



**The Project is co-funded by
the European Union**



**The Project is co-funded and
implemented by
the International Labour Office**

EU and ILO launch project on gender equality in the workplace

The International Labour Office and the European Union launched a new Project "**Gender Equality in the World of Work**", which will aim to enable key state bodies and social partners to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the world of work by developing, implementing and monitoring gender-sensitive employment policies and programmes. The project will employ awareness-raising activities, communicate information, and support the development and implementation of locally adapted tools and pilot interventions, so that Ukrainian actors will be able to accumulate hands-on experience of gender-sensitive policy development and implementation.

The Project's official launch took place on **23 April 2009** in the Great Conference Hall of the National Academy of Sciences.

The event was attended by representatives of the International Labour Office, the European Commission, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, public institutions, leaders of the nationwide associations of employers and trade unions, MPs, representatives of secretariats of the Parliamentary Committees, NGO's diplomatic corps, international projects and foundations, mass media.

The Project's specific objectives are as follows:

1. Enable governmental authorities and social partners to promote, implement and monitor relevant international commitments, national legislation, policies and programmes aimed to secure gender equality and women's empowerment in the world of work.
2. Improve the capacity of labour market institutions and social partners in developing and implementing gender-sensitive labour market policies, programmes and services.
3. Build the capacity of the Labour Inspection Service and trade unions to effectively monitor gender equality provisions at the workplace and redress rights violations.
4. Contribute to women's economic empowerment, in particular through support for women's entrepreneurship.

The Project's main national partners include: governmental authorities (the Interagency Council for Family, Gender Equality, Demographic Development and Counteraction to Human Trafficking, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, the Public Employment Service, the State Labour Inspection, the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine) and social partners (employers' organisations and trade unions).

The Project aims to build the capacity of Ukrainian authorities and social partners for ensuring compliance with national and international commitments as to gender equality in the world of work, for progressively eliminating gender biases in employment policies and sexual harassment at the workplace, and for creating a supportive environment for women's economic empowerment and women's entrepreneurship.

The Gender Equality in the World of Work Technical Cooperation Project is implemented in Ukraine by the International Labour Office (ILO) and co-funded by the European Union and the ILO. The Project budget is EUR 1.2 million.

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Over the course of recent years, Ukraine has established core elements of a legal and institutional framework for promoting gender equality and addressing gender-based discrimination.

At the international level, Ukraine is a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Optional Protocol thereto. The country has ratified all core ILO Conventions, including the Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100) and the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111) as well as the Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention (No. 156).

At the national level, significant legal progress has also been achieved. Important milestones in achieving gender equality include:

- the equality commitment enshrined in the Constitution;
- the Law of Ukraine on Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities of Women and Men (in force since 1 January 2006);
- the State Programme to Ensure Gender Equality in the Ukrainian Society through 2010 (adopted in 2006).

Ukraine has achieved considerable legal progress for the promotion of gender equality. Yet, women continue to suffer from multiple forms of discrimination and inequality because national experience as regards gender equality law implementation and gender-sensitive policy development is scarce.