

SUMMARY

Action Plan for Achieving Gender Equality in Montenegro 2017-2021 (hereinafter: APAGE) represents the **third** development document for implementation of gender policies in Montenegro. Like the previous two, this document is also based on international and domestic legal framework that addresses the issue of gender equality.

The **Law on Gender Equality** stipulates that all state authorities, state administration and local self-government bodies, public institutions, public companies and other legal entities with public authority, as well as business organizations, other legal entities and entrepreneurs are obliged to **assess and evaluate the impact of the decisions and activities on the position of women and men**, in order to achieve gender equality in all stages of planning, decision-making and implementation of decisions and taking action within their jurisdiction.

Therefore, APAGE is a document adopted by the Government of Montenegro, but its successful implementation requires the cooperation and coordination of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, the Department for Gender Equality, with all the ministries, government authorities, Parliament of Montenegro, public institutions, local self-government bodies and civil society.

Action Plan for Gender Equality (APAGE) 2017-2021 and the Implementation Program for the period 2017-2018 were created through a process led by the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights - Department for Gender Equality. The process was carried out in cooperation with the UNDP office in Montenegro, through which an expert from abroad was engaged, who conducted an external evaluation of the implementation of the previous APAGE; and an expert from Montenegro, who supported the process of drafting the Action Plan for Gender Equality (APAGE) 2017-2021 and the Program for implementation for the period 2017-2018.

The process of drafting the Action Plan for Gender Equality (APAGE) 2017-2021 and the Program for implementation for the period 2017-2018 included:

- external evaluation of a prior implementation of APAGE;
- establishment of cross-sectoral working group for drafting the plan, whose members were the representatives of institutions and civil society organizations;
- organizing thematic workshops with the representatives of all relevant sectors in order to obtain opinions and proposals for a new strategic document;
- conducting public consultations with citizens through publication of the Draft on the website of the relevant ministry and the possibility of giving comments submitted via *online* forms.

APAGE is adopted for a **period of four years** and will be implemented in accordance with the two-year implementation plans, so this document contains a Program for implementation for the period 2017-2018.

APAGE mission is to ensure gender equality in the design and implementation of all national and local policies, and in the work of all entities at the state level.

The areas of action are defined in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and the Action Plan. Out of 12 critical areas where gender inequality is the most pronounced by the Beijing Declaration, Montenegro has opted for the **eight areas** in which it intends to take action in the following period of time in order to achieve gender equality:

- Promoting gender equality and women's human rights;
- Gender-sensitive education;
- Gender equality in the economy;
- Gender-sensitive healthcare;
- Gender-based violence;
- Gender equality in the media, culture and sport;
- Equality in decision-making in political and public life and
- Institutional mechanisms for the implementation of gender equality policies and international cooperation.

Each area determines the strategic goal and defines the activities, holders, partners, time frame indicators, means of verification, and funds necessary for the implementation of the planned activities.

Implementation of the plan is the responsibility of all sectors, and the **reporting** should be implemented in accordance with the Law on Gender Equality and the obligations defined by this Law.

The relevant ministries are obliged to report annually to the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights - Department for Gender Equality on the implementation of the measures from this plan, as well as other activities aimed at ensuring gender equality.

If necessary, they are obliged to report to the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights - Department for Gender Equality in accordance with the indicators and during the process of submitting regular reports to the European Commission and other international bodies.

UN Global Minimum Set of Gender Indicators and additional indicators defined in the program for implementation should be followed as a mechanism for reporting. Namely, the inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics within the UN Statistical Commission has established a minimum set of gender indicators for international compilation around the world, in order to provide a basis for monitoring gender issues at the global level (United Nations, 2014). This global minimum set contains the minimum common denominator for statistics on gender equality and women's empowerment. It is expected for it to be the basis for regional and national indicator development exercises.

