



**The World Bank**

GPSA Moldova: Improving Access to Justice with a Focus on Families Affected by Domestic Violence and Gender-based Violence Project (P172747)

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# Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Concept Stage

### **(ESRS Concept Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 12/09/2019 | Report No: ESRSC00952



# The World Bank

GPSA Moldova: Improving Access to Justice with a Focus on Families Affected by Domestic Violence and Gender-based Violence Project (P172747)

## BASIC INFORMATION

### A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Moldova	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	P172747	
Project Name	GPSA Moldova: Improving Access to Justice with a Focus on Families Affected by Domestic Violence and Gender-based Violence Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social	Investment Project Financing		7/9/2019
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
East Europe Foundation (EEF)	East Europe Foundation (EEF), Expert Grup		

### Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project development objective is to contribute to improving transparency and public sector-civil society collaboration in domestic violence and gender-based violence prevention services by applying collaborative social accountability mechanisms in target sub-national areas and at the national level in Moldova.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>0.50</b>

### B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

### C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

The project is conceived of as part of a broader set of inter-connected interventions aimed at improving the treatment and prevention of DV & GBV in Moldova. These interventions will support the development, testing and adjustment of innovative multi-sectoral response services with the goal of achieving concrete improvements across a series of key DV & GBV indicators (e.g. victims' uptake of services, share of survivors with improved access to financial and welfare resources and improved quality of services, among others.) Specifically, this project will complement



these interventions by utilizing social accountability mechanisms and tools to address challenges across the DV & GBV service delivery chain.

#### **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

D.1. Project location(s) and salient characteristics relevant to the ES assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

The Project activities will take place nationwide, however, at this stage, the specific project locations have not yet been identified. The project’s primary beneficiaries will be the members of “local coalitions” in target rayons – selected as part of the broader JSDF and GPSA -funded project to include urban and rural communities in a minimum of six rayons across Moldova (criteria for selection of these rayons will be clarified during preparation stage). In addition, one district in Chisinau and one satellite municipal community of Chisinau will be targeted; to the extent possible pilot interventions will also cover the eastern rayons from the left bank of the Nistru River. Local coalitions will include, but may not be limited to, local public authorities (LPAs), local councils’ members, community-based and civil society organizations, community leaders, health and social workers, police and court representatives, and members of Rayonal Participation Councils, among other key community members.

The project’s secondary beneficiaries will be:

- a. the population from target communities, particularly those affected by or at risk of DV & GBV and their families,
- b. journalists, opinion makers, and members of civil society organizations working on DV, GBV and human rights protection at local and regional levels and in Chisinau, that will be engaged in the project’s dissemination activities;
- c. the project’s Consultative Council, which will include key stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Social Protection and Family.
- d. Public officials and development partners who can take up elements of collaborative social accountability processes to apply, sustain or scale collaborative social accountability and/or inform substantive decisions
- e. Other key stakeholders, including other CSOs and professional associations that will benefit from project activities such as policy dialogues and joint problem-solving sessions.

In February 2018, Moldova has adopted the National Strategy on prevention and combating violence against women and domestic violence for 2018-2023, and the project objectives are well aligned with this strategy. However, currently available social data reveal that physical violence is present in almost 50 percent and sexual violence in over 3 percent of families of origin of men who participated in the study “IMAGES – men and gender equality in the Republic of Moldova”. Women revealed various forms of physical violence applied by their husbands/partners. Following the use of physical violence, 21.9% of women reported that they had bruises and pain, 2.5% had injuries and contortions because of physical violence, etc. The research data reveal that the prevalence of physical but also psychological violence increases with age. At the same time, violence is more common in rural areas, in families where men have lower education and lower incomes (East European Foundation’s (EEF) project proposal). The Project will ultimately aim to address this underlying social issues, and the activities will not instigate or contribute to this ongoing situations, and thus, the Project is not anticipated to have direct adverse social safeguards impacts or risks.

There are no environmental risks or impacts posed by proposed project activities. The project will not finance any civil works, and its technical assistance activities (consultant services) will not aim to advise on any issues pertaining to environmental or ecological aspects of Moldova.

#### **D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity**



East Europe Foundation will be the lead project implementing agency (direct Recipient of the grant based on the no-objection from the government of Moldova). As such, it will be responsible for the overall management and implementation of project activities, project monitoring, and internal evaluations, as well as managing safeguards requirements of the Bank. East Europe Foundation will retain the project’s overall fiduciary responsibility before the World Bank, including on social safeguards/ESF. East Europe Foundation has extensive experience working on DV & GBV in Moldova.

At this stage, the capacity of EEF to handle social safeguards requirements is somewhat limited mainly given the novice nature of the World Bank's ESF. EEF does not have any prior experience working with the World Bank’s safeguards policies (OPs), but it already have received initial guidance from the Bank team on preparing social safeguards instruments such as Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Labor Management Procedures, and social assessment. The Bank team plans to deliver a more detailed training on these documents to EEF sometime during preparation stage (prior to appraisal).

**II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS**

**A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)**

Moderate

**Environmental Risk Rating**

Low

The project environmental risk is assessed low. The project potential adverse risks to and impacts on environment are likely to be negligible. The project will not directly result in any works or procurement of goods, as it provides financing to contribute to improved domestic violence prevention and remedies using collaborative social accountability mechanisms that also tackle obstacles to improving relevant service delivery. The project's technical assistance activities (consultant services) will not aim to advise on any issues pertaining to environmental or ecological aspects of Moldova.

**Social Risk Rating**

Moderate

Proposed social risk is Moderate. Social norms related to gender are an important underlying cause of Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence (DV & GBV). The number of women who reported the use of violence more than once on behalf of their husband/partner is several times higher compared to the number of men who admitted this fact, revealing that social norms determine to a large extend perceptions. According to the present general schema that determines the social norms related to gender, the ideals of masculinity and femininity are based on clear man dominance. At the same time, the objective roles are sometimes switched, especially taking into consideration massive migration of women: women are the main providers and men are taking care of home and children. Thus, the cognitive dissonance between the role exertion and the existing gender norms is increasing the pressure and frustration in both men and women, and contribute to an increased level of psychological, verbal, physical and sexual violence in the family (East Europe Foundation, GPSA project proposal: Moldova – Improving Access To Justice For The Vulnerable, With A Focus On Families Affected By Domestic And Gender-Based Violence).

Evidence suggests that the initiatives that showed most impact in decreasing violence against women were community-based, used several approaches, and engaged with multiple stakeholders over time (men and women of diverse ages and ethnic backgrounds). They also addressed the underlying risk factors for violence, including social norms regarding gender dynamics and the acceptability of violence. Hence, in the context of complex and rooted

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gender norms and power patterns, the Project aims to pilot an integrated approach to change empirical and normative expectations by engaging stakeholders at the local level, i.e. citizens, CSOs as well as municipal service providers. Strengthening the engagement with marginalized groups, families affected by DV & GBV and those at risk is one of the key strategies of the intervention. The Project does not pose any social risks associated with ESS2, ESS5, ESS7. However, given contextual background described above, lack of understanding and capacity of ES due diligence by EEF, as well as crucial importance of properly implementing ESS10 to achieve the objectives of the Project and challenges in ensuring that most vulnerable and disadvantaged/marginalized groups are included, the proposed social risk is Moderate.

## **B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered**

### **B.1. General Assessment**

#### **ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

##### ***Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:***

The project development objective is to contribute to improving transparency and public sector-civil society collaboration in domestic violence and gender-based violence prevention services by applying collaborative social accountability mechanisms in target sub-national areas and at the national level in Moldova. While these activities will not have negative social impacts -- and in fact aim to address the underlying GBV & DV issues in Moldova -- it poses risks due to sensitive nature of project's focus as well as contextual social norms described in the previous section on social risks. The project will require preparation of social assessment identifying the main beneficiaries (beyond immediate beneficiaries such as CSOs, rayons, journalists, etc) of the project, and its impact on them. Specifically, social assessment will address how GBV & DV manifests in marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged communities (including Roma communities), and how the project will ensure their inclusion into decision-making processes of all 3 project components. Component 1 of the Project aims, among others, to map stakeholders' roles in the project, and here, the importance of proper preparation and implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be crucial, which will have to be prepared and disclosed as soon as possible, prior to appraisal.

##### **Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:**

N/A

#### **ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

In order to ensure that a consistent, comprehensive, coordinated and culturally appropriate approach is taken to stakeholder engagement and project disclosure, EEF will have to prepare Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The SEP will be proportional to the nature and scale of the project and associated social risks and impacts to be identified through social assessment. The SEP will be developed and implemented to ensure that stakeholder engagement is conducted on the basis of timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information. The SEP will lay out a strategy to identify and map key stakeholders. EEF will also have to ensure that consultations are inclusive and accessible (both format and location). SEP will have to be disclosed as soon as possible, prior to appraisal and will be updated, as necessary, throughout the project cycle (preparation and/or implementation). A stakeholder grievance redress mechanism (GRM), as part of SEP, will be operationalized for the project to allow for feedback and complaints. It will



be recommended that EEF has a focal point handling proper development and implementation of SEP, as well as ensuring that the GRM is functioning.

## **B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts**

**A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.**

### **ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions**

EEF will be responsible to develop project-level Labor Management Procedures (LMP) applicable to the project. These LMPs will identify the main labor requirements and risks associated with the project, and will help EEF to determine the resources necessary to address project labor issues. The LMP would describe (i) procedures relevant to each category of workers involved; (ii) overview of key potential labor risks (if any); (iii) overview of Moldova’s labor legislation; (iv) description of grievance redress mechanism or mechanisms available for all direct workers and contracted workers (and if relevant, to their organizations). LMP may be amended at any time during project cycle depending on the needs and developments in the project preparation and/or implementation. In addition, LMP will describe legislation pertaining to labor regulations governing specifically NGOs, and will describe EEF's existing HR policies and procedures. It will also describe the nature of its contractual relationship with other beneficiary NGOs involved in the Project (whether it is through contract, mutual understanding agreement, or sub-granting agreement).

### **ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

No ESS 3 risks or impacts.

### **ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

No ESS 4 risks or impacts.

### **ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

No ESS 5 risks or impacts.

### **ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

No ESS 6 risks or impacts.

### **ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities**

There is no social group in Moldova that is known to meet the criteria of Indigenous Peoples for the purpose of the standard. Thus ESS7 is not relevant.

### **ESS8 Cultural Heritage**



No ESS 8 risks or impacts.

**ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

N/A

**B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks**

N/A

**C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

**OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways** No

**OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas** No

**III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE**

**A. Is a common approach being considered?** No

**Financing Partners**

GPSA and JSDF -- administered by the Bank. No other possible financing partners.

**B. Proposed Measures, Actions and Timing (Borrower’s commitments)**

**Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:**

Prior to Appraisal:

- 1) Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- 2) Labor Management Procedure
- 3) initial Social Assessment

**Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):**

Commitments in the ESCP:

- 1) Updating Social Assessment as per developments in the Project implementation;
- 2) Updating Stakeholder Engagement Plan throughout project implementation.
- 3) Updating Labor Management Procedures as necessary.

**C. Timing**

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Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

31-Jan-2023

## IV. CONTACT POINTS

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### Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: East Europe Foundation (EEF)

### Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: East Europe Foundation (EEF)

Implementing Agency: Expert Grup

## V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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## VI. APPROVAL

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Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Kevin A Tomlinson Recommended on 09-Dec-2019 at 13:28:56 EST

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