



WIN PROJECT UPDATE



Women, Peace & Security

Welcome to the fifth Project Update of the OSCE Secretariat Gender Issues Programme **WIN project**. The aim of this Update is to inform project stakeholders on key milestones and plans for the project. In this Update we put the spotlight on WIN project's work on the **Women, Peace and Security** agenda.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2023



The Leadership Programme is a concrete and much needed initiative to implement the OSCE's commitment to gender equality, by increasing the visibility of experienced women mediators and peacebuilders and empowering the next generations of women." —

*OSCE Secretary General
Helga Maria Schmid*

Women's Peace Leadership Programme:

The inaugural cohort of 12 mentees successfully completed the OSCE Women's Peace Leadership Programme (WPLP). A significant milestone was reached by launching the programme's 2nd edition, welcoming 16 new mentees.

This initiative, launched by the OSCE Secretary General Helga Maria Schmid, aims to foster women's participation in peace and security at all levels. WPLP provides comprehensive training in leadership, mediation, and dialogue facilitation to women peacebuilders from the OSCE region and Afghanistan.

Guided by internationally acclaimed women leaders, including diplomats, mediators, and negotiators, the programme empowers participants through a blend of capacity-building activities, networking opportunities, and impactful peer-to-peer exchanges and mentoring.

Explore the [inspiring stories](#) of the participants of the OSCE WPLP.





Listen to the [motivating stories](#) of young peacebuilders.

Young Women for Peace Initiative: OSCE Secretary General Helga Maria Schmid launched the Young Women for Peace Initiative on 8th March 2023, International Women's Day. It aims to bring young women's perspectives on peace and security to the forefront and ensure that their voices are heard and their right to be included is respected. This initiative is set to establish a dedicated networking space, providing valuable opportunities for learning and sharing best practices in advocating for positive change.

WIN will launch dedicated activities on Young Women for Peace in Central Asia.

Regional Networks for Women Professionals in P/CVERLT:



Two new OSCE **regional networks of women professionals, committed to the prevention and countering of violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism (P/CVERLT)**, have been successfully **established** in Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe. These dynamic networks bring together 55 women professionals, representing diverse sectors such as state agencies, civil society, academia, media, and OSCE field operations. Regular monthly meetings conducted online provide a consistent platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration. The first **in-person gathering** of both Networks in October 2023 further strengthened individual capacities, as well as enhanced connections between women professionals within and between the regions.

We got a lot of practical knowledge and skills from the OSCE that we now apply in practice in our work: in close co-operation with local authorities, law enforcement agencies and community leaders, we have been conducting awareness-raising work on preventing violent extremism across Tajikistan and contribute to the implementation of the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Action Plan."

*Malika Dodoeva,
Director of civil society organization
"Javononi Peshsaf", Member of the OSCE
Network for Women Professionals in P/
CVERLT in Central Asia*

Capacity-Building and Networking for Women Peacebuilders:

In collaboration with the **Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)** a **comprehensive mapping** was conducted to identify existing local and regional organizations, networks, resources, and opportunities for women peacebuilders and mediators. Subsequently, **a capacity-building and networking workshop** brought together 28 peacebuilders and mediators (27 women, one man) from Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia. This workshop served as the foundation for developing an OSCE-regional strategy focused on civil society organizations, outlining guidelines for WPS initiatives and enhancing women's meaningful participation in peace processes.

[Link to recap videos of the Workshop on the GNWP page on X and Instagram: Day 1, Day 2](#)

The COMPACT:

The WIN project, in partnership with GNWP and UN Women, reinforced **women's leadership in peacebuilding and conflict resolution**, as part of the OSCE commitments under the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA Compact). An event convened 25 women peacebuilders and mediators from Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia, with a focus on addressing challenges and opportunities for joint actions.



Supporting networks of women peacebuilders is a priority for the OSCE, as empowered peacebuilders play a stronger and more effective role in decision making.” -

*Dr. Lara Scarpitta,
OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Equality*

Concrete steps to advance Women's Participation in Law Enforcement in Central Asia:

In collaboration with OSCE structures, field operations, and the government of Kazakhstan, a **Regional Conference** on Promoting Women's Participation in Law Enforcement in Central Asia was held in Astana. This successful conference convened 55 participants (48 women and 7 men) representing relevant national authorities, law enforcement agencies, Policewomen Associations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and international organizations involved with security sector institutions across the OSCE region.



The conference provided a regional platform for the exchange of good practices, marking the first networking and knowledge-sharing between women police associations, networks, and unions in Central Asia and other parts of the OSCE region. Notably, it enabled the development of recommendations for participating States and the OSCE on how to best support emerging and existing networks for women in law enforcement in Central Asia.

Bringing the perspectives of women peacebuilders to the forefront:

- High level **side-event** at CSW67 brought together representatives of international organizations, governments, the private tech sector and civil society to discuss how digital tools can successfully enable the empowerment of women in conflict settings.
- Side Event **“Breaking the Silence, Building the Future: Women Peace Leadership”**, at CiO Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Conference in Tetovo (North Macedonia) focused on the inclusion of women in formal negotiation processes with Network participants from Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Ukraine.



Publications

Research on the intersections of gender equality and national minorities was conducted in collaboration with the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities. The results, along with the recommendations for OSCE participating States to enhance equal opportunities for minority women, were summarized in a [factsheet](#).

WIN media products:

WIN web-site:

www.winprojectosce.org

OSCE web-site project page:

www.osce.org/winproject

[WIN Video](#)

On social media:

[#WINGenderEquality](#)

WIN PROJECT OUTPUTS ON/IN UKRAINE

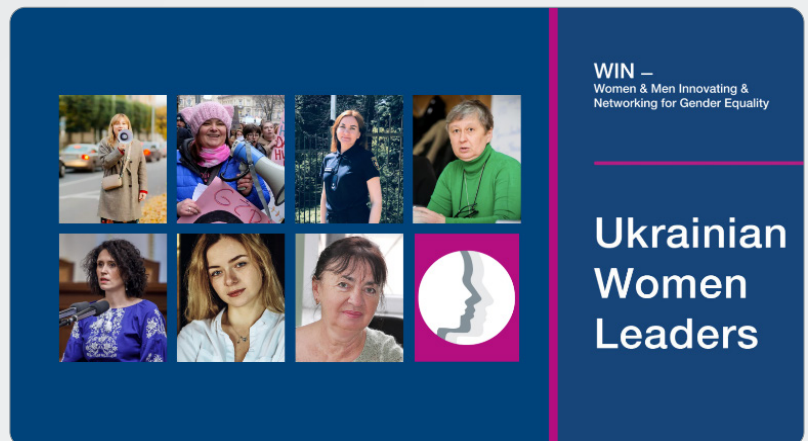
Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, the WIN Project intensified efforts to support Ukrainian women’s civil society organizations’ work. WIN is dedicated to assisting Ukrainian institutions and civil society, recognizing the shifts in their needs due to the impact of the war.

Key results from March to December 2023

Stories of Women Activists:

A series of stories featuring Ukrainian women activists was published, spotlighting their leadership in addressing the humanitarian crisis resulting from the war in Ukraine. The objective is to raise awareness about the substantial contributions of women in the context of the conflict.

Explore *stories of resilient women leaders from Ukraine.*



Gathering Ukrainian Women Leaders:

Ukrainian women peacebuilders, civil society representatives, and mediators [gathered in Vienna](#) to discuss strategies for supporting women’s leadership and participation in decision-making processes. Participants shared their experiences and perspectives on the war against Ukraine with the OSCE Secretary General, participating States, WIN project donors, and OSCE Secretariat staff. Calls were made for women’s meaningful involvement in recovery planning, and the networking platform provided by the OSCE was acknowledged as a unique opportunity for diverse women mediators and peacebuilders to connect and share experiences.

Retreat for Women Activists:

The WIN project supported 2 retreats for Ukrainian women civil society activists:



- a **four-day retreat** organized by the Ukrainian non-governmental organization “Girls” for 30 women activists from women-led and feminist non-profit organizations. The retreat focused on raising awareness, building capacity, providing psychological support, networking opportunities, and recreation.

- The **3-day retreat**, organised by WIN project partner WICC, brought together women peacebuilders who are part of the ICAN network and represent 14 regions of Ukraine. The aim of the retreat was to restore emotional wellbeing and develop a revitalised strategic plan for the network’s growth under the support of the WIN project and beyond.

Training for the State Emergency Service of Ukraine:

In a series of **three training courses**, 76 employees (66 women and 10 men) of the State Emergency Services in Ukraine (SESU) were trained on gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive humanitarian response, along with women’s leadership in humanitarian action. The practical training for trainers that was developed for the SESU Gender Focal Points included improving facilitation skills, practicing different scenarios, and learning from international and national experts. Additionally, 30 women in managerial positions in the SESU underwent leadership training, a first-ever initiative for this group. The course provided insights into women’s roles in the security sector, innovative leadership techniques, strategies, and practical exercises for resilience-building and stress management.

Addressing Gender-Based Violence during war:

A side event at the Warsaw Human Dimension Conference focused on the urgent need to protect survivors of gender-based violence in Ukraine. Experts and activists discussed the dynamics of violence against women and girls in conflict situations, the challenges faced by women in Ukraine compared to the pre-war period, and obstacles encountered by survivors seeking protection. The event also examined the needs of civil society organizations combating violence against women and girls and assessed the responsiveness of donor policies to these needs.



“

Women leaders in the SESU can do anything, but after the workshop organized by the WIN Project, they know how to do it smarter, not harder.” -

*Yulia Malihonova,
Head of the Gender Unit of the State Emergency
Service of Ukraine*

Women, Peace and Security (WPS) pillar:

- Monthly meetings of cross-regional networks for women practitioners in P/CVERLT
- Women's Peace Leadership Programme meetings of the second cohort
- Workshop on National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 in Central Asia
- Launch of Young Women 4 Peace Initiative: Empowering Central Asian Young Women
- WIN Together Conference for Women Peacebuilders in Vienna, with GNWP

Economic and Environmental Participation of Women (EE) pillar:

- Research paper on the gendered aspects of corruption in the access to natural resources
- Digital empowerment of Ukrainian women in partnership with WomenGoTech

Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAW) pillar:

- Regional Networking and capacity-building conferences for WRCs and CSOs in Central Asia
- OSCE/UNFPA mapping on programs for perpetrators of GBV in Central Asia
- WAVE-OSCE toolkit training roll-out in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Ukraine

Cross-cutting:

- WIN Academy support to pool of trainers and new training of trainers
- WIN Community knowledge platform: continue to update and disseminate

About the WIN Project

TIMEFRAME	2019-2024
GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE	Eastern Europe, Southeast Europe, South Caucasus, Central Asia
PLANNED BUDGET	EUR 6.2 Million
FUNDING RECEIVED	EUR 4.3 Million
FUNDING GAP	EUR 1.9 Million

WIN Project (WIN for Women and Men - Strengthening comprehensive security through innovating and networking for gender equality) is a strategic project of the OSCE that aims to accelerate the implementation of the 2004 Action Plan. The WIN Project supports the achievement of substantive gender equality on all three OSCE dimensions covering the WPS agenda and women's role in conflict prevention, gender perspectives in economic and environmental activities, and preventing and combating violence against women and girls.



Through studies, development of new tools, capacity-building, and other activities, WIN Project supports existing OSCE-supported networks and incubates new networks at the national and regional levels, focusing on women's participation and leadership, as well as broader men's engagement in achieving gender equality, etc.

The WIN Project relies on a **collaborative approach** and complements existing cooperation among various actors – OSCE executive structures, OSCE's 16 Field Operations, International Organizations, and International NGOs, and creates new synergies by implementing **activities** aimed to accelerate implementation of OSCE commitments on gender equality. WIN creates platforms for OSCE-wide exchange of good practices, lessons learned and

knowledge transfer of the intersection of gender equality and comprehensive security.

WIN introduces **innovative and transformative approaches** to gender equality in all dimensions of comprehensive security through the development and application of cutting edge learning methodologies, monitoring and evaluation tools.

Full-scale project implementation started in 2021, after an inception phase. The WIN team consists of a Project Manager, Project Assistant and National Project Officer based in Ukraine, working closely with the Gender Issues Programme Advisers in the Secretariat. They implement activities in close co-ordination and consultation with different OSCE executive structures, and external stakeholders.

Current project donors:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



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Direction de la défense



Foreign, Commonwealth &
Development Office

For more information about the WIN project, please contact win@osce.org and subscribe to the [Gender Equality Newsletter](#) to keep well-informed about the latest activities to promote gender equality in the OSCE.

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