

EU 4 GENDER EQUALITY: TOGETHER AGAINST GENDER STEREOTYPES AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (Phase 2)

Key results in 2024



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BACKGROUND

The programme continued collaborating with governments, civil society, women's organizations, faith-based groups, the media and other key stakeholders, including social media influencers and UN agencies. Civil society and women's organizations remained central partners, advancing gender equality, women's empowerment and transformative shifts in gender norms.

Given the numerous challenges, including ongoing geopolitical tensions, backlash against gender equality and the war in Ukraine, the work on shifting discriminatory gender stereotypes in EU's Eastern Partnership countries has never been more critical.

Economic hardships, high unemployment rates and dependence on informal labour exacerbate women's vulnerabilities, limiting their access to resources, education and stable employment. Deep-rooted discriminatory gender norms continue to fuel violence against women and domestic abuse, reinforce gender pay gaps, restrict labour market access and suppress political participation.

Governance and civic space conditions in the region vary widely. While some countries have made progress in strengthening legal frameworks and increasing women's participation in public life, others have undergone significant setbacks. Resistance to gender equality persists, with misinformation distorting its intent and misrepresenting women's rights. Although the EU remains a key advocate for gender equality, local political and social dynamics frequently hinder progress.

Despite significant challenges in the operating environment across programme countries, the project demonstrated solid progress towards achieving its objectives. This brief provides highlights of results achieved by the programme in 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY RESULTS

Improved capacities and tools of institutions, civil society organizations and other key stakeholders to address gender inequalities and discriminatory stereotypes and roles

- **Standardized monitoring tools** of the programme's signature interventions were rolled out. Initial analysis indicates an increase in positive social norms among men and youth reached by the programme.
- **Seven programme partners**, primarily CSOs, **adopted newly developed monitoring tools** to better assess the impacts and effectiveness of their gender equality interventions.
- **205 representatives** from national institutions, local authorities, media outlets and CSOs **expanded their knowledge on gender-based discrimination and stereotypes**.
- **241 programme partners and stakeholders received knowledge products** produced by the programme, including the *'Follow-up Assessment Report on Gender Norms and Stereotypes in the Eastern Partnership'* ([UN Women/UNFPA](#)). The report takes stock on progress in overcoming harmful gender norms and stereotypes and fostering gender-transformative behaviour among people and communities in six programme countries. The analysis shows an increase of adherence to positive social norms among men and youth covered by the programme.





- In **Armenia**, two million people were reached through an **awareness-raising campaign** on gender stereotypes, gender equality, domestic violence prevention and responsible parenting and fatherhood.
- In **Azerbaijan**, the Azerbaijan Theology Institute developed an interdisciplinary course, **Gender Studies and Islam**. Additionally, **23 media professionals**, including editors and bloggers/influencers, enhanced their understanding of gender-sensitive media reporting in the workshop *Increasing Gender Sensitivity in the Media*.
- In **Georgia**, the **Gender Mainstreaming in the Education System training module** now includes a component on technology-facilitated gender-based violence. The module was revised in collaboration with the Teachers' Professional Development Centre and the Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions of Georgia. A pool of 11 trainers was formed, their capacities strengthened, and one training session was conducted for 26 participants.

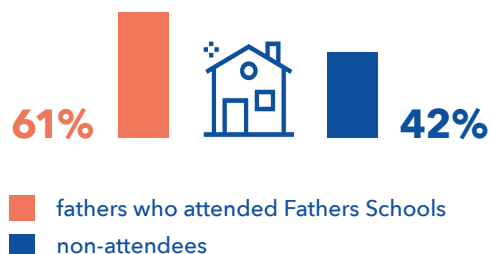


Increased knowledge and awareness of target populations on women's rights and gender-based discriminatory social norms

- **6.8 million** people were **reached through innovative campaigns** that challenge gender stereotypes and discriminatory social norms.
- **2,479 individuals** (1,043 women and girls, 1,156 men and boys, and 280 individuals with unspecified gender) **increased their knowledge** of gender stereotypes and gender equality.
- **25 initiatives** to transform discriminatory gender norms, implemented by grassroots civil society and women's organizations.
- **113 women and men became local advocates for gender equality** and non-discrimination.
- **18 trainers** completed a Training of Trainers programme, and **69 people** were trained in the **Voices against Violence curriculum in Georgia**. This curriculum provides participants aged 5 to 25 with opportunities to explore identity, recognize abuse, develop respectful relationship skills and seek support for all forms of violence.
- **48 women and girls with disabilities**, along with their personal assistants from nine districts in **Moldova**, strengthened their ability to combat social stereotypes and gender-based violence through training and networking activities.
- In **Ukraine**, **65 women journalists, influencers and content creators** received training on identifying gender stereotypes in the media. They enhanced their ability to apply a gender lens when creating content for women in STEM and innovation. Additionally, over 2.7 million people in Ukraine were reached through a digital campaign promoting responsible fatherhood that supports both veteran and civilian fathers.



- More than **9,000** people in **Belarus** received messaging on increasing men's involvement in family planning, childbirth and caregiving.
- Over **60 participants** from various organizations collaborated, exchanged knowledge on how to make meaningful change in gender norms while addressing gender-based violence at the *Conference of Civil Society Partners* of the "EU 4 Gender Equality" Programme in Chisinau, Moldova ([UN Women/UNFPA/EUNEAR](#)).



FATHERS who attended Fathers Schools are more likely to believe household tasks should be shared equally (when compared with non-attendees).



YOUTH who participated in programme interventions are more likely to believe that responsibility for financially supporting the family should be shared equally (when compared with non-intervention counterparts).

Source: Follow-Up Assessment on Gender Norms and Stereotypes in the EU's Eastern Partnership Countries.





Improved public-private support measures to promote engaged fatherhood practices and family-friendly policies

- **4,856 men** have participated in **68 Fathers' Schools** across programme countries since 2020.
- **19 new Fathers' Schools** were established in 2024 in Azerbaijan (5), Georgia (2), Moldova (9), and Ukraine (3).
- **66 Fathers' School facilitators** enhanced their facilitation skills through regional and country-level Training of Trainers sessions.
- **13 policymakers** engaged in discussions on policy proposals related to gender-responsive family policies and men's involvement in caregiving.



Stories of Change

The EU 4 Gender Equality programme has empowered individuals across the region, transforming lives and fostering advocacy for gender equality. Read the stories of women, men, boys and girls whose lives have been positively impacted through new knowledge, skills and experiences gained from the programme:

- EU 4 Gender Equality is partnering with the private sector to create family-friendly and gender-equitable workplaces, advancing gender equality in the workforce ([UN Women/UNFPA/EUNEAR](#)).
- In [Armenia](#), the programme is strengthening families by promoting equal relationships and advancing gender equality.
- Across the EU's Eastern Partnership countries, Fathers' Schools are redefining fatherhood and empowering women by promoting shared responsibilities and gender-equal family dynamics ([UN Women/UNFPA/EUNEAR](#)).
- In [Azerbaijan](#), a rural woman is turning her passion into a successful business with support from the programme.
- In the EU's Eastern Partnership countries, the programme is driving women's economic empowerment by challenging traditional gender norms and opening doors to new opportunities ([UN Women/UNFPA/EUNEAR](#)).
- In [Georgia](#), youth are taking active roles in combating gender-based violence.
- In [Moldova](#), a father's journey through the Father's Club is helping him build meaningful, empowering relationships with his children.
- Across the EUs' Eastern Partnership countries, the programme is training media professionals to promote gender-sensitive reporting, amplifying voices for equality ([UN Women/UNFPA/EUNEAR](#)).
- In [Ukraine](#), women are driving progress in science despite the ongoing war.





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PHOTO CREDITS:

Cover – Europe Day Celebration in Armenia. Photo: UNFPA Armenia/Aspram Manukyan.

Page 3 – Opening of the Equality Corner in Guria, Georgia. Photo: UNFPA Georgia/Irakli Dzeladze.

Page 4 – ‘EU 4 Gender Equality’ Civil Society Partners Conference in Chişinău. Photo: EU 4 Gender Equality/Stela Dontu.

Page 5 – International Day of the Girl Child in Berd, Armenia. Photo: UNFPA Armenia/Artyom Dalyan.

Page 6 – Training of Trainers session in Georgia on the ‘Voices Against Violence’ curriculum. Photo: The Georgian Girl Scouts Association ‘Dia’.

Page 7 – Emil from Georgia with his son Duda. Photo: UNFPA Georgia/Dina Oganova. Father and son during a Papa School session in Azerbaijan. Photo: UNFPA Azerbaijan.

Page 8 – Father Schools facilitators during the Training of Trainers in Istanbul, aimed at equipping them with the knowledge and skills to promote gender equality. Photo: EU 4 Gender Equality. Training session for young people from Căuşeni and Ştefan Vodă districts in Moldova on combating gender stereotypes. Photo: UN Women Moldova.

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