

# ICPD Beyond 2014 Review for Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Thematic Analysis of Survey Results

**ICPD Beyond 2014 Review for  
Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Thematic  
Analysis of Survey Results**

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## ***NOTE***

This report adopts the terminology employed by the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey.

The authors acknowledge that the findings presented in this report may not reflect the current situation of countries or territories that participated in the survey, as none of the changes that took place after the survey date (2012) have been incorporated. Moreover, the national counterparts responsible for filling out the survey questionnaire, or sections of same, may not have been fully informed on some of the policies/programmes and strategies that had been implemented/drafted in the country or territory as of the survey date.

All analysis in this report is based on the self-reporting of the national counterparts that participated in the survey process.

This study, related to the 2014-2017 UNFPA Global and Regional Programme, was carried out under the provisions of the Letter of Understanding and the Annual Work Plans agreed upon between the United Nations Population Fund (phone: +90 (212) 705 36 50; fax: +90 (212) 705 36 92; e-mail: [ee caro@unfpa.org.tr](mailto:ee caro@unfpa.org.tr)) and Hacettepe University Institute of Population Studies (phone: +90 (312) 305 11 15; fax: +90 (312) 311 81 41; e-mail: [hips@hacettepe.edu.tr](mailto:hips@hacettepe.edu.tr)) as the implementing partner.

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## ***LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS***

<i>BiH</i>	<i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>
<i>BIRD</i>	<i>El Banco Internacional de Reconstrucción y Desarrollo (the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development)</i>
<i>CSO</i>	<i>Civil society organisation</i>
<i>EECA</i>	<i>Eastern Europe and Central Asia</i>
<i>FYR</i>	<i>Former Yugoslav Republic of</i>
<i>GIZ</i>	<i>German Society for International Cooperation</i>
<i>HIV/AIDS</i>	<i>Human immunodeficiency virus/Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome</i>
<i>ICPD</i>	<i>International Conference on Population and Development</i>
<i>ILO</i>	<i>International Labour Organization</i>
<i>NGO</i>	<i>Nongovernmental organisation</i>
<i>OHCHR</i>	<i>Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</i>
<i>OSCE</i>	<i>Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe</i>
<i>PoA</i>	<i>Programme of Action</i>
<i>SIDA</i>	<i>Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency</i>
<i>SRH</i>	<i>Sexual and reproductive health</i>
<i>TFR</i>	<i>Total fertility rate</i>
<i>UN</i>	<i>United Nations</i>
<i>UNDP</i>	<i>United Nations Development Programme</i>
<i>UNECE</i>	<i>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</i>
<i>UNFPA</i>	<i>United Nations Population Fund</i>
<i>UNICEF</i>	<i>United Nations Children's Fund</i>
<i>UNIFEM</i>	<i>United Nations Development Fund for Women</i>
<i>UNTF</i>	<i>United Nations Task Force</i>
<i>USAID</i>	<i>United States Agency for International Development</i>
<i>WHO</i>	<i>World Health Organization</i>

# **Analysis and Implications of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Review Results for Countries and Territories in Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

## **1. Introduction**

The Cairo Programme of Action (PoA) adopted at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) has been a landmark agreement on many aspects of population and development, with its emphasis on improving the lives of individuals, particularly those of women. Moreover, the global acceptance of the ICPD PoA recommendations has been effective in shaping the population and development policies of countries and territories worldwide. Over the past 20 years, many countries have adopted the recommendations of the Conference and turned them into action, as addressed in the PoA in paragraph 16.1 of Chapter XVI and also in paragraph 16.6 of the same chapter (UN, 1995). In the two decades since Cairo, although the necessary commitments have been made to take action on the agenda of the ICPD PoA, there is still work to be done to cover this agenda thoroughly. To support national authorities in implementing the ICPD recommendations, finding solutions to emerging problems, and responding to population challenges in their countries, a review process, the ICPD Beyond 2014 Review, has been implemented by UNFPA. This review process forms a basis for identifying progress, achievements, and gaps at the national, regional, and global levels for the goals set out in the PoA.

The ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey has been implemented in the countries and territories of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region to explore where they stand with regard to implementing the ICPD PoA. The Survey was designed with three objectives: first, to assess the implementation status of commitments made in Cairo in 1994, with emphasis on legislation and policy formulation, establishment of governance structures, and actions executed; second, to identify facilitating factors as well as barriers to the implementation of commitments; and third, to identify new national priorities and emerging issues.

This report analyses selected sections of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey for the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) region and covers the EECA countries/territories<sup>1</sup> that have

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey (omitted because the filled-out



filled out the questionnaires. The Global Survey was designed to collect detailed information about policies, programmes, and strategies, their implementation, and collaborating institutions/organisations. The three thematic areas selected for analysis in the questionnaire are 'Addressing the needs of adolescents and youth', 'Family and the well-being of individuals and societies', and 'Gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women'. This analysis aims to contribute to the understanding of the country profiles for these three areas in response to the ICPD PoA. Analysis of the selected thematic areas is expected to provide input for responding to the population challenges faced in the region.

This report intends to address the progress made, persistent problematic issues, existing implementation gaps, and emerging issues of concern in the EECA region, and to facilitate and enable continuous improvement on the remaining challenges. The ultimate aim of the report is not to make an interregional comparison, but to provide data-based information to enable the achievement of more prosperous standards in the region. As the scope of the analysis is limited to what was reported on the questionnaires, country comparisons in the region are not within the objectives of this report and would be misleading to make without further study.

In addition to the wide range of ICPD issues relevant to every facet of population and development, the population topics under debate today are much more diversified due to the demographic changes and population dynamics affecting all countries worldwide. Global demographic trends and patterns require renewed, differentiated policies and programmes at both national and international levels (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2013). Today, the foreseeable trends in population dynamics call for special focus on changing age structures, among which adolescents and youth are of special interest; as recognised in the ICPD document (Chapter VI, paragraph 6.6) young people are the most important resource for the future and investments in them by parents and societies are essential. Structural demographic and socio-economic changes have also played a major role in influencing the patterns of family formation and family life. Changes in family composition and structure have resulted in today's diversified family forms. As recommended in Chapter V, paragraph 5.2 of the ICPD PoA, this plurality of family forms necessitates that new policies be developed to better support the family and to promote equality of opportunity for family members, especially the rights of women and children. Also deserving of attention as a cross-cutting issue is gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women which constitute stepping stones for overall development and a more harmonious partnership between men and

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questionnaire does not cover the related sections of this thematic analysis), Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan (questionnaire not available).

women (ICPD PoA, Chapter IV). These global themes are undoubtedly issues of concern in the development agendas of the EECA countries as well.

This report is structured around four main chapters. The first three cover the subjects of addressing the needs of adolescents and youth; family and the well-being of individuals and societies; and gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women. In the chapter on youth and adolescents, as regards policies, programmes, and strategies, the relevant subtopics were determined to be *employment; poverty; violence, exploitation, and abuse; participation in decision-making; sexual and reproductive health; and data problems*. The chapter on family and the well-being of individuals and societies focuses on the *availability of policies on family issues, their target populations, and their achievements, barriers, and policy priorities* for the future. The chapter on gender issues broadens the topic to include policies, programmes, and strategies on equality, equity, and empowerment of women, mainly focusing on *achievements in addressing gender-related subjects, monitoring, and establishing institutional mechanisms*. A fourth chapter presents the major overall findings of the report and their implications for enabling a dialogue on the basis of the three thematic areas.

## 2. Methodology

In this report, the three thematic areas of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey for the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region are analysed: ‘Addressing the needs of adolescents and youth’, ‘Family and the well-being of individuals and societies’, and ‘Gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women’. A self-administered standard questionnaire composed of eight sections directly related to chapters in the PoA was used in carrying out the Global Survey (Questionnaire Interviewer’s Guide). In the questionnaire, the thematic areas fell under the following headings:

- Section 2: Population Growth Structure subsection, ‘Addressing the needs of adolescents and youth’ (PoA Chapter VI)
- Section 5: Family and the Well-being of Individuals and Societies (PoA Chapter V)
- Section 7: Gender Equality, Equity, and the Empowerment of Women (PoA Chapter IV)

Though the EECA region includes 20 countries, listed below, the assessment presented in this report is based on responses from 18 of these countries/territories, omitting Uzbekistan, which does not have a filled-out questionnaire, and Turkey, whose filled-out questionnaire does not cover the sections that are subject to this thematic analysis.

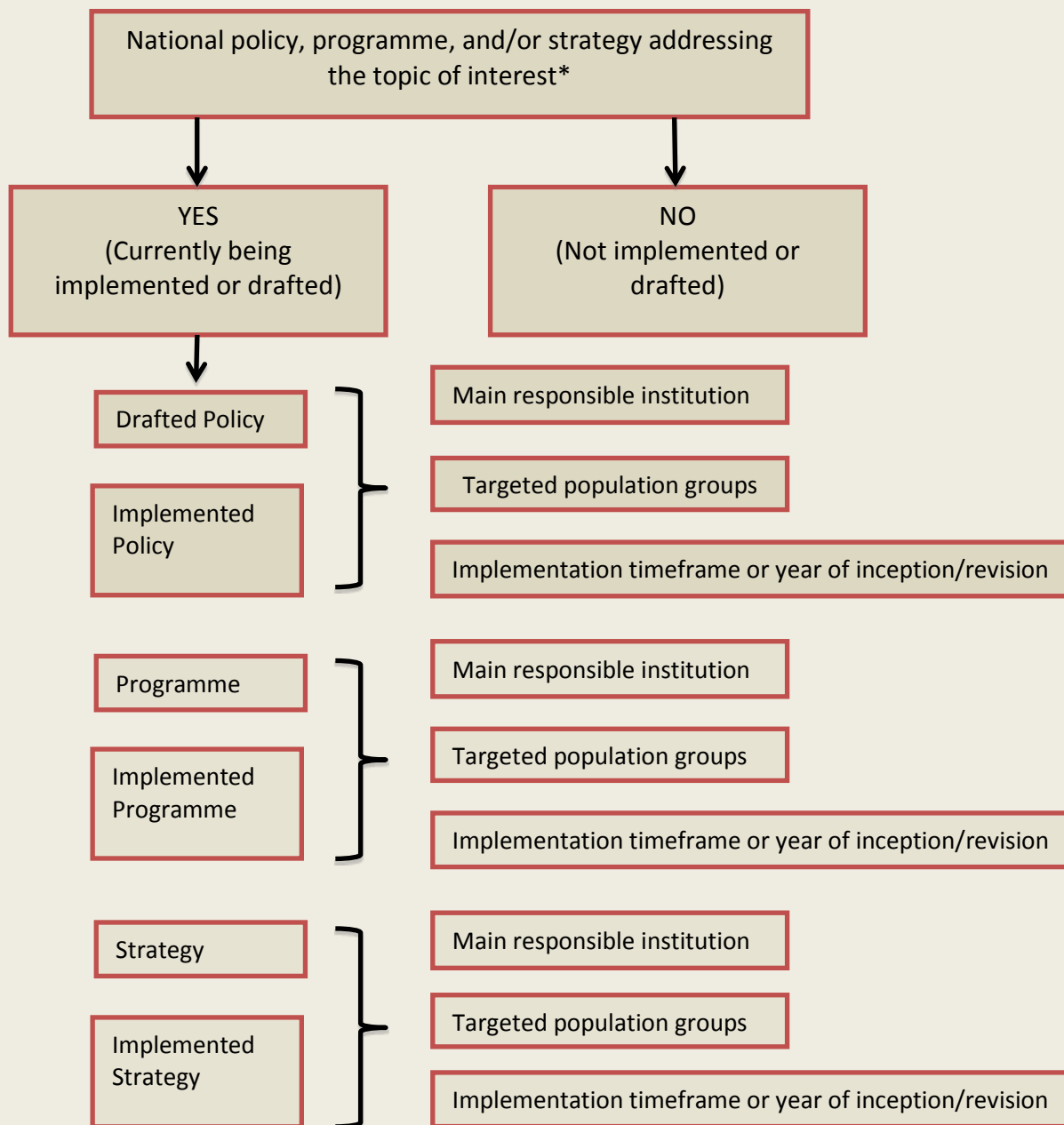
Albania; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH); Bulgaria; Georgia; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Kyrgyzstan; Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Republic of Moldova; Romania; Russia; Serbia; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Turkey; Ukraine; Uzbekistan

The ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey questionnaire consists of various types of questions: closed questions with pre-defined categories, semi-closed questions, and open-ended questions. The Questionnaire Interviewer’s Guide, prepared to support UNFPA Global Survey interviewers during the data collection stage, describes the Global Survey objectives and structure; provides instructions related to the completion of the Global Survey questionnaire; and provides key definitions of the Global Survey concepts. Since it is a self-administered questionnaire, the Guide was designed to be read before and while filling out the responses.

Box 2.1 shows the flow of the Global Survey questions regarding policies/programmes and/or strategies that are implemented/drafted in the EECA region countries/territories. The questions follow the same structure for all three sections analysed in this report.

### BOX 2.1

## The flow of questions regarding national policies, programmes, and/or strategies



\* Refers to 'Addressing the needs of adolescents and youth', 'Family and the well-being of individuals and societies', or 'Gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women'

## Limitations:

The analyses in this document reflect the results of the Global Survey for the three thematic areas, for the countries of the EECA region, based on the responses to the Survey questionnaire, and are therefore limited by the quality of the questionnaire information. Moreover, the national counterparts responsible for filling out the whole questionnaire or section(s) of same may not have been fully informed on some of the policies/programmes and strategies that had been implemented/drafted in the country/territory as of the survey date.

The completed questionnaires were returned in the last quarter of 2012, so findings presented in this report may not reflect the current situation of countries/territories that participated in the survey. None of the changes that took place after the survey date (2012) have been incorporated in this analysis.

The countries in the EECA region have a wide variety of policies, programmes, and strategies related to the ICPD PoA; however, not all details of these are reflected in the questionnaires. Hence, there may be implementations, achievements, and gaps that are not specified and/or reported in the questionnaire of which the preparers of this report are unaware.

This analysis does not reflect the qualitative aspect of the existing policies, programmes, and/or strategies or their implementation, due to the structure of the Global Survey questionnaire. Assessments of the overall implementation or progress of the policy/programme/strategy are based on the subjective self-evaluations of the national authorities who filled out the questionnaires.

This report adopts the terminology employed by the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey, which may diverge from the latest internationally agreed terminology; such as the currently employed use of 'gender-biased prenatal sex selection' instead of 'sex-selective abortion'.

### 3. Addressing the Needs of Adolescents and Youth

This section reviews the 'Addressing the Needs of Adolescents and Youth' subsection in Section 2 (Population Growth and Structure) of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Review Global Survey for the EECA region.

In the ICPD 1994 PoA, 'Children and youth' was a separate title under the chapter Population Growth and Structure. The basis for action on this issue was the high proportion of children and youth in developing countries as a result of high fertility levels and declining mortality levels. The demands created by large young populations require extensive planning in a wide spectrum of areas, from health, education, and employment to essential investments made by parents and society in order to achieve sustained economic growth. Adverse effects of poverty on children and youth were underlined in the action plan, including both poorer health and welfare, as well as the increasing risks of sexual abuse, labour exploitation, human trafficking, neglect, and drug addiction (UNFPA, 2014).

The related section of the ICPD Beyond 2014 questionnaire is on adolescents and youth, and is restricted to the situation of members of the 10-24 age group, putting the emphasis on adolescents rather than children. However, the original basis for action is still valid: Adolescents and youth correspond to a large proportion of the world's population. According to the United Nations' 2015 population projections (UN, 2014), 27 per cent of the world population is in the 10-24 age group. Although this proportion is lower in the EECA region (18 per cent), it still corresponds to 43 million people aged 10-24 (UN, 2014; The World Bank, 2014a). Ensuring a safe and healthy future for this population is thus a priority for all countries and territories.

The adolescents and youth section of the questionnaire addressed this population group through a set of questions on the existence of policies/programmes/strategies, budgets, and active mechanisms regarding adolescent and youth issues, namely employment, poverty, violence and exploitation, youth participation, access to sexual and reproductive health, and age- and sex-disaggregated socio-economic data. Countries and territories were asked to assess their progress in terms of the implementation of policies/programmes/strategies for subjects related to adolescents and youth. They were further asked to list their achievements, if any, on ICPD issues. A list of youth issues with policy priority for the next decade was also requested.

All participating countries and territories indicated that they had either implemented or drafted a policy, programme, or strategy to address the needs of adolescents and youth (Table 3.1). Broader measures (policies) were less frequently implemented compared to those that are

more specific (strategies). Half of the participating countries or territories had implemented policies, while 12 reported implementing programmes and 13 reported implementing strategies. In addition to these three measures asked about in the questionnaire, Serbia drafted a law on youth to be implemented from 2012 onward. FYR Macedonia mentioned two action plans regarding youth employment and preventing the sexual abuse of children, as well as a national plan on children’s rights; all three countries/territories include adolescents and youth in addition to children according to the target groups specified.

<b>Table 3.1 National policy, programme, and/or strategy addressing youth and adolescents</b>	
<b>Implemented policy</b>	Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine
<b>Drafted policy</b>	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine
<b>Implemented programme</b>	Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine
<b>Drafted programme</b>	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine
<b>Implemented strategy</b>	Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
<b>Drafted strategy</b>	Armenia, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine

In two countries/territories, Azerbaijan and Georgia, there were no implemented measures to address youth issues as of the survey date. However, the former had a draft programme (Azerbaijani Youth, 2011-2015) and the latter had a draft policy (Georgian National Youth Policy, to be implemented after 2013 through an Action Plan).

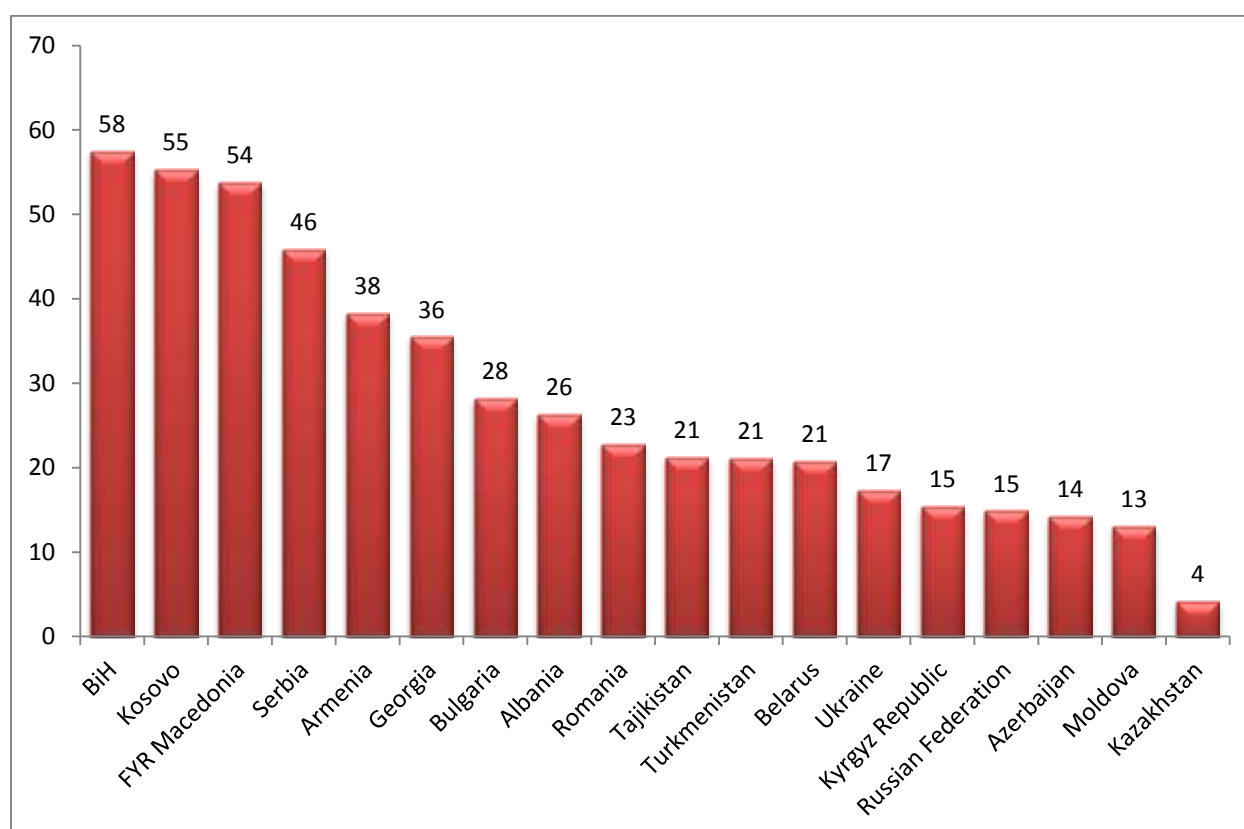
All participating EECA countries/territories indicated the existence of entities to address adolescent and youth issues. More than half of the countries/territories have ministries related to youth (for example, the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Azerbaijan, or the Ministry of Youth, Labour, and Employment in Kyrgyzstan), and these are usually directly responsible for government measures. Most countries/territories included all youth as their target group, including disadvantaged youth (poor, female, disabled, widowed/orphaned, indigenous, etc.).

## ICPD issues in the EECA region

### ***Most recognised youth problem in the EECA region: Employment***

Despite the interregional diversity in terms of youth unemployment rates, the labour-force participation of youth is an issue of importance throughout the EECA region. The unemployment rate for the 15-24 age group is highest in the post-Yugoslav countries/territories: over 50 per cent in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, and Serbia. The corresponding rate is between 30-40 per cent in Armenia and Georgia; between 20-30 per cent in Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkmenistan; and less than 20 per cent in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Ukraine (ILO, 2014; the World Bank, 2014b).

**Figure 3.1 Unemployment rate for the 15-24 age group, 2012, EECA region**



Source: World Bank, 2014b.

Note: The unemployment rate for Kosovo is obtained from the World Bank, 2014c.



Countries/territories were asked whether they have addressed the issue of creating employment opportunities for youth. This was a widely addressed issue: 17 out of 18 countries/territories reported having an existing policy/programme/strategy<sup>2</sup> (Table 3.2). Most of these (15) countries reported having allocated budgets for this issue. Almost all countries indicated having taken concrete implementation measures regarding the problem. However, in terms of the evaluation of progress, only 10 countries/territories assessed their current situation as 'on schedule' (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, BiH, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan). Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Ukraine reported their progress as 'deficient' or 'behind schedule'.

Among the 17 countries/territories addressing the issue of youth employment, 11 of them listed achievements on this topic. Kazakhstan implemented a national initiative for rural youth. Turkmenistan focused on vocational schools and worked on guaranteeing the employment of specialists. Kyrgyzstan paid attention to youth labour exchanges. In the Republic of Moldova, annual job fairs were organised for youth. Albania developed an action plan for youth and an employment growth policy, supported by public vocational training centres. It also listed an employment programme for prisoners, and a Roma community inclusion programme. Belarus implemented a state programme to promote employment. Ukraine focused on youth entrepreneurship.

***Employment, violence, youth participation, and access to SRH were the most-addressed youth issues in the EECA***

The most frequently cited facilitators regarding achievements in youth employment were 'effective partnership with stakeholders at national level' (eight countries/territories), 'involvement of civil society and community-based organisations at local level' (five countries/territories), 'involvement of private sector' (four countries/territories) and 'actions taken/support provided by the government to different organisations' (four countries/territories). Belarus mentioned the availability of employment vacancies. Russia listed the country's increasing interest in youth issues. Georgia mentioned cooperation with universities regarding internships.

'Existing economic/political environment' was listed as a barrier to achievements by four countries/territories (Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, and Ukraine). Two countries/territories mentioned low literacy rates or education levels (Romania and Ukraine). The Republic of

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<sup>2</sup> Including Azerbaijan and Georgia, who mentioned their draft policies/programmes earlier. Bulgaria did not respond to the employment question.

Moldova and Russia stated that the supply of jobs did not meet the demands of the unemployed. Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan highlighted funding issues.

The high level of interest in youth employment in the EECA region was demonstrated by the issue being the most-mentioned priority for the upcoming decades (listed by 14 countries/territories). All countries/territories that assessed themselves to be behind schedule in terms of progress on this issue were included in these 14 countries/territories, except for Russia. Georgia said it addressed the issue, yet did not have a budget allocated to it at the time of the survey and listed youth employment as an issue that needs attention.

### ***Persistent social and economic problem: Poverty***

According to the UN (2010), poverty is closely associated with a lack of access to or control over resources, which results in more limited access to services, employment, markets, and institutions. The manifestations of poverty include deteriorated nutrition and health, limited access to education, inadequate housing, and social exclusion, which particularly affects young people (UN, 2010). Poverty is low in the EECA region compared to the rest of the world yet still on the agenda. Despite the availability of data on poverty for many countries/territories, the proportion of impoverished youth by country is a statistic unavailable for most of the EECA countries/territories.

Addressing the adverse effects of poverty on adolescents and youth was positively responded to by 14 EECA countries/territories. Fewer (nine) countries/territories allocated budgets to address the issue (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and Turkmenistan). All budget-allocating countries/territories also took concrete implementation measures. The budget question was left blank for FYR Macedonia, yet one of its programmes/strategies was 'Conditional Cash Enumeration', including the direct transfer of money. No budget was allocated in Georgia; the issue was addressed in the draft 'Georgian National Youth Policy'. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan also lacked budgets despite having addressed the issue; the former through a committee under the Ministry of Education and Science and the latter through a national programme.

***Statistics on youth and adolescents on poverty are scarce in the EECA region.***

Nine countries/territories assessed their current progress as 'on schedule' (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Romania, Russia, and Turkmenistan). Kyrgyzstan evaluated its progress fighting youth poverty as 'deficient' and the evaluation of Ukraine was

'behind schedule'. Some of the listed countries/territories addressed youth poverty with policies/programmes/strategies that have a national economic focus, such as Azerbaijan (through the State Programme on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan), Bulgaria (through a national target to reduce poverty, with a sub-target on children), and Serbia (the Poverty Reduction Strategy).

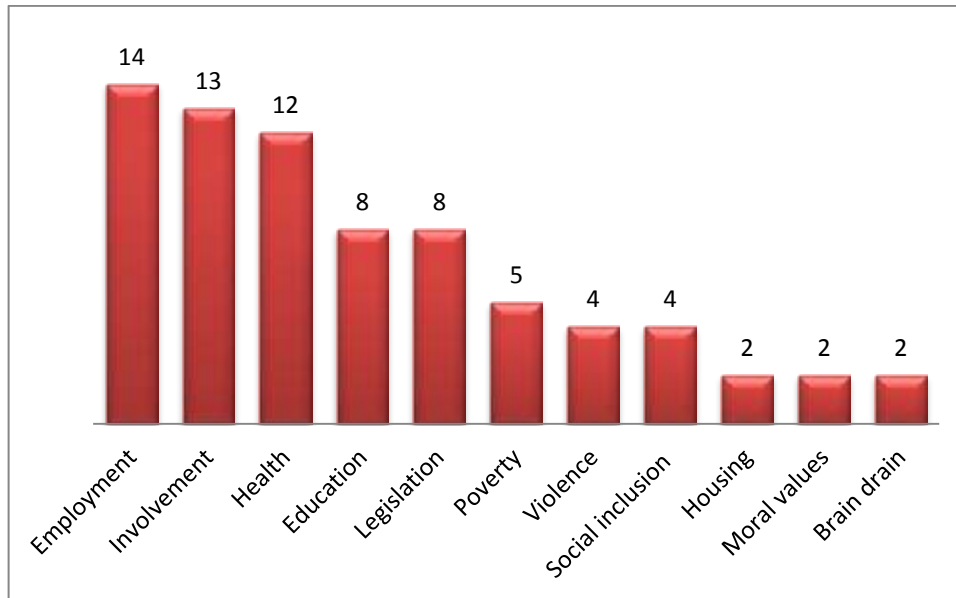
Achievements were cited by six countries/territories on youth poverty. Armenia adopted a regulation on social security for unemployed youth, provided training for the unemployed, and began a project on affordable apartments. Azerbaijan established youth houses. Bulgaria adopted a national target to decrease poverty, with a sub-target for children. Serbia developed a strategic and legal framework for youth and opened youth offices. Turkmenistan achieved an improvement in welfare, according to its Living Standards Survey.

The facilitators to the achievements above were mostly identified as 'effective partnership with national stakeholders' (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Serbia, Turkmenistan) and 'involvement of civil society and community-based organisations at the local level' (Armenia, Bulgaria, Serbia, Turkmenistan). Turkmenistan also listed partnerships with international organisations. Russia reported the regular monitoring of families.

Budget issues were listed as barriers against achievements on poverty by Armenia and Serbia, the latter of which underlined that the Youth Strategy was never budgeted for and that the bureaucratic burden was high. Russia underlined the high level of youth unemployment.

Poverty was on the agenda for the upcoming decade in Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine, though the Republic of Moldova was among the countries/territories that did not list specific policies to address poverty. Although Kyrgyzstan addressed the issue, it had no budget allocated and assessed its progress as deficient. Ukraine's assessment was 'behind schedule'. None of the countries/territories reporting achievements on poverty mentioned it as a priority except for Bulgaria, where a budget was allocated for this issue and achievements were reported.

**Figure 3.2 Most relevant youth issues to national context, EECA region**



*Note: Albania is included in the 'involvement' and 'violence' tallies contrary to Table 3.2 because two of its legislation-related agendas are connected to these two themes.*

### ***A major human-rights issue: Violence, exploitation, and abuse***

According to UNICEF, the risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse peak during adolescence, with young people facing victimisation from both adults and their peers (UNICEF, 2011). Commercial sexual exploitation is a risk, especially for adolescent girls. Girls are also at a higher risk of domestic violence. However, violence against adolescents is very hard to quantify and usually unreported (UNICEF, 2011). Therefore comparable statistics on violence are relatively scarce. The Population Reference Bureau's 2013 Data Sheet on the World's Youth presents a collection of indicators including young women's attitudes towards wife-beating; this is available for some of the EECA countries/territories (PRB, 2014). In Tajikistan, 82 per cent of women aged 15-24 agreed that women could be beaten under certain circumstances. This proportion was 26 per cent in Albania, 44 per cent in Azerbaijan, 33 per cent in Kyrgyzstan, and 22 per cent in the Republic of Moldova.

Table 3.2 Addressing ICPD issues related to youth and adolescents by topic: EECA countries/territories	Addressed		Albania		Armenia		Azerbaijan		Belarus		BiH		Bulgaria		FYR Macedonia		Georgia		Kazakhstan		Kosovo		Kyrgyzstan		Republic of Moldova		Romania		Russia		Serbia		Tajikistan		Turkmenistan		Ukraine		
	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget			
Creating employment opportunities for youth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Addressing the adverse effects of poverty on adolescents	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-	No	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	
Addressing the violence against and exploitation and abuse of children, adolescents, and youth, including sexual exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Instituting concrete procedures and mechanisms for adolescents and youth to participate in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of development activities that have a direct impact on their lives	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Ensuring that adolescents and youth have the same rights and access to sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV prevention services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Collecting age- and sex-disaggregated data on the socio-economic status of adolescents	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Addressing violence against and exploitation and abuse of children, adolescents, and youth, including sexual exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation, was undertaken by all participating EECA countries/territories except for Russia. Among these, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, and Serbia reported not having separate budgets for the issue. Most countries (15) took solid measures to address the issue. Kyrgyzstan evaluated itself as 'deficient'; Kosovo and Ukraine as 'behind schedule'. Georgia and Serbia did not assess their progress. All remaining countries were 'on schedule' in terms of their overall progress of implementation.

Five out of 18 countries reported progress in protecting youth and adolescents from violence and exploitation. In Armenia, the criminal code was expanded to cover these issues. In Bulgaria, a national plan was adopted for the prevention of violence against children. Albania took measures on violence in the family and adopted a national anti-trafficking strategy. Turkmenistan focused on raising awareness. FYR Macedonia prepared an action plan against paedophilia, and started campaigns in schools.

Armenia and Bulgaria mentioned 'effective partnership with stakeholders at national level' and 'involvement of civil society and community-based organisations at local level' as facilitators to their achievements. Bulgaria and FYR Macedonia underlined 'actions taken/support provided by the government to different organisations'. Albania acknowledged the participation of civil society and the private sector.

The limited participation of civil society and the private sector was listed as a barrier by FYR Macedonia. Armenia underlined the lack of funding. Turkmenistan and Bulgaria recorded no barriers against achievements.

Violence, abuse, exploitation, commercial exploitation, and human trafficking issues were listed by Albania, FYR Macedonia, Tajikistan, and Ukraine as topics requiring policy priority<sup>3</sup>. FYR Macedonia reported not having allocated a budget regarding violence against youth, and Ukraine assessed its progress as 'behind schedule'.

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<sup>3</sup> Kazakhstan and Kosovo, which previously assessed their progress as 'behind schedule' in fighting the exploitation and abuse of adolescents and youth, did not specify violence among the five relevant youth issues for their national context over the next 10 years.

**Table 3.3 Countries/territories reporting achievements on ICPD issues related to youth and adolescents, EECA region**

<b>Creating employment opportunities for youth</b>	Albania, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine
<b>Addressing the adverse effects of poverty on adolescents</b>	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Russia, Serbia, Turkmenistan
<b>Addressing violence against and exploitation/abuse of children, adolescents, and youth, including sexual exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation</b>	Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, FYR Macedonia, Turkmenistan
<b>Instituting concrete procedures and mechanisms for adolescents and youth to participate in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of development activities that have a direct impact on their lives</b>	Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine
<b>Ensuring that adolescents and youth have the same rights and access to sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV prevention services</b>	Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine,
<b>Collecting age- and sex-disaggregated data on the socio-economic status of adolescents</b>	Armenia, Turkmenistan

***A guiding principle of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Youth participation***

Participation of adolescents and youth in decision-making is a priority area of the UN (2011). According to the World Health Organization, ‘youth should be involved from the start as full and active partners in all stages from conceptualisation, design, implementation, feedback, and follow-up’ (UN, 2011). In the ICPD questionnaire, countries/territories were asked about instituting concrete procedures and mechanisms for adolescents and youth to participate in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of development activities that have a direct impact on their lives.

All 18 countries/territories reported instituting concrete mechanisms for youth participation. FYR Macedonia

***Lack of finances is a common barrier hindering achievements on ICPD issues related to youth and adolescents.***

mentioned local-level 'Youth Councils'. Georgia cited its draft youth law, mentioning that youth organisations took part in its development. Serbia implemented 'The National Youth Strategy'. Bulgaria mentioned its 'Child Council to the State Agency for Child Protection'. Azerbaijan mentioned its annual plans of action. The Republic of Moldova established Local Youth Councils and organised Youth Governance Days. Municipal Youth Offices were established in Kosovo. Albania carried out awareness campaigns on volunteering.

Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Ukraine did not allocate budgets for solid mechanisms of youth participation; BiH and Ukraine also assessed their progress as 'behind schedule' in this area. Other than non-responding Bulgaria and FYR Macedonia, all remaining 12 countries/territories allocated budgets. The countries/territories that rated their progress as 'on schedule' were: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Kyrgyzstan and Kosovo evaluated themselves to be 'behind schedule' on youth participation mechanisms.

Eight countries/territories mentioned their achievements on concrete measures and mechanisms for youth involvement. Azerbaijan declared 2007 as the year of the youth. Bulgaria founded a child council, which was active in drafting a national strategy on children. Local youth councils were established in the Republic of Moldova. Youth centres, stadiums, sport clubs, and educational centres were opened in Turkmenistan. Russia declared selected cities to be child-friendly. Ukraine adopted a law on social services.

Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Ukraine acknowledged 'Effective partnership with stakeholders at national level' and 'Involvement of civil society and community-based organisations at local level' as facilitators of their achievements. The Republic of Moldova cited a partnership with the National Youth Resources Centre, while Turkmenistan underlined its cooperation with international organisations and ministries.

Financial issues were mentioned as barriers to achievement by Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova. Kyrgyzstan also mentioned a need for international technical assistance. Russia reported an extreme politicisation of projects for young people, and Georgia mentioned prevailing local customs. Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine did not report any barriers in this area.

Youth involvement/participation was the next-most mentioned priority issue after youth employment, listed by 13 countries/territories. Volunteering and participation in civil society and policy-making were the most frequently highlighted dimensions. BiH and Kosovo,



previously evaluating themselves to be ‘behind schedule’ in terms of creating youth involvement mechanisms, were among the countries/territories highlighting these issues.

***Addressed by most countries/territories in the EECA region: Sexual and reproductive health***

According to UNFPA, the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs of adolescents are largely unmet around the world, despite this age group making up a large proportion of the global population (UNFPA, 2009). Earlier puberty, earlier intercourse, less-frequent contraceptive use compared to adults, early pregnancy and childbearing, and exposure to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV are among the SRH issues adolescents and youth face.

Adolescent fertility<sup>4</sup> in the EECA region varies: It is above 30 per thousand in Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, and Tajikistan<sup>5</sup> (UN, 2013), and under 20 per thousand in BiH, FYR Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkmenistan. Among countries/territories with available data, usually less than half of 15- to 24-year-old women are shown to have comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS. The level of knowledge is highest in Serbia, BiH, Ukraine, and the Republic of Moldova (54, 48, 45, and 42 per cent respectively). It is between 30 and 40 per cent in Albania,

Belarus, and Kazakhstan; and less than 30 per cent in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

***Budget allocations were most often available for employment policies, followed by SRH policies.***

Ensuring that adolescents and youth have the same rights and access to sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV prevention services, was addressed by all

countries/territories in the EECA region other than Bosnia and Herzegovina. Armenia cited ‘The Republic of Armenia Law on Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights’, and the ‘National Programme on Combating HIV/AIDS in the Republic of Armenia’. Romania mentioned its law on ‘measures to prevent the spread of AIDS in Romania and protect people living with HIV/AIDS’. Fourteen countries/territories allocated budgets for sexual and reproductive health. Other than Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Georgia, all countries/territories took concrete measures on youth reproductive health services. Georgia did not take such measures, Bosnia and Herzegovina left the question blank, and Azerbaijan underlined that adolescents and youth already have the same rights and access to sexual and reproductive health services under its laws.

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<sup>4</sup> Here defined as the age-specific fertility rate for the 15-19 age group.

<sup>5</sup> The world average is 45 per thousand.

Despite the fact that 17 countries/territories reported the issue to be addressed, only six of them reported achievements on ensuring the access of adolescents and youth to SRH. Georgia introduced youth-friendly reproductive health services. Kazakhstan opened youth health centres. Kyrgyzstan reached a significant proportion of sex workers.

Georgia, Russia, and Turkmenistan mentioned 'effective partnership with stakeholders at national level' as a facilitator. All four countries/territories mentioned local-level partnerships. BiH acknowledged the existence of legislation and public policy on HIV and youth policy. Albania and Georgia underlined their cooperation with UNAIDS and UNFPA. Georgia also cooperated with UNICEF and EU.

BiH and Russia mentioned lack of funds as a barrier, while BiH also reported a need for youth-friendly services, especially in rural areas. 'Counter-action to promote programmes for SRH for youth by parents and communities' was also reported by BiH as a barrier. Georgia mentioned stigma and discrimination against high-risk behaviour groups.

***None of the EECA countries listed data as a policy priority for the next decade.***

Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, and Turkmenistan mentioned improving access of youth to SRH services as a policy priority. HIV/AIDS prevention was particularly mentioned by Romania and Tajikistan. Health was approached in a more general manner by EECA countries/territories; other priority health issues are mentioned later in this chapter.

### ***The most underrated issue: Data***

Statistics are internationally regarded as important in policy-making processes (Segone and Pron, 2008), and the Millennium Development Goals came with a set of indicators that allowed for international comparisons and changes over time. Although data exists for youth employment and education for the EECA region, it is more scarce (and more difficult to obtain) for more sensitive issues such as SRH and violence/abuse.

Collecting age- and sex-disaggregated data on the socio-economic status of adolescents and youth was the least addressed ICPD issue in the questionnaire, addressed by 13 out of 18 countries/territories. Fewer countries/territories (nine) financed related efforts (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Romania, and Turkmenistan). Eleven countries/territories took concrete measures about data collection on youth. Romania reported its progress as 'ahead of schedule'; Albania, Kosovo, and the Republic of Moldova

were 'behind schedule'; and seven countries/territories assessed their progress as 'on schedule'.

Two countries/territories, Armenia and Turkmenistan, reported achievements related to data on the socio-economic status of adolescents and youth. None of the participating EECA countries/territories listed data collection on adolescents and youth among their priority issues for the next decade.

### **Other emerging priorities**

Education was a widely mentioned priority topic in the EECA region, listed by eight countries/territories. Ensuring the access of youth to high-quality education was listed by Azerbaijan, BiH, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, and the Republic of Moldova. Kosovo, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan referred to the importance of vocational training.

Seven countries/territories had future agendas related to different kinds of legislation/institutionalisation issues. Albania aimed to improve its legislation regarding violence and abuse; youth involvement; and youth leaving social care. FYR Macedonia aimed to adopt the Law on Youth, and to review its National Youth Strategy. Armenia mentioned regulations regarding justice (adopting international standards in cases involving adolescents). Azerbaijan and Bulgaria emphasised the importance of social services.

Social inclusion was identified as another hot topic for the next decade: As mentioned earlier in this section, many countries/territories included special groups when defining their target populations regarding policies/programmes/strategies on adolescents and youth. Romania underlined the importance of reducing the risk of social exclusion. Russia put emphasis on the integration of disadvantaged youth into society. Albania and Georgia previously mentioned, when discussing employment, the desire to ensure equal opportunities for youth at the local level. A draft strategy in Bulgaria called 'National strategy for reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion' also mentioned the deinstitutionalisation of children as a priority. Albania has implemented a 'Social inclusion crosscutting strategy'.

***Social inclusion was mentioned by many countries.***

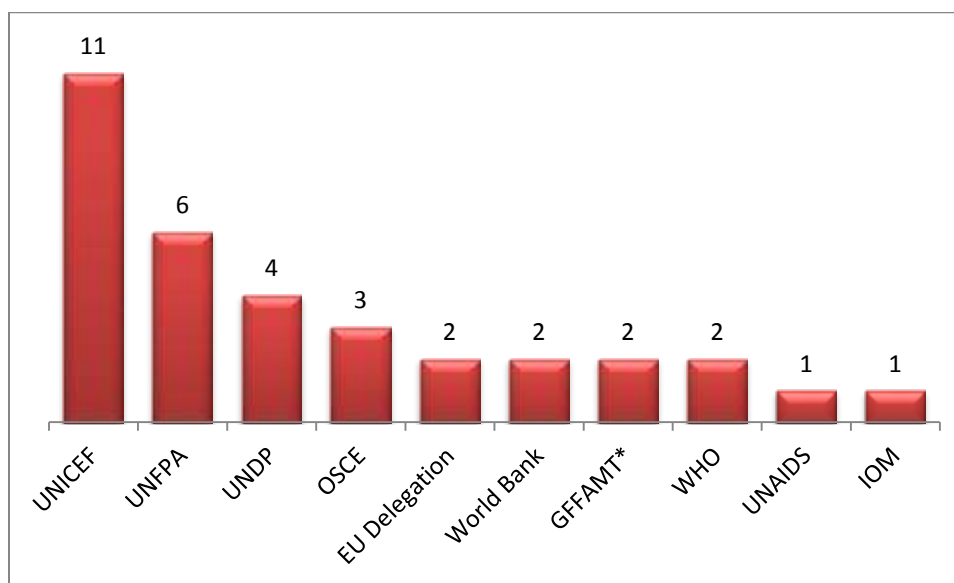
Health was emphasised both in terms of SRH and in other dimensions: Armenia underlined maternal and child health; Georgia, Kosovo, and Kyrgyzstan highlighted healthy lifestyles; Serbia listed health education in schools; and BiH, FYR Macedonia, and the Republic of Moldova had healthcare among their priorities.

Other than the issues above, housing for youth was listed as a priority by Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova. The conservation of moral values was a listed topic by Kyrgyzstan and Russia. Kosovo and Russia recorded ‘brain drain’ as an issue to tackle.

### Collaboration of governments regarding ICPD issues

Governments were asked whether they had partnerships with CSOs, the private sector, and international organisations. Albania, Azerbaijan, BiH, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine mentioned collaborations with at least three CSOs regarding youth and adolescent issues, while Russia did not report any. Private-sector collaboration was less common, with at least three partnerships reported only by Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Serbia. Governments in Belarus, BiH, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine did not collaborate with the private sector.

**Figure 3.3 International institutions that collaborated with EECA governments**



\*The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria

**Table 3.4 Most relevant youth issues (selected) to national context: EECA countries/territories**

Youth employment	Youth involvement	Health	Education	Violence	Social inclusion	Poverty	Institution-alisation/ legislation
Increasing labour force participation <b>(Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, BiH, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Turkmenistan, Ukraine)</b>	Promotion of local youth NGOs' activities <b>(Armenia)</b>	Provision of health education in schools <b>(Serbia)</b>	Capacity building of institutions that provide vocational training <b>(Albania)</b>	Prevention of violence, trafficking, crime, and prostitution <b>(Tajikistan, Ukraine)</b>	Special support and protection for youth <b>(Georgia)</b>	Eradication of poverty, decreasing the risk of poverty <b>(Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania)</b>	Development of social services, expanding social services for children <b>(Azerbaijan, Bulgaria)</b>
Promotion of employment for first-time job-seekers <b>(Albania)</b>	Increasing involvement in social practices (volunteering, civil society), and in economic and political life <b>(Armenia, Azerbaijan, BiH, Georgia, Kosovo, Russia, Serbia)</b>	Promotion of healthy lifestyles <b>(Georgia, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan)</b>	Increasing the number of vocational schools <b>(Turkmenistan)</b>	Prevention of abuse, exploitation <b>(Ukraine)</b>	Reducing the risk of social exclusion <b>(Romania)</b>	Addressing the adverse effects of poverty <b>(Ukraine)</b>	Giving a higher priority to the needs of adolescents and youth in the institutional system <b>(Serbia)</b>
Promotion of professional internships after graduation <b>(Albania)</b>	Capacity building of youth <b>(Kyrgyzstan)</b>	Improving access to education, information, and services on SRH <b>(Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan)</b>	Access/free access to education, higher-quality education <b>(Azerbaijan, BiH, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova)</b>	Ensuring non-violent behaviour <b>(FYR Macedonia)</b>	Integration of disadvantaged youth into society <b>(Russia)</b>	Reducing the number of children living in poverty <b>(Bulgaria)</b>	Introduction of international practices and standards in mediation of adolescents' legal cases <b>(Armenia)</b>
Improving economic opportunities and social conditions at the local level <b>(Georgia)</b>	Creation of specific mechanisms for participation in planning, implementing and evaluating the development agenda <b>(Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Turkmenistan, Ukraine)</b>	Free access to health services <b>(Republic of Moldova)</b>	Ensuring access to all forms of education and lifelong learning <b>(Romania)</b>		Deinstitutionalisation of children <b>(Bulgaria)</b>		Drafting a legal act that emphasises the decision-making of youth on relevant issues <b>(Albania)</b>

Establishment of equal market opportunities in rural and urban areas <b>(Albania)</b>		Ensuring health protection <b>(BiH)</b>				Improvement of legislation for protection against violence, abuse, and exploitation <b>(Albania)</b>
Provision of professional orientation and education for the labour market <b>(Tajikistan)</b>		Raising awareness on reproductive health services, and services on drug addiction and smoking <b>(Turkmenistan)</b>				Improving the legal framework for youth involvement in decision-making <b>(Albania)</b>
		Prevention of STIs and HIV/AIDS <b>(Romania, Tajikistan)</b>				Improve the regulatory framework <b>(Kyrgyzstan)</b>
		Monitoring of maternal and child health <b>(Armenia)</b>				Review of the National Youth Strategy <b>(FYR Macedonia)</b>
		Improving SRH <b>(FYR Macedonia)</b>				Adoption of the Law on Youth <b>(FYR Macedonia)</b>
		Strengthening of national public health programmes <b>(BiH, FYR Macedonia)</b>				Promotion of children's rights <b>(FYR Macedonia)</b>
						Improvement of legislation for youth leaving social care <b>(Albania)</b>

UNICEF was reported to be in collaboration with governments regarding youth and adolescent issues by more than half of the participating EECA countries/territories (Figure 3.5). The collaboration was financial in some countries/territories (like Armenia, Georgia, and Romania), related to research and data collection for some governments (Bulgaria, Russia), and technical for others (such as Armenia and Romania). UNFPA was the second-most-collaborated-with international entity, mentioned by Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. Financial and technical support were the most commonly reported types of collaborations. UNDP partnerships were reported by Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Governments of Germany, the United States of America, Japan, Estonia, the Czech Republic, and Luxembourg were also cited by different countries/territories as international collaborative partners.

**Table 3.5 International cooperation on youth and adolescent issues**

<b>Albania</b>	Council of Europe, UNFPA, World Bank
<b>Armenia</b>	UNFPA, UNICEF, OSCE
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth of the Kyrgyz Republic, Peace Corps USA, UNDP, MYS
<b>Belarus</b>	UNICEF, EU
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	World Bank, Government of Germany, EU Delegation
<b>Bulgaria</b>	UNICEF, International Social Service, Norway, Switzerland, Netherlands
<b>Georgia</b>	UNICEF Georgia, Government of Japan, Council of Europe Youth Department
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	CIS countries, ICNL Kazakhstan, UNICEF Kazakhstan
<b>Kosovo</b>	US Government, German Government, Luxembourg Government
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	UNICEF, UNFPA, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Aga Khan Foundation, the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)
<b>FYR Macedonia</b>	UNICEF, OSCE, WHO, UNDP, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
<b>Republic of Moldova</b>	Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports of Romania, Government of Estonia, Government of Czech Republic
<b>Romania</b>	UNFPA, BIRD, UNICEF
<b>Russia</b>	UNICEF
<b>Serbia</b>	UNAIDS, UNICEF, IOM
<b>Tajikistan</b>	UNFPA, OSCE, UNDP
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNICEF
<b>Ukraine</b>	German Society for International Cooperation

Among the 18 countries/territories discussed in this chapter, 13 reported having made assessments or situation analyses on the needs of adolescents and youth, seven of which were at both the national and sub-national level (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine). No assessment was reported by Belarus, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Serbia, or Tajikistan. The remaining countries/territories made assessments at the national level only.

### ***Conclusion***

All EECA countries acknowledge the importance of issues related to adolescents and youth, and address these issues through a variety of policies, programmes, and/or strategies. The state of this special population is closely related to the future of the region in terms of the political, economic, and social environment. Therefore efforts to enhance education, labour-market conditions, health, participation, and inclusion are made by all countries/territories in the region. However, some discrepancies were worth noting, such as the exclusion of data collection from policy priority topics in the region, even though some of the countries/territories described their related progress as ‘behind’ or ‘deficient’. The lack of data on the socio-economic status of youth and youth poverty will arise as a barrier for countries/territories that wish to focus on the social exclusion of disadvantaged youth.

Similarly, violence was a priority issue for only one of the countries/territories that was behind in terms of progress, despite statistics showing approval of wife-beating among young women – a clear indicator of gender-biased views in societies. The ICPD issues in the Gender section of this report, ‘Ending gender-based violence’, ‘Ending child marriage/forced marriage’ and ‘Preventing trafficking and smuggling in persons, particularly girls and women’ are closely linked to ‘Addressing the violence against and exploitation and abuse of children, adolescents, and youth, including sexual exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation’ issue in the youth and adolescents section. All EECA countries addressed at least one of these issues, an accomplishment from an adolescent and youth perspective.

Adolescent and youth issues also crosscut with many of the issues described in the Family and the Well-being of Individuals and Societies section: those related to enhanced health, education, and welfare services, preventing child abuse, ensuring compatibility between work and family, and supporting single-parent families. Single young mothers, in particular, are a special group to focus on. Cohabitation, as a new form of family formation, is arising as a topic for many young people in the EECA region, and requires attention.

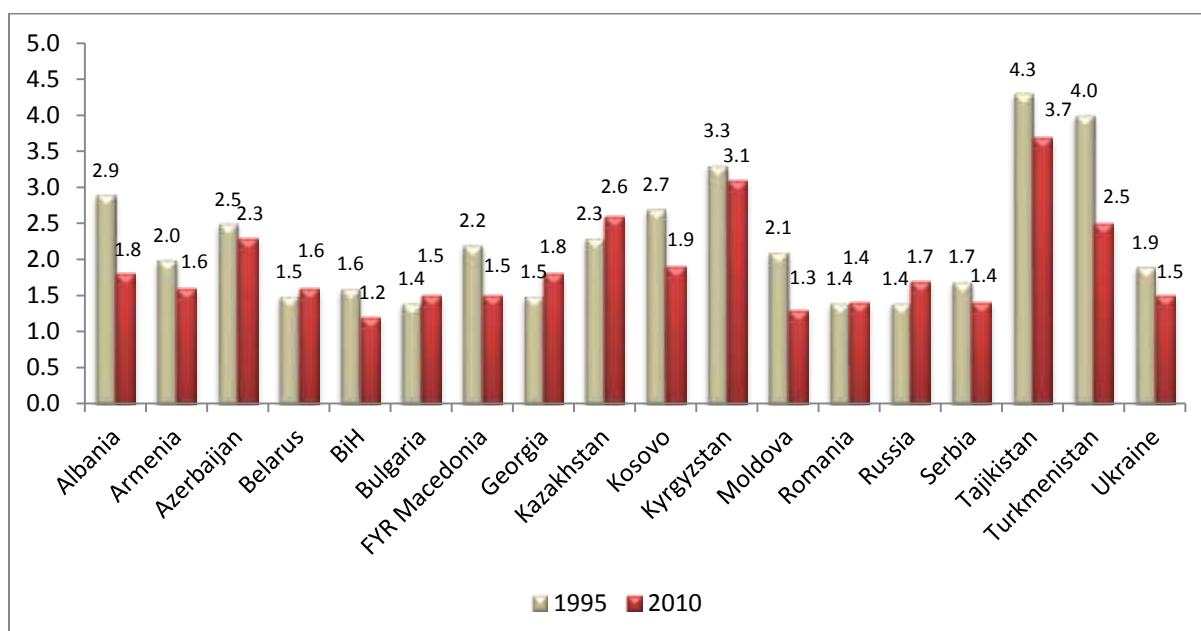


## 4. Family and the Well-being of Individuals and Societies

From 1995 to 2010, fertility rates have dramatically decreased, dropping below replacement level for the majority of countries/territories in the EECA region (Figure 4.1). In line with this change, the major target of policies, programmes, or strategies related to fertility in this region is usually to encourage the well-being of family members, especially women and children, and encourage bigger families through financial means such as child allowances and non-monetary incentives such as improving compatibility between parental responsibilities and labour force participation.

Fertility rates in the EECA region vary extensively, and there is a huge difference between the lowest (1.2 in BiH) and the highest rates (3.7 in Tajikistan). For the last 15 years, fertility has shown an overall downward trend, indicating a substantial shrinking of the population. However, a moderate increase has been observed with a slight rise in the fertility rate in some countries/territories such as Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Russia. Postponement of childbearing and childlessness have become a phenomenon across the EECA region (UNECE, 2013).

**Figure 4.1 Total fertility rates, 1995-2010**



Source: UNECE, World Bank, Population Reference Bureau

## Policies, programmes, and/or strategies

### *Availability of policies on family needs varies in the region*

Each country in the EECA region has at least either a policy, strategy, or programme on meeting family needs. Half of the countries/territories in the EECA region have implemented a policy on individual and family well-being (Table 4.1). Among these countries, the most frequently stated policies were a law on social assistance for children and families with children (Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Ukraine), and a 'Family Code' (Albania, Armenia, Russia). Romania mentioned laws on the protection of children's rights, disabled people's rights, and preventing violence against women.

On the other hand, there are some countries/territories where there has been no emphasis placed on the well-being of individuals and family needs through an implemented national policy. This is the case in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, and FYR Macedonia.

In terms of the status of these actions, the majority of the policies, programmes, or strategies have already been implemented, though this is not the case in Belarus or Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the status of all their programmes/policies/strategies was reported as 'drafted'. FYR Macedonia mentioned four programmes and five strategies, but gave no information about their implementation status.

**Table 4.1 National policy, programme, and/or strategy addressing family needs and individual well-being**

<b>Implemented policy</b>	Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine
<b>Drafted policy</b>	Armenia, BiH, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan
<b>Implemented programme</b>	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russia
<b>Drafted programme</b>	Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine
<b>Implemented strategy</b>	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kosovo, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan
<b>Drafted strategy</b>	BiH, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

*Similar target population for policies, programmes, and/or strategies in each country*

Women, children, poor people, and persons with disabilities are the top four categories mentioned as the target population of family-related policies, programmes, or strategies. In addition to these, adolescents, youth, older persons, and widows/orphans are the principal target groups for the stated policies, action plans, and programmes. Some countries such as Russia, Serbia, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine also mention other groups that are not listed, notably 'family', 'families with children', 'young families' and 'poor families'.

Women were not included among the target groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Likewise, 'poor people' or 'poor families' were not considered as target groups of national programmes in Tajikistan or Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### **Ten-year progress on ICPD issues relating to the needs of families in the EECA region**

The ICPD Beyond 2014 questionnaire reveals the self-assessment of countries/territories in terms of their improvement on ICPD issues regarding the needs of the family and the well-being of individuals in the national context over the last five years.

The questionnaires showed that every country/territory has considered at least five of the above-mentioned ICPD issues within their national context. Bulgaria, FYR Macedonia, and Tajikistan are the three countries/territories where only a limited number of related ICPD issues have been addressed in national policies.

Among the family-related ICPD issues, 'provision of financial and social protection schemes to single-parent families', 'development of capacity to monitor the impact of policies on the well-being of families', 'assistance to families with disabled members, and members with HIV', and 'provision of good-quality early childhood care and education for working families' were the least emphasised issues in the EECA region (Table 4.2).

The majority of countries/territories rated their progress on the listed ICPD issues as 'on schedule'. According to this self-assessment, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, and Serbia seem to be behind schedule, especially on the issues emphasising family. Kazakhstan and Romania said they are ahead of schedule in terms of improving compatibility between labour-force participation and parental responsibilities. Tajikistan reported faster-than-expected progress regarding the provision of assistance to families with special needs. Similarly, Belarus is another country where the progress on supporting educational programmes concerning parental roles, parental skills, and child development was reported as being 'ahead of schedule'. It should be reiterated that these are the countries/territories' own self-assessments.

Azerbaijan rated its progress on provision of good-quality early childhood care as ‘on schedule’. However, there seems to be no national policy addressing this issue, no budget allocation for it, and no implementing measures in Azerbaijan.

If there is an existing national policy, programme, or strategy addressing family-related ICPD issues, almost every country has allocated a budget for most of these issues. Some countries/territories such as Armenia, Belarus, and Serbia said they did not allocate a budget for one or two issues even if their existing policies referred to these issues. More specifically, there is no budget allocation for improving the compatibility between parental responsibilities and labour-force participation, or for educational programmes on parental roles and skills, in Armenia or Belarus. Likewise in Serbia, the provision of assistance to families with disabled members, and members living with HIV, has been advocated in the national context without a related budget allocation.

***There are policies in some countries to address related ICPD issues but no budget allocation for them.***

Table 4.2 ICPD issues related to family addressed in national policies	Albania		Armenia		Azerbaijan		Belarus		BiH		Bulgaria		FYR Macedonia		Georgia		Kazakhstan		Kosovo		Kyrgyzstan		Republic of Moldova		Romania		Russia		Serbia		Tajikistan		Turkmenistan		Ukraine				
	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget					
Increasing efforts to ensure health, education, and welfare services function	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes			
Facilitating compatibility between labour-force participation and parental responsibilities	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	-	-	yes	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		
Providing financial and social protection schemes to single-parent families	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	-	yes	yes	no	-	yes	yes	yes	-	no	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		
Developing the capacity to monitor the impact of policies on the well-being of families	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	-	-	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	-	no	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	-	yes	yes	yes	
Providing effective assistance to families and the individuals within them who are affected by specific problems	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	yes	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Preventing abuse and neglect of children and providing assistance to child victims of abuse, neglect, or abandonment, including orphans	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Assisting families caring for family members with disabilities, and members living with HIV	yes	yes	no	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	no	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Ensuring good-quality early childhood care and education for working families, including extended day programmes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	-	yes	-	yes	yes	-	-	yes	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Supporting and assisting vulnerable families	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	no	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Supporting educational programmes concerning parental roles, parental skills, and child development	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	-	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

### ***What has been achieved during the 10-year period since Cairo?***

Countries/territories were asked to list their achievements on the family-related ICPD issues, with all except Bosnia and Herzegovina reporting at least one achievement. Among these issues, 'provision of effective assistance to families affected by specific problems', 'compatibility between labour-force participation and parental responsibilities', 'assistance to vulnerable families', and 'ensuring good-quality early childhood care and education for working families' were the most frequently stated achievements in the area of family needs among 18 countries/territories (Table 4.3). 'Preventing child abuse' was another important heading indicated in this section. Kazakhstan and Ukraine also pointed out additional achievements on gender equality and prevention of orphan hood.

Some countries/territories (Bulgaria, Georgia, Kosovo, Republic of Moldova, Russia) listed their achievements on certain issues related to family but did not mention any policy, programme, or strategy addressing these areas. This contradiction makes it evident that either there is not a standard benchmark for these assessments or the questionnaires were not filled out properly.

***Countries were less likely to show progress on the topic of 'developing the capacity to monitor the impact of policies on the well-being of families'.***

### ***Factors contributing to or preventing the achievement of goals***

Within the context of the questionnaire, a facilitator can be regarded as the factor(s) contributing positively to the implementation of family policies or legislation on poverty, education, employment, etc. The following categories of facilitators could be selected on the questionnaire:

1. Effective partnership with stakeholders at national level
2. Involvement of civil society and community-based organisations at local level
3. Involvement of private sector
4. Actions taken/support provided by the government to different organisations (e.g. funding, logistics, coordinating mechanisms, etc.)

The majority of the countries/territories selected effective partnership with stakeholders as a facilitator, with the exception of Bulgaria and FYR Macedonia. This was followed by the involvement of civil society and the support provided by government. Involvement of the private sector was the least-mentioned facilitator.

***Active participation of stakeholders was the most prominent factor in the stated achievements.***

Regarding the barriers which negatively affect the fulfilment of issues or prevent the current or past implementation of policies, programmes, or strategies, ‘existing economic/political environment’ was the most common obstacle mentioned by the countries/territories. A low degree of commitment from politicians, low status of women, and prevailing local customs were also among the frequently stated impediments against taking action. In Kyrgyzstan, a low degree of commitment from religious groups and political instability/conflict were listed as barriers. Albania, Armenia, Georgia, and Serbia also stated additional factors such as lack of sufficient state funds, lack of service providers, lack of relevant action plans, and slow implementation of adopted strategies.

**Table 4.3 Countries/territories’ achievements on ICPD issues related to the needs of families and the well-being of individuals**

<b>Increasing efforts to ensure health, education, and welfare services function</b>	Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russia, Serbia
<b>Facilitating compatibility between labour-force participation and parental responsibilities</b>	Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkmenistan
<b>Providing financial and social protection schemes to single-parent families</b>	Bulgaria, Russia, Turkmenistan
<b>Developing the capacity to monitor the impact of policies on the well-being of families</b>	Russia
<b>Providing effective assistance to families and the individuals within them who are affected by specific problems</b>	Bulgaria, Georgia, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova
<b>Preventing child abuse and neglect and providing assistance to child victims of abuse, neglect, or abandonment, including orphans</b>	Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Russia
<b>Assisting families caring for family members with disabilities, and members living with HIV</b>	Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russia
<b>Ensuring good-quality early childhood care and education for working families, including extended day programmes</b>	Armenia, Georgia, Romania, Russia
<b>Supporting and assisting vulnerable families</b>	Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kosovo, Romania, Russia, Tajikistan
<b>Supporting educational programmes concerning parental roles, parental skills, and child development</b>	Bulgaria, Georgia, Russia

*BiH is not included in this table because this question was not filled out for this country.*

### ***Policy priorities for the future in the EECA region***

The ICPD PoA emphasises improvement of the quality of life of all people (UNFPA, 1995) and the principle that people cannot fulfil their development potential if faced with barriers such as poverty, disability, or coercive practices. Accordingly, within the context of this survey, countries/territories were asked to list topics that are likely to be the main focuses of their public policies in the future. Based on the answers given for this question, the following categories have been created:

- social support for families;
- poverty reduction of families;
- provision of high-quality childcare;
- compatibility between labour-force participation and parental responsibilities;
- assistance to disabled family members or individuals;
- combating domestic violence
- strengthening family values and preparation of youth for marriage;
- child allowances;
- policies for elder people.

Among 18 countries/territories, nine of them mentioned that the policies to be planned in the near future would be related to social support for families (Figure 4.2.). Another important topic appears to be poverty reduction among families and individuals as well as the provision of high-quality childcare. Provision of compatibility between employment and parental responsibilities, assistance to disabled persons, and prevention of domestic violence are among the other issues most likely to be addressed during the next five years in this region.

***Future priorities seem to focus heavily on social support, poverty reduction, and childcare for most of the EECA region.***



**Figure 4.2 Future public policies related to family and individual well-being**

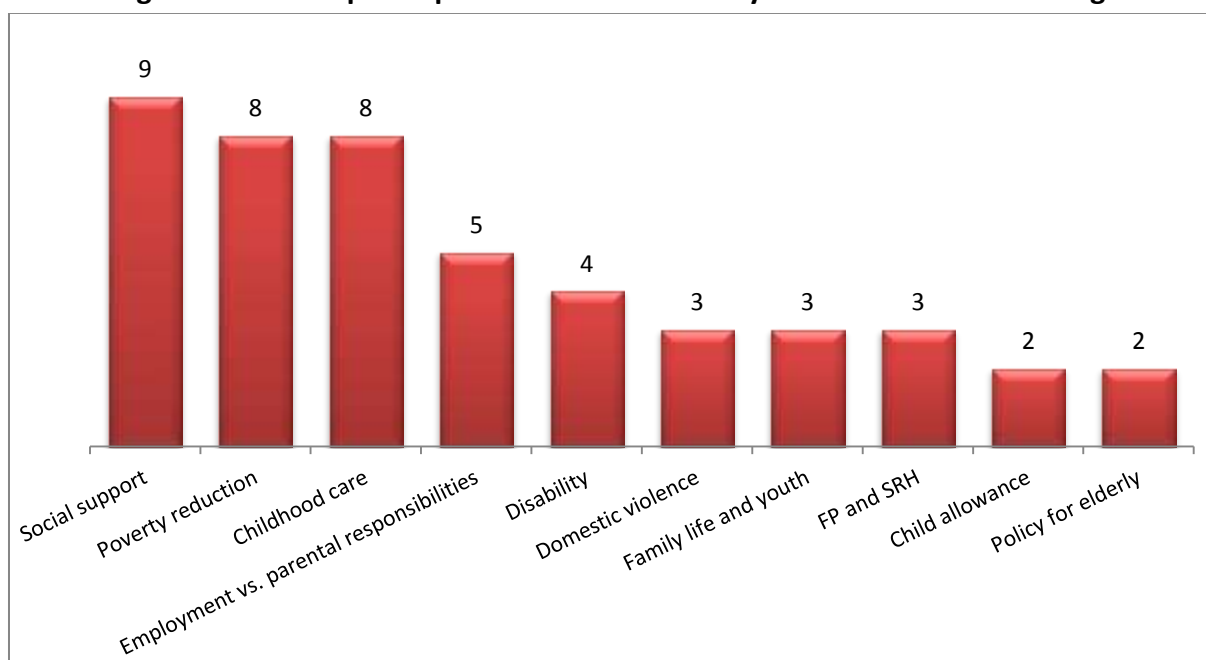


Table 4.4 lays out the top five topics for the expected agenda of the region's countries/territories over the next decade. Social support and protection of family well-being and welfare through capacity-building for monitoring mechanisms were emphasised by Armenia, BiH, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, and Turkmenistan. Georgia mentioned the provision of social services to single-parent families. In addition to this, poverty reduction appears to be another important policy heading for the coming years, with the emphasis not only on families and individuals but also on children themselves. Within the category of 'childhood care', prevention of orphan hood and abandonment are key sub-topics, especially in Armenia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Russia. In addition, creating mechanisms for assuring an adequate balance between employment and parental responsibilities is a priority issue for countries/territories showing a high degree of commonality in below-replacement-level fertility rates, excluding Turkmenistan.

Disability appears as a topic of future focus for only four countries/territories: Albania, FYR Macedonia, Russia, and Tajikistan. Other countries/territories did not point to any planned legislation on disability, which affects individuals in all age groups.

**Table 4.4 Policy priorities related to family needs and individual well-being over the last five to 10 years**

<b>Social support for families</b>	<b>Poverty reduction</b>	<b>Childhood care</b>	<b>Employment and parental responsibility</b>	<b>Disability</b>
Development of social services and provision of effective assistance to families and children in difficult situations <b>(Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova)</b>	Reducing the number of children living in poverty <b>(Bulgaria, Ukraine)</b>	Establishment of counselling services at public kindergartens <b>(FYR Macedonia)</b>	Creating conditions for combining employment and family responsibilities <b>(Armenia, Romania, Russia, Turkmenistan)</b>	Creating jobs for migrants' wives and disabled women <b>(Tajikistan)</b>
Establishing legal and procedural mechanisms for inter-sectoral coordination with direct or indirect impact on families <b>(BiH, Republic of Moldova)</b>	Improving social assistance scheme for poor families in need of social assistance <b>(Kosovo)</b>	Strengthening the capacity for inclusion of preschool children <b>(FYR Macedonia)</b>	Improving the network of kindergartens for employed parents <b>(Kosovo)</b>	Establishing community-based social and health care services for people with disabilities <b>(Albania, Russia)</b>
Capacity-building for monitoring the impact of policies on the welfare of families <b>(Turkmenistan)</b>	Preventing and combating the risk of poverty for families with children <b>(Romania, Ukraine)</b>	Strengthening the role of parents in the care of children <b>(FYR Macedonia)</b>		Allocation of grants for women having children with disabilities <b>(Tajikistan)</b>
Providing support and assistance to socially endangered families <b>(BiH)</b>	Allocation of small loans without interest to vulnerable families <b>(Tajikistan)</b>	Reducing the number of children without parental care <b>(Republic of Moldova, Russia)</b>		Providing a special child benefit allowance for recognised refugees and persons having a child with disabilities or special needs <b>(FYR Macedonia)</b>
Creating a family hostel for vulnerable families <b>(Tajikistan)</b>	Reducing unemployment <b>(Kyrgyzstan)</b>	Prevention of social orphanhood and abandonment <b>(Armenia, Romania, Russia)</b>		
Creating of	Child allowance	Protection of		

favourable socio-economic conditions for the life of the family <b>(Belarus)</b>	for children whose parents are unemployed <b>(FYR Macedonia)</b>	adolescents' interests <b>(Armenia)</b>		
Homecare services for single-person families <b>(Georgia)</b>	Better coverage with income for families in need <b>(Albania)</b>	(Re)integration of children into their biological families or extended families through social services <b>(Republic of Moldova)</b>		
	Improvement of the wages of the working population <b>(Romania)</b>	Improving mechanisms to provide social benefits for families with children at risk <b>(Republic of Moldova)</b>		

In addition to these top priorities, reproductive health and family planning appeared to maintain their importance in upcoming public policies, especially for countries/territories such as Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan where the total fertility rate is above the replacement level (2.6 and 3.1 children, respectively). On the other hand, it is obvious that efforts to increase fertility through child allowances and financial support for families with children will continue to be a phenomenon for the countries/territories with the lowest fertility rates, namely, Russia, FYR Macedonia, Romania, and the Republic of Moldova (1.7, 1.5, 1.4, and 1.3 children, respectively). These countries/territories are the ones that have explicitly pointed out the incentives related to this issue. Despite the low levels of fertility in these four countries/territories, none of them emphasised improving the quality of life of elderly people, an issue that was highlighted by Ukraine and Kosovo.

In a prominent exception, protection of national moral family values, preparation of youth for marriage, prevention of divorce, strengthening families, and moral and sexual education appeared at the top of the national agenda for the forthcoming decade in Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Kazakhstan.

### **International cooperation with UN agencies**

In the ICPD PoA, broad and effective partnership with national and international organisations was highly recommended to adequately address challenges posed by population and development objectives (UNFPA, 1995). Within this context,

countries/territories were asked to list their institutional entities and international partnerships in the area of family and individual well-being.

In terms of institutional entities, every country/territory surveyed has developed at least one institutional mechanism reflecting the needs of family and individuals. The majority of the countries/territories in the EECA region, except Azerbaijan, BiH, the Republic of Moldova, Russia, and Tajikistan, also indicated cooperation with international organisations, primarily UN agencies (Figure 4.3).

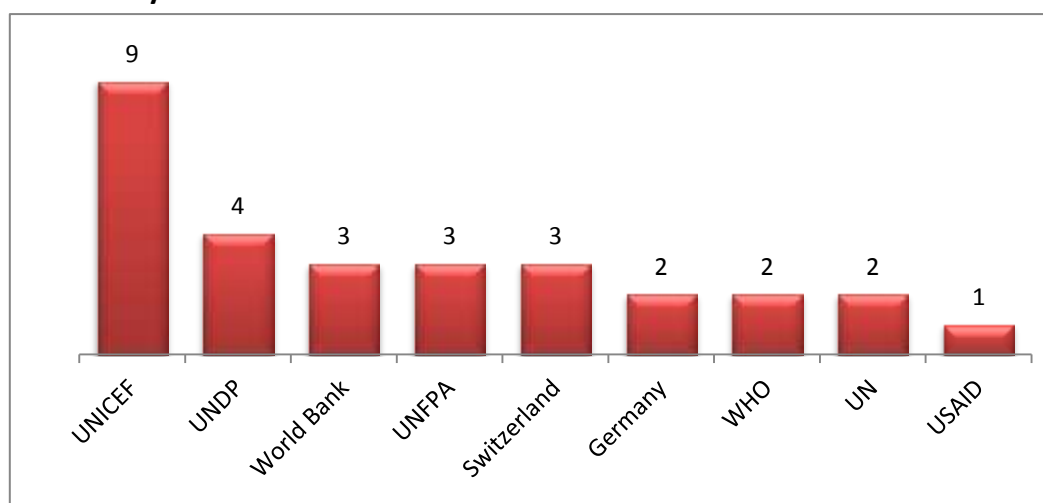
**Table 4.5 International cooperation on family needs and individual well-being issues**

<b>Albania</b>	World Bank, Swiss Government, European Commission
<b>Armenia</b>	World Bank, UNICEF
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	-
<b>Belarus</b>	UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	-
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Switzerland, Norway, Netherlands
<b>Georgia</b>	UNICEF
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women
<b>Kosovo</b>	Government of Germany, Swiss Government, Holland
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	USAID, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany
<b>Republic of Moldova</b>	-
<b>Romania</b>	BIRD, BDCE, UNICEF
<b>Russia</b>	-
<b>Serbia</b>	UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF
<b>Tajikistan</b>	-
<b>FYR Macedonia</b>	UNICEF, World Bank, WHO
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	UNICEF, UN
<b>Ukraine</b>	UNICEF, Cuba

Among the UN agencies, most countries/territories (Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine) have had cooperation predominantly with UNICEF to receive assistance in implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of progress on family needs and individual well-being. This partnership has been mainly on the basis of technical support, but UNICEF provided financial assistance to Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, and Ukraine in addition to technical assistance.

There are also some EU countries/territories such as Switzerland and Germany that gave either technical or financial assistance or both.

**Figure 4.3 Cooperation with international organisations on the management of family-related issues**



### **Conclusion**

It is obvious that low fertility will persist in the EECA region although there are some exceptions to this rule. In line with this demographic trend, non-traditional family forms will become more widespread, though legal legislations or mechanisms may slow down this change (UNECE, 2013). Therefore, cohabitation and single-parent families may require further attention in both the national and regional context.

In addition, a gender-equality perspective should be ensured in future priorities, especially those related to poverty reduction, childcare, and the balance between family and work life. These issues are closely interlinked with each other since traditional gender roles assign disproportionate childcare responsibilities to women while keeping them out of labour-force participation. Unless women have equal access to education and active involvement in business and decision-making processes at all levels, they will not be able to avoid the trap of poverty. Thus, a gender-sensitive approach (such as promoting male participation in childcare, and female participation in the labour force) within the context of family and individual well-being becomes important in order to achieve the goals of the ICPD recommendations which emphasise promoting equality of opportunity for family members, especially the rights of women and children in the family (Chapter V, paragraph 5.2(c)).

## 5. Gender Equality, Equity, and the Empowerment of Women

This section focuses on ‘Gender Equality, Equity, and the Empowerment of Women’, the seventh section of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey for the EECA region.

The fourth chapter of the ICPD 1994 PoA was devoted to ‘Gender Equality, Equity, and the Empowerment of Women’, emphasising the importance of policies and programmes to improve the status of women in all aspects for sustainable development. The action plan underlined the fact that the empowerment and autonomy of women and enhancement of their political, social, economic, and health status should be achieved not only for the sake of development, but also for the human rights of women.

In the related section of the ICPD Beyond 2014 questionnaire, questions on the policies, programmes, and strategies related to the issues of gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women were included. Budget allocation, implementation measures, and timeframe were other points that were considered pertaining to these policies, programmes, and strategies. Additionally, achievements in addressing gender issues, established institutional mechanisms, and partnerships with organisations at different levels were asked about in detail. This section also provides information on the legislative acts and mechanisms established for gender-related subjects in the EECA countries/territories.

### Addressing gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women

#### ***Nearly all countries/territories had national policies, programmes, or strategies in place***

The addressing of gender issues with policies, programmes, or strategies is crucial given the human-rights dimension of these subjects. Questions 7.1 and 7.2 focus on national policies, programmes, and strategies addressing gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women with details on their implementation processes.

Every country/territory in the EECA region except for Russia had at least one national policy, programme, or strategy addressing gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women that had been drafted or implemented at the time of the survey. Nine of them had implemented policies, 13 reported implementing programmes, and seven reported implementing strategies. Table 5.1 shows the countries/territories which had implemented or drafted at least one policy, programme, or strategy.

Implemented policies in the region mainly focused on ‘Gender Equality’, with Albania,

***Ministerial and parliamentary entities came into prominence on the subject of preparation and implementation of policies, programmes, and/or strategies in the EECA region.***

Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Serbia enacting laws on this topic. This issue has also been the subject of strategies and programmes in nearly all countries/territories.

Albania, Georgia, and Kazakhstan implemented policies on gender-based violence, focusing specifically on domestic violence. Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, and Serbia developed strategies for preventing and combating domestic violence. Additionally, Kosovo has implemented an action plan against violence.

Armenia cited a policy for preventing smuggling and trafficking people. Serbia also stated its strategy on the issue.

Bosnia and Herzegovina implemented a ‘Youth Policy’ acknowledging the rights of young women. Kosovo mentioned its National Action Plan on Children Rights.

Except for Serbia and Romania, all countries/territories defined certain beneficiary groups for the stated policies, programmes, or strategies. Target groups were mainly determined by vulnerabilities to the issue addressed in that policy, programme, or strategy. All countries/territories except for Armenia put emphasis on ‘women’ when defining target groups. However, recognising that gender issues are relevant to almost all groups in society, the countries/territories defined their targeted groups as the population at large.

**Table 5.1 National policies, programmes, or strategies addressing gender equality and the empowerment of women**

<b>Implemented policy</b>	Albania, Armenia, BiH, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan
<b>Drafted policy</b>	Armenia, Turkmenistan
<b>Implemented programme</b>	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, BiH, Georgia, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine
<b>Drafted programme</b>	Albania, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, Ukraine
<b>Implemented strategy</b>	Albania, Armenia, BiH, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Serbia
<b>Drafted strategy</b>	Azerbaijan, BiH, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, Tajikistan

***In most of the countries/territories certain ICPD issues were addressed***

All countries/territories pointed to at least seven ICPD issues which were addressed with a policy/programme/strategy or through an institutional entity. In addition, most of these countries/territories (those addressing gender issues) also allocated budgets to gender

issues. The ICPD PoA subjects related to gender equality and the empowerment of women are listed in Table 5.2, providing information about countries/territories in the EECA region.

The issues that all of the EECA countries/territories that participated in the survey reported dealing with were 'women's participation in the formal and informal economy', 'gender-based violence', 'collection, analysis, dissemination, and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data', and 'trafficking and smuggling in persons, particularly girls and women'. Most of the countries/territories took certain implementation measures to address these issues, assessing the current level of implementation as generally 'behind schedule' or 'on schedule'. However, for the issue of 'trafficking and smuggling in persons', Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Ukraine indicated that they were ahead of schedule.

In all countries/territories, the issue of collection, analysis, dissemination, and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data was addressed with a policy, programme, and/or strategy in the national context. On the other hand, only 13 out of 18 countries/territories have addressed the issue of data collection and analysis on the social and economic status of women. Although this issue was addressed less frequently, the countries/territories that had this issue on their agenda rated their progress as either 'on schedule' or 'ahead of schedule'.

Except for Russia, all countries/territories reported having a policy, programme, or strategy on women's representation in political processes and public life. Additionally, nine countries/territories allocated budgets for this issue.

Eleven countries/territories dealt with child marriage/forced marriage. Furthermore, 12 countries/territories implemented a policy, programme, or strategy to improve the welfare of the girl child, especially with regard to health, nutrition, and education.

Fifteen out of 18 countries/territories were keen on improving the situation of rural women, while 11 had budgets for implementing policies, programmes, and strategies on this issue.

Thirteen countries/territories addressed the issue of 'engaging men and boys to promote male participation and equal sharing of responsibilities such as care work'. However, only five countries/territories allocated budgets for implementation of related measures.



Table 5.2 ICPD issues addressed by the countries/territories	Albania		Armenia		Azerbaijan		Belarus		BiH		Bulgaria		FYR Macedonia		Georgia		Kazakhstan		Kosovo		Kyrgyzstan		Republic of Moldova		Romania		Russia		Serbia		Tajikistan		Turkmenistan		Ukraine	
	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget	Addressed	Budget		
Increasing women's participation in the formal and informal economy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Increasing women's representation in political processes and public life	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Ending gender-based violence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Improving the collection, analysis, dissemination, and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Collection and analysis of data on the social and economic status of women	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Ending child marriage/forced marriage	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	Yes	-	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Preventing trafficking and smuggling in persons, particularly girls and women	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Improving the welfare of the girl child, especially with regard to health, nutrition, and education	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Improving the situation for and addressing the needs of rural women	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Engaging men and boys to promote male participation and equal sharing of responsibilities such as care work	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Ending female genital mutilation/cutting	No	No	No	-	No	No	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	Yes	No	-	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	

No country except Kazakhstan had a policy, programme, and/or strategy on female genital mutilation/cutting.

Finally, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and the Republic of Moldova mentioned additional issues on gender and women, about which policies, programmes, and/or strategies were implemented; these included regulating female labour migration, raising gender awareness, and introducing a gender approach to education policies.

### ***Little differentiation among countries/territories in terms of achieved ICPD issues***

Except for Bulgaria and Romania, all countries/territories indicated at least one achievement on addressing gender issues and stated their achievements in accordance with the issues which have been declared as addressed with a policy/programme/strategy in their national context.

In those countries/territories, 'the representation of women in the political process and public life', 'participation of women in the formal and informal economy', and 'the collection, dissemination, and use of data disaggregated by sex and age' were the most frequently stated achievements on gender issues. Table 5.3 summarises achieved ICPD issues by country.

In nine countries/territories, achievements were reported on the representation of women in political and public life. Among these countries/territories, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Tajikistan cited their national reports for their achievement on the subject. Bosnia and Herzegovina did not mention any barriers against achievements on this issue. However, in addition to the political and economic environment, gender roles, low status of women, local customs, and social practices were stated as barriers by the remaining countries/territories.

Six countries/territories declared achievements on women's participation in the formal and informal economy. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo cited their national reports on the issue. Belarus did not comment on facilitators and barriers. Georgia also did not state any barriers against achievements. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Russia reported partnerships with stakeholders at the national level, in civil society, in the private sector, and in

#### ***Evaluation of progress in the EECA region:***

***Except for Bulgaria, Kosovo, and Turkmenistan, EECA countries have conducted an assessment and situation analysis on gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women. Moreover, many countries prepared evaluation reports and conducted studies at both the national and sub-national level. Countries cited their reports, papers, studies, and surveys which present their activities on and the situation for gender equality, equity, and women's empowerment.***

government as facilitators to achievements. In those countries/territories, the low status of women, local customs, and social practices were regarded as barriers to women’s increased participation in the formal and informal economy. In addition, Bosnia and Herzegovina reported that insufficient knowledge of rural women and inappropriate job conditions in the country were also barriers for women’s participation in the formal and informal economy.

**Table 5.3 Achievements in addressing issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women.**

<b>Increasing women’s participation in the formal and informal economy</b>	Albania, Belarus, BiH, Georgia, Kosovo, Russia
<b>Increasing women’s representation in political processes and public life</b>	Albania, Azerbaijan, BiH, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Tajikistan, Ukraine
<b>Ending gender-based violence</b>	Albania, BiH, Georgia, Kosovo, Republic of Moldova
<b>Improving the collection, analysis, dissemination, and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data</b>	Albania, BiH, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkmenistan
<b>Collection and analysis of data on the social and economic status of women</b>	-
<b>Ending child marriage/forced marriage</b>	-
<b>Preventing trafficking and smuggling in persons, particularly girls and women</b>	Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine
<b>Improving the welfare of the girl child, especially with regard to health, nutrition, and education</b>	-
<b>Improving the situation for and addressing the needs of rural women</b>	Albania, Armenia, BiH, Georgia, Republic of Moldova
<b>Engaging men and boys to promote male participation and equal sharing of responsibilities such as care work</b>	BiH
<b>Ending female genital mutilation/cutting</b>	-

Improving the collection, analysis, dissemination, and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data was stated as an achievement by six countries/territories. All six had documents, reports, and institutional mechanisms for the issue and presented their policies for the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data. The general problem in those countries/territories on this issue was insufficient funding. Civil society and international organisations were listed as facilitators in addition to effective partnerships with national stakeholders.

Gender-based violence is globally recognised as a major human-rights issue. According to WHO, the prevalence of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence among all ever-partnered women is 25.4 per cent on average for the countries/territories in the EECA region (WHO, 2013). Ending gender-based violence remains a major challenge in the region as seen in Table 5.3; only five countries/territories stated an achievement in this area. Those countries/territories listed barriers such as a low degree of commitment from politicians and religious groups, low status of women, and prevailing local customs and social practices. Albania put emphasis on the problems of local governance, related to finance and awareness of gender-based violence. Bosnia and Herzegovina mentioned a high level of tolerance for violence in addition to a lack of necessary funding.

### Issues with public policy priority for the future in EECA countries/territories

**Table 5.4 Policy priorities for gender issues**

<b>Women's participation in economy</b>	Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine
<b>Gender discrimination</b>	Albania, Armenia, Belarus, BiH, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Ukraine
<b>Women's participation in decision-making</b>	Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania
<b>Gender-based violence</b>	Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, FYR Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Tajikistan
<b>Political representation of women</b>	Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, FYR Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine
<b>The situation of rural women</b>	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, BiH, FYR Macedonia, Republic of Moldova
<b>Gender equality and health</b>	Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo
<b>Trafficking and smuggling</b>	Republic of Moldova, Ukraine
<b>Data collection</b>	BiH

The EECA countries/territories stated the most relevant gender issues which should receive further public policy priority in the national context over the next five to 10 years. The issues that were on the agenda of these countries/territories bear certain commonalities. Due to these similarities in content, the gender issues are classified as seen in Figure 5.1.

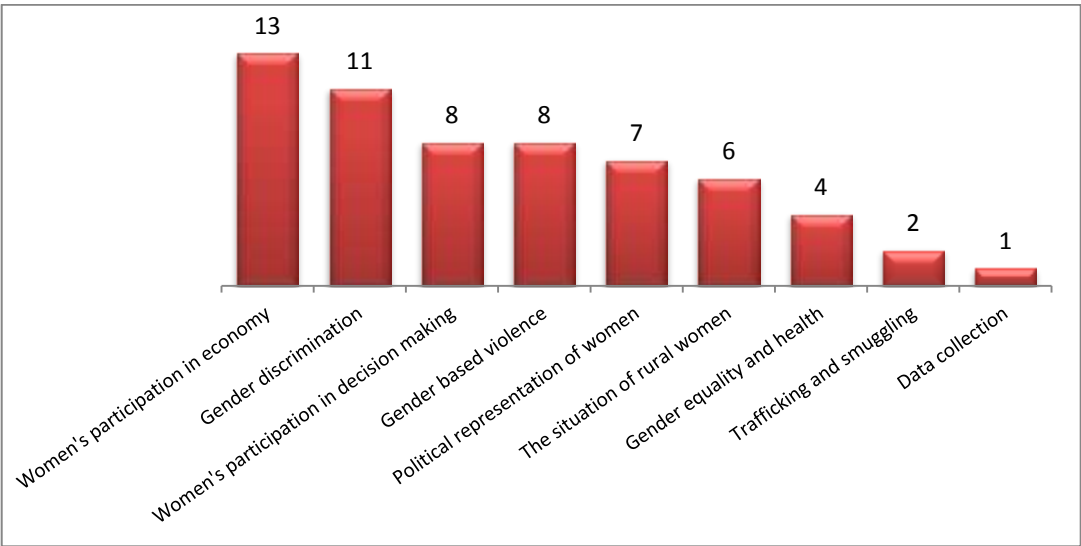
Nearly all countries/territories mentioned the elimination of gender-based discrimination at all levels, directly or indirectly. Some countries/territories directly stated that their agendas included reconciliation of family and professional life for woman and the equal sharing of housework, referring to these items' importance to gender equality. Other countries/territories stated policy priorities in the social, political, or economic realms for gender equality, equity, and women's empowerment.

Participation in economic activities and women's economic empowerment was on the agenda for 13 countries/territories. Kazakhstan and Romania emphasised the elimination of the gender pay gap in both the formal and informal economy.

Most of the countries/territories listed women's participation in all levels of decision-making and women's representation in political and public life as prominent issues which should be given priority in public policies over the next five to 10 years.

The situation of rural women and providing for their needs was another issue that most EECA countries/territories indicated should be given more attention in the future.

**Figure 5.1 Policy priorities for key gender-related issues**



Gender-based violence is one of the most widespread violations of human rights and both a cause and a consequence of unequal power relationships between men and women. However, only eight countries/territories asserted that further public policy priority is necessary on gender-based violence. In addition to the elimination of gender-based violence, Albania noted that there should be an effort to raise awareness about violence against women.

The practice of aborting female fetuses, also known as sex-selective abortion, was reported as an issue in Armenia (UNFPA, 2012). Therefore 'Preventing sex-based selective abortions' was also on

the agenda for this country. In Azerbaijan, ending child marriage/forced marriage was reported as an issue which is a required priority for the country’s public policy.

**Monitoring mechanisms for gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women**

<b>Table 5.5 Monitoring mechanisms</b>	
<b>National commissions on women</b>	Albania, Armenia, Belarus, BiH, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
<b>National human rights institutions</b>	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, BiH, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine
<b>Parliamentary commissions</b>	Albania, Belarus, BiH, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine
<b>Social accountability mechanisms and/or administrative mechanisms</b>	Albania, Armenia, Belarus, BiH, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan
<b>Gender statistics dissemination and publications/gender statistics integrated into management information systems</b>	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, BiH, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine
<b>Conducting periodic population-based surveys</b>	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, BiH, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine
<b>Other</b>	Albania, Kazakhstan, Kosovo

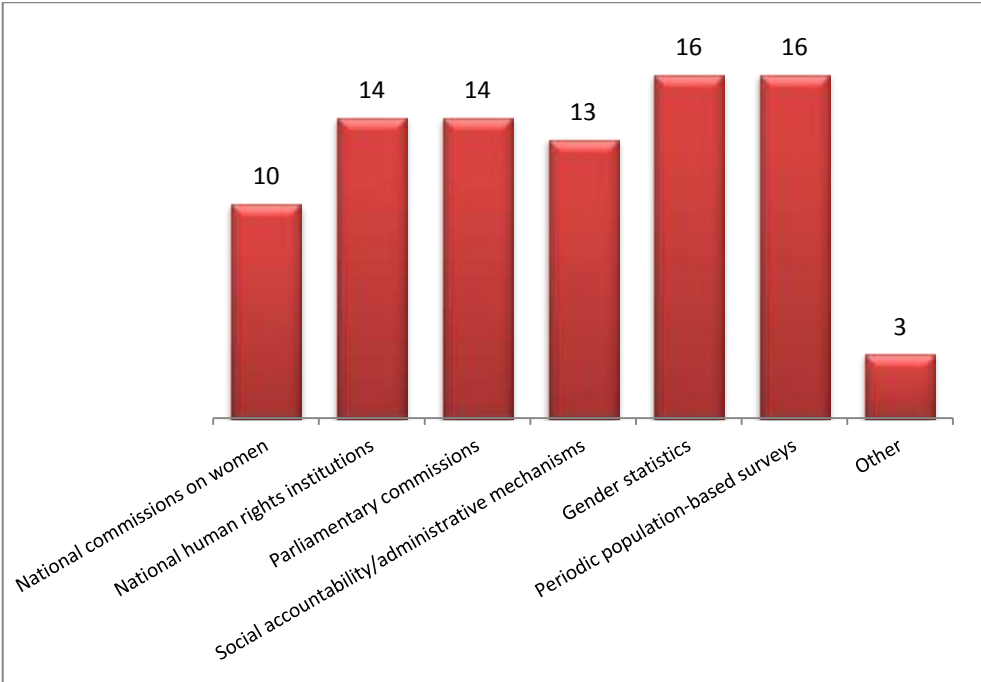
As a monitoring mechanism, national commissions on women were established in 10 countries/territories. National human rights institutions were listed in 14 countries/territories. Social accountability mechanisms or administrative mechanisms, and parliamentary commissions, which are responsible for ensuring the implementation of policies and programmes, existed in 13 countries/territories. Gender statistics dissemination and publications/gender statistics integrated into management information systems and periodic population-based surveys were available in 16 countries/territories (see Figure 5.2).

Moreover, Kazakhstan stated that all government agencies in the country were responsible for investigating the gender implications of policies/programmes and/or strategies. A ‘Steering

Committee for Gender Equality and Domestic Violence’ was established in Albania within the framework of ONE UN Joint Programme. In Kosovo, a ‘Government Agency for Gender’ was reported that is responsible for monitoring the implementation of policies and programmes promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and addressing gender-based violence.

Each country developed at least three monitoring mechanisms to ensure the implementation of policies and programmes addressing gender equality, the empowerment of women, and gender-based violence.

**Figure 5.2 Monitoring mechanisms**



**National laws for the ICPD issues on gender**

EECA countries/territories reported either promulgated or enforced national laws on gender issues. Table 5.6 displays the countries/territories and national laws that were available in those countries/territories. Nearly all countries/territories have promulgated or enforced national laws on women’s property rights. In 15 countries/territories there was a law for women to access to financial services. Albania and Azerbaijan have not enacted any national laws on this issue. No information on this issue was provided by Kosovo.

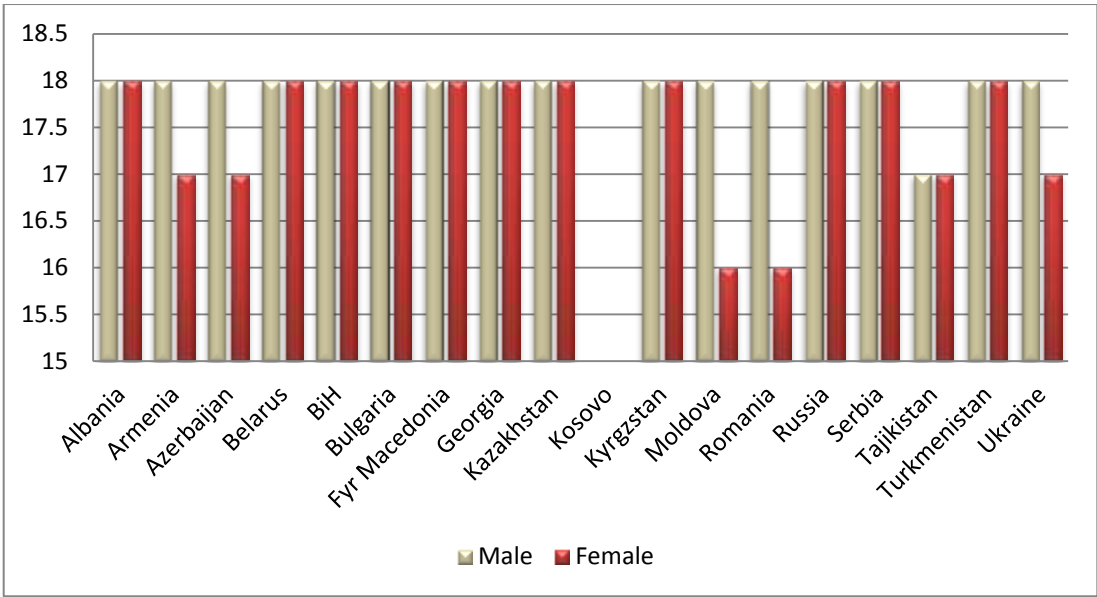
National laws protecting legal equal rights for women to inheritance and protecting women’s property in marriage, divorce, succession, and inheritance were promulgated or enforced in all countries/territories except for Azerbaijan.

In all countries/territories, there were laws for gender discrimination at work, while a national law for provision against sexual harassment was also in force in all countries/territories, except for Tajikistan. Measures against trafficking and smuggling of persons, particularly women and girls, have also been enacted in all countries/territories other than Tajikistan.

Although provision for paid maternity leave was ensured by law in all countries/territories, paid paternity leave was not subject to any regulatory instrument in Albania and Armenia.

Minimum legal age at marriage for females is determined by law in all countries/territories. Figure 5.3 shows the legal age at marriage (without family consent) in the countries/territories of the EECA region for 2011. The legal age at marriage for women is under 18 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Tajikistan, and Ukraine.

**Figure 5.3 Legal age at marriage in the countries/territories of the EECA region (2011)**



Source: UNECE Countries in Figures, 2013.

All countries/territories have legal prohibitions against child pornography and the sexual exploitation of young people, while four countries/territories have promulgated or enforced laws against harmful practices including female genital mutilation of the girl child.

Rape and other forms of sexual exploitation and intimate partner violence were criminalised in many countries/territories (information not available for some countries/territories). Albania and Kyrgyzstan, however, did not have promulgated or enforced laws on marital rape.

In all countries/territories other than FYR Macedonia, there were legislations to ensure men’s financial support to their children.



Ten countries/territories reported having a law requiring both public and private sector employers to provide day-care centres and facilities for breast-feeding mothers.

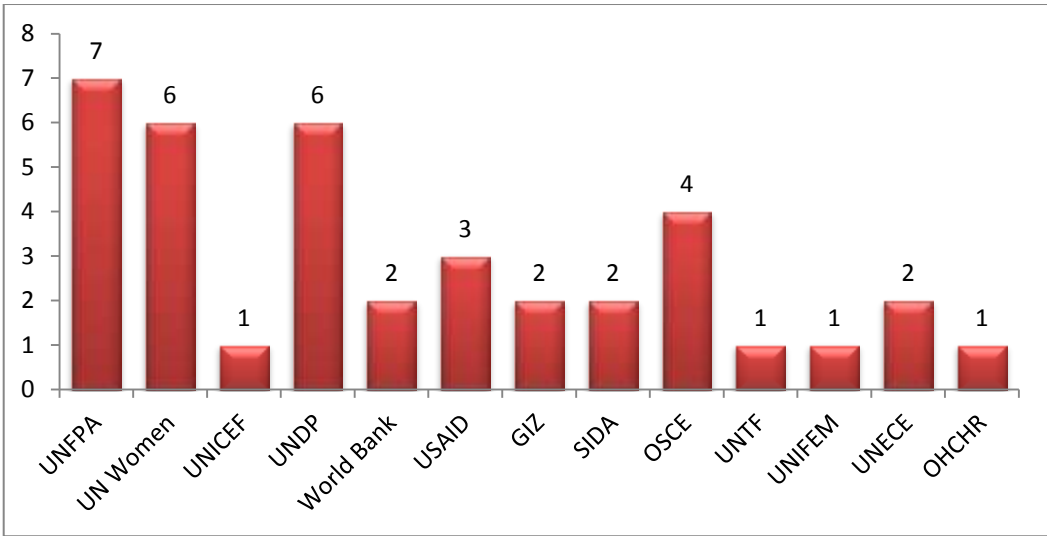
Finally, 11 countries/territories have promulgated or enforced laws for discouraging polygamy.

**Institutional entities and organisational partnerships on gender and women’s issues**

Every country has developed at least one institutional mechanism addressing gender equality, equity, and the empowerment of women. The stated institutional entities are either public or private mechanisms. Some of the countries/territories did not clearly identify, however, whether the entity was a ministerial, parliamentary, or private mechanism, making those difficult to categorise.

In every country except for Turkmenistan and Macedonia, governments have partnered with civil-society organisations on the subject of gender and women. These organisations have generally been nongovernmental organisations at the national level, with the areas of their involvement varying in accordance with the activities conducted during the partnership.

**Figure 5.4 Cooperation with international organisations on gender issues**



The governments in Albania, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Serbia have partnered with the private sector to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women. Similar to the partnerships with CSOs, the areas of involvement of the private sector varied in accordance with the activities conducted during the partnership.

All countries/territories except for Russia were engaged in an international cooperation for the provision of financial or technical assistance in the area of gender equality and the empowerment

of women over the past five years. Moreover, in Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, and Ukraine, there has been collaboration with the governments of other countries on this issue (Table 5.6).

**Table 5.6 International cooperation on gender issues**

<b>Albania</b>	UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, OSCE, Council of Europe, World Bank, European Commission, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)
<b>Armenia</b>	UNFPA, UNDP, USA/USAID
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), USAID, Open Society Institute, Assistance Foundation Human Rights and Administration Programme (Hungary)
<b>Belarus</b>	UNFPA
<b>BiH</b>	Joint Financing Agreement (Sweden, Austria and Switzerland)
<b>Bulgaria</b>	EU
<b>Georgia</b>	SIDA, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, USAID, UN Security Council
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, OSCE
<b>Kosovo</b>	US Government, Government of Finland, Government of Denmark
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	UNDP, UN Women, OSCE, OHCHR, UNIFEM, UNECE, World Bank
<b>FYR Macedonia</b>	UNTF, Government of Netherlands, the Canadian Agency for International Cooperation and Development
<b>Republic of Moldova</b>	The Government of Sweden, UN Women, UNDP
<b>Romania</b>	European Commission, UNECE
<b>Russia</b>	-
<b>Serbia</b>	The Norwegian Government, SIDA
<b>Tajikistan</b>	UN Women, UNFPA, OSCE
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	UNFPA
<b>Ukraine</b>	US Government, Government of Finland, Government of Denmark

## ***Conclusion***

Ensuring gender equality and equity in all aspects of public and private life remains challenging for overall development in the EECA region. However, it is also notable that there has been significant progress in establishing gender-sensitive legislations, policies, and other kinds of mechanisms in all countries/territories of the region.

The participation of women in decision-making processes at all levels has been on the agenda of nearly all countries/territories in the region. More specifically, special attention has been given to the representation of women in politics and women's involvement in the formal and informal economy. Although certain improvements in these subjects have been achieved, gender gaps still exist in the areas of politics and economy. Accordingly, data collection on the social and economic status of women has not been reported as an achievement in any country and thus, it appears to be the most neglected process within this context. Improving data collection (and analysis) helps provide a clearer picture of the status of women and thus provides the basis for further progress on the achievement of gender equality and evidence-based policy-making.

In addition, the persistence of gender-based violence; trafficking and smuggling, in particular of girls and women; child marriages and forced marriages is interrelated with gender inequality. Furthermore, ending child/forced marriages and improving the welfare of the girl child are topics that are not reported among the achievements by EECA countries/territories; and only a few indicated achievements in combating violence, trafficking, and smuggling.

## 6. Highlights

The analysis of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Review Global Survey for the EECA region helps to reveal a regional profile based on the situation of countries/territories in terms of the existence, implementation, budget allocation, and in some cases monitoring of policies, programmes, and/or strategies in the thematic domains of adolescents and youth, family and fertility, and gender. Thus, the ICPD Beyond 2014 Review Global Survey results, despite several limitations, point to the progress made, persistent gaps, and further needs of the EECA countries/territories 20 years after the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in addressing the selected thematic areas.

Following are the highlights of the analysis:

### **Addressing the Needs of Adolescents and Youth**

- Each country has at least one implemented or drafted policy, programme, and/or strategy.
- All countries/territories have established entities for the implementation of measures on adolescents and youth.
- Few countries/territories assessed their progress in implementing policies/programmes and/or strategies regarding adolescents and youth as ‘behind schedule’ or ‘deficient’.
- Most countries/territories allocated budgets for policies/programmes and/or strategies on youth employment and access of adolescents and youth to sexual and reproductive health services.
- ‘Effective partnerships with national stakeholders’ was the most common facilitator of achievements in this area.
- International collaboration on issues of adolescents and youth is common in the EECA region.
- All countries/territories except for two cited collaborations with civil-society organisations.
- Few countries/territories need budget allocations for ICPD issues.
- Age- and sex-disaggregated data on the socio-economic status of adolescents and youth was the least-addressed ICPD issue (13 out of 18).
- Collecting age- and sex-disaggregated data on the socio-economic status of adolescents and youth was not listed as a policy priority by any of the EECA countries/territories.
- Data on the poverty of adolescents and youth, and violence related to this age group, was barely available for the EECA region.
- Poverty reduction of adolescents and youth was a policy priority for five of the countries/territories.
- The most encountered barrier for achievements on the ICPD issues was funding problems.
- Youth employment was the top-priority youth issue in the EECA region. It was a widely addressed ICPD issue and also the most-listed policy priority topic.

- Health will be on the agenda of the EECA region in the upcoming decade in a broadened perspective, beyond sexual and reproductive health.
- In spite of the fact that social inclusion has been listed as a policy priority for the next decade by only two countries/territories, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are mentioned in a variety of policies, programmes, and/or strategies

### **Family and the Well-being of Individuals and Societies**

- The majority of the countries/territories (16 out of 18) have at least one implemented policy, programme, and/or strategy in this area.
- All countries/territories have established entities for the implementation of measures on the well-being of family and individuals.
- All countries/territories except three ranked themselves as 'on schedule' in this area.
- Effective partnership with stakeholders is the most important facilitator.
- Governments in all countries/territories except two have partnered with at least one civil-society organisation in this area.
- International collaboration on family and individual well-being activities is common in the EECA region.
- Budget allocation is still a barrier for a few countries/territories in the region.
- 'Developing the capacity to monitor the impact of policies on the well-being of families' was the least-addressed among the ICPD activities.
- Existing economic and/or political environment was named as the most common obstacle.
- Low degree of commitment from politicians, low status of women, and prevailing local customs have adverse effects on the fulfilment of policies, programmes, and/or strategies.
- Social support for families, poverty reduction of family members, and childcare will be at the top of the agenda for a majority of countries/territories within the next decade.
- Cohabitation and single-parent families appear as policy subjects to be focused on in a number of countries/territories.
- For developing evidence-based policy, obtaining high-quality data on family affairs in countries/territories with no available data is mandatory.
- Enhanced emphasis on policies on the well-being of elderly and disabled persons is needed.

### **Gender Equality, Equity, and the Empowerment of Women**

- Almost all countries/territories have at least one implemented or drafted policy, programme, and/or strategy in this area.
- All countries/territories have established entities to implement and monitor the measures on gender.

- Nearly all countries/territories have partnerships with civil-society organisations.
- All countries/territories except one are engaged in international cooperation for provision of financial and technical assistance for gender issues.
- Most countries/territories have done an assessment and situation analysis on the implications of gender policies and programmes and/or strategies.
- Effective partnership with stakeholders at the national level was a common facilitator for many countries/territories.
- Slow progress on gender awareness is a barrier to the empowerment of women.
- The patriarchal perception of gender roles with prevalent social practices and local customs constitutes a barrier to women's participation in public life.
- Adverse effects of the economic and political environment and bureaucratic procedures in the region's countries/territories remain a challenge to the elimination of gender inequalities.
- Unavailability of data, in particular on the social and economic status of women, is a limitation on making evidence-based policies in the field of gender issues.
- Ensuring equal labour-force participation of men and women continues to be a priority on the agenda in the EECA region.
- Elimination of gender discrimination at all levels of decision-making appears as a top priority for the upcoming decade.
- Preventing and combating gender-based violence remains a challenge for all countries/territories in the EECA region.
- Empowerment of women is particularly essential in rural areas to ensure their access to health services, labour-force participation, and education.
- Budget allocation is necessary to accomplish ICPD PoA activities regarding gender issues.

## 6. Concluding Remarks

Recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994 and the ensuing policies developed with the guidance of these recommendations have shaped the population issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The major challenge for countries has been to transform the PoA into effective policies, programmes, and/or strategies. Despite major achievements regarding these challenges, there are still steps to be taken.

As regards the EECA region, the analysis of the three thematic areas (Addressing the Needs of Adolescents and Youth; Family and the Well-being of Individuals and Societies; and Gender Equality, Equity, and the Empowerment of women) of the ICPD Beyond 2014 Global Survey has not only provided an understanding of the existing implementation gaps and emerging issues of concern in the region, but also raised questions about addressing the remaining challenges.

A number of issues were common to all three thematic areas in the EECA region: All countries/territories reported the presence of implemented or drafted policies, programmes, and/or strategies related to the ICPD themes. Entities were established throughout the region as implementation agents. The most-encountered barrier for achievements on the ICPD issues appeared to be funding/budget problems.

Data collection was not prioritised, despite the lack of specialised data on certain groups and topics. The importance of data in policy-making needs further recognition in the region.

Youth employment is the most recognised problem in the EECA region, showing how important the economy is for the countries/territories in this region. Poverty was less cited than labour-force participation, signalling that the region has already progressed up to a certain standard of living. Education of adolescents and youth is among the emphasised priorities, as an investment in human capital.

The prioritisation of youth participation in active decision-making demonstrated the growing respect for the human rights of adolescents and youth in the EECA region, where their individual contributions are valued and wanted.

Underrated mechanisms to monitor the impact of policies on the well-being of families and individuals are the major challenge in the fulfilment of related policies, programmes, and/or strategies. Another fundamental concern in the region is the neglect shown towards the well-being of members of new family forms.

Women are still in a disadvantaged position compared to men in terms of labour-force participation in the EECA region. Patriarchal perception of gender roles in the region's societies constitutes a major barrier for women to participate in public life. Achieving gender equality also requires the elimination of gender discrimination at all levels of decision-making and the combating of all forms of gender-based violence.



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