and transport was also pointed out.

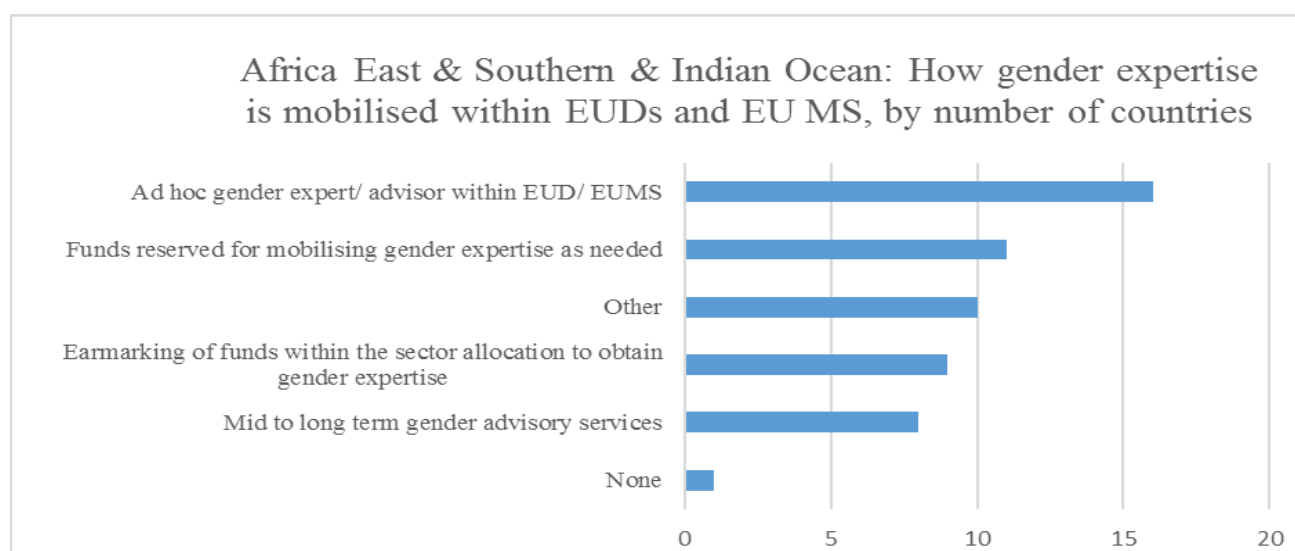
A total of **23 corrective actions were reported in 2017** with an aim at enhancing gender equality performance. Consolidating gender mainstreaming institutionally was also highlighted as a relevant measure to improve performance on gender equality. This point involved a holistic take on gender mainstreaming processes: from the inclusion of gender objectives and agenda points on relevant steering committees, technical working groups, and programme evaluation missions (**Swaziland**), to ensuring gender related issues were proactively taken at management level (**Kenya**). Gender specific resource allocation (**Tanzania**) to ensure compliance with GAP II minimum standards of performance, and gender advocacy and knowledge production and dissemination by addressing GEWE in specific multi-stakeholder fora (**Mauritius and Seychelles**), were reported over 2017. Other actions specifically mentioned a more systematic use of gender

and sex-disaggregated data throughout the programme and project cycle management (**Eritrea, Zambia and Zimbabwe**), and strengthening capacity building through a) specific training (i.e. **Sudan, RBA training**), b) appointment of new GFPs (**Sudan**), and c) building on GFPs' gender knowledge (**Swaziland**).

EU Delegation to Somalia and gender-sensitive organisational culture

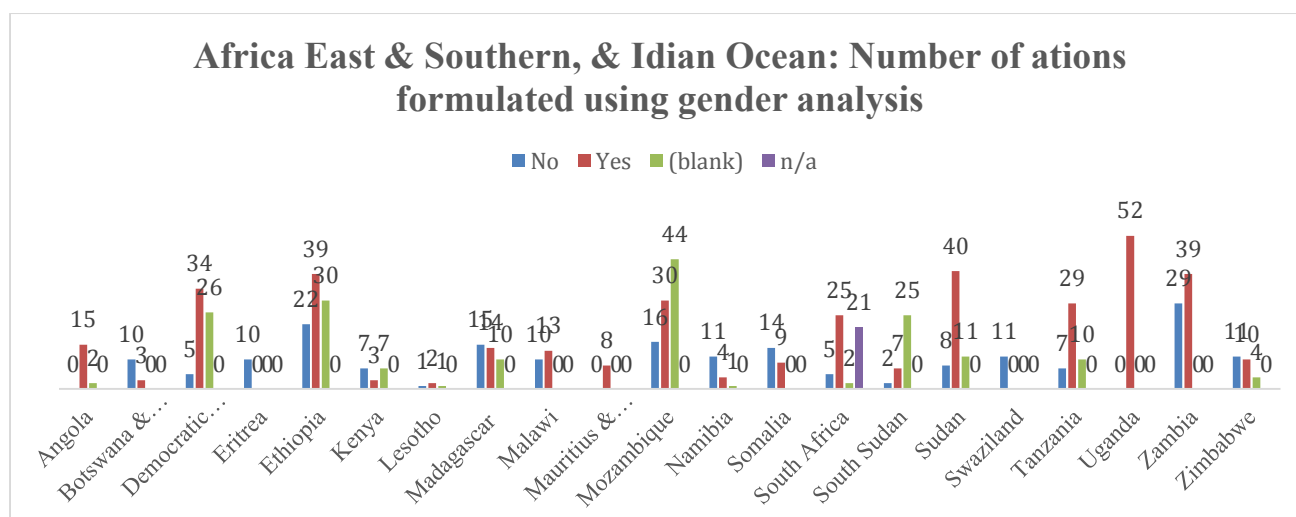
A gender analysis study in 2016, both at country and field levels, revealed the urgent need for further GEWE support for EU Delegation staff in order to boost their gender knowledge and capacities. As highlighted by this gender analysis, having a knowledgeable staff community on GEWE was key to advance GAP II implementation. In addition, prioritising GEWE issues by/among/with donors, to change organisational culture into a more gender-sensitive environment, and training staff on gender mainstreaming were fundamental to successfully advance the GAP II objectives. As a result, the EU Delegation to Somalia appointed a gender external consultant in 2017 to strengthen staff capacities on gender mainstreaming and the use of programmatic and practical approaches to gender in their specific operational sectors.

Objective 3, Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments: In line with Objective 3, 22 out of 23 EU Delegations have ensured access and support of high quality gender expertise through a number of measures, which in their majority include the use of *ad hoc* gender expertise (16 EU Delegations).



11 EU Delegations reported on reserving funds for mobilising gender expertise as needed, whereas nine EU Delegations earmarked funds within programmes for the same purpose. Eight EU Delegations arranged gender advisory services in the mid- and long-term, and only one delegation reported on not having put any specific measure in place. The use of in-house expertise (GFP), and other gender support from stakeholders (i.e. NGOs, Ministries, etc.) have been used in policy dialogue and programming. The use of thematic technical assistance contracts and task specific consultants were other measures used to strengthen available quality gender expertise (10 cases classified as 'other').

Objective 4, Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy making: There were a total of 764 actions in the region (compared to 96 in 2016), and 376 actions were informed by gender analysis. All EU Delegations, except for Eritrea and Swaziland, used gender analysis in the design of actions to varying degrees. There was noticeable progress by some EU Delegations such as those to Uganda and to Mauritius, which reported that 100 % of their actions used gender analysis (52 and 8 actions respectively), and Angola, with 15 out of 17 actions being informed by gender analysis.



In detail, gender analysis was used throughout programme and project design, and 98 actions mainstreamed it throughout the formulation phase. A total of 102 actions reported on gender sensitive logframes, and 19 actions used gender analysis to inform sector planning. 10 actions specifically referred to using gender analysis to inform monitoring and evaluation processes.

Objective 5, Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress: A total of 157 monitoring and Result-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) missions¹ were carried out. Many of the monitoring missions put in place gender mainstreamed monitoring systems, and gender/sex disaggregated data. Thematically, and with the focus on women and girls, the following issues were addressed:

- Protecting women and girls in public meetings
- Access to services for migrants, refugees and ID peoples
- Business partnerships
- Renewable energy in rural areas
- VAWG (South Sudan)
- Social protection and health
- Private sector development and gender.

ROM missions addressed mostly gender mainstreaming issues, the importance of gender disaggregated data, as well as capacity building. Regarding recommendations, the use of gender and sex-disaggregated data was the most recurrent (8 EU Delegations). The need for gender sector analysis, liaising with women's CSOs during the project and programme cycle, and strengthening gender mainstreaming throughout the programme cycle, topped-off the list of reported recommendations.

Objective 6, Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality: EU Delegations in the region reported on multiple ways in which their actions made a contribution to advance GAP II. Among the most popular measures, the inclusion of gender-sensitive indicators (GAP II or other) was by far the most recurrent one with 319 actions. The use of sex-disaggregated data during regular monitoring was also high-scoring, with a total of 208 actions complying with this standard. 57 actions initiated a gender analysis, and 10 actions required contract riders or reallocation of funds to ensure the better alignment with GAP II. Finally, changes in the measurement of GAP II indicators, relevant to the action, were reported in 28 cases.

¹ The ROM is the external monitoring system of the European Commission. It aims at enhancing the European Commission's (EC) accountability and management capacities with a strong focus on results, and supports EU Delegation and Headquarter services by providing an external opinion on project implementation.

A total of 17 countries reported that gender coordination mechanisms included international actors working locally. Great progress has been identified with regards to partnerships with NGEM, with 165 actions (21 % of the total) in the region involved working with National Gender Equality Mechanisms (compared to only 3 programmes in 2016) and 114 (15 %) were directly supporting them (compared to 5 actions reported in 2016).

49 % of actions were designed in consultation with NGEM and other stakeholders such as CSOs, and women's organisations. The findings of these consultations were used broadly and extensively to inform action design at all levels, from early drafts to final ones, to provide baseline information to develop gender specific indicators and targets, as well as activities and strategies. These findings were also used for preparing a call for proposal guidelines, budgeting monitoring activities, and for CSO sub-grants. In a number of cases, the consultations contributed to rethinking the action by identifying gaps, leading to the reformulation of different goals and outcomes. In this respect, inputs from consultations, especially from CSOs, were used to better attune the action to gender equality objectives, and to put women's interests and priorities at the centre of it. It also motivated the inclusion of CSOs as both action implementers, and accountability mechanisms of governmental bodies. The findings contributed to better target the action beneficiaries, and to enhance participatory processes, action outcomes, and sector dialogues.

241 actions by 20 EU Delegations included awareness raising activities of local and national media with regards to gender equality issues. The EU Delegations in Mauritius and Seychelles, Angola, Lesotho and Botswana reported the highest number of actions contributing to this goal. 32 actions were research projects with a focus on women entrepreneurship (DRC), evidence-based food policy research (Ethiopia), SRHR and family planning activities in humanitarian interventions (Ethiopia), support to female university students (Ethiopia and Tanzania), agricultural research (Kenya), men's attitudes towards early marriage (Lesotho), democracy and governance (Lesotho), and research and innovation (Mauritius and Malawi). Children's and Women's rights and justice innovation are also covered by actions in Zambia and Uganda respectively.

Self-Assessment: The south east African and Indian Ocean region scored 3.4 in the 5 GAP minimum standard of performance. According to the table below, significant progress has been made on the use of the GM0 (always justified), sector gender analysis, and the selection of GAP II objectives and indicators. Still, in line with previous results and conclusions with regards to relevant objectives, a more powerful and systematic use of sex-disaggregated data throughout PPCM is needed, as well as a timelier use of gender expertise.

It would be strongly recommended to draw more powerfully on sectorial gender analysis in order to mainstream gender in action design. This method would result into a clearer and more fine-tuned selection of GAP II objectives, which is the region's weakest link. A more consistent, stronger and attuned selection of GAP II objectives would in turn facilitate the choice of GAP II indicators to define the action, and gender sensitive monitoring. A more systematic use of gender expertise throughout PPCM, especially at the critical time of programming, would support programme managers in their gender mainstreaming tasks, and in the delivery of a gender sensitive action, ready to meet QSG thresholds. GAP II minimum standards of performance should neither be perceived nor tackled in isolation, as it is the interconnection and harmonised use of them that would boost gender mainstreaming significantly throughout PPCM and the work of programme managers, and contribute greatly to realising institutional culture shift and overall GEWE goals.

Africa East and Southern and Indian Ocean self-assessment (% of EU Delegations meeting the criteria)	Yes %
Gender marker 0 is always justified	74%
There is a gender analysis done for all priority sectors	70%
Sex-disaggregated data are used throughout the project and programme cycle programming	52%
Gender expertise is available and used timely in the programme cycle and programming	35%
GAP II (SWD) objectives are selected and reported on	22%

1.2. Africa West and Central

22 EU Delegations from the region submitted a report (only Cabo Verde did not submit one), jointly with 12 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom).

In the countries of west and central Africa, EU actors have consistently included gender equality and women's empowerment in their policy and political dialogue with partner countries' counterparts. All of the GAP II objectives have been raised to one extent or another in the region overall.

Objective 1, Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States:

GEWE has been the focus of mainstream sectoral and overall political dialogues and specific dialogues. Evidence shows that EU delegations and Member States across the region coherently, include the GAP II objectives (as well as issues of women peace and security) in policy and political dialogue, as shown by the following figures:

Political/policy dialogues between EU actors and partners in the country that raise gender equality issues at country level	Number of dialogues reported by EU Delegations	Number of dialogues reported by Member States
c) Human rights	15	17
x) Violence against women and girls	16	8
b) Democracy	14	8
a) Poverty, national development planning	15	12
o) Education	8	16
e) Rule of law	12	9
j) Decent work and employment	8	14
r) Agriculture/fisheries/food and nutrition	13	18
m) Social protection	7	16
p) Sexual and reproductive health and rights	12	9
f) Governance/accountability/transparency	8	5
n) Health	11	12
i) Security/conflict prevention	9	18
z) Women, peace and security	10	14
l) Trafficking	7	11
k) Migration	9	11
u) Environment/climate change/resilience and disaster risk reduction	11	5
y) Gender responsive budgeting	9	19
d) Public finance management	7	8
g) Public administration reform	7	9
q) Water management/WASH	11	6
h) Trade	3	7
t) Energy efficiency and sustainable energy	9	8
v) Other priority sectors	2	8
s) Transport, infrastructure, communications	5	6

The aggregate data for the sub-region are less relevant for single countries analysis, but they clearly demonstrate that GEWE issues feature in dialogues across all countries. At the level of individual countries, patterns emerge of coordination and division of labour, e.g. on issues such as poverty, national development planning, democracy, human rights, public finance management, rule of law, governance/accountability/transparency, and public administration reform, Member States and the EU delegations have both noted the inclusion of gender equality in dialogues. For other sectors e.g. trade, trafficking, social protection, etc., there is complementary coverage of the topics by Member States and the Delegation. The reason for these patterns are probably linked to factors such as, the coverage of some issues

by Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement and the difference of the sectoral priorities for technical and financial cooperation between the country and its EU partners.

This is also reflected in the profile of the officials that represent the EU actors in the dialogues. For issues that are covered by all of the actors in the country, the Heads of Missions and Heads of Cooperation, are always involved in the dialogue, accompanied by programme managers. For issues that are covered by one EU actor (either a Member State or a delegation), typically the head of cooperation, alongside the programme manager and gender focal point (if different from the programme manager) will be involved.

The level of dialogue that takes place is also influenced by the situation of fragility. Out of the countries in the region, 13 (Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda and Sierra Leone) are considered as being fragile for the period under review. The Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone transitioned during 2017-2018 into a non-fragile status.

No dialogue that included issues pertaining to GEWE was reported in seven countries. In some of these countries, the overall dialogue itself was very limited or only focused on the resolution of political crisis. When EU delegations reported that they do not engage in dialogue on GEWE, other measures were generally taken to keep GEWE on the agenda.

For instance, in **Burundi**, gender issues were addressed in the semi-annual review of Article 96 measures, as well as in annual and specific human rights reporting, even if the overall political dialogue with national authorities has been severely limited by the government over the past two years. In the **Central African Republic**, there is no dialogue in the country that includes GEWE, however, access for girls to education is one of the indicators within the State Building Contract.

In 11 of the 22 countries that submitted a report, mechanisms that allow for burden sharing (GAP activity 1.4) between the EU delegations and the EU Members States regarding the implementation of the GAP were in place. These mechanisms vary from, joint implementation of major events e.g. the 16 days of activism against VAW in **Benin** led by the Netherlands, the progressive use of the gender coordination group for the specific division of tasks in **Burkina Faso**, coordination based on an upcoming gender analysis and putting together a framework for enhanced collaboration among gender focal persons in **Ghana**, using the regular coordination meetings to encourage the establishment of gender focal persons across the EU Member States' agencies and the EU Delegation in **Guinea** and **Cote d'Ivoire**, joint programming for gender and gender mainstreaming in existing joint programmes in **Mauritania** and **Senegal**, to mention but a few. In five countries (Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania and Sierra Leone) out of the 22 that reported, the gender coordination group is led by one of the EU actors in the country.

Chad

Gender equality and analysis were incorporated into the dialogue according to Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement. The dialogue took place in 2017 in accordance with Article 8, with two sessions conducted with the National Assembly.

A dialogue was held upon the visit of a delegation of Members of the European Parliament, who met with the Prime Minister and local authorities, and several discussions were held during the installation of the new government. During a visit of Commissioner Mimica to the country, he met with women's associations, demonstrating the EU's commitment to supporting GEWE.

In addition, as part of the gender analysis carried out by the EU Delegation in 2017, two events were organised:

- a public presentation of the gender analysis, where the Head of Delegation reaffirmed the will of the EU Delegation to have a Gender Action Plan contextualised to the national situation and to include gender across its cooperation activities;
- a workshop with government partners to encourage a greater focus on gender equality in programmes.

Senegal

Women's rights are the first priority of the EU Strategy (EU Delegation and Member States) for Democracy and Human Rights in Senegal, for the period 2016-2020. The main objectives are: to combat violence against women and girls, particularly FGM and child marriage; improve women's reproductive health; and promote gender equality and combat discrimination, in law and in practice.

Consequently, actions have been taken in 2017, such as:

- An approach of the EU Ambassador to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in response to information about a ceremony of female genital mutilation that was going to take place in the region of Casamance;
- The Delegation and EU Member States held a series of meetings with organisations involved in the protection and promotion of women's rights (UNICEF, UNFPA and TOSTAN on Female Genital Mutilation in Senegal);
- The EU Delegation and several Member States participated in a high-level Conference on Child Marriage in West and Central Africa organised by the Government of Senegal and a regional coalition, including UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, and international civil society organisations. The EU chaired the session: Translating Commitments into Action: Partnering to End Child Marriage.

Objective 2, Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States:

Four countries (**Guinea, Nigeria, Togo and Sierra Leone**) reported having EU **senior gender champions**, while one country will nominate one in 2018. In a few cases, the role and definition of senior gender champion has not been correctly interpreted, nevertheless, awareness has been raised within sections of the Delegation.

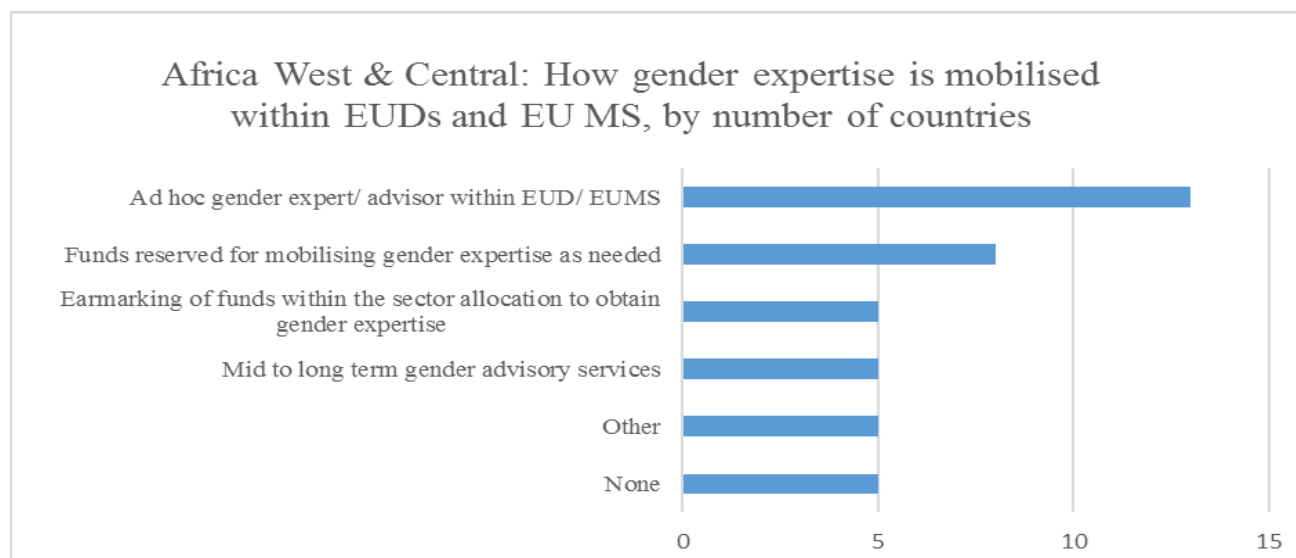
Eight EU Delegations reported the existence of a mechanism established to consult **external senior expertise** on strategic and ad-hoc issues in relation to gender equality. Models have varied, from referring to the Forum of women parliamentarians in **Rwanda**, to fostering a regular and ongoing dialogue with civil society and women's organisations in **Chad**, to using the donor coordination group as a reference in **Burkina Faso**, to the revival of the Gender Monitoring Group and a monthly Committee of Practice on Gender Based Violence where different stakeholders are included and meet in **Sierra Leone**. Recruitment of ad-hoc expertise as needed is another recurrent strategy.

There have been 41 instances on good practices reported in the Institutional Annual Reports, while 46 instances of corrective actions were reported. The type of corrective actions included: undertaking gender analysis where absent, inclusion of gender sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated indicators, internal awareness and advocacy actions, the appointment of gender focal persons, and the use of accompanying measures to bring in gender expertise.

Objective 3, Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments:

The EU Delegations reported 13 cases across sub-region where ad hoc gender experts or advisors exist within the EU delegation or Member State cooperation agencies or embassies. Mid- to long-term gender advisory services were utilised in five cases (the Brussels based help desk was mentioned in one case). There were eight cases where funds were reserved or available to mobilise gender expertise as needed (the use of the Technical Cooperation Facility was mentioned). Funds were earmarked within the sector allocation to obtain gender expertise in five cases, with other options available in five instances and five cases where there were no options available (because of the situation in the country or the process was started no measures were in place within the reporting period.)

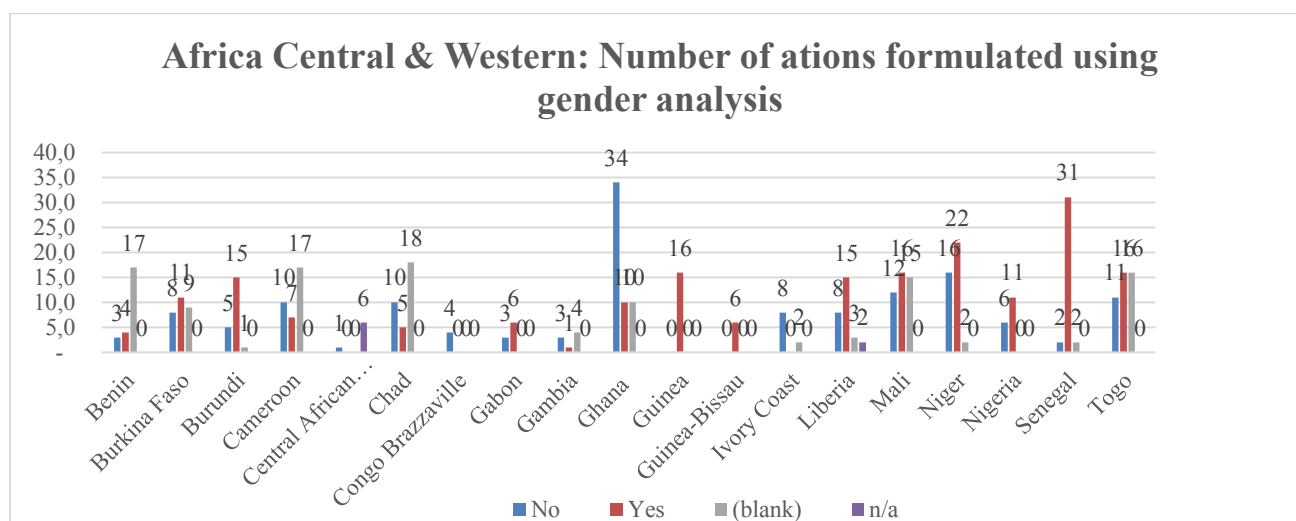
It is worth noting that the pooling of available resources, such as on sharing of gender analysis or relying on existing gender expertise from within EU actors, was prevalent.



Objective 4, Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy making:

Out of the 460 actions included in the GAP II report from the EU Delegations in the sub-region, 207 indicated that the action was formulated using a gender analysis. This means that a gender analysis was part of formulation or the logframe includes gender indicators derived from a gender analysis.

In addition, the EU Delegations reported that the preparation of projects and programmes were informed by consultations with the national gender machineries (NGEM) for 158 actions, while 147 actions did not use such consultation. In some cases, the action was formulated as part of a sector dialogue that had taken place prior to the formulation (thus pertaining to multiple actions) with a range of stakeholders. It is noteworthy that the consultations with gender actors in the country were organised for a wide range of themes, predominantly focused on the rights of women, but also cutting across several other sectors.



Objective 5, Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress:

Except for Ghana and Mali, the countries in the sub-region mentioned 107 cases of monitoring and evaluation that had raised issues of gender equality and the quality of the actions were revised. Although the impact of the outcome of these monitoring and evaluation exercises varies depending on the case, it is important to underline the regular inclusion of gender quality criteria in monitoring and evaluation missions, as well as the fact that recommendations are formulated to strengthen compliance with the GAP II objectives.

Objective 6, Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality:

There were 15 countries that reported the existence of gender coordination mechanisms that include (international) actors working locally.

Except for the Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Gabon and Guinea Bissau, the other countries in the region reported 115 actions that directly support the NGEM (25% of all actions reported). In addition, the EU Delegations reported that consultations with the national gender machineries influenced the preparation of 158 projects and programmes (34 % of the total).

Self-assessment of performance: The EU Delegations in the sub-region provided a self-assessment in relation to compliance with the minimum standards for performance regarding the implementation of the GAP II.

Number of EU Delegations indicating fulfilment of the criteria in the sub-region
(results of the self-assessment)

	Yes %
Gender marker 0 is always justified	59 %
Gender analysis for all priority sectors	46%
Sex-disaggregated data used throughout the project and programme cycle programming	40%
Gender expertise is available and used timely in the programme cycle and programming	23%
GAP II Objectives are selected and reported on	46%

Delegation in country	Number of criteria met (source self-assessment GAP report)	Number of criteria met (source assessment of EAMR 2017)	Number of criteria met (source assessment of the EAMR 2016)
Benin	0	3 (no new projects marked gender marker 0)	4
Burkina Faso	3	5	3
Burundi	1	3 (no new projects marked gender marker 0)	3
Cameroon	3	5	3
Cabo Verde		2 (no new projects marked gender marker 0)	3
Central African Republic	not filled	2	2
Chad	3	2	4
Congo	4	4	4
Gabon	2	4	4

Gambia	0	1	3
Ghana	1	4	2
Guinea	2	1	3
Guinea-Bissau	2	4	3
Ivory Coast	3	4	4
Liberia	3	4	2
Mali	1	4	0
Mauritania	2	4	2
Niger	1	4	1
Nigeria	2	4	1
Rwanda	2	3	2
Senegal	5	3	5
Sierra Leone	5	5	5
Togo	2	3	2

An assessment of the minimum standards was also carried out using the submissions for the External Action Management Report. In general, the EU delegations have assessed their performance lower as compared to the assessment carried out by experts based on the information provided by the EAMR report. The analysis of this difference on a case by case basis will be a useful guide in determining tailor made responses to fulfil the needs for each reporting delegation. For example, by ensuring that staff have the same level of information on the resources available for gender equality mainstreaming, or that they share the same understanding of the obligations for the promotion of gender equality through programmes across sectors, etc. It is noteworthy that, on average, there is an improvement in compliance with the criteria of performance, as compared with the previous year.

1.3. Latin America

Eight EU Delegations (**Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela**) and 11 Member States (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and UK) active in the Latin America region reported on GAP II implementation.

Objective 1, Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States: 8 EU Delegations and 11 Member States in the region reported to having introduced gender issues in 43 policy and political dialogues, the majority of which took place in Colombia (20) and Bolivia (10). Where dialogue with Government was not formally possible, EU delegations have set gender as a priority in their dialogue with and support to CSOs, or have adopted a more systematic approach to gender mainstreaming in bilateral cooperation programmes.

Violence against women and girls and women's human rights were the main topics of policy dialogue in the region. Other issues included the gender dimensions of social protection, democracy, poverty and national development planning, decent work and employment, agriculture, fisheries, food and nutrition and trafficking. More than half (53 %) of dialogues were conducted by top management: 30 % by Heads of Missions (EU Heads of Delegation and Member States' Ambassadors) and EU Delegation Heads of Cooperation (24 %), while the remaining 47 % took place at the technical and operational level (programme managers and gender focal persons).

In six countries, EU Delegations and Member States regularly coordinated, and in some cases, adopted a more formal division of labour (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela) in relation to supporting GEWE in the partner country. In three of these countries, the EU leads the gender donor coordination mechanism (two lead by the EU Delegations and one by Belgium).

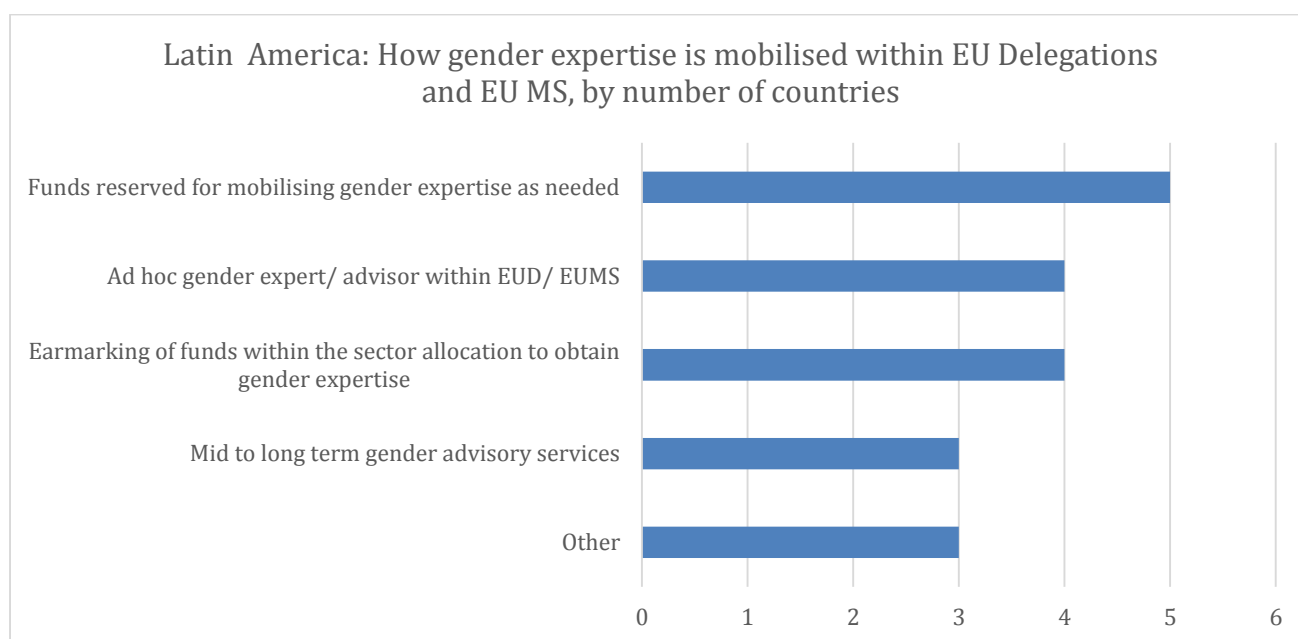
Objective 2, Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl's and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States: Senior management in EU delegations and Member States missions

are showing increasing commitment to gender equality, while three (informal) gender champions are active in the region (two in Brazil, comprising of the EU Delegation and Sweden, and Sweden in Bolivia). In four countries, EU Delegations hold regular consultations with high-level gender expertise stakeholders (Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador and Uruguay).

The reports highlight a variety of good practices (19), such as, measures to increase awareness on gender inequalities and on GAP II, attention to integrating GAP II and gender issues in coordination meetings with Member States and with CSOs and local actors, commitment of senior management and involvement of internal and external experts, and commitment to a more systematic use of gender analysis and sex-disaggregated data in projects and programmes.

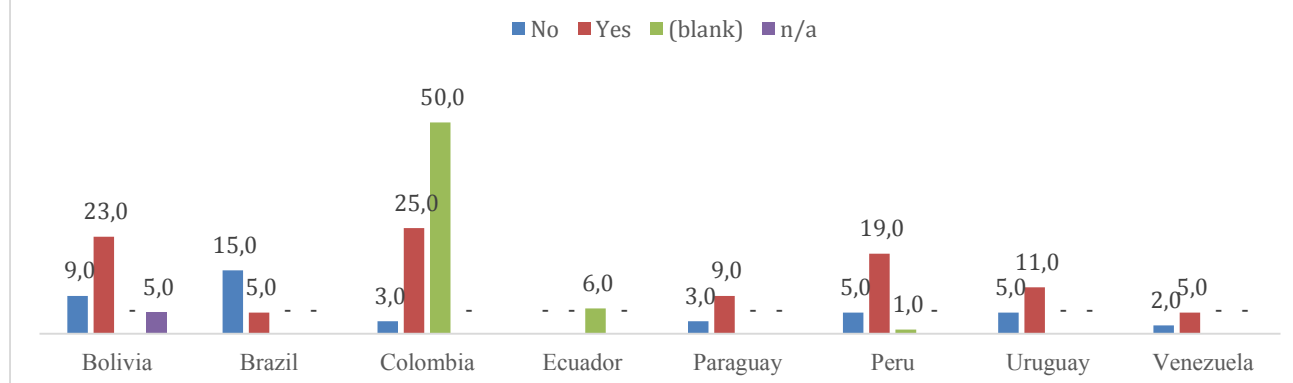
EU Delegations in seven countries also took specific measures to improve performance gaps, by, e.g., ensuring continuity when GFPs moved, organising awareness raising and training activities, including gender expertise in evaluation missions and establishing formal procedures for gender mainstreaming at EU delegation level (the Gender Technical Procedure in Colombia).

Objective 3, Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments: The longer-term availability of gender expertise varies from country to country. Member States more frequently can count on long-term gender experts while for EU delegations, it is more common to rely on *ad hoc* experts when specific needs arise. A notable difference in the overall quality of the EU delegation's portfolio is exhibited, when long-term gender expertise is planned and hired (e.g. Colombia).



Objective 4, Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy making: There were 97 actions reported that were formulated using gender analysis. In the majority of cases, this means that gender analysis was integrated in the project at formulation stage, that there are gender-sensitive results, and that the log frame includes gender-sensitive indicators.

Latin America: Number of actions formulated using gender analysis



Objective 5, Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress: 52 ROM missions commented on the gender dimensions of monitored actions. In a few cases, missions found that gender issues had been well integrated in projects (Peru), but most frequently, missions recommended a more systematic use of sex disaggregated data, gender analysis and alignment with GAP II indicators. Some EU Delegations reported to having adopted or planned targeted measures to respond to these shortcomings.

Objective 6, Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality: Gender-related research and studies were included in 15 actions, comprising of gender-specific actions as well as programmes with a gender dimension. This is likely to foster the creation of new knowledge on a large range of topics, such as: gender stereotypes in justice (Peru), stereotypes, the media and violence against women with disabilities (Peru), women and territorial conflict (Peru), the cost of VAW (Paraguay), political participation of indigenous women (Paraguay), girl-child trafficking and migration patterns (Paraguay), and gender and infrastructure as well as gender issues in nutrition and natural resource management (Bolivia).

115 programmes reported an improvement in the quality and availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics through EU support. These mention the inclusion of GAP II or other gender-sensitive indicators (60), including in budget support programmes, the more systematic collection and use of sex disaggregated data during monitoring (32) and the undertaking of gender analysis (23).

In five countries, EU Delegations or Member States are involved in gender coordination mechanisms that include local and/or international actors (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Uruguay). Direct support to National Gender Equality Mechanisms (NGEM) was offered in 36 actions (12 of which were in Bolivia), out of which, eight were funded by EU Delegations and the others by Member States. In most cases, they were gender-specific actions. It is worth noting the involvement of the national women's machinery in the budget support to the national development and social inclusion strategy in Peru, which comprises a series of targets and indicators related to young indigenous' women. A larger number of programmes (56) involved the collaboration with NGEMs, including many gender-specific projects.

Awareness raising of local media on gender issues: Some 77 projects and programmes organised awareness raising activities to sensitise the local media to women's rights and other gender issues. Most of these actions concern human rights and freedom from violence for women and girls – particularly indigenous women – while in other cases the actions involved raising awareness on the role of women in peace building and the protection of cultural heritage, and highlighting the gender dimension in sectors such as infrastructure, water management, nutrition, health and education.

Self-assessment: Only two countries meet all five of the GAP II minimum criteria (Brazil and Ecuador). The average score in the region is 3.6 out of 5. The greatest challenge relates to the lack of constant and systematic availability of gender expertise. The parallel analysis of External Action Management Reports for the sub-region also highlighted the need to reinforce internal capacities for gender analysis and planning. Given the existing good practices, it would be advisable to foresee specific events, including at regional level to share knowledge and share experience on common problems and solutions.

Latin America EU Delegations	Yes %
Gender marker 0 is always justified	63%
Gender analysis for all priority sectors	88%
Sex-disaggregated data used throughout the project and programme cycle	75%
Gender expertise is available and used timely in the project and programme cycle	63%
GAP II (SWD) objectives are selected and reported on	75%

Good practice: Colombia Gender Technical Procedure and other initiatives

Among the different good practices adopted in 2017, three should be highlighted:

1. The active engagement of high-level staff (Head of Mission, Head of Cooperation, Head of Political Section) backed by the support of the EU Delegation's Gender Focal Person and technical assistance;
2. The establishment of a gender technical procedure for gender analysis and technical assessments for the identification and formulation phase of all projects;
3. The adoption of most of the GAP II minimum standards of performance.

The active engagement of high-level staff is important because it shows the extent of political will and high-level commitment existing, to back up all gender equality related actions in different sectors. In the past, the lack of a consistent support at the decision-making level weakened an EU delegation's capacity to mobilise both political and financial support for this agenda. The GFP could also draw on dedicated technical assistance that supports all the GAP-related work.

The second element is perhaps the most important one in terms of the long-term gender equality agenda. The goal has been to establish **a permanent mechanism by which all projects and programmes could be subject to gender analysis, producing recommendations for gender sensitive results, indicators and budgets**. The first step of the analysis was a country gender profile with dynamic statistics. Secondly, gender analysis was applied to all on-going and recently signed projects throughout the EU Delegation's portfolio.

When it comes to GAP II minimum standards of performance, the EU Delegation has made the selection of the GAP II objectives on which to report on and has included gender expertise that is constantly available and timely used.

Good practice: Swedish Fund for the cooperation with the Colombia civil society (FOS) (Gender as significant objective)

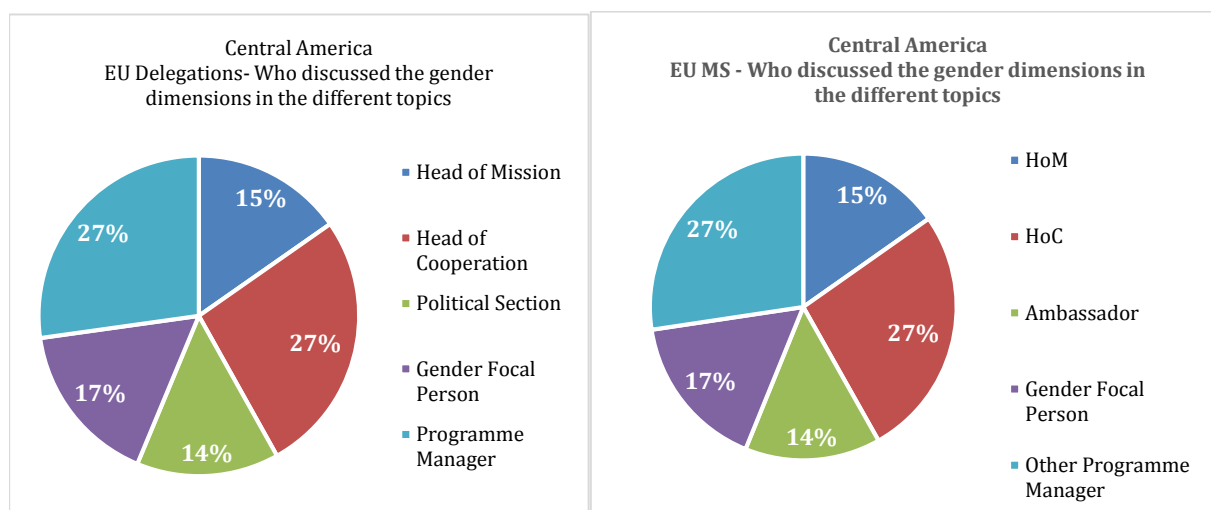
The political section includes gender in policy and political dialogue based on the Swedish Feminist Foreign Policy which is a priority for Swedish Missions abroad.

Good practice: France’s Human Rights Prize, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, awarded to the movement “Ni Una Menos” that advocates against gender-based violence in Peru.

1.4. Central America

Five EU Delegations (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua) and eight Member States (Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands and UK), in five countries in the Central America region, reported on GAP II implementation. The EU Delegation in Honduras did not submit a report.

Objective 1, Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States: EU Delegations and Member States discussed gender issues in 44 political or policy dialogues carried out mainly at bilateral or programme level. Reports indicate a strong engagement at all management levels, particularly of the Heads of Missions (four countries). With the exception of public finance management and transport, infrastructure and communications, the gender dimensions of 23 specific issues were also discussed with a greater recurrence in the field of human rights, justice, economic and social rights, and little or none in the field of Governance, WASH, agriculture, and environment, climate change, trade and gender-responsive budgeting. EU actors only adopted burden-sharing measures (GAP activity 1.4) in three countries in the region, predominantly within the human rights development strategy, bilateral initiatives or common campaigns and activities on the occasion of International Women’s Day on the 8 March and the International Day to combat GBV on 25 November.



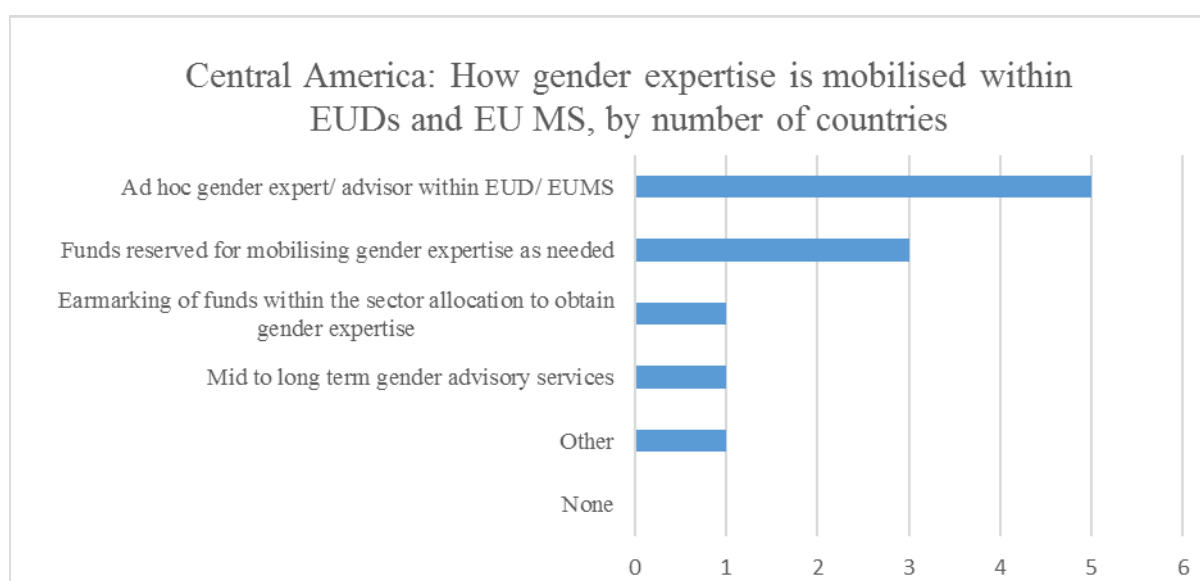
Objective 2, Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl’s and women’s empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States: Progress has been uneven but stressed by remarkable processes. For example, 15 good practices were highlighted in institutional annual reports and eight corrective actions were undertaken in terms of resources, training and staff allocations including in budget support programmes and the design of specific gender action plans 2017-2020 in two EU Delegations. Although no gender coordination mechanism is led by the EU on the donor side and no gender champions have been appointed in the region, senior gender expertise is regularly consulted by two EU Delegations, while the Member State Missions in Costa Rica engaged in a common initiative in the framework of the “He for She” campaign.

In **Costa Rica**, seven Ambassadors (EU, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Netherlands and UK) signed the **Joint statement on equality between men and women and women's empowerment**.

By reaffirming their commitment to the implementation of the four GAP II priorities, the Ambassadors joined the campaign “He for She” and engaged in:

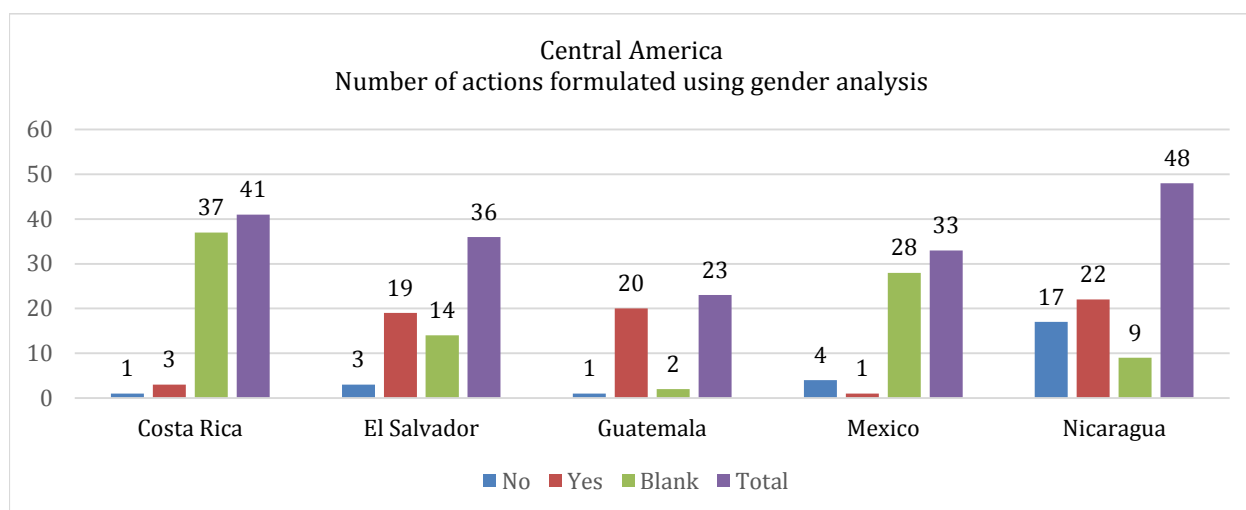
- 1) making gender equality a cross-cutting objective in their cooperation activities;
- 2) promoting gender balance in the activities that they will organise and seek opportunities to discuss gender equality in the dialogues and meetings with partners in Costa Rica;
- 3) Implementing the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 and treating, at least once a year, gender equality progress as a fundamental issue in the EU Human Rights Strategy in Costa Rica;
- 4) organising or participating in at least one event every year on gender equality, in the framework of bilateral or European cooperation;
- 5) organising every year a joint awareness-raising campaign on violence against women;
- 6) supervising the achievement of the objectives and commitments contained in the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 and developing an annual implementation report led by the EU delegation;
- 7) supporting the participation of their Embassies' staff to workshops and capacity building on gender issues in offices and embassies;
- 8) supporting the NGEM and strengthening the cooperation with local and international partners;
- 9) applying a zero-tolerance policy towards gender-based discrimination, harassment, and intimidation in their workplaces and promoting equal opportunities, treatment and access to staff recruitment processes in our Embassies;
- 10) planning to award, in 2018, a person or an organisation that makes a significant contribution to gender equality

Objective 3, Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments: There is ad hoc gender experts and advisors available in five reporting EU Delegations, while there is less use of short-term gender advisory services and funds to mobilise gender expertise.



Some EU Delegations are taking action to improve the availability of gender expertise. For example, the EU Delegation to **El Salvador** regularly includes a gender expert in technical assistance missions and medium- and long-term technical assistance contracting for budget support programmes to national policy sectors. In **Nicaragua**, short-term gender advisory services are contracted for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of bilateral and thematic programmes.

Objective 4, Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy making: The five reporting EU Delegations declared that 65 out of 181 actions were formulated using gender analysis. Details provided do not allow an understanding to what extent the gender analysis informed action design. However, gender indicators have been included in the log frame of at least 35 actions.



Objective 5, Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress: 23 monitoring missions took place during 2017 which led to a series of institutional commitments on gender equality, including the signature of the EU-Costa Rica joint declaration on gender equality during the visit of Commissioner Neven Mimica in July 2017. The reporting EU Delegations declared to have taken on board the recommendations that resulted in a more systematic collection of gender-disaggregated data and adoption of gender indicators also in areas such as prevention and control of narco-trafficking and WASH.

Objective 6, Partnership fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality: the gender coordination mechanisms in four countries include international actors working locally and 46 actions were formulated using findings of consultations with NGEM, CSOs, and women's organisations.

GAP II minimum standard of performance – EAMR assessment and self-assessment

As set out in the table below, the most striking difference between the EAMR assessment and the self-assessment of the GAP II minimum standards of performance was for Mexico which met only one standard based on the EAMR review and four standards based on the self-assessment. The most evident weakness is the selection and reporting of GAP II objectives and the lack of availability of gender expertise in the programme cycle, which may suggest a link between the two.

Central America - GAP II minimum standards of performance			
Country EAMR	Country Self-Assessment	Average of EAMR	Average of Self-Assessment
El Salvador	El Salvador	4	3
Guatemala	Guatemala	3	1
Mexico	Mexico	1	4
Nicaragua (Costa Rica and Panama)	Costa Rica	5	5
	Nicaragua	5	4
Total Average		3.6	3.4

1.5. The Caribbean

Six EU Delegations reported (**Barbados², Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago**) in the Caribbean

Objective 1, Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States: In 2017, the Caribbean region reported a total of 26 Delegation political and policy dialogues between EU actors and partners that raised gender equality issues at country level. A variety of topics were covered and were broad in scope. Human rights, VAWG, poverty and national development planning, and environment, climate change, resilience and disaster risk reduction were addressed by five EU Delegations each. Other issues such as GRB and PFM were also discussed through a gender lens in the region by four EU Delegations, and education and access to decent work and employment by four EU Delegations also.

Addressing gender through trade and energy efficiency was carried out by three EU Delegations. The same number also tackled the rule of law, SRHR, health and security and conflict prevention from a gender angle. Fewer EU Delegations held gender sensitive dialogues with regards to social protection, governance, accountability and transparency, and transport and infrastructure (two EU Delegations for each topic), migration (one) and trafficking (two). Finally, no gender specific dialogue was conducted in relation to WPS, water management or WASH.³

Senior management and technical staff both engaged in advancing gender issues in policy or political dialogues. Heads of delegations were the most active and vocal in bringing a gender focus to the dialogues, followed by programme managers, heads of cooperation and the political sections of delegations.

With regards to Member States, the topics of dialogues and the lead varied from one delegation to another. For example, five Member States conducted dialogues on VAWG, democracy, human rights, the rule of law and trafficking, that included a gender element. PFM, trade, education, poverty and national development, and health were also addressed by three Member States from a gender lens, topics which slightly diverged from the EU delegations. Topics rarely tackled were gender and security and conflict prevention and public administration reform. No dialogue was held around WPS, water management and WASH, gender responsive budgeting and energy efficiency. Finally, most of the dialogues were held at the technical level, both by programme managers and GFPs, with Ambassadors leading discussions on national development planning, poverty, democracy and human rights in a number of cases.

Only two EU Delegations (Barbados and Jamaica) reported burden sharing measures (GAP activity 1.4), mostly on gender programming and outreach activities.

Although gender donor-coordination groups have been referred to in different reports, they are not EU-led. The Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago did report on a joint WPS initiative with other international stakeholders. Two joint initiatives between the British High Commission and the Delegation aimed at facilitating dialogue between various sectors, including the private, public and third sectors.⁴

Objective 2, Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl's and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States: Unfortunately, EU Delegations in the Caribbean region did not report on having appointed any gender champions over 2017, which compares to two appointees in 2016 (Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica).

² The EU Delegation to Barbados covers Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and broader CARIFORUM region for the Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme.

³ With regards to WPS, only Trinidad and Tobago addressed WPS issues raised by local civil society. In effect, the EU Delegation reported engagement in at least 2 community-based partnerships by the British High Commission.

⁴ Resulting from this activity, the round of #LetsTalkTT events took place, which encouraged conversation on gender equality and violence against women (March 2017). A Facebook live panel debate was celebrated, with 221, 279 unique reached on twitter; 216, 738 reached on FB; and 5800 FB live streams.

Three out of six EU Delegations in the Caribbean established some sort of mechanism to consult gender expertise on strategic and ad hoc issues, with several degrees of formality. For example, the Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago does not have a formal consultation instrument, but the British High Commission engages with several gender-related CSOs and academics. The Delegation to Jamaica is in direct contact with the Department of Gender Affairs at the University of the West Indies, and with the main government agency responsible for implementing the National Gender Policy. The Delegation to Barbados reported that gender expertise is consulted via the regional gender donor coordination group, both in strategic and ad-hoc issues. In addition, the National Gender Equality Mechanism (or Gender Bureau as it is called in the region) in Barbados and the members of the Organisation of East Caribbean States occasionally meet at regional level, which provides for a suitable forum to discuss emerging or critical GEWE issues in partner countries with academia, CSOs and donor representatives⁵.

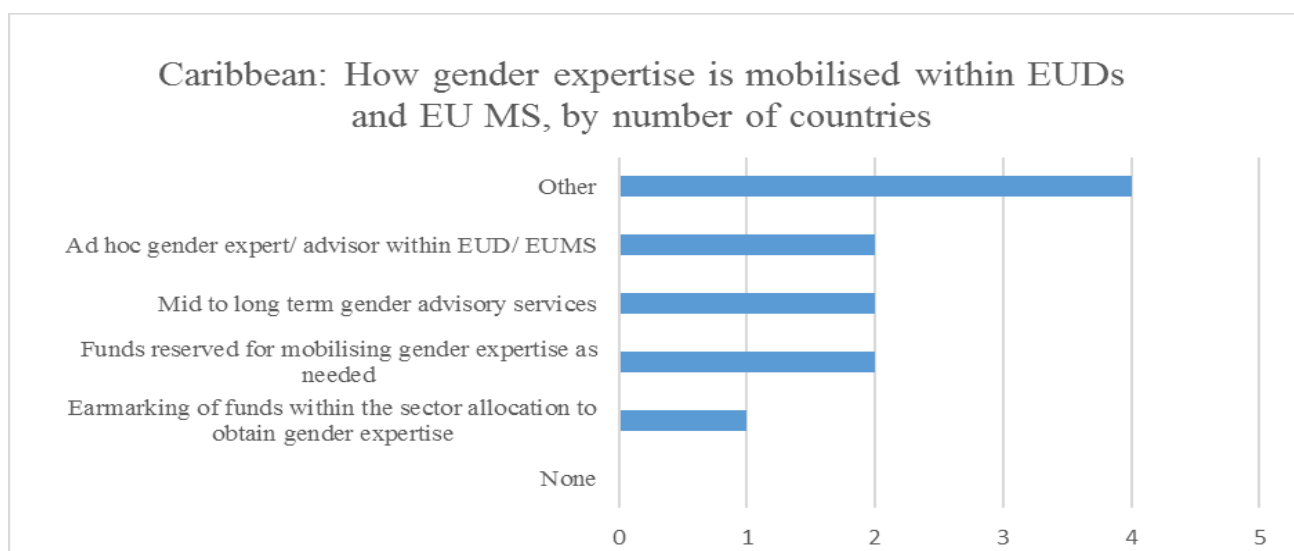
Four EU Delegations shared good practices via their reports. The Delegation to the Dominican Republic and the Delegation to Jamaica reported on having followed GAP II minimum standards of performance on a regular basis. The justification of the OECD/DAC gender marker 0, the use of sex-disaggregated data throughout PPCM and the carrying out of a gender analysis for all priority sectors are highlighted as positive practices.⁶ In a similar fashion, the Delegation to Jamaica reported on having developed sectorial gender analyses, as well as selected and reported on GAP II objectives.

Five EU Delegations took a total of six corrective measures to boost GAP II performance, mostly tackling programming and GAP II minimum standards, such as, the use of sex-disaggregated data, carrying out gender analysis for all priority sectors, and mainstreaming gender into programmes. The Delegation to Cuba, for example, reported on the elaboration of a gender country analysis, specifically tackling agriculture, environment and renewable energies, and public administration reform. Since the Delegation to Cuba is formulating different programmes under these areas, a high-quality gender sector analysis will ensure gender mainstreaming, and would contribute to linking development programmes and projects to national strategies to promote GEWE.

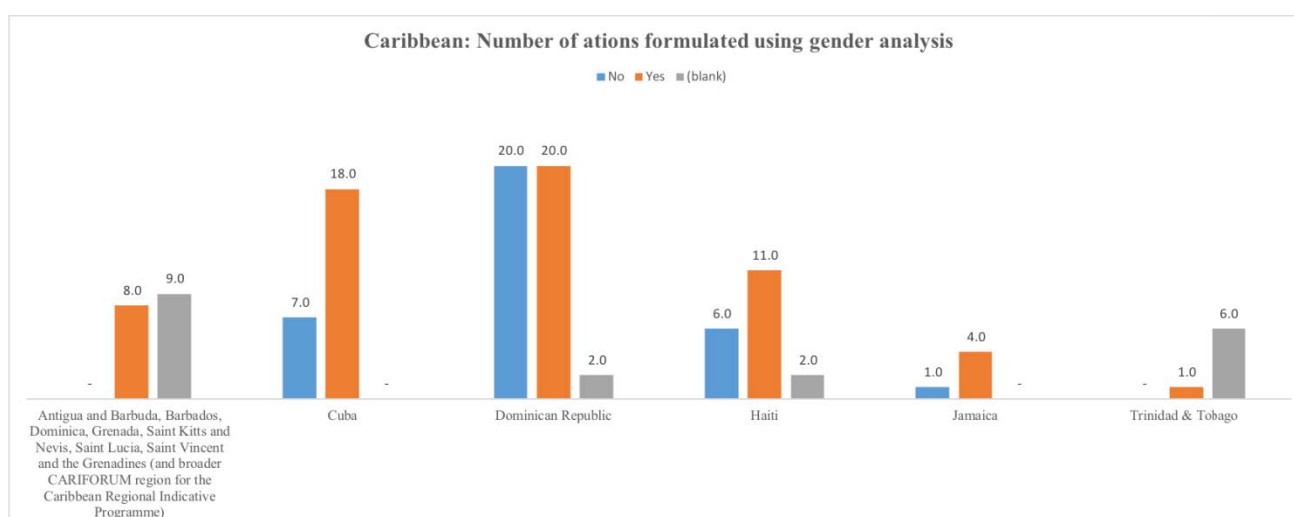
Objective 3, Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments: Regarding resource allocations of EU institutions and Member States to deliver on GEWE commitments, all six EU Delegations took measures to mobilise funds in different ways. The Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago and the Delegation to Haiti have both reserved funds to make use of gender expertise, as needed, and using it on ad hoc basis. In the case of the Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago, gender expertise was contracted to strengthen the gender analysis of focal sectors for the Delegation. In addition, two EU Delegations reported on engaging mid-term gender expertise to support the Delegation's work, such as the Delegation to Cuba, which contracted a mid-term gender expert in 2017 to carry out a gender country analysis. This study represented the basis for the elaboration of local priorities under the gender action plan, and had a positive impact on the EU Delegation's political and sector dialogue on gender equality and women's empowerment. The earmarking of funds to access gender expertise was only reported by one Delegation.

⁵ UN Women is supporting all countries' NGEMs technically and 4 of them also financially. Canada is supporting the NGEM of Dominica and envisaging support for the NGEM in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

⁶ However, EU Delegation to the Dominican Republic also reported on the lack of senior gender expertise, and on the use of available gender expertise only when comments or difficulties emerge. As a result, in 2017 GAP objectives have not been selected yet since gender analysis was still under preparation



Objective 4, Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy making: A total of 115 actions were reported in the region, out of which 62 did use a gender analysis in their formulation.



Gender Analysis was consistently used in the region to inform programme design and throughout the project cycle. A total of 24 actions used gender indicators in the logframe (out of which 16 were carried out by the Delegation to Cuba, two by the Delegation to the Dominican Republic, seven by the Delegation to Haiti, and 17 actions using gender analysis in the formulation phase (Barbados and Haiti reported on seven occasions each). Six actions included analysis at both formulation and logframe phases and were carried out by the Delegation to Jamaica (three actions), the Delegation to Haiti (two) and the Delegation to Barbados (one).

Objective 5, Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress: In line with objective 5, only two EU Delegations carried out monitoring missions with pertinent recommendations to strengthen gender mainstreaming. The Delegation to Barbados reported a total of 11 ROM missions on a variety of topics (public procurement, development, health, trade and civil society support), and the Delegation to Haiti embarked on two ROM missions with a focus on civil society. Both EU Delegations received the same recommendation, that is: use strong and high-quality sex-disaggregated data for advancing a GEWE agenda in a methodical fashion. In this respect, the Delegation to Barbados identified the serious inadequacies in the collection, compilation and analysis of sex-disaggregated data, and the development of gender-sensitive research and analysis. As they stated, clear government data collection and

analysis systems is key for gender work at delegation and country level. Lack of or weak data collection systems across the region were confirmed by all sector reports received. This impacts negatively on the work of the EU delegations, both in terms of identifying and designing new programmes and results reporting. Strengthening performance on this GAP II minimum standard, therefore, is fundamental in the region.

Objective 6, Partnership fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality: In line with objective 6, all EU Delegations in the Caribbean except the Delegation to Cuba reported positively on the presence of international actors working locally for the gender coordination mechanism, which is active in the region although not EU-led.

20 % of all actions in the Caribbean involved working with NGEMs, while only 13 % supported them. 53 % of actions used the findings of consultations with NGEM and CSOs in their design. The Delegation to Jamaica was the most active in this consultation process, with 100 % of its actions based on consultation findings. This was followed by the Delegation to the Dominican Republic (79 % of actions), and the Delegation to Barbados (41 %). The Delegation to Cuba and the Delegation to Haiti both reported that 32 % of their actions were informed by the outcomes of consultations. The Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago had least number of actions shaped by these results (29 %). These consultations were mostly used to inform programme design in the formulation phase, and also in devising guidelines for calls for proposal. They were also reported to provide valuable input to design gender specific indicators and sex-disaggregated data, as well as to better define the scope and target of the action, and to strengthen its gender dimension.

30 % of the actions by all countries in the Caribbean included awareness raising of gender equality issues among local and national media. The Delegation to Jamaica and the Delegation to Dominican Republic were the most active in this regard, with 80 % and 50 % of their respective actions, comprising of awareness raising activities among these actors. The Delegation to Cuba did not report any awareness raising action, and only 14 % of the actions of the EU Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago included this target. 29 % of actions carried out by the Delegation to Barbados and 42 % of those developed by the Delegation to Haiti comprised of awareness raising on gender issues among relevant media actors.

Finally, the Delegation to the Dominican Republic reported two research oriented actions, with a focus on human trafficking of women and girls, and the gender dimension of budget support programmes.

Self-assessment: On average, EU Delegations in the region score 2.8 in the 5 GAP minimum standards of performance. Although EU Delegations reported above average among 3 standards, there is still much work that needs to be done across all minimum standards. The biggest challenges, in line with other regions, are related to the use of sex-disaggregated data. The selection of GAP II objectives to monitor and report on could also be significantly improved.

Working closely with statistical offices in each respective country and region, as well as research institutes and CSOs, which may have access to reliable sex-disaggregated data, is essential. Access to and consistent use of good-quality and reliable sex-disaggregated data is key for realising GAP II thematic objectives, for establishing baselines and a track record to assess progress on gender equality over time, to transform unequal gender relations and build more gender equal societies. The production of this type of data, if unavailable, could also be integrated as part of the action itself, as one of its goals and objectives. Both EU delegations and national gender equality mechanisms could collaborate to achieve this goal, not only to use it more consistently but also to advocate for its production if unavailable and inaccessible.

In addition, the selection of GAP II objectives to monitor and report on could also be significantly improved in the region, for which, a consistent use of gender expertise throughout the programme cycle, and a comprehensive use of updated gender analysis (national and sectorial or both) would be recommended. Since these standards have improved this year, this knowledge should be more easily accessible in the preparation of future programming. Both the Delegations to Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago, while selecting GAP objectives, did not make a strong use of GAP II or gender sensitive indicators. It is important to highlight that without the latter, monitoring GAP II performance, and the development and impact of the action on women and girls is

undermined. A more comprehensive understanding and inclusion of GAP II objectives would be conducive to a smoother and accurate use of gender sensitive indicators.

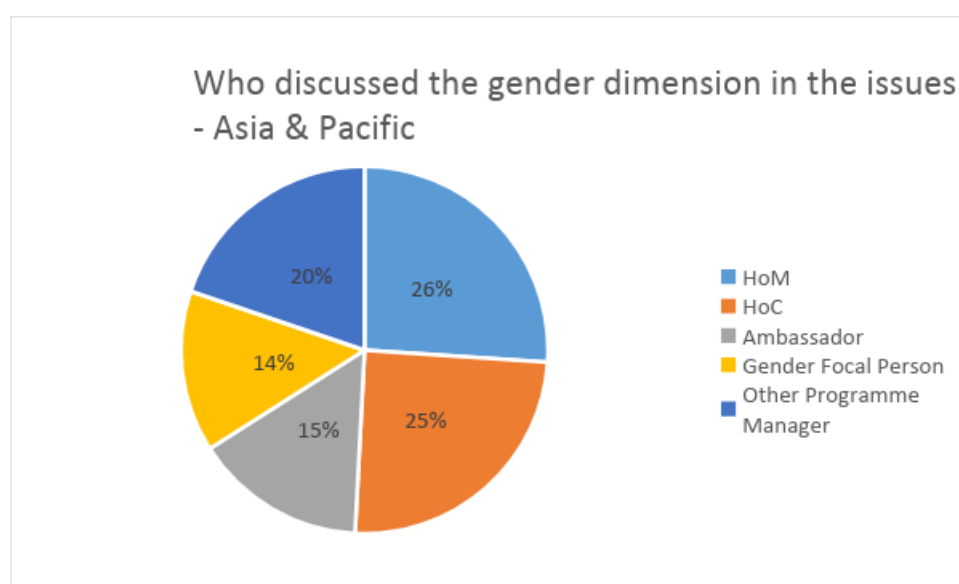
Caribbean self-assessment (% of EU delegations meeting the criteria)	Yes %
Gender marker 0 is always justified	67%
Gender analysis carried out for all priority sectors	67%
Sex-disaggregated data used throughout the project and programme cycle	33%
Gender expertise is available and used timely in the programme cycle	67%
GAP II (SWD) objectives are selected and reported on	50%

1.6. Asia and Pacific

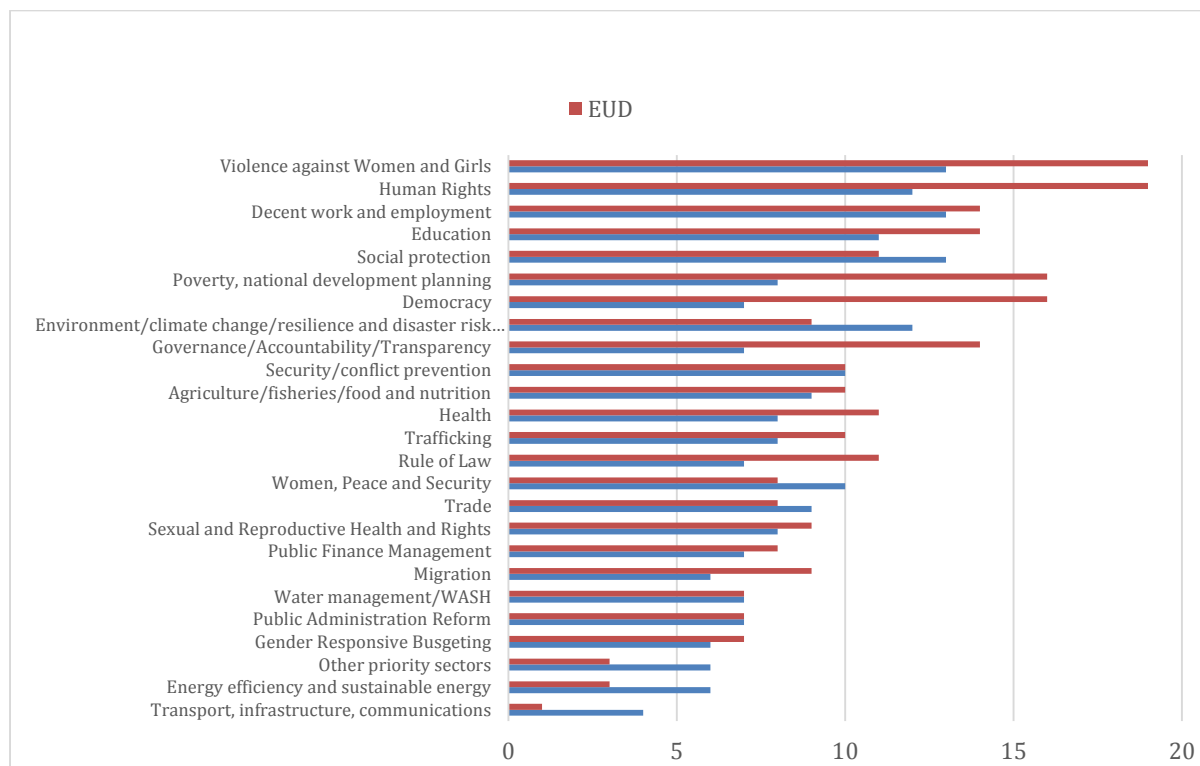
22 EU Delegations representing 26 countries and one region (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China and Mongolia, Fiji and Pacific, India and Bhutan, Japan, Korea, Nepal, New Zealand, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Thailand, Timor Leste, Taiwan and Vietnam) in the Asia and Pacific region reported on GAP II implementation, out of the 26 mandated to send a report. In addition, 16 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and UK) reported their activities in the regions.

Objective 1, Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States: EU Delegations and Member States discussed gender issues in 135 political and policy dialogues with national authorities (2016 data indicated 20 EU Delegations carrying out 119 dialogues). Six EU Delegations were particularly active, accounting for 72 % of all reported dialogues, these were, China and Mongolia (34), Cambodia (20), Sri Lanka and the Maldives (13) and Laos, Bangladesh, India and Bhutan (with respectively 10 each).

Dialogue covered a wide range of political and policy issues spanning from human rights to sectoral issues and budget support. In some cases, such as in Cambodia, gender equality is permanently featured in all political and development cooperation dialogue with the country. Reports indicate that a majority (66 %) of dialogues were held at senior management level (i.e. heads of delegations, 26 %, ambassadors, 15 %, heads of cooperation, 25 %), while the remaining 36 % took place at technical level (programme managers and gender focal persons) (See Graph 2).



Topics most frequently discussed included violence against women and girls, human rights, as well as the gender dimensions of decent work and employment, social protection, education, poverty and national development planning. While gender responsive budgeting is rarely mentioned, a positive development was more frequent attention to public finance management.



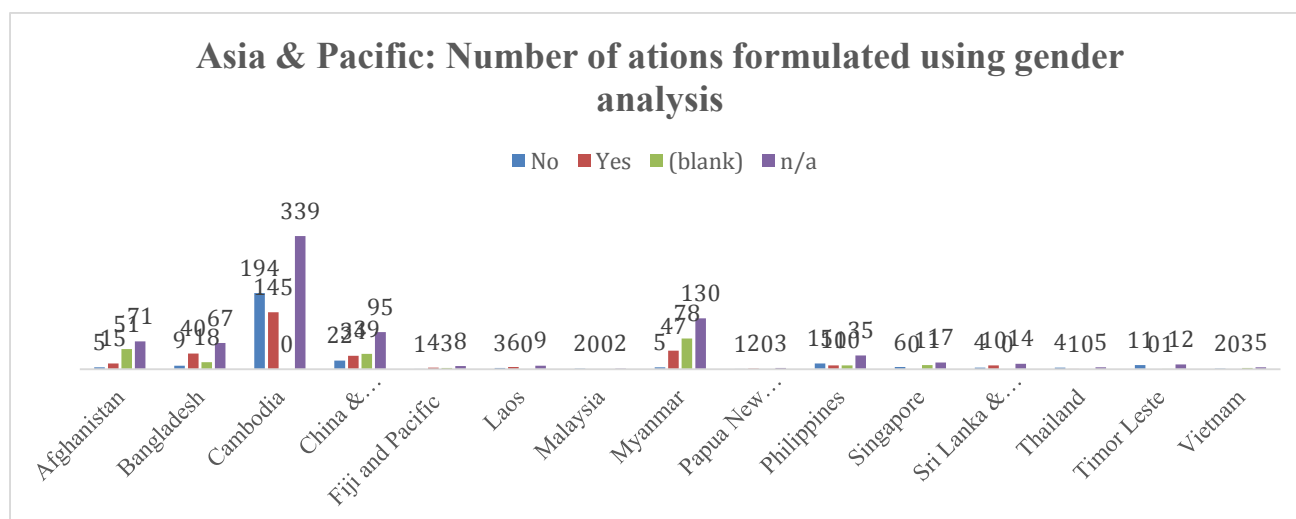
The EU and Member States adopted burden-sharing measures (GAP activity 1.4) in 11 countries in the region, including a division of labour on policy dialogue and joint programming on the basis of common country gender analysis (China and Lao PDR). Reporting on Member State-led actions supporting the GAP II priorities has also dramatically increased, with 564 actions reported compared with 130 in 2016. In six countries of the region, the EU leads the gender donor coordination mechanism, (three by Delegations and three by Member States respectively).

Objective 2, Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl's and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States: 18 gender champions exist either at delegation or Member States level in 10 countries. EU Delegations and Member States hold consultations with external gender expertise in 11 countries (UN Women-led coordination mechanisms, informal networks, CSO coalitions and national gender machineries). The reports describe 51 good practices to advance the institutional culture shift in 15 countries. These most frequently mention the appointment of one or more gender focal persons, the establishment of a gender task force, the more systematic use of gender analysis in all priority sectors, sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators, the adoption of a joint EU Gender Action Plan by 10 development partners, and firmer commitments to meeting the GAP II minimum requirements in programmes and projects. Other practices involved including gender as a priority in CSO and EIDHR calls, closer work and recognition of local and national CSOs and governmental entities dedicated to gender equality. 10 EU Delegations also took corrective actions to advance institutional culture shift through, gender training, stronger attention to gender-sensitive project and programme monitoring and the inclusion of GFPs in policy dialogue.

Objective 3, Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments: 18 EU Delegations (out of 22 reporting) have put in place various measures to ensure high quality gender expertise. Most frequently, measures comprise the recruitment of ad hoc gender

experts, followed by the use of advisory services and the earmarking of funds for mobilising gender expertise (See Graph 3 below).

Objective 4, Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy making: 16 EU Delegations reported that out of 817 actions, 314 were formulated using gender analysis. In the majority of cases the results were integrated at formulation stage, resulting in gender-sensitive logical frameworks.



Objective 5, Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress: 217 monitoring missions included recommendations on gender mainstreaming, of which, 50 took place only in Cambodia. ROM missions have often suggested the need for a more systematic use of gender analysis and integration of its results in project and programmes, at all stages. EU Delegations took corrective actions, e.g. senior management asking for the systematic use of sex-disaggregated data and mandatory gender analysis at inception phase.

Objective 6, Partnership fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality: Commendably, progress was reported under most indicators. In total, 14 countries have put in place gender coordination mechanisms, together with international actors working locally in some cases (12 in addition to the 2 reported in 2016).

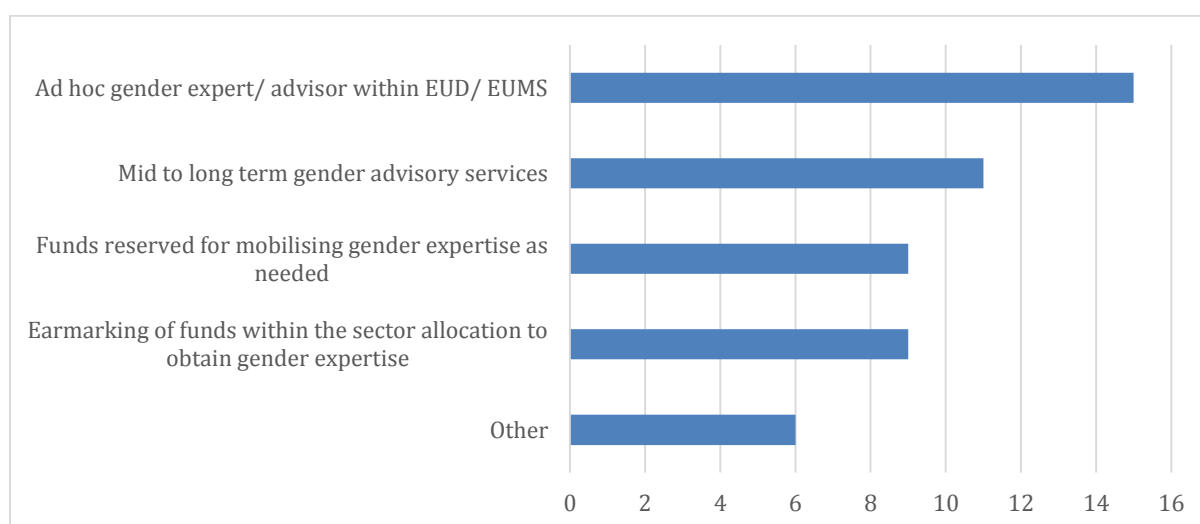
Progress was made in relation to actions supporting national gender equality mechanisms (84 actions reported against 12 in 2016). This occurred most in Bangladesh, Myanmar, China and Mongolia. The national gender equality mechanisms were also consulted or involved in 109 actions (against the 19 reported in 2016), with Cambodia, China and Mongolia and Bangladesh leading the way. All countries except for two, have at least one activity that comprises awareness raising of local and national media (110 actions reported against 49 in 2016). A very small percentage (2 % or 17 actions) were research related or contained research aspects on gender related issues. This is a decrease in relation to 2016, where 31 programmes were reported. However, the 2016 data included gender analysis studies.

Self-assessment: On average, EU Delegations in the region scored 2.6 in the 5 GAP minimum standards of performance. Therefore, much more work needs to be done under all minimum standards, however the biggest challenges seem to be related to the use of sex-disaggregated data and the availability of gender expertise throughout the programme cycle. EU Delegations in the region are demonstrating a commitment to the GAP and have taken important steps to integrate the topic at the highest levels of policy dialogue, including in challenging contexts.

The positive follow up to the gender audit of the EU Delegation to Cambodia shows that where resources are allocated and gender analysis is systematically carried out, an increase in the selection of objectives and

indicators follows. The availability of sex-disaggregated data is a medium-term challenge, which needs to be addressed in partnership and through the appropriate allocation of resources at programming stage. More systematic availability of gender expertise and use of gender analysis will ensure that actions are better able to tackle the root causes of gender inequalities. The continued commitment to monitoring the advancement of objectives set and dialogue with implementing partners to reinforce capacities and guarantee mutual accountability should be priorities for future action.

Asia and Pacific EU Delegations	Yes %
Gender marker 0 is always justified	55%
Gender analysis carried out for all priority sectors	50%
Sex-disaggregated data used throughout the project and programme cycle	45%
Gender expertise is available and used in the programme cycle	45%
GAP II (SWD) objectives are selected and reported on	68%



Delegation to Cambodia

Gender equality is promoted regularly at political and policy meetings at various levels, including:

- by the EU Delegation bilaterally, in meetings with the Government or other development partners;
- by the EU Delegation as the co-chair of the technical working groups on decentralisation, PFM and Fisheries;
- as a member of the technical working groups on gender, planning and poverty reduction, among others;
- as a part of the joint European dialogue with the Government (high level, sector level or consultation on laws) or other development partners (CSO structured dialogue).

Gender equality underlies all of the EU support and will therefore feature as a part of dialogue in all programmes, for example:

- dialogue on the decentralisation basket fund to focus on gender (providing technical assistance funds, always brought up in the basket fund meetings, etc.);
- dialogue on the EU budget support indicators, one of which is on gender equality;
- dialogue with civil society at national and sub-national levels.

Delegation to Cambodia

A Cambodian-based joint European Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 was agreed by 10 development partners which focuses European action on preventing violence against women, supporting nutrition for girls and women, equal access to education and TVET, equal access to decent work and productive resources and equal

participation in policy and governance processes. A gender audit of EU bilateral programmes was undertaken, which included:

- 1) public financial management (PFM)
- 2) sub-national democratic development (SNDD - decentralisation)
- 3) education
- 4) livestock and fisheries
- 5) trade
- 6) elections and
- 7) Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC).

This analysis was used to inform the programming of new interventions from 2017. The audit highlighted in its priority recommendation, that gender mainstreaming expertise should be strengthened within the Delegation and suggested three actions going forward: appointing a full-time gender expert, refresher training on basic gender concepts, and organising briefings with organisations that are active in gender mainstreaming.

The ROM missions undertaken in 2017 looked at the logframes of the projects and in some instances provided recommendations on improving the sex-disaggregation of data in the logframes. All new programmes formulated in 2017 tried to ensure, where possible, the use of sex-disaggregated data. The gender focal point took part in reviewing new programmes. The issue however remains the availability of data across all sectors. The Delegation also ensured that during the evaluation of projects under the CSO-LA call for proposals, the logframes were assessed on the use of sex-disaggregated data and in some instances, asked applicants to improve the logframes before the finalisation of the contract.

EU Delegation to Thailand

Gender related indicators are included in most logframes. A gender focal point has been appointed in both operational and political sections. A gender analysis baseline was finalised and will be updated regularly. Projects are encouraged to ensure that gender is not only mainstreamed but contain also gender specific activities. All new projects include sex-disaggregated data. Every year, the Delegation organises a kick-off meeting for new projects, where the GAP II is presented. The meeting also discusses what projects can do to support this plan and all projects are encouraged to report using gender disaggregated data at a minimum, mainstream gender as far as possible and include gender specific activities in their work plans.

EU Delegation to Laos

The negotiation of the financing agreement for the new **education budget support programme** brought specific attention to gender disparity in accessing lower secondary education. The policy dialogue brought the Ministry to agree, in principle, to review its Education Sector Development Plan in order to set specific targets, in narrowing the gap between girls and boys, in accessing lower secondary education, and to take specific measures that will need to be reported to the National Assembly.

On **Nutrition**, the EU Delegation raised the awareness of Government related to the direct causal link between improved gender equality and (young) women's education and nutrition outcomes, and on the need to focus on the high levels of adolescent pregnancies and maternal under-nutrition. Furthermore, gender equality is taking a prominent role in the three grants (€23 million) concluded in the call for proposals under the partnership for improved nutrition in Lao PDR.

In addition, at the end of 2017, during the celebration of Human Rights Day, under the theme, access to education, an initiative was organised to reward good practices of CSOs in human rights. The Head of Delegation rewarded the Autistic Centre for its good performance in providing education to disabled boys and girls, by opening a provincial autistic centre in the south of Laos.

EU Delegation to India and Bhutan

The cooperation section, has systematically given priority to gender as one of the cross cutting issues in all calls for proposals. Gender equality was systematically raised in interactions with CSOs on a regular basis at

the monthly EU human rights working group. The dialogue is also maintained on a regular basis with institutions such as the National Commission for Human Rights or the National Commission for Women. Also, when organising visits outside Delhi for EU political counsellors, gender issues are taken into account and raised with interlocutors.

For Bhutan, the GAP II minimum standards of performance are being met. The local governance sustainable development programme (LGSDP), the CSO support project with Helvetas and the EU Bhutan trade support project decided during 2017 to include gender mainstreaming as a significant objective in their actions. Although the EU Delegation justified gender marker 0 for rural development and the climate change programme, gender mainstreaming is being considered with the government.

The LGSDP has supported the creation of a local gender, environment, climate change, disaster and poverty MRG (Mainstreaming Reference Group) in all 20 Dzongkhags. The setting up of such MRGs is considered as a key step toward making local plans and programmes inclusive.

The Government has recently endorsed a gender-based budget planning strategy. The study of the Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting (GRPB) analysed three sectors, agriculture, health and education, and was carried out by the Ministry of Finance's Department of National Budget and UN Women, with the support of the Asia Development Bank. The Ministry of Finance, the National Commission for Women and Children, the Gross National Happiness Commission and the sectoral departments are working together to strengthen the implementation of GRPB.

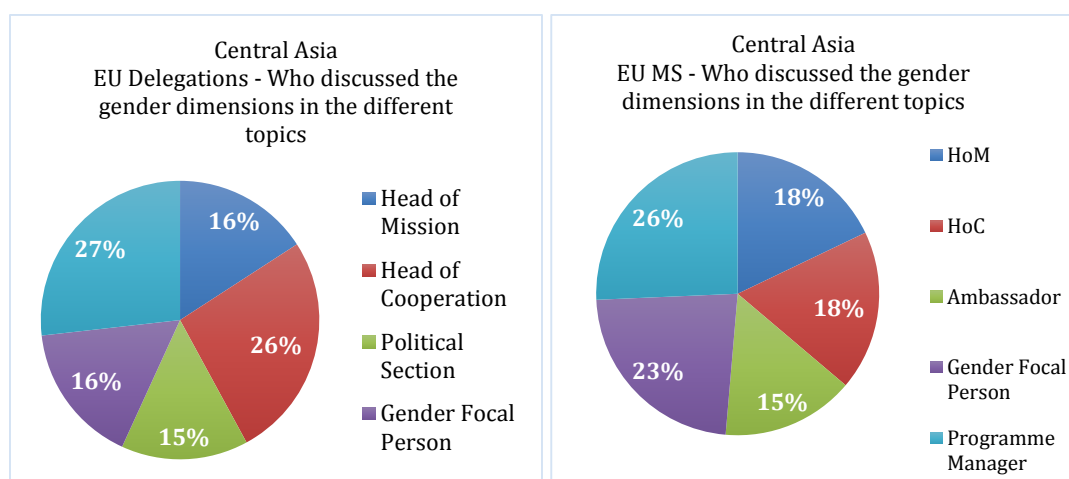
1.7. Central Asia

Four EU Delegations (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) and 3 Member States (Germany, Latvia and UK) active in the four countries in the Central Asia region reported on GAP II implementation. Azerbaijan was the only country to not submit a report.

Objective 1, Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States:

The EU Delegations and EU Member States discussed gender issues in a total of 55 political and policy dialogues. However, most dialogues took place under the framework of programmes with civil society, rather than as structured dialogues with institutions and the national government. As a notable exception, in Uzbekistan, gender issues were discussed in high-level meetings during the visits of Commissioner Neven Mimica, responsible for Commission services for International Cooperation and Development and its Director General, Stefano Manservigi.

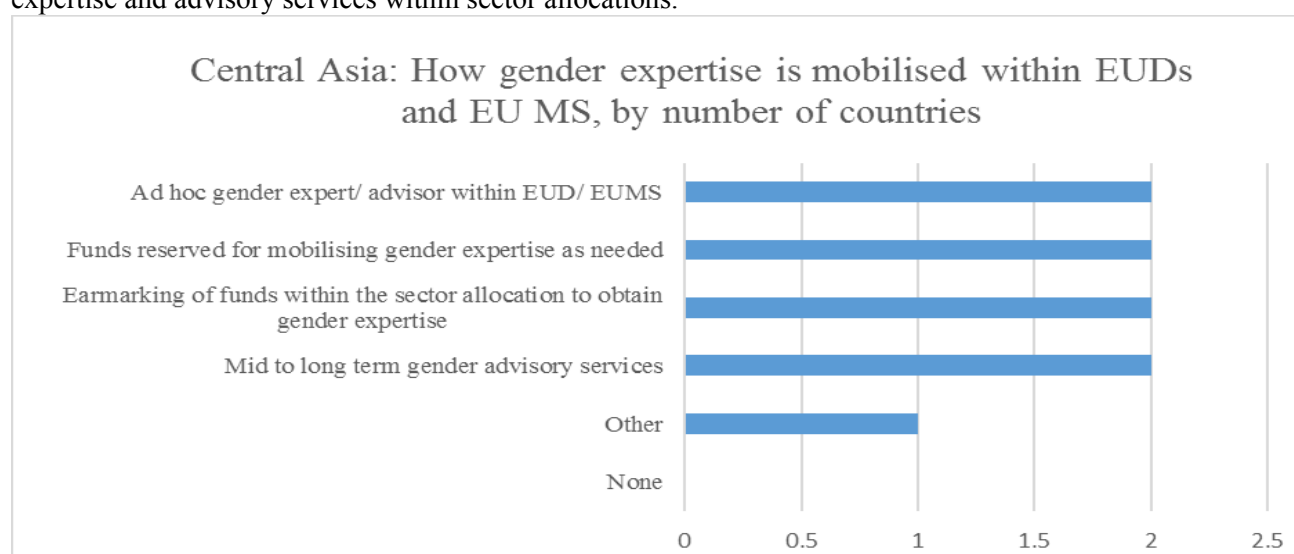
The reports demonstrate the continuous engagement of senior and middle management in gender equality issues. EU Delegations in the region discussed gender issues mostly in the field of human rights, VAWG, democracy, education, social protection and agriculture (with respectively, four occurrences each), followed by the rule of law, SRHR, health, poverty, decent work, and employment (with respectively three occurrences each). Sectors such as the environment, trafficking, migration, GRB, public finance management, water management and energy efficiency, having being discussed in two dialogues each. The sectors of security and conflict prevention, governance and accountability, public administration reform and trade only registered one dialogue each. The gender dimensions in transport, infrastructure and communication were not discussed at all. The Member States in the region were involved largely in policy and political dialogues in the field of VAWG (19 occurrences), education (14 occurrences), environment and climate change (9 occurrences) and democracy and human rights (5 occurrences).



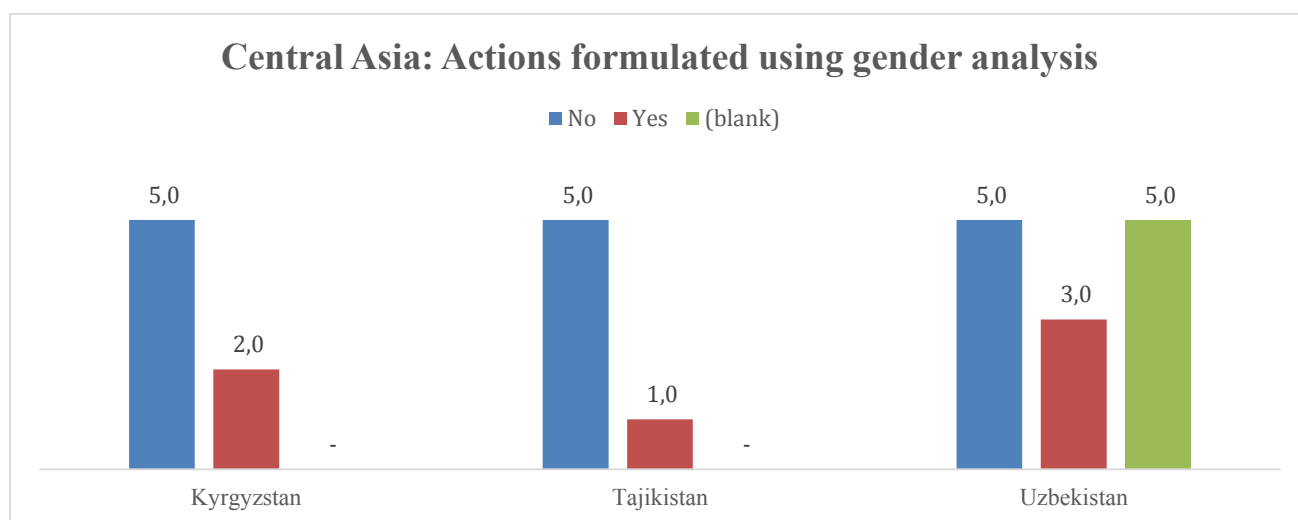
The EU delegation and EU Member States coordinated on GAP reporting in two countries, while no other burden sharing measures (GAP activity 1.4) were in place, such as a gender coordination mechanism.

Objective 2, Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl's and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States: Progress under this objective appears to have been less systematic. There were no gender champions appointed at EU level in the region and two EU Delegations appointed external senior expertise on strategic and specific gender issues through the human rights strategies and national gender coordination bodies. Three EU Delegations in the region reported a total number of 17 good practices, the majority of which were in Kazakhstan (10). Overall, these practices mostly referred to gender analysis and studies carried out during the reporting year, however also included meetings with parliamentarians. In addition, 35 corrective measures were taken to improve performance on gender equality, mainly consisting of meetings, publications and reports, and the revision of the log frame of on-going projects, to better include gender issues.

Objective 3, Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments: Two EU Delegations reported ad-hoc gender experts or advisors and the availability of mid- to long-term gender advisory services and funds being earmarked to mobilise gender expertise and advisory services within sector allocations.



Objective 4, Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy making: The EU Delegations to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan reported that only 7 out of 26 actions were formulated using gender analysis. As a result, gender indicators and the use of gender-disaggregated data were included in only two actions.



Objective 5, Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress: 54 monitoring missions took place during 2017 across the region and no specific details were given concerning specific recommendations on gender mainstreaming in on-going actions and how they were considered. In addition, seven out of the 26 actions reported for 2017 were formulated on the basis of consultations with NGEMs, CSOs and women's organisations.

Objective 6, Partnership fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality: Three EU Delegations in the region coordinated with international actors working locally for the gender coordination mechanism. On-going actions do not involve research, but five support actions involve NGEMs, and six incorporate awareness raising activities with the media on gender equality.

GAP II minimum standard of performance – EAMR assessment and self-assessment: On average, EU Delegations in the region score 3.5 in the five GAP minimum standards of performance in both EAMR assessment and self-assessment. The main weaknesses reported were in the use of sex-disaggregated data in the programming cycle and the availability of gender expertise.

Central Asia - GAP II minimum standards of performance			
Country EAMR	Country Self-Assessment	Average of EAMR	Average of Self-Assessment
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan	3	4
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan	4	3
Tajikistan	Tajikistan	3	4
Uzbekistan (Kazakhstan)	Uzbekistan	4	3
Total Average		3.5	3.5

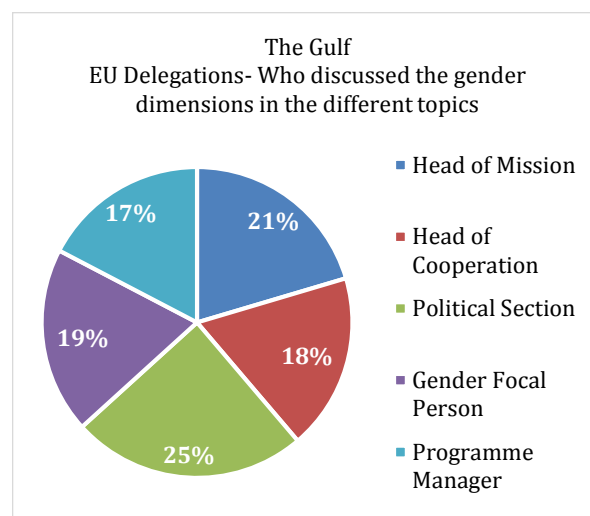
1.8. The Gulf States

Of the four EU Delegations in the region, the EU Delegation to Saudi Arabia and the EU Delegation to Yemen and Iraq, reported on GAP II implementation, together with seven Member States (Croatia, Ireland, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands and UK). The United Arab Emirates did not submit a GAP report. All

reporting countries are involved in armed conflicts, at different levels. In addition, Yemen and Iraq are highly fragile countries, with a Global Peace Index (2018)⁷ of 158 and 160, respectively.

Objective 1, Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States:

EU delegations and Member States discussed gender issues related to 23 topics, through eight policy and political dialogues. Both EU delegations and Member States engaged more on topics such as human rights, VAWG, poverty, education, rule of law, decent work, social protection, governance, health, migration, and trafficking (two occurrences each for delegations and Member States respectively). While EU delegations also focused on security and conflict prevention, WPS, public administration reform and trade. Issues related to democracy, agriculture, SRHR, public finance management, WASH, energy, transport, infrastructure and communications were the least discussed by EU delegations (1 occurrence each). Environment and climate change were the only topics in which gender dimensions were not discussed at all during the reporting year. At the EU delegation level, the reports show the good involvement of both senior and middle management.



The difficult security situation in the region, especially in Iraq and Yemen, did not allow EU delegations and Member States to coordinate burden sharing measures (GAP activity 1.4). In Yemen, the EU Delegation has just re-established relations with Member States.

In **Saudi Arabia**, the EU Delegation has engaged on a regular basis with human rights interlocutors such as the Human Rights Commission and the National Society for Human Rights as well as with the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other Ministries (Ministry of Labour and Social Development, General Sports Authority and the Small and Medium Enterprises Authority). It has also maintained regular contact with NGOs (i.e. Al Nahda Foundation, Baladi Initiative and the King Khalid Foundation) and women's rights activists.

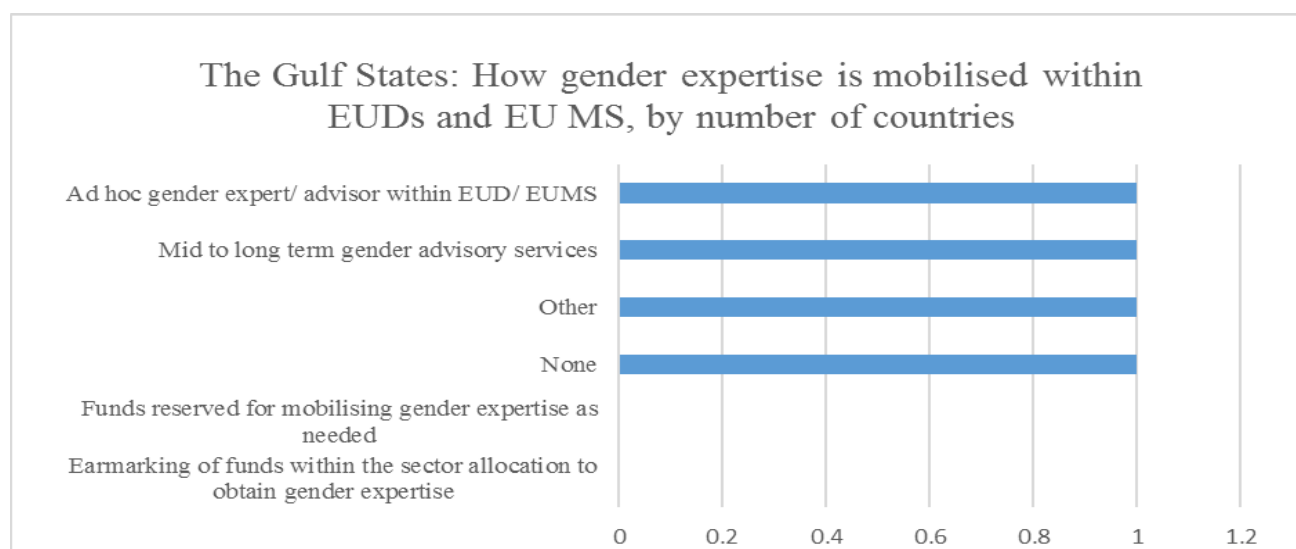
In the absence of a functional central government in **Yemen**, no policy or political dialogue is possible at governmental level. However, the EU Delegation largely engages with CSOs and women's rights' organisations, and with the Social Fund for Development (SFD), the only independent governmental organisation that functions throughout the country. While the Yemeni Women Pact for Peace and Security (Tawafaq), a women's platform supported by the UN, working for an end to war and violence in the country, building peace, improving living conditions, and strengthening women's participation, has also been engaged.

Objective 2, Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girl's and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States: In Iraq, contacts with Member States were established, and meetings on gender equality were planned during the reporting period. In Yemen, the UK appointed an FCO Special Envoy for Gender Equality, who visited Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in October 2017.

Objective 3, Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments: Two GFPs have been appointed at the EU Delegation for Iraq and Yemen, located in Amman, however, the GFPs have no previous experience on gender, reportedly. In Iraq, the GFP is

⁷ Full report available at <http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2018/06/Global-Peace-Index-2018-2.pdf>

liaising with the political section in Baghdad to develop a gender equality monitoring system and methodology in 2018 and for the EU's implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325. Despite no specific financial resources being dedicated to gender equality, a part of the EIDHR programme is devoted to gender projects that are based on ad hoc gender analysis and methodologies developed to support gender equality.



Objective 4, Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy making: The EU Delegation to Iraq and Yemen identified priority sectors and planned to join the UN Gender Country Profile for Iraq, which will propose recommendations on key gaps and emerging trends, and consequently identify focus areas. As for Yemen, a gender analysis will likely be carried out during 2018, together with the mapping of activities, which will also aim to identify measures for burden sharing on gender equality (GAP activity 1.4).

Objective 5, Results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress: Due to the security issues, no monitoring missions took place in the region. General comments were made for Iraq on the necessity to better mainstream gender in governance, accountability and transparency, and trafficking.

Objective 6, Partnership fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality: The EU Delegation to Yemen and Iraq coordinates with UN agencies in the two countries on gender equality.

GAP II minimum standard of performance – EAMR assessment and self-assessment: Only the EU Delegation to Yemen and Iraq responded to the self-assessment, declaring to have met three out of the five GAP minimum standards of performance with an average score of 1.5. The particular context in which the EU Delegations are operating requires the adoption of specific measures, including the presence of trained gender expertise and the availability of financial resources dedicated to gender equality, in order to fully adopt GAP II.

The Gulf - GAP II minimum standards of performance			
Country EAMR	Country Self-Assessment	Average of EAMR assessment	Average of Self-Assessment
Yemen	Yemen and Iraq	3	3
Total Average		3	3

1.9. EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

There was a positive increase across several indicators on the horizontal priority, **institutional cultural shift in EU external relations**, including the number of EU positions and policy dialogues, which included gender equality, corrective actions taken to improve performance on gender equality, the number of staff taking part in trainings on gender equality and the number of gender focal persons trained in gender equality issues.

The target for each unit at headquarters to have a gender focal point with specific assignments remains to be met. In addition, there has been no formal assignment of a gender champion at headquarter level.

Objective 1: Increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States:

At **headquarters**, 59 EU positions related to key international agendas, included a focus on gender equality and the rights of girls and women in 2017, this compares to only two in 2016. However, this number is subject to different interpretations. Such positions range from briefings for high-level meetings, to the attendance of senior management at events.

The support group for Ukraine (NEAR-SGUA) has consistently included gender equality as a focus point for a number of events on Ukraine. The EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, raised gender equality issues at a number of meetings, such as, the EU-Ukraine Association Council, the meeting with the Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament. Points on gender, like the call to ratify the Istanbul Convention, were also included in the EU leaders' briefing for the EU-Ukraine Summit. Furthermore, in 2017 NEAR-SGUA, together with DG ECHO (in charge of humanitarian assistance) the European External Action Service and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments adopted a gender-mainstreamed Joint Humanitarian-Development Framework for Ukraine 2017-2020.

Objective 2, Dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States: At **headquarters**, the practice of selecting gender champions has not been systematic. In 2017, no new assignments were made. Having said that, the report shows that some heads of unit have promoted gender equality in programming and in public events, even if they are not nominated as gender champions. In the same context, no rewards were given to management or programme staff for the delivery of results on gender equality.

Objective 3, Sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitment: At **headquarters**, 35 staff took part in trainings on gender equality. Out of these, eight were gender focal points, a slight decrease from nine that were trained in 2016. These trainings involved a wide variety of topics, from gender mainstreaming to women, peace and security.

In addition, trainings on gender equality and the rights-based approach was conducted in the EU Delegations to Algeria, Morocco, Turkey and Ukraine and 15 training sessions on managing for results, that linked planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Regarding the number of staff that have a job description that contains gender equality as an area of responsibility, 6 persons reported positively. Out of them, two are gender experts, who work full time on gender equality, one is a seconded national expert, who covers the Eastern Partnership countries and the other is a contract agent and a policy assistant on gender equality covering the Western Balkans and Turkey and in addition coordinator on gender equality issues at the HEADQUARTERS. Out of the remaining four, one is the gender focal point for the Southern Neighbourhood countries

Gender equality is included in the performance assessment and in their job descriptions of five persons that reported that gender is included in their job description, in addition to another staff that did not have gender in their job description. There is a need to institutionalise the role of the gender focal points nominated in each unit. They should have specific tasks related to gender equality assigned in the job description and gender

equality should be considered in their performance assessment. These persons would automatically become members of the gender working group at Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations for coordination purposes.

Most of the units have reported measures taken to mobilise high quality gender expertise to meet the needs of programming, planning and implementation.

Objective 4, Robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making:

At **headquarters**, two internal methodological review processes were carried out with a focus on reinforcing gender equality mainstreaming:

- Quality review meetings to give specific attention to the gender analysis to inform programming and mainstream gender. Most of the EU Delegations in the region have a country gender analysis. This is a critical starting point for gender mainstreaming and can support the equitable participation of women and men in development processes and programmes. It is important to assess how and why gender differences and inequalities are relevant to the specific programme.
- Revision of action document templates, instruments and updates of checklists in order to have adequate tools that can facilitate gender mainstreaming and stand-alone programmes on gender equality. The mid-term reviews of the ENI and IPA II instruments acknowledged the emphasis put on gender equality and provided information on the progress and weaknesses to be addressed (e.g. lack of adequate capacity to mainstream gender).

The gender analysis includes information on sex-disaggregated data and highlights the differences between and among women, men, girls and boys in terms of their relative distribution of resources, opportunities, constraints and power in a given context. Some of the respondents of the survey pointed out that there is a lack of sex-disaggregated data in many countries in the regions. In addition to this challenge, when data is available, it is not used to inform programming systematically. The Commission services started the development of a guidance note on how to mainstream gender.

Out of seven strategic evaluations performed, four included a specific question in the TORs under the evaluation criteria impact linked to the assessment of cross cutting issues (including gender) and only two requested specific expertise on “gender mainstreaming” to be ensured by the team of experts. In one case where the TORs did not include specific questions on gender mainstreaming in the TORs, the inception report did include a judgment criteria and a specific indicator, which concerned the assessment of cross cutting issues, including gender.

Finally, regarding the Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM), a total of 253 reports were produced in 2017. Gender equality is included in the monitoring system in place with the aim to inform the programming.

Good practice: Inclusion of senior expertise in the C directorate units’ work

The gender advisor for C1 and C2 participate in the identification missions for the multi-annual programmes in the eastern Partnership countries (except Ukraine⁸). The provision of advice and support is given before the design of the programme. The gender advisor also follows the formulation of the programmes presented in the quality review processes in order to make sure that gender is mainstreamed in the programme cycle. In 2016, C3 adopted the TAIEX gender equality roadmap, to implement GAP II. One of the measures of the roadmap was the establishment of a C3 internal gender equality working group, tasked with making concrete suggestions as to the implementation of the GAP. As a result, a number of actions were taken, such as amending the internal Manual of Procedure and other working documents, so they include gender, increase the number of women experts in TAIEX programming, etc.

⁸ The Support Group for Ukraine has a GFP in HEADQUARTERS; there are also two GFPs in the EU Delegation to Ukraine, one of whom is also part of SGUA staff based in Kyiv.

ANNEX 3 PROGRESS ON GAP THEMATIC OBJECTIVES BY REGION (EU Delegations and Member States in partner countries)

Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of Commission services' and the European External Action Service's actions that contribute to GAP II thematic priorities and objectives. It draws on the second reporting template submitted by EU delegations and incorporating actions by Member States in partner countries, Commission services and the European External Action Service and Member States. Following this introduction, the chapter is organised under the headings of the three GAP II thematic priorities (B, C, D). Each priority thematic section starts with global actions and then actions per geographical region (Africa East and Southern and Indian Ocean, Africa West and Central, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Pacific, Central Asia, The Gulf States, and Enlargement, Neighbourhood South and East).

Africa East and Southern and Indian Ocean

South East Africa and the Indian Ocean region reported a total of 611 programmes contributing to GAP II. The Delegations to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to Zambia reported 63 and 62 actions respectively, followed by Ethiopia, with 57 actions, Sudan, 52 actions, and Uganda, with 52 actions. South Africa and Tanzania implemented 49 and 46 programmes respectively. Madagascar reported 38 actions, and South Sudan registered 34 programmes. Both Mozambique and Somalia included 21 actions supporting GAP II targets, whereas Zimbabwe and Malawi reported 24 and 19 respectively. Kenya, Namibia, and Botswana reported 16, 15 and 14 programmes. The EU Delegations with the lowest number of programmes aligned with GAP II objectives were Eritrea, and Mauritius and Seychelles, with 9 and 8 programmes respectively.

There were 240 programmes in the region that contributed to thematic priority B, physical and psychological integrity, 310 programmes were reported to contribute to priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, and 134 programmes contributed to priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation. The highest scoring priority in 2017 is therefore thematic priority C, while thematic priority B was highest in the 2016 reporting exercise.

When comparing results between 2016 and 2017 GAP II report results, the progress is evident. The significant increase shown in all objectives chosen in 2017 would appear to indicate: a better knowledge of GAP II reporting process, changes in the reporting template which made it more accessible and user-friendly, and that the EU delegations possess higher awareness and familiarity with the GAP II objectives and policy.

The majority of reported programmes are targeted actions, tackling a specific GEWE aspect. However, some actions in Botswana and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia all have examples of programmes that are devoted to advance women's empowerment in political life and processes, civil education, and young women's involvement in politics, which aim to contribute to transform gender dynamics by increasing women's political participation.

In addition, the Delegation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported on several programmes with a wide scope of action, combining several objectives and different priorities, aimed at advancing gender equality in the country from across different spheres. For example, under the programme *initiative de lutte contre la violence basée sur le genre en RDC* (initiative for combatting gender based violence in the DRC), seeks to advance progress under objectives 7, 13, 15 and 19. The range of indicators also show that the action not only measures the percentage of women and girls who have experienced sexual violence (7.1) but also the number of referred cases that have been investigated and sentenced (7.3), how this experience might have affected their education (indicator 13.1), and the number of communities which have formally abandoned discriminatory practices against women and girls (19.4).

Another action that focuses on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 also addresses women's rights under priorities C and D (objectives 15 and 17), and measure women's representation in political life and national parliaments, and their roles as mediators and negotiators, as well as technical experts in formal peace negotiations. *Appui aux droits des femmes dans le cadre de la Résolution 1325 mis en oeuvre par ONU Femme* (support to the rights of women in the framework of Resolution 1325 implemented by UN Women).

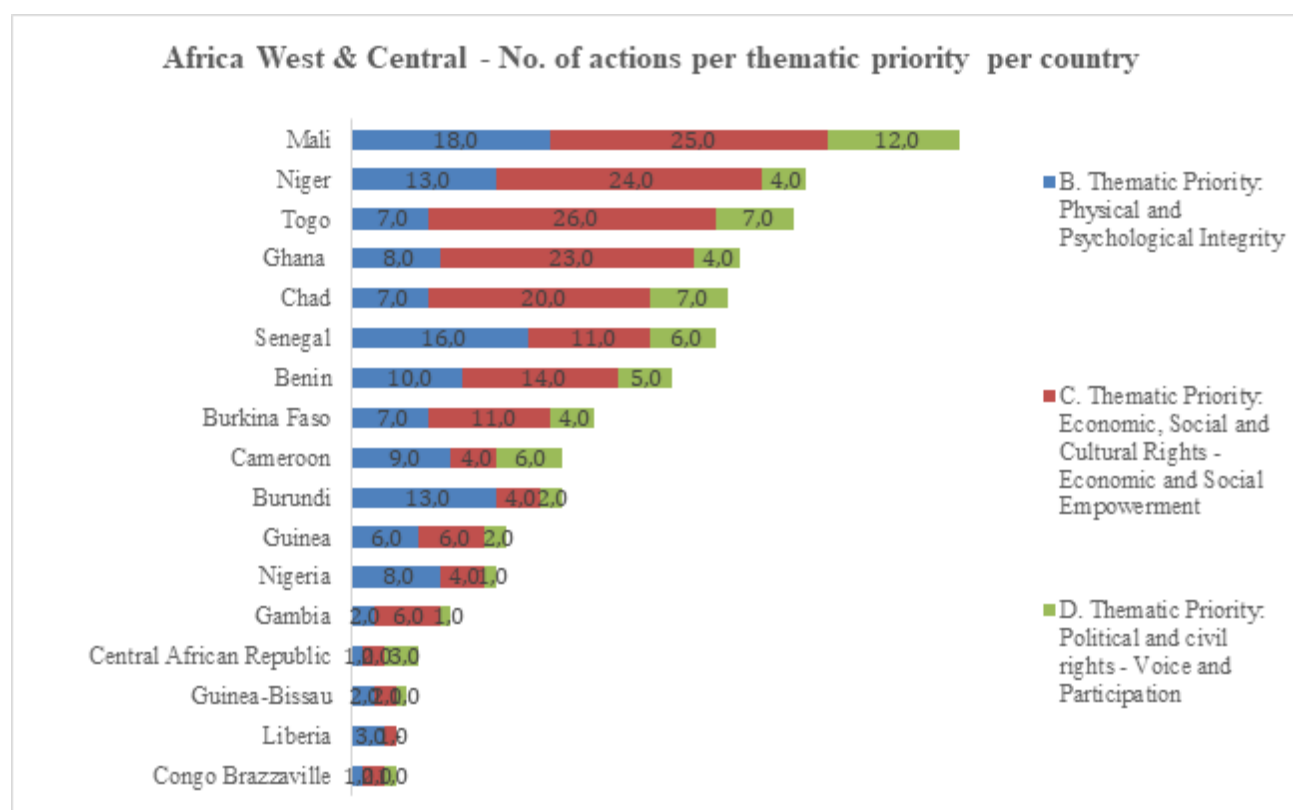
Actions that have a health rights focus contribute to several objectives at the same time (10, 11 and 12) as they address multiple aspects of women's and children's well-being, as well as women's access to services, sex education and contraception. This holistic approach would be expected to have a positive impact on both, women's knowledge and control over their bodies, their right to family planning, and their right to life, as well as contributing to the overall society and community. Actions specifically targeting men and the growth of positive masculinities in the region, though scarce, can have a transformative impact, with men becoming participants and key actors in advancing gender equality as a collective social goal (***PROMUNDO Positive Masculinities***).

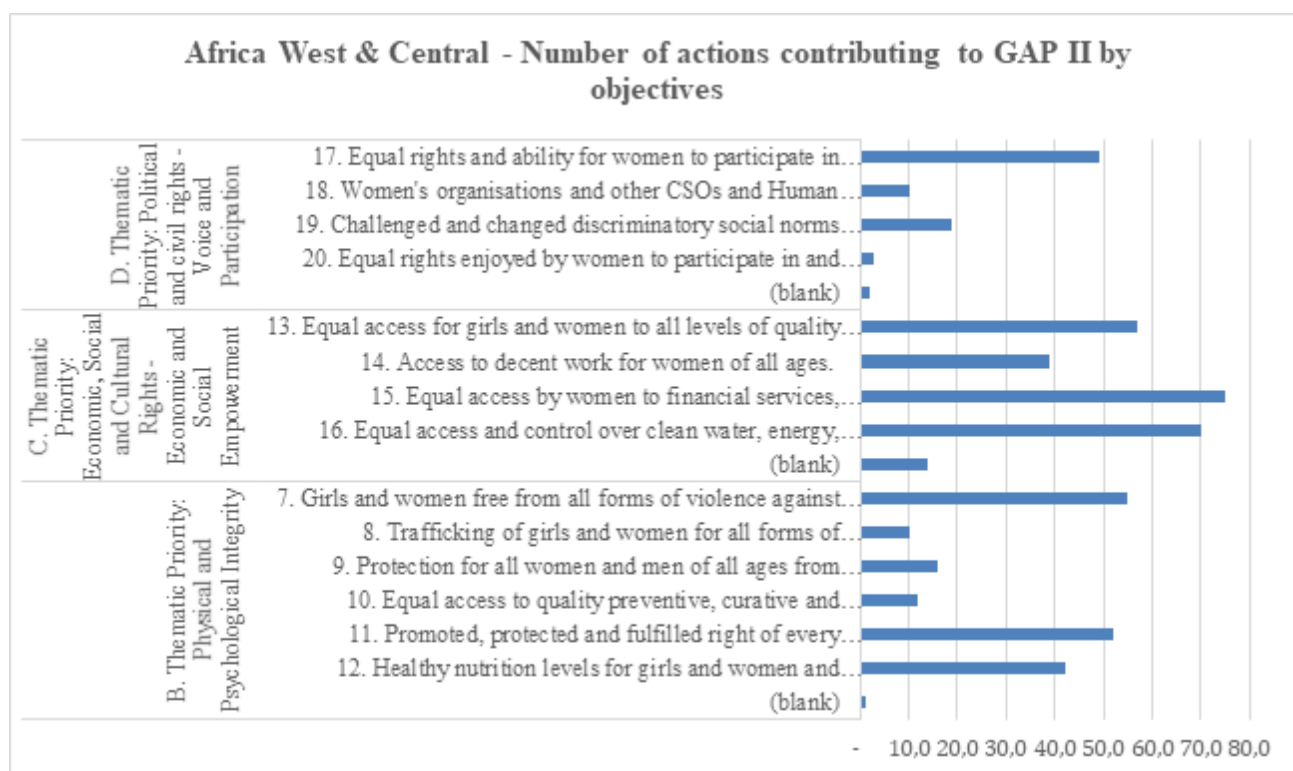
Compared to the selection of GAP objectives in 2016, the number of actions reported in 2017 doubled across **Latin America and the Caribbean**. Objective 9 on protection in crisis situations, having not even been selected in 2016, was adopted. As shown in figure 1, objective 7 remained the most selected, while noticeable trends saw greater attention towards women's access to financial services and productive resources (objective 15) and ensuring the protection of the law and the ability of women's organisations, CSOs and human rights defenders to carry out their work (objective 18). The region continues to face gender inequalities based on social norms and stereotypes that are increasingly being taken into consideration in EU actors' support (objective 19). Also, issues such as trafficking (objective 8), that still represent a threat in many countries in the region, and decision-making on climate change and environmental issues, have been targeted more often.

Africa West and Central

22 EU Delegations from the **West and Central Africa** region submitted a report (only Cabo Verde did not) jointly with 12 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom). In the countries of West and Central Africa, EU actors have consistently included gender equality and women's empowerment in their policy and political dialogue with their partner country counterparts. All of the GAP objectives have been raised to one extent or another in the region overall, through 399 reported actions (compared to 211 from 2016).

The objectives that were selected most frequently across the countries in the region were: objective 7 (girls and women free from all forms of violence), objective 15 (financial services etc.), objective 16 (access and control over clean water, energy, etc.), objective 17 (policy and governance processes). The objectives that received least attention in 2017 were objective 15 (financial services), objective 16 (access and control over clean water, energy, etc.), objective 13 (education and training) and objective 7 (girls and women free from all forms of violence.) The highest reported increase as compared to 2016 was for objective 12 (healthy nutrition levels) and objective 8 (trafficking for exploitation).



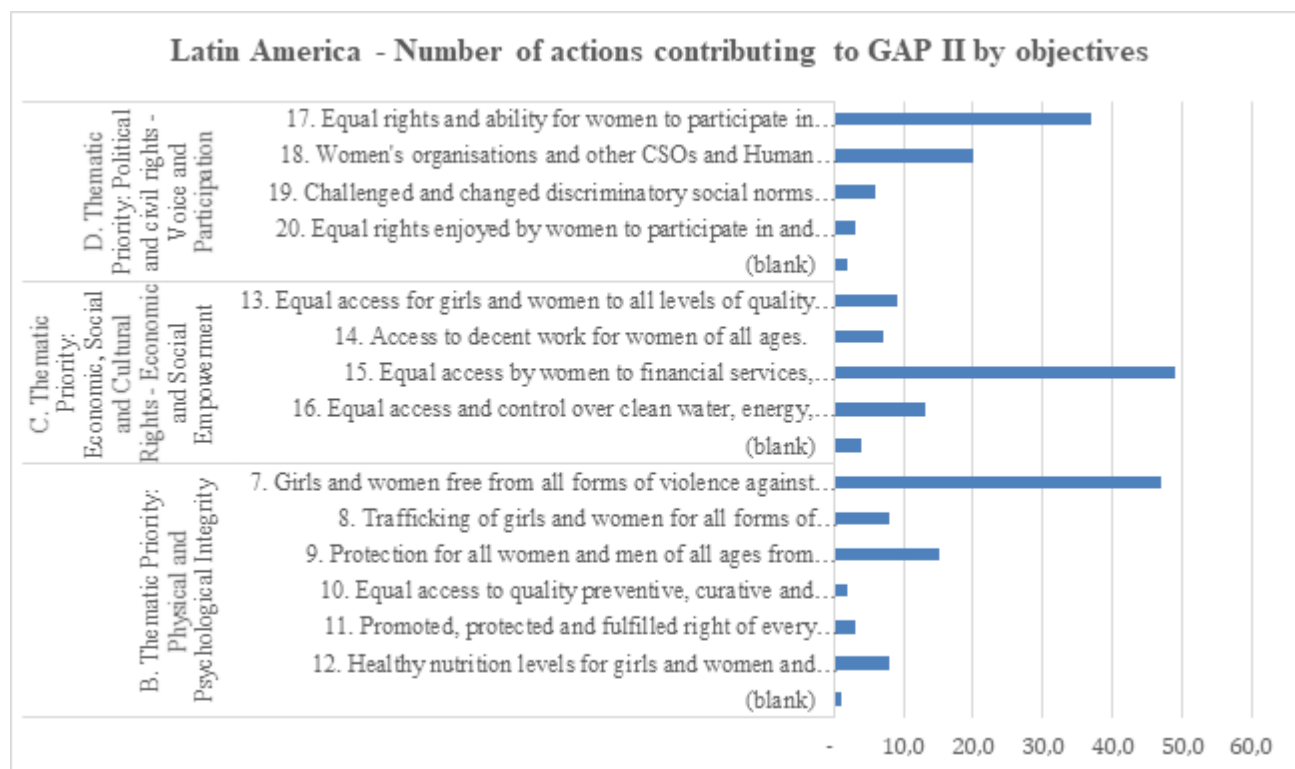
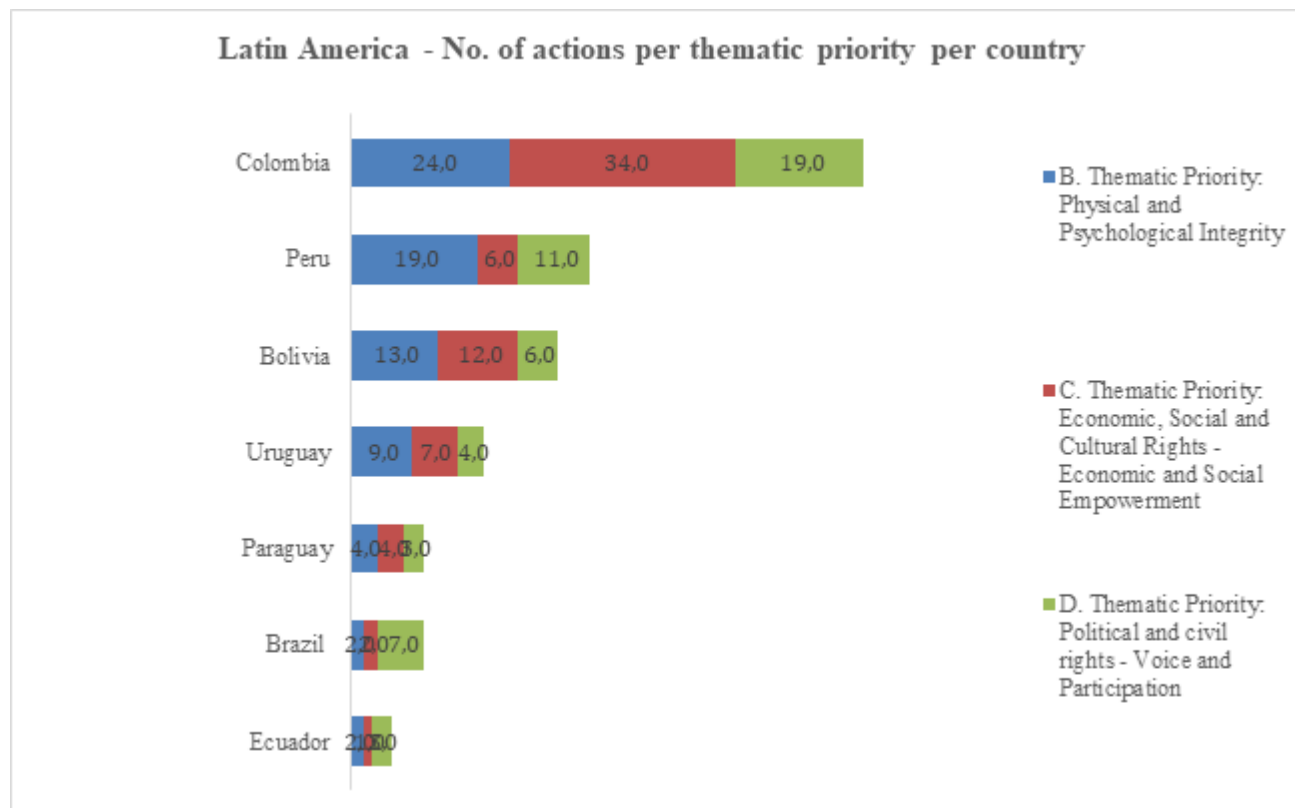


Latin America



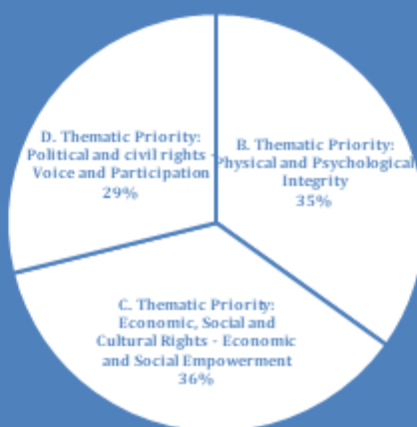
In the Latin American sub-region, the 2017 report action database template was sent to nine EU Delegations. Seven of which, including, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay reported carrying out 148 actions, while six Member States, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden reported carrying out 23 actions. In all countries, EU Delegations were able to ensure that their portfolio

contributed to all three thematic priorities. Colombia accounted for the largest number of actions contributing to GAP II priorities, clearly demonstrating a positive impact on the gender technical procedure adopted by the Delegation.



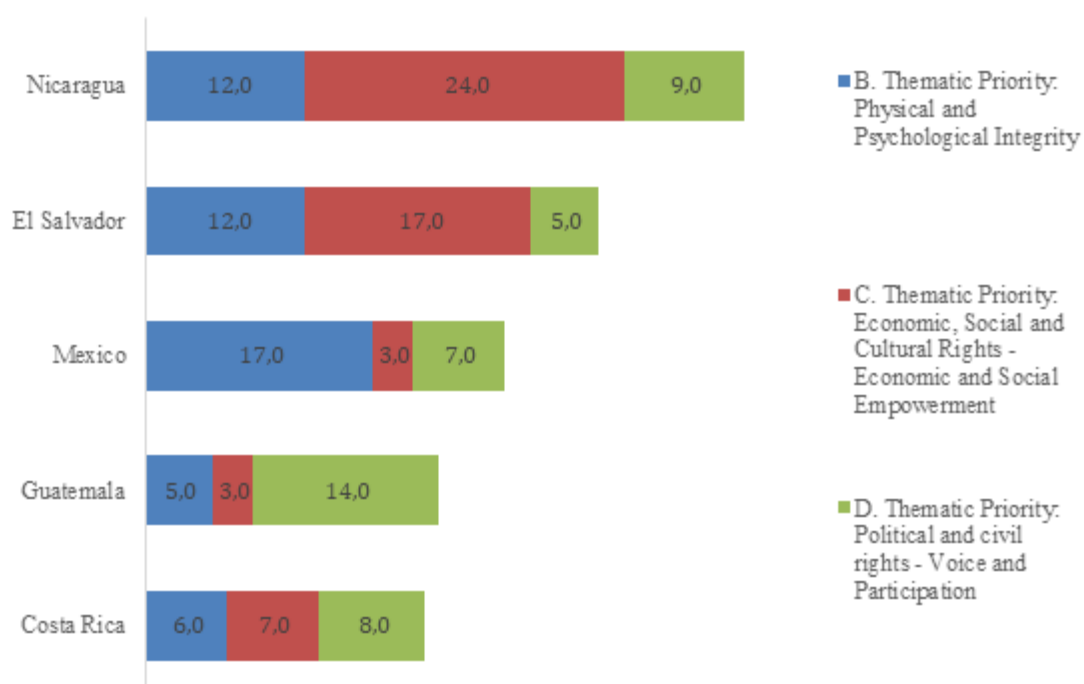
Central America

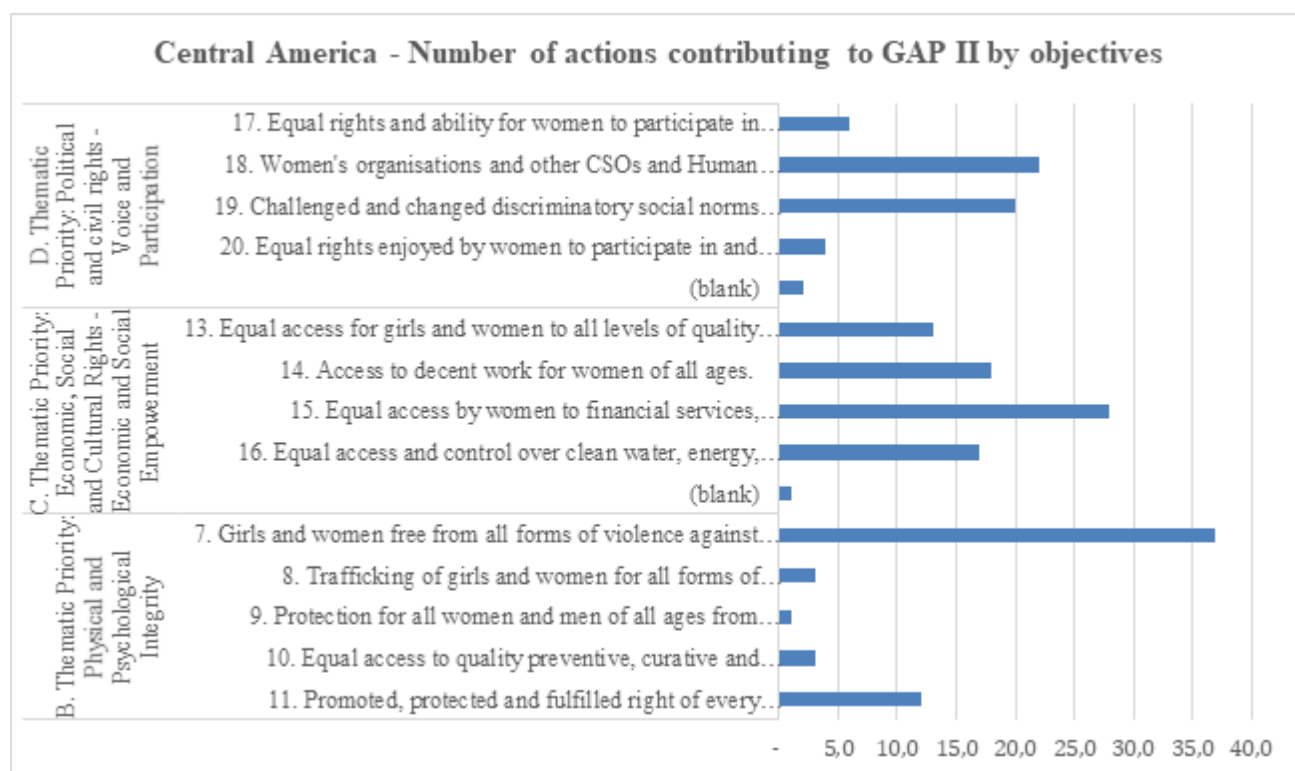
CENTRAL AMERICA: PROGRAMMES BY PRIORITY



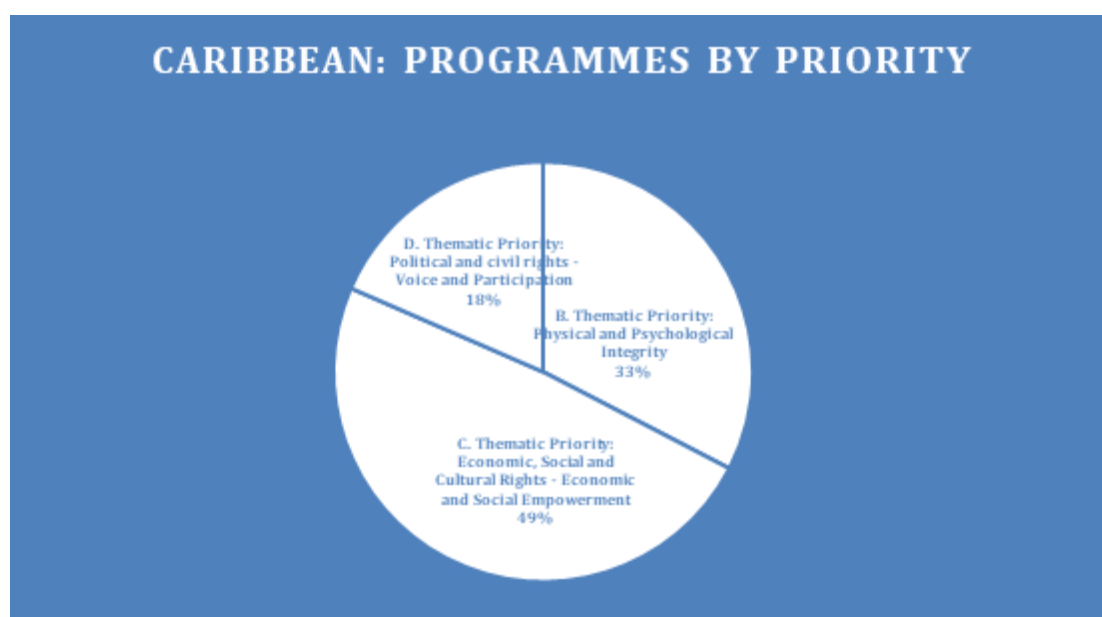
In **Central America**, five EU Delegations, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua, and three Member States, France, Spain, and UK, contributed to GAP thematic priorities and related objectives through 140 actions. Priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, was the most selected, comprising 36 % of actions. The EU Delegations to Mexico, Nicaragua and El Salvador reported the highest number of actions under this priority. Priority B, physical and psychological integrity, scored a close second at 35 %, with the EU Delegation to Nicaragua reporting the highest number of actions followed by El Salvador. Priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation was the less selected area at 29 %, mostly accounted for by the EU Delegation to Guatemala. All reporting EU Delegations selected at least one objective per priority.

Central America - No. of actions per thematic priority per country





The Caribbean

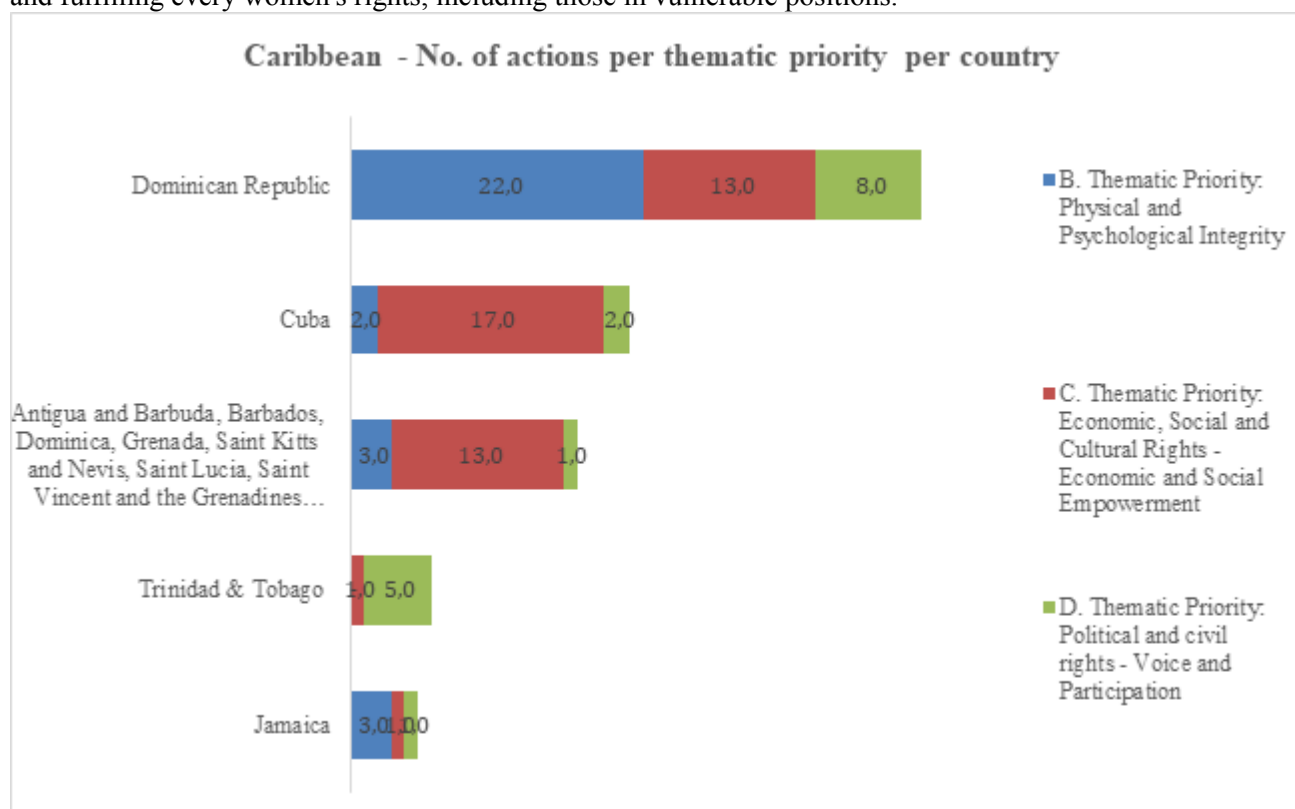


The EU Delegations in the **Caribbean** region reported a total of 92 programmes that contributed to advancing GAP II objectives. The EU Delegation to the Dominican Republic and the EU Delegation to Cuba reported 43

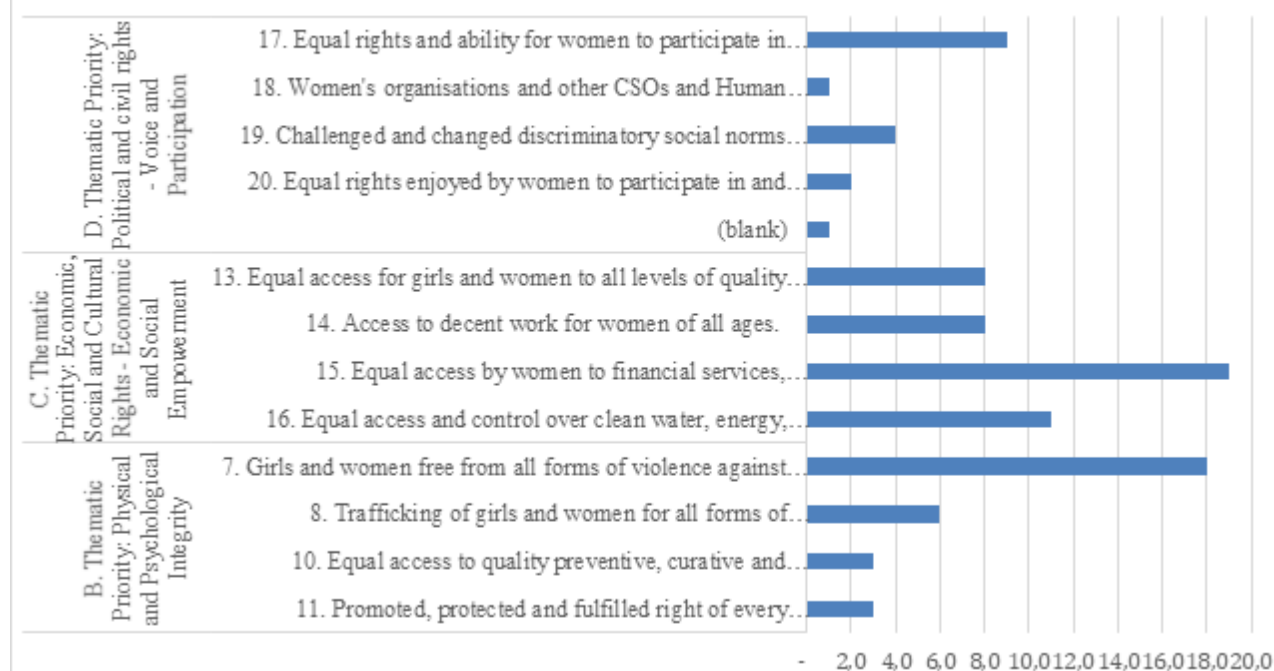
and 21 actions respectively, which was followed by EU Delegation to Barbados with 17 actions. The other EU Delegations in the region, that is, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago reported significantly lower number, with five and six actions respectively.

Women's socio-economic empowerment, under thematic priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment was the focus of 45 actions, 30 actions contributed to thematic priority B, physical and psychological integrity, and 17 on thematic priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation. The EU Delegation to Barbados and the EU Delegation to Cuba reported the highest number of projects under thematic priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, while the Delegation to the Dominican Republic reported 22 actions under thematic priority B, physical and psychological integrity. The Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago reported five actions under thematic priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation.

The majority of actions were targeted interventions, with only a few examples using unusual indicators in the region, for example, tracking the number of countries carrying out gender-responsive budgeting at local and national level with EU support (17.7), and changing discriminatory beliefs and attitudes towards women and girls, as well as discriminatory practices (19.4). Among the latter, actions in Cuba and Dominican Republic specifically targeted lesbian women and *Afro-Dominicans*, ensuring their voices, participation, representation and rights in the labour market and wider society. These actions stand out as having gender transformative potential. Targeting these groups of women at risk of social exclusion, who are generally the target of discriminatory, homophobic and racist attitudes, is key for making the collective project of advancing gender equality an inclusive one, sensitive and alert to multiple inequalities, and committed to respecting, protecting and fulfilling every women's rights, including those in vulnerable positions.



Caribbean - Number of actions contributing to GAP II by objectives



Asia and Pacific



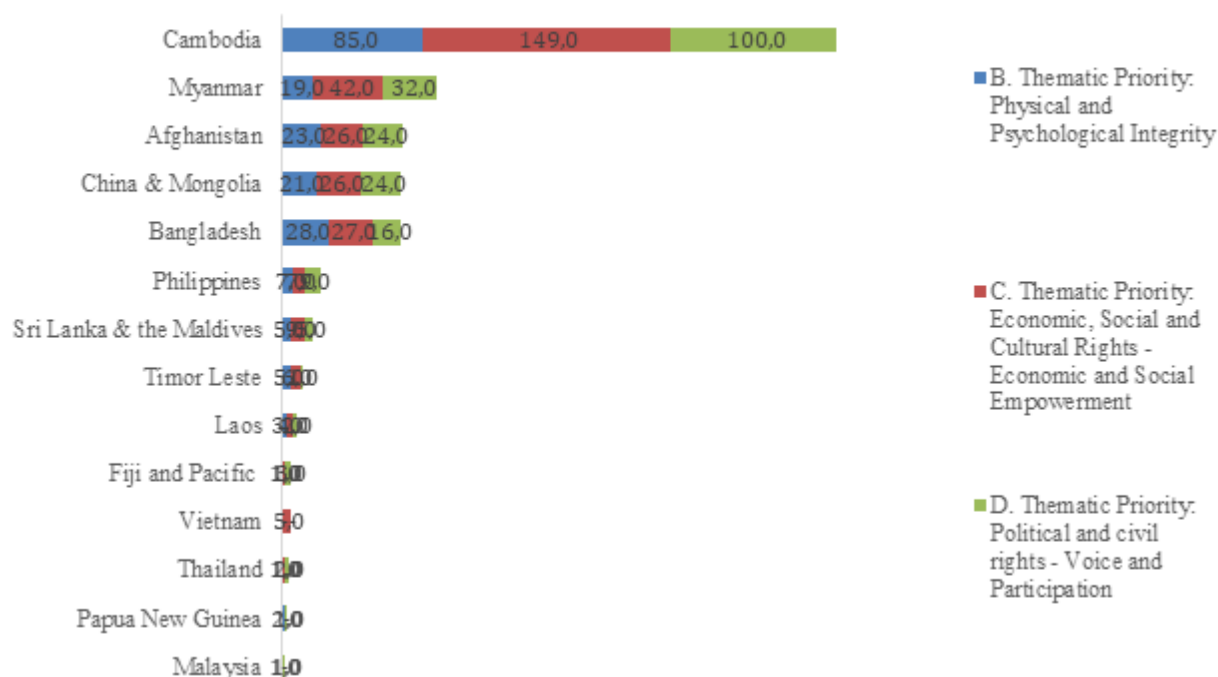
Fourteen EU Delegations (from a total of 27) representing 16 countries and one region in **Asia and the Pacific (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China and Mongolia, Fiji and Pacific, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam)** and 13 EU Member States (**Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom**) reported on the implementation of the GAP thematic priorities, indicating 681 actions in total.

Priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, comprised of 42 % of the total number and represented the highest number, this was followed by priority B, physical and psychological integrity, with 28 % of action and D comprised of 30 % of the total actions. To compare with the previous year, priority B was selected most in 2016.

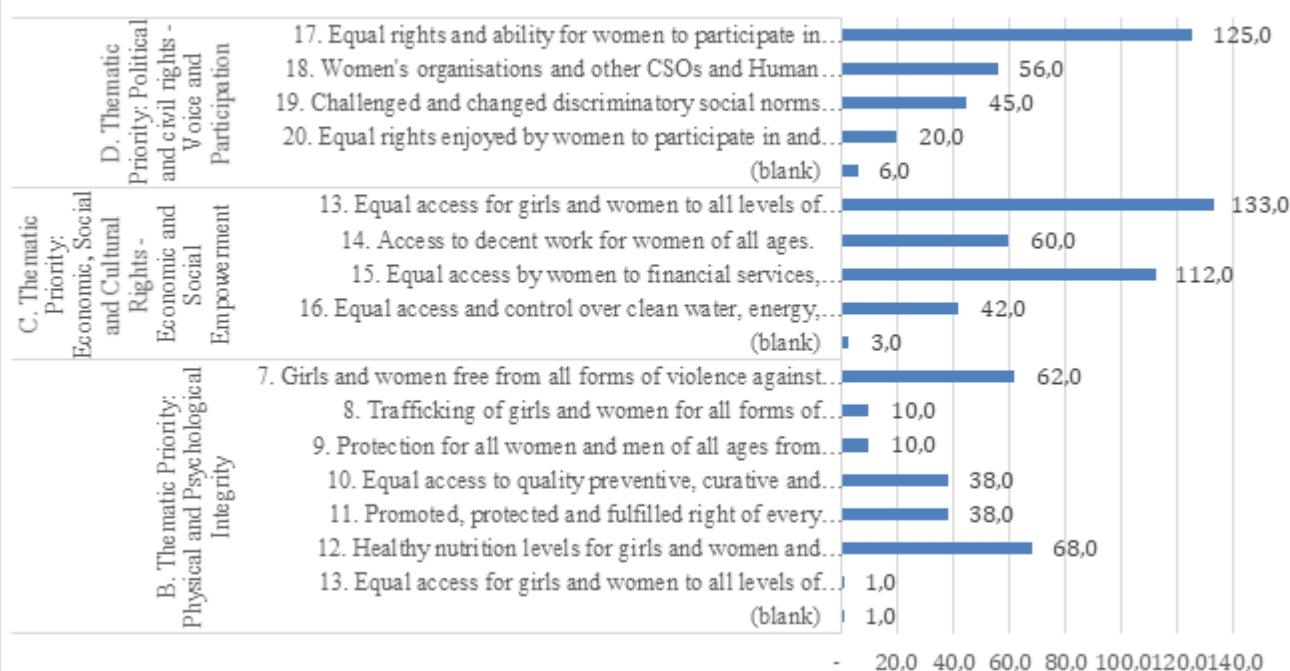
Moreover, compared with 2016, the progress recorded in the implementation of GAP II is considerable. This is due to a big increase in the number of reported actions that contribute to the GAP objectives (84 in 2016, compared with 770 in 2017, 44 % of which was reported by Cambodia alone). The increase is observed for all objectives, to varying degrees.

Women's empowerment in the political sphere (objective 17), access to quality education and training (objective 13) and financial services (objective 15) were the top priorities for the region. Freedom from violence (objective 7) appears an important objective particularly – but not exclusively - in crisis countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka), while objective 9, protection for all women and men of all ages from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations and 8, trafficking of girls and women for all forms of exploitation eliminated, remain the least selected.

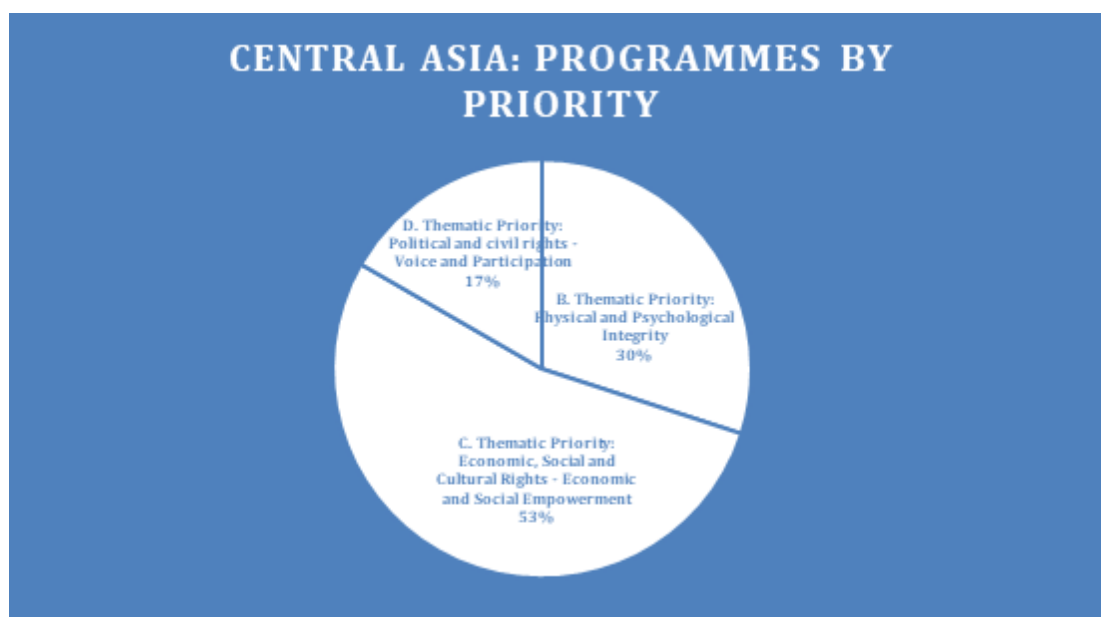
Asia & Pacific - No. of actions per thematic priority per country



Asia & Pacific - Number of actions contributing to GAP II by objectives



Central Asia



In the **Central Asia** region, three EU Delegations (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) and one Member State (France) reported on the implementation of the GAP II Thematic Priorities, through 28 actions. There was a higher occurrence of priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, which was selected by all delegation and comprised 53 % of the total reported actions, this was followed by priority B, physical and psychological integrity, covering 30 % of total actions and most by the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan. Priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation, featured in 17 % of actions, however, all of these actions were carried out by the EU Delegation to Kyrgyzstan.

Overall, sharp progress has been made in the implementation of GAP II compared to 2016 in the Central Asia region thanks to the 50 % increase in the number of total actions contributing to GAP II objectives (5 in 2016, compared to 10 in 2017). Only the EU Delegations in Kyrgyzstan selected at least one objective per priority. There was a high preference for objective 13, equal access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training (VET) free from discrimination, while several shortcomings remain in the sphere of political and civil rights (objective 18, number of women Human Rights Defenders who have received EU support (EURF) and objective 20, equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues. Furthermore, there was a small decrease in the sphere of physical and psychological integrity (objective 9) which was not targeted in 2017.

In the **Gulf States**, only the Delegation for Yemen and Iraq, relocated in Amman, reported on GAP II thematic priorities, indicating five contributory programmes, three for priority B, physical and psychological integrity, and one each for priorities C and D. The reported programmes are only implemented by the Delegation, as after three years of evacuation, contacts with the Member States active in the region and planning in the countries have just recently been re-established.

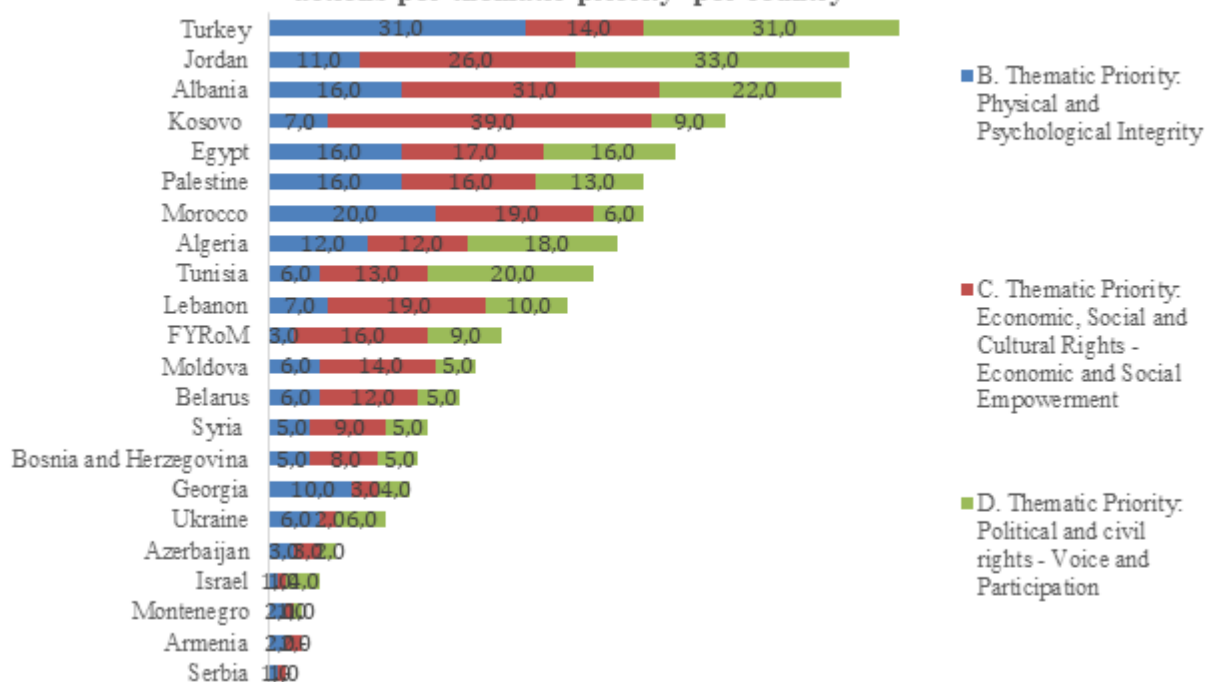
EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations



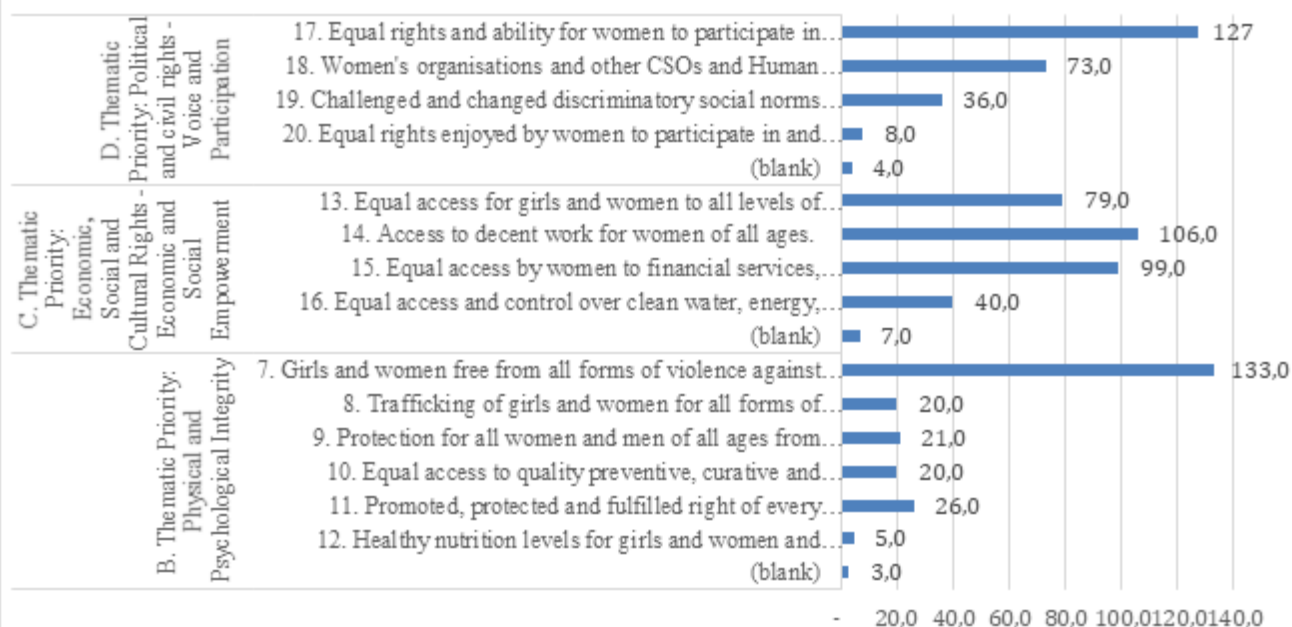
22 Delegations (Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Serbia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine) and 15 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, and the UK) reported on the three GAP thematic priorities in the EU Neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations region through a total of 665 actions. The region comprises several countries that are enduring dire conflicts or are in a state of frozen conflicts. Their Global Peace Index are amongst the lowest in the world⁹, making the work of EU actors extremely difficult and challenging.

⁹ Global Peace Index rank over 163 countries in the world: Egypt (142), Lebanon (147), Libya (157), Syria (163), Ukraine (152), Palestine (141). Full report available at <http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2018/06/Global-Peace-Index-2018-2.pdf>

EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations - No. of actions per thematic priority per country



EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations - Number of actions contributing to GAP II by objectives



In 2017, there were many more actions that aligned to a greater extent to the GAP II thematic priorities and objectives. Overall, priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment was the most selected, at 40 %, followed by priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation, accounting for 32 % of actions and priority B comprising 28 %. This is due to a higher concentration of actions on policy and governance, access to decent work, access to financial services, and education and

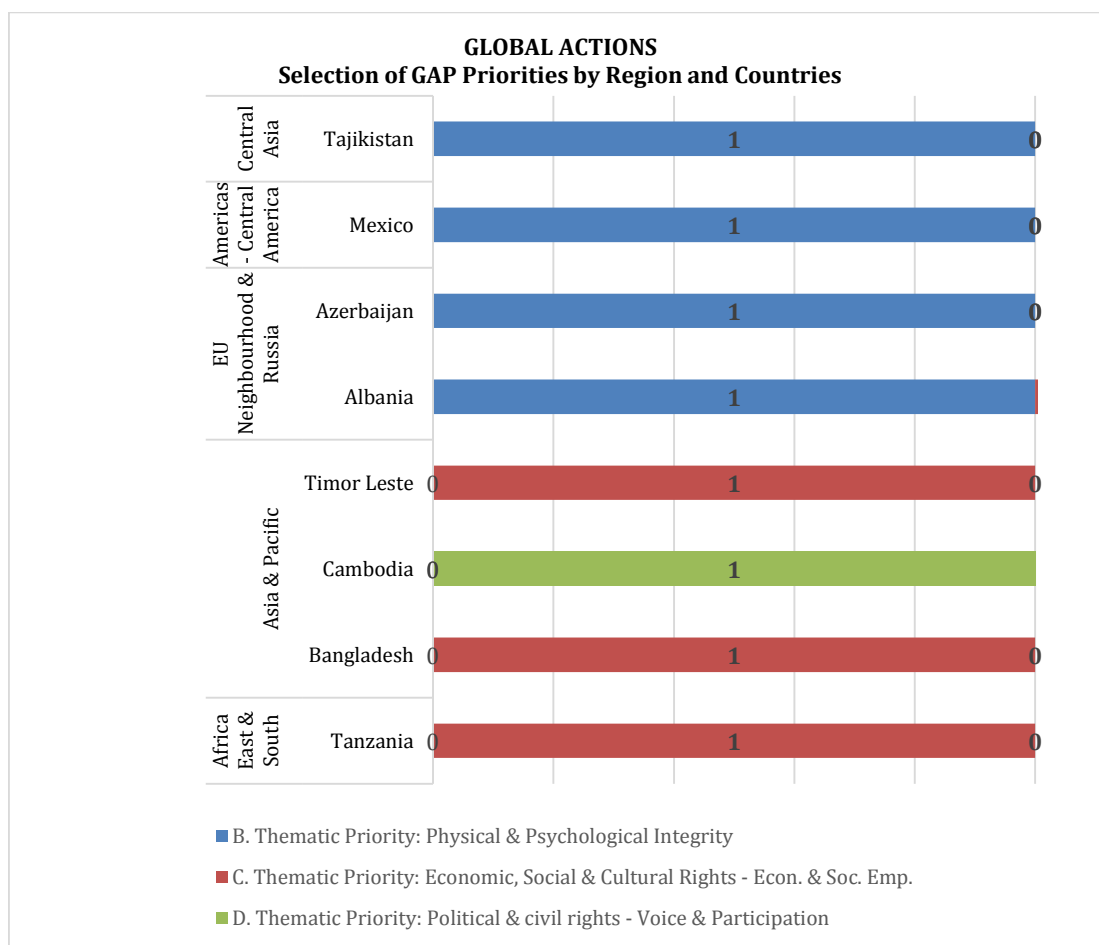
training which reflects among other things, the needs of countries in transition democracies, low women's employment rate and difficult access to finance for women due to socio-cultural obstacles.

Priority B "Physical and Psychological Integrity" scores last notwithstanding the high number of actions to combat VAWG by almost the totality of the EU Delegations and MS in the region. Limited number of actions in areas such as SRHR.

Compared to 2016, data show a consistent increase of all GAP Thematic Objectives' selection across the region, including Objectives 11 and 12 that were not chosen last year, allowing to capture some meaningful trends. For example, Objective 7 (girls and women free from violence) is the most selected by the 24 EU Delegations and MS, (same as last year); and in addition greater attention has been given to women's access to and control over clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure (Objective 16); women's access to decent work (Objective 14), and to financial services and productive resources (Objective 15); on women's to participation in policy and governance processes (Objective 17), and on challenging discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes (Objective 19). However, sexual and reproductive health and rights (Objective 10 and 11) received scarce attention also in 2017, despite the prevalence of harmful practices and, women's lack control over their own sexual and reproductive health in a number of countries in the region. Regarding Objective 9 on women's and girls' protection in situation of crisis, this year it was chosen by more EU Delegations (9) in comparison to 2016 (only 2). While objective 20 on decision-making in climate change and environment is insufficiently targeted.

Global actions– across all priority areas

Eight EU Delegations across five regions are implementing eleven global actions that contribute to GAP II, equally targeting GAP II priorities B and C, with 44.5 %, and priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, comprising 11 % of actions.

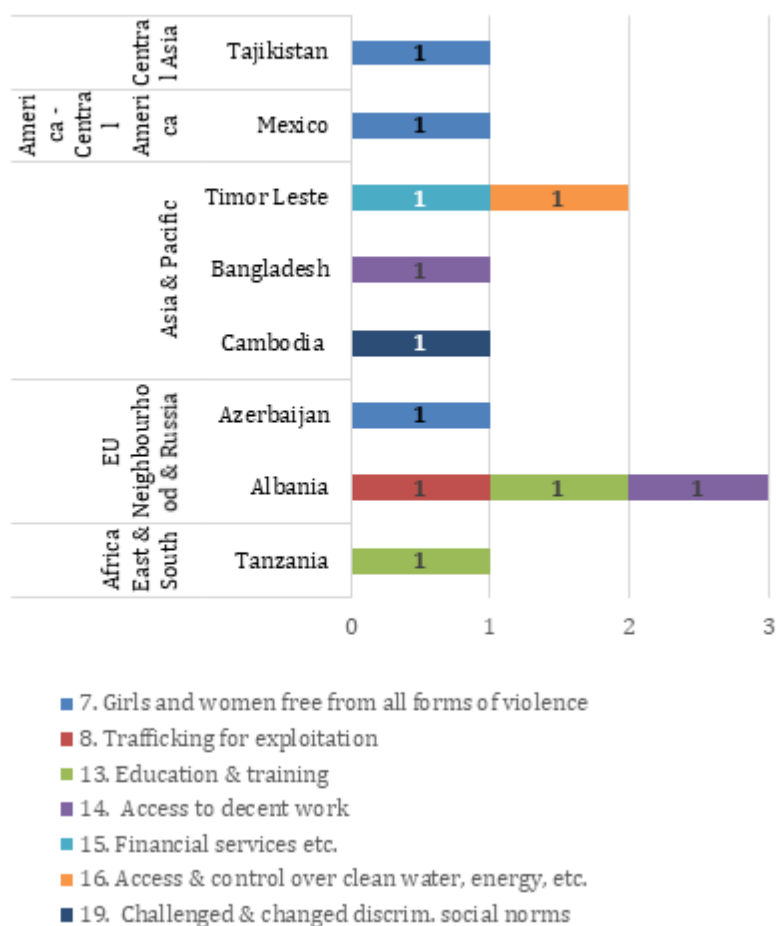


Global actions mostly targeted VAWG and objective 7 was the most selected, these actions included in Tajikistan in the framework of a Research and Innovation Fund for VAWG prevention, in Mexico as part of the global UN Women initiative 2016-2019 for safe cities and spaces for women and girls, and in Azerbaijan for the global programme to prevent son preference and gender-biased sex selection.

The second choices were objective 13, equal access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training (VET) free from discrimination, and 14, access to decent work for women of all ages.

A global programme for migration and development managed by the Delegation to Albania targeted objective 8, trafficking of women and girls. This programme includes the Indicator 8.1, n# countries that comply with recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and UN Treaties, which denotes actions for the implementation of international treaties to protect women and girls exposed to trafficking, such as the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Palermo Protocol.

GLOBAL ACTIONS
Selection of GAP Objectives by Region/Country

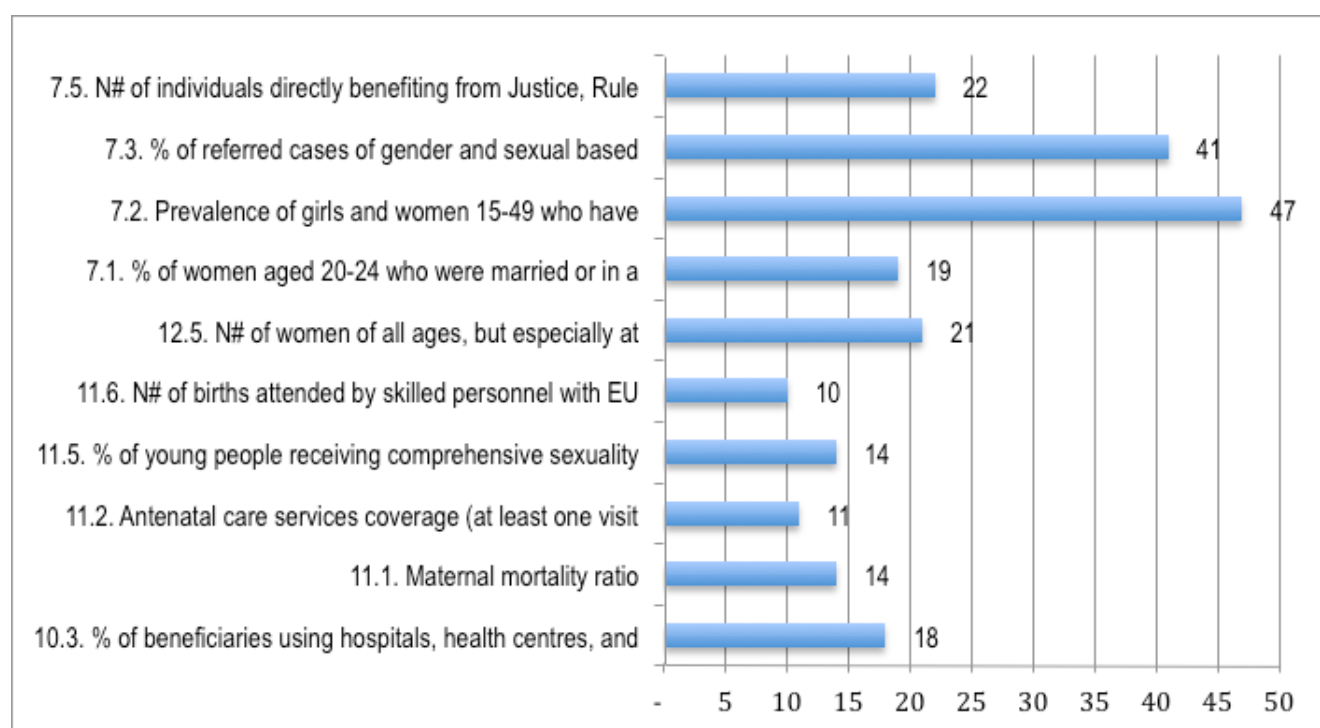


3.1. Thematic Priority B – Physical and Psychological Integrity

a. Africa East and Southern and Indian Ocean

Objective 7 has been the most recurrent choice within thematic priority B, followed by objectives 11, 10 and 12, which directly relate to women's health and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Objective 9 also presents a significant increase with respect to 2016, going from two to 20 programmes dealing with protecting women and men of all ages from sexual and gender based violence in crisis situations; through EU supported operations. Trafficking of women and girls for exploitation is the lowest performing objective in the region, although it also shows an important increase with respect to 2016 GAP II reporting results.

N# of programmes contributing to GAP II per highest scoring indicator. Thematic priority B, physical and psychological integrity



Indicators to track development on thematic priority B, physical and psychological integrity were broad and diverse in choice, with a total of 30 indicators used to measure the objectives. Indicators 7.2 and 7.3, relating to VAWG, were the most reported on, followed by indicator 7.1. on child marriage, and indicator 7.5 on rule of law and access to justice. Gender sensitive indicators relating to sexual, reproductive and health rights were used in a broad spectrum. The number of young people receiving comprehensive sexuality education (SDG 5.5.) was measured in 11 cases. The link between food security and nutrition was established in 30 programmes (12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.5 and 12.6), with indicator 12.5 being selected in 20 actions.

b. Africa West and Central

Thematic priority B, physical and psychological integrity, has been tackled through a consistent number of actions throughout the sub-region. Only two countries (**Republic of Congo and Central African Republic**) identified a single activity contributing to this priority. The remaining 20 countries have reported multiple actions, with **Burundi (10), Mali (18), Niger (13) and Senegal (15)** for example all reporting 10 or more actions. Overall, there are 124 actions or 34 % of those reported that contribute to achieving the objectives of thematic priority B, physical and psychological integrity. The scope of these actions is comprehensive and covers sectors and/or themes such as: food security, health sector programme, justice sector programme,

agriculture, WASH, sex education and combatting child marriage, combatting FGM, etc. These actions include the activities of EU member states in the countries of the sub region.

While objective 7, girls and women free from violence, remains the most selected (confirming the trend from 2016) there is a more even distribution of the use of other objectives from this priority, across the sub-region. Thanks to the change of the methodology, the EU delegations were able to provide more details on the indicators from the GAP that were used or corresponded to those of the actions reported. These give an interesting picture of measuring capabilities as well as the outreach of multidisciplinary services that can tackle the problem of violence against women that deeply affects the sub-region.

<i>Priority B, physical and psychological integrity indicators selected by actions reported (sub-region overall)</i>	Number of times reported
<i>7.3. % of referred cases of gender and sexual based violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced (SDG 5.39)</i>	15
<i>12.2. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (SDG 2.8)</i>	14
<i>12.5. N# of women of all ages, but especially at reproductive age, and children under 5 benefiting from nutrition related programmes with EU support (EURF)</i>	14
<i>11.1. Maternal mortality ratio</i>	13
<i>11.2. Antenatal care services coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits) (SDG3.2)</i>	11
<i>7.2. Prevalence of girls and women 15-49 who have experienced physical or sexual violence (by an intimate partner) in the last 12 months (SDG 5.38)</i>	11
<i>11.4. Met demand for family planning (SDG 5.44)</i>	8
<i>7.5. N# of individuals directly benefiting from Justice, Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform programmes funded by EU (EU RF)</i>	8
<i>11.6. N# of births attended by skilled personnel with EU support (EURF)</i>	7
<i>7.4. % of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (SDG 5.41)</i>	7
<i>8.2. N# of individuals directly benefiting from trafficking programmes funded by EU</i>	7
<i>10.3. % of beneficiaries using hospitals, health centres, and clinics providing basic drinking water, adequate sanitation and adequate hygiene (SDG 6.5)</i>	6
<i>11.5. % of young people receiving comprehensive sexuality education (SDG 5.5)</i>	5
<i>7.1. % of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union by age 15 (SDG 5.40)</i>	5

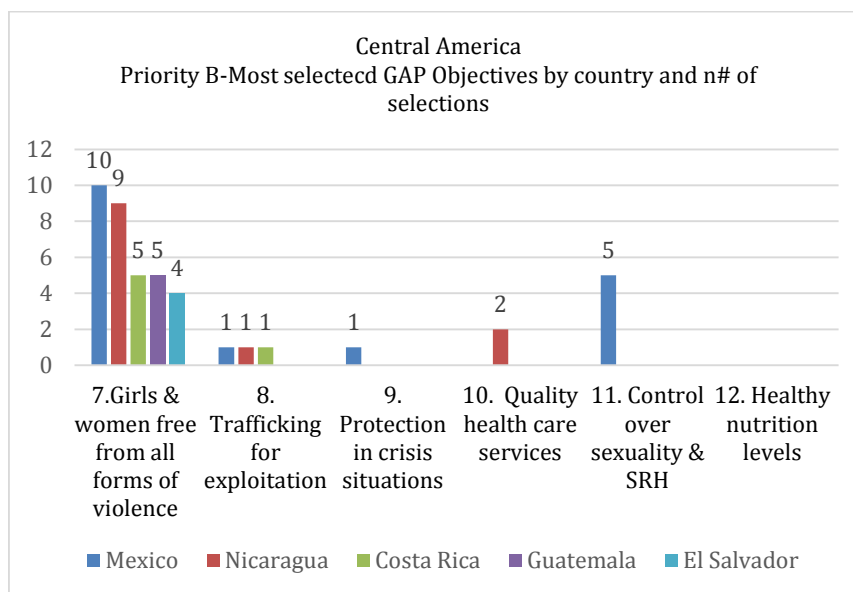
c.Latin America

Latin America: Concerns towards women and girls' physical and psychological integrity remain high in the sub-region and has clearly made its way into policy dialogue or programmes in all the reporting EU Delegations. Objective 7, girls and women free from all forms of violence against them (VAWG) both in the public and in the private sphere, was most frequently selected, contributing to 45 actions, and was the first or second priority objective in six out of the seven countries.

Objective 9, protection for all women and men of all ages from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations, is also an important priority in countries concerned by women and girls in conflict situations (Peru, with two action and Colombia with 13 actions). Even, when Colombia is excluded, which amounts for more than one third of reported actions under this priority, objective 7 remains by far the most important priority in all countries, covering 33 actions. Consequently, indicator 7.2., prevalence of girls and women 15-49 who

have experienced physical or sexual violence (by an intimate partner) in the last 12 months - SDG 5.38, is also the most frequently selected under this priority, with 24 actions. The majority of actions that contribute to objective 7 are projects specifically designed to promote the human rights of women and girls and prevent violence, including indigenous women or women with disabilities, that also comprise of actions under the EIDHR. A promising aspect is that larger scale programmes such as support to local development (Colombia) or budget support to the national development strategy (Peru) are now considered as potentially important contributors to advancing gender equality objectives.

d. Central America



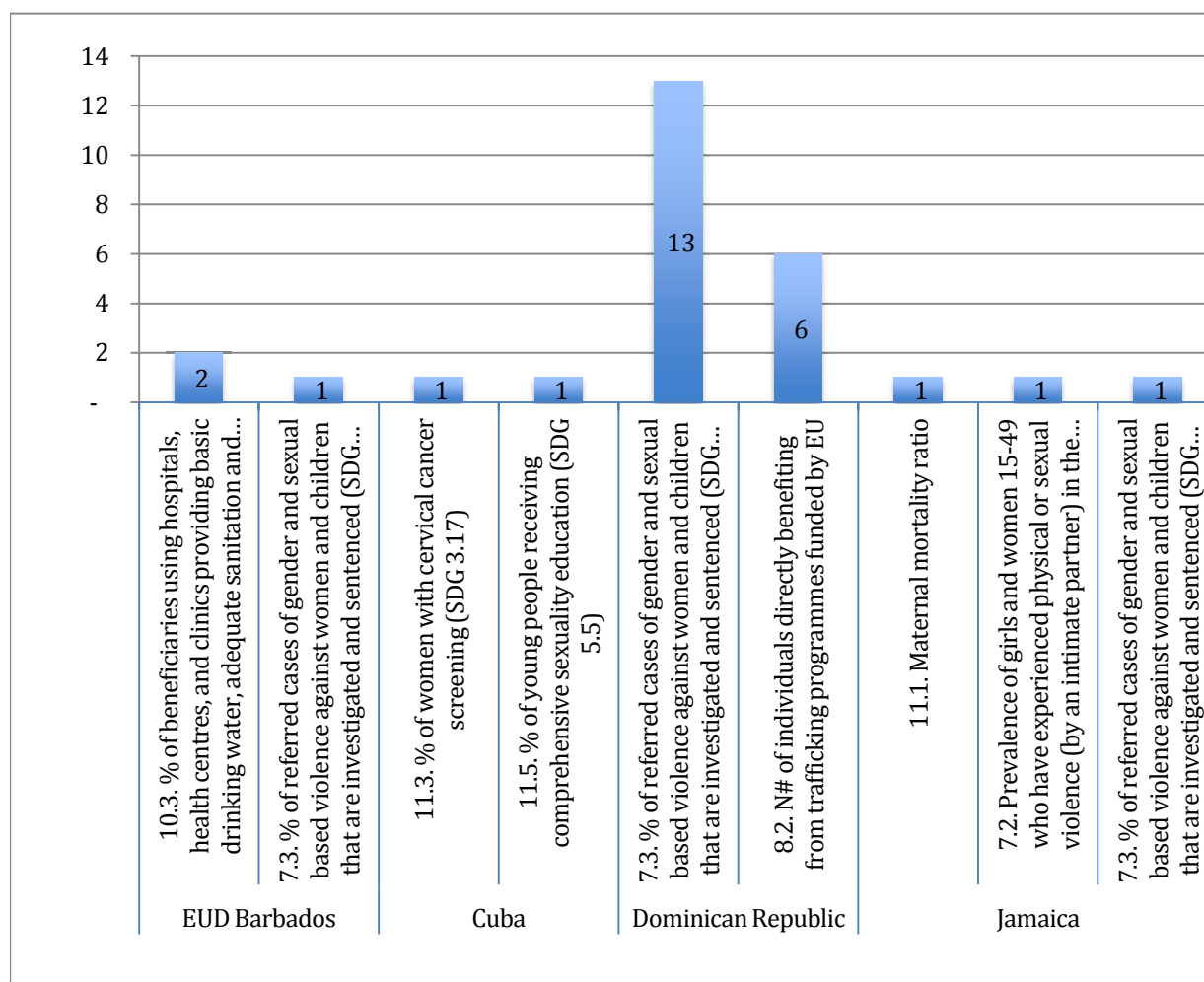
Central America: Under priority B, physical and psychological integrity, most of the reporting EU Delegations (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Nicaragua) and Member states (France, Spain, and the UK) focused on combating VAWG (objective 7). This engagement is remarkable in an area of the world where women and girls are heavily threatened by gang violence, domestic violence, and trafficking. Indicator 7.2, prevalence of girls and women 15-49 who have experienced physical or sexual violence (by an intimate partner) in the last 12 months (SDG 5.38), was selected by all reporting EU Delegations, while 4 EU Delegations selected indicator 7.3, % of referred cases of gender and sexual based violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced (SDG 5.39), for programmes that involve legal protection and prosecution of perpetrators. Also, it is worthy to note that indicator 7.4, referring to FGM and cutting was selected in Costa Rica for a programme on human rights of girls and women imprisoned for drug-related crimes, suggesting that such a harmful practice, that poses huge threats on the life, safety, and health of girls and women, is still a problem in that country.

Three EU Delegations (Costa Rica, Mexico and Nicaragua) are also targeting the trafficking of girls and women (objective 8), including in one programme in Costa Rica to combat the trafficking of migrants. In Mexico, objective 9, protection for all women and men of all ages from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations, was included in a UNHCR programme providing protection for asylum seekers and refugees. Objective 10, equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women, was selected by EU Delegations in El Salvador and Nicaragua, respectively for a programme to grant access to SRHR services for imprisoned women, for the health bilateral programme and for a multilateral programme promoting a family and community health model. Objective 11 was undertaken in seven programmes in El Salvador, spanning from strategies to avoid pregnancies in adolescent girls to

education for SRHR. It is remarkable that indicator 11.5 % of young people receiving comprehensive sexuality education (SDG 5.5), was selected for all the seven programmes in El Salvador. A choice that demonstrated a clear engagement of EU actors in building awareness and knowledge about sexuality and reproductive health that will likely bring about informed decisions on sexual and reproductive health in a country where anti-choice voices challenge also the politics on these matters.

e. The Caribbean

The Caribbean number of programmes contributing to GAP II by Delegation and Indicator



A total of four objectives (7, 8, 10, and 11) dealing with VAWG and SRHR were the focus of 27 programmes. Most actions advanced objective 7, with 21 actions, addressing women's economic empowerment, their human right to health, housing, water and a livelihood, as pillars to eradicate VAWG and trafficking of women and girls. Comprehensive sex education, and maternal and sexual and reproductive health issues were also the focus of 2017 actions. With regards to 2016, indicator 7.3 doubled in use in 2017, and indicator 8.2 was also selected more often in 2017, a total of six times in comparison to just once in 2016.

f. Asia and Pacific

EU Delegations and EU Member States in the region contributed to priority B, physical and psychological integrity, with 213 actions (28 % of the total). Within this thematic priority, the GAP II report in 2016 showed the largest concentration on objective 7, girls and women free from all forms of violence against them, comprising almost 50 % of actions. This year it was the second most popular objective, immediately after objective 12, healthy nutrition levels for girls and women. This is due to the EU Delegation to Cambodia having indicated a very large number of actions (47) as contributing to objective 10.

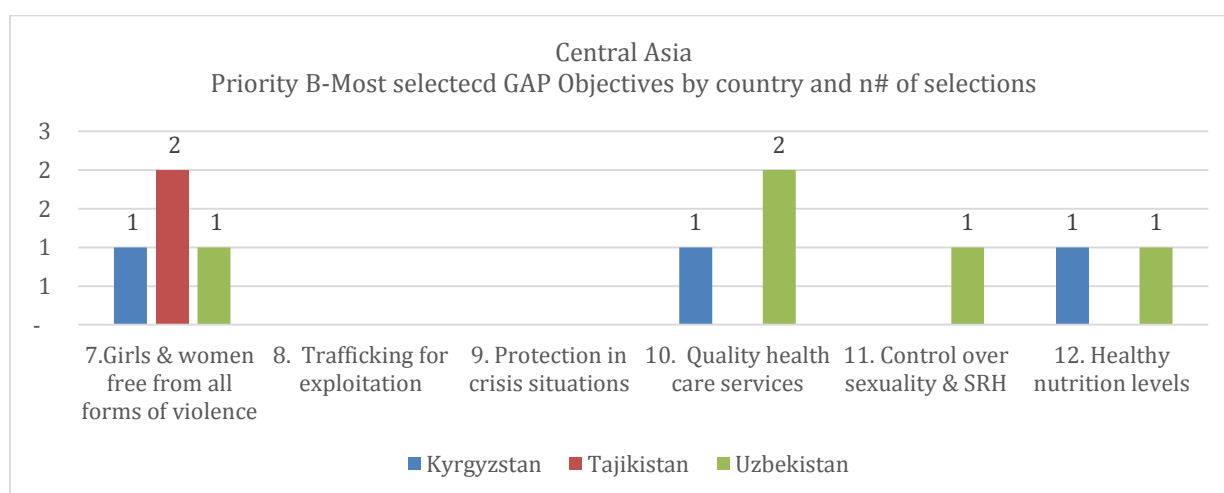
Not counting the high percentage of actions in Cambodia, objectives 7 and 11, control over sexuality and SRH, score first and second respectively. Under objective 7, a frequent choice of indicators 7.2. and 7.3, reflect the engagement of EU actors in promoting actions to combat VAWG as well as legislative actions to protect victims and prosecute perpetrators. The choice of indicators under objective 11, shows a positive interest towards the integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights in larger health reform programmes (e.g. in the Philippines).

g. Central Asia

Three EU Delegations (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) in the region contributed to priority B, physical and psychological integrity, with nine actions that integrated four out of six objectives, including objective 10, that was not reported upon last year.

Under this Priority, objective 7, girls and women free from all forms of violence against them, is the most selected by all reporting EU Delegations. The choice of indicators for this objective, namely 7.3 and 7.5, suggests the engagement of EU actors in promoting actions to combat VAWG and legislative actions to protect victims and prosecute perpetrators.

Quality health care services (objective 10), which was not selected last year, is tackled by two EU Delegations, including by a programme to fight HIV infections. Sexual and reproductive health and rights for every individual (objective 11), which also had not been selected last year, was included in one programme in Uzbekistan focusing on women's health. Objective 12 was selected twice, respectively in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, in programmes addressing food insecurity.



h. The Gulf States

The EU Delegation to Yemen and Iraq contributed to priority B, physical and psychological integrity, with three actions, of which two are funded in the framework of the EIDHR programme, aiming to support the rule of law in relation to gender-based violence, the protection of the rights of female inmates and juvenile

offenders, and to enhancing legal security, arrest procedures, and detention conditions of women and girls. No objectives or indicators were selected at this stage.

i. EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

22 EU Delegations (Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Serbia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine) and 6 Member States (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Sweden) in the region selected GAP priority B, physical and psychological integrity, in 192 actions.

Enlargement

In 2017, EU Delegations and Member States largely focused on the elimination of violence against women and girls (objective 7) especially thanks to a significant input from Turkey (31 occurrences). Objective 8 (trafficking for exploitation) was selected most in Albania (9 occurrences), a country where trafficking has affected women's safety and security for decades. It was also the focus of one programme in Kosovo. Significantly, these two Delegations also selected indicator 8.1, N# countries that comply with recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and UN Treaties. Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are also prioritising the protection of women and girls in crisis situations, respectively in programmes to support the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, and to enhance integration and reconciliation. These are also the only two countries in the region that selected objective 10, on women's and girls' access to quality health care services, including a programme in Albania to support the safe sheltering of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex (LGBTI) persons.

Neighbourhood East

Objective 7, girls and women free from violence, was selected most by the six reporting countries in the region. Remarkably, objective 8, trafficking for exploitation, was the second most popular choice, selected for a programme to enhance the national capacities to combat human trafficking in Azerbaijan and for two programmes in Belarus, focusing on irregular migration and the rights of vulnerable migrants. Objective 9, protection from exploitation, was integrated in five programmes in the Ukraine aiming at restoration and strengthening the governance in conflict-affected communities, supporting internally-displaced people, and at peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Notably, indicator 9.8, % of peace keeping and peace building missions with specific provisions to improve the security and status of girls and women of all ages, a rarely selected indicator, was selected for a reform, peace and security programme implemented with UN Women. In addition, a number of programmes added that they have integrated the women, peace and security agenda in their actions (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova).

Objective 10, equal access to health services, was included in two programmes in Belarus to prevent non-communicable diseases and to protect the rights of children with severe disabilities and children with life-limiting conditions, and for one programme in Georgia, to support women offenders who have experienced violence and discrimination, and their vulnerable children. In Armenia, there was also a programme on legal support and information dissemination to combat GBV. Objective 11, control over sexuality and SRH, was integrated into two programmes in Georgia and one programme in Ukraine, that address HIV/AIDS prevention, advisory services and institutional capacity building, by involving young people and focusing on comprehensive sexuality education.

Neighbourhood South

In the Neighbourhood south, objective 7, women and girls free from violence, scored first, with all related indicators selected for a variety of programmes, spanning from awareness raising campaigns, to sheltering SGBV survivors, reform of the justice sector, improvement of the security sector, protection of the rights of single mothers, support to CSOs working to combat GBV, and assistance to migrant communities.

Notably, indicator 7.4, n# of girls who undergone FGM, was selected for a programme in Egypt, a country where such a harmful practice still constitutes a threat for girls and women, especially in the southern areas of the country. Objective 8, trafficking for exploitation, was selected by EU Delegations in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco, particularly for programmes to protect migrant women, in the framework of the Mobility Partnership programme between the European Union (EU) and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Objective 9, protection in crisis situations, was selected most in Palestine and Jordan, and are experiencing conflicts at different levels, increasing women and girls' exposure to SGBV. Objective 10, quality health care services, was also chosen most by these two Delegations, where the pressure on health care services posed by the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon and by the conflict between Israel and Palestine is constantly high.

Interestingly, indicator 10.2, proportion of persons with a severe mental disorder (psychosis, bipolar affective disorder, or moderate–severe depression) who are using services (SDG 3.28), was selected by EU Delegations in Lebanon, Palestine and Syria, reflecting the response of the EU actors to the ongoing crisis in these countries, in terms of care for the mental wellbeing of the populations affected by conflict-related traumas. Objective 11, control over sexuality and SRH was most selected in Egypt, followed by Syria, and to a lesser degree, by Algeria and Lebanon, highlighting the increasing attention to family planning and sexual rights in these countries. Indicator 11.1, maternal mortality ratio, was selected only in Syria, where maternal mortality is a real matter of concern. Finally, objective 12, healthy nutrition levels, was chosen by Egypt and Syria, countries where ensuring good nutrition for women and girls is still challenging.

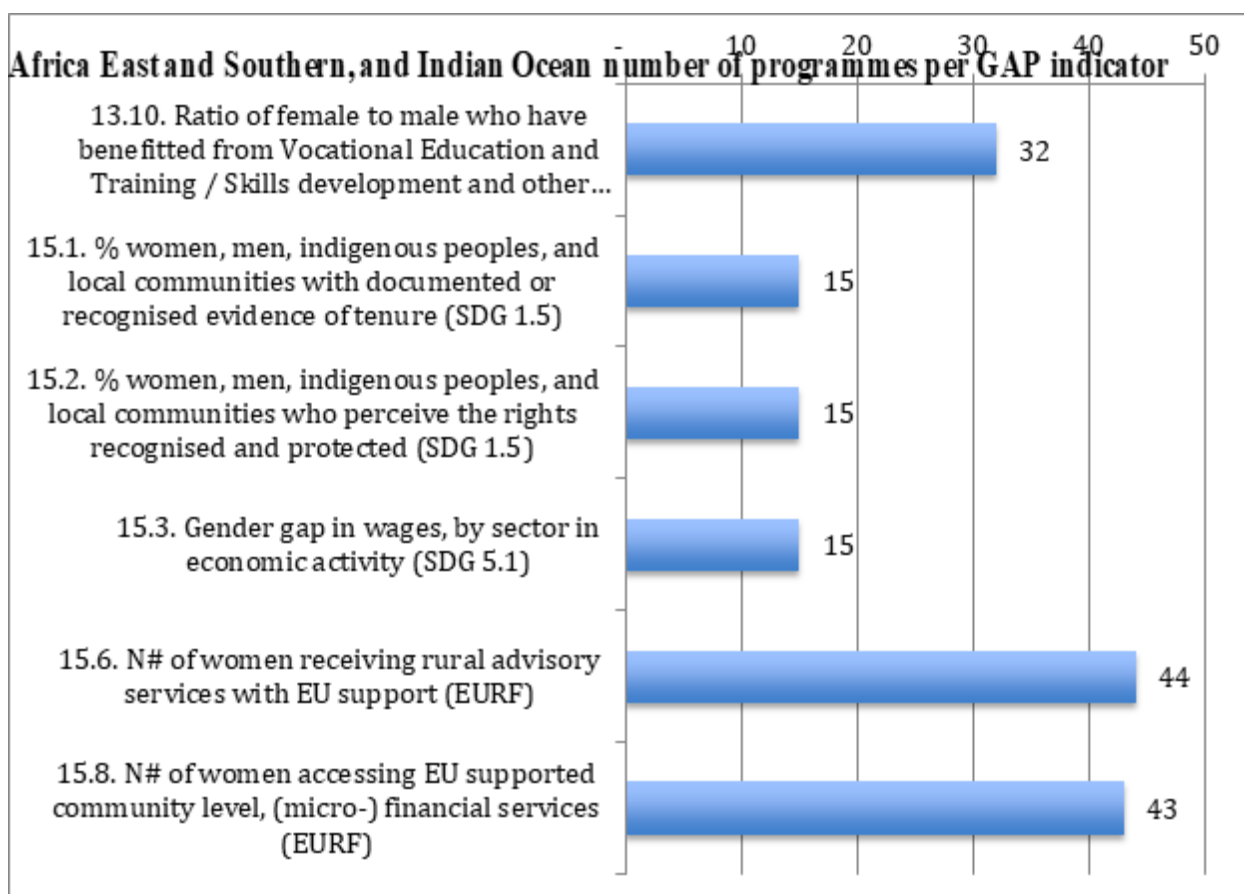
3.2. Thematic priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment

a. Africa: East and Southern, and Indian Ocean

Women's economic and social empowerment is the highest scoring priority in the region, and objective 15, relating to women's equal access to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship, is the most reported by EU delegations. Objective 14, on equal access to decent work for women of all ages, and objective 15, experienced a 1 330% and 1 350% increase with respect to 2016. Objectives 13 and 16, which show a similar increase percentage in 2017, also bring the focus onto education and access to services and resources. With regards to indicators, the highest scoring ones relate to objectives 13 and 15, tracking women's and men's access to vocational education and training (13.10), women's access to financial services (15.8), and the number of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support (15.6).

Empowered girls complete community day secondary school (CDSS) education– (Malawi)

This action aims to increase enrolment, retention and completion rates for vulnerable girls in 10 community day secondary schools by ensuring girls' safe access to schools, increasing family and community support to girls' education, and empowering girls to make informed decisions, claim their rights and challenge violence. It also sensitises communities (parents, local leaders etc.) on the importance of sending girls to secondary school and contributes at the same time to build better capacities for teachers and other stakeholders, so that they will become more gender responsive in their teaching methods. The project will also provide bursaries for girls or distribute bicycles to allow girls and disadvantaged children to reach school more easily. The project is implemented by the Foundation Stichting Edukans and its local partners in Malawi. It started in May 2017 and will end in May 2020.



All indicators pertaining to objective 13 were reported on. The highest scoring indicator, 13.10, was chosen by 10 EU Delegations (Botswana and SADC, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.). Literacy rates, measured by indicator 13.3, and children's enrolment in secondary education (indicator 13.8) were also subject to monitoring. Interestingly, a total of six programmes of the Delegations to Tanzania and Zambia, tracked progress on the time allocated to paid and unpaid work per gender, for objective 14. The feminisation of the working poor was also monitored by the EU Delegations to Ethiopia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia. Indicator 14.4 was the most selected of all in, and featured in a total of eight actions, while indicator 14.6 was the lowest scoring.

With respect to objective 15, women's access to financial services (15.8) and those receiving rural advisory services with EU support (15.6), were selected in a high number of programmes in the region and were reported most under this priority. The gender pay gap (15.3) and the recognition of vulnerable groups rights (15.2), were monitored by 15 programmes. Indicator 15.5, on mobile broadband, and indicator 15.7, on land tenure, were chosen the least. Indicators measuring access to reliable and sustainable energy, sanitation and drinking water were the most reported upon (16.1, 16.4, 16.6 and 16.8). While access and usage of safely managed water services (indicator 16.3) was included in seven actions, and the share of population using modern cooking solutions (indicator 16.5) was chosen just once.

a.Africa: West and Central

Thematic priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment: has been tackled through a consistent number of actions throughout the sub-region. 182 actions or 49 % of those reported, contributed to achieving the objectives of this priority. While **Liberia** identified just one activity contributing to this priority, the remaining 21 countries reported multiple actions: **Benin (26); Burkina Faso (24); Burundi (24); Cameroon (24); Central African Republic (19); Chad (14); Gambia (10) and the Republic of Congo (11)**, all reporting 10 or more actions.

The scope of these actions is comprehensive, covering sectors and/or themes such as: energy; agriculture (financing for); education (second and third level); tourism; WASH (budget support); entrepreneurial development (artisanal; agriculture); nutrition (targeting women and children under 5) and food security; vulnerable youth; environment and climate change; special populations (pastoralists); TVET; targeted actions for vulnerable women and girls; crisis/conflict related vulnerabilities (women and youth); and many more. The diversity of programmes that have been identified as vectors for serving the objectives of this priority is encouraging. The EU Delegations and the Member States in the sub region have found the means to integrate in full or in part the objectives of economic and social empowerment of women and girls into a very diverse set of programmes and projects, as well as modalities (budget support is mentioned several times in the list of the actions reported). These actions also include the activities of EU member states in the countries of the sub region.

Three objectives from priority C, namely, objective 15, equal access by women to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship, objective 16, equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport infrastructure, and equitable engagement in their management, enjoyed by girls and women, and objective 13, equal access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training (VET) free from discrimination, were the most selected overall in the sub-region.

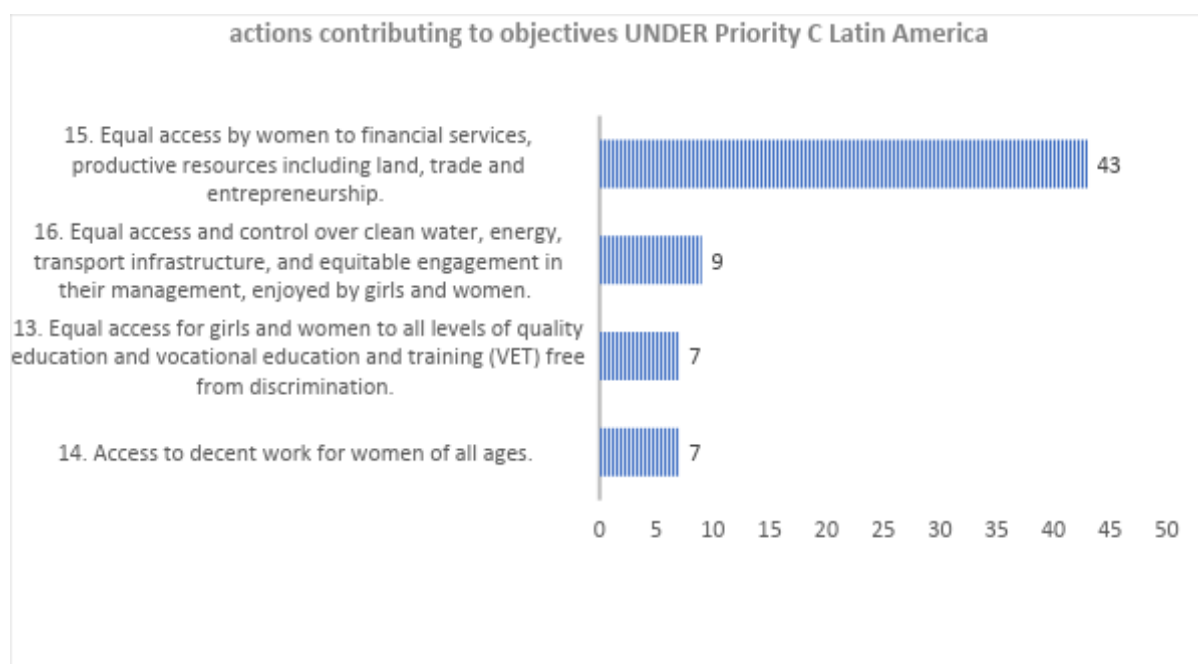
These have been selected more often than others, including objective 7 (girls and women free from violence), setting a new trend, as compared with 2016. Seen from the perspective of the sub-region as a whole, this trend demonstrates the investment being made towards transformative and empowerment actions for women and girls, while still tackling the urgent issues of violence against women. The indicators most used by the actions reported are as diverse as the topics of the programmes mentioned above and provide an interesting picture of measuring access to tangible and intangible resources that create the conditions for the empowerment of women, and girls.

<i>Priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, indicators selected by actions reported (sub-region overall)</i>	Number of times reported
16.3. % of population using safely managed water services, by urban/ rural (SDG 6.45)	21
14.4. Employment to population ratio (EPR) by gender and age group (15-64) (SDG 8.5)	17
15.6. N# of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support (EURF)	14
15.1. % women, men, indigenous peoples, and local communities with documented or recognised evidence of tenure (SDG 1.5)	11
13.1. Primary completion rate for girls and boys (SDG 4.33)	10
15.8. N# of women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services (EURF)	10
16.4. % of population using safely managed sanitation services, by urban/ rural (SDG 6.46)	10
16.3. % of population using safely managed water services, by urban/ rural (SDG 6.45)	21
14.4. Employment to population ratio (EPR) by gender and age group (15-64) (SDG 8.5)	17
15.6. N# of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support (EURF)	14
15.1. % women, men, indigenous peoples, and local communities with documented or recognised evidence of tenure (SDG 1.5)	11
13.1. Primary completion rate for girls and boys (SDG 4.33)	10

b. Latin America

Latin America: objective 15, equal access by women to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship, is considered a key strategy for women's socio-economic empowerment in Colombia, comprising of 34 actions, Peru and Bolivia, with four actions each, and Paraguay, with one action. Many actions under this objective are specifically targeting women or other groups at risk of social exclusion, however, a significant number of actions are also broader in scope, including e.g. budget support to the national development and social inclusion strategy in Peru, and other support programmes to strategic sector reforms in Bolivia (agriculture) and Colombia. Most of the actions under this priority foresee a contribution towards objective 15, equal access by women to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship. Consequently, indicator is 15.6, n# of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support, is the most frequently selected. In relation to other objectives, the selection is quite evenly distributed among objectives 13, 14 and 16.

There is limited evidence of a tendency to use human-rights based approaches, including gender equality, in support to socio-economic development planning. The majority of sector support programmes focus on thematic priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment. *SBS Apoyo a la Política Sectorial para implementar la Estrategia Nacional de Desarrollo Integral con Coca - PAPS II* in Bolivia is an exception, as it combines a contribution to various objectives under thematic priority C, with thematic priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation. More specifically, the choice of indicator 17.7, number of countries carrying out gender-responsive budgeting at local and national level with EU support, demonstrates an effort to integrate gender transformative approaches into economic planning.



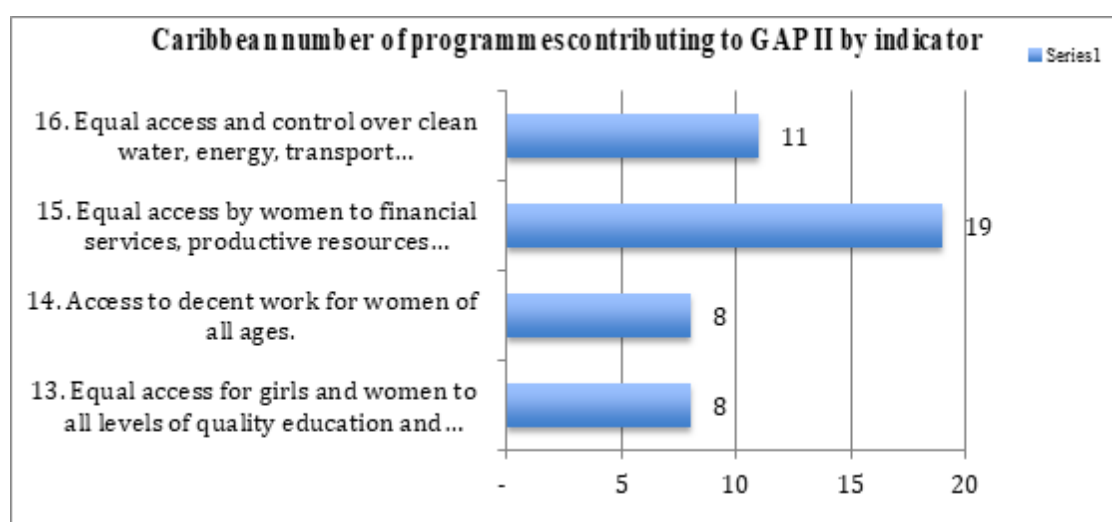
c. Central America

Priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment: was the most selected by reporting EU Delegations and Member States in the region through 49 actions. Objective 15, equal access to women to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship, scored highest and the selection of seven out of the eight related indicators show the EU commitment in targeting recognised land tenure (Costa Rica and Guatemala), addressing the gap in wages (Costa Rica, Mexico and Nicaragua), and the availability of rural advisory services (El Salvador and Nicaragua) and financial services (El Salvador). Objective 14 on access to decent work and employment was the second most chosen objective, with all related indicators for programmes addressing income share held by women, average number of hours

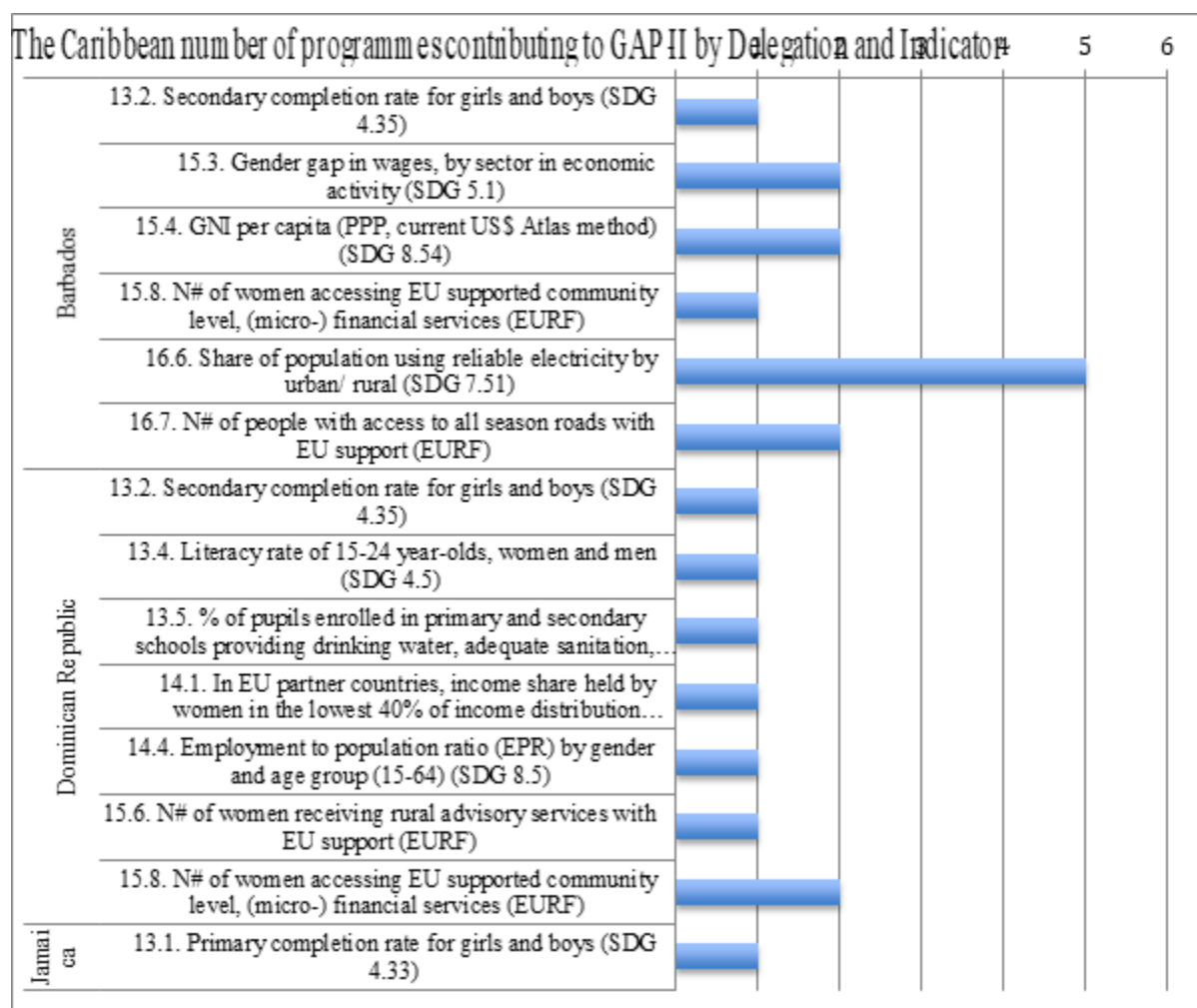
for paid and unpaid work combined, women's poverty, equal employment rates and informal employment. Objective 16, on access and control over clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure was also the second most chosen area. Its related indicators show the commitment to supporting the availability of drinkable water and safely managed water and sanitation services either through bilateral support to the national plan, including for climate adaptation and mitigation, or through programmes implemented in rural areas at a community level. Indicators related to objective 13 reflect the EU actors' commitment at all levels of education, addressing primary and secondary education completion rate as well as focusing on the capacity development of personnel involved in research and development.

d. The Caribbean

Objectives 15 and 16 were the highest scoring under thematic priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, with 19 and 11 actions respectively. This figure has increased from 2016, when only five actions were reported. In addition, most actions under objective 15 in the region were reported by EU Delegation to Cuba, and most of the actions under objective 16 were reported by EU Delegation to Barbados (7 actions).



Reported programmes have a strong focus on strengthening women's access to finance, the use of microcredit and financial inclusion to support their economic growth (indicator 15.8), supporting women's role and innovative economy, and women's economic empowerment through public procurement (indicator 14.1) and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises. Programmes in the Dominican Republic, Barbados and Jamaica also tackle access to drinking water and sustainable energy and water management (13.5) and poverty reduction (13.1). Gender sensitive TVET (indicator 14.4), road management (indicator 16.7) and rural development (15.6), as well as PFM (indicator 15.4) were also targeted from a gender lens. Finally, indicator 16.6, tracking progress on energy usage in urban/rural areas, was selected in five programmes in 2017 by the EU Delegation to Barbados, which is up from just once in 2016 (see chart 2 above, for further details on indicators).



a.Asia and Pacific

Women's socio-economic empowerment was the thematic priority most frequently selected in the region, with 319 actions, comprising 42 % of the total in the region. Compared with 2016, equal access to education (objective 13) as well as to financial services and productive resources (objective 15) continue to be the most frequently selected.

Whilst indicators related to primary and secondary completion rates reflect the importance of EU support to education sector reforms, indicator 13.10, on the ratio of female to males who have benefitted from vocational education and training / skills development and other active labour market programmes with EU support, was the most frequently selected, with 48 actions, in seven countries. This is a particularly positive note, in a region where formal labour markets are offering opportunities for decent work to young women and men. The support to gender equality in tertiary education and research is also featured, though in smaller scale programmes.

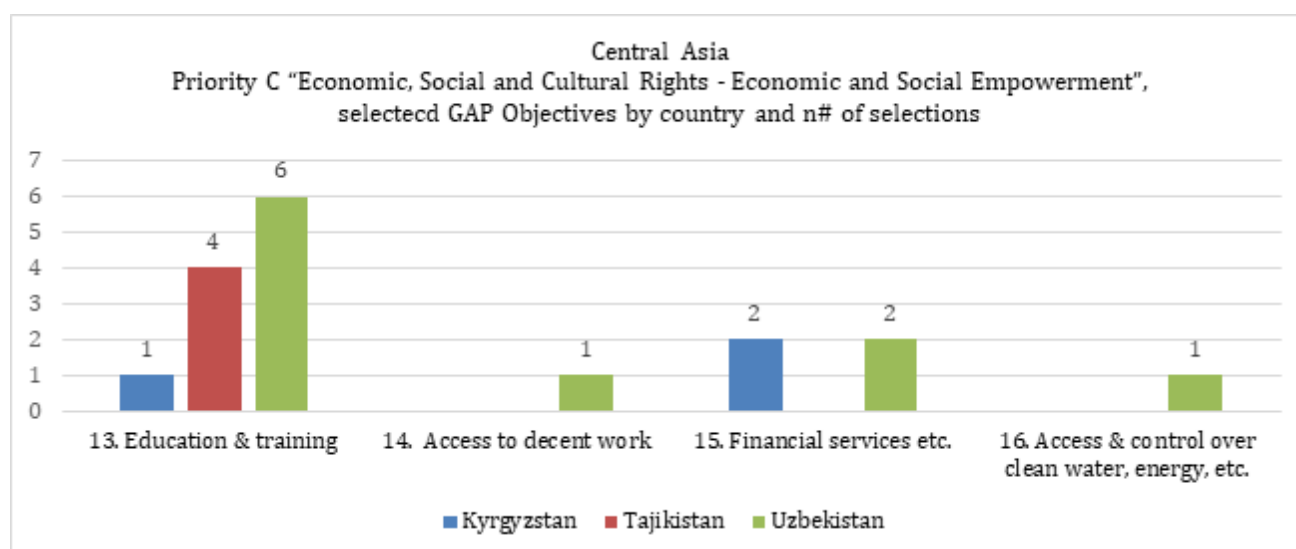
Indicator 15.1, % of women, men, indigenous peoples, and local communities with documented or recognised evidence of tenure (SDG 1.5), is the most frequently selected, with 28 actions. This is due to 22 actions in the fields of economic and rural development, forestry, natural resources and land rights, reported by the EU Delegation to Cambodia, and an additional six actions promoting the rights of indigenous women in access to land projects, by five EU Delegations (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam and one Member State, Germany in Vietnam). Indicator 15.8, n# of women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services (EURF), is the most frequently selected, through 15 actions supporting financial inclusion in seven countries.

The increase in selection of objective 14, access to decent work, demonstrates that EU delegations and Member States are providing more attention to a rights-based approach to economic development, by supporting programmes aimed to improve quantity and quality of women's employment (Myanmar), recognising the important gender dimensions of informal employment and actions that aim to promote women (and men's) workers' rights in export-oriented industries in less traditionally gender-sensitive sectors, such as larger scale infrastructure programmes (Bangladesh and Cambodia). Finally, 35 actions in seven countries contribute to objective 16 and seem to indicate an increased capacity on the side of EU Delegations and Member States to identify the gender dimensions of infrastructure, energy and water management programmes.

In more general terms, an analysis of the actions reported as contributing to this priority demonstrates that EU delegations have been able to see the potential of integrating GAP II priorities in support of economic development in partner countries, with the integration of GAP II indicators across a very broad range of sectoral initiatives.

b. Central Asia

Priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, was the most selected by the reporting EU Delegations, and undoubtedly the high commitment to objective 13, which was the most selected in the region and the second most selected by all reporting EU Delegations, positively influenced this. By analysing the use of indicators 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.7, 13.9 and 13.10, it can be observed that actions span from sustainable development, to the promotion of human rights, capacity building for SMEs, combating child labour, and protection of human rights for prisoners and ex-prisoners, demonstrating good mainstreaming in education and vocational education and training, for girls and women. Objective 14 was chosen only by Uzbekistan for a water resource management programme. Objective 15 was selected by EU Delegations to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Only indicator 15.6 was selected under four programmes targeting sustainable economic development and community driven socio-economic initiatives to reduce poverty. Finally, objective 16, not chosen last year, was selected for one programme on water resource management in Kyrgyzstan.



c. The Gulf States

Only one programme contributed to priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, in the region, which aimed to establish social protection mechanisms to increase communities' resilience in fragile environments.

d. EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Thematic priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, was the most selected across the region, reported in 280 actions.

Enlargement

Access to decent work (objective 14) was the only objective chosen by all EU Delegations in these countries and scored the highest number of occurrences, followed by quality education and training (objective 13), selected by four EU Delegations, financial services (objective 15) was selected by three EU Delegations, and access and control over clean water and energy, was selected by only one EU delegation. Some conclusions can be drawn from the indicator chosen for the different objectives, relating to the performance and shortcomings in the implementation of the GAP. For example, some indicators for objective 13 were chosen for less than half of the reported actions which suggest that EU delegations may have not yet fully aligned the action with the GAP. Indicator 14.1, in EU partner countries, income share held by women in the lowest 40% of income distribution (EURF Level 1), and Indicator 14.4, employment to population ratio (EPR) by gender and age group (15-64) (SDG 8.5), were the most selected, especially by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo. While these are essential indicators, because they are linked with the national socio-demographic trend, they do not allow for the appreciation of other nuances, like the change in the socio-cultural sphere that hinders women's participation to the labour market. In this sense, indicator 14.2, average number of hours spent on paid and unpaid work combined (total work burden) by sex (SDG 5.42) and indicator 14.3, share of women among the working poor: employed people living below \$1.25 (PPP) per day (EURF Level 1), allow for a better understanding of the situation, and consequently, to address some of the causes of the feminization of poverty. These two indicators were only chosen by EU Delegation to Albania.

The Delegations to Albania and Kosovo selected almost all of the indicators for objective 15, equal access by women to financial services, land, etc., across a variety of programmes, from the adaptation to climate change, to the economic empowerment of survivors of trafficking and VAWG, the harmonisation of the Albanian economic and trade legislation, support to migrant children, the development of tourism in Kosovo, etc.

Neighbourhood East

Objective 15, financial services, land, etc., was the most prevalent in the countries of Eastern Partnership, with all related indicators in this thematic priority. Indicator 15.3, gender gap in wages, by sector in economic activity (SDG 5.1), which requires good statistical data, was chosen only by one programme in Azerbaijan that targeted CSOs. Objective 14, access to decent work, was the second most widespread priority, with indicator 14.2, average number of hours spent on paid and unpaid work combined (total work burden) by sex (SDG 5.42), selected in Georgia for a programme targeting Pankisi women and girls. In the region, the most selected indicator was 15.8, n# of women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services (EURF), by EU the Delegations to Belarus and the Republic of Moldova, which indicated the need to focus on micro-credit interventions in economies in transition. Lack of access to finance for entrepreneurs and particularly women entrepreneurs has been identified as one critical barrier for women involved in entrepreneurship. Three EU Delegations implement green energy (Armenia), climate adaptation (the Republic of Moldova) and protection of marine ecosystems (Belarus), that target both the access to improved drinking water (indicator 16.1), safely managed sanitation services (indicator 16.3), and access to sustainable energy services (indicator 16.8).

Neighbourhood South

Access to decent work for women of all ages (objective 14) and their access to financial services, productive resources including land, trade, and entrepreneurship (objective 15) were the most selected areas under priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, in the region. This is particularly meaningful, taking into account that youth unemployment rates in the MENA region, are higher

than any other region in the world¹⁰, and that women's participation rate, especially in the Neighbourhood South region, is among the lowest in the world¹¹.

The EU's commitment to ensure equal access to quality education and vocational education and training (objective 13) was confirmed, as was the case in 2016, as eight of the nine reporting EU Delegations prioritised this. Access to and control over clean water, energy, transport, infrastructure and the equitable engagement in their management (objective 16), which had received very little attention in 2016, with only one action in the region, was selected in four countries, receiving particular attention by the EU Delegation to Jordan.

3.3. Thematic Priority D – Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation

a. Africa: East and Southern, and Indian Ocean

Thematic priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation, although being the least reported by EU delegations, it has recorded significant progress with respect to 2016. There were only 24 programmes reported in 2016, which has increased to 134 for 2017. Objective 17, on policy and governance processes, and objective 19, top the list, having been reported under 84 and 28 programmes respectively. Indicators for objective 17, were used in 63 actions, tracking, among others, the number of seats held by women in national parliaments (indicator 17.1), and the percentage of seats held by women and minorities in national parliaments and/or sub-national elected offices (indicator 17.3). Indicator 17.7, relating to gender responsive budgeting, was included in 10 actions in the region.

18 programmes under thematic objective 19, used gender specific indicators to track and assess changes in discriminatory social practices against women and girls. Indicators 19.1 and 19.3 were selected on six and five actions, and indicator 19.2, which measures the number of women aged 15-49 who intend to perform FGM upon their daughters, was selected only once by the EU Delegation to Sudan. Finally, the number of communities that formally declared abandoning discriminatory and harmful practices for women and girls was monitored in six actions.

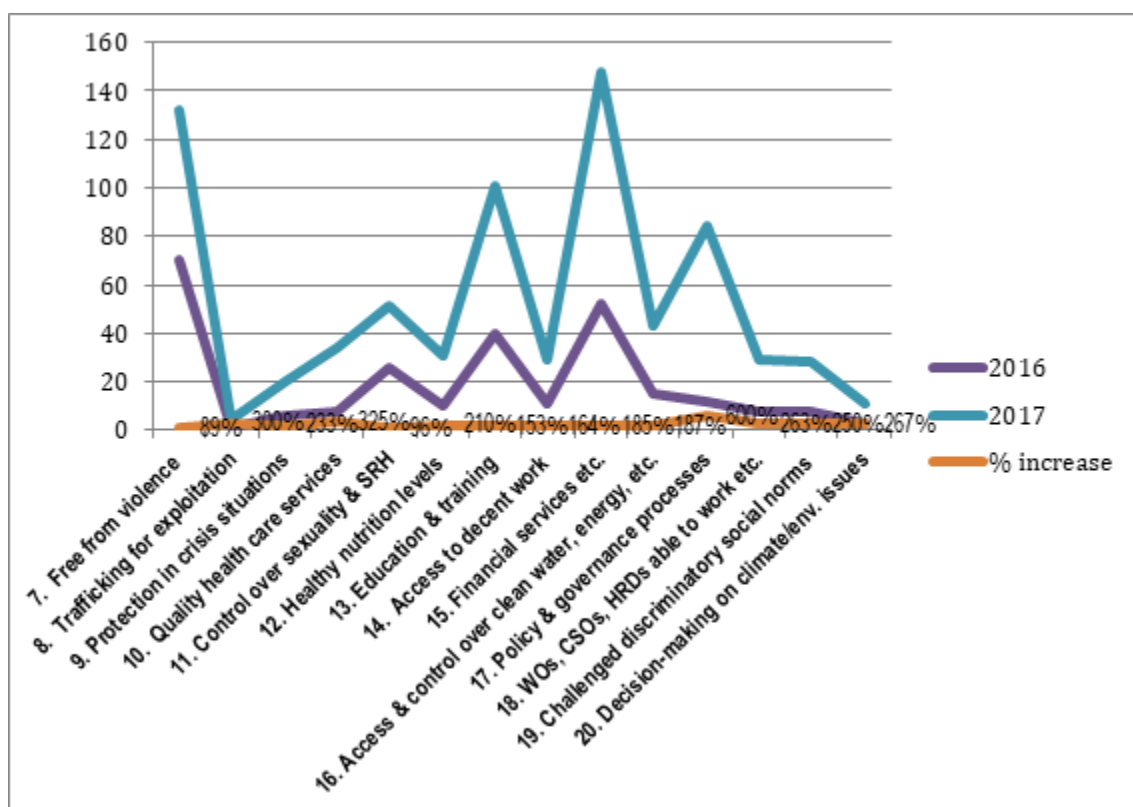
Objective 20, on equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues, also experienced significant progress with respect to the previous year. This illustrates the growing relevance of climate change and environmental concerns in the region, together with the importance of bringing women into negotiations for sustainable change to occur. In this respect, indicator 20.1, selected twice by the EU Delegation to Madagascar, aims to measure the number of deaths from climate-related and natural disasters disaggregated by sex, over the last 10 years, establishing important baselines and progress to work with.

Support to WCSOs, CSOs and human rights defenders working for GEWE (objective 18) was reported in 28 actions, showing an interesting increase in 2017, albeit the lowest of all under this thematic priority. Indicators 18.1, 18.2, and 18.3, which were selected in 25 programmes in total, will measure EU support given to Human Rights Defenders (7 actions), the number of partner countries guaranteeing CSOs' rights to work freely in public life (11 actions), and the inclusion of gender equality objectives in the human rights national strategies (7 actions). The EU Delegations to the DRC, Madagascar, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe all selected these indicators.

N# of programmes contributing to GAP II priorities by thematic objective

¹⁰21 percent in the Middle East and 25 percent in North Africa. Source: The World Bank, Databank regions, 2018.

¹¹ Ratio of female to male labour force participation rate (%) 16,8:56,4. Source: The World Bank, Databank Gender Statistics, 2018.



b. Africa: West and Central

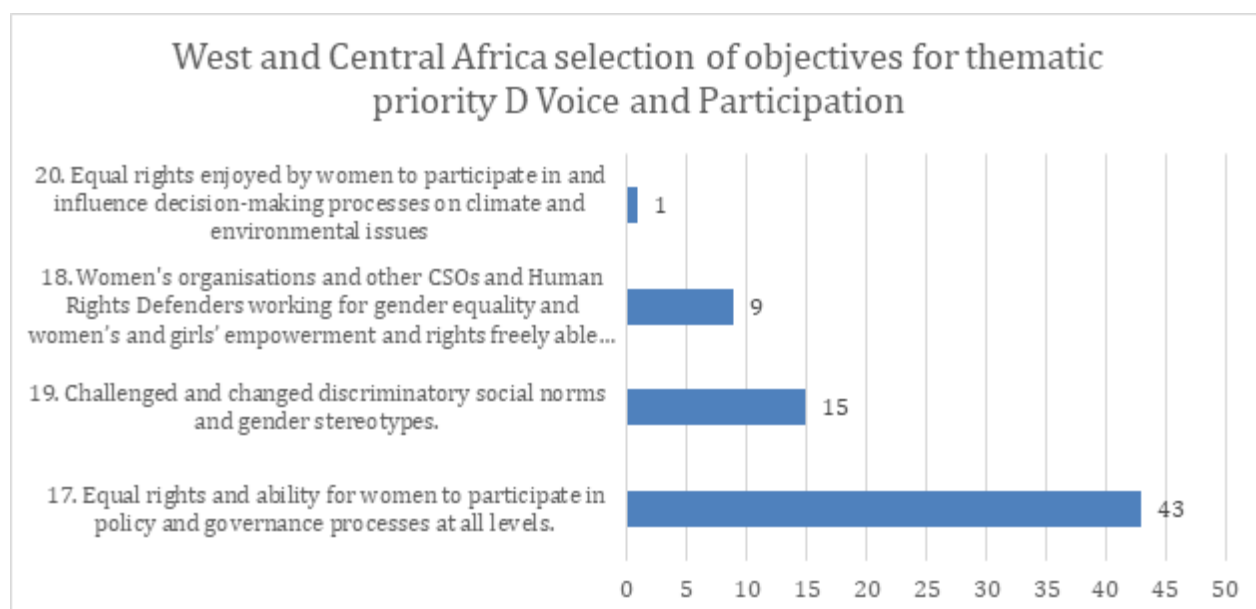
Thematic priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation, has been tackled by the least number of actions when compared with the other two thematic priorities. 63 actions or 17 % of those reported contribute to the objectives of this thematic priority. **Liberia** and **Burundi** have not cross-referenced this priority with their reported actions, thus falling short of the necessity to select at least one objective out of the four pertaining to this priority. **Nigeria** and **Guinea Bissau** are the only two countries that have identified one single activity contributing to this priority. The remaining 18 countries have reported multiple actions, with **Benin (11)**, **Burkina Faso (7)**, **Burundi (7)**, **Cameroon (6)**, **Central African Republic (6)** and **Chad (5)**, all reporting five or more actions. The scope of these actions is comprehensive and covers sectors and/or themes such as: media and communication; health sector support; justice sector support; agriculture; support national institutes (democracy; human rights); local authorities; indigenous peoples; women's political participation (elections); support to CSO (women's CSO; right to association); vulnerable populations (rights); security sector; public finance management (transparency); electoral processes; and many more. These actions also include the activities of EU member states in the countries of the sub-region.

Although the number of actions is small in comparison with that of the other two thematic priorities, the diversity of programmes that have been identified as vectors for serving the objectives of this priority is encouraging. It is also worth noting the attention paid to women's organisations, and the investment in actions that target the deficit in political and cultural rights of women, including tackling vulnerabilities deriving from crisis or conflict situations that affect nearly half of the countries in the region.

One priority has been clearly selected above all others, which is objective 17, equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels, which along with the three most selected objectives of priority C, economic, social and cultural Rights - economic and social empowerment, it has been more frequently used than objective 7, girls and women free from violence, setting a new trend as compared with 2016. Seen from the perspective of the sub-region as a whole, this confirms the leaning towards establishing, as much as possible, and within the control of the EU cooperating partners in the sub-region, some safeguards for the status of women. In addition, it also demonstrates, in line with the analysis of

the trends for the other thematic priorities, that EU funding is key to creating enabling conditions for women to take their place as agents of change in the sub-region.

In line with the findings from 2016, objective 20, equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues, remains the least selected. The indicators most used by the reported actions, supports the earlier analysis, which observed that there is a drive to support transformational actions and the selection of the gender budgeting indicator exemplifies this, above all.



Priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation, indicators selected by actions reported (sub-region overall)	Number of times reported
17.7. Number of countries carrying out gender-responsive budgeting at local and national level with EU support	7
17.3. Percentage of seats held by women and minorities in national parliament and or sub-national elected office according to their respective share of the population (SDG 5.43)	6
19.1. Number of countries that have a positive change in the OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) rating	6
17.5. N# of women benefiting from legal aid programmes supported by the EU (EURF)	5
17.6. % of women candidates in national elections with EU support	4
18.2. N# of partner countries that guarantees the CSOs right to associate, secure funding, freedom of expression, access to information and participation in public life	4
18.2. N# of partner countries that guarantees the CSOs right to associate, secure funding, freedom of expression, access to information and participation in public life	4

c. Latin America and Caribbean

Priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation, is marginally less prioritised with respect to others in the region (28 % of reported actions contribute to this priority). All four related objectives were chosen in the sub-region, to different degrees, with a predominance of objective 17, equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels, comprising 31 actions, spread across six countries. Ecuador was the only exception. However, Ecuador focused on priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation, focusing on contextual factors of objective 18, support to women's organisations and other CSOs and Human Rights Defenders and objective 19, related to challenging discriminatory social norms.

Many of the actions reported include projects funded by the EIDHR or CSO-LA programmes. A high prevalence of indicator 17.4, is explained by the presence of numerous peace-building projects in Colombia, promoting the representation of women mediators, negotiators and technical experts in formal peace negotiations (SGD 16.8). Objective 18, support to women's organisations and other CSOs and Human Rights Defenders working for gender equality, is the second most selected objective, with a prevalence of indicator 18.1, n# of women Human Rights Defenders who have received EU Support (EURF). Only six actions have the explicit aim to challenge discriminatory social norms, under objective 19, which are being implemented in Peru and Ecuador. Support to gender-responsive budgeting initiatives remains very limited, with indicator 17.7 only selected twice in Bolivia and Colombia, but with the potential of important positive impact.



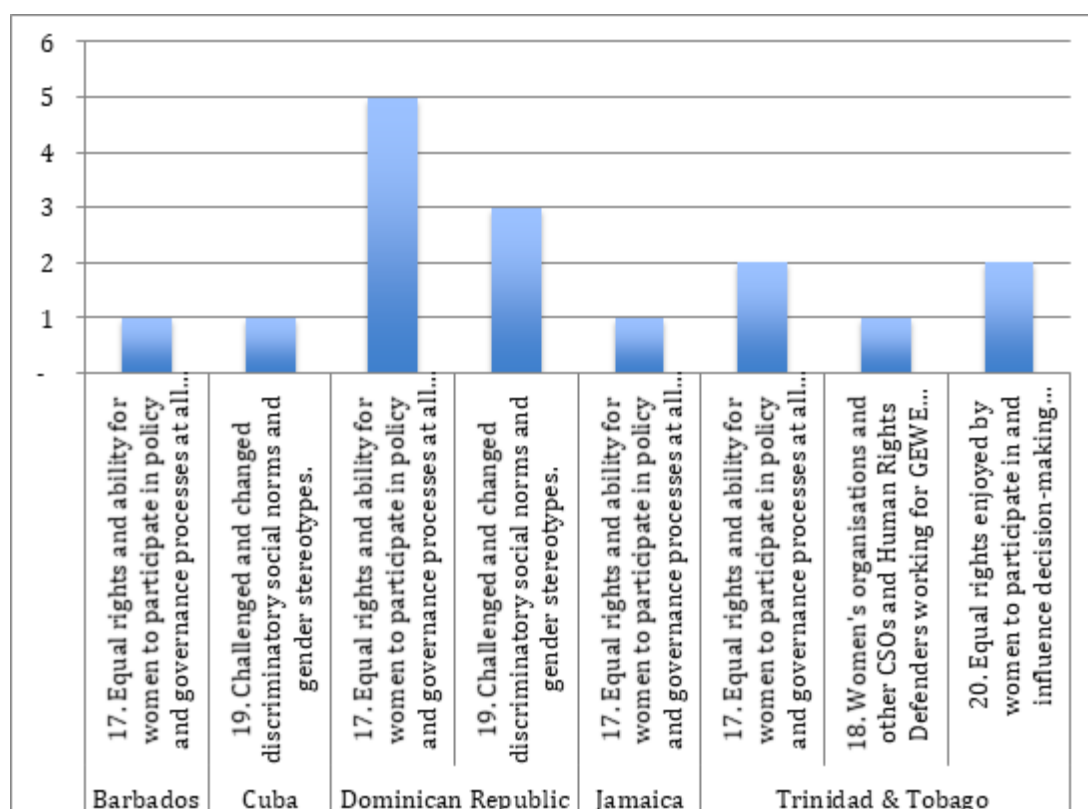
d. Central America

Although less prioritised than the previous two, increasing women's and girls' agency, voice and participation in political, social and economic life represent an area of high commitment for the EU in the region, through 39 actions. Objective 18, women's organisations, CSOs and Human Rights Defenders working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights freely able to work and protected by law, was the most selected along with all its indicators. This illustrates the engagement of the EU in building enabling spaces for non-state actors' participation and involvement to promote political and civil rights. This is particularly important in the case of economic and political uncertainty and instability that may lead to social unrest and human rights violations and abuse.

Objective 19, challenging discriminatory social norms and stereotypes that hinder the equal participation of women and girls at all levels of political and social life, was the second most selected with all related indicators. This underlines the commitment of the EU to support change at a country-wide level (indicator 19.1 on positive change in the OECD SIGI Index and indicator 19.3 on introducing the quota system), and to changing the attitude of women that intend to practice FGM on their daughters (indicator 19.2 for Costa Rica) and communities in abandoning a practice that discriminates or harms girls and women (indicator 19.4). Objective 17, equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels, was the second most selected and the indicators chosen (17.2 and 17.3) reflect the need to improve women's position on corporate boards and national parliaments or sub-national offices. Efforts therefore continue towards achieving full equality for countries that rank among the top 10 (Nicaragua and Mexico) or among the top 20 (Costa Rica) for the highest percentage of women in the parliament¹². Objective 20 was selected only in Guatemala, by the EU Delegation and Spain, involved respectively in programmes supporting democratic governance and the justice system and the political participation of the indigenous population.

e. The Caribbean

Objective 17 was central to nine actions, addressing women's equal rights and participation in policy and governance processes. The choice of this objective has more than doubled since 2016 (four instances), being selected on nine occasions in 2017.



Programmes under this priority engaged in gender-responsive actions were supported by EU funds, and with a focus on measuring gender budgeting initiatives (17.5). Women's enjoyment of legal aid was also central to Jamaica's reform of its justice system, being monitored through indicator 17.7. Under objective 19, the political empowerment of Afro-Dominican feminist women as leaders in the Dominican Republic is a priority, and is being tracked through indicator 19.4. Although, the use of this indicator has decreased with respect to 2016, when it was selected seven times.

¹² UNDP, IDEA, Community of Democracies, *Advancing Women's Political Participation. America's Consultation on Gender Equality and Political Empowerment*, May 16, 2017. Mexico City, Mexico.

f. Asia and Pacific

Ensuring that women and girls participate actively and see their rights duly represented in democratic processes continues to be an important objective for EU cooperation in the region.

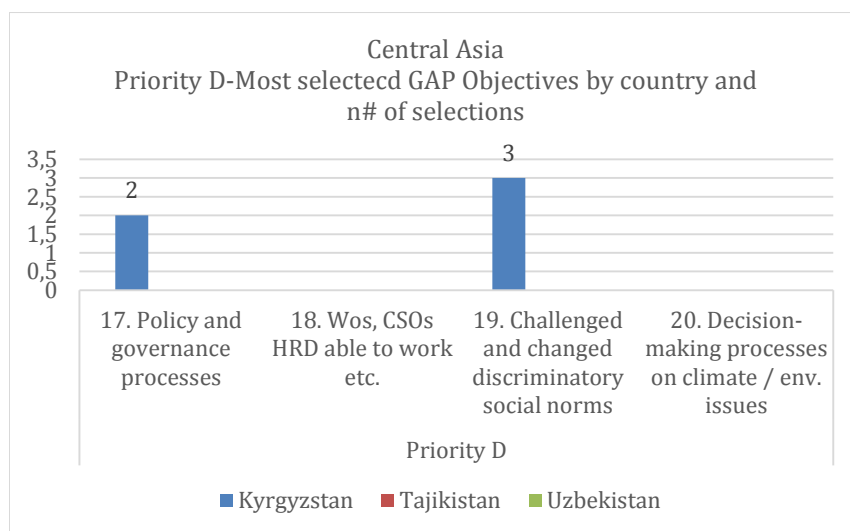
In relation to 2016, 2017 registered an increase of contributing actions under all the four related objectives. 123 actions (76 if not counting Cambodia) are reported to contribute to objective 17, equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes, which has seen a ten-fold increase since 2016, with ten actions. Actions span from larger scale programmes, such as the sector reform contract, supporting sub-national democratic development in Cambodia, to smaller sized projects aiming to improve access to justice and democratic participation in various sectors. These also include a relatively good number of projects specifically aiming to empower women and girls (13), reaching out to, in some instances, those at risk of social exclusion (women with disabilities, victims of war and migrant or rural women, from marginalised ethnic groups). Consequently, it is unsurprising that indicator 17.3, percentage of seats held by women and minorities in national parliament and or sub-national elected office according to their respective share of the population (SDG 5.43), is the most frequently selected, with 48 actions being reported that contribute to this indicator, followed by 17.5, n# of women benefiting from legal aid programmes supported by the EU.

Progress in raising awareness of the critical importance of overcoming stereotypes and adopting transformative approaches is demonstrated by a sharp increase in the selection of objective 19, which was selected only twice in 2016, compared to 44 times in 2017 (although, for mostly smaller initiatives). These actions included a very limited number of actions promoting the rights of LGBTI persons (China) and one specific action to prevent boys' sexual abuse.

g. Central Asia

Only Kyrgyzstan reported on thematic priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation, in the region. Objective 17 was included in two programmes for the promotion of rule of law and the gender monitoring of the Presidential election of October 2017 and of the activity of the Kyrgyz Parliament by CSOs.

Challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes (objective 19) was included in a programme to implement a new Kyrgyz law preventing early marriage and reducing violence against girls, and in two programmes aiming respectively to fighting illicit drugs and managing the borders in the region.



h. The Gulf States

One programme for Iraq contributed to priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation, which supported women's participation in the 2017 political elections and the increase of the overall number of

female candidates. These kind of initiatives are of utmost importance for countries like Iraq, in a phase of transitional justice and democracy after a long-lasting conflict, civil war and continuing political unrest. During this round of elections, women made up 28 % of the nearly 7 000 candidates running for 329 seats in the parliament. For many, running for elections implied being exposed to abuse and threats, including online smear campaigns, in an environment already overwhelmed by violence.

i. EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

Thematic priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation, was selected in 222 actions in the region.

Enlargement

Objective 17, policy and governance processes, was the most selected under priority D by all EU Delegations in the region, with the exception of Serbia that did not select any objective for this priority. The analysis of the indicators chosen, make it possible to affirm that, generally, the reporting of EU Delegations are focusing more on women's representation and minorities in national parliament and subnational elected offices (indicator 17.3), and legal aid to women (indicator 17.5). Great attention is given to objective 18 (Women's Organisations, CSOs and HRDs) and its related indicators, with a noticeable contribution of Turkey, with 30 occurrences, most of which fall within the EIDHR programmes since 2014.

Neighbourhood East

EU Delegations in this region focused primarily on objective 17, policy and governance processes. All related indicators were selected for programmes that span from institution building of the National Women's Machinery (Azerbaijan), to support to universities (Belarus), enhancing women's political participation (the Republic of Moldova), supporting women's CSOs (Georgia), supporting gender responsive budgeting, and advancing women's participation for peace and human rights (Ukraine). In Georgia, objective 19, challenging social norms and stereotypes, was selected for a study on the discrimination of LGT women over 2015 to 2017, in Armenia it involved a programme on combatting gender based sex selection and in Ukraine there is a programme on anti-discrimination targeting citizens, particularly vulnerable groups and looking at relevant legislation.

Neighbourhood South

All reporting EU Delegations in the Neighbourhood South region are working towards objective 17, to improve women's participation in policy and governance processes. Algeria, Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia are committed to bolster the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting (indicator 17.6); Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon and Palestine are supporting the participation of women as candidates in national elections (indicators 17.1 and 17.6), including at local level like in Algeria (indicator 17.3). The representation of women among mediators, negotiators and technical experts in formal peace negotiations (SGD 16.8) (indicator 17.4.) is promoted in Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. The attention being paid to enable, protect and strengthen women's organisations, CSOs, and Human rights defenders (objective 18) has tripled from the previous year. Objective 18 was chosen by seven EU Delegations in the region with a higher prevalence in Jordan and Algeria, which include all related Indicators. Most of the programmes support CSO organisations within the human rights and democracy strategy papers, but there are also initiatives to support gender equality advocates (i.e. in Algeria). Discriminatory norms and gender stereotypes (objective 19) are addressed in seven countries, with a higher prevalence of programmes in Palestine. Out of these, three countries intend to monitor the positive change in OECD and SIGI ranking (indicator 19.1) and Egypt is committed to making communities abandon harmful practices for girls and women (indicator 19.4). Women's rights and participation to the decision-making processes about climate and environment (objective 20) has also received much more attention in comparison to the previous year's report, even if chosen only by three countries in the region, with a good commitment for Egypt, Jordan and Palestine.

Fighting violence against women: TAIEX supported high-level conference in Palestine*

On 5 and 6 December 2017, a Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) supported a high-level conference on combating gender-based violence against women and girls in Ramallah, Palestine. Organised by the Office of the European Union Representative in cooperation with the Ministry of Women Affairs of Palestine, the conference brought together more than 80 experts from EU Member States and Palestine. The two-day event was an important contribution to the United Nations' #OrangeTheWorld-campaign launched on the occasion of the International Day on the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Thematically, the conference focused on the legislative and societal frameworks and challenges in Palestine. Good practice examples were presented from Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal and Sweden as well as from the region. Interactive discussions seek to bolster the cooperation and involvement of key stakeholders to fight gender-based violence.

More information can be found at: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/fighting-violence-against-women-taiex-supported-high-level-conference-take-place_en

* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

ANNEX 4 - EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

Institutional culture shift

Progress has been made by the European External Action Service on the institutional cultural shift objectives, throughout 2017. Internationally, and together with Commission services and EU Member States, the European External Action Service, continued to play a pivotal role in advancing gender equality, promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls and empowering them at all levels. By combining gender policies and accountability processes and the strategy to mainstream a gender perspective, the European External Action Service, contributed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the attainment of the 17 SDGs. The two-main policy-making UN fora, the 61th session of UN Commission on the Status of Women and the 35th session of UN Human Rights Council, further confirmed the strategic role of the EU for advancing the gender equality agenda.

Moreover, in 2017, all human rights dialogues and sub-committees with partner countries had ad hoc sessions on gender equality, girls' and women's empowerment and women, peace and security. Gender equality and women's empowerment were also regularly discussed in the context of informal working groups and discussions on human rights as a stepping-stone in confidence-building over time and ultimately establishing more formal and in-depth dialogues.

While action was taken to improve the ratio of women appointed as Heads of Delegation (HoD), in 2017, out of a total of 136 EU Delegations, there were 31 women HoDs, which corresponds to 22.8 %, which compares with 20.3 % for 2016. The trend is therefore positive, albeit marginal. Furthermore, there were 16 CSDP (common security and defence policy) civilian and military missions and operations (ten civilian and six military). While in 2016, five out of the ten civilian missions were headed by women, the comparable figure for 2017 was three women heading a total of 17 missions, corresponding to 17.6 % of the total. All six military missions were headed by men.

In 2017, the European External Action Service together with Commission services for Development and Cooperation agreed to streamline and synchronise the reporting on broader EU external action to promote gender equality and girls' and women's rights and empowerment (EU Gender Action Plan II) with the reporting on the indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the EU's policy on WPS (as requested by the Council in the 2008/Comprehensive Approach on the Implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820).

It is a further improvement in the reporting from 2016, that now the seven EUSRs¹³, the European External Action Service geographical desks and the CMPD, CPCC and Member States/MPCC services, have all contributed their data to include in the European External Action Service contribution to the 2017 GAP II report.

Objective 1, increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States: In order to facilitate coherence and coordination between the European External Action Service and the EU Member States, the European External Action Service regularly briefed and shared views with all the relevant thematic and geographical Council working groups on gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment and WPS (for instance the political and security committee, and the working parties on human rights, on the United Nations, but also on specific regions, like the working parties on the Western Balkans region, on Eastern Europe and Central Asia, on Asia-Oceania, on Mashreq/Maghreb, on Africa.)

Throughout 2017, the European External Action Service engaged proactively to include gender equality and women's and girls' rights considerations and empowerment into the Mercosur-EU Association Agreement; the CELAC - EU Foreign Ministers Meeting; the modernised Global Agreement EU-Mexico; the EU - Chile Association Agreement; and the second Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the

¹³ EUSRs for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Horn of Africa (and Sudan and South Sudan), for Human Rights, for Kosovo, for the Middle East Peace Process, for the Sahel and for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia.

region. Furthermore, gender equality and women's empowerment were discussed during the tenth EU-Uruguay Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) in March 2017.

The European External Action Service services in headquarters, as well as common security and defence policy (CSDP) missions and operations, identified 27 EU political/policy positions represented in relation to key international events, debates and negotiations in 2017 that included a focus on gender equality and the rights of girls and women. These included, among others, EU statements delivered at the UN Security Council's (UNSC) open debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict as a Tactic of War and Terrorism (June 2017); at the UNSC's open debate on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) – progress and backtracking (October 2017); and at the UNSC's open meeting, Arria Formula on Women, Peace and Security and Mediation (March 2017).

In addition, an EU statement was delivered by the Maltese Presidency of the Council during the opening segment of the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women on 13 March 2017. The EU was actively engaged in negotiations leading to the adoption of the agreed conclusions on 'Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work'.

Moreover, the EU proved remarkably successful in influencing the 35th session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The EU was actively engaged in negotiations on the resolution on Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, engaging men and boys in preventing and responding to violence against all women and girls, led by Canada. The resolution has been adopted by consensus and co-sponsored by all 28 EU Member States. The EU also took an active part in the annual full day panel discussion, including via EU interventions on accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women: engaging men and boys in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, and women's Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: health and gender equality.

Six CSDP missions and operations made statements on International Women's Day on 08 March 2017, issued public statements on the occasion of the UN International Day in Combatting Violence against Women on 25 November 2017, and engaged in the related '16 days of activism' campaign in November 2017. A joint statement by five Commissioners was issued on the UN International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict on 19 June 2017.

As an example of EU positions developed jointly with partner countries, the EU and the Independent State of Samoa hosted the first Pacific-EU Gender Conference in the margins of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in Apia on 7 September 2017. In addition, leaders participating in the fifth AU-EU Summit, held in Abidjan/Ivory Coast on 29-30 November 2017, issued a political declaration which integrates the gender perspective under various areas.

EU positions

1. The EU Special Representative for Human Rights addressed women's rights and/or political and economic empowerment of women throughout his official visits to the Gambia and Indonesia, in the human rights dialogues he chaired respectively with the African Union and ASEAN, and in his keynote addresses at major conferences organised in Chile and Peru. A recent example was the human rights discussion with Iran where women's rights and women's empowerment played a central role.
2. In Kosovo, within the framework of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) Sub-Committee on Justice, Freedom and Security, the EUSR for Kosovo / EU Office addressed the recently adopted National Strategy for Protection from Domestic Violence and its Action Plan 2016-2020, with special emphasis on its implementation; as well as the strengthening of the Agency for Gender Equality; a more gender sensitive reform of the local inheritance law and the operationalisation of the Commission for the Verification of the status of survivors of sexual and gender based violence during the conflict.
3. The European External Action Service continued to operate its inclusive informal coordination platform on WPS, the informal EU Task Force on WPS (EUTF), which brings together EU institutions, EU Member States, civil society and multilateral partners.

4. Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade hosted a Workshop on National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 in Dublin on 4 April 2017, in co-operation with the European External Action Service and the EU informal Task Force on UNSCR1325, with the purpose of exchanging experiences, best practices and lessons learned. The workshop discussions gave rise to a number of specific recommendations for consideration by Member States and institutions involved in developing mechanisms for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, including national action plans.

Objective 2, dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States: While the European External Action Service does not have a system of gender champions, there are a few staff positions that formally lead and coordinate the work for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment. The Principal Advisor on Gender and UNSCR 1325/WPS was appointed by the HRVP in October 2015 with the mandate to lead on EU internal/external coordination and coherence for effective mainstreaming of the gender and WPS agenda in EU external action.

In light of the EU's policy aim to promote gender equality, women's empowerment and the WPS agenda, many members of senior management and Heads of Missions have systematically and proactively promoted this within their MDs/departments/units/missions. However, this needs to be further promoted, as it is still more a matter of personal commitment and choice rather than a fully established systematic and structured approach.

EXAMPLES

1. EULEX senior management team conducted a survey among all staff members with questions about their experiences of bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and discrimination. The survey also assessed staff members' awareness about policy and reporting mechanisms and about their perceptions of the enforcement of the policy by the mission's management. At the time of finalising this report, the EULEX senior management team are assessing the results and are planning follow-up changes.
2. Following the final reports with recommendations by the two European External Action Service taskforces created by the European External Action Service's Secretary General, to present recommendations on career development and on gender equality and equal opportunities, senior management endorsed in November 2017 the gender and equal opportunities strategy and an implementation roadmap including the decision to establish a new staff position from March 1 2018 for an European External Action Service adviser for equal opportunities and careers.
3. A European External Action Service leadership development programme for women managers and the women managers mentoring programme were conducted, constituting actions to improve performance on gender equality through both gender balance and gender mainstreaming.

Objective 3, sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitments: In-house capacities remain a limited resource. In 2017, the European External Action Service had: 1 senior manager (PAG), 1 fulltime seconded national expert (SNE), 1 double-hatted SNE, and 8 gender focal persons (in units global 1, 5 and 6, PRISM, Western Balkans, crisis management planning directorate (CMPD); civilian planning and conduct capability (CPCC) directorate and the EU military staff/military planning and conduct capability (SNE)). In addition, there are 10¹⁴ civilian and two military gender advisors in CSDP operations and missions, which is just a marginal increase over 2016.

A recognised method identified as effective both in order to strengthen the limited resources and to facilitate effective mainstreaming of gender perspectives, is to establish a system with gender focal persons (GFP), and in 2017, five CSDP Civilian Missions have established well-functioning GFP systems.

In a handful of situations, an EU Member State through the Swedish Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) provided external technical expertise for four civilian CSDP missions (EUPOL COPPS, EUBAM Rafah, EUMM Georgia and EUAM Ukraine) to support internal capacity building on gender in 2017. This included

¹⁴ One full double-hatted gender and human rights advisor post is added through the establishment of a new civilian mission.

support for setting up and training of GFP systems. The EU military training mission in Central African Republic (EUTM CAR) contracted an external expert to develop international humanitarian laws training with an integrated gender perspective for local security forces.

Although gender is not yet systematically mainstreamed throughout all European External Action Service training, progress was made in 2017. Gender perspectives and human rights have become integral parts of the overall European Security and Defence College (ESDC) training programme, for example, the CSDP orientation course and high-level course, as well as courses on conflict prevention, peacebuilding, the integrated approach and security sector reform. In addition, there are specialised courses on integrating a gender perspective in missions and operations. In 2017, a new training policy was adopted for CSDP, establishing gender pre-deployment training as a mandatory requirement. Furthermore, a two-day WPS seminar for European External Action Service staff as well as for Member States (with a curriculum consisting of gender equality and women's empowerment) was conducted in October 2017.

Training in various formats, with gender equality as a main topic, was provided to 112 European External Action Service staff, including 71 women and 41 men, in 2017. While no gender breakdown of staff categories is available, it is noticeable that participants included 25 % middle managers. With 408, including 141 women, CSDP staff represents a significantly higher number of participants in gender training courses. Of these, 51 were managers, 11 women and 40 men, while 11 women and 7 men were trained as human rights and gender advisors. A total of 80 GFPs were trained during the same year.

The European External Action Service does not yet have sufficiently developed tools to track gender equality elements in all job descriptions of headquarters-based staff in general. However, certain job descriptions do contain explicit gender-related responsibilities. This is particularly the case for the Force Generation Guide for Civilian CSDP (July 2017) that contains standard job descriptions for over 100 different positions. Missions are free to adapt the mission-specific part of the job description to their respective context. In six¹⁵ of the job functions in this guide, responsibilities on gender equality and/or integration of a gender perspective are included which, with 10 civilian CSDP missions, bring the total number of those job descriptions to 60.

EXAMPLES

1. The job description of deputy head of mission says: supervise the implementation of mechanisms in the mission for monitoring, implementing and evaluating EU and additional relevant international instruments for gender equality, mainstreaming and WPS.
2. Gender is included in performance assessments for some CSDP mission staff, but not yet for European External Action Service staff across the board. In EUMM Georgia, gender is included in the Performance Evaluation Reports (PER) for the GFP only. The EUMM is looking into including them for other positions as well. In addition, in EUMM Georgia, the Mission conducts regular (every 12 to 24 months) internal gender mainstreaming assessments. This was not carried out in 2017 but the mission is currently planning the internal review for 2018 which is due to start soon.
3. The GFP in the Member States/MPCC has also a gender component included in the performance report.

Objective 4, robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy making: In 2017, the European External Action Service's departments in headquarters have continued to integrate gender dimensions in EU decision-making and policy at global and regional level. The first yearly implementation report of the EU global strategy for the European Union's foreign and security policy (EUGS) of June 2017 mapped the year's achievements, including in relation to gender mainstreaming within its five building blocks.

In November 2017, the Council of the EU adopted Council Conclusions on a strategic approach to resilience in the EU's External Action. The Council Conclusions affirm that the EU's strategic approach should fully

¹⁵ Deputy Head of Mission, Gender Advisor, Head of Planning, Analysis, Evaluation and Reporting Unit, Mission Analytical Capability Analyst, Mission Security Analyst, Head of Component Operations Department

reflect the gender dimension and secure the rights and participation of women and girls. Furthermore, gender has been integrated in part of the implementation plan on security and defence, the EU concept on stability as well as within the continued joint implementation of the external aspects of all EU policies on gender equality and women's empowerment. On that basis, political reporting on political dialogues, human rights dialogues and sub-committees, informal working groups and human rights-related discussions with partner countries included gender-related achievements and identified potential follow-up. The EU strategies at regional level converge towards the same. In the Western Balkans, to enhance women's active participation in decision-making and public administration's senior management positions, a study was launched on gender equality and public administration to inform reforms and programming.

Furthermore, the baseline study (2016) established 21 baselines in 2017 for measuring progress in the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in CSDP missions and operations in the future. Among other things, it has already resulted in a more systematic approach to integrate a gender perspective into CMPD-led strategic reviews in accordance with the Crisis Management Procedures. All civilian missions have internal processes whereby activities are being adjusted on a regular basis following a standard process.

Objective 6, partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality: During 2017, the European External Action Service has strengthened and formalised two strategic partnerships, with the UN and with NATO. The UN-EU Steering Committee on Crisis Management has agreed that WPS should be a priority, following-up on the 2015-2018 priorities to strengthen the UN-EU strategic partnership on peacekeeping and crisis management, and the EU and the UN are currently working together to translate this commitment into concrete priorities. Moreover, regarding the EU - NATO partnership, the new set of proposals (Political Security Committee and North Atlantic Council) from December 2017 includes areas of cooperation related to WPS in the areas of situational awareness, early warning and capacity-building for third countries. Furthermore, during 2017 the strategic partnership with the UN, in particular with UN Women, has been further reinforced in the areas of gender equality and WPS.

EULEX is part of a coordination mechanism called the security and gender group. The group consists of gender experts and advisors from different international and local agencies, as well as members from the local and international civil society. Apart from functioning as a coordination mechanism for activities, information and expertise is exchanged on different issues related to gender. The group is chaired by the UN Women and could serve as a good example for other countries.

ANNEX 5 COMMISSION SERVICE FOR FOREIGN POLICY INSTRUMENTS

The institutional culture shift

Gender mainstreaming is becoming a strong feature and mind-set within the working methods of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments across all its interventions. Gender is integrated structurally into the Service's Management Plan with clear targets and references to GAP II whereas the issue of gender has been addressed within the context of individual actions and operations since 2014, particularly under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace. In September 2017, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments adopted its results framework and manual, which incorporates a clear gender perspective, informed by GAP II commitments and inspired by the SDG 5 – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. It provides a clear basis for an assessment of the performance on implementing GAP II objectives.

In terms of concrete steps towards the **institutional culture shift in the EU external relations**, efforts to mainstream gender in the management of crisis and post-crisis situations are starting to bear fruit. In 2017, gender featured strongly as both an action-specific and cross-cutting issue under interventions of the **Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)** and the **Partnership Instrument (PI)**. For both instruments, a gender facility (external technical services) has been created to advance work on gender mainstreaming as part of programming and action design in EU delegations, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments Regional Teams and headquarters. Gender also featured as an important consideration in **Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) operations** and continued to be an integral part of planning and implementation of EU **electoral observation missions (EOM)** under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. All Service for Foreign Policy Instruments' instruments and operations, IcSP, PI, EOM and CFSP, contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls under SDG 5.

In terms of progress towards **objective 2, dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States**: two items of good practice – IcSP and PI gender facilities and reporting on the G-marker¹⁶ – were highlighted within the framework of the annual activity report 2017 and programme statements for draft budget 2019¹⁷. In addition, work on gender formed part of the core responsibilities of Service for Foreign Policy Instruments operational project managers, underpinned by the above-mentioned gender facility which provided project managers with direct access to external senior expertise on strategic and ad hoc issues related to gender equality, thereby contributing to ongoing improvement to action design and all subsequent phases of the project cycle. In terms of quality, work on developing a gender sensitive approach to evaluations was further advanced in joint cooperation with Commission services for International Cooperation and Development and Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, through the drafting of a guidance note: Evaluation with gender as a cross-cutting dimension. This work was completed in the second half of 2017 with a view to its wide circulation amongst staff involved in evaluation activities during 2018.

Objective 3, sufficient resources allocated by EU Institutions and Member States to deliver on gender equality commitments: the unit responsible for the partnership instrument organised various sessions on women's economic empowerment during the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments days in which 10 staff members took part. Gender Focal Persons were designated at Headquarters for the IcSP and Partnership Instrument respectively, each of whom has at least three years of gender expertise and more than five years' experience in the field of peace building, including on women, peace and security. As a Service, the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments considers gender in the context of the Women, Peace and Security agenda (WPS), ensuring that the former is never dissociated from the broader issue of gender and its obligations

¹⁶ The Service for Foreign Policy Instruments Management Plan 2017 undertook to apply the G-marker to all Service for Foreign Policy Instruments operations as the indicator to measure implementation of GAP II. For 2018, the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments Management Plan will complement the G-marker with two additional indicators: use of gender expertise/analysis as an integral part of project design and measuring "Sex/age disaggregation of project results via OPSYS".

¹⁷ Programme Statements for Chapter 19 – Foreign Policy Instruments. Similar detail was provided for Programme Statements for the 2018 budget referring to data for 2016, the first year of GAP II.

under SDG 5. Gender focal persons were designated for common foreign and security policy operations (already in June 2016) and for election observation missions. In terms of general coordination and Service-level reporting, the evaluation officer covered the issue of gender, supported by a deputy head of unit. Service for Foreign Policy Instruments is also committed to implementing a human resource policy based on the diversity and inclusion charter, which is part of the diversity and inclusion strategy adopted in 2017.

In terms of direct resource allocation, two service contracts – IcSP Gender Facility and PI Gender Facility – were concluded (see above) to provide advice on how best to mainstream gender across areas of policy intervention and to increase staff skills to do so. This expertise is provided via ad hoc intervention, coaching sessions, trainings and the development of thematic guidance notes.

Objective 4, robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy making: the IcSP gender facility's technical expertise was deployed and used 11 times throughout 2017 to inform actions and programmes including those under the annual action plan for conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness (IcSP, Article 4). Expert advice was also sought to develop gender-related indicators and to provide conceptual inputs for ongoing and future engagement on media and on gender norms and conflict. The Service for Foreign Policy Instruments Manual was adopted in September 2017 including clear information on gender under the sections covering project management methodology while clear gender criteria were incorporated into the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments' results framework. The manual and the results framework apply across the Service.¹⁸

No specific criterion for the assessment of impact on women and girls were included in the terms of reference for the mid-term evaluations of any of the external financing instruments in 2017 including for IcSP and the partnership instrument. However, gender was covered as one of key cross-cutting issues for the evaluation of the IcSP alongside consideration of how far IcSP advanced the WPS agenda. Gender was indirectly covered within the scope of the evaluation of the partnership instrument. For future evaluations, clear criteria for the mainstreaming of gender-equality and gender-sensitivity in project design and implementation relevant to all Service for Foreign Policy Instruments interventions were identified as part of the guidance note: Evaluation with gender as a cross-cutting dimension, drafted by the Commission services.

One year into the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, the **European Parliament's** Research Department conducted a **study**¹⁹ in which the IcSP was particularly commended on results achieved in terms of engagement with women's NGOs/CSOs on the whole of society approach. These findings were also referenced in the mid-term review report of the external financing instruments in December 2017²⁰: Mainstreaming human rights issues including gender equality and women's empowerment is still a work-in-progress although some positive messages have emerged from the study on the implementation of the EU gender action plan II, in particular for the IcSP. This is clear evidence of Service for Foreign Policy Instruments progress on gender. In terms of reporting, similar to 2016, all headquarter units submitted the report (this year *via* EU Survey) alongside contributions from all five Service for Foreign Policy Instruments regional teams located in Bangkok, Beirut, Brasilia, Dakar and Nairobi.

Thematic priorities

Introduction: thematic priority B, ensuring physical and psychological integrity to women and girls:

Gender is integrated into all actions of **IcSP**, both non-programmable crisis response measures under Article 3 and programmable actions on conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness under Article 4. Due attention is being paid to the relevant provisions of the legal basis particularly those related to combating gender-based violence and promoting the participation of women in peace-building. In this regard, priority is

¹⁸ For CFSP operations, the Results Framework is under construction.

¹⁹ "EU gender action plan 2016-2020 at year one: European implementation assessment by the European Parliament":

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_STU%282017%29603256

²⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/mid-term-review-report_en.pdf – COM(2017) 720 final of 15/12/2017

given to ensuring that all actions contribute to delivering on EU commitments on women, peace and security (WPS) based on the comprehensive EU approach to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on WPS (2008).

Taking stock of the support and guidance provided in previous years by the IcSP gender facility, staff at headquarters and in the regional teams began to mainstream gender on a more systematic basis when designing Article 3 and Article 4 actions, with particular attention to WPS issues. A new action, preventing violent extremism: a gender sensitive approach, was included under the annual action programme 2017 for conflict prevention, peace-building and conflict prevention (Article 4), aiming to prevent the rise of violent extremism by strengthening capacities of local actors to address its gender dynamics. As stated above, a service contract for a new gender facility was concluded in 2017, to ensure and take due account of the implementation of GAP II commitments.

In 2017, 51.6 % of newly contracted IcSP actions reported a G-Marker 1, 8.3 % reported a G-Marker 2 and the remaining 40.1 % reported a G-Marker 0. In comparison, in 2016, 51 % of new actions reported a G-Marker 1, 3 % reported a G-Marker 2 and the remaining 46 % reported a G-Marker 0, which demonstrates clear progress in gender-focused actions²¹.

The vast majority of actions marked G-Marker 0 in 2017 are actions providing assistance in response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis to prevent conflicts under Article 3 of the Regulation establishing the Instrument contributing to stability and peace. While covering a variety of sectors, more than 50 % of the actions have the objective of contributing to civilian peacebuilding, conflict prevention and resolution (DAC sector code: 15220). Actions marked G-Marker 0 also target a variety of African, Asian, European (outside of the EU) and Latin-American countries.

West and Central Africa:

In the context of the EU's Sahel strategy, a Council Decision on a European Union stabilisation action in Mopti and Segou (Central Mali) was adopted in July 2017. One of its main objectives is to support Malian national plans and policies through its advice to the Malian authorities on the re-establishment and expansion of the civilian administration in the Centre region of Mali around towns of Mopti and Segou, in accordance with international standards. Its **primary objective** is to consolidate and support democracy, the rule of law, human rights and **gender equality** by strengthening general governance in this region.

Latin America, Central America, and the Caribbean:

Colombia: Colombia (alongside the Philippines and Kosovo) is one the of three pilot countries under the action, gender-sensitive transitional justice, in the area of conflict-prevention and peace-building under IcSP, Article 4. The action aims to increase the effectiveness of transitional justice processes to contribute to a more just and stable society by increasing the extent to which these processes prioritise victims (men, women, boys and girls) and their respective needs, as well as to take into account the different needs of conflict-affected populations. The action also underpins EU support for the Colombia peace process.

In Asia, Central Asia, Pacific, and Middle East/Gulf:

The objective of the action, women building peace: promoting the role of **Afghan women** in peace and security processes and in the **prevention of gender-based violence**, is to contribute to building sustainable peace and gender-sensitive conflict resolution mechanisms, in line with UNSCR 1325 and with Afghanistan's national action plan on Women, Peace and Security. The national action plan was adopted by the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in June 2015. The action will promote the strategic priorities outlined in the NAP, in particular, the participation of women in conflict resolution and mitigation mechanisms, prevention of violence.

EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah: The EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support continued to support the establishment, under Palestinian ownership, of an effective and sustainable policing and wider

²¹ This data is provided in line with Objective 5.3.2 of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-20: 'Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations, 2016-20' – SWD(2015) 182 final of 21/09/2015

criminal justice arrangements in accordance with best international standards. In 2017, considerable work and effort by this civilian CSDP Mission came to fruition with the official adoption by Presidential Decree of the Palestinian Police Law and other legislation prepared with its assistance, including the Law on Cybercrime and the Law on the Serious Crime Court. The Mission also assisted the preparation of standard operating procedures and handbooks on important topics such as the use of firearms, IT forensic processes, use of force, information and assistance to families of victims of road traffic accidents, information-led policing, legislative drafting and public consultation, ethics and rules of conduct. A manual on human rights was also co-produced for the Palestinian High Judicial Council. To contribute to ensuring the security needs of the whole of society and counter discrimination, in co-operation with UN Women, the Mission supported the development of the **Palestinian civil police gender strategy**.

In Neighbourhood South and East, Turkey, Russia:

IcSP supports the **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)** in undertaking data collection on violence against women in conflict-risk areas in 10 OSCE countries in the Western Balkans and eastern Europe.

As part of its Annual Action Programme for 2015 on conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness (Article 4) IcSP adopted a multi-country flagship action, survey on the well-being and security of women in south east Europe, eastern Europe, Turkey and the south Caucasus, covering violence against women (VAW) and gender-based violence (GBV) in 10 OSCE countries. The action aims to improve policy-making and programming of relevant actors, such as the security sector, the executive and legislative, as well as international stakeholders, to prevent and combat violence against women in the OSCE region. It also aims to provide the evidence for the benefit of governments and civil society as well as to inform the design and implementation of possible future interventions under IPA II and ENI. The evidence-base for VAW will be gathered using the methodology of the survey undertaken by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on violence against women in European Union Member States. The regions/countries proposed for the first wave of the survey are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine.²²

The action's interim report at the end of 2017 (7/08/2015-31/12/2017) indicated results in terms of timely development of quantitative and qualitative research material and cooperation with national and international stakeholders. Challenges were encountered, however, in conducting research in conflict-affected areas, and in securing the participation of the south Caucasus countries along with the use of data for reporting on SDGs. Through this major study, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments contributes directly to filling the gap in existing data on women's security and safety in OSCE participating states not covered under the EU FRA survey, thereby contributing to EU commitments on combating gender-based violence.

Restoration of local governance and reconciliation in crisis-affected areas of **Ukraine**

The overall objective of this action (duration from May 2016 to November 2017) was to restore effective governance and promote peace building and reconciliation in crisis-affected communities of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. Specifically, it aimed to improve regional and local government capacity in recovery planning and service delivery in a manner that is **gender-responsive** and participatory manner, and in line with the decentralisation and local government reform agenda. It also aimed at enhancing community security for people in conflict-affected areas, with a focus on internally displaced persons most of whom are women and children.

Thematic priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment:

Introduction

²² Commission Implementing Decision of 27.5.2015 on the Annual Action Programme 2015 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace - Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component to be financed from the general budget of the European Union: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/documents/20150601_2015_aap_icsp_article_4_en.pdf

In the context of the Partnership Instrument's (PI) annual action programme for 2017, two actions were adopted and contracted which directly address GAP II thematic priorities, economic, social and cultural rights and voice and participation, while a further action was designed for inclusion under the 2018 Annual Action Programme.

In 2017, 22.6 % of newly contracted actions under the Partnership Instrument reported a G-Marker 2 and 5.8 % reported a G-Marker 1. This constitutes an increase as compared to 2016, when 2.4 % of newly contracted actions reported G-Marker 1 and the remaining 97.6 % reported a G-Marker 0.

PI actions marked G-Marker 0 relate to global challenges, Europe 2020, trade and market access, and public diplomacy. It is to be noted that the PI Regulation does not specifically refer to gender equality and women empowerment or to democracy and human rights, as cross-cutting issues to be mainstreamed throughout PI engagement. In this sense, there is strictly no firm requirement in the legal basis for these themes to be catered for in the design and implementation of PI funded actions.

In 2017, several factors led to an increase in PI actions of G-markers 1 and 2:

- 1) Political framework: the position of the EU and its Member States at the forefront of protection, fulfilment and enjoyment of human rights by women and girls, strongly promoting them in all external relations, beyond development cooperation; the increasing requirements on all EU external action instruments to effectively take action and report on gender, notably guided by the EU Global Strategy and the GAP II;
- 2) The findings of the External Evaluation of the PI highlighted the limited structural regard for gender mainstreaming within funded actions and the absence of a reference to democracy and human rights in project design or delivery;
- 3) The appointment of a gender focal point and the creation of the PI gender facility increased awareness on the importance of gender issues/dimensions in order to enhance effectiveness, sustainability and impact of projects in the various thematic areas covered by the PI (such as energy security, climate change and environmental protection, migration, as well as specific aspects of the EU's economic diplomacy);
- 4) Increased attention for women's economic empowerment and responsible business conduct and decent work increased the demand for targeted interventions which were catered for in the framework of sustainable and inclusive growth and EU values (objective 2 of the PI's, implementation of the international dimension of Europe 2020 and promotion of the Union's internal policies).

Via the Partnership Instrument, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments strengthened key EU partnerships with like-minded countries in G7 and Latin America and the Caribbean to influence the agenda-setting in multilateral fora so as to keep gender equality as a priority global issue. Specifically, Service for Foreign Policy Instruments supports the implementation of our leaders' commitments on women's economic empowerment and fosters an enabling environment in the public and private sector to advance women's empowerment at work and female entrepreneurship.

Thematic priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation

Introduction

Civilian **CSDP missions** took care to mainstream gender activities in their work during 2017, in particular through measures to combat violence and discrimination against women and girls. **EUCAP Sahel Mali** supported the establishment of a gender unit in the police service which will collect data on sexual and gender-based violence, provide training, fight discrimination and promote gender equality among Malian police. It also implemented a media campaign on sexual and gender-based violence informing the population in general and victims in particular of ways to seek protection, obtain justice and redress. **EUPOL COPPS** supported the development of the **Gender Strategy of the Palestine Civil Police** to develop a police service that is responsive and committed to gender issues, including through addressing recruitment and retention policies, the design of facilities, training, and the promotion of women in their police careers. **EUAM Ukraine** provided targeted advice and support for the fight against domestic and gender-based violence,

which resulted in the establishment of a gender focal persons' network in the Ministry of Interior and its subordinated agencies. **EULEX Kosovo** worked with Kosovo authorities to address the need for improvements in legal provisions, infrastructure and procedures (including the collection of evidence) for cases of sexual and gender-based violence as well as in responding to domestic violence. EULEX Kosovo also drew attention to the importance of women in the rule of law institutions. **EUMM Georgia** implemented a wide-ranging campaign against gender-based violence, which included activities focusing on gender equality and female empowerment.

Similarly, EU Special Representatives (EUSR) addressed gender issues, as well as other human rights as part of their communication outreach and diplomacy, particularly through engaging with civil society organisations. This was especially important in some regions where the rights of women are still weakly enforced. CFSP actions in the area of non-proliferation and disarmament also contributed to gender mainstreaming, particularly those addressing the trafficking, security and accumulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), where specific gender-related activities were conducted both in the generation of intelligence as well as the implementation of solutions. These activities contribute indirectly to reducing sexual and gender-based violence in post-conflict and conflict affected areas.

In 2017, 40 % of Heads of CSDP missions were women (a decrease from 50 % on the previous year).²³ 100 % of CSDP missions and EUSRs reported a G-Marker 1, while one action (the European Security and Defence College) reported a G-Marker 2.

In Asia, Central Asia, Pacific, Middle East/Gulf

A series of communication and visibility activities and products to raise the visibility of EU-Asia cooperation were supported under the action **economic empowerment of women in Japan** (policy support facility of the Partnership Instrument – AAP 2015). A high-level seminar (HLS) on the economic empowerment of women and an EU-Japan comparative analysis on economic empowerment of women were supported contributing to deepening the EU partnership with Japan and responding to a request during the EU-Japan Summit to exchange information and EU experiences on gender issues. A survey conducted in the margins of the HLS found that following the conference, 83 % of the participants would most likely take action to economically empower women.

At Global Level

EU election observation missions: The regions benefiting from EU electoral observation missions (EOM) are Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, making it a truly global instrument.

The service for Foreign Policy Instruments deployed a total of 30 EOMs in 2017, namely seven fully-fledged missions to The Gambia, Timor-Leste, Kenya, Kosovo (two deployments for legislative and municipal elections, respectively), Liberia and Nepal. 11 exploratory missions were carried out, several of which prepared for missions to be launched during the year 2018, while eight election expert missions (EEMs) were deployed to Angola, Algeria, Cambodia, Honduras, Kenya, Myanmar, Palestine and Papua New Guinea, with four election follow-up missions (EFM) in Peru, Malawi, Nigeria and Maldives.

The number of electoral missions is important *per se* as election observations contribute to strengthening democratic institutions, build public confidence in electoral processes and help deter fraud, intimidation and violence. Election observation also serves to reinforce other key European Union foreign policy objectives most notably to enhance security and development in partner countries and to support them in improving governance and capacity-building. More specifically, EU assistance focuses on 'promoting the equal participation of women and men in social, economic and political life, and supporting gender equality, the

²³ This data is provided in line with Objective 2.2.1 of the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020.

participation of women in decision-making processes and political representation of women, in particular in processes of political transition, democratisation and state-building²⁴.

ANNEX 6 COMMISSION SERVICES IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A total of 25 contributions were received at headquarters level for the 2017 GAP II implementation exercise, the **majority from the geographic and thematic units**, but also, for the first time, **coordination units and units in charge of processes**, like budget support, evaluation and the programming of external financial instruments. An institutionalised staff network is emerging to advance culture shift and further integrate the GAP II horizontally and thematically.

On **institutional culture shift**, progress is underway on a number of GAP II objectives. An interesting positive development is the emergence of an institutionalised gender-sensitive staff network to advance culture shift and further integrate the GAP II, horizontally and thematically. Three new gender champions have been appointed, bringing the total to 6, some in strategic policy areas such as gender sensitive budgeting and trade. More trained GFPs are guiding gender mainstreaming processes resulting in higher gender activity levels, including more gender focused political dialogues, gender sensitive evaluations and QSGs. At the same time, the 2017 reports revealed a number of areas where more action is needed, for example: more women in senior positions, and clear gender focused human resources practices, with job descriptions accurately mirroring staff's gender-related workloads.

Progress has been made in mainstreaming gender equality and women's economic and social rights in the international political and policy arenas. A total of 159 EU positions for key international agendas with a GEWE focus were adopted in 2017. Gender equality issues were raised in several high-level political fora, such as the UN High Level Political Forum, where the new European Consensus on Development was launched (July 2017); and the UN ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum (May 2017)²⁵.

Commission services for International Cooperation and Development has an established contract with the European Expert Network on International Cooperation and Development, with a pool of gender experts available for short studies and research. Work to strengthen gender mainstreaming in the areas of food and nutrition security and agriculture continues to be undertaken by a specific gender support team (external contract), and while gender experts are available in health, culture and education advisory services. Additional gender expertise is available through the internal collaboration with the Commission services for International Cooperation and Development gender team.

Gender analysis informed the Staff working document: Sustainable garment value chains through EU development action,²⁶ and in the blending action: Women's economic empowerment. Gender was mainstreamed across the priorities of the multi-annual indicative programme 2018-2020 of the programme on global public goods and challenges. **Gender was mainstreamed also in the Budget support guidelines** to make them more gender-sensitive, while a guidance note, Evaluation with gender as a cross-cutting dimension, was completed at the end of 2017. Many corrective actions were taken by units, including, for example, the use of sex-disaggregated data throughout project and programme cycle and programming, gender-sensitive logical frameworks, and targeted financial support.

As a consequence of the mid-term review (MTR) on financing instruments, completed in 2017, a total of **€50 million was awarded for gender top-ups²⁷ to 10 EU Delegations²⁸**, to boost selected gender-specific

²⁴ Regulation (EU) No 235/2014 of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide : <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014R0235>

²⁵ Commissioner Mimica addressed GEWE issues in these events, and acknowledged gender equality as a fundamental "non-financial means of implementation" of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

²⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/garment-swd-2017-147_en.pdf

²⁷ Additional financial aid within the 2017 mid-term review framework, granted to those EU Delegations with enough capacity to increase gender specific actions.

²⁸ Afghanistan Botswana, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Myanmar, Peru, Sao Tome and Principe and Tanzania.

actions. The objectives of the post-MTR allocations were to enhance policy dialogue with partner countries in order to align their programming documents on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs and to strengthen the focus on priority areas, namely sustainable growth and job creation, renewable energy/climate change, the nexuses between development and migration/mobility and security, paying particular attention to gender equality and resilience.

The MTR allocation was then complemented by the decision to commit €500 million to the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. In addition, a specific programme of €18 million was launched in September 2017 to address the serious problem of violence against women and girls in the Pacific region.²⁹ Other important actions carried out are the creation of the **first ever gender action plan under the COP23 UN Convention on Climate Change** and the establishment of **gender as a sector analysis within one of the two new regional sector policy analysis (ReSPA) units**.

Gender issues have been more consistently mainstreamed in action documents, action plans and initiatives, for example, the Nairobi Plan of Action, and the EUROsocial+ programme.

119 corrective actions were taken by a total of 9 units, including, for example, the use of sex-disaggregated data throughout project and programme cycle and programming, gender-sensitive logical frameworks, and targeted financial support were reported.

A total of 117 staff members received gender specific training in 2017 (51% men), mostly permanent officials (22 %), contract agents (13 %) and managers (8 %). Among women staff, 28 % were contract agents, 13 % permanent officials, and 4 % managers. The number of gender focal persons has increased significantly. 14 units reported having a total of 78 GFPs trained in 2017 (66 trained internally by Commission services for International Cooperation and Development).

The Commission services for International Cooperation and Development gender team organised and coordinated many capacity building activities on gender equality and the GAP II (for example, annual GFP meeting, webinars on the use of the OECD gender marker, gender mainstreaming in a number of sectors, plus the revision and expansion of a EU gender resource package. Little progress has been recorded in including gender equality as an area of responsibility in job descriptions, or as a point in assessing staff performance.

Regarding technical gender expertise provided to EU actors and in partner countries, progress is slow. Some technical expertise is available in house, particularly in the field of culture, education and health, at the newly created ReSPA units, and within the Euroclima+ programme. External gender support has been contracted to meet the needs across Commission services for International Cooperation and Development in the form of technical assistance and short-term consultancies (UN Women and the European Expert Network on International Development).

In 2017, external experts analysed the inclusion of gender aspects in project design and the correct use of the gender marker in **the quality assurance process**. This analysis revealed that more work is required in terms of improving staff's understanding of and skills in applying gender mainstreaming when they design development projects. Significant inputs from gender experts are necessary to ensure development projects are sufficiently engendered.

Commission services for International Cooperation and Development reported a total of 117 actions contributing to advancing GAP II. Gender analysis was used in the design of 22.4 % of the actions, out of which 30 % used it to inform programming, and programme/project cycle more broadly. Gender was a main theme or focus of 30 % of the actions, and 23 % included gender-sensitive logframes. About 300 ADs were reviewed in house, including the use of the gender marker, revisions of the quality support group (QSG) system and templates, and gender mainstreaming follow-ups on final action documents and contracts. Gender

²⁹ The regional programme aims at "Tackling root causes of gender inequality and violence against women and girls in the Pacific" The action is regional in scope but will include national level activities, at least in the following proposed Pacific Island countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

was mainstreamed also into the Budget support guidelines to make them more gender sensitive, while a gender sensitive approach to evaluations was developed in joint cooperation with Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, through the drafting of a guidance note, Evaluation with gender as a cross-cutting dimension, completed at the end of 2017 and to be adopted and circulated in 2018. A total of 17 programme evaluations across Commission services for International Cooperation and Development included an assessment of the impact on women and girls in 2017. For example, the Edulink Programme surveyed how to better address gender inequalities within its remit, and the ACP Cultures+ programme also studied the impact of EU funded projects on women.

THE EU – UN SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE TO ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



The EU–UN Spotlight Initiative is a joined-up action, backed up by an unprecedented amount of €500 million, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in partner countries from five regions: Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific.

Announced by Commissioner Mimica and UN DSG Mohammed in the margins of the FAC/DEV Ministerial meeting of 19 May, the initiative was formally launched on 20 September 2017, at UN Headquarters.

The Initiative is supported by a Multi-Donor Trust Fund, managed by the UN. At this stage, the EU is the sole contributor, while other donors have been invited to join in.

Scope and Objectives:

The initiative aims at eliminating all forms of VAWG in partner countries in the broadest sense possible. This covers physical, psychological, sexual, economic and other types of violence and discrimination, harmful practices and exclusion that women suffer in the different areas of their private and public lives: from choosing freely and independently about their sexual and reproductive life, to participating effectively in the economic and political processes in their countries.

Based on existing evidence, some specific types of violence can be identified at the macro-level that are prevalent or prominently emerge in certain regions, thus contributing to a greater extent, to gender equality gaps. To address those gaps in an effective manner and target specific issues at regional level, the EU-UN Initiative will focus its actions on the following areas:

- Trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic (forced labour) exploitation, including on migrant domestic workers in Asia;
- Domestic violence in the Pacific region;
- Sexual and gender-based violence in Sub-Saharan Africa, including harmful practices;
- Femicide in Latin America;
- Domestic and family violence in the Caribbean region.

The governance structure

The governance and organisational structure of the Spotlight Initiative includes the high-level governing body, the operational steering committee and the secretariat.

The **governing body** (GB) includes four representatives: two respectively from the EU, HR/VP Mogherini and Commissioner Mimica, and two from the UN, UN DSG Amina and the UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. The GB as the political decision-making body, is envisaged to have a strategic role by, inter alia, reaffirming the joint political commitment, approving the overall goal of the initiative, providing the general direction of the fund, assessing progress and achievements, considering the potential extension of the initiative and new membership.

A representative of the CSO high level advisory forum (to be created, see below) will have an observer seat. For the moment, the seat is occupied by a temporary representative, Ms Karima Abbas, co-Executive Director of the Association for Women's Rights in Development – AWID.

The **operational steering committee** comprises eight members: four members from the UN and four from the EU, plus two observers per part. The operational steering committee is co-chaired jointly by the EU and UN. This committee carries out operational tasks, which include, inter alia, launching programmatic cycles, approving projects and budgets, reviewing project portfolios, ensuring the coherent implementation of the programme at both regional and country level.

A **secretariat** is established to undertake the day-to-day administrative and coordination functions and a technical support unit will provide content related, monitoring, and evaluation support at country level whenever needed. A technical unit will be part of the secretariat. Composed by UN experts in the five priority areas, it will provide support – when needed – at regional and country level.

Governance at regional and country level

Thematic sub-division by region calls for country/regional-level strategic direction, oversight and coordination of country programmes. Once a programme for a specific country is approved, it will be overseen and guided by a multi-stakeholder country/regional steering committee, co-chaired by the designated government official and the United Nations resident coordinator (or his/her designate). Members of the country/regional steering committee will be also the EU representatives, the recipient United Nations Organisations (i.e. the agencies identified to implement the action), at least two self-selected representatives from women's civil society organisations or networks with a strong track record of working on EVAWG.

The Global Theory of Change

Overall goal: All women and girls live free from violence and harmful practices

Impact statement: All women and girls, particularly the most vulnerable, live free from all forms of violence and harmful practices because of prevention strategies and strengthened multi-sectoral and partnership-based responses.

Six outcomes: Implemented simultaneously and in a comprehensive manner, five main outcomes will contribute to the overall goal of ending all forms of VAWG/harmful practices, especially the most marginalised women and girls. Outcomes are based on evidence, research, and demonstrated practice and programmes that demonstrate the need for coordinated interventions that strategically complement, galvanize and take to scale existing investments in gender equality and VAWG/harmful practice actions, they are:

- legislative and policy frameworks in line with human rights standards
- national and sub-national institutions strengthened
- support to national women rights' movement
- gender –equitable social norms, attitude and behaviours (prevention)
- available, accessible, acceptable and quality essential services
- quality, disaggregated and comparable data.

The type or ideal combination of intervention packages will be determined by initial country-level assessments and situational analysis on the ground. The interplay between the normative/policy oriented and operational

outcomes will depend on the existing and current work to date in each country by national and local governments, civil society, the United Nations, European Union, and other stakeholders.

To achieve long-term change and sustainability, complementary links between outcomes will be leveraged. For example, as disaggregated and transparent data informs investment, on-going legislation, and policy reform, services can be established and/or strengthened to cater to the health, safety and security needs of survivors. These above two steps can take place alongside the design and implementation of robust and evidence-based prevention programmes that address adverse social norms, attitudes and beliefs. Governance structures, centralised and decentralised, have a role to play in determining how programmes are developed and where they are implemented.

Country context and civil society capacity will be taken into account in all cases, and will define intermediary programme targets and phased implementation opportunities.

Countries' identification

A set of criteria has been established by the operational steering committee to select a reduced number of countries – to be established per region - in which the Spotlight Initiative country programmes will be implemented. The criteria are:

Primary Criteria

- Prevalence of the particular form of violence in the region
- Gender Inequality Index (GII)

Secondary Criteria

- Level of government commitment towards ending violence against women and girls
- Absorption capacity at national level
- Presence and capacity of UN country teams
- Presence and capacity of EU delegations in country
- Enabling environment in country in particular for civil society
- Existing initiatives on VAWG at regional/country level with the potential to be scaled-up
- Possibility to produce 'models' for replication in other countries/ capacity to influence others in the region (i.e. domino or support effect)

At headquarters' level, the EU will rank all countries in each region on the basis of the primary criteria (prevalence and GII). The EU delegations in the top ranked countries are invited to provide information on the secondary criteria. Based on the EU delegations' assessment of the secondary criteria, the ranking order of countries may be revised and the list further reduced.

The same process is implemented by the UN to prepare their assessment and ranked list.

The EU and UN short ranked lists (containing about twice the number of countries to be finally selected for intervention) are discussed/compared/merged and a final short list is proposed to operational steering committee for decision. The decision is then validated at governing body level.

The role of civil society

The Commission considers partnerships with civil society, private sector and non-traditional partners essential to the effectiveness of its development interventions. A CSO high level advisory forum will be created – at global level – which will be represented in the governing body, with advisory capacity. The mechanisms for civil society engagement at the operational level, especially at regional and country level, will be clearly defined in the programmes/action documents developed under the initiative. Consultations are being conducted in all regions.

Once created, the CSO advisory body will have a light structure, while CSOs are envisaged to have a strong role at the regional and country level: as members of national steering committees, at advisory level, as well as in implementation of the activities.

The first action, DCI-GPGC 2017, call for proposals on gender-based violence:

A €32 million global call for proposals on gender-based violence in the most remote areas and focusing especially on the so called forgotten crisis, which although will be managed by the EU, will be part of the Spotlight family.

The deadline for the call for proposals was in October 2017. The Commission services received 360 proposals, which were under evaluation when publishing this report. The contracts will be signed before the end of the year.

The second action, DCI – migration 2017, safe and fair: realising women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region:

The programme of €25.5 million, was adopted in December 2017 and will focus on 10 ASEAN countries.

The programme aims to contribute to making labour migration safe and fair for all women in the ASEAN region. Specifically, it will first work towards better protection of women migrant workers through gender-sensitive labour migration governance frameworks. Second, because of the programme, women migrant workers are less vulnerable to violence, trafficking, and benefit from coordinated responsive quality services. Third, data, knowledge and attitudes on the rights and contributions of women migrant workers are improved. To achieve these results, the main activities will include:

- Inform and influence policy on labour migration and prevention and response to violence against women, in particular women migrant workers;
- Consultations on policy development; technical advice; tools and training on strengthening policy implementation and delivering quality services; capacity development for effective service delivery and referral;
- Skills development and recognition; technical and organisational support to establishing and strengthening organisations, associations, unions and networks of women migrant workers; support to community-based interventions to raise awareness;
- Development of innovative information, communication and technology to disseminate information and improve effective access to services; research and knowledge development on perceptions and attitudes to women migrant workers, and their experiences of violence;
- Collection and analysis of good practices; capacity development of data collection and analysis; and delivery of public awareness campaigns.

The programme will target countries of origin and countries of destination in the ASEAN region. The action will also target women migrant workers migrating to east Asia and the Gulf Cooperation Council States although no programming will take place in these countries.

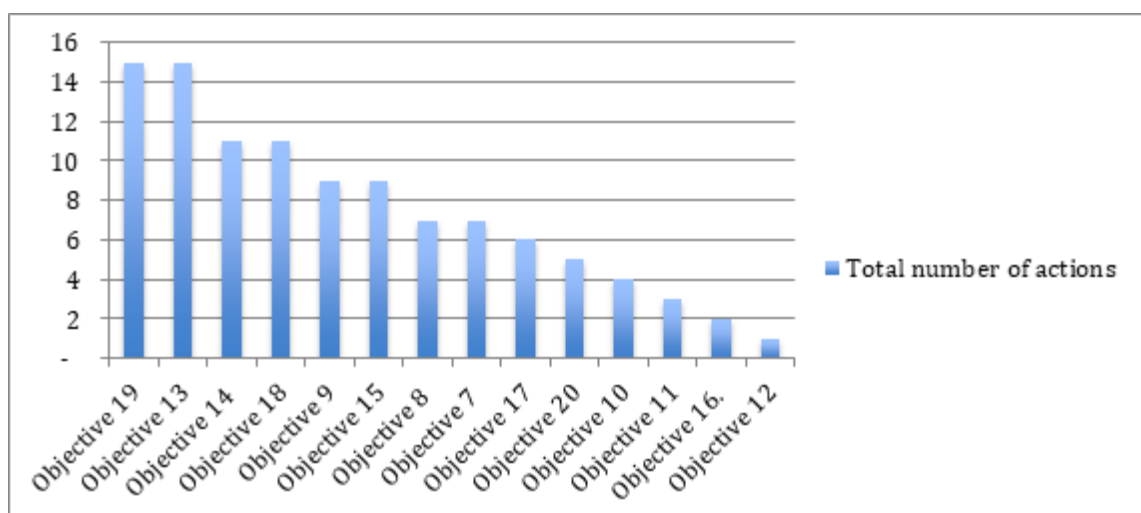
The beneficiaries of the programme will include current, potential and returnee women migrant workers; ASEAN Member States' government authorities; ASEAN institutions; workers' organisations; employers and recruitment agencies; civil society organisations; community-based organisations; families and communities; research institutions and academia, media networks, youth, and the general public.

The Spotlight Initiative will launch new actions in the other regions in 2018 and 2019.

PROGRESS WITH THE GAP II THEMATIC OBJECTIVES.

Together with the Spotlight Initiative, the Commission services in charge of the international cooperation and development at headquarter level reported 90 actions contributing to the GAP II thematic priorities: B, physical and psychological integrity (24 actions); C, economic and social empowerment (32 actions); and D, voice and participation (34 actions).

The 2017 GAP II reports show an increase in selection by Commission services for International Cooperation and Development of GAP II Thematic Priorities and Objectives.



The units working in the field of international cooperation and development reported on 91 new actions (this is compared to 92 in 2016), contributing to the GAP II thematic priorities B, physical and psychological integrity; C, economic and social empowerment; and D, voice and participation. Compared to 2016, the 2017 reports show an increase in selection by headquarters of GAP II thematic priorities and objectives. 24 actions contributing to thematic priority B, physical and psychological integrity, and its objectives have been mentioned. Three actions centred on conflict resolution from a gender-sensitive perspective, and on mixed migration flows in east Africa, with special attention to women as vulnerable migrant subjects, and seven actions aimed at eradicating FGM, addressing human trafficking and the protection of migrant children, and peacekeeping and peacebuilding in Guinea Bissau. Eurosocial+ was reported in the Americas region. In the Asia and Pacific region, efforts to protect children affected by migration, and women migrants' labour rights and opportunities.

Thematic priority B, physical and psychological integrity:

Global

Nine actions contributing to thematic priority B, physical and psychological integrity, and its objectives were carried out at global level, primarily tackling forms of VAWG, such as FGM (indicator 7.4) and child marriage (indicator 7.1), as well as human trafficking and -smuggling. Protecting migrants and refugees and multilateral actions to develop gender-sensitive health policies were also at the heart of these actions.

Africa Central and Western

Commission services for International Cooperation and Development Units supported seven actions aimed at eradicating FGM (indicator 7.4), addressing human trafficking and the protection of migrant children (8.2), and peacekeeping and peacebuilding in Guinea Bissau (9.8).

Africa East and Southern & Indian Ocean

Three actions centred on conflict resolution from a gender-sensitive perspective (indicator 9.8), and on mixed migration flows in east Africa, with special attention to women as vulnerable migrant subjects.

Americas

Eurosocial+ was reported in the Americas region, with the use of three indicators: VAWG (indicator 7.2); the reception of sexuality education by young people (indicator 11.5), and the number of beneficiaries with access to basic health services with proper sanitation and clean water (indicator 10.3).

Asia Pacific

Efforts to protect children affected by migration, and women migrants' labour rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region was the focus of action in the Asia Pacific region. Indicator 7.2 was selected to measure women's experience of VAWG, and indicator 8.2 to track compliance with international treaties relating to women's human rights.

Thematic priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - women's economic and social empowerment:

Global

Out of the **32 actions that contribute to thematic priority C**, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment: **14 actions were taken at global level**. These focused on education, access to sustainable energy, environmental and climate change, migration (labour migration, migrants' rights and protection of refugees), and labour rights. Actions to strengthen quality education, included support for internally displaced girls and boys in Ethiopia and Somalia, and actions to improve the quality of learning environments and resilient teachers. In addition to education, land rights and intercultural dialogue and culture were the focus of actions in the Asia and Pacific region.

Most of the indicators selected fall within the realm of equal access to education (13.9, 13.10 and 15.8); and women's access to sustainable energy with EU support (indicator 16.8), an indicator used for the first time by Commission services for International Cooperation and Development in 2017.

Americas

Climate change was the focus of four actions in the Americas. Support to education and employment was also reported, with indicators to measure employability by age group and basic education.

Africa Central and Western

Efforts were made in the realm of equal access to quality education for women and girls, with three actions to strengthen the quality of learning environments and resilient teachers, using indicators 13.7 and 13.9.

Africa East and Southern & Indian Ocean

This region reported on one action to strengthen quality education for internally displaced girls and boys in Ethiopia and Somalia, using Indicator 13.4 to measure literacy rates.

Asia Pacific

The Asia Pacific region reported two actions contributing to advance thematic priority C, and seven actions were reported with a focus on land rights, education, intercultural dialogue and culture. Finally, one multicounty action on sustainable development of livestock for livelihoods in Africa was also reported.

Thematic priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation:

Global, multi-regional & multi-country

In the framework of thematic priority D, political and civil rights - voice and participation, **34 actions were reported to strengthen women's representation and political voice, and to realise objectives 17 (participation in governance processes) and 19 (challenged and changed social norms)**. These included, for example, enhancing women's political participation in national parliaments and subnational elected offices in Morocco and Benin (indicator 17.3). Changing discriminatory gender practices received attention, for example, with three actions developed in the west and central African region to enhance religious pluralism and peacebuilding through cultural practices and change the discriminatory beliefs at the roots of FGM (indicator 19.2); and initiatives to prevent son preference and gender-biased sex selection in Asia and the

Caucasus. Other actions were on climate change and sustainability and protecting refugees and host communities in the Middle East.

Africa Central and Western

Three actions were developed in the central and western African region in order to enhance religious pluralism, peacebuilding through cultural practices, and changing discriminatory beliefs at the root of FGM (objective 19, indicator 19.2).

Africa East and Southern

Three actions were developed to strengthen peacebuilding processes with the active participation of women as leaders and negotiators, and through cultural activities relating to peacekeeping (objective 17, indicator 17.4).

Americas

The Americas region contributed to advancing women's civil and political rights with three actions, and a focus on objective 17 and on monitoring the successful development of gender-sensitive budgeting initiative (Eurosocal+). The other two actions targeted indigenous women's and girls' rights (CMP Flora Tristán), and an action to disentangle the gender dimension of the drug phenomenon and organised crime (COPOLAND II).

Asia and Pacific

One action was carried out to advance thematic priority C, economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment, through an initiative to promote migrants' labour rights.

EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

One multicountry action was supported to foster intercultural faith and dialogue.

Actions for which details are missing:

A total of 14 actions were also reported, two of which contributed to objective 18 (indicators 18.1 and 18.2) for which no specific details were made available.

No action has been registered in The Gulf or in the Sub-Saharan African regions.

ANNEX 7 COMMISSION SERVICES IN CHARGE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY AND ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Key Points

Reports were submitted by 15 units and five centres of thematic expertise (CoTEs), out of a total of 22 units and six CoTEs. 17 Units (including CoTEs) reported in 2016. Not all questions were responded to and some were marked N/A. This mainly stems from differences in the interpretation of key indicators and concepts.

There is a positive increase in several indicators on the horizontal priority **institutional culture shift in the EU's external relations**, such as the number of EU positions and policy dialogues, which included gender equality, corrective actions taken to improve performance on gender equality, the number of staff taking part in trainings on gender equality and the number of gender focal persons trained in gender equality issues.

Efforts remain in order for each unit at headquarters to have a gender focal point with specific assignments. In addition, there has been no formal assignment of a gender champion.

Objective 1, increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States:

At the **headquarters level**, 59 EU positions for key international agendas included a focus on gender equality and the rights of girls and women in 2017 compared to only two in 2016. However, this number is subject to different interpretations. Such positions range from briefings for high-level meetings to the attendance of senior management at specific events.

The Support Group for Ukraine (NEAR-SGUA) has consistently included gender equality as a focus point for a number of events on Ukraine. The EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, raised gender equality in a number of meetings, such as the EU-Ukraine Association Council; meeting with the Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament. Points on gender, like the call to ratify the Istanbul Convention, were also included in the EU leaders' briefing for the 20th EU-Ukraine Summit.

Furthermore, in 2017 NEAR-SGUA, together with DG ECHO (in charge of humanitarian assistance) the European External Action Service and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments adopted a gender-mainstreamed Joint Humanitarian-Development Framework for Ukraine 2017-2020.

Objective 2, dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States:

At the **headquarters Level**, the practice of selecting gender champions has not been customary so far. In 2017, none have been assigned. Having said that, the report shows that some heads of unit, were promoting gender equality in programming and in public events, even if they are not nominated as gender champions. In the same context, no rewards were handed out to management or programme staff for the delivery of results on gender equality.

Objective 3, sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitment:

At the **headquarters Level**, 35 staff took part in trainings on gender equality. Out of these, eight were gender focal points, a slight decrease from nine that were trained in 2016. These trainings involved a wide variety of topics, from gender mainstreaming to women peace and security.

In addition, gender was mainstreamed in the following trainings, rights-based approach that took place in the EU Delegations to Algeria, Morocco, Turkey and Ukraine and in 15 training sessions on managing for results linking planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Regarding the number of staff that have a job description that contains gender equality as an area of responsibility, six persons reported out of the total number of respondents to the survey. Out of these six, only two are working full time on gender equality, one is a secondment and gender advisor for the Eastern Partnership countries and another one is a contract agent, policy assistant on gender equality for Western Balkans and Turkey and coordinator on gender issues at headquarters. Out of the remaining four, two are permanent officials, one is the gender focal point for southern countries with other programming responsibilities, another is a contract agent and the fourth is a trainee.

Gender equality is included in the performance assessment of five persons that reported that gender is included in their job description plus another person that did not have gender in the job description. There is a need to institutionalise the role of the gender focal points nominated in each unit. They should have specific tasks assigned in the job description and gender equality considered in the assessment performance. These persons automatically become members of the gender working group at Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations for coordination purposes.

Most of the units have reported measures taken to mobilise high quality gender expertise to meet the needs of programming, planning and implementation.

Objective 4, robust gender evidence used to inform all EU external spending, programming and policy-making:

At the **headquarters level**, two main internal processes of methodological review are carried out to mainstream gender equality:

- Participation in quality review meetings to mainstream gender, giving specific attention to the gender analysis that will inform programming. Most of the EU delegations under the mandate of Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations countries have a country gender analysis. This is a critical starting point for gender mainstreaming and ensuring equitable participation of women and men in development processes and programmes. It is important to assess how and why gender differences and inequalities are relevant to specific programmes.
- Revision of action document templates, instruments and updates of checklists in order to have adequate tools that can facilitate gender mainstreaming. The mid-term reviews of the ENI and IPA II instruments acknowledged the emphasis put on gender equality and provided information on the progress and weaknesses to be addressed (e.g. lack of adequate capacity to mainstream gender).

Gender analysis is based on sex-disaggregated data and gender information, having said that, some of the respondents of the survey pointed out that there is a lack of sex-disaggregated data in some Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations mandate countries. In addition to this challenge, when data is available, the collection of sex-disaggregated data as part of programming is not done systematically. When sex-disaggregated data is available it should be used in order to inform programming and policy-making.

Out of seven strategic evaluations performed, four included a specific question in the TORs under the evaluation criteria impact linked to the assessment of cross cutting issues (including gender) and only two requested specific expertise on “gender mainstreaming” to be ensured by the team of experts. In one case where the TORs did not include specific questions on gender mainstreaming in the TORs, the inception report did include a judgment criteria and a specific indicator, which concerned the assessment of cross cutting issues, including gender

And finally, regarding the Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM), a total of 253 reports were produced in 2017. It is important to acknowledge that gender is a part of the monitoring system in place with the aim of informing the programming.

Good practice, inclusion of senior expertise in the C directorate units’ work
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The gender advisor for C1 and C2 participated in the identification missions for the multi-annual programmes in the Eastern Partnership countries (except Ukraine). Provision of advice and support is given before the design of the programme. The gender advisor also follows the formulation of the programmes presented in the quality review processes in order to make sure that gender is mainstreamed in the programming cycle.

In 2016, C3 adopted a TAIEX gender equality roadmap, to implement GAP II. One of the measures in this roadmap was the establishment of a C3 internal gender equality working group, tasked with making concrete suggestions as to the implementation of the GAP. As a result, a number of actions were taken, such as amending the internal manual of procedure and other working documents, making them more gender inclusive, increasing the number of women experts in TAIEX programming, etc.

EU Delegations in Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations mandate countries

Key Points

On reporting for 2017, all 24 EU Delegations under the mandate of the Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, responded the survey. However, not all questions have been responded to and some were marked N/A. This mainly stems from differences in the interpretation of key indicators and concepts.

On institutional culture shift in the EU's external relations, there is a positive increase in several indicators. The importance of including the results of the gender analysis into all steps of a project cycle, prepared by either EU delegation or other actors, is recognised. However, the overall number of programmes that have been informed by gender analysis is not evident.

Since 2015, Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations has already completed a Gender country analysis for each country, except for Jordan, Turkey and Ukraine. Their gender analysis will be finalised in 2018. Some EU Delegations are exploring the possibility to update and expand the policy fields of the gender analysis to others areas such as agriculture or tourism.

Objective 1, increased coherence and coordination amongst EU institutions and with Member States

GAP II provides a platform and at the same time an opportunity to include gender in the agenda of the EU delegations and member states in partner countries, particularly in the 19 countries where formal gender coordination mechanisms has been established. This mechanism helps to keep gender issues on the agenda of the political and policy dialogue, avoiding duplication of efforts, sharing knowledge and creating synergy among different initiatives on gender equality.

The EU delegation chairs the gender coordination mechanism in five countries, and the Member States in four countries. As an example, the EU Gender Technical Working Group in Palestine, chaired by Italy, has the goal to promote harmonisation and effectiveness of programmes and activities funded by EU and Member states, NGOs and relevant UN agencies.

Specific measures to apply the principle of burden sharing (GAP activity 1.4) has been undertaken by EU delegations and Member States. For instance, Egypt, is one example of EU joint programing in the subsector gender and development. In this context, support will be geared towards the promotion and protection of all human rights of all segments of society, as well as gender equality and women and youth empowerment by the EU Delegation and Member States. In Armenia, Member States and the EU Delegation have worked jointly on priority issues such as the adoption of a new gender based violence Law. And in Albania, a joint communication was sent by the UN Resident Coordinator on behalf of the community of donors to the new Minister for Health and Social Protection highlighting the importance of strong gender machinery and resources for implementing commitments on human rights, including gender equality.

Within this framework, the number of political or policy dialogues between EU actors and partners that raised gender equality issues with government representatives amounts to 400. Dialogues were mostly related to human rights (8.3 % of the instances), violence against women and girls (7.7 %), education (6.7 %) and democracy (6.4 %) among other topics.

Objective 2, dedicated leadership on gender equality and girls' and women's empowerment established in EU institutions and Member States:

EU Delegations and the Member States reported 31 gender champions. The understanding of the role of gender champions differs among the respondents. Gender champions range from heads of EU delegations to policy officers in embassies and project managers working in the field. In addition, they have not always been appointed, but rather considered gender champions in light of an active role in promoting gender equality.

For example, in Belarus, the Ambassadors of Sweden, UK and Germany are gender champions. This is also the case for Georgia, where the Swedish Ambassador is the gender champion. They regularly brought up the issue of gender equality and women's rights in public events, meetings and in social media.

Regarding corrective actions in order to improve performance on gender equality, 33 corrective actions were reported (eight in headquarters and 25 in EU Delegations) compared to nine in 2016. Some of the actions mentioned are trainings, expertise support and the use of gender analysis in the formulation of programmes. As an example of a corrective action, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, during the design of a country wide strategic plan on the rural development of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2021, consultative and public debates covered gender.

The number of good practices in EU delegations and headquarters amounts to 59, compared to two in 2016. However, some of the good practices are the nomination of gender focal points, the inclusion of sex-disaggregated data or the use of gender analysis that cannot be considered as good practices as such since they are requirements of the GAP II.

Examples of good practices in programming

In Armenia, effective lobbying for a gender-based violence law by the Head of Delegation was a decisive factor in the adoption of the law against domestic violence in 2017.

In Serbia, regular meetings on gender mainstreaming in the processes of programming resources and the implementation of actions under IPA II took place, which enhanced gender equality. They involved relevant line ministries, representatives of the Ministry of European Integration and the Coordination Body for Gender Equality.

Objective 3, sufficient resources allocated by EU institutions and Member States to deliver on EU gender policy commitment:

Regarding measures that are in place to mobilise high quality gender expertise on gender, the most frequently used measures are an ad hoc gender expert or advisor (66 % of EU Delegations), funds reserved for mobilising gender expertise (50 %), earmarking of funds within the sector allocation (50 %) and mid- to long-term gender advisory services (46 %).

As an example of mobilising high-quality expertise to deliver on EU gender policy commitments in Egypt on a periodic basis, the EU Delegation utilises consultancy services to advice on gender mainstreaming for programming and training. In addition, the gender focal point provides technical support to staff. Some Member States mentioned that they set aside specific funds for mobilising gender expertise on an ad hoc

basis.

In general, the EU delegations and Member States have used a combination of different expertise during 2017. All EU Delegations under the mandate of Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations countries have appointed a gender focal point. Some have strong expertise on gender equality, while others need some supportive training. Some Member States reported that they have gender experts and that occasionally they also used external expertise to support programmes.

Objective 5, results for women and girls measured and resources allocated to systematically track progress:

In Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations mandate countries, EU delegations reported 166 monitoring missions including recommendations on gender mainstreaming of the actions under review. Common recommendations range from the access to, and use of, sex-disaggregated data to taking into consideration the intersectional perspective, revision of indicators and needs for training on gender mainstreaming.

Objective 6, partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality:

19 countries out of 24 under the mandate of Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations have gender coordination mechanisms that include international actors working locally. This mechanism aims at enhancing the coordination and synergies and avoiding duplications in programming between EU and other stakeholders by strengthening the national capacity for gender equality.

Conclusions

The results of the survey show a number of indicators, which follow a positive upward trend. For instance, there has been an increase in policy dialogues where gender equality was raised and EU positions for key international agendas including a focus on gender equality. It reveals that the EU is taking steps to fulfil its commitments to the GAP II and other policy documents related to gender equality. In addition, the EU delegations and member states are working in a coordinated manner in most of the countries under the framework of the GAP II.

Nevertheless, some challenges remain. For instance, human resources fully dedicated to gender equality within Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations are limited. Besides this, the gender focal points appointed in each unit and delegation should have specific tasks on gender equality reflected in their job description and be trained for proper skills. A high level of commitment from management is also essential in this context. For instance, the appointment of gender champions should be done in accordance with the GAP.

Limitations of the survey: the survey might need to be adapted to the various responsibilities of different respondents, since there are some questions that do not apply to all units. Moreover, considering the diverse responses to some questions, some indicators/concepts seem to require clearer explanation/definition (e.g. what constitutes a 'key international agenda?'). Several units in headquarters indicated the lack of understanding gender mainstreaming, both as a concept and how it is implemented in the programme cycle.

Summary table – institutional culture shift in Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations:

Reference	Indicator	Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations 2016	Commission services for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations 2017
1.1.1	Annually, N# of EU positions for key international agendas that included a focus on gender equality, and the rights of girls and women	2	59
1.1.2	N# of political/ policy dialogues between EU actors and partners in the country that raise gender equality issues per year and at country level	5	400
2.1.1	N# of senior gender champions appointed at HEADQUARTERS and country level	2	31
2.3.1	N# of good practices highlighted in Institutional Annual Reports	2	59
2.3.2	N# of corrective actions taken per year to improve performance on gender equality	9	33
3.2.1	N# of staff, disaggregated by level, trained on gender equality per year, and reporting changes in the way they work	N/A	35
3.2.2	N# of gender focal points (or equivalent) trained per year	5	8
3.2.3	Gender mainstreamed into all trainings provided	0	2
3.3.2	N# of job descriptions that contain gender equality as an area of responsibility, by seniority	N/A	6
4.2.1	Whether internal processes of methodological review are carried out to mainstream gender in quality assurance mechanisms (e.g. for the EC: Quality Support Group, etc.).	4	2