



EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SERBIA NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Evaluation brief

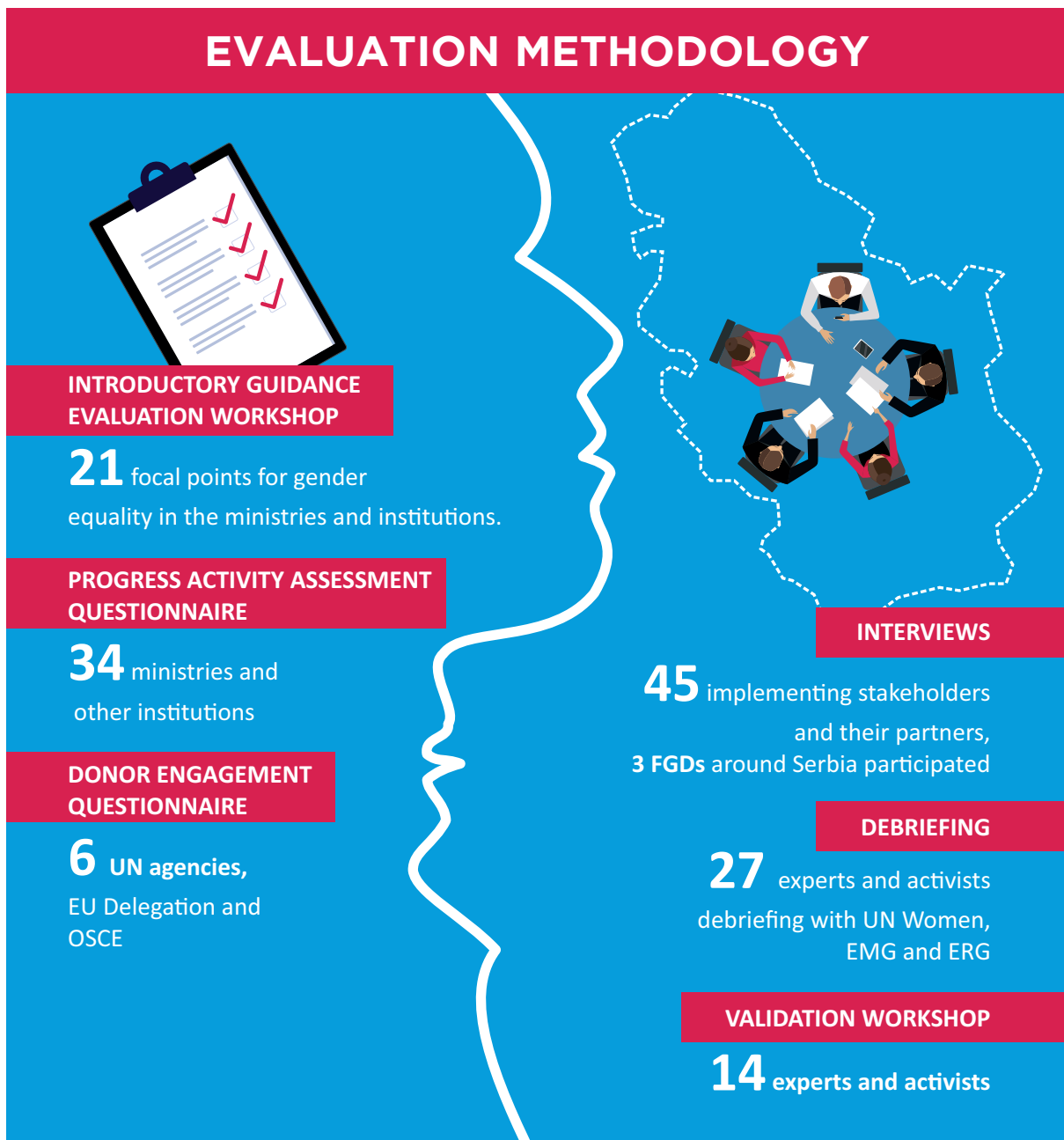


Support to Priority Actions for
Gender Equality in Serbia



The Republic of Serbia has endorsed Strategy for Gender Equality for period 2016-2020 with National Action Plan for period 2016-2018 (NAP). Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Republic of Serbia has commissioned the evaluation of the NAP with the support of UN Women Office in Serbia, and with financial support of European Union. The independent evaluation was conducted by SeConS – Development Initiative Group, with the aim to provide systematic insights in the implementation process and achieved results and to provide recommendations for second phase of the implementation of the Strategy.

The evaluation methodology and approach are developed based on evaluation criteria defined by UN Women, following the evaluation criteria: Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.



NAP DESIGN

NAP is based on implicit theory of change and defines results, measures and activities designed to achieve three strategic goals:

- Changed gender patterns and improved gender equality culture
- Increased equality of women and men by implementing an equal opportunities policy and measures
- System-wide gender mainstreaming in the policy adoption, implementation and monitoring processes

EVALUATION CONCLUSIONS

- **NAP 2016-2018 implementation and monitoring mechanisms at the national level were more effective than it was the case with previous Strategy and NAP 2011-2015, even though the capacities of the new national mechanism for gender equality are small.** Reports on the implementation were made for each year, the horizontal mechanisms of coordination were more functional, ministries were more responsive in submitting reports and data, and the understanding of the roles in the current NAP is greater in almost all sectors.
- **The implementation of NAP was not achieved to a satisfactory degree at the local level and systematic information on the implementation in local communities is missing due to the limitations to vertical coordination mechanisms between national and local levels.**
- **NAP was implemented with uneven effectiveness across three priority areas, with most effective implementation in the area of system-wide changes induced by the introduction of gender mainstreaming mechanisms and less effective implementation in the areas of changing the culture of gender equality and promoting equal opportunities. This uneven effectiveness in implementation was observed within the three priority areas as well.**

The areas of high effectiveness include: increased safety of women from gender-based violence, gender sensitive statistics (within the Statistical Office of Serbia), equal participation of women and men in public and political decision-making (but only for legislative power at all levels) and gender responsive budgeting.

The areas of medium effectiveness include: increased gender equality capacities and knowledge of managers and staff in public authorities, and increased safety of women from gender-based violence, violence in the family and in intimate partner relations, established functional gender equality mechanisms at all levels.

The areas of low effectiveness include: gender-sensitive formal education, increased public awareness of the significance of gender equality, labour market status of women, particularly those in vulnerable groups, improved role of women in the security system, equal participation of rural men and women, improved health of women and equal access to health care services, participation of women in decision making in other branches of power than legislative, functional gender equality mechanisms at local level, gender analysis of policies, programmes and measures, gender sensitive evidences in institutions, and international and regional cooperation.

Ineffective areas of NAP implementation are: equal participation of men and women in parenting roles and economy of care and in the area of gender studies.

- Factors influencing more effective implementation were related to higher awareness of the problem, the availability of financial resources, effective partnerships and an adequate combination of types of interventions, while factors inhibiting effective implementation were related to inconsistencies in measures, fragmented and small-scale interventions, lack of funds and unclear competences and weak coordination mechanisms.
- Although processes of introducing changes are visible, impact is not yet there in majority areas, excluding political participation of women in legislative power, improved gender sensitivity of the national statistics, improved protection of women from gender based and domestic violence.
- Financial aspects of NAP in the design as well as in implementation are the weakest link as financial resources were not systematically defined in the NAP and systematic and comprehensive records on financing implementation of activities is missing, preventing insight into efficiency aspects of the implementation.
- NAP corresponds well with SDG 5 and relevant targets in other SDGs, but its contribution to the achievement of these targets is uneven due to the uneven effectiveness of the implementation.

UN WOMEN

UN Women is the UN entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women Programme Office in Serbia focuses on initiatives in the areas that are fundamental to advancing equality for women and men and unlocking progress for all. UN Women Serbia supports national partners' efforts to meet the country's national and international commitments on gender equality, particularly CEDAW and the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Improving the Status of Women.



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