

GP 9: Economic empowerment of Women for Peaceful Local Communities

Owner: Transcultural Psychosocial Educational Foundation (TPO)

Start date: 2015

End date: 2017

Scope: ✓ training needs ✓ policy measures other

Geographical focus: ✓ local and regional national International

TPO Foundation Sarajevo, with the support of Norwegian government implement the program of economic empowerment of women from varying ethnic groups in the North Bosnian region. This project is the first step in establishment of woman's network in this region, which serves as a hub of future projects of this kind with the aim of individual empowerment as well as development of the local communities.

Aim:

- To empower women to become active stakeholders in building peace in their local communities
- To promote UNSCR 1325 women, peace and security
- To improve women's self-confidence and skills for leadership

Target group:

Women from varying ethnic groups in the North Bosnian region.

About the good practice:

It is unique combination of economic empowerment and peace building. There is no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. What is unique was fostering cross-ethnic cooperation: the requirement that women from three ethnic groups (Bosnians, Croats, and Serbs) had to collaborate and together design business plans in order to get grants.

One of the innovations in terms of implementation was that municipalities and Cantonal Government reduced taxes for women businesses for the period of three years as incentives for those who started new businesses.

The key factors of success:

- Establishment of Local Hub with legal and economic aid for local women.
- Advocacy with local authorities to change tax policy.
- Cross-ethnic collaborative peace actions in local communities that gathered all relevant stakeholders
- Coupling peace and economic empowerment was well received and women understood better why they need to be acknowledged in local communities as leaders in businesses and peace.

Resources needed:

98,000 €

Evidence for success:

- ✓ 60 women educated for business plan development
- ✓ 30 business plans designed
- ✓ 20 grants provided for small businesses
- ✓ 10 mentors involved
- ✓ 2 women's' fairs organized
- ✓ 1 local business hubs

Potential for learning or transfer

- organizational model/ implementation process
- policy making process
- methodology for the involvement of the targeted stakeholders

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