

“Aarhus Centres: A Decade of Partnership in Implementing the Aarhus Convention”
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Gender mainstreaming in Aarhus activities

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Content

Gender mainstreaming

- Origins of gender mainstreaming
- OSCE and gender mainstreaming
- Gender mainstreaming in practice

Gender mainstreaming of Aarhus Convention Strategic Plan 2009-2014

- Pillar I - Access to information
- Pillar II - Public participation in decision-making
- Pillar III - Access to justice
- Practical steps to gender mainstreaming



Gender mainstreaming



Origins of gender mainstreaming

- 1985 conference on women held in Nairobi- term “gender mainstreaming” was officially used,
- Formally featured in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.



OSCE and gender mainstreaming

OSCE defines gender mainstreaming as:

- **process of assessing the implications for women and men** of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels.
- **strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension** of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres **so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.**
- where the ultimate goal is to **achieve gender equality.**

Gender mainstreaming in practice





Gender mainstreaming of Aarhus Convention Strategic Plan 2009-2014

Pillar I - Access to information

Objective	Proposed activities	Gender components	Actions
Public authorities at all levels and in all relevant sectors of government have well-established information policies and mechanisms, under which environmental information of high quality is routinely provided and proactively disseminated to the public in a user-friendly manner, making full use of electronic tools where available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aarhus Centers facilitate access to available environmental information through various tools (web-site, newsletters, information boards, etc.) Aarhus Centers serve as community access points and repositories of national and local environmental information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access points and information dissemination activities are organised to ensure men and women have equal access to information. Centres perform segregation of data based on sex where possible and available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to women's NGOs, including those in rural areas and involve them as partners in outreach activities, Run Facebook campaign to raise awareness of citizens, Present Aarhus Centers through newspapers, including women's magazines, Discuss cooperation with women owners of small businesses (organic farming) to reach out to audience through their products by adding labels explaining in short Aarhus Convention, Create a link on Aarhus Centers' web pages providing info about gender equality standards, policy documents and domestic legislation.

Pillar II - Public participation in decision-making

Objective	Proposed activities	Gender component	Actions
To enhance the effectiveness of public participation, the development and application of innovative forms and tools of public participation beyond traditional consultation procedures are encouraged, the development of non-governmental organizations' capacity is supported and civil society is strengthened.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aarhus Centres disseminate good practices on innovative forms and tools of public participation. Aarhus Centres co-ordinate/facilitate formulation, implementation and management of small-scale NGO projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good practices and tools should reflect gender aspects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with gender equality commissions in parliaments or women's caucuses, Invite women's NGOs to public discussions, Organize thematic sessions in parliaments with working bodies in charge for gender and environmental issues.

Pillar III - Access to justice

Objective	Proposed activity	Gender component	Actions
Judges, public prosecutors and other legal professionals are familiar with the provisions of the Convention and are ready to exercise their respective responsibilities to uphold them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aarhus Centres facilitate/organize training activities for legal professionals on relevant multilateral environmental agreements and specifically on the Aarhus Convention and update judiciary regularly on new environmental legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainings for legal professionals include sessions on national and international gender equality legislation, conventions and good legal practice. Check if there are domestic policies such as gender action plans in place in your respective countries and include references to them as well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult institutional gender mechanisms/ombudsman institution and ask for their expertise in delivering training on gender equality standards, Consult with association of women judges if available about content of the training, Strive for equal representation of both women and men as speakers, presenters, trainers and participants.



Practical steps to gender mainstreaming

- Do background analysis: check if what you're trying to change with your project affects women and men differently. Find statistics.
- Contextualize your project proposal: be realistic.
- Do not think of gender mainstreaming as women's issue only.
- Do not think that you need to develop new activities.
- Think who can assist with the project implementation? Are there women's NGOs, domestic gender institutional mechanism/ombudsman institution that you can consult?
- If you're developing an event, think if you can include a topic on gender related matters or in the training you're preparing.
- If you're working on legislative/ policy changes, consult legislation on gender equality/gender action plans and reports submitted to the CEDAW committee together with their recommendations. Work on bringing both women and men to speak and participate in your events.



Useful publications

- ***Gender mainstreaming in Aarhus activities, A Guideline for practitioners***, OSCE, 2012, <http://www.osce.org/gender/87675?download=true>
- ***Gender and environment, A guide to the integration of gender aspects in the OSCE's environmental projects***, OSCE, 2009, <http://www.osce.org/gender/36360>
- ***GEF policies on environmental and social safeguards and gender mainstreaming***, Global Environmental Facility, 2011, http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.40.10_GEF_Policies_on_Safeguards_and_Gender.April_26_2011.pdf
- ***Gender mainstreaming in practice: A handbook***, UNDP, 2005, http://www1.uneca.org/Portals/ngm/Documents/Gender%20Mainstreaming/Gender_Mainstreaming_in_PracticeRBC.pdf
- ***Women and the environment***, UNEP, 2004, <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=468&ArticleID=4488>

www.oscebih.org

The screenshot shows the OSCE Mission to BiH website homepage. At the top, the OSCE logo is followed by the text "Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe" and "Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina". Navigation links for "EN", "BS", "SR", and "HR" are visible. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a large article titled "OSCE Mission to BiH head stresses need to work together to end misery and pain caused by trafficking". The article includes a photo of Fletcher M. Burton speaking at a conference and a text snippet: "Fletcher M. Burton, speaking at conference on human trafficking, welcomed efforts to improve BiH's response to combat this crime by improving criminal legislation at all four levels... >>>". Below the article are sections for "News", "Documents", and "Video". The "News" section includes a link for "Strengthening security and stability is a key for BiH's path towards Euro-Atlantic integration". The "Documents" section includes "Follow-Up Report on BiH Media and Media Regulation Under Pressure". The "Video" section includes "Environmental issues and activities are the focus of the Aarhus Convention (Andrea Kellner, OSCE)". To the right of the main content is a sidebar with a "TACKLING HATE CRIMES" download button, an "ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE" button, an "Events Calendar" for January 2013, an "Online Video Library" button, and a "Vacancies/Tenders" section. At the bottom of the sidebar is an email subscription form.

Thank you for your attention.