

## **WORK PLAN 2010-2011**

### **GENDER AND ECONOMY**

Gender equality objectives continue to be of great importance in the economies of Central Asia. Engendering economic policies makes economic sense from the perspective of innovation, employment and sustainable growth and it ever so timely in the context of the current economic crisis affecting the region. The SPECA Project Working Group on Gender and Economy is committed to support its member countries in developing gender-sensitive policy responses to economic challenges. In 2010 and 2011, this objective will continue to be pursued in particular, as agreed in the groups Terms of Reference, through (i) raising awareness among all stakeholders on gender and economy issues and exchanging good practices in mainstreaming gender into economic policies; (ii) developing pilot projects in selected areas such as financing and other support measures for women's entrepreneurship and gender budgets; and (iii) promoting cross-sectional linkages and synergies with other relevant areas of SPECA activities, such as statistics, trade and ICT.

Proposals for specific activities as reflected in the current work plan will be further elaborated through partnership and consultations involving UNECE, UNESCAP, UNDP, UNIFEM, OSCE, IOM, the Council of Europe, and other partners actively involved in Central Asia in the field of Gender and Economy area.

#### **Ongoing activities which are planned to be further pursued during 2010 and 2011:**

Building on the experience of previous activities and the expertise gained, the following activities are ongoing and will be continued in 2010 and 2011.

#### **MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO ECONOMIC POLICIES**

The key objectives of information sharing, advocacy and guidance on mainstreaming gender into economic policies which are pursued through the UNECE Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender will remain a strong priority of the PGW in 2010-2011. The Knowledge Hub will be further developed as an interactive platform to support networking between policy makers and experts across the region.

#### **CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES**

Building on the successful cooperation with the Government of Israel in capacity-building since 2006, training workshops in support of women's entrepreneurship in Central Asia will be continued to be provided in 2010 and 2011. The PWG's work in support of women's entrepreneurship in the region will draw on the insights gained from pilot studies on the assessment of the environment for entrepreneurship in the region in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

In addition to the core areas of activity outlined above, and building on the core areas of expertise in UNECE and UNESCAP the following proposed project areas are envisaged be pursued in 2010 and 2011 provided support by interested donors and partners is obtained.

### **Directions for possible future activities**

#### 1) INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT: MAINSTREAMING A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Addressing economic challenges and sustaining growth for all through gender-sensitive policies in innovation and knowledge-driven development in SPECA countries. Project activities would build on the knowledge gained from pilot studies of the business environment for women entrepreneurs (cooperation project with ILO).

#### 2) GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

Evaluating the gender implications of national economic policies in the region. Particular emphasis will be given to the promotion of gender impact assessments and gender responsive budgeting in core policy areas.

#### 3) POVERTY AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION

Evaluating gender differentiated effects of the crisis on poverty and economic well-being via the channels of remittances and migration flows. Research and analysis would be undertaken to enhance understanding of the importance of migration policies and gender implications in the SPECA region.

#### 4) GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Assessing the gender implications of climate change in the region: policy recommendations to mitigate potential adverse effects of changes to the environment on gender equality.

<b>Gender and Economy</b>	
<b>Name of Project/Activity</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>Ongoing and planned projects/activities with funding secured or expected.</b>	
<b>Mainstreaming Gender into Economic Policies</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>
Further development of the Knowledge Hub on the Economics of Gender as a networking tool for policy makers across the region, information source on gender mainstreaming techniques as well as the sharing of good policy practices	
<b>Capacity building activities</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>
Training workshops on support systems for women in small business in Haifa, Israel to strengthen the business environment for women's entrepreneurship in Central Asia	2010 + 2011
Two training workshops on the use of information and communication technologies targeted at women entrepreneurs in Central Asia	2010 + 2011
<b>Possible projects/activities in areas where UNECE/ESCAP have considerable experience and in-house expertise and which envisage additional supported by interested donors/partners. These projects could be implemented in addition to and in coordination with projects/activities listed above.</b>	
Gender-sensitive policies in innovation and knowledge-driven development	2010 - 2011
Gender Impact Assessments and Gender Responsive Budgeting in core policy areas	2010 - 2011
Analysis of poverty and well-being in the context of migration in SPECA countries	2010 - 2011
Gender equality in the context of climate change in Central Asia	2010 - 2011