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#### COVER NOTE

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From: Secretary-General of the European Commission,  
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 11 September 2019

To: Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of  
the European Union

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ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2018  
EU Gender Action Plan II - Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:  
Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations  
2016-2020  
Annexes

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Delegations will find attached document SWD(2019) 326 final - Part 4/5.

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HIGH REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNION FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
SECURITY POLICY

Brussels, 11.9.2019  
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PART 4/5

**JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**

**ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT 2018**

**EU Gender Action Plan II**

**Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020**

**Annexes**

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## **ANNEX 3b. PROGRESS ON GAP THEMATIC PRIORITIES**

### **EU Delegations and EU Member States in the partner countries**

#### **Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity**

##### **Asia and the Pacific**

In 2018, 145 reported actions in Asia and the Pacific contributed to thematic priority B. These were implemented by 13 EU Delegations – in Afghanistan, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Fiji and the Pacific Islands) – and 10 EU Member States – Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK. This marks a significant decrease in actions focused on priority B since 2017, when 213 actions were reported.

The greatest proportion of actions under this thematic priority addressed objective 7 (34 %), on combating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). This reflects an increase compared to 2017, when objective 7 was the second most popular objective (accounting for 28 % of actions), and a decrease compared to 2016, when it was the most selected objective (50 % of actions). Actions in 2018 covered a variety of issues linked to combating VAWG, including gender mainstreaming, supporting civil society, promoting human rights and women's empowerment, food security, access to justice and education. The EU Delegation to the Pacific reported on the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls, which brings together governments, civil society organisations, communities and other partners to promote gender equality, prevent violence against women and girls, and increase access to quality response services for survivors.

The selection of indicators under objective 7 shows a focus on addressing physical violence by intimate partners (7.2), following the prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases (7.3).

Objective 11, on sexual reproductive health and rights, was the second most selected objective in Asia and the Pacific, accounting for 19 % of reported initiatives (28 actions). Seven of these were implemented in Myanmar, and six in the Philippines. A focus on sexual reproductive health and rights was apparent in Afghanistan (family planning and reproductive health), India, Nepal and the Philippines (reproductive services). In Taiwan, one action focused on LGBTIQ rights.

Other frequently selected objectives included objective 12 (15 % of actions), on healthy nutrition levels for girls and women, objective 10 (17 %) on equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women, and objective 9 (12 %) on gender-based violence in crisis situations. Actions to foster security and peace, while reducing conflict, were implemented in Myanmar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. In Myanmar, three EU Member States – Finland, Italy and Sweden – funded a programme on sexual reproductive health and rights and combating gender-based violence in conflict-affected areas.

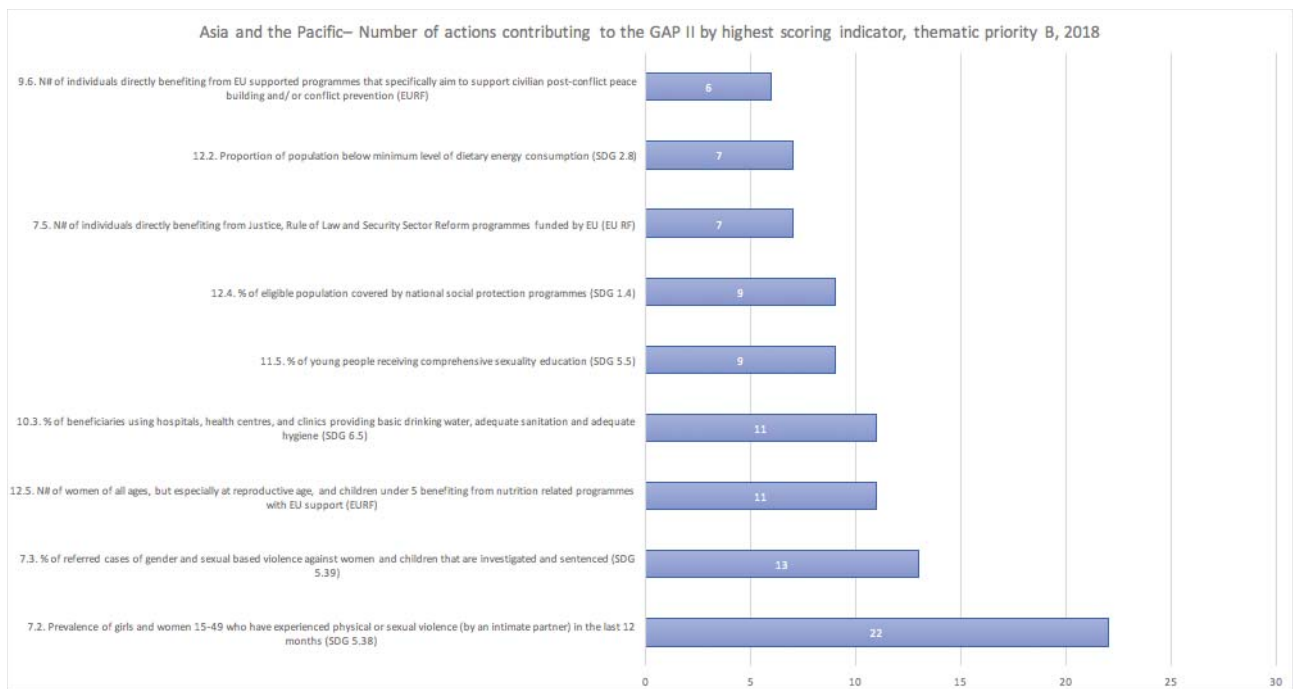
Objective 8 on trafficking was addressed by two actions – an international Dialogue on Human Trafficking in the Philippines, and a programme to support Cambodian migrants' rights in Thailand, with a view to preventing rights violations and human trafficking. Indicators related to this

objective were not selected.

**Annex 3 Figure 59: Asia and the Pacific – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II objective, thematic priority B, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 60: Asia and the Pacific – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018**



## Central Asia

In 2018, 13 actions by three EU Delegations in Central Asia – Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – contributed to thematic priority B. This marks an increase of four actions in 2018, up from a total of nine actions in 2017. The EU Delegation to Tajikistan implemented eight of the 13 actions under this priority.

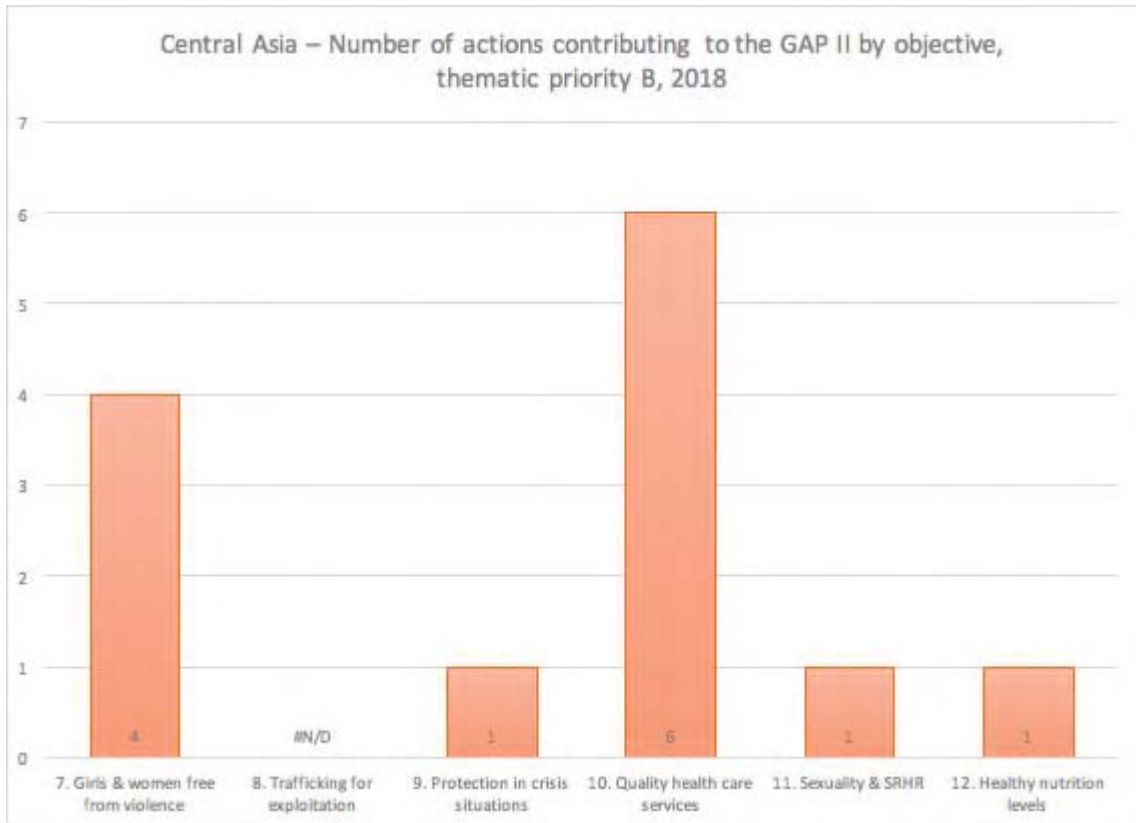
Greater attention was paid to health in Central Asia than in the rest of Asia and the Pacific. Objective 10 was most frequently selected under thematic priority B, on access to quality physical and mental health care services. This was especially true in Tajikistan. Three reported initiatives focused on improving community-based rehabilitation for people with disabilities by supporting civil society, improving social services and applying best practices. Objective 7 was the second most commonly selected, on girls and women free from all forms of violence. This was addressed by all EU Delegations who reported on this thematic priority, with a focus on gender-based violence (Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan), women's rights (Uzbekistan) and the rule of law (Kyrgyzstan).

Trends between 2016 and 2018 reveal an increased focus on objective 10, which was not reported on in 2016, but was the most selected objective in 2018. Indicator 10.2 was the most frequently addressed indicator – both under this objective and within priority B as a whole – concerning the proportion of persons with a severe mental disorder who are using services. Under objective 10, other commonly selected indicators were 10.3, on the percentage of beneficiaries using hospitals, health centres and clinics that provide basic drinking water, adequate sanitation and adequate hygiene, and indicator 10.4, on the number of people with advanced HIV infection receiving antiretroviral drugs.

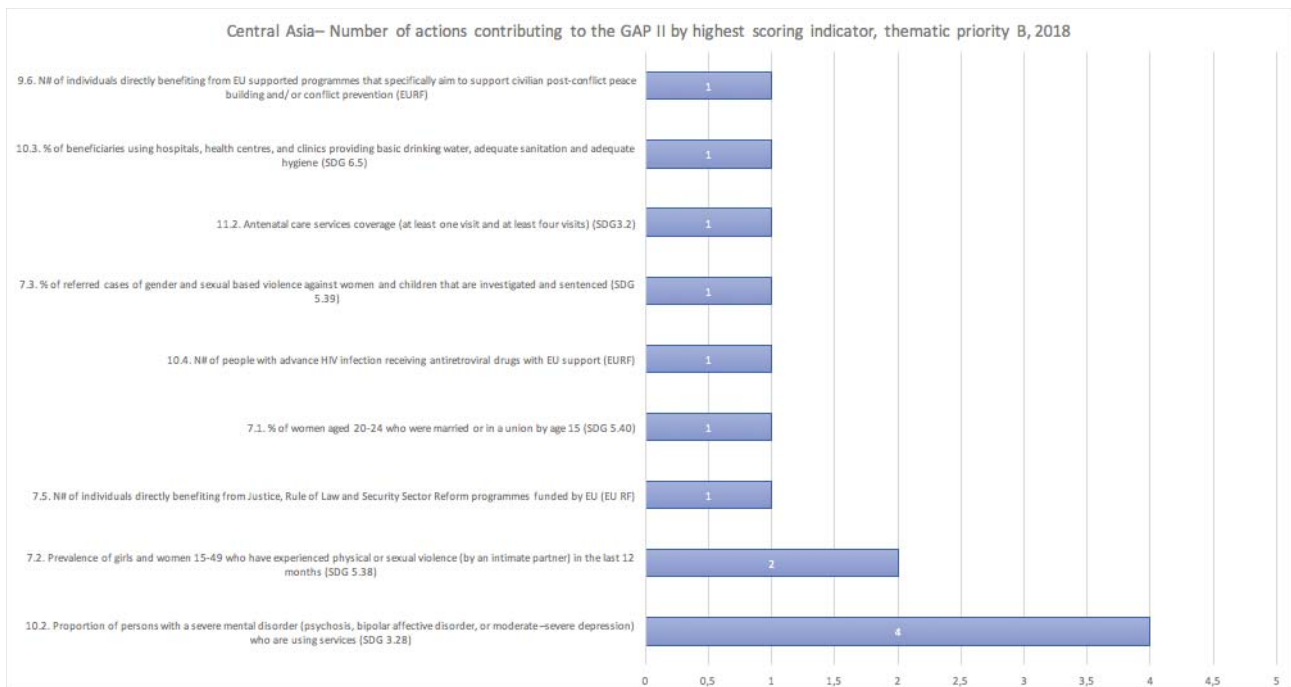
Under objective 7, the selection of indicators – namely indicators 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.5 – suggests engagement by EU Delegations in promoting actions to combat violence against women and girls, prevent early marriages, and support legislative actions to protect survivors and prosecute perpetrators.

Objective 11, on sexual and reproductive health and rights, was included in one action in Tajikistan related to the country's Health Management Information System. Similarly, objective 12 on nutrition was addressed by one initiative on social protection in Kyrgyzstan.

**Annex 3 Figure 61: Central Asia – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority B, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 62: Central Asia – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018**



## **Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment**

### **Asia and the Pacific**

Following trends in 2017, women's socio-economic empowerment was the thematic priority most frequently selected in Asia and the Pacific in 2018, addressed by 214 actions. Almost all actions under this priority were implemented by EU Delegations, particularly in Sri Lanka. As in 2016 and 2017, the most frequently selected objectives under this priority were objective 15, on equal access to financial services and productive resources, and objective 13 on access to education. These objectives were addressed by 81 and 65 actions, respectively.

Initiatives that contributed to objective 15 covered issues such as food security, peace-building (Sri Lanka), governance (Myanmar and the Philippines) and trade. Other targeted gender-related actions included improving the distribution of cook stoves in Myanmar by replicating best practices from Cambodia and the broader region. In Nepal, actions promoted women's economic empowerment, supported women's cooperatives to locally produce sanitary pads, and developed guidelines for mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in the energy sector. Initiatives in Afghanistan combated gender-based violence and championed women's right to own and inherit property.

Indicator 15.6 was the most frequently selected indicator under objective 15, as 23 actions addressed the 'number of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support'. Over 50 % of these initiatives were implemented in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, in the fields of socio-economic, environmental and nutritional development; livestock and fisheries; livelihoods and the environment; and trade. Indicator 15.8 was the second most commonly addressed (19 actions), regarding the 'number of women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services'. These 19 actions on financial inclusion were implemented in seven countries – Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Mongolia, the Philippines and China.

Indicator 15.2, on the rights of women, men, indigenous peoples, and local communities, was addressed by 17 actions carried out in Afghanistan, China, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the

Actions under objective 13 covered a range of issues, including women and the media (Myanmar), menstrual hygiene management in schools and rights-based education for marginalised adolescent girls (Nepal) and responsiveness to gender equality (Cambodia). They also encompassed the right to education for transgender people (China), women's entrepreneurship through vocational training and the response to violence against women (Afghanistan), the rights of ethnic minority girls (Lao People's Democratic Republic), and gender-inclusive socio-economic development (Sri Lanka). The most frequently selected indicator under objective 13 was indicator 13.10, on the 'ratio of female to males who have benefitted from vocational education and training/skills development and other active labour market programmes with EU support'. This was the focus of 25 actions in nine countries – Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Thailand and Timor-Leste. Indicators 13.1 and 13.2 on primary and secondary education completion rates were widely selected, indicating the importance of EU support for education sector reforms. Seven actions addressed gender equality in tertiary education. Smaller-scale programmes supported schools to provide drinking water, adequate sanitation and adequate hygiene services, while working to improve the quality of teaching.

As in 2017, there was an increase in the selection of objective 14 on access to decent work. However, reported actions largely centred on increasing women's access to employment in general. The fact that this objective was addressed by 43 actions demonstrates EU actors' growing focus on

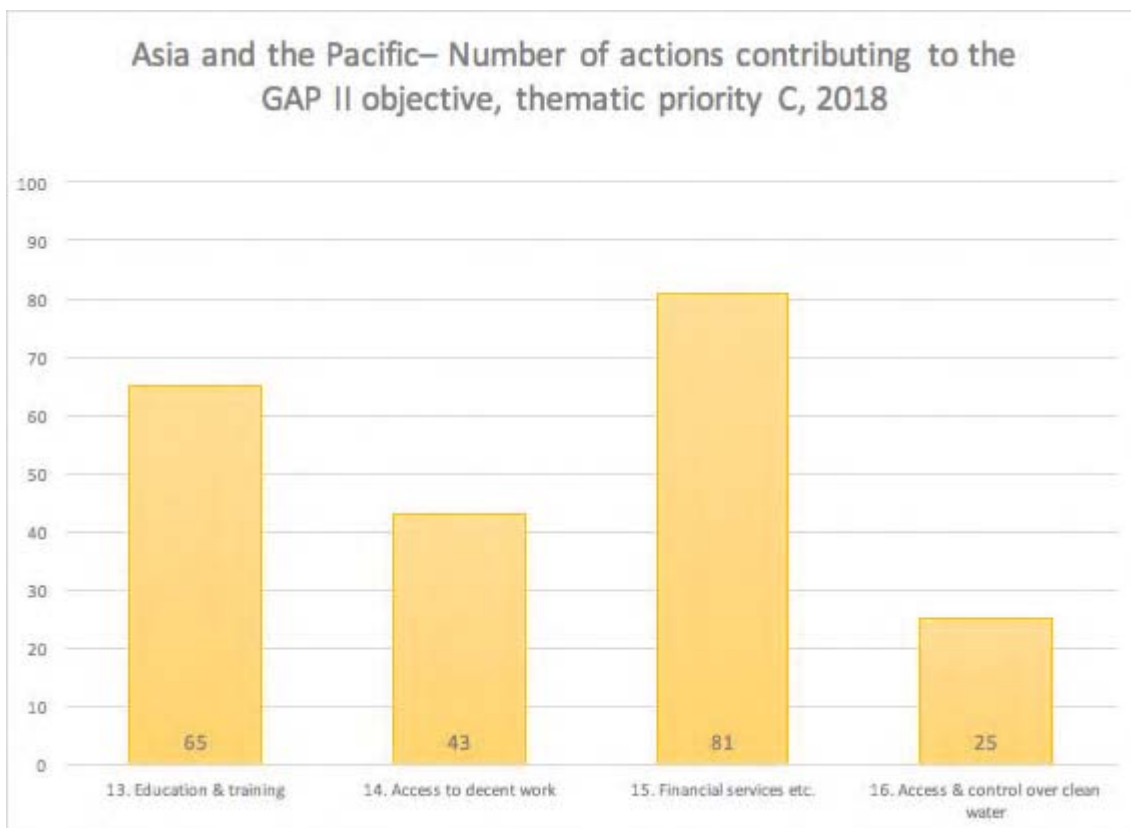


a gender-sensitive, rights-based approach to economic development. This was reflected in initiatives on informal employment in Afghanistan (indicator 14.6) and unpaid labour in China and Thailand (14.2). Actions in Nepal and Sri Lanka targeted both indicators. The EU Delegation to China implemented a programme on women’s informal employment by cooperating with the Beijing Women’s Federation on women’s development, social assistance and the EU-China Social Protection Reform Project.

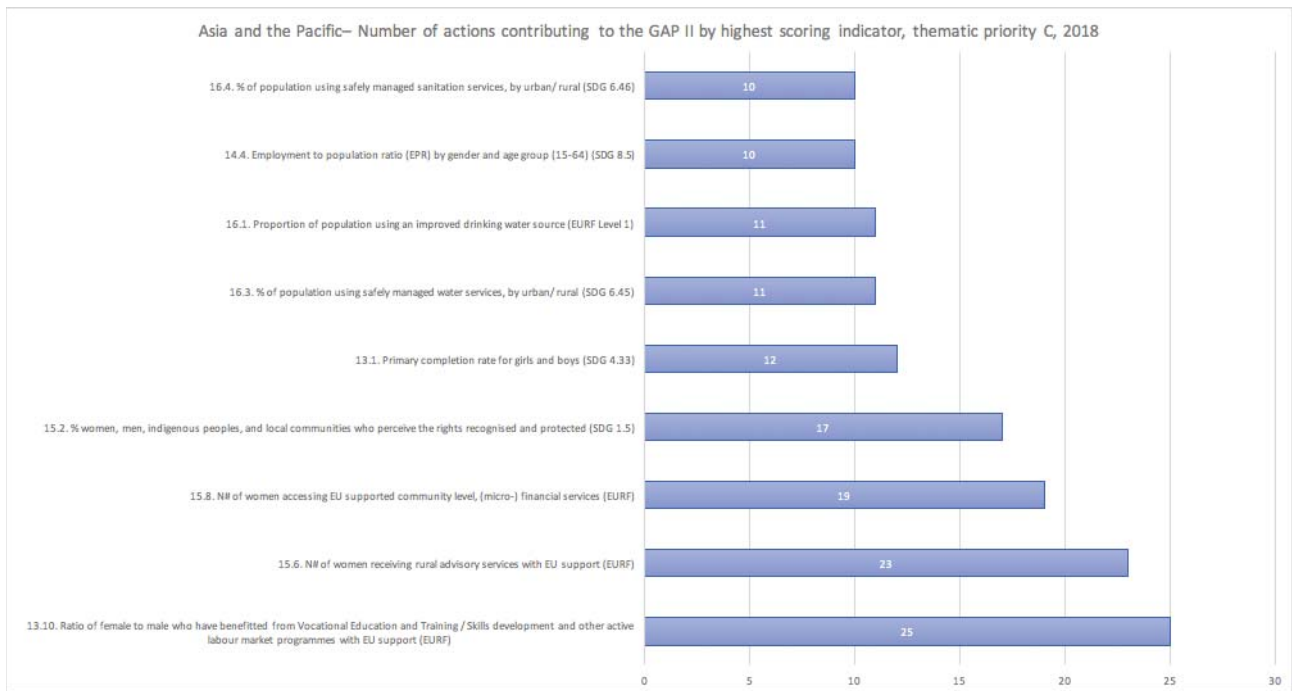
Objective 16 was addressed by 25 actions in seven countries, indicating greater capacity among EU Delegations and EU Member States to identify the gender dimensions of infrastructure, energy and, especially, water management programmes.

Continuing trends observed in previous years, EU Delegations addressed GAP II priorities to support economic development in partner countries across a broad range of sectoral initiatives. Actions also concerned several ‘non-traditional’ sectors, such as waste management, infrastructure, industrial management, fisheries and the environment.

**Annex 3 Figure 63: Asia and the Pacific – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority C, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 64: Asia and the Pacific – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018**



## Central Asia

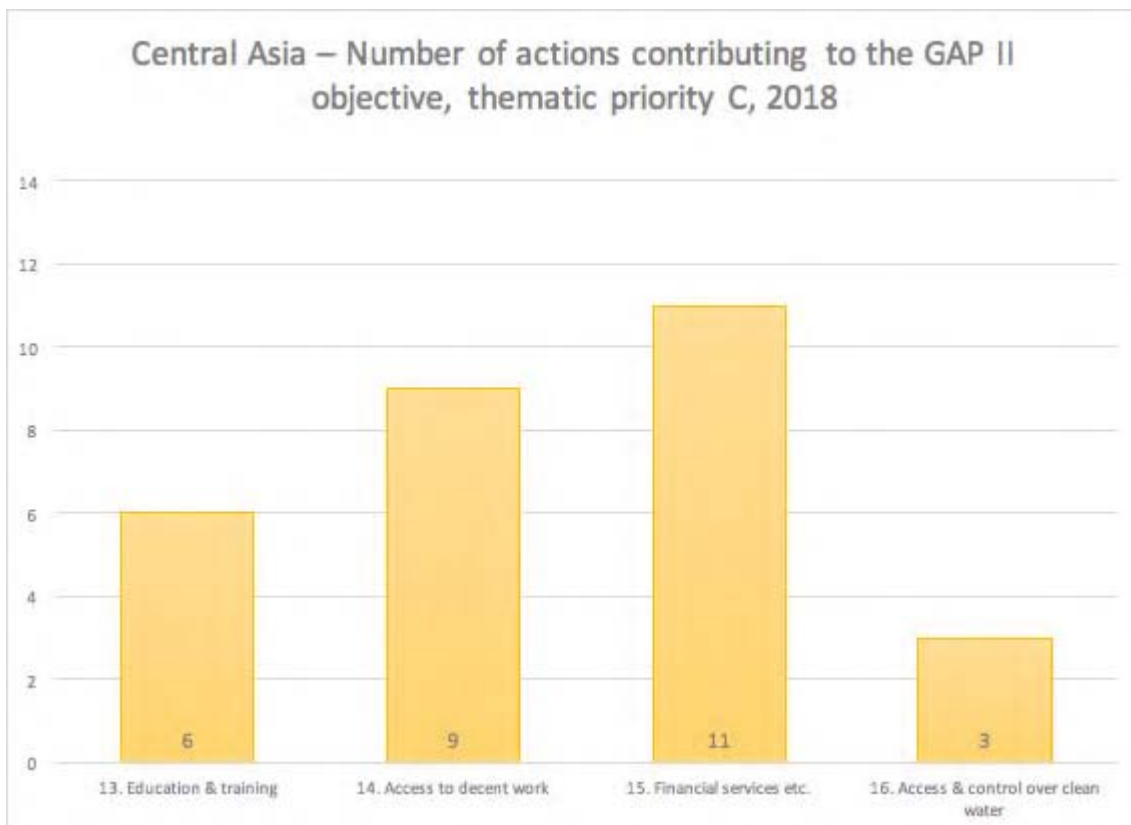
In Central Asia, thematic priority was the most frequently selected priority by EU Delegations in 2018. There was a clear focus on objective 15, on equal access by women to financial services, productive resources including land, trade and entrepreneurship. This marks a change from 2017, when objective 13 was most frequently selected, on ‘access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training’. In 2018, objective 13 was the third most commonly selected.

Eight of 11 actions addressed indicator 15.6, on ‘the number of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support’. The selection of indicators 15.2, 15.3 and 15.8 reveal that actions encompassed efforts to promote human rights, address the gender gap in wages and increase women’s access to financial services. Objective 14 was addressed by nine actions on social economic development in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The most frequently selected indicator under this objective was indicator 14.6, with five actions targeting ‘informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment, by sex’.

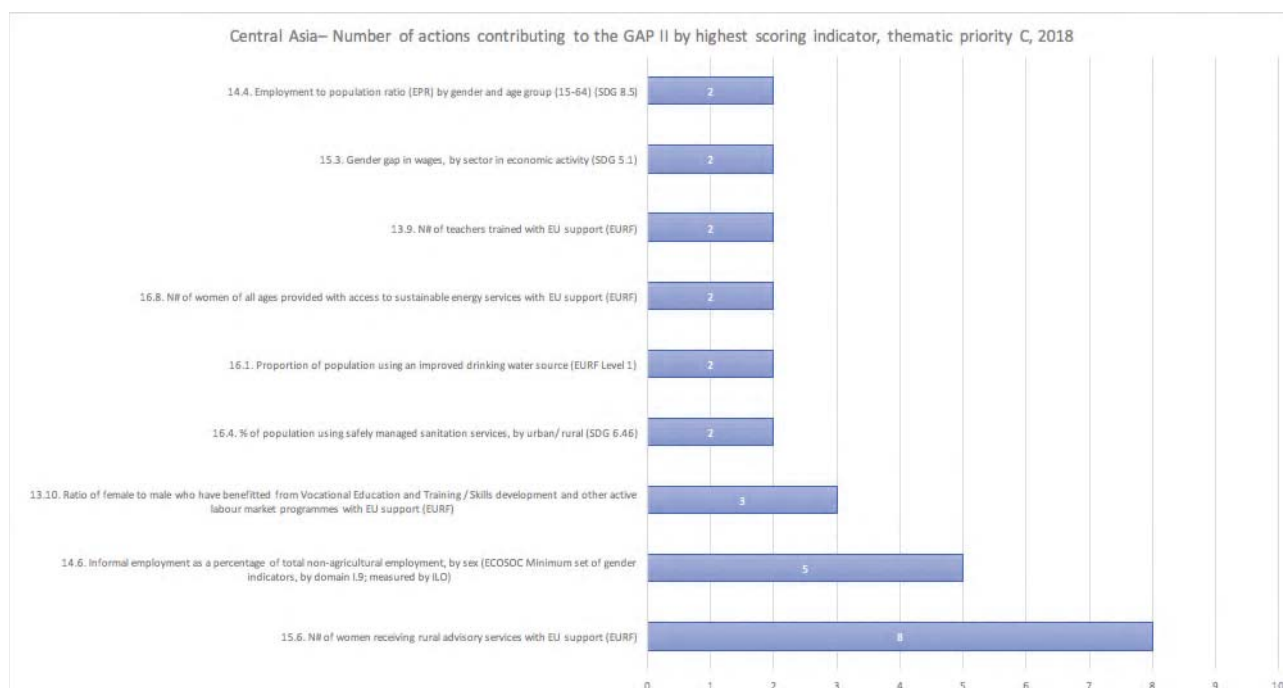
Under objective 13, selected indicators reveal that actions tackled gender mainstreaming in literacy, education and vocational education and training for girls and women, alongside the availability of teachers.

While objective 16 was not selected by any EU actor in 2016, in 2018 it was addressed by three programmes in Tajikistan – on water and natural resource management, livelihoods and food security – and one programme in Kazakhstan, on the green economy. Indicators 16.1 16.4 and 16.8 were selected, regarding the ‘proportion of population using improved drinking water sources and sanitation services’ and ‘women's access to sustainable energy services’.

**Annex 3 Figure 65: Central Asia – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority C, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 66: Central Asia – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018**



## **Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation**

### **Asia and the Pacific**

Promoting women's and girls' active participation in democratic processes continued to be an important objective for EU cooperation in Asia and the Pacific. Although the number of actions

contributing to all four objectives under this priority had been rising since 2016, this increase came to a halt in 2018. This is largely due to an overall reduction in the number of reported action in the region. Nevertheless, thematic priority D was the second most selected priority in Asia and the Pacific in 2018.

Most reported actions (109 actions) contributed to objective 17, on the ‘equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes’. Actions involved support for public finance management (PFM) reforms (Indonesia, Nepal and Timor-Leste), democratic development, elections and electoral capacities (Afghanistan, Myanmar and Nepal), good governance, local governance, finance, the media, discrimination and peace-building (Myanmar, and Sri Lanka and the Maldives), and business and justice (China and Vietnam).

Initiatives to empower women and girls were implemented in Nepal (5 actions), Indonesia (3), Myanmar (2) and one each in Cambodia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Thailand. These actions concerned a variety of issues, including gender-responsive budget planning, women’s rights, supporting women’s and girls’ voice, empowerment, justice, women’s role in countering violent extremism, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence in conflict areas.

Under objective 17, indicator 17.4 was the most frequently selected, as 24 actions addressed the ‘representation of women among mediators, negotiators and technical experts in formal peace negotiations’. This was followed by indicator 17.7, with 21 actions addressing the ‘number of countries carrying out gender-responsive budgeting at local and national level’. Indicator 17.3 was also addressed, on the ‘percentage of seats held by women and minorities in national parliament and or sub-national elected office’, in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

EU actors in Afghanistan and Myanmar measured women’s representation in peace negotiations in 2018. Gender-responsive budgeting at the local and national levels was largely addressed by EU actors in Myanmar, Nepal and the Philippines, while they paid particular attention to monitoring women’s representation in parliaments in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Nepal.

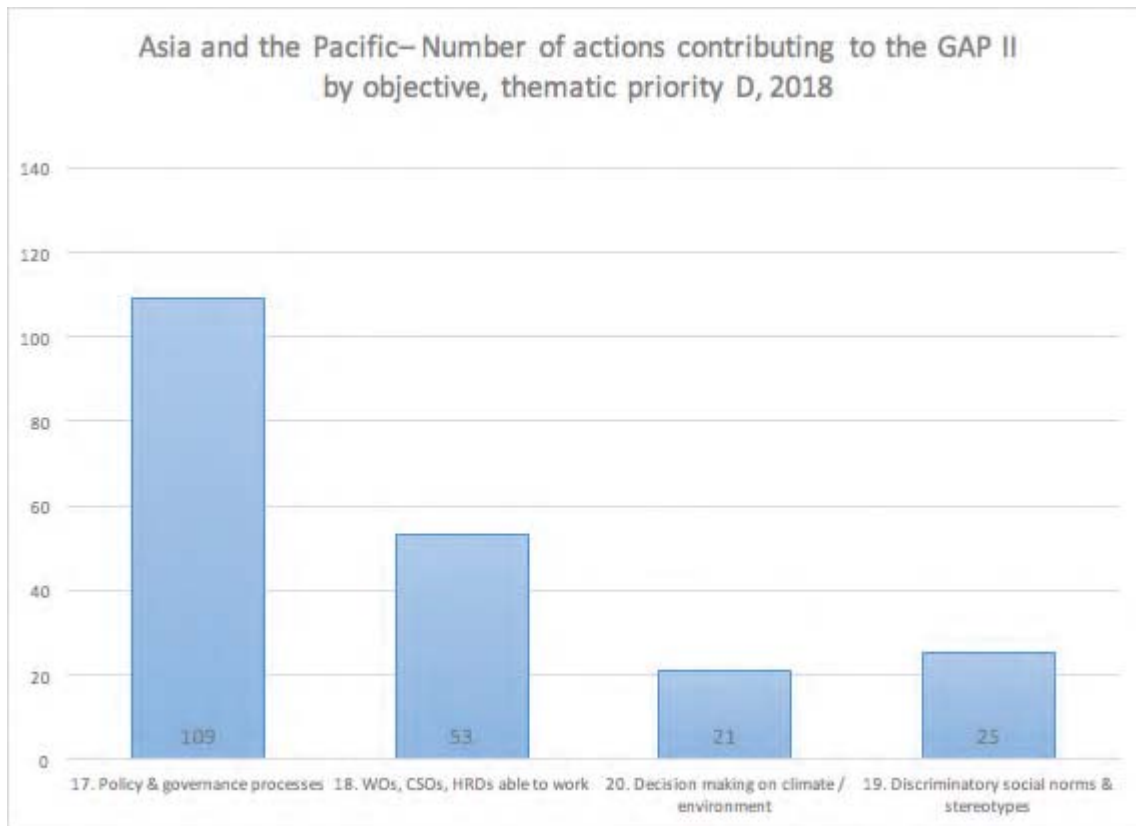
The second most selected objective under thematic priority D was objective 18, concerning women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders. Most related actions (29 %) were implemented in India. Almost all actions related to objective 18 reported on indicator 18.1 on the number of women Human Rights Defenders who have received EU support.

Objective 19 was addressed by 25 actions that challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes. These generally addressed indicator 19.1, on the ‘number of countries that have a positive change in the OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) rating’. This was followed by indicator 19.3, on ‘countries introducing quota systems to address discriminatory practices and improve women’s representation in government institutions and decision-making positions’, and indicator 19.4 on the ‘number of communities that formally declare abandoning a practice that discriminates or harms girls and women of all ages’. Under this objective, specific gender-related actions sought to empower civil society and local authorities to promote gender equality (Myanmar), address diversity in public discourse (China), promote women’s participation in society, culture and science, while empowering LGBTIQ persons (China and the Philippines), support women Human Rights Defenders (India and the Philippines) and support a network of women conflict survivors (Nepal). Challenging discriminatory practices towards LGBTIQ persons was predominantly addressed in China.

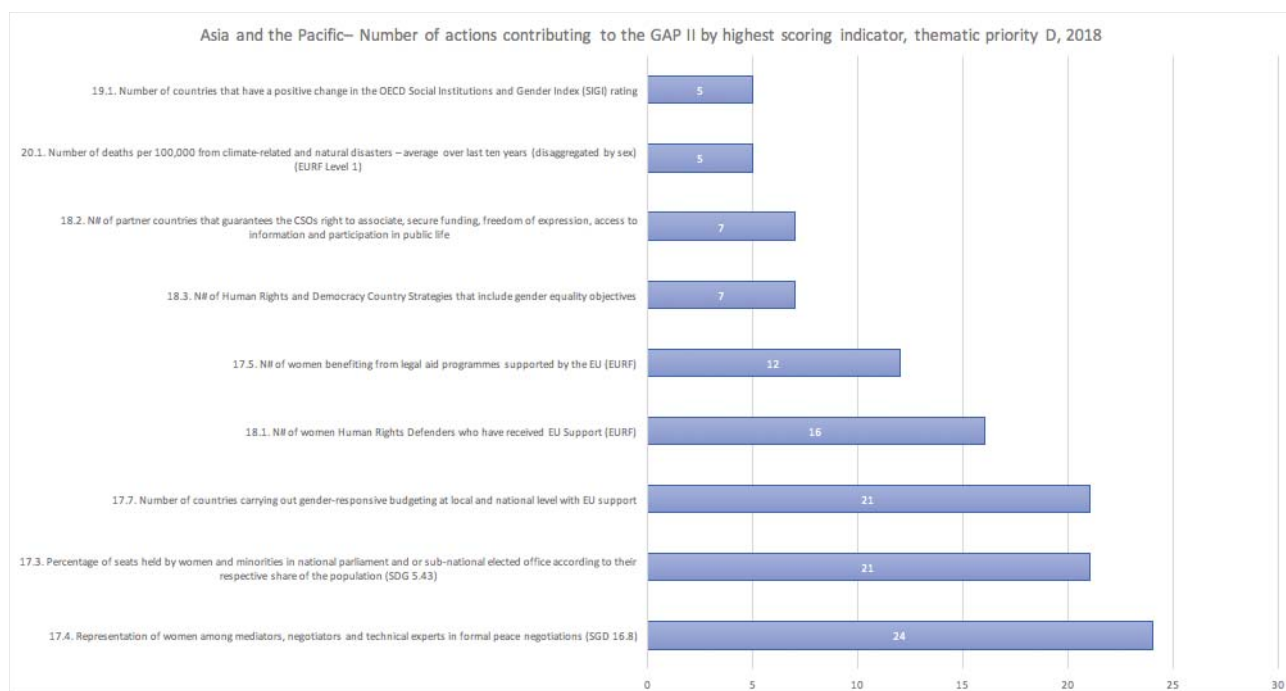
Objective 20 was the least frequently selected objective, with 15 actions addressing the ‘equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues’. Indicator 20.1, on the ‘number of deaths per 100,000 from climate-related

and natural disasters – average over the last ten years (disaggregated by sex)', was only selected in Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

**Annex 3 Figure 67: Asia and the Pacific – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority D, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 68: Asia and the Pacific – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018**

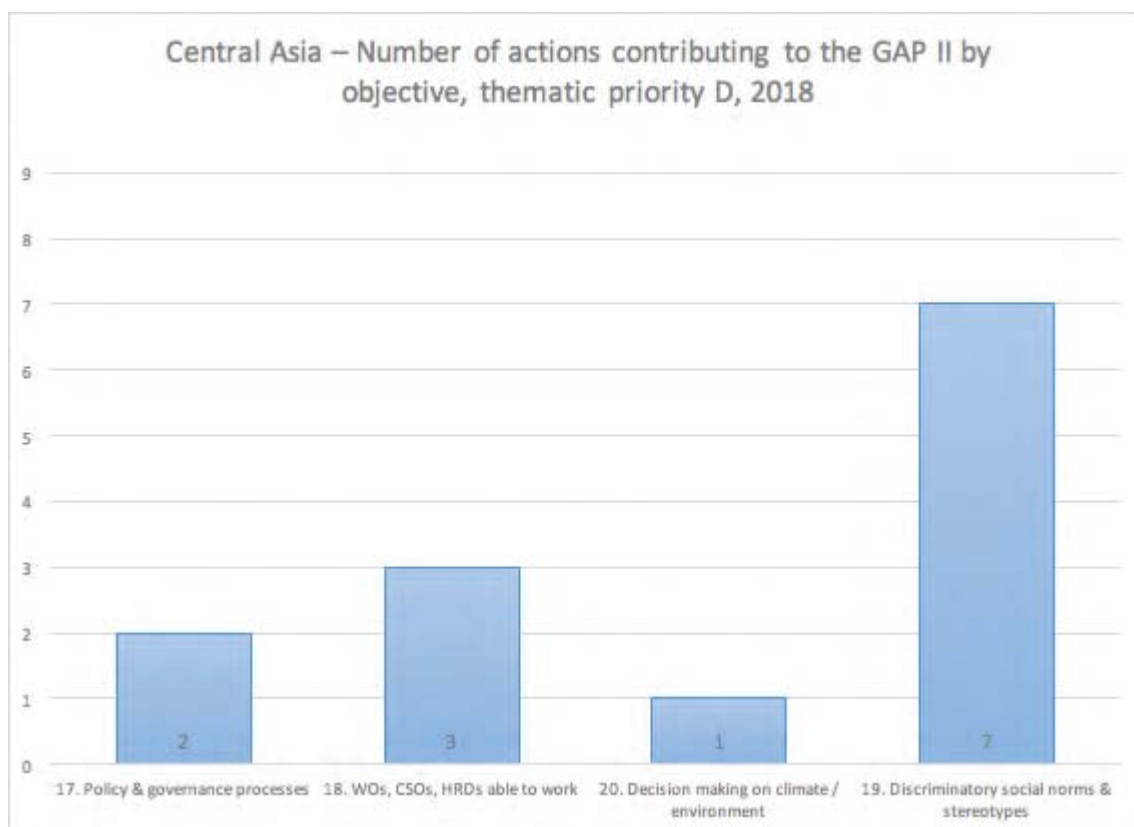


## Central Asia

In Central Asia, 13 actions in 2018 contributed to thematic priority D. These were implemented by three EU Delegations – to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan – and one EU Member State (the UK). Ten of these 13 actions were carried out in Kyrgyzstan, seven of which tackled objective 19, on challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes. These centred on indicator 19.3, regarding ‘quota systems to address discriminatory practices and improve women’s representation in government institutions and decision-making positions’. Objective 18 was addressed by three actions, reflecting support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders. These encompassed support for state and civil society efforts to combat torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in Kyrgyzstan, and support for Human Rights Defenders in Kazakhstan.

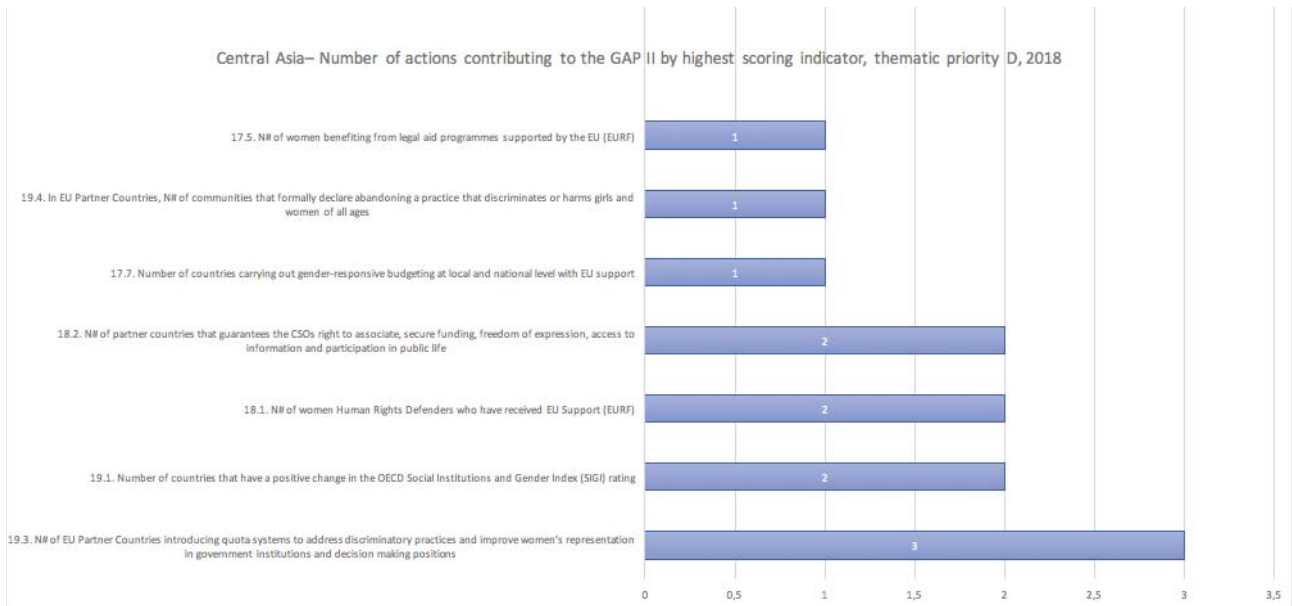
Objective 17 was selected only twice, on ‘equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels’, while objective 20 was selected only once, on ‘equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues’.

**Annex 3 Figure 69: Central Asia – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority D, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 70: Central Asia – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018**





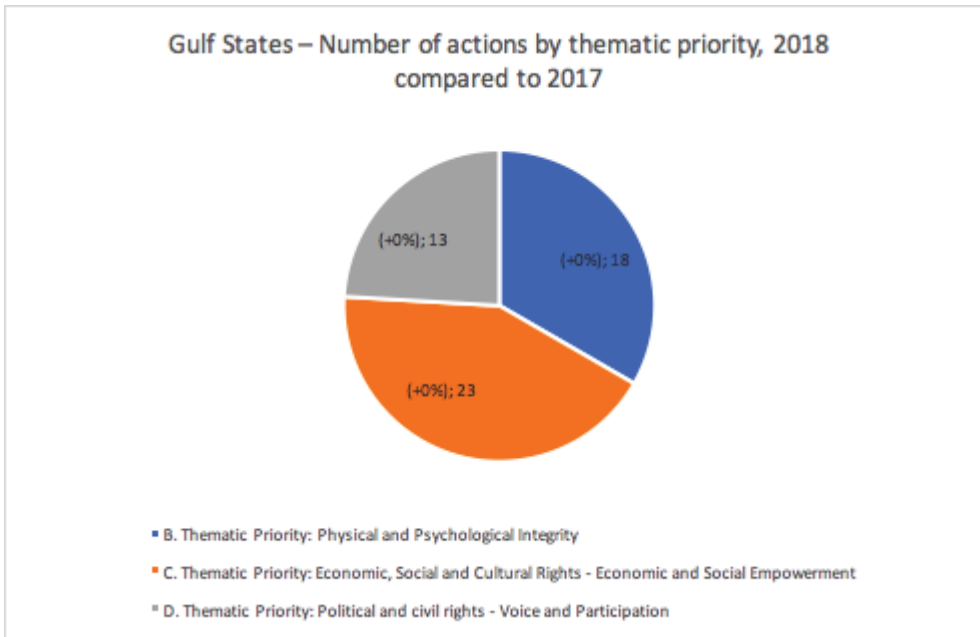
## Gulf States

### Overview of progress in 2018

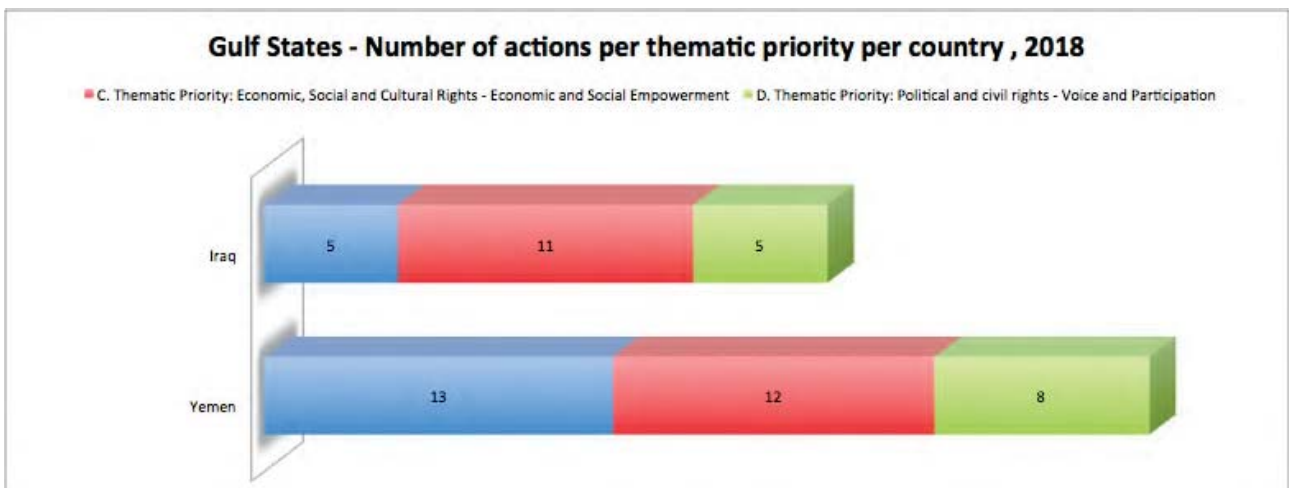
In 2018, 60 actions on the GAP II's implementation were reported in the Gulf region by two EU Delegations – to Yemen and Iraq – and one EU Member State, Germany, on its work in Yemen. This reflects a strong increase in actions since EU efforts in the region restarted in 2017, when only five actions were reported. Of the 54 actions which addressed GAP II priorities, the highest proportion (23 actions) addressed thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', followed by priority B (18), 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', and D (13), 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation'.

More than half of the reported actions are considered promising practices. The EU Delegation's gender analysis of Yemen and Iraq may be regarded as a transformative practice because it addresses gender inequalities, while focusing on lessons learned to inform corrective actions. Another eight actions (24 %) may be regarded as partially gender-transformative. Among these, 17 actions in Iraq and six in Yemen addressed women, peace and security. Many combined humanitarian and development approaches to deliver relief or assist stabilisation amid severe, long-lasting conflicts.

**Annex 3 Figure 71: Gulf States – Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017**



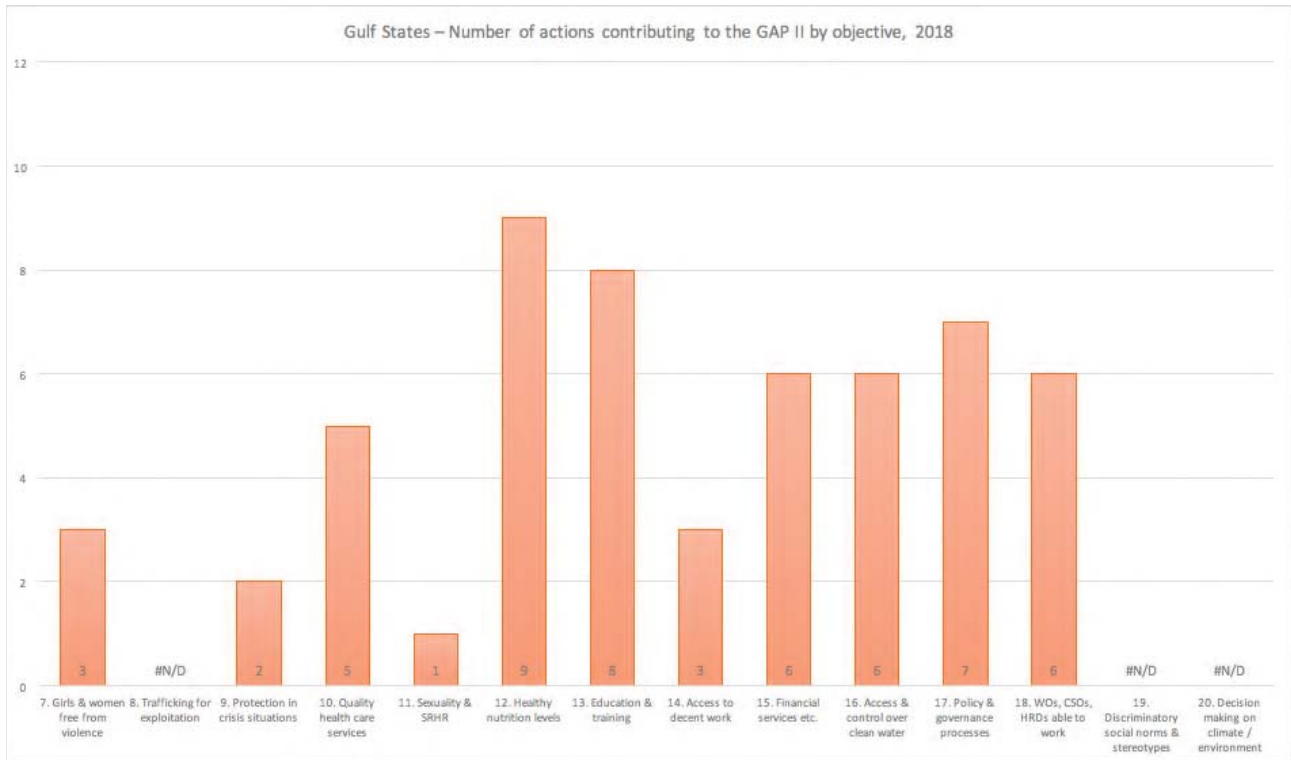
**Annex 3 Figure 72: Gulf States – Number of EU Delegations’ and EU Member States’ actions by thematic priority, 2018**



Key areas of intervention in 2018 included nutrition (objective 12), education and training (objective 13), policy and governance (objective 17), access to financial services (objective 15) and resources (objective 16), as well as support for civil society. This reflects the EU’s focus on responding to the basic needs of local populations, alongside reconstruction and stabilisation processes.

**Annex 3 Figure 73: Gulf States – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018**





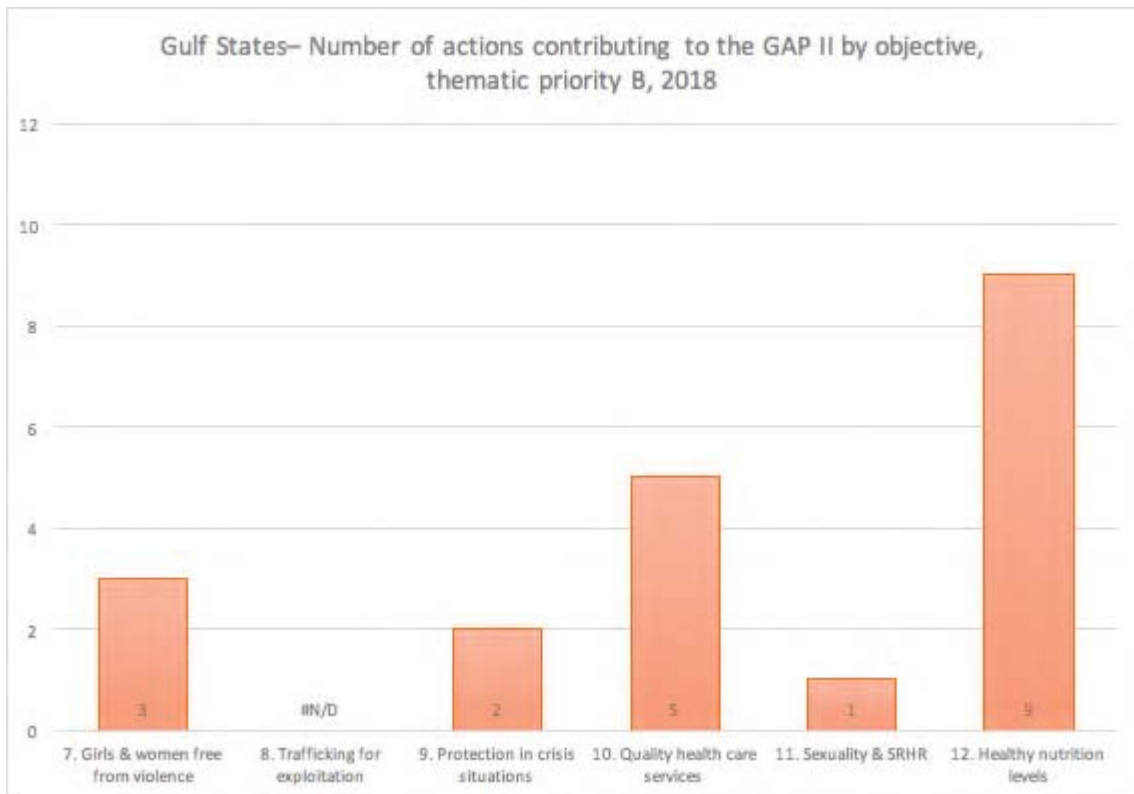
## Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

In 2018, the EU Delegations to Yemen and Iraq implemented 13 actions that addressed thematic priority B, while Germany undertook five actions in Yemen.

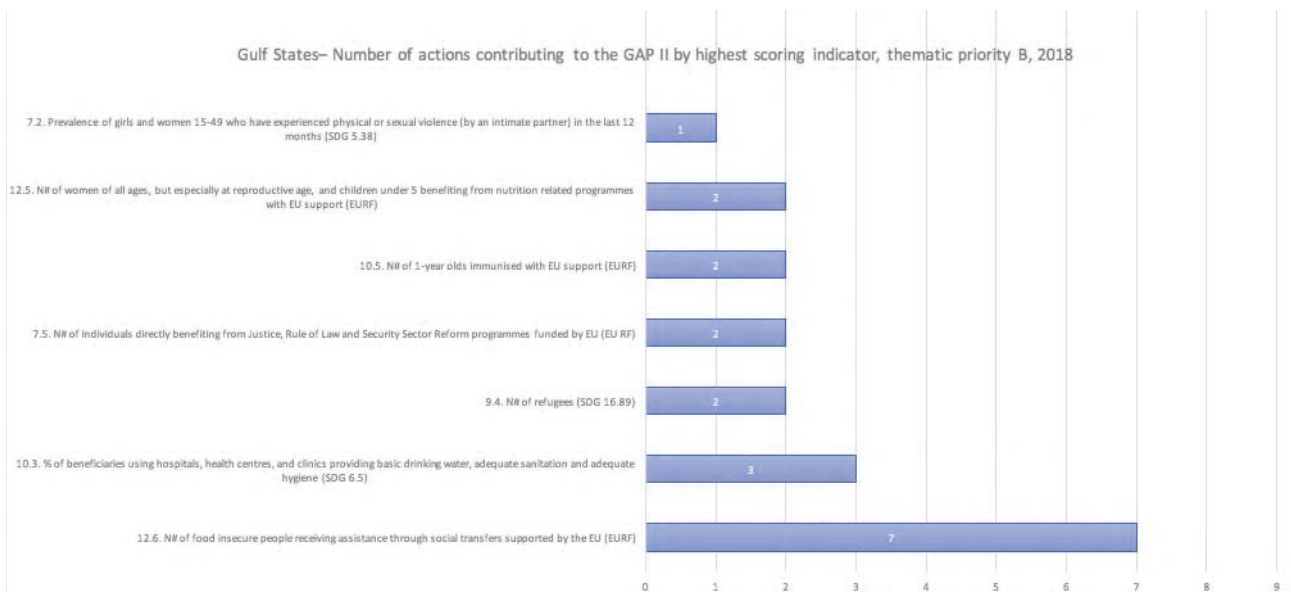
Objective 12 was most frequently selected, as EU actors implemented nine actions to address food and basic health needs in Yemen. These aimed to avert famine, enhance rural communities' resilience and food security, maximise opportunities for rural entrepreneurs, and support community health workers. Objective 10 was targeted by initiatives to strengthen Yemen's health worker system, while improving civil registration to ensure a legal identity for all children. Actions included a focus on immunisation (indicator 10.5), basic drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene (indicator 10.3). Objective 11, on sexual and reproductive health and rights, was addressed by Germany in Yemen through the 'Reproductive Health VII' programme on maternal and child health.

The EU Delegation to Iraq addressed objective 7, on curbing violence against women and girls, and objective 9, on protecting them from violence in crisis situations. It did so through a programme to expand access to justice for vulnerable groups in northern Iraq, as well as a programme to protect women and girls from human trafficking, sexual exploitation and gender-based violence. These issues are also linked to objective 8, although they were not reported under that objective.

**Annex 3 Figure 74: Gulf States – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority B, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 75: Gulf States – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018**



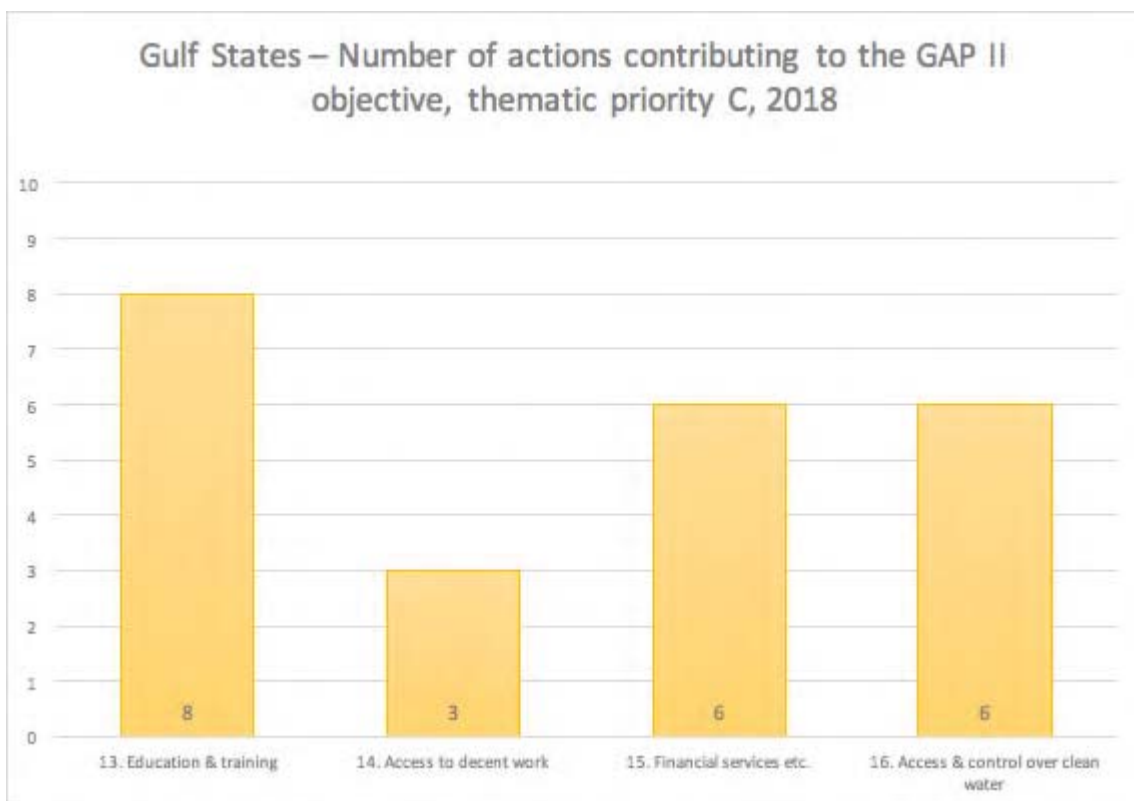
## **Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment**

More initiatives in Yemen (12 actions) addressed thematic priority C than in Iraq (11). Objective 13, on ensuring access to inclusive education, was a primary concern in 2018. In Iraq, the EU Delegation promoted quality primary and secondary education for internally displaced persons and refugees in crisis-affected areas. It also encouraged cultural heritage education for social cohesion,

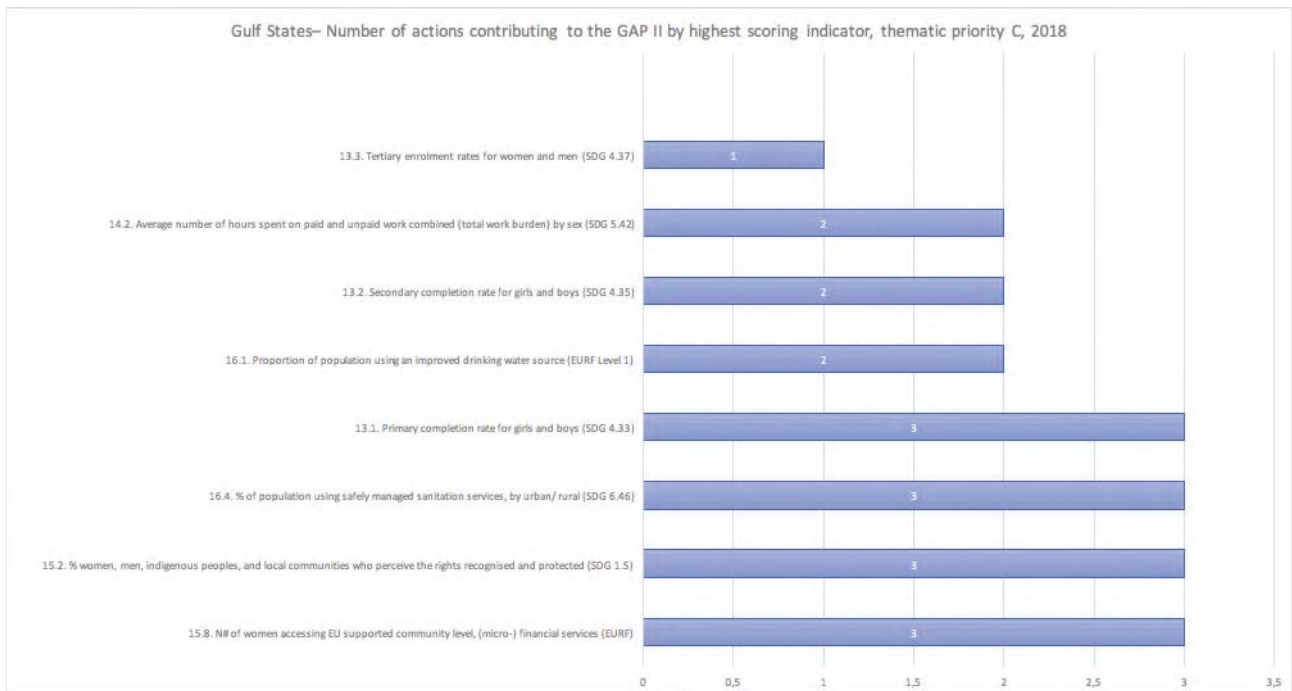
coupled with a programme to strengthen the visibility of women and girls in education in order to foster gender equality.

Germany was active in Yemen through the Social Fund for Development's education programme. The EU Delegation to Yemen addressed objective 15, on women's access to financial services, through the Approach for Development Finance Enhancement (ADEN) programme. The Delegation of Iraq similarly targeted objective 15 through the Local Area Development Programme (LADP II), in addition to an initiative on youth entrepreneurship and financial inclusion. Objective 14, on access to decent work, was addressed in Yemen through the EU Delegation's cash-for-work and social resilience initiatives, as well as by Germany's Social Fund for Development's strengthening resilience and labour-intensive works programme.

**Annex 3 Figure 76: Gulf States – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority C, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 77: Gulf States – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018**

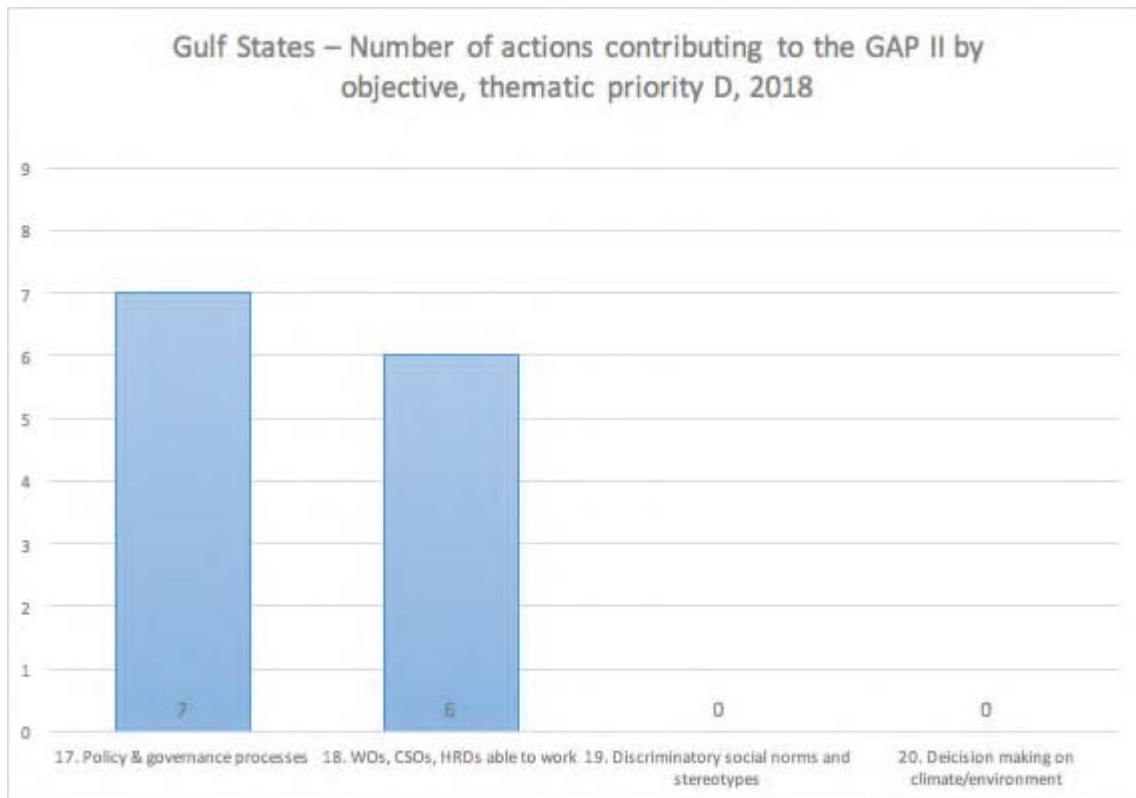


### Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation

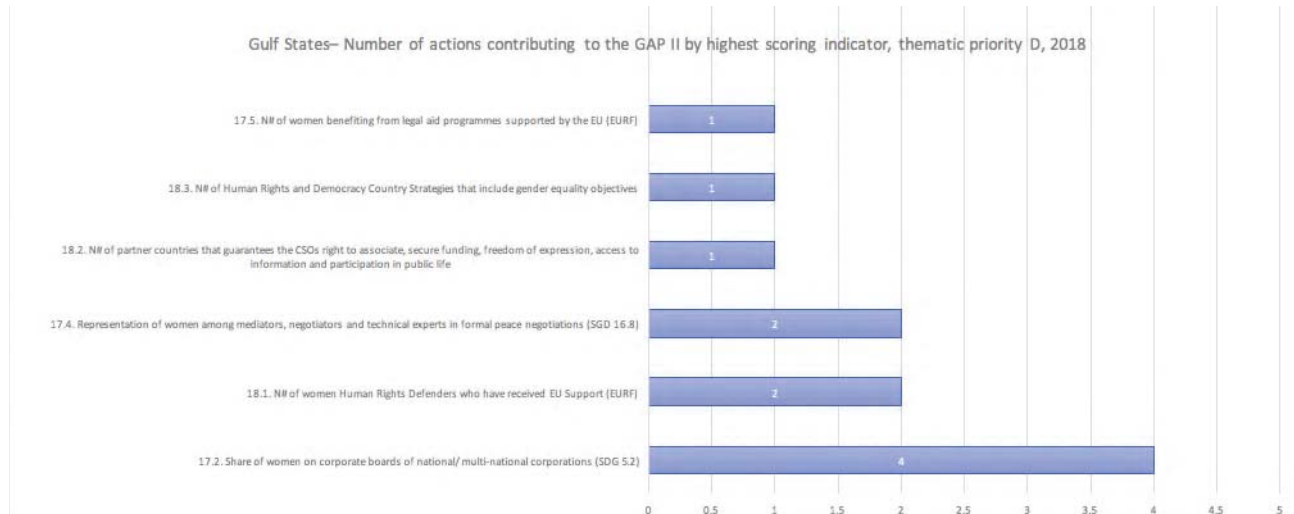
Seven actions by EU Delegations addressed objective 17, on ‘equal rights and the ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes. Among these was the gender analysis of Yemen and Iraq, mentioned above. In Yemen, a Track II initiative for development, social and economic priorities was implemented during the conflict and post-conflict period. In Iraq, actions included a programme to consolidate media freedom was undertaken, initiatives to foster dialogue among conflict-affected communities, and efforts to increase the share of women on corporate boards in national and multi-national corporations (indicator 17.2).

Objective 18, on support for women’s organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders, was addressed in Yemen by an initiative to enhance peace-building and human rights in 16 Yemeni governorates. Two programmes by the German development agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), supported peace and good governance clusters in Yemen. In Iraq, objective 18 was targeted by measures to engaged youth in democratic governance, social cohesion and reconciliation, while protecting for Iraqi Human Rights Defenders.

**Annex 3 Figure 78: Gulf States – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority D, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 79: Gulf States – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018**



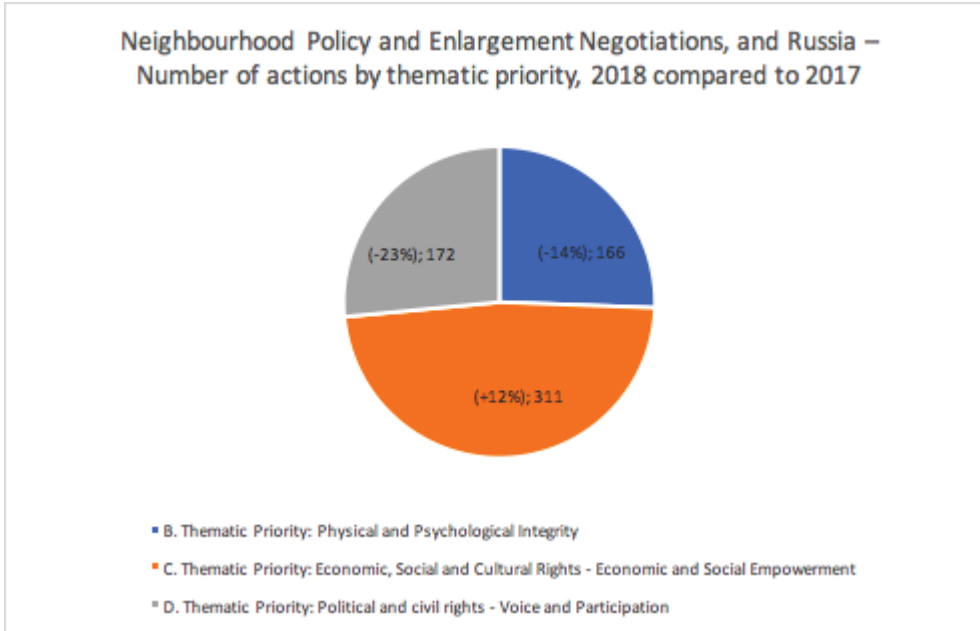
## Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia

### Overview of progress in 2018

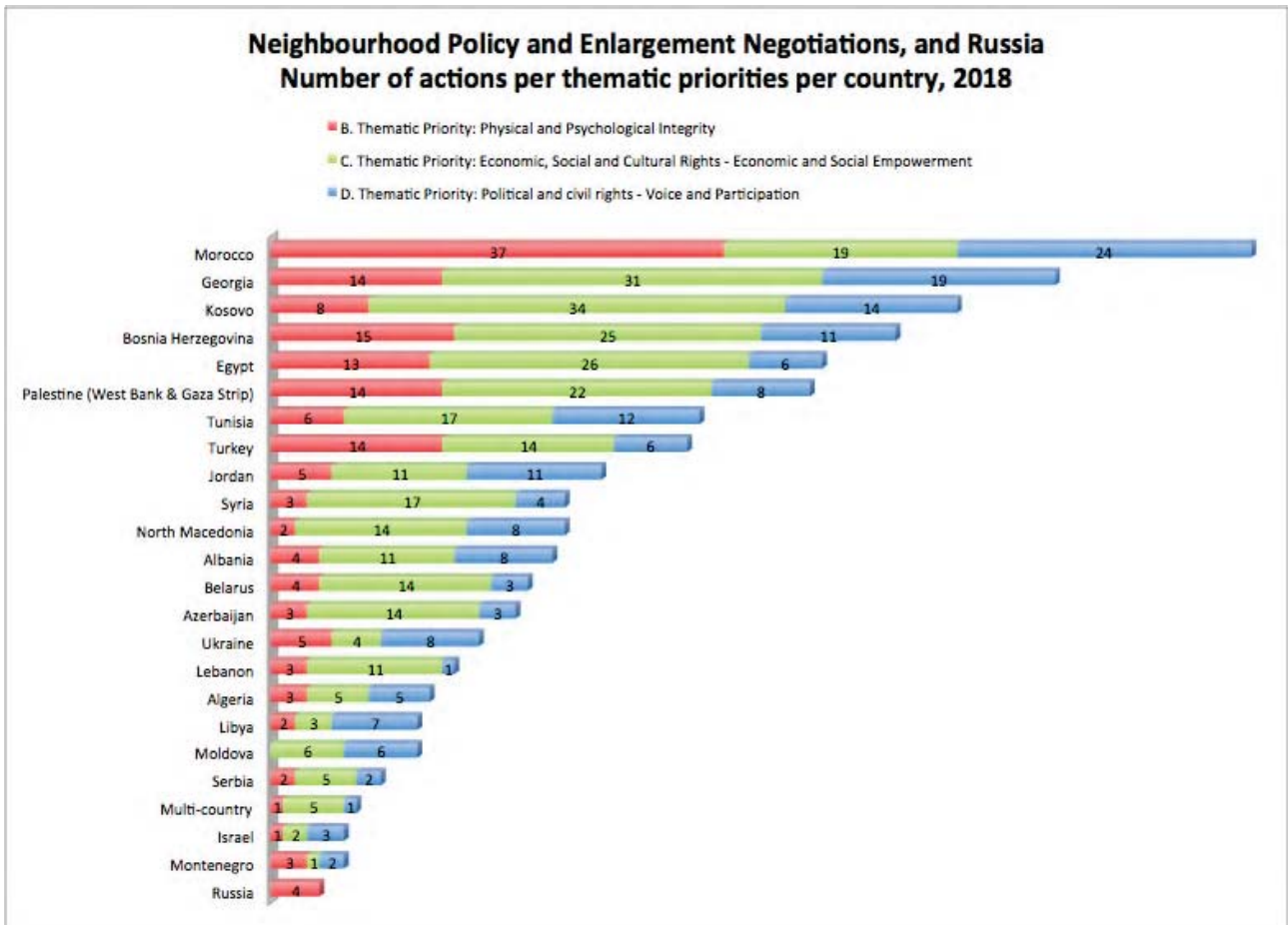
In 2018, there was a substantial progress on the GAP II's thematic priorities in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations region, and Russia. Across 22 partner countries, 21 EU Delegations and 11 EU Member States reported 691 actions – 4 % more than in 2017 (665 actions), of which 626 were aligned to GAP II priorities. In 2018, the selection of objectives (693) was far broader than in the previous year (206). Commitments on thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment', increased by 12 %. However, reported

actions declined by 23 % on thematic priority B, ‘Physical and Psychological Integrity’, and by 14 % on priority D, ‘Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation’.

**Annex 3 Figure 80: Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia – Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017**



**Annex 3 Figure 81: Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia – Number of EU Delegations’ and EU Member States’ actions by thematic priority, 2018**



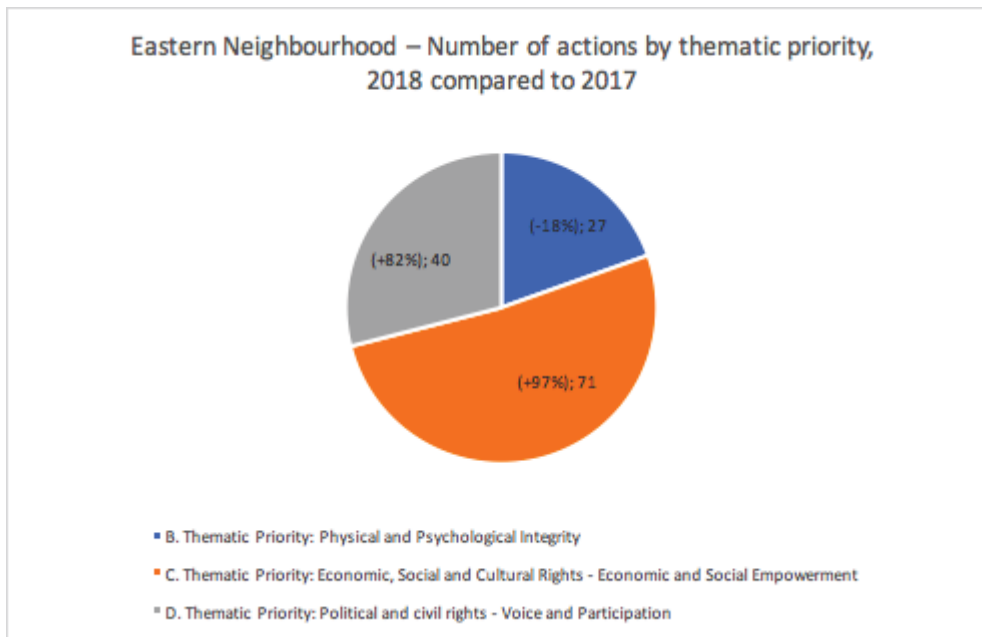
EU actors considered 64 % of their reported actions in the region as promising practices. Of these, 7 % were regarded as partially gender-transformative and 14 % as gender-transformative. This indicates that they aim to evoke a positive change or shift within the socio-economic, cultural, institutional, and political paradigm that currently produces gender-based discrimination and inequalities in a given context.

### Eastern Neighbourhood

In the Eastern Neighbourhood sub-region, 171 actions were reported by five EU Delegations – to Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and the Ukraine – and five EU Member States. These were Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. Of these actions, 139 were aligned with GAP II thematic priorities. This marks a significant increase from 88 reported actions in 2017. Armenia was the only country in the sub-region where EU actors did not submit a progress report on the implementation of the GAP II’s priorities.

Thematic priority C was the most frequently addressed (71 actions), followed by thematic priorities D (40) and B (27).

**Annex 3 Figure 82: Eastern Neighbourhood – Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017**



## Enlargement Negotiations

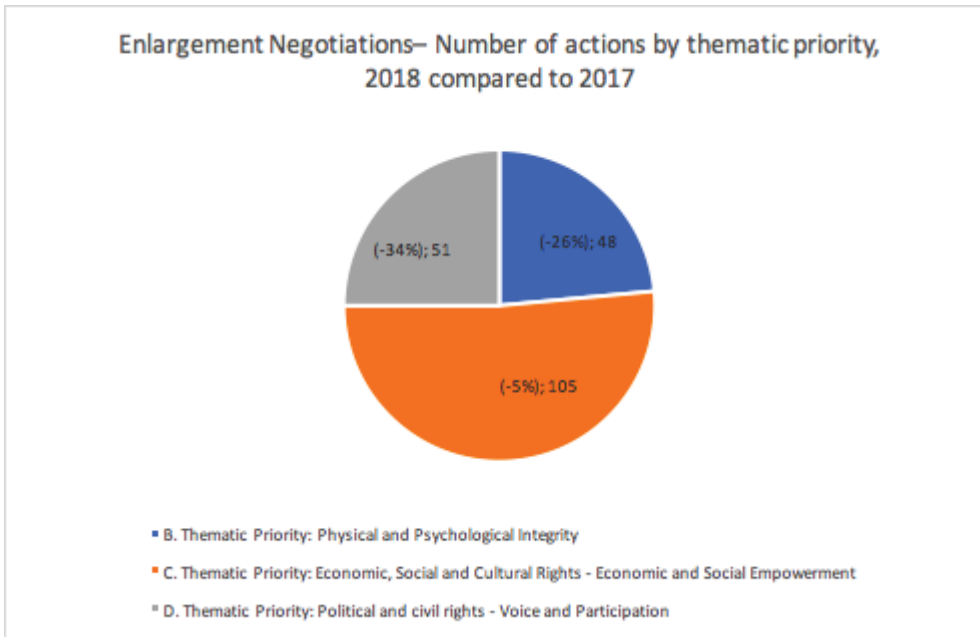
In 2018, 223 actions were reported in the Enlargement negotiations sub-region, of which 188 were aligned to GAP II thematic priorities. These encompass actions by seven EU Delegations – to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey – as well as by six EU Member States – Austria, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Sweden and the UK. This reflects an increase of 11.5 % in reported actions – up from 200 actions in 2017 – largely due to the report from North Macedonia.

Thematic priority C was by far the most commonly addressed (105 actions), while priorities D (51) and B (48) were the focus of a similar number of actions.

**Annex 3 Figure 83: Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017**

<sup>1</sup> The use of ‘\*’ after the name of Kosovo is without prejudice regarding its status and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice’s (ICJ) Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



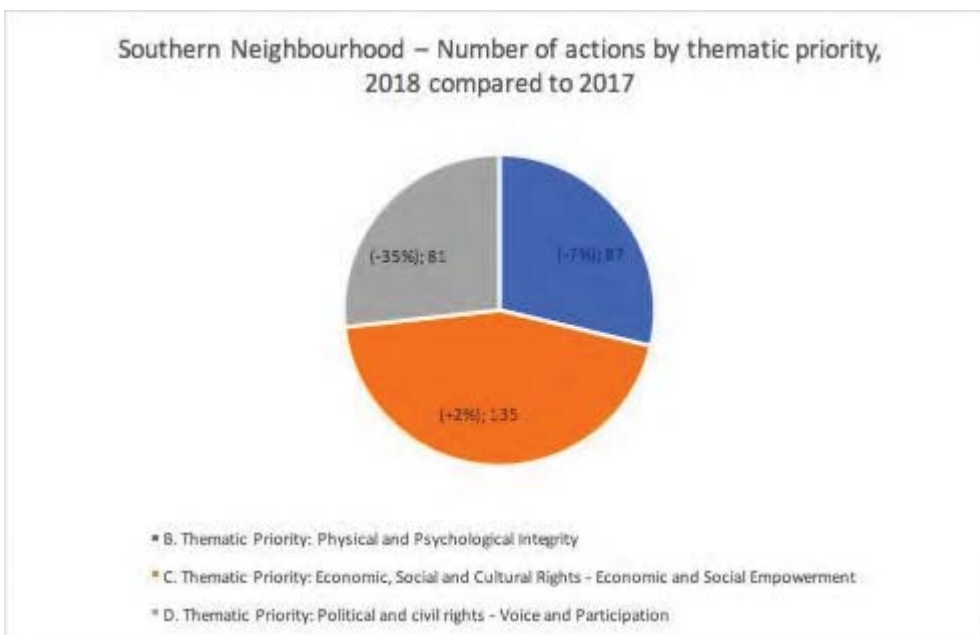


### Southern Neighbourhood

In the Southern Neighbourhood sub-region, 292 actions were reported in 2018 – 14 % fewer than the 340 actions reported in 2017. Reports were submitted by 10 EU Delegations – to Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine<sup>2</sup>, Syria and Tunisia. They were also submitted by six EU Member States – Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy and Spain.

With 135 actions geared towards thematic priority C, this was by far the most addressed priority, followed by thematic priorities B (87 actions) and D (81).

**Annex 3 Figure 84: Southern neighbourhood – Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017**



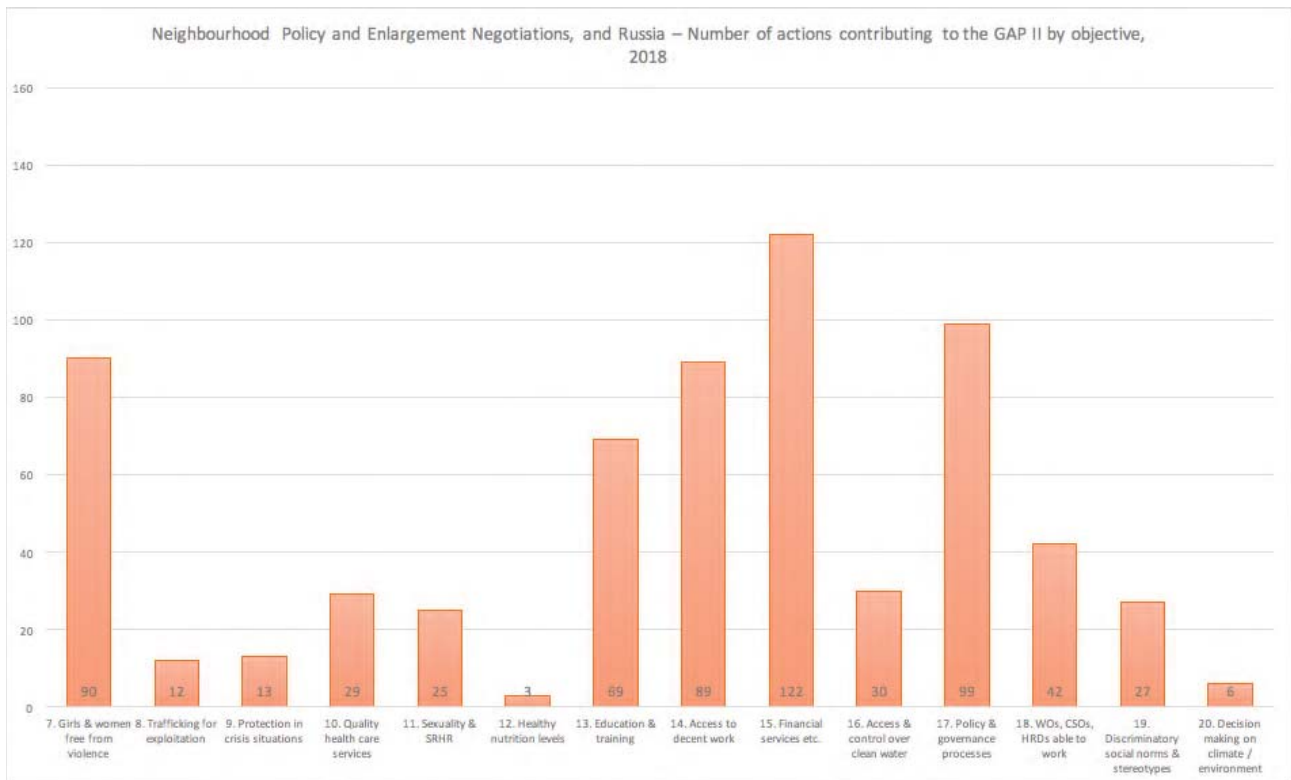
<sup>2</sup> This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the EU Member States on this issue.

In 2018, EU actors in the Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations regions, 19 % of actions focused on GAP II objective 15, ‘equal access for women to financial services and productive resources’. This was followed by with 15 % of actions targeting objective 17, on ‘rights for women to participate in policy and governance’ and 14 % targeting objective 14, on access to decent work. By contrast in 2017, actions focused on objective 7, on combating violence against women and girls, followed by objectives 17 and 14. There was significantly less focus on these three objectives in 2018 than in the previous year. Although many countries in the region made progress on combating violence against women and girls, there is still much to be done. This is especially true among Southern Neighbourhood countries, among which only Tunisia passed an organic law on VAWG.

Marking a stable trend since 2016, commitments were maintained on objective 11 on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, which was the focus of 11 more actions in 2018 than in 2017. Actions addressing objective 10, ‘support to qualitative preventive, curative and rehabilitative health and mental health’ increased by 56 %. This is most probably due to new interventions to cover the healthcare needs of Syrian refugees in countries such as Turkey, in the framework of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey. However, actions on objective 8 to combat the trafficking of women and girls decreased significantly (-37 %). Actions on objective 9 also decreased (-28 %), regarding protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations.

Of note is MADAD the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis which supports actions tackling GBVAWG, among Syrian women refugees with an array of interventions such as information campaigns, and awareness sessions, specialised treatment in the area of mental health and psychosocial support, risk education sessions to raise awareness of mine contamination threats, and psychosocial support. Actions reach out to vulnerable people in Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Western Balkans.

**Annex 3 Figure 85: Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, and Russia – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018**



It is difficult to compare actions by EU Delegations and EU Member States on the GAP II's implementation because of the voluntary nature of reporting and different volumes of actions and portfolios. Nonetheless, broad trends can be identified.

As in previous years, aligning reported actions with GAP II indicators is a challenge. In 2018, EU actors in the region selected 63 indicators – a decrease from 73 in 2017. Those selected are generally linked to SDGs indicators or indicators in the Justice, Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform programmes funded by the EU (EURF). While this reflects uniformity in monitoring methodologies, it may be related to the challenges of data availability and collection at the country level. This suggests the need for stronger support to, and partnerships with, national statistics offices in the region. Most selected indicators are quantitative in nature and may not always reveal gender imbalances or gaps. Greater alignment is visible for the indicators linked to the five most selected objectives in the region (objectives 15, 17, 14, 7 and 13), as well as to objective 11 on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and objective 16, on access to clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure. Data analysis also shows that EU Delegations aligned their actions to GAP II indicators more so than EU Member States.

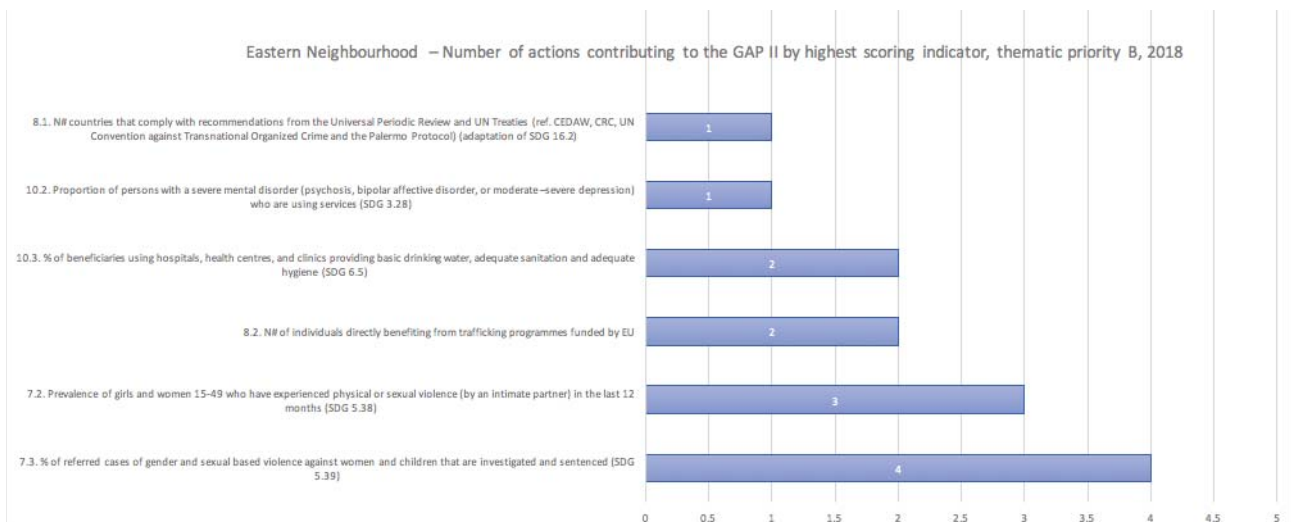
## Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

### Eastern Neighbourhood

Annex 3 Figure 86: Eastern Neighbourhood – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority B, 2018



**Annex 3 Figure 87: Eastern Neighbourhood – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018**



In 2018, 25 actions in the Eastern Neighbourhood sub-region addressed thematic priority B, a decline from 33 actions in 2017. However, more objectives were selected under the priority – four in 2018, compared to two in the previous year.

The focus of 40 % of actions under priority B, objective 7 on ‘girls and women free from violence’ was the most frequently selected objective in the sub-region. Nonetheless, it was targeted by roughly half as many actions in 2018 as in 2017. Objective 10, on physical and mental healthcare, was addressed by 36 % of reported actions – a change from 2017, when objective 8 on curbing

trafficking was the second most selected objective. Combating trafficking and ensuring protection from gender-based violence in crisis situations continued to be a focus of actions in the sub-region. It is worth noting that only EU Delegations addressed trafficking (14 % of actions), while EU Member States focused more on physical and mental healthcare (50 % of actions).

Actions linked to objective 7 were largely implemented in Georgia (6 actions), Ukraine (3) and Belarus (1). They ranged from advocacy for child and youth protection to the social integration of survivors of domestic violence. In Georgia, anti-VAWG campaigns were spearheaded in areas where ethnic and religious minority communities are concentrated. In Belarus, an initiative managed by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was implemented. The EU Delegation to Ukraine mobilised internally displaced women to address domestic and gender-based violence, as well as the restoration of governance and reconciliation in conflict-affected areas, while promoting women as agents of change for peace-building and conflict prevention at the grassroots level.

Nine actions addressed objective 10, on ‘access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women’. These included a multi-country action across Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In Belarus, the EU Delegation promoted efforts to prevent non-communicable diseases, modernise the healthcare system, and pilot advocacy services to protect the rights of children with severe disabilities or life-threatening conditions. It acknowledged the need for a gender analysis to better respond to children’s needs. In Georgia, the EU Delegation supported violence prevention programmes for perpetrators of domestic and gender based violence but also provide psycho-social rehabilitation support to mothers and women in vulnerable circumstances. These tackled rehabilitative and mental health concerns to prevent and combat gender-based violence. In Ukraine, Germany assisted municipalities to provide health services to internally displaced persons, including services to address gender-based and domestic violence cases.

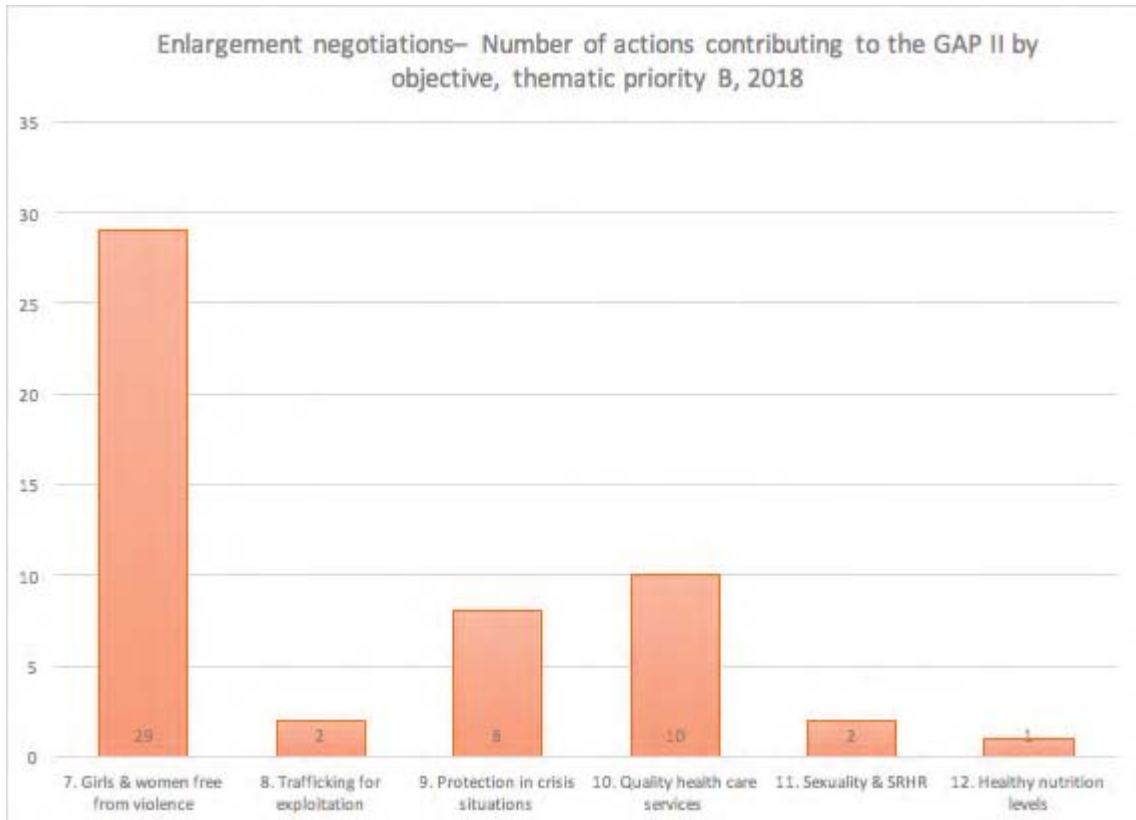
Three actions by EU Delegations on objective 8 combatted human trafficking. In Azerbaijan, actions enhanced national capacities to counter trafficking. Initiatives in addressed rising numbers of irregular migrants in Belarus, while in Georgia they focused on improving security, accountability and combating crime. The delegations highlighted lessons learned to improve the implementation of gender sensitive interventions. For example, in Azerbaijan, strengthened inter-agency cooperation is required to build efficient systems to welcome refugees and asylum seekers. In Belarus, measures are needed to address the gender-related vulnerabilities and socio-cultural needs of migrants at risk of trafficking, exploitation and modern slavery. Such measures must include access to justice and safe reporting, without fear of detention, deportation or penalty – all vital aspects of combating human trafficking. Reported actions selected indicator 8.1, on the ‘number countries that comply with recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and UN Treaties (ref. CEDAW, CRC, UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Palermo Protocol)’ – an adaptation of SDG target 16.2. They also addressed indicator 8.2, on the ‘number of individuals directly benefiting from trafficking programmes funded by EU’.

Three actions addressed objective 9 on the ‘protection for all women and men from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations’. Two actions were implemented in Georgia, where the EU Delegation tracked violent crimes against women, provided access to protection for survivors of sexual, gender-based and domestic violence, and worked with local counterparts to strengthen protection mechanisms. One action in Azerbaijan involved French support for the adoption of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

Objective 11 on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and objective 12 on nutrition were not addressed in 2018 or in 2017. Despite this EU is supporting a regional programming in Azerbaijan that focus on preventing Sex Selection Abortion of girls.

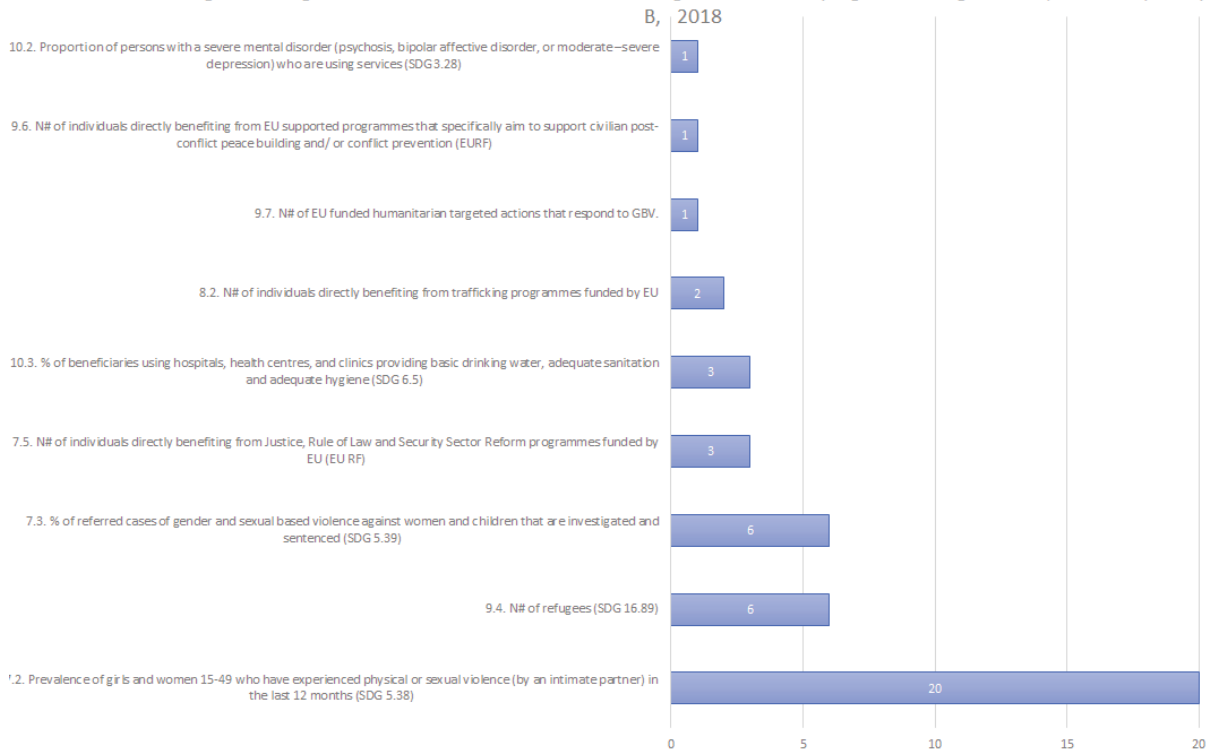
### Enlargement Negotiations

**Annex 3 Figure 88: Enlargement Negotiations– Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority B, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 89: Enlargement Negotiation – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018**

Enlargement Negotiations - Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority



In the Enlargement sub-region, objective 7 on violence against women and girls was the focus of 29 actions in five countries. The objective was addressed by 56 % of actions reported under thematic priority B. In Albania, Sweden supported a UN joint programme to end VAWG, as well as a police cooperation programme. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, actions varied widely, with the EU supporting gender justice, including for rural women, child protection, and greater efficiency among the high judiciary and prosecutors. In tandem, Germany supported initiatives to prevent trans-generative war trauma and social exclusion, while supporting the rehabilitation and reconciliation of survivors. Sweden assisted civil society efforts to improve the institutional response to gender-based violence, judicial and prosecutorial efficiency, and gender justice, alongside a child protection programme implemented by UNICEF. In Kosovo, the EU Delegation supported social services and the reintegration of violence survivors. In Montenegro, it contributed to a gender-transformative programme to name and shame instances of sexual harassment and VAWG. The EU Delegation to Serbia promoted the project ‘Raise Voice for Silent’ to enhance the identification of security risks with a view to preventing femicide in the framework of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights’ 2015 programme. As a result, the Government of Serbia declared the 18<sup>th</sup> of May as ‘Remembrance Day for Murdered Women Victims of Violence’. In Turkey, the EU Delegation supported civil society and the development of a model for VAWG-related data collection.

Objective 10 on preventive rehabilitative physical and mental healthcare was addressed by two actions implemented by Luxembourg in Kosovo, as well as by the EU Delegation to Turkey. The latter’s actions were undertaken in the framework of two European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights programmes, and three initiatives by the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey which supported communities and institutions to address Syrian refugees’ healthcare needs.

Objective 9 was addressed by the EU Delegation to Turkey. Actions to protect and prevent gender-based violence in crisis situations were implemented in the framework of Facility for Refugees in Turkey under IPE and in the framework of the EU Regional Trust Fund for the Syrian Crisis



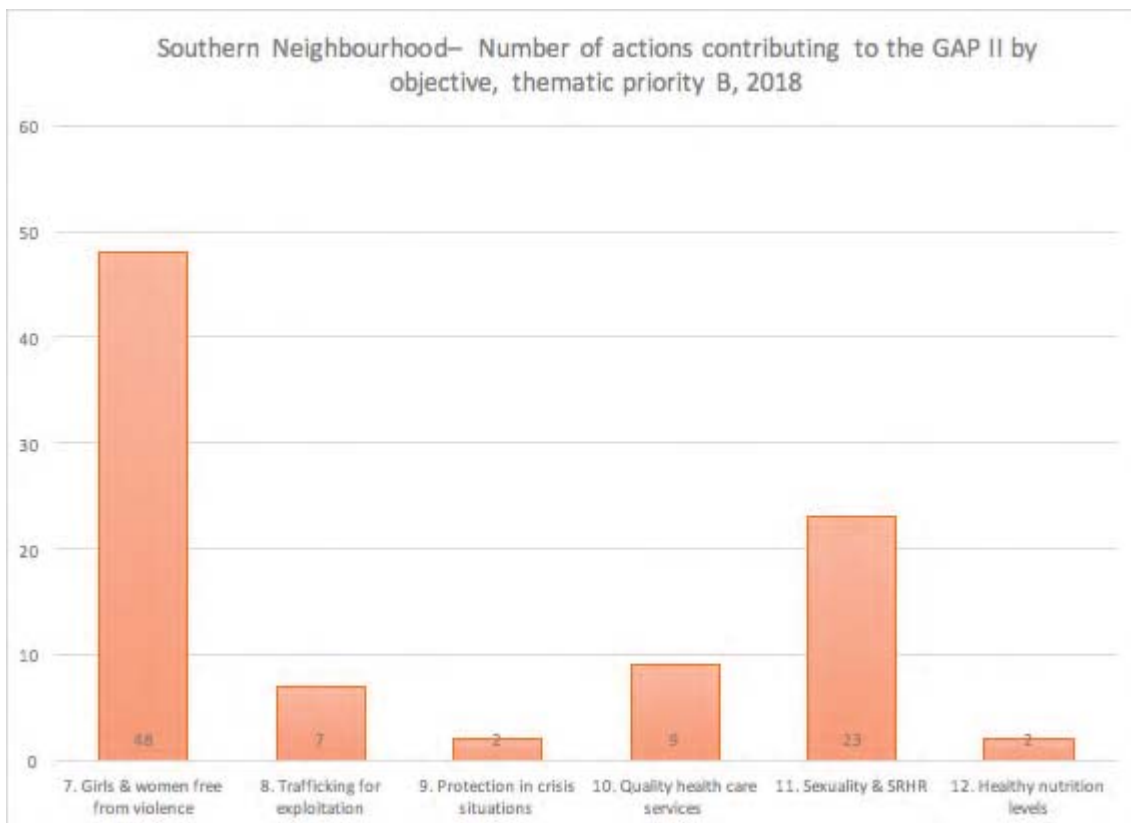
MADAD. While all actions targeted Syrian refugees, three also addressed host communities and one included a focus on Iraqi refugees.

Only two EU Delegations addressed objective 8 on trafficking in the sub-region. Actions encompassed dedicated programmes in Kosovo and the development of a mobile application with IT students for the prevention of youth labour exploitation in Serbia.

Objective 11 on sexual and reproductive health and rights was only addressed by Sweden in Bosnia and Herzegovina through their support for the Open Centre in Sarajevo. Luxembourg was the only EU Member State to address objective 12 on nutrition by supporting UNICEF efforts to strengthen Kosovo's\* family-centred health system, enabling it to reach more vulnerable children and mothers.

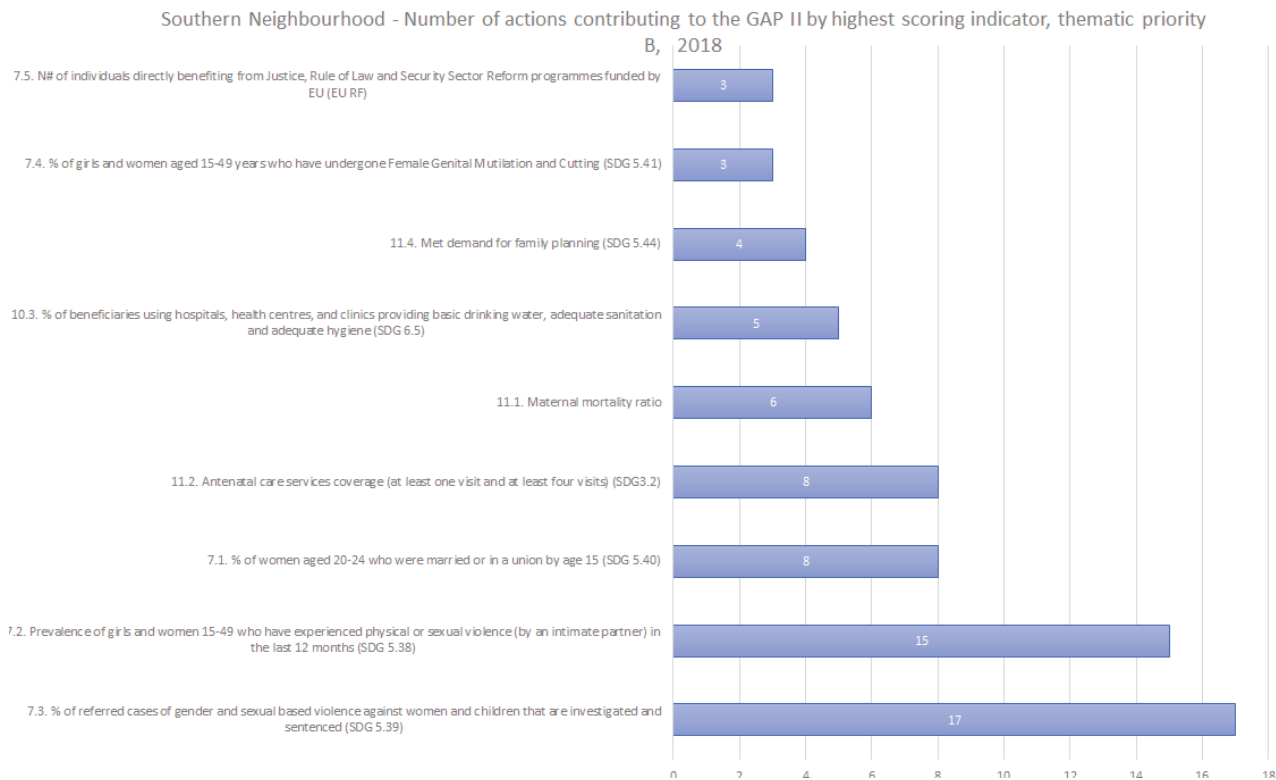
### Southern Neighbourhood

**Annex 3 Figure 90: Southern Neighbourhood – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority B, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 91: Southern Neighbourhood Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority B, 2018**





In the Southern Neighbourhood sub-region, objective 7 on combating violence against women and girls remained the focus for EU actions under thematic priority B. However, the number of actions that addressed objective 7 in 2018 fell by one-third compared to 2017. While some countries introduced ambitious legislation to combat gender-based violence and discrimination, many obstacles remain, not least as gender inequalities are embedded in discriminatory cultural norms and traditions. EU Delegations predominantly worked in Morocco (12 actions) and Egypt (4 actions) to address violence against women, while EU Member States were more active in Palestine (7 actions). Programmes varied widely, ranging from supporting access to justice for gender-based violence survivors – in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia – to the prevention of child marriage in Palestine. Efforts promoted the empowerment of single mothers and their children in Morocco, alongside support for civil society organisations combating the gender stereotypes and discrimination that underlie violence. In Egypt, where the harassment of women and girls in public transportation is a major concern, the EU Delegation supported an inclusive public transport project, coupled with actions to engaging boys and men in preventing and combating violence against women and girls. Some actions were also combined with sexual and reproductive health and rights initiatives – in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Palestine and in Tunisia, through the ‘*Moussawat*’ programme. As in 2017, all GAP II indicators linked to objective 7 were included in the actions reported in 2018.

Actions targeting objective 11 on sexual and reproductive health and rights increased significantly in the sub-region – rising by 42 %, with 21 new actions in 2018. In Egypt, the EU Delegation and Italy initiated a budget support programme to assist the national population strategy, which also aims to establish mechanisms to meet demands for family planning (indicator 11.4). The EU Delegation in Jordan supported actions in the framework of the EU support for civil society organisations. In Lebanon, the EU Delegation contributed to strengthening protection mechanisms for Syrian refugees and vulnerable communities, including by working to reduce economic barriers to accessing health services. In Morocco, several on-going actions were implemented in the framework of the health sector reform support programme (PASS II), gender budgeting in the

sphere of basic health coverage, and social protection initiatives, including for children, supported by the EU and UNICEF (PAGODA). Other actions aimed to enhance primary healthcare. These included initiatives in the framework of the EU Delegation to Syria's support for transitional justice processes, and the EU Delegation to Tunisia's support for decentralised services.

Actions that targeted objective 10, on 'preventive and rehabilitative physical and mental healthcare', decreased by 27 % in 2018. Reported actions targeted Syrian refugees, most notably initiatives by Italy in Egypt, as well as access to healthcare services – addressed by the EU Delegations to Lebanon and Syria, and by Italy in Palestine. The EU Delegation to Libya supported improved health information system and supply chain management. In Morocco, the EU Delegation assisted integrated care for migrant women, while Italy in Tunisia supported efforts to strengthen mother-child relationship management in mother and child protection centres.

Actions addressing objective 8 on the trafficking of women and girls decreased by 17 % in 2018. The objective was addressed by EU Delegations to Algeria, Jordan and Morocco, largely in the framework of initiatives to uphold the rights of migrants and refugees, including through budgetary support for migration policies in Morocco. Some actions integrated efforts with objective 14, on access to decent work, such as the EU Delegation to Morocco's measures to support entrepreneurship and the professional inclusion of migrants.

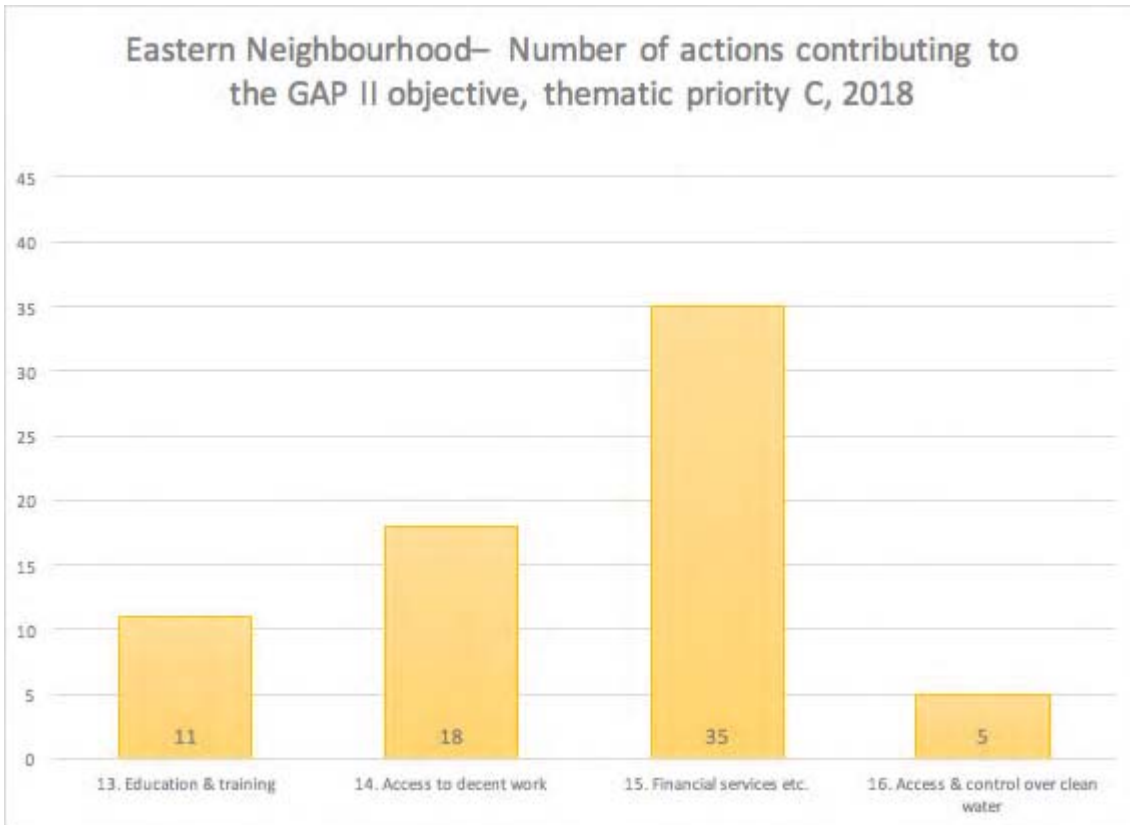
Two EU Member States addressed objective 9 on protection from gender-based violence in crisis situations. Spain targeted this objective in Palestine in the framework of humanitarian response in the Gaza Strip, while Italy did so in the context of protection mechanisms for schoolchildren in the Jordan Valley.

Objective 12 on healthy nutrition levels was targeted by two actions in the sub-region. In Egypt, Italy worked to enhance household food and nutrition security. The EU Delegation to Palestine promoted family health by supporting improved pregnancy, maternal and child health outcomes.

## **Thematic Priority C: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Economic and Social Empowerment**

### **Eastern Neighbourhood**

**Annex 3 Figure 92: Eastern Neighbourhood – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority C, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 93: Eastern Neighbourhood – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018**



In the Eastern Neighbourhood sub-region, 35 actions (51 %) under thematic priority C addressed objective 15, on ‘access to financial services, productive resources, trade, and entrepreneurship’ – marking a steady increase compared to 2017. Actions were implemented across five partner countries. EU Member States addressed gender gaps in wages (indicator 15.3) through start-up projects for women in Azerbaijan by France, and Sweden’s investments climate advisory service projects in Belarus. In Georgia, Austria supported the implementation of agricultural and rural development strategies, sustainable mountain tourism and farming initiatives. In Azerbaijan and Belarus, the EU Delegations were active in supporting rural advisory services for women (indicator 15.6), including by enhancing participatory decision-making processes and local socio-economic development. In Azerbaijan and Georgia, the EU Delegations engaged in initiatives to eliminate the gender gap (indicator 15.3), particularly by supporting civil society. EU Delegations to Belarus and Georgia focused on promoting women’s access to financial services (indicator 15.8), including through vocational training and the creation of small- and medium-sized enterprises.

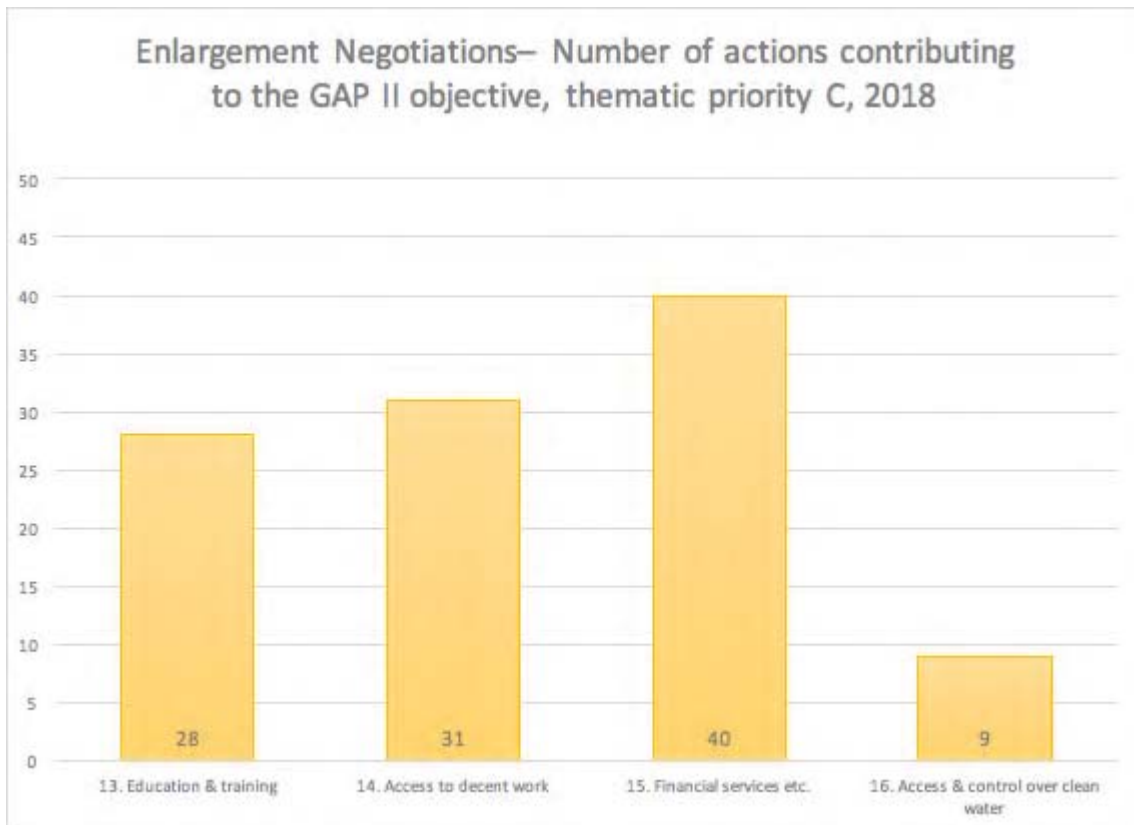
Objective 14 was the second most selected objective under thematic priority C, with a marked increase (by 80 %) in actions addressing decent work. Reported actions often also matched objective 15 and centred on promoting women’s employment in rural development (indicator 14.1). In Belarus, Sweden promoted economic research and outreach centres, while the EU Delegation backed targeted people-to-people mobility schemes for, alongside education and vocational training. In Georgia, the EU Delegation actively promoted skills development, rural development and diversification. The EU Delegation to Moldova supported the implementation of the EU-Moldova Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (EU-Moldova DCFTA), prompting a 65 % increase in Moldovan exports to the EU, paired with inclusive economic empowerment programmes, including a business academy for women.

A focus grew on objective 13 regarding education and training, as 83 % more actions addressed this objective in 2018 than in 2017. The EU Delegations to Belarus and Georgia, as well as Sweden in Belarus and Germany in Ukraine, supported efforts to boost tertiary enrolment rates for women and men (indicator 13.3). The EU Delegation to Georgia focused on teacher training (indicator 13.9), coupled with vocational education and training, skills development and labour market programmes (indicator 13.10). These included a focus on internally displaced persons and were implemented in the framework of education sector reform.

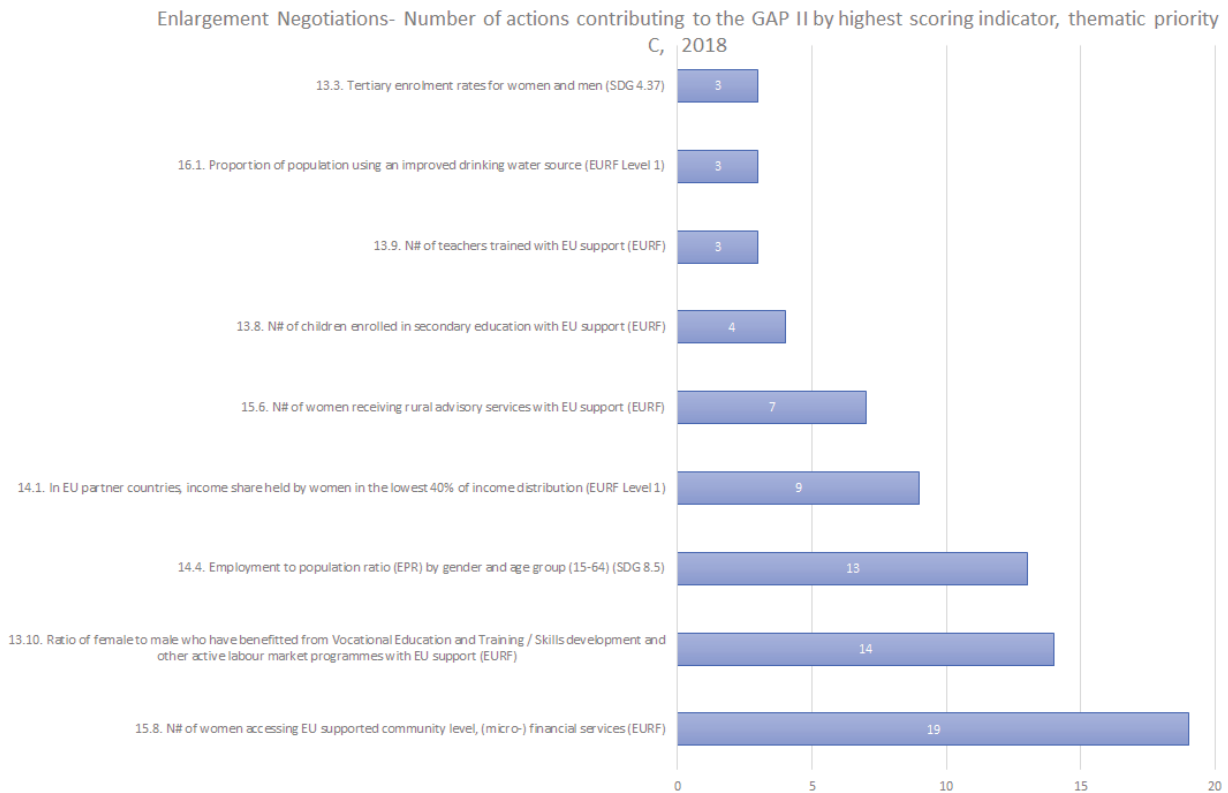
While objective 16, on access to and control over clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure, was not selected in 2017, it was addressed by actions in 2018. These were generally implemented by EU Member States. In Ukraine, Germany implemented projects to increase communities’ water security, with a view to averting displacement and migration in the Mariupol area, Donetsk Oblast. In Belarus, Sweden supported Coalition Clean Baltic, while in Georgia, Austria promoted sustainable forest management for climate-resilient rural development.

## **Enlargement Negotiations**

**Annex 3 Figure 94: Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II objective, thematic priority C, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 95: Enlargement – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018**



In the Enlargement Negotiations sub-region, objective 15 was the focus of 40 actions (37 %) under thematic priority C. This marks a significant increase in support for ‘women’s access to financial services, productive resources, trade, and entrepreneurship’. Actions were implemented in six countries, including five regional actions implemented by the EU Delegation to Kosovo and North Macedonia, as well as by the EU Delegation to Turkey. Actions centred on vocational training, such as those by Germany in Albania, and Luxembourg and the EU Delegation in Kosovo. The EU Delegations to Albania and EU Office in Kosovo also addressed women’s participation in agriculture and rural development, as well as in sustainable tourism in Albania. The EU Delegation to Turkey focused on responding to refugees’ labour demands. In Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sweden made particular efforts to champion gender mainstreaming in relation to the environment, including as an opportunity for women’s employment. Overall, the most frequently selected indicators were 15.8, on the ‘number of women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services’, and 15.6, on the ‘number of women receiving rural advisory services with EU support’. Both are aligned with the indicators of the EU’s Justice, Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform programmes (EURF).

In 2018, EU actors in the sub-region continued to address objective 14, however the number of actions that addressed decent work nearly halved compared to 2017. A focus was placed on women’s employment in sustainable development programmes, especially in the fields of agriculture and rural development – as in the case of Germany’s efforts in Albania and the EU Office’s work in Kosovo. These actions were also rolled out in the framework of stability programmes, as by Sweden in Kosovo. Partnerships with local actors were a priority for the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina to create viable conditions for rural women’s employment, the development of micro-enterprises, access to legal aid, and women’s entrepreneurship in the framework of the EU integration reforms related to economic policy. However, most programmes focused on the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises and promoting women’s participation in the labour market. EU Delegation encouraged sustainable tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as in Albania in the framework of the European Instrument for Democracy

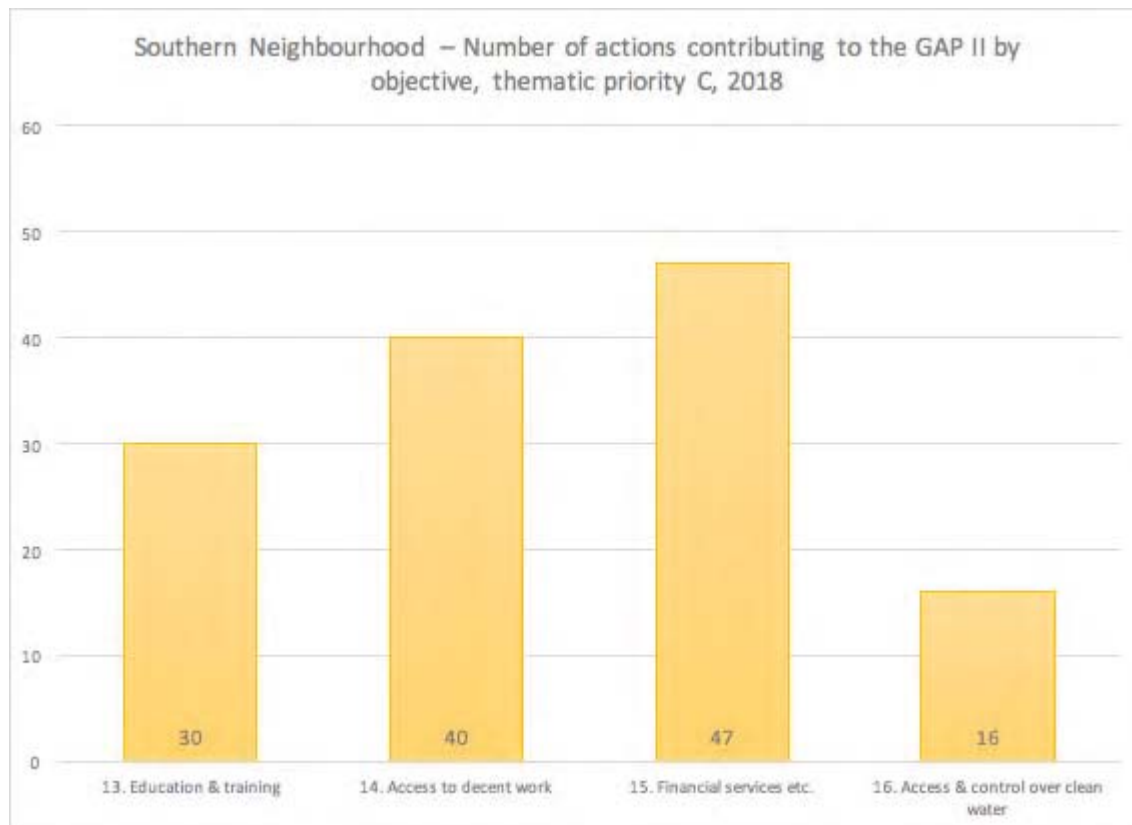
and Human Rights project to support the Women of the Mountains Empowerment Network. The most frequently selected indicators were 14.1, ‘income share held by women in the lowest 40 % of income distribution’, and 14.6, ‘informal employment as a percentage of total non-agricultural employment, by sex’.

Compared to 2017, actions which addressed objective 13 on education and training decreased by 10 % in 2018. Some of these actions overlap with those linked to objective 15, particularly in terms of agriculture and rural development – such as Germany’s efforts in Albania. However, most actions that addressed objective 13 focused on vocational education and training, skills development and other labour market programmes. This was the case, for instance, for actions by Luxembourg and the EU Delegations in Albania and EU Office in Kosovo. Overall, indicator 13.10 was the most frequently selected indicator under thematic priority C in the sub-region. The Facility for Refugees in Turkey supported 11 programmes targeting Syrian women’s resilience and empowerment, vocational training and social cohesion, the integration of Syrian children into the Turkish education system, and young Syrians’ access to higher education.

Actions that addressed objective 16 doubled between 2017 and 2018. It is worth noting that actions on women’s access and control over clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure were only reported by EU Member States. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, Sweden focused on improving access to water and sanitation, green economy development and environmental programmes. In Albania, Germany worked on customising drinking water and waste water services.

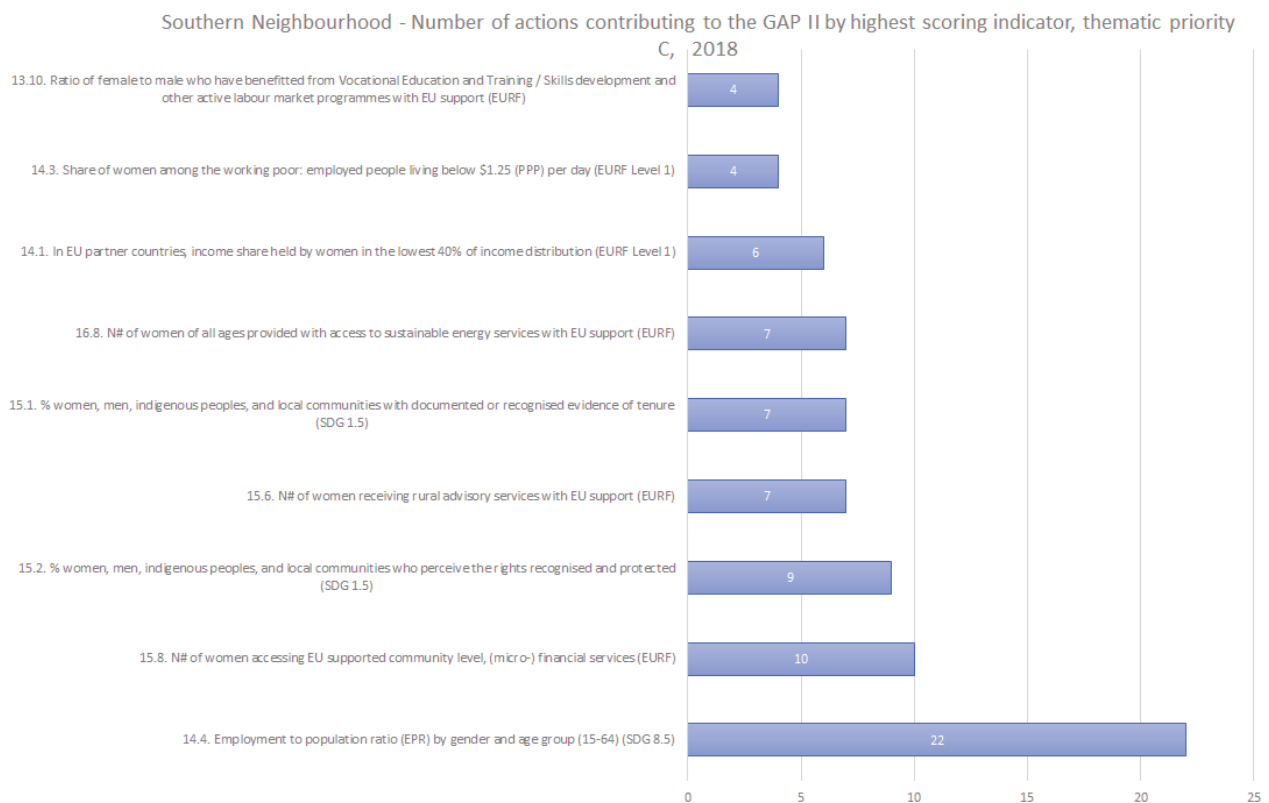
## Southern Neighbourhood

**Annex 3 Figure 96: Southern Neighbourhood – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority C, 2018**





**Annex 3 Figure 97: Southern Neighbourhood – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority C, 2018**



In the Southern Neighbourhood sub-region, objective 15 was addressed by 47 actions (36 %) under thematic priority C. This reflects an increase in actions on ‘women’s access to financial services, productive resources, trade, and entrepreneurship’ compared to 2017. Actions focused on improving women’s access to financial services in the framework of inclusive economic growth, as reported by EU Delegations to Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia, as well as by Italy in Palestine. In Egypt, the EU Delegation provided support for women who are former prisoners and suffer marginalisation upon their release. Significant attention was paid to improving food security and recovering agriculture value chains – most notably by the EU Delegation to Syria and Italy in Palestine. Spain and Italy addressed the gender gap in wages and sectors of the economy (indicator 15.3) through economic development initiatives in Palestine and Tunisia.

In 2018, attention to objective 14 increased compared to 2017. Efforts to promote decent work responded to the immense gender gap in labour force participation – 21 % for women and 74 % for men in the extended Arab region.<sup>3</sup> Reflecting a strong understanding of these gaps and the diverse measures needed to create employment opportunities, indicator 14.4, ‘employment to population ratio by gender and age group’, was the most commonly selected under thematic priority C, followed by indicators 14.1 on the ‘income share held by women in the lowest 40 % of income distribution’ and 14.3, on the ‘share of women among the working poor’. Actions addressed the creation of small- and medium-sized enterprises and sustainable economic development – most

<sup>3</sup>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2018) *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2017-2018*. Beirut: ESCWA.



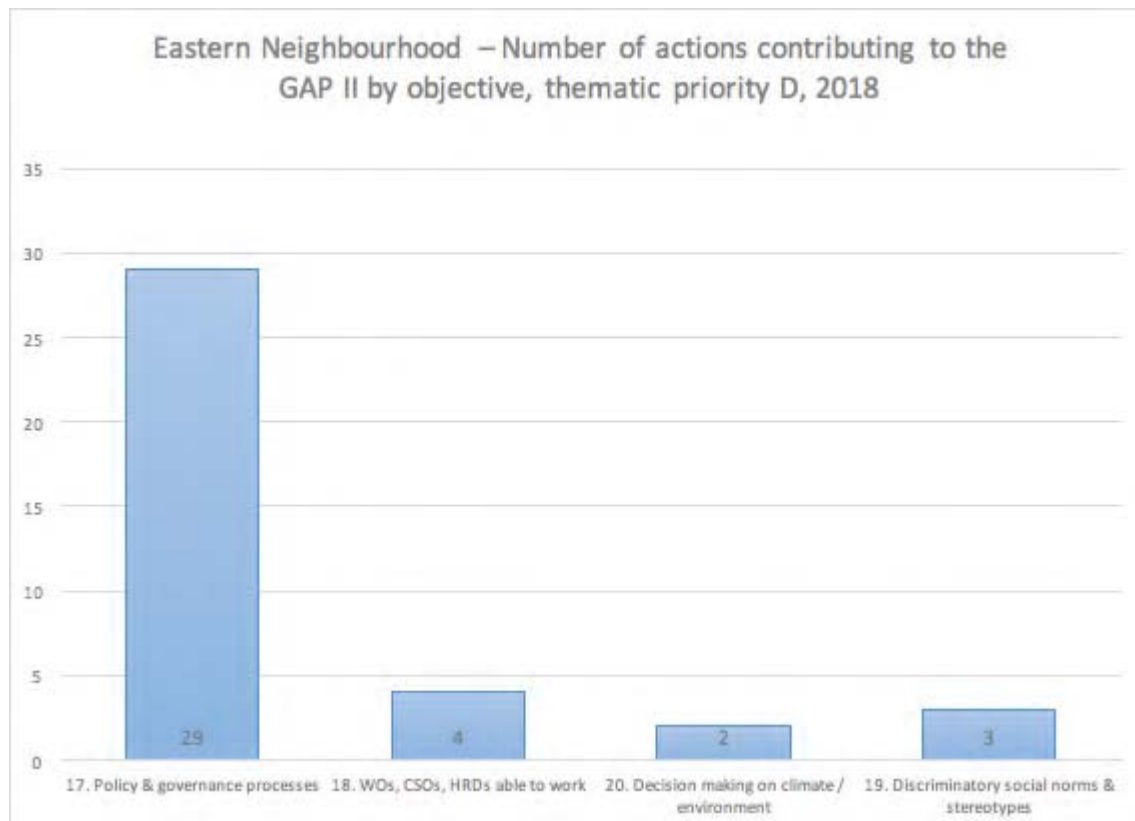
notably actions by Italy and the EU Delegation to Egypt, as well as the EU Delegation to Tunisia. In Israel, the EU Delegation supported women’s organisations for gender justice and economic and employment equality. In Jordan, the EU Delegation collaborated with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to monitor the labour aspects of the EU’s ‘rules of origin’ implementation. In Lebanon, the EU Delegation contributed to improving farming and fisheries. Italy supported rural business opportunities, social innovation, solidarity and inclusive business in Palestine, as well as social and economic inclusion for young people, women and migrants in Tunisia.

Slightly fewer actions addressed objective 13 in 2018 than in the previous year. EU Delegations implemented more initiatives targeting education and training (19 actions) than EU Member States (10). Most of these addressed indicator 13.10, on ‘technical vocational education, training, and skills development’. This was especially the case for EU Delegations to Libya and Syria, as well as Spain and Italy in Palestine. In Tunisia, the EU Delegation and Italy contributed to providing quality education for children who dropped out of school, especially rural girls. In Morocco, Belgium offered education and training opportunities in the framework of support for the national strategy for immigration and asylum.

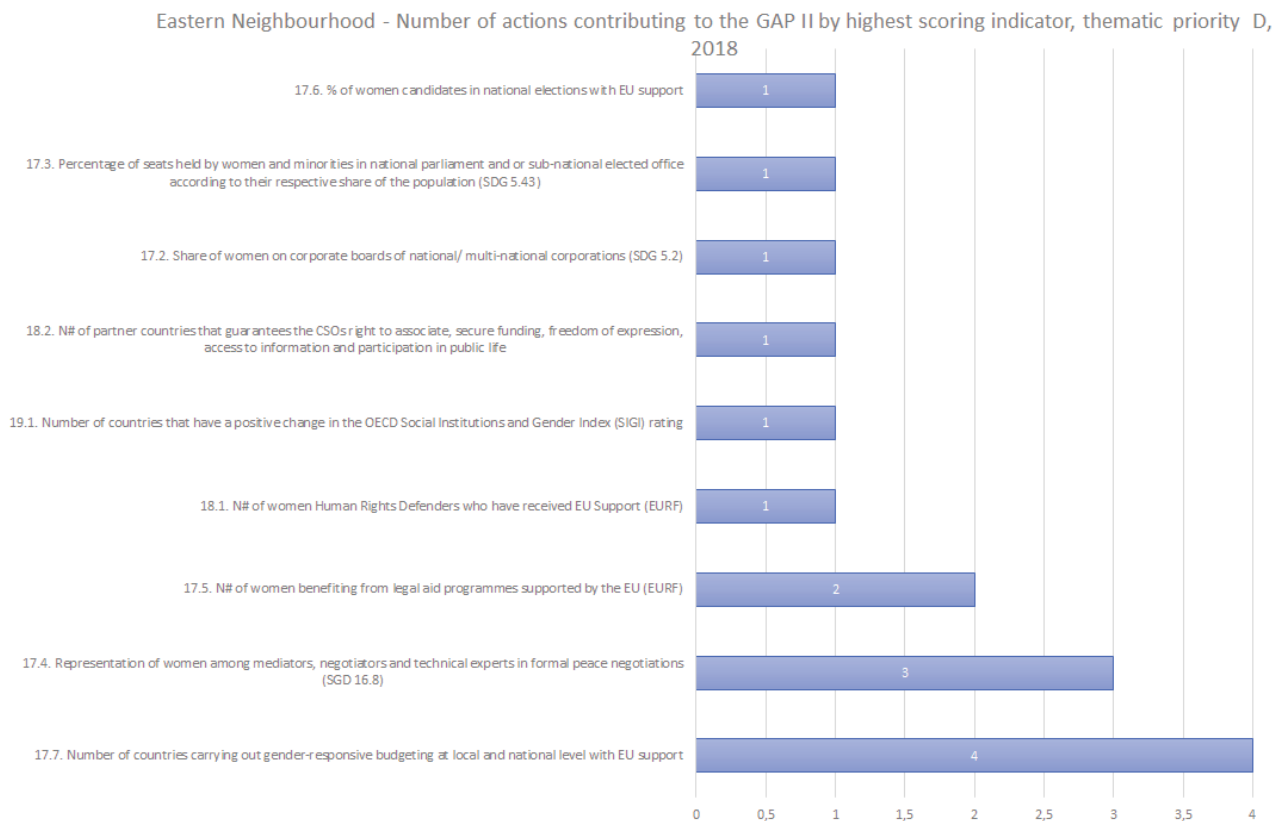
## Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights - Voice and Participation

### Eastern Neighbourhood

Annex 3 Figure 98: Eastern Neighbourhood – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority D, 2018



**Annex 3 Figure 99: Eastern Neighbourhood – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018**



In the Eastern Neighbourhood sub-region, objective 17 was most frequently selected under thematic priority D, as 29 actions (76 %) addressed ‘equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels’. EU Delegations were particularly active, especially on gender-responsive budgeting (indicator 17.7) and enhancing women’s representation among mediators, negotiators and technical experts in formal peace negotiations (indicator 17.4). The EU Delegation to Georgia funded the largest number of initiatives (16 actions) under this objective in the framework of budgetary support for public administration reform, civil service reform, and the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. Actions included partnerships for inclusive policy-making, community development in multi-ethnic municipalities, a joint EU-UNDP programme for rural development (ENPARD III) and efforts to improve the legislative framework for effective civilian oversight over the security sector. In Moldova, the EU Delegation contributed to tackling corruption, alongside budgetary support for police reform and support for civil society advocacy on inclusive and fair elections, in line with recommendations and human rights commitments of the EU, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The support to the police particularly focuses on increasing the number of women in the police force. In Ukraine, Sweden funded UN Women’s initiatives to advance gender equality in national reforms, peace and security, and gender budgeting in government institutions. Germany and the EU Delegation to Ukraine also supported administrative reform.

EU Member States addressed objective 18 on support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders. Actions were implemented in the framework of programmes on women’s rights, including a joint EU-UNDP civil society support programme. In

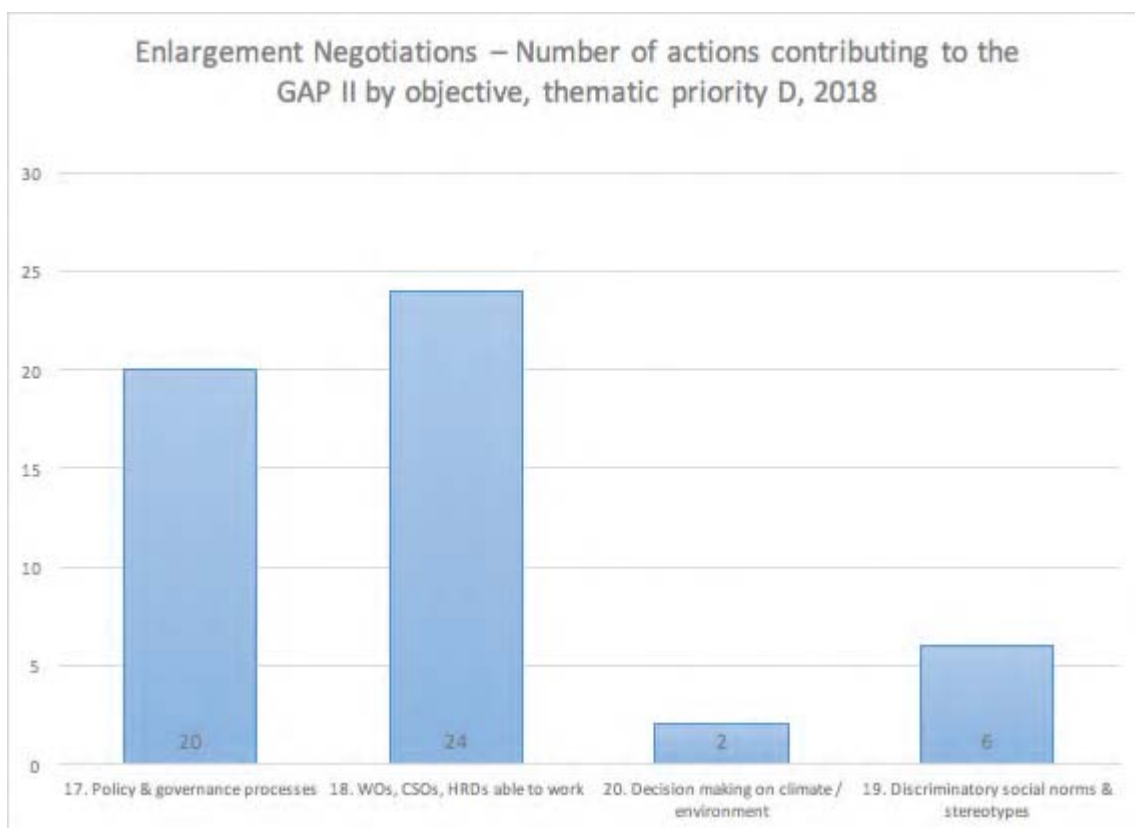
Ukraine, Sweden assisted women’s participation in peace and human rights initiatives through the NGO, *Kvinna till Kvinna*.

Three actions addressed objective 19, challenging and changing discriminatory norms and stereotypes that prevent gender equality. Two were implemented by Sweden in Belarus, including an action that focused on engaging men, while a third was undertaken by the EU Delegation to Moldova.

Two actions in the sub-region focused on objective 20, on ‘equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues’. France backed a conference at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA) University in Baku, while the EU Delegation to Georgia fostered networking for efficiency and development (N4ED).

### Enlargement Negotiations

**Annex 3 Figure 100: Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority D, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 101: Enlargement Negotiations– Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018**

Enlargement Negotiations - Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority



In the Enlargement Negotiations sub-region, EU actors focused on objective 18. Support was particularly provided for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders in Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia.

In Albania, the EU Delegation, Germany and Sweden bolstered civil society and human rights defenders, including in rural areas, while promoting the rights, inclusiveness, dignity and equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. Lessons learned included the need for building women's organisations expertise on EU accession processes and gender equality challenges. They also point to the importance of documenting results and investing in research on the role of women's organisations in transforming gender norms as a means of evoking substantial change.

Objective 17 was the second most targeted objective under thematic priority D in the sub-region. Slightly more EU Member States than EU Delegations implemented actions on 'equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels'. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sweden supported the 'Women in Elections' programme, alongside other capacity development actions for local communities and civil society organisations. The EU Delegation continued to engage in the 'Women's Dialogue Initiative', selected as a good practice in 2017. In Kosovo, Sweden mainstreamed civil society work in the framework of support for municipal administrations. The EU Delegation promoted youth's engagement in democracy and evidence-based policy-making, as well as young women's participation in political parties and decision-making processes. In Montenegro, the EU Delegation supported the establishment of the Women Political Network; the UK was the only EU actor to address objective 17 by developing the strategic communications capacities of Montenegrin state institutions. The EU Delegation to Serbia supported civil society organisations in the framework of UN Women's global HeforShe solidarity campaign. In Turkey, the EU Delegation fostered networks between women academics, politicians

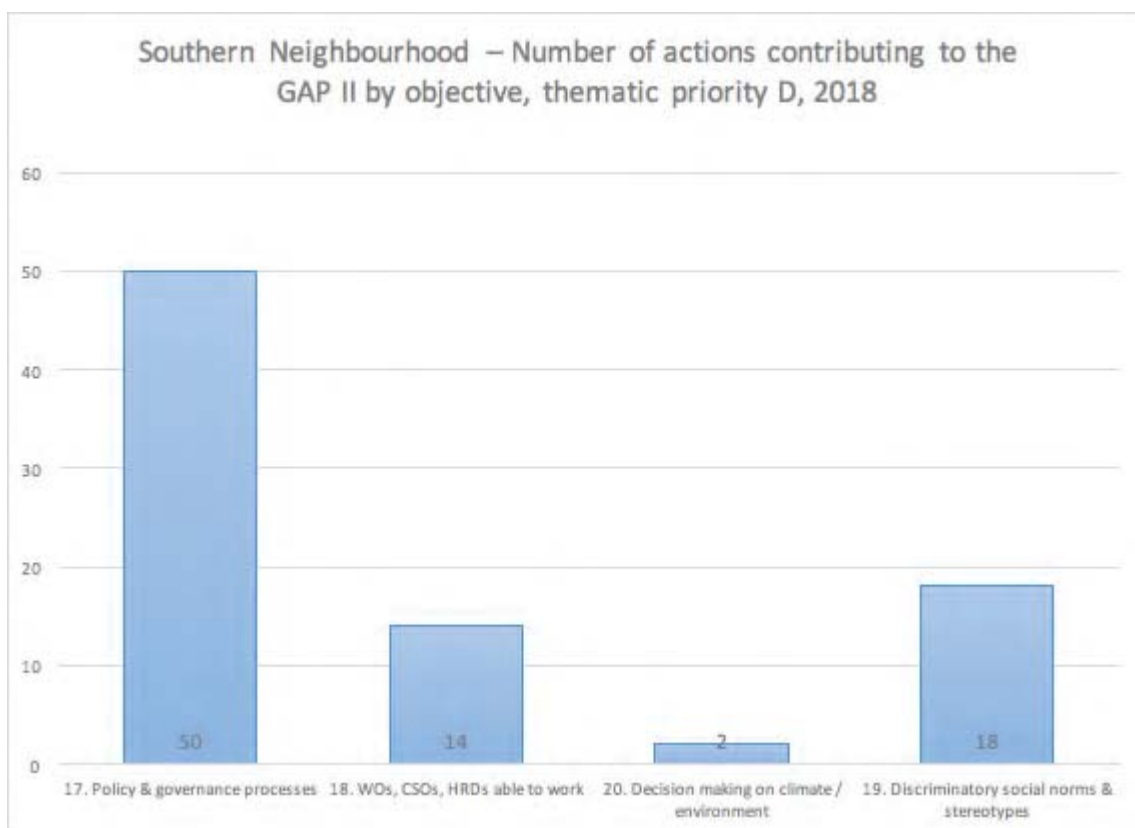
and students in the framework of a programme spearheaded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

Two EU Delegations addressed objective 19, ‘challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes’. In Kosovo, a human rights programme tackled discrimination against survivors of sexual violence to transform prejudices, including through theatre plays. In Turkey, two European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights’ programmes strengthened awareness and advocacy for LGBTI rights, while striving to foster LGBTI equality policies in municipalities.

Sweden was the only EU actor that targeted objective 20, on ‘equal rights enjoyed by women to participate in and influence decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues’. It did so through two actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina – one on air quality management and another to support a civil society environmental lobbying and advocacy network.

### Southern Neighbourhood

**Annex 3 Figure 102: Southern Neighbourhood – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority D, 2018**



**Annex 3 Figure 103: Southern Neighbourhood – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority D, 2018**

Southern Neighbourhood - Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring indicator, thematic priority



EU actors in the Southern Neighbourhood sub-region implemented 46 actions that addressed objective 17, reflecting a strong focus on women's participation in policy and governance processes. This is noteworthy as the wider Arab region ranks second-to-last in the world in terms of women's participation in politics. Tunisia has the highest proportion of women parliamentarians (31.34 %) due to its strict quota system.<sup>4</sup>

In Algeria, the EU Delegation promoted democratic governance and women's participation in local governance. In Egypt, Finland worked to strengthen women's role in local councils, while Italy supported women's leadership in agriculture and food security and the EU Delegation championed their citizenship rights. In Jordan, Denmark implemented a special programme on the Danish-Arab partnership, while the EU Delegation contributed to democratic development. In Libya, the EU Delegation actively engaged in democratic transition at the local and national levels, including by building capacities for local governance. In Morocco, the EU Delegation undertook 15 actions, largely in the context of its wider programme to support the national gender equality plan. These spanned spheres such as gender-responsive budgeting, health sector reform, rural development, democracy and civil society. In Palestine, Spain was the only EU actor which addressed objective 17 by promoting the rule of law and the implementation of the recommendations of the Palestine CEDAW report. In Syria, the EU Delegation focused on women's civil society organisations as drivers of stability and cohesion.

In Tunisia, the second largest number of initiatives addressed objective 17 (12 actions). These sought to increase women's participation in local governance processes and participatory

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (2018) *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2017-2018*. Beirut: ESCWA.

democracy, including in the framework of the *Moussawat* programme that strengthened the capacities of the Ministry of Women, Children, Family and Elderly People.

Objective 19 was the second most frequently selected under thematic priority D. Actions to overcome discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes centred on strengthening civil society in Algeria, Morocco and Syria. Initiatives were also undertaken in the framework of youth programmes by Belgium in Palestine, as well as initiatives to expand access to justice and improve media communications on gender in Algeria, Jordan and Morocco.

In 2018, 14 actions addressed objective 18. In Jordan, the EU Delegation supported women's organisations, civil society organisations as part of comprehensive strategies to strengthen civil society, such as the EU Delegation's efforts in Jordan. Others actions were part of human rights strategies, as implemented by EU Delegations to Libya and Israel, or youth interventions, as in the case of the EU Delegation to Algeria.

Only two actions focused on objective 20, on 'women's participation in and influence on decision-making processes on climate and environmental issues'. The EU Delegation to Israel addressed this objective in the context of a women and peace-building project, while the Delegation to Lebanon did so by supporting civil society efforts towards a 'plastic-free' Mediterranean Sea.

## **Russia**

In 2018, the EU Delegation to Russia reported progress on GAP II thematic priority B, encompassing four actions. Three of these actions addressed objective 7, on 'women and girls free from violence'. These aimed to structure civil society organisations' participation to advance the effective implementation of social policy to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children. They also supported the National Action Strategy for Women (2017-2022), alongside initiatives to combat violence against children and women.

One action targeted objective 10, 'quality preventive and rehabilitative physical and mental health care'. Through this initiative, the EU Delegation supported civil society and local authorities to develop holistic initiatives to prevent drug and alcohol abuse among girls and women in remote regions of Russia.

## **Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development**

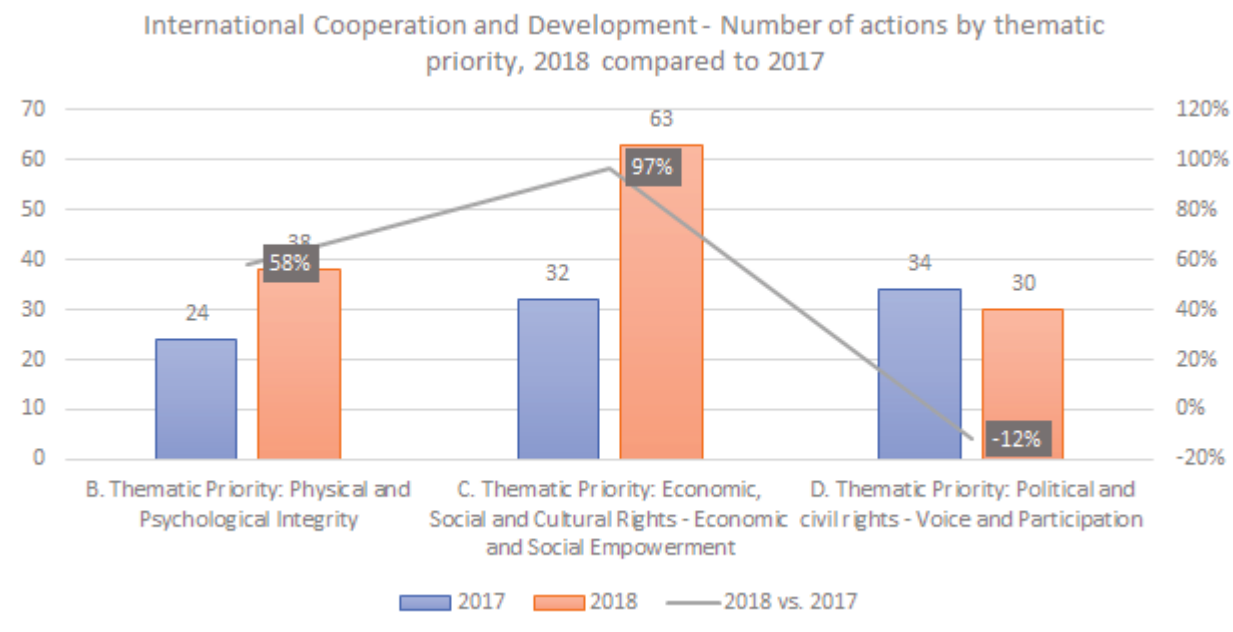
### **Overview of progress in 2018**

In 2018, the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development continued to contribute strongly to the implementation of the GAP II's thematic priorities. With 123 actions, the number of actions reported rose considerably from 90 in 2017. Almost half (48 %) of the initiatives in 2018 (63 actions) addressed thematic priority C, 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment'. While 29 % (38 actions) addressed priority B, 'Physical and Psychological Integrity', 23 % (30) targeted priority D, 'Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation'. Comparing trends in 2018 with 2017 indicates a significant increase in actions under thematic priorities C and B, and a slight decrease under priority D. Some actions address more than one objective related to these priorities. In addition, five initiatives were supported within Europe. These included activities to mobilise active support among Bulgarian



citizens for EU and Bulgarian development cooperation, as well as a campaign to galvanise global citizenship education for sustainable development.

**Annex 3 Figure 104: International Cooperation and Development – Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017**

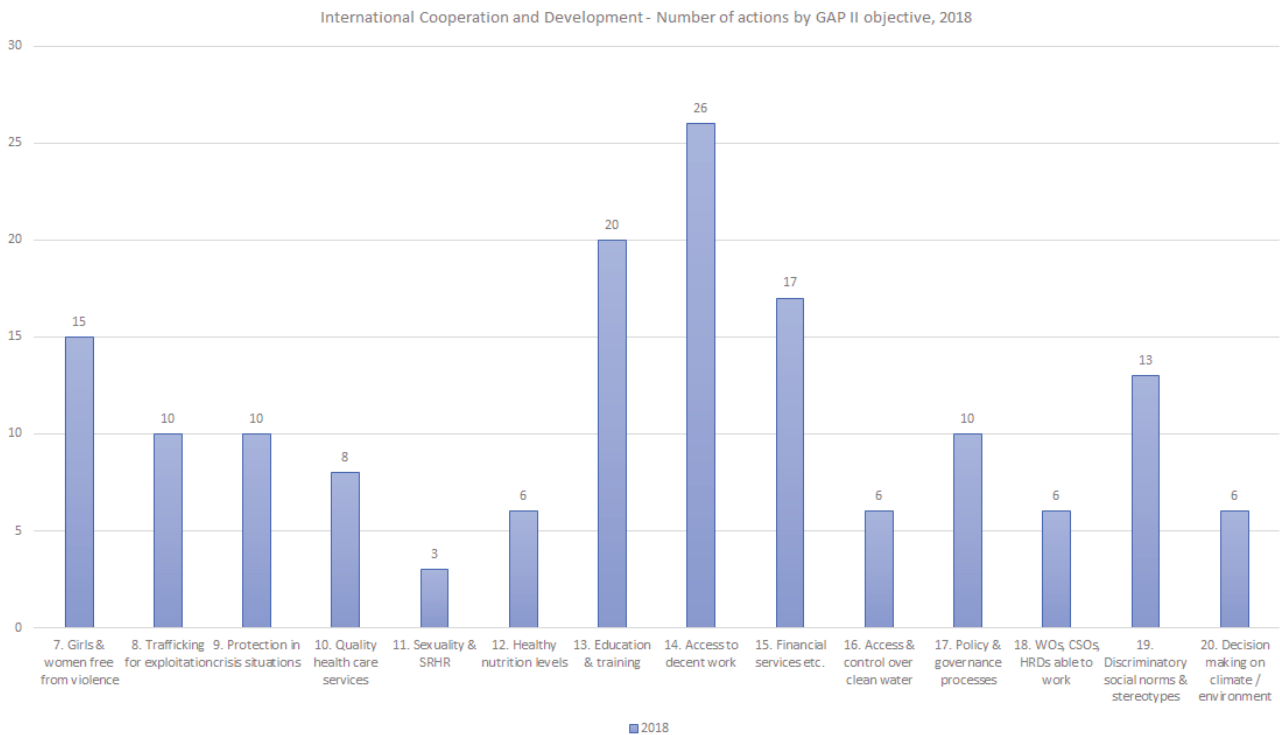


There was a clear focus on issues related to migration. For example, actions addressed the rights of migrant workers and support for economic opportunities in partner countries. Environmental and sustainable energy initiatives also featured prominently, as did actions to foster intercultural dialogue. The EU’s contribution to large-scale global programmes was a significant component of development cooperation support at the headquarters level.

Compared to 2017, there was an increase in selection of GAP II objectives in 2018, as well as changes in the order of selection. Overall, actions contributed to all 14 objectives, albeit only a few actions in some cases. Objective 14 was selected most often, on access to decent work, followed by objective 13, on quality education and training, and objective 15, on access to financial services and productive resources. While in 2017 the most selected objective was objective 19, ‘challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes’, it was the fifth most frequently addressed in 2018. Similarly, objective 18, on support for women’s organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders, dropped from fourth to tenth place between 2017 and 2018.

**Annex 3 Figure 105: International Cooperation and Development – Number of actions by GAP II objective, 2018**





Approximately half of all actions were linked to the GAP II’s indicators. In general, selected indicators overlapped with indicators used by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Justice, Rule of Law and Security Sector Reform programmes (EU RF). This reflects on-going issues surrounding the availability of disaggregated data. It may also indicate reluctance to retrospectively apply indicators to actions initiated in 2016 or before. Overall in 2018, the GAP II indicators most frequently selected by Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development were:

- indicator 14.4, ‘employment to population ratio (EPR) by gender and age group (15-64) (SDG 8.5)’, addressed by 12 % of actions;
- indicator 13.10, ‘ratio of female to male who have benefitted from vocational education and training/skills development and other active labour market programmes with EU support’ (EU RF), addressed by 8 % of actions;
- indicator 15.8, ‘number of women accessing EU supported community level, (micro-) financial services’ (EU RF), addressed by 5 % of actions; and
- indicator 19.1, ‘number of countries that have a positive change in the OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) rating’, addressed by 5 % of actions.

For the first time, reports on the GAP II’s implementation were asked to specify whether actions were gender-sensitive, gender-responsive, or gender-transformative – as reflected in the table below. Overall, 64 % of reported actions listed were listed as ‘promising practices’, while 26 % were marked as ‘not a promising practice’ and 10 % were left blank.

**Annex 3 Table 1: International Cooperation and Development – breakdown of reported actions, 2018**

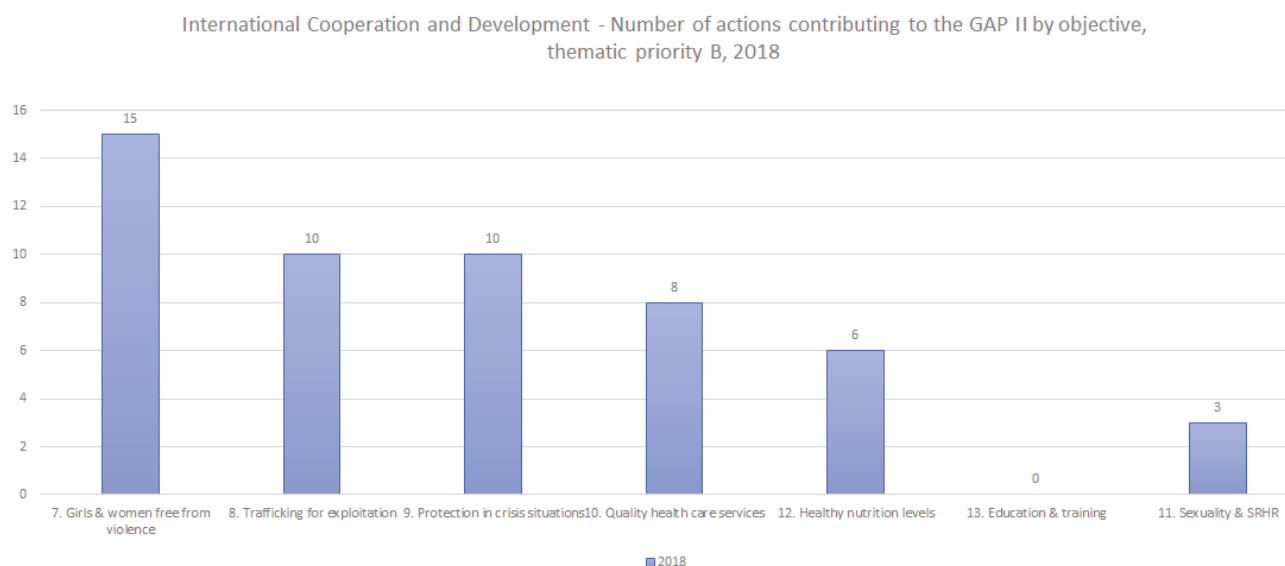
Partially gender-sensitive	8 %
Gender-sensitive	19 %

Partially gender-responsive	9 %
Gender-responsive	18 %
Partially gender-transformative	4 %
Gender-transformative	6 %
No designation	37 %

Report writers were also asked to identify three lessons learned from promising practices, yielding a number of valuable findings. One key lesson was the significance of inclusiveness in processes to ensure that women’s and girls’ voices are heard, alongside those of men, boys, traditional leaders and other stakeholders. Reports emphasised the need for women-only spaces, separate focal group sessions, and capacity strengthening for women’s organisations. They pointed to the importance of regularly updating context analyses using a gender perspective, mainstreaming gender throughout all activities, and ensuring gender-sensitive monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL). Reports also highlighted the contributions of specialised technical support, coupled with gender equality training for partners and service delivery actors – such as water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) stakeholders, the police and others. Training is vital to inform and change their attitudes towards women and girls. The need to address the historical context of an issue, rather than just the issue at hand, was another key lesson learned.

## Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

**Annex 3 Figure 106: International Cooperation and Development – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority B, 2018**



### Global

Several global programmes addressed more than one GAP II thematic priority, as indicated below where relevant. Global actions reported by the Commission services responsible for international cooperation and development addressed one or more objectives under thematic priority B.

Objective 7 on violence against women and girls was addressed through eight global or multi-country actions. Objective 9 was also addressed by eight actions, focused on protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations. While four actions targeted objective 8 on combating trafficking, two actions addressed objective 10 on equal access to physical and mental healthcare services. Objective 11, on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, and objective 12, on healthy nutrition levels, were the focus of one action each.

Actions in 2018 included contributions to a range of global programmes, such as the Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C): Accelerating Change, the Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Gender-biased Sex Selection: Improving the sex ratio at birth in select countries in Asia and the Caucasus, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM).

Compared to 2017, headquarters increased the number of actions that addressed objective 8 in 2018, through initiatives to curb trafficking. These programmes were directly managed by headquarters both globally and regionally. Examples include the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Human Beings and the Smuggling of Migrants, GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East, and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)-EU Migration Action. Support was provided for migrants in countries experiencing crisis situations, with a view to building an evidence-based approach for effective, cooperative state action. Two programmes were also implemented in West and Central Africa and in East and Southern Africa. Headquarters also reported on a programme funded by the EU-UN Spotlight initiative, entitled ‘Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers’ rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region’.

The EU supported a programme to increase accountability, while preventing enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in Mexico, Nepal, the Gambia and beyond. Support was also provided for the Civil Society United Against Torture initiative. As part of support for the *Naseej* programme in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), efforts were made to end violence against women and girls and connect their voices. A framework agreement was established with the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET). The latter programme also addressed thematic priority D.

## **Africa**

### *West and Central Africa*

In West and Central Africa, the greatest number of headquarters’ actions addressed objective 12 on healthy nutrition levels. This was followed by actions addressing objective 9 on protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations, objective 8 on trafficking and objective 10 on physical and mental healthcare services. There was a strong focus on improving food security and nutrition among displaced and vulnerable communities in Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Senegal. In Nigeria, priorities included investing in the safety and security of girls, including psychosocial support for children, while strengthening conflict management capacities. A number of multi-country actions aimed to build resilience and respect for human rights.

### *East and Southern Africa*

Headquarters’ actions under thematic priority B in East and Southern Africa focused on migration, through two multi-country projects which addressed objective 8 on trafficking and objective 9 on protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations. Actions in the sub-region also

centred on supporting the Spotlight initiative, targeting objective 11 on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health and objective 7 on violence against women and girls.

## **Americas**

In the Americas, development cooperation support from headquarters encompassed 14 multi-country actions across the three GAP II thematic priorities. The greatest number of actions addressed objective 15 on access to financial services and productive resources, followed by objectives 7 on violence against women and girls, 14 on decent work, 17 on policy and governance processes, and 16 on access to and control over water, energy, transport and infrastructure. Only one action each in the region addressed objectives 10 on quality healthcare services, 12 on nutrition, 8 on trafficking, 13 on education and training, 18 on support for women's organisation and civil society, 19 on challenging and changing gender stereotypes, and 20 on climate and environmental decision-making.

Several actions in the Americas addressed more than one objective – most notably objectives 7, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 15. These included support for the Cooperation Programme on Anti-Drugs Policies (COPOLAD II), Eurosocial+, EL PAcCTO, the Spotlight initiative and the Police Community of the Americas (Ameripol). Key outcomes and activities of support for Ameripol included:

- outcome 4, 'increased the capacity of AMERIPOL to strengthen police cooperation, investigations and joint operations'; and
- activity 4.2, 'one research course on violence against women' (December 2018).

## **Asia and the Pacific**

Two multi-country actions by headquarters focused on migration in Asia and the Pacific. One worked to protect children affected by migration in South-east, South and Central Asia – addressing objective 7 on violence against women and girls and 10 on quality healthcare services. The other centred on women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region. This covered all three thematic priorities and, in addition to targeting objectives 10 and 7, also addressed objectives 8 on trafficking, 14 on decent work and 17 on women's participation in policy and governance processes.

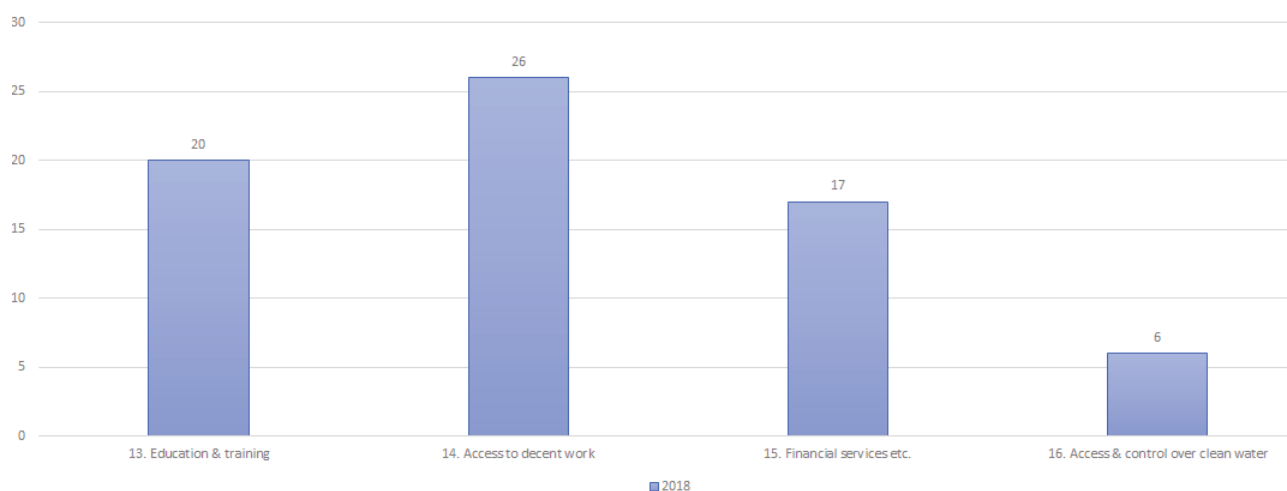
## **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations**

A regional development and protection programme for refugees and host communities in the Middle East – implemented in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan – addressed objectives 10 on quality healthcare services, 11 on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, 7 on violence against women and girls, and 9 on protection from sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations. The programme also addressed objectives under thematic priorities C and D.

## **Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment**

**Annex 3 Figure 107: International Cooperation and Development – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority C, 2018**

International Cooperation and Development - Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority C, 2018



## Global

Global actions in 2018 covered are all objectives under thematic priority C to some extent. These spanned a range of sectors, such as culture, labour migration, land degradation, the environment and sustainable energy. Education also featured prominently in joint work with UNICEF, UNESCO, and the Digital2Equal initiative. Capacity building was another major focus. In African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, for example, support was provided to strengthen research and innovation capacities. Capacity building was also supported for institutions in charge of minerals, as well as small-scale private sector enterprises working with low-value minerals – with actions linked to objective 14 on access to decent work.

Two other programmes addressed migration, including a global action to improve the recruitment framework for labour migration, and support for assessing the economic contribution of labour migration in developing nations which are destination countries for migrants. Two multi-country actions promoted intercultural dialogue coupled with investment in culture and creativity, broadly addressing objective 13 on education and training and objective 14 on access to decent work.

## Africa

### *East and Southern Africa*

Actions led by headquarters in East and Southern Africa covered objectives 13 on education and training, and 15 on access to financial services and productive resources. These addressed the need for the provision of quality, protective alternative education for displaced children in the Democratic of the Congo and Tanzania, as well as in Ethiopia and Somalia. A third action focused on investment in migrants' entrepreneurship, entitled the 'Platform for Remittances, Investments and Migrants' Entrepreneurship in Africa' (PRIME Africa).

### *West and Central Africa*

Most actions supported by the Commission services for international cooperation and development at headquarters level addressed thematic priority C in West and Central Africa. These addressed objectives 13 on education and training, 14 on access to decent work and 15 on access to financial services and productive resources.

In Mauritania, 10 actions focused on increasing employment opportunities and fostering inclusive development, including by targeting youth and women. These paid particular attention to artisanal or traditional fishing and protecting natural resources. A multi-country action in the sub-region sought to improve the durability of micro-enterprises. Nine actions aimed to improve education and teacher training, including initiatives to enhance the quality of learning environments.

## **Americas**

Development cooperation support from headquarters in the Americas consisted of six multi-country actions. As mentioned above, two of these addressed aspects of thematic priorities B, C and D – namely the Cooperation Programme on Anti-Drugs Policies (COPOLAD II) and Eurosocial+. These addressed objectives 7 on violence against women and girls, 8 on trafficking, 10 on quality healthcare services, 12 on healthy nutrition, 14 on access to decent work, and 15 on access to financial services and productive resources.

Other actions, including Euroclima+, addressed objectives 14 and 16, ‘equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport and infrastructure’. The Latin American Investment Facility targeted objectives 16 and 13, ‘equal access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training (VET) free from discrimination’.

## **Asia and the Pacific**

Support from headquarters focused on women migrant workers’ rights and decent work (objective 14), as noted above under thematic priority B in relation to the Safe and Fair initiative. Objective 13 on education and training was the focus of support for Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan, as well as for returnees and internally displaced persons in Afghanistan.

## **Gulf States**

One headquarters’ level action was reported in the region, targeting decent work (objective 14) by strengthening Iranian civil society organisations to empower Afghan refugee women through livelihoods and access to economic opportunities.

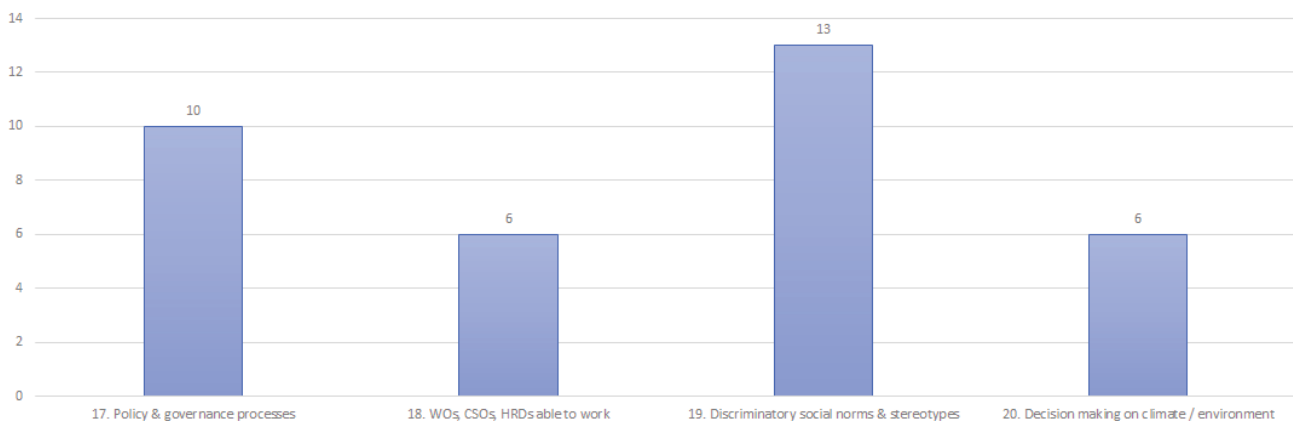
## **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations**

Objective 15 on access to financial services and productive resources was the focus of a regional development and protection programme for refugees and host communities in the Middle East. As noted above, the programme implemented in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan also addressed thematic priorities B and D.

## **Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation**

**Annex 3 Figure 108: International Cooperation and Development – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority D, 2018**

International Cooperation and Development - Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority D, 2018



## Global

Objectives under thematic priority D were addressed by one or more global actions. Support for parliamentary processes included the global EU ‘Parliaments in Partnership’ project to strengthen the capacity of parliaments, alongside the mapping of support for parliaments, political parties and anti-corruption initiatives.

Women journalists and Human Rights Defenders in Yemen, Iraq, Sudan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were the focus of another project, thus addressing objective 18. Objective 19, on challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes’, was targeted by initiatives to foster cultural and religious pluralism in Niger and Nigeria, as well as efforts to promote cross-border cultural connections for peace, social inclusion and development in Niger and Burkina Faso. Other programmes worked to improve monitoring and the effective implementation of core international conventions in Generalised Scheme of Preferences’ (GSP+) countries and Kyrgyzstan.

One initiative tackled objective 20 on women’s participation in decision-making on climate and environmental issues. This special programme focused on institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

Support for civil society organisations as actors of governance and development was the crux of a large multi-annual action, which included gender equality as a key focus. The action provided support for civil society organisations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Neighbourhood countries (see the box below).

### Annex 3 Box 1: International Cooperation and Development – contribution to civil society development in partner countries

Gender equality will be one of the main focuses of the action to support the critical role of civil society organisations in reinforcing women’s participation as actors of change. It will contribute to the EU’s commitment of ensuring that 85 % of projects include a gender component or approach. Notable specific objectives and outputs of the action include:  
 Specific objective 2: Women’s participation in decision-making increased.



A number of framework agreements were reported under thematic priority D, such as with the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), mentioned above. Other agreements were reached with Women Engaged for a Common Future (WECF) and with Cooperation Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE).

## **Africa**

### *East and Southern Africa*

In 2018, no actions were implemented by headquarters under thematic priority D in East and Southern Africa.

### *West and Central Africa*

Overall, fewer actions supported by headquarters addressed thematic priority D in this sub-region. Three multi-country actions promoted women's empowerment in Morocco and Benin, as well as women's and girls' voice and participation, and institutional and community resilience.

## **Americas**

In the Americas, four actions supported by headquarters addressed thematic priority D. Three of these are outlined above, as they also targeted priorities B and C. One initiative addressed objective 17 on women's participation in policy and governance processes – a framework partnership agreement and grant between the European Commission and Articulación Feminista Marcosur (AFM).

## **Asia and the Pacific**

One action was reported in the region, 'Safe and Fair: Realizing women migrant workers' rights and opportunities in the ASEAN region', as mentioned above under thematic priorities B and C.

## **Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations**

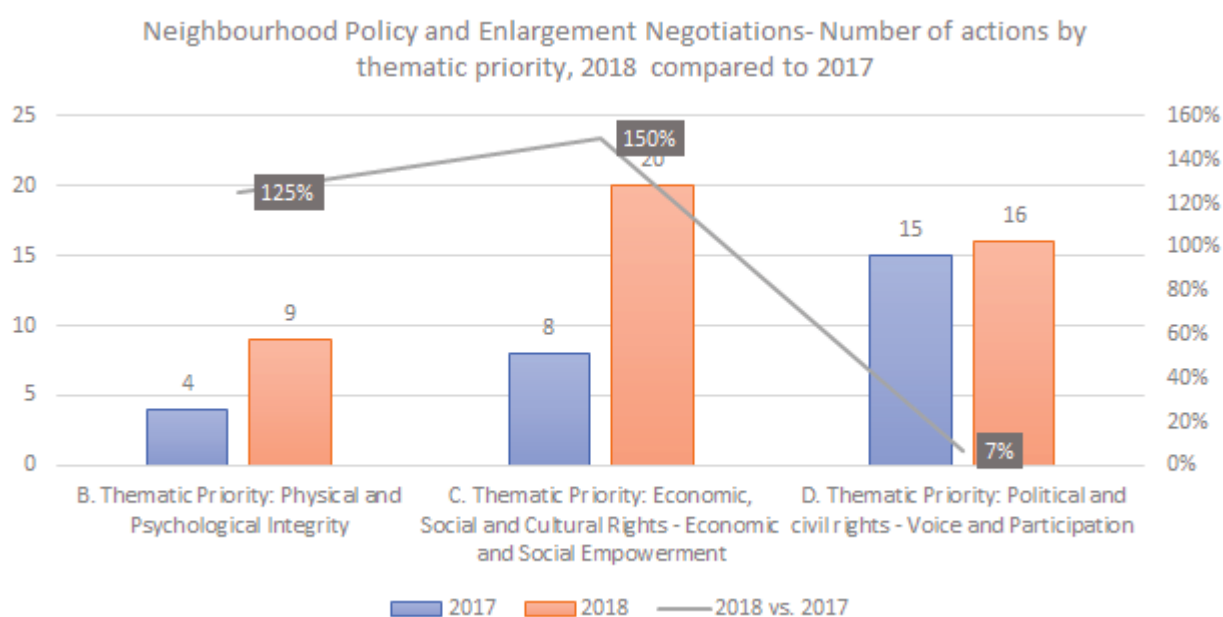
The aforementioned regional development and protection programme for refugees and host communities in the Middle East targeted objectives under thematic priority D, as well as priorities B and C. In Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan, the programme addressed objective 18 on support for women's organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders, as well as objective 19 on challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes.

## Commission services responsible for neighbourhood policy and enlargement negotiations

### Overview of progress in 2018

In 2018, units responsible for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations reported 47 actions that contributed to the GAP II's thematic priorities. These included units responsible for regional programmes in Southern Neighbourhood (6 actions), for regional cooperation and programmes in the Western Balkans (20), for Neighbourhood Cross-Border Cooperation, Georgia and Moldova, and for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Eastern Neighbourhood countries (21).

**Annex 3 Figure 109: Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions by thematic priority, 2018 compared to 2017**

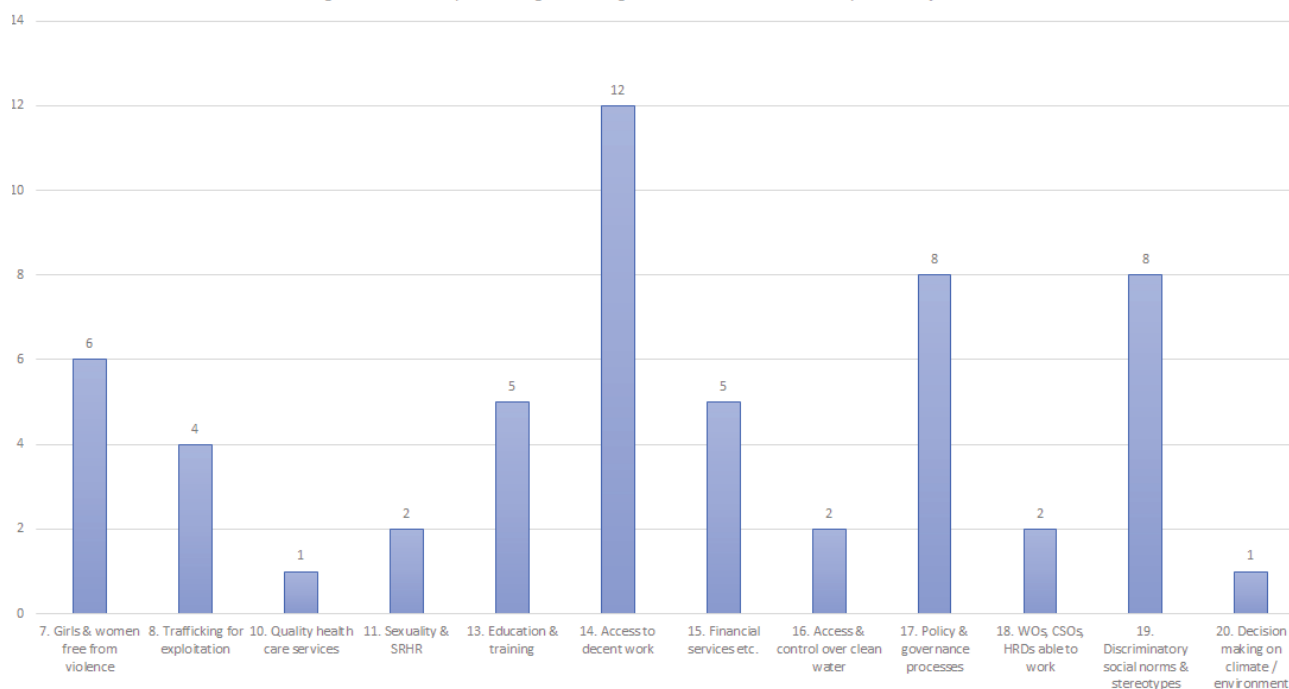


At headquarters, the greatest proportion of actions (44 %) addressed thematic priority C, ‘Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment’, followed by priorities D (36 %), ‘Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation’, and B (20 %), ‘Physical and Psychological Integrity’. This indicates a change in trends since 2017, when thematic priority D was the most frequently targeted.

Overall, reported actions were aligned with one or more of 12 of the GAP II's 14 thematic priority objectives. The most frequently selected was objective 14, ‘access to decent work’. This was followed by objective 19, ‘challenged and changed discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes’, and objective 17, ‘equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels’. Objective 7 was also frequently addressed through actions to combat violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres. No reported actions addressed objectives 9 or 12.

**Annex 3 Figure 110: Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, 2018**

Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations- Number of actions by GAP II objective, 2018



Reports revealed limited alignment with GAP II indicators, with the exception of the following three:

- indicator 7.3, percentage of referred cases of gender and sexual based violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced;
- indicator 14.4, employment to population ratio (EPR) by gender and age group (15-64); and
- indicator 17.7, number of countries carrying out gender-responsive budgeting at local and national level with EU support.

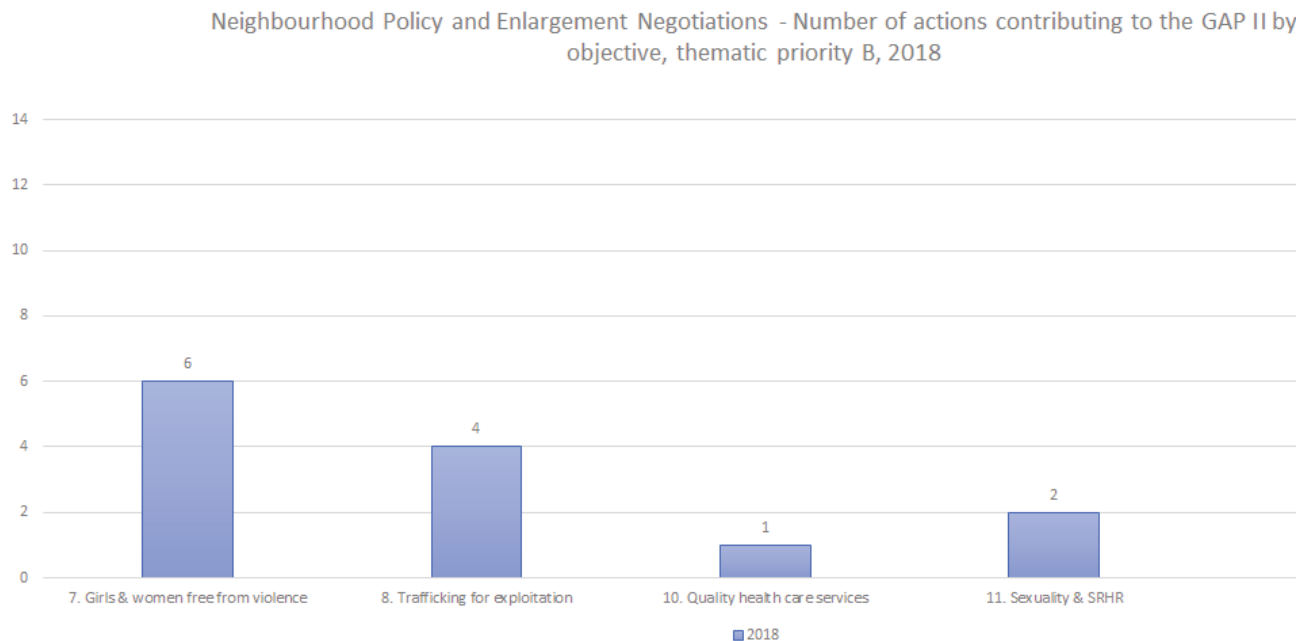
## Thematic priority B. Physical and Psychological Integrity

Regional support for protection-sensitive migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey contributed to objectives 7 and 8, on combating violence against women and girls and trafficking for all forms of exploitation. Efforts to end gender-based violence included an action in the Western Balkans and Turkey, alongside support for a regional campaign in Southern Neighbourhood countries. Actions also included the consolidation and extension of support for a regional civil society organisation network working on women’s rights and gender equality. This is part of a multi-country civil society facility and media programme, entitled ‘Implementing Norms, Changing Minds’. Objective 8 was the focus of the ‘Balkans Act (Against Crime of Trafficking) Now (BAN – phase III)’, funded by the EU. The initiative brings civil society organisations and justice sectors actors together in order to protect the rights of women trafficking survivors.

An EU/Council of Europe Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey worked to improve women’s access to healthcare services. Its efforts were aligned with objective 10, ‘equal access to quality preventive, curative and rehabilitative physical and mental health care services for girls and women’, and objective 11, ‘promoted, protected and fulfilled right of every individual to have full control over, and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality and

sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence’. Objective 11 was also addressed by the Regional Roma Survey, which generated, analysed and disseminated evidence on the incomes, living conditions and human development outcomes of marginalised Roma communities in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

**Annex 3 Figure 103: Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority B, 2018**



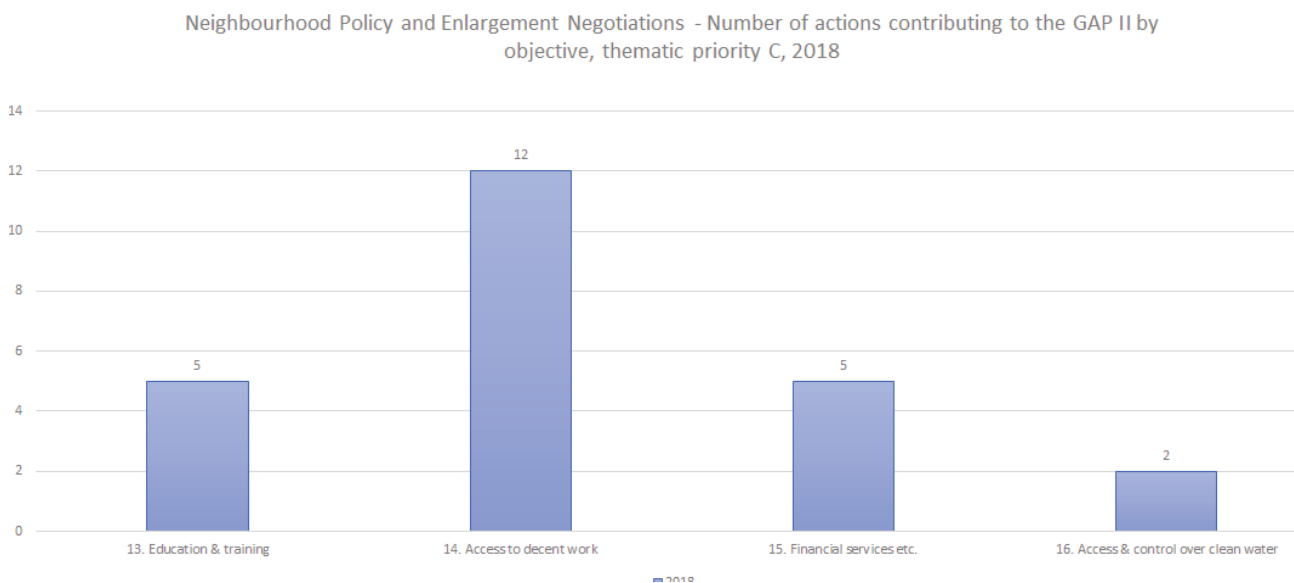
### **Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment**

All four objectives under thematic priority C were addressed in 2018, most notably through actions in Neighbourhood Cross-Border Cooperation, Georgia and Moldova, as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Eastern Neighbourhood countries. Actions were also implemented in the Western Balkans.

Objective 14 was addressed by half of all actions under priority C with a clear focus on improving the skills and employability of young people, particularly in Armenia, Belarus and in conflict-affected areas of Georgia and Ukraine. These were paired with general actions to increase access to decent work. Support was provided for civil society organisations working to combat discrimination and advance women’s labour rights. An ‘EU Regional Action for Roma Education’ to increase educational opportunities for Roma students in the Western Balkans and Turkey addressed objectives 13, ‘equal access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training (VET) free from discrimination’, and 14 on access to decent work. The initiatives also promoted good governance and the empowerment of Roma people at the local level, thereby addressing objective 17 on ‘equal participation in policy and governance processes’. Another action that focused on education, training and employment opportunities involved assistance to facilitate the reintegration of returnees in the Western Balkans.

Objective 15, on ‘equal access to finances services and productive resources’, was addressed by EU- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) investment climate reviews, action plans and efforts to strengthen fiscal governance in Eastern Neighbourhood countries. Support was also provided for women in business. A regional housing programme addressed both objectives 15 and 16, on ‘equal access and control over clean water, energy, transport infrastructure, and equitable engagement in their management, enjoyed by girls and women’. Other actions aligned with objective 16 included the Eastern Neighbourhood ‘Covenant of Mayors East’ – a climate and energy initiative to support cities and municipalities.

**Annex 3 Figure 111: Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by highest scoring objective, thematic priority C, 2018**



### **Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation**

Of the 17 actions reported under thematic priority D, eight were aligned with objective 17, ‘equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels’. Notable initiatives encompassed cooperation between the European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE) and EU candidate and potential candidate countries, with a view to improving the monitoring of progress on gender equality. Actions in the Western Balkans involved supporting young professionals, a regional justice survey, and technical assistance for civil society organisations.

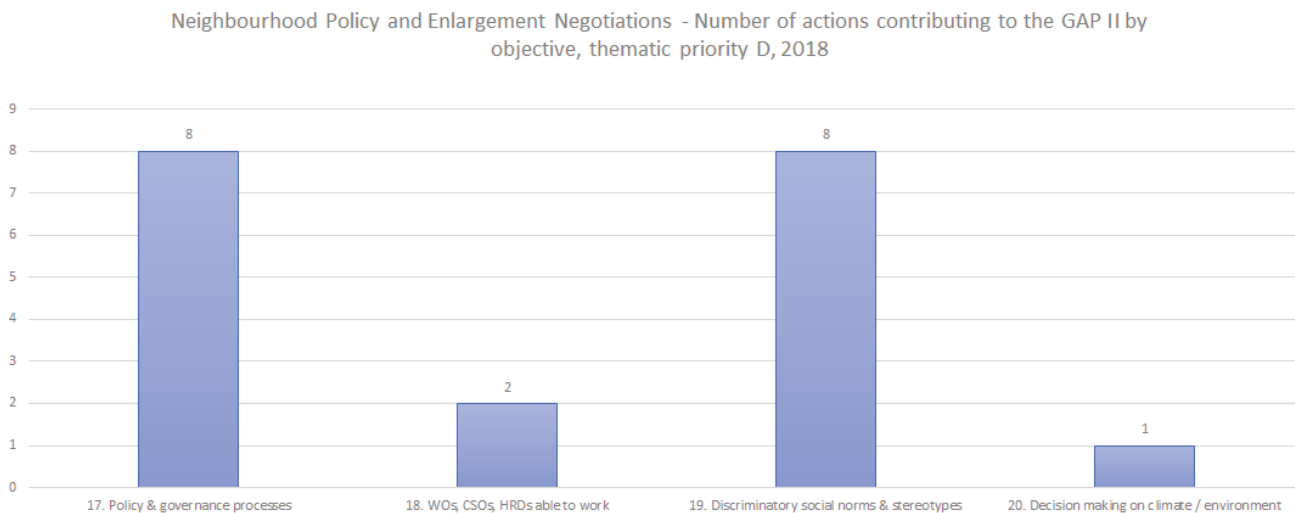
As noted above, actions to promote Roma integration and empowerment at the local level in the Western Balkans and Turkey addressed objective 17’s aim of equal involvement in policy and governance processes, while upholding political and civil rights and changing discriminatory social norms. Thus, the actions also addressed objective 18, on women’s organisations, civil society organisations and Human Rights Defenders, and objective 19, on challenging and changing discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes’. Civil society organisations were also the focus of support to Eastern Neighbourhood countries, through a civil society facility.

Empowering youth to speak up was the focus of support in the Middle East, yielding notable film and media work. For example, support was provided to enhance gender-responsive film sectors in Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. One action worked to widen the audience for films that tackle social and gender issues in the Mediterranean region. Another sought to promote the role and image of women in the Southern Mediterranean audio-visual sector. The

media sector was also emphasised in Southern Neighbourhood countries, bolstering its role in promoting the empowerment of young women and men.

Objective 20, on women’s engagement in climate and environmental issues, was addressed through EU support for a regional civil society network on women’s rights and gender equality. As noted above, this is part of the multi-country civil society facility and media programme, ‘Implementing Norms, Changing Minds’.

**Annex 3 Figure 112: Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations – Number of actions contributing to the GAP II by objective, thematic priority D, 2018**



Some examples of actions promoting and supporting gender equality reported were:

1. Through the **IcSP action ‘Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice’**, a group of survivors of sexual violence related to the previous armed conflict in Nepal were trained to raise awareness of the needs of survivors and advocate against the prejudices they face.
2. EUPOL COPPS (EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support) supported the development of the Gender Strategy of Palestine, aiming to ensure that the police service is responsive and committed to gender issues.
3. **Kosovo (alongside Colombia and the Philippines)** is one the of **three pilot countries under the action, gender-sensitive transitional justice, in the area of conflict-prevention and peace-building** under IcSP, Article 4. The action aims to increase the effectiveness of transitional justice processes to contribute to a more just and stable society by increasing the extent to which these processes prioritise survivors and their respective needs, as well as to take into account the different needs of conflict-affected populations.
4. Supported by the third phase of the IcSP-funded **mediation facility European Resources for Mediation Support (ERMES)**, 30 prominent female representatives of the political opposition as well as from local councils and civil society from outside and inside Syria elaborated a list of recommendations on empowering Syrian women in the political, economic and social sphere in 2018.

While most of **IcSP actions** respond to **thematic priority D**, political and civil rights - voice and participation - and many to **thematic priority B** - ensuring physical and psychological integrity to women and girls, the majority of **Partnership Instrument actions** respond to **thematic priority C**,

economic, social and cultural rights - economic and social empowerment and some also to thematic priorities B and D.

5. Via the Partnership Instrument (PI), the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments strengthened key EU partnerships with like-minded countries in G7, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia, to influence the agenda-setting in multilateral fora so as to keep gender equality as a priority global issue. Specifically, the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments supports the implementation of our leaders' commitments on women's economic empowerment and fosters an enabling environment in the public and private sector to advance women's empowerment at work and female entrepreneurship.

6. In the context of the Partnership Instrument's annual action programme for 2018, two actions were implemented and one was adopted which directly address GAP II thematic priorities: economic, social and cultural rights, and voice and participation.

7. In 2018, 2.98% of newly contracted actions under the Partnership Instrument reported a G-Marker 2 and 14.71% reported a G-Marker 1. This constitutes an increase as compared to 2017, when 5.8% of newly contracted actions reported G-Marker 1.

8. Partnership Instrument actions marked with G-Marker 0 relate to global challenges, Europe 2020, trade and market access, and public diplomacy. The Partnership Instrument Regulation does not specifically refer to gender equality and women's empowerment or to democracy and human rights as cross-cutting issues to be mainstreamed. In this sense, there is strictly no firm requirement in the legal basis for these themes to be catered for in the design and implementation of PI funded actions. Nonetheless, it is expected that the integration of gender considerations acted upon during 2018 in 11 PI actions for funding under the Partnership Instrument annual action programme 2019 will further increase the percentage of contracted actions with a G-Marker 1 of during the next reporting exercise.

9. In 2018, several factors led to an increase in PI actions of G-markers 1:

10. 1) Political framework: the position of the EU and its Member States at the forefront of protection, fulfilment and enjoyment of human rights by women and girls, strongly promoting them in all external relations, beyond development cooperation; the increasing requirements on all EU external action instruments to effectively take action and report on gender, notably guided by the EU Global Strategy and the GAP II;

11. 2) The findings of the external evaluation of the Partnership Instrument highlighted the limited structural regard for gender mainstreaming within funded actions and the absence of a reference to democracy and human rights in action design or delivery;

12. 3) The active engagement of a Gender Focal Person and the implementation of the PI Gender Facility increased awareness of the importance of gender issues/dimensions in order to enhance effectiveness, sustainability and impact of actions in the various thematic areas covered by the instrument (such as energy security, climate change and environmental protection, migration, as well as specific aspects of the EU's economic diplomacy);

13. 4) Increased attention to women's economic empowerment and responsible business conduct and decent work increased the demand for targeted interventions which were catered for in the framework of sustainable and inclusive growth and EU values (one of the instrument's objectives: implementation of the international dimension of Europe 2020 and promotion of the Union's internal policies).

Some examples of actions promoting and supporting gender equality reported were:



A new **PI action on the implementation of the Russian Federation National Action Strategy for Women (2017–2022)** was contracted in 2018. The action contributes to the efforts of the Russian authorities in implementing the Strategy for Women, in Moscow and selected regions. It will enhance knowledge and competencies about the standards related to prevention of violence against women and protection of victims, and will foster women's public and political participation.

Three actions ('**We Empower – G7 countries**', '**Win-Win**', '**We Empower – Asia**') are ongoing, in creating synergy, increasing commitment of public and private sector to gender equality and women's empowerment, to strengthening the capacity of private companies and employers' organisations to implement these commitments and to advance the agenda of gender equality in the world of work at all levels.

Gender also featured as an important consideration in **Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) operations** and continued to be an integral part of planning and implementation of **EU election observation missions (EOM)**.

In 2018, three out of ten **civilian CSDP Missions** were headed by a woman: the EU capacity building mission (EUCAP) in Somalia, the EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) in Kosovo and EUCAP Sahel Niger up to March 2018. Two out of eight **EU Special Representatives** are women (EUSR for Kosovo, EUSR for the Middle East Peace Process).

The mandates and operational plans of CSDP Missions cover activities to mainstream gender activities in their daily work, both internally in the Mission and in the context of their activities conducted with external and national counterparts.

**The European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR) implementation, including Election Observation Missions**, follows a gender-responsive right-based approach.

In 2018, 100% of contracted EOM actions reported a G-Marker 1.

The European Commission also consistently ensures a gender balance in the selection of 1) core team experts, 2) observers and 3) participants in training. In 2018, 49% of core team member were women (42.9% in 2017); 50% of all observers were women (48.8% in 2017); and of the total number of 55 trainees from 28 Member States, 64% were women (54% in 2017 and 52.7% in 2016).

## **Commission services responsible for foreign policy instruments**

### **Thematic priority B - ensuring physical and psychological integrity to women and girls**

#### **Asia and the Middle East**

Through the **IcSP action 'Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice'**, a group of survivors of sexual violence related to the previous armed conflict in **Nepal** were trained to raise awareness of the needs of survivors and advocate against the prejudices they face. By writing and recording their stories, and publishing them on an online platform launched in 2018, survivors collectively broke their silence to create an enabling environment for the Truth, Justice, Dignity and Reparations. IcSP funding for computer skills training, storytelling and production workshops enabled this action.

A new action, **preventing violent extremism**: a gender-sensitive approach, which aims to prevent the rise of violent extremism in **Jordan and Pakistan** by strengthening capacities of local actors to address its gender dynamics, was included under the annual action programme 2017 for conflict prevention, peace-building and conflict prevention (Article 4) and contracted in 2018.

### **Neighbourhood South and East**

The IcSP continued to support the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) survey on the well-being and safety of women, covering violence against women and gender-based violence, in South East and Eastern Europe. The action, which aims to improve policy-making and programming by relevant actors, such as the security sector, the executive and legislative, as well as international stakeholders, to prevent and combat violence against women in the OSCE region. It also aims to provide the evidence for the benefit of governments and civil society as well as to inform the design and implementation of possible future interventions. The evidence-base has been gathered using the methodology of the survey undertaken by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on violence against women in European Union Member States. Through this major study, the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments contributes directly to filling the gap in existing data on women's security and safety in OSCE participating states not covered under the EU FRA survey, thereby contributing to EU commitments on combating gender-based violence.

Supported by the IcSP action 'Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice', a **Transitional Justice Resource Centre** - the first of its kind in **Kosovo and the region** - was established and launched at the University of Pristina in 2018. Students, who were born during or after the war, are thereby provided with a gender perspective on war and peace-building, with a specific focus on conflict-related sexual violence. The Centre will provide education programmes, academic resources, scientific research, and awareness raising activities on transitional justice.

**Kosovo (alongside Colombia and the Philippines)** is one of the **three pilot countries** under the action, gender-sensitive transitional justice, in the area of conflict-prevention and peace-building under IcSP, Article 4. The action aims to increase the effectiveness of transitional justice processes to contribute to a more just and stable society by increasing the extent to which these processes prioritise survivors and their respective needs, as well as to take into account the different needs of conflict-affected populations.

Another component of this important action consisted in supporting the establishment of the government Commission to Recognize and Verify Survivors of Sexual Violence during the Kosovo War after the Kosovo Assembly in March 2014 approved a law giving legal recognition to victims of sexual violence during Kosovo's armed conflict. As survivors are entitled to receive a monthly payment as compensation for their suffering, the Commission has the mandate to provide reparations to survivors, after it has verified their status. Nearly two decades after the armed conflict in Kosovo, the survivors of conflict-related sexual violence are finally able to apply for compensation for the physical, psychological, economic, and social traumas they endured. Since it has started receiving applications from survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in 2018, the Commission for the Verification and Recognition of Sexual Violence Victim Status in Kosovo has already received more than 1000 applications of which over 200 survivors have already received payments in 2018.

**EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah**: The EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support continued its support, under Palestinian ownership, of an effective and sustainable policing

and wider criminal justice system. The mission continued to assist the Family Protection and Juvenile Department in the Palestinian Civilian Police, the Attorney General Office Family Protection Unit and the specialised gender judges with capacity building in the area of investigating, prosecuting and judging sexual and gender-based violent crimes. It also supported the further development of the One Stop Centre in Ramallah with specialised equipment. The Centre serves both women and children victims of violence.

The mission also continued to actively support women's empowerment in both the police and justice system through targeted activities and advocacy at the highest management level for more women to be appointed in leadership and operational roles.

To contribute to ensuring the security needs of the whole of society and counter discrimination, in co-operation with UN Women, the mission continues to support the implementation of the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) gender strategy. In particular, the mission supported the roll-out of an Equal Opportunities campaign within the PCP.

## **Russia**

A new Partnership Instrument action on the implementation of the **Russian Federation National Action Strategy for Women** was contracted in 2018. According to domesticviolence.ru, more than 16 million women per year are estimated to experience domestic violence in Russia, but only 10% of women go to the police. Russian state statistics, released in July 2018, reveal that the number of cases of domestic violence reported to the police in 2017 almost halved since physical abuse became punishable by a fine rather than time in prison.

The action 'Co-operation on the implementation of the Russian Federation National Action Strategy for Women (2017–2022)', signed at the end of 2018, contributes to the efforts of the Russian authorities in implementing the National Action Strategy for Women, in Moscow and selected regions. It will enhance knowledge and competencies about the standards related to prevention of violence against women and protection of victims, and will foster women's public and political participation.

The action, implemented by the Council of Europe, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Russian Federation, High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation, jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aims at providing technical support to relevant stakeholders for the implementation of the Russian Federation National Action Strategy for Women for 2017-2022, and aims:

- to strengthen knowledge and expertise in local legislative, judicial and administrative structures in Russia, and
- raise awareness and exchange best practices.

## **Thematic priority C. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Economic and Social Empowerment**

Via the Partnership Instrument (PI), the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments strengthened key EU partnerships with like-minded countries in G7, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia, to influence the agenda-setting in multilateral fora so as to keep gender equality as a priority global issue. Specifically, the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments supports the implementation of our leaders' commitments on women's economic empowerment and fosters an enabling environment in the public and private sector to advance women's empowerment at work and female entrepreneurship.

Concrete synergies and added-value were demonstrated in the EU support provided in the framework of the **G7 in Canada** in 2018, in the preliminary work for the next G7 in France, and in the framework of the G20. PI actions in the field of women's economic empowerment contribute to improving economic, societal and social resilience by recognising women as key drivers of innovation, growth and jobs, and will promote a level playing field and fair competition for business and international trade. These actions, implemented in close partnership with the United Nations (UN), advances progress towards gender equality by promoting business links, joint ventures and innovation between women from the EU and 16 non-EU countries in Asia, in the G7, and in the Latin American and Caribbean region. At a policy level, actions support inter-regional dialogue and exchange of good practices to foster closer partnerships on gender equality.

Three actions ('We Empower – G7 countries', 'Win-Win', 'We Empower – Asia') are ongoing, creating synergy in increasing commitment of public and private sector to gender equality and women's empowerment, strengthening the capacity of private companies and employers' organisations to implement these commitments and advancing the agenda of gender equality in the world of work at all levels.

The action '**We Empower – G7 countries**' facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogue and exchanges between companies, governments and public institutions in Canada, Japan, the United States of America, Italy, France, United Kingdom and Germany.

The action '**Win-Win**' promotes the economic empowerment of women in the corporate sector in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, in particular in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Costa Rica and Jamaica.

The action '**We Empower – Asia**' promotes the economic participation and empowerment of women in seven Asian countries – namely China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam – focusing on the role that the private sector can play in partnership with the public sector and networks of women entrepreneurs, women-owned businesses and associations.

Activities under these three actions include: assisting companies in developing and implementing women's empowerment corporate policy and practice; training companies how to measure, monitor and report progress in women's empowerment implementation and facilitate dialogues to develop tools and incentives for improving the situation of women at work and to stimulate exchanges of good practices, lessons learned among public and private sector.

## **Thematic priority D. Political and Civil Rights – Voice and Participation**

### **Africa**

**In Kenya**, the IcSP-funded action '**Ms President**' produces a reality TV show to raise awareness among a mass audience of Kenyans on the need for effective peace-building and the leadership role that women can - and should - play in achieving it. In 2018, the call for participation in the 26-episode reality television series was released and women with exemplary community projects and passionate about bringing social change applied to participate in the show. Out of the almost 1000 application received from all corners of the country, 71 extraordinary women leaders were chosen to participate in the contest, captivating the national audience by undertaking a series of tasks and challenges designed to display their leadership capacity and ability.

Civilian CSDP mission **EUCAP Sahel Mali** supported the establishment of 26 gender focal points within the Malian Police, thus laying the grounds for the creation of a gender unit within each Internal Security Forces and a more systematic integration of the gender dimension. The Mission conducted activities such as workshops and plays in Mopti in collaboration with United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. Within the mission itself, following the adoption of the Operational Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming, a gender action plan was agreed in consultation with all Mission units aimed at strengthening gender mainstreaming.

**EU election observation missions:** The regions benefiting from EU electoral observation missions (EOM) are Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, making it a truly global instrument.

The service for Foreign Policy Instruments deployed a total of 33 EOMs in 2018: 9 fully-fledged missions in Sierra Leone, El Salvador, Paraguay, Tunisia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Mali and Madagascar, 10 exploratory missions to assess the usefulness, feasibility and advisability of an EU EOM, 11 election expert missions (EEMs) to Nigeria, Mozambique, Afghanistan, Iraq, Timor-Leste, Colombia (two deployments for legislative and presidential elections, respectively), Bangladesh, Guinea and Sao-Tomé and Príncipe and 4 election follow-up missions (EFM) in Jordan, Uganda, Burkina Faso and Haiti.

The number of electoral missions is important *per se* as election observations contribute to strengthening democratic institutions, build public confidence in electoral processes and help deter fraud, intimidation and violence. Election observation also serves to reinforce other key European Union foreign policy objectives most notably to enhance security and development in partner countries and to support them in improving governance and capacity-building. More specifically, EU assistance focuses on ‘promoting the equal participation of women and men in social, economic and political life, and supporting gender equality, the participation of women in decision-making processes and political representation of women, in particular in processes of political transition, democratisation and state-building’<sup>5</sup>.

### **Neighbourhood South and East**

Supported by the third phase of the IcSP-funded mediation facility European Resources for Mediation Support (**ERMES**), 30 prominent female representatives of the political opposition as well as from local councils and civil society from inside and outside **Syria** elaborated in 2018 a list of recommendations on empowering Syrian women in the political, economic and social sphere. The list lays out a set of concrete and measurable steps to enhance women's political empowerment and participation in the Syrian peace process, including in the current context and post-conflict phase, as well as in the opposition bodies and at local level. The recommendations were shared with representatives of EU Member States and implementing partners, the leadership of the political opposition’ institutions including the Syrian Negotiation Commission (SNC), which is the opposition negotiation party in the Intra-Syrian talks in Geneva under the UN auspices. SNC President and Chief Negotiator in Geneva Nasr Hariri expressed full support for the recommendations and the commitment of the SNC to implement them and to increase women’s participation.

Civilian **CSDP missions** took care to mainstream gender activities in their work during 2018, in particular through measures to combat violence and discrimination against women and girls.

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<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) No 235/2014 of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014R0235>



**EUPOL COPPS** supported the Palestinian Civil Police media and gender unit representatives in its outreach activities under a wider communication campaign to run in 2019. The mission organised the workshop for District Coordinators on Gender to promote the Palestinian Civil Police strategy.

**EUBAM RAFAH** supported enhancing the awareness of General Administration for Border and Crossings staff on Human Rights and Gender Issues through trainings and projects. A project conducted by the mission on human rights, gender balance and anti-corruption principles was finalised in 2018. The mission helped finalise the drafting of the action plan as well as the instructions on the integration of gender and human rights principles in the programmes and policies of the General Administration for Border and Crossings.

**EUAM Ukraine** continued its support on human rights and gender mainstreaming by supporting the Human Rights directorates in the Ministry of Interior and Police of Ukraine as well as a gender focal point in the Ministry of Interior. The mission continued supporting the Police by delivering training to senior leadership including practical and theoretical exercises on human rights and gender mainstreaming.

**EULEX Kosovo** contributed to the launch of the Association of Women in the Kosovo Correctional Service. This new association aims at advancing the position of women within the Service, raising awareness and promoting gender equality and offering professional development opportunities to women.

**EUMM Georgia** has supported activities on gender mainstreaming, such as through the Mission's Gender Focal Point Network, which provides regular guidance, advice and capacity building on gender issues. The mission has also continued to seek ways to improve the gender balance within the mission, for instance by reviewing job descriptions to ensure the inclusion of gender-neutral language.

Similarly, **EU Special Representatives (EUSRs)** address gender issues throughout their communications and diplomacy, particularly through engagement with civil society organisations. This is especially important in some of the regions where EUSRs work, where the rights of women are still weak. The very visible achievement of the EUSR Kosovo, together with other relevant local and international stakeholders, is the setting up of the Commission to Recognize and Verify Survivors of Sexual Violence during the conflict. The Commission, set up in February 2018, shall ensure access to individual benefits for these survivors (see above).

Besides their general impact on peace and security and hence their indirect impacts on reducing sexual and gender-based violence (which are too often even more common in conflict affected areas), some non-proliferation and disarmament projects directly mainstream gender issues. This is particularly the case for non-proliferation and disarmament projects addressing the trafficking, security and accumulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) which have included specific gender-related activities both in the generation of intelligence as well as the implementation of solutions.

## **Commission services responsible for humanitarian aid and civil protection**

In 2018, the EU continued implementing the 'Staff Working Document on Gender in Humanitarian Aid: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance' (July 2013), for instance by mainstreaming gender and age in its humanitarian operations. In 2018, it is estimated that the EU allocated nearly EUR 30

million in humanitarian aid to help fight sexual- and gender-based violence under its protection and health programming.

The EU also supports global capacity projects on sexual- and gender-based violence. At the end of 2018, the EU awarded nearly €445.000 to Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands/Save the Children Netherlands to study access and barriers for survivors of sexual violence to medical and psychosocial support, with case studies Nigeria, Yemen, and Haiti. This project will last for approximately two years. At the end of 2017, the EU allocated €975.000 to UNFPA, the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility and the Women's Refugee Commission, under the EU's Enhanced Response Capacity to support the implementation of the Call to Action in Nigeria and Democratic Republic of the Congo and develop global minimum standards on GBV (which is a major deliverable of the Call to Action Road Map). The Northeast Nigeria Road Map was launched in July 2018, and the DRC Road Map in spring 2019. This project will last until the end of 2019. Furthermore, in 2016, the EU also allocated €1.8 million to support capacity building, including €600.000 to UN Women and Oxfam for the revision of the IASC Gender Handbook and €1.2 million to the International Rescue Committee for the development of tools and approaches to conduct GBV case management in hard-to-reach areas. Both these projects finalized in 2018, with the launch of the IASC Gender Handbook in April 2018 and the Guidance for Mobile and Remote Gender-Based Violence Service Delivery in August 2018.

To support policy implementation and coherence, the EU has also introduced a Gender-Age Marker, which applies to all EU funded humanitarian projects since January 2014. The Gender-Age Marker is an accountability tool that uses four quality criteria to measure how strongly all EU funded humanitarian actions integrate gender and age at proposal, monitoring, and final report stage. A first assessment report on the Gender-Age Marker was published in October 2018 and covers 2014-2015. It highlights the usefulness of the Marker and calls upon partners to continue investing in capacity-building on gender and age. For 2017, our preliminary data suggests that 89.1% projects integrated gender and age to a certain extent (data not yet available for 2018 as there are not enough final reports of 2018 projects available yet).

In June 2017, From June 2017 to December 2018, the EU led the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies. The Call to Action is a global initiative, which brings together 82 partners, including States and donors, international organisations and NGOs aiming to drive change and foster accountability in the humanitarian system to address GBV. The Call to Action Road Map 2016-2020 sets out an operational framework with common objectives for the humanitarian community. The EU has been an active member of the Call to Action since its creation in 2013. It has made a number of individual pledges under the Call to Action Road Map, focussing on policy implementation and dissemination (including the GAP II), and ensuring that available funding supports the implementation process.

The EU's leadership of the Call to Action was guided by four main priorities:

- i. Increase advocacy on the prevention of and response to GBV in emergencies. As lead of the Call to Action, the EU organised a number of global awareness-raising events in Brussels, Geneva and New York, and undertook continuous outreach to existing and potential new partners to strengthen the Call to Action partnership. For instance, a high-level panel debate on preventing, mitigating and responding to GBV in humanitarian crises was held during the 2018 European Development days. A public event held in the margins of the annual Call to Action Partners Meeting, in June 2018, discussed challenges and opportunities in responding to GBV in emergencies, while raising awareness of the efforts deployed by the Call to Action partnership to address the issue in different



settings. In September 2018, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides and UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore co-hosted the event ‘Children and women under attack: ending gender-based violence in emergencies’ during the United Nations General Assembly, in New York. During its leadership of the Call to Action, the EU advocated untiringly for the key importance of collective action in prevention and response to GBV in emergencies. From June 2017 to December 2018, the EU welcomed 18 new partners to the Call to Action, including five EU Member States (Spain, Portugal, Latvia, Bulgaria and Slovenia).

ii. Increase focus on prevention of GBV in emergencies. The EU strives to prevent GBV in emergencies, and advocates so that GBV prevention becomes a reflex for all humanitarian actors. Examples include EU support for the revision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Gender Handbook, a practical tool that provides guidance to frontline humanitarian workers on how to integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian aid. In October 2018, the EU published a report on its Gender-Age Marker, which includes a criterion on risk mitigation. Many of the events that the EU hosted discussed issues relevant to prevention, risk mitigation, and collective responsibility of humanitarian actors to address GBV in emergencies.

iii. Raise awareness of the Call to Action at the field level where awareness is the lowest yet the potential impact is the biggest. The EU supports the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility with €975.000 for the operationalisation of the Call to Action at field level, in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This two-year project started in early 2018. The Northeast Nigeria Call to Action Road Map was formally launched in September 2018. A similar process is ongoing in the DRC. The EU is also supporting the UNFPA to develop inter-agency global minimum standards on GBV in emergencies, which is a key deliverable, part of the Call to Action Road Map. Throughout 2018, the EU organised a series of field workshops to raise awareness on the Call to Action and discuss context-specific challenges, in Afghanistan, Colombia, Kenya, Cameroun, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey and Senegal, welcoming more than 500 participants in total.

iv. Lead the implementation and monitoring of the Call to Action Road Map 2016-2020. The EU facilitated the finalisation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for improved reporting of the impact and overall progress of the Call to Action, piloted a new standardised reporting tool, and facilitated the drafting of the 2017 Call to Action Progress Report. The EU also set up the Call to Action website, a joint platform owned by the partnership and managed by the rotating leadership of the initiative.

The EU funds both nutrition-specific Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) treatment projects and nutrition-sensitive prevention projects in the sectors of health, food assistance and WASH. In 2018, EUR 128 million were allocated to nutrition projects reaching more than 14 million beneficiaries (mainly children under 5 and women of reproductive age). The EU’s humanitarian policy for nutrition is focused on life saving interventions in areas with alert/emergency thresholds for Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), and nutrition sensitive programming, i.e. increasing the impact of activities implemented in other sectors to prevent undernutrition and use all opportunities to identify and refer cases of undernutrition prevention. Beyond the support to field programming, the EU supported pilots to implement the simplified protocol approach in Burkina Faso, Mali, Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, DRC in order to generate evidence on how to be more efficient in tackling severe and moderate acute malnutrition.

On the third selected objective 13 on equal access for girls and women to all levels of quality education and vocational education and training, in 2018 the EU dedicated over 8% of its

humanitarian budget to Education in Emergencies (EiE). This is well on track towards the pledge by the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit to reach 10 % by the end of his mandate in 2019. In 2018, more than 1 million girls and boys benefited from this assistance in over 30 countries across the world. The EU also led on the policy development in this thematic area, culminating in the adoption of a Communication on education in emergencies and protracted crises<sup>6</sup> in May 2018. The new policy framework will enable the EU to leverage its resources more predictably, flexibly and effectively based on a holistic and coordinated humanitarian-development nexus approach and clear strategic priorities. Partnerships for a rapid, efficient, effective and innovative education response; promoting access, inclusion and equity; championing education for peace and protection; and supporting quality education for better learning outcomes will all contribute to the EU's focus on the continuity of education in crisis contexts. EU Member States endorsed the policy framework in Council Conclusions<sup>7</sup> adopted in November 2018. At the G7 Charlevoix Summit, the EU pledged to invest EUR 72 million over three years to promote equal access to quality education and learning opportunities in emergencies and protracted crises.

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<sup>6</sup> Communication on education in emergencies and protracted crises (COM (2018)304 final of 18.5.2018)

<sup>7</sup> Council Conclusions on education in emergencies and protracted crises (12817/18 of 26 November 2018)