

## Template for providing information on:

### Good practices and success stories on mainstreaming gender equality in education and/or ESD

1.	Name of country:	Ukraine
2.	Name of organization/ project/programme	Partnership Network "Education for Sustainable Development in Ukraine"
3.	Good practice (title)	Gender, environment and education: experience of CSO's activities in Ukraine
4.	Target group	Community based organizations in 7 region of Ukraine, CSOs networks, women groups, remote villages, communities affected by Chernobyl, Internally displaced people, local communities and environmental activists

#### 5. Brief description of good practice

Examples of best practice from the civil society organizations (CSOs) in Ukraine in terms of gender component within Education for Sustainable Development activities.

##### 1. Partnership Network "Education for Sustainable Development"

**Participants:** researchers, teachers, educational institutions (schools, universities), NGO's, national parks etc).

**Background:** participation of women has to be enabled by incorporating their different perspectives, ideas and visions in environmental planning and management. It is essential that they are effectively involved in decisions on all issues relating to managing the environment for the purposes of achieving more sustainable development. Gender responsive Environmental Planning and Management (EPM) calls for a critical review of the common trend where men tend to participate in planning and decision-making while women are mostly involved in implementation of these decisions.

**Good practices:** in order to combat low level of involvement of women in the process of environmental planning and management, special Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) exhibitions, education fairs, workshops and training are conducted in the framework of the Annual International and National Environmental Forums. This includes discussions and decision making concerning national environmental governance and implementation of sustainable development in partnership with CSO representatives.

The following national and international events can serve as an example of partnership and joint efforts of the State Environmental Academy of Postgraduate Education and Management, Interdepartmental Coordination Centre of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development and the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF SGP) in Ukraine for community capacity building and public awareness, participation in planning and decision making process of the environmental policy, in particular in ESD:

- International Ecological Forum *Environment for Ukraine* (<http://www.group-expo.com/uk/>) where women leaders and researchers from public educational and environmental initiatives based in villages and small towns participate in round table discussions, a special exhibition for environmental management and sustainable development and take part in set up and organization of a special Education for Sustainable Development exhibition;
- National Organic Fair (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a02X61UD0Wc>) where small farmers and civil activists from villages and districts can both present their products and learn about the practices used by their colleagues (farmers) from other regions, obtain information, receive knowledge and establish new contacts. Special ESD exhibition and eco-friendly workshops, in particular, on production of organic cosmetics, are conducted on a regular basis for 3 years;
- The Annual International Forum for Sustainable Business *Green Mind* <http://www.greenmind.com.ua/ru/> has created a platform for dialogue between businesses, authorities and NGO's concerning implementation and development proposals to improve environmental management based on the latest technologies and standards;
- International Forum "*Children for Environment: the Future We Want!*" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6lp0WF3ZHg> was established in 2013. This is a joint initiative of the GEF Small Grants Programme and the Partnership Network, which serves as a platform for exchange of experience between the Network representatives from all region of Ukraine, decision making on the practical aspects of implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development on the national level. Proposals of the Forum's participants, including international experts (Regional Environmental Centre (REC) in 2015), are submitted for reviewing of the state authorities. This is done to develop recommendations together with CSOs in order to improve the legal framework and practical instruments to implement the Strategy according to the current situation (changes in the law etc.). A specific feature of this event is that children, participants of the Forum, also take part in development of such recommendations.
- International Day for Biological Diversity, *World Day of Plants* are marked by different schools and children environmental networks in Zhytomyr, Rivne, Zaporizhya and Luhansk regions.
- The First National Conference of State Environmental Policy with NGOs, held in December 2012, engaged representatives of CSOs to discuss the Law of Ukraine «*On the Foundation (Strategy) of the State Ecological Policy of Ukraine until 2020*», which includes provisions for implementation of the Education for Sustainable Development on the national level.

*Thus, 350 people attended these events in 2010-2015. 70% of attendees were women, who were engaged in a process of planning and development of the national environmental policy (including strengthening of the national platform "Education for Sustainable Development"), which was subsequently implemented in various communities and families.*

It is worth mentioning that the local context (e.g. limited access to the Internet, insufficient local governments' efforts in addressing environmental issues, low awareness about the possibilities to join such events) has showed that nearly 200 people (56%) participated in such events for the first time. Taking into account the annual frequency of

events, 148 people (74%) began to participate in the abovementioned activities on a regular basis.

## **2. NGO Network “Zelena Zhytomyrshchyna”**

**Participants:** remote villages, communities affected by Chernobyl disaster, women’s groups, young people, small businesses.

**Background:** women and men need to be alerted to the threats that environmental degradation pose to food security. When, for example, climate change threatens security of livelihood in which women are often more involved than men, women in particular need to be informed about alternative methods of cooking, farming, heating and waste disposal. As women tend to spend more time within and around the households, they have to deal with environmental issues around them on a regular basis. They are also the primary providers for household necessities such as building materials, food, domestic fuel and health care. This traditional burden on women is not reflected in their participation in planning and decision-making.

### **Good practices:**

1. The community of Radomyshl district Zhytomyr region has been trained to use solar energy to dry fruits, vegetables, medicinal herbs, mushrooms etc. In particular, 12 solar dryers have been produced and passed on for the permanent use by green households, schools and farmers. Practical recommendations for use and drying of different products have been developed. 12 dryers were used to produce about 70 kg of dried products. All participants indicated that solar dryers were effective and reliable. Environmental effects from solar drying are as follows: 12 solar dryers\*10 loadings result in reduction of 6,840 kg of carbon dioxide emission per year.
2. Conditions for promotion and development of the region as a “green tourism” area have been created. This has facilitated set up of new jobs both for men and women. In particular, the database of green tourism households has been developed, together with eco-routes; workshops on production of souvenirs from dried herbs, bicycle trips and horse rides have been designed. Members of the public have been informed and trained in alternative methods of housekeeping. More information about these activities can be found on the website “Zhytomyr Region: Green Tourism” ([www.green-tour.org.ua](http://www.green-tour.org.ua)).
3. The guidance “How to Prepare a Video Application for a Grant” has been developed and can be the instrument for consolidation of communities to solve local development issues. The pilot video proposal has been developed together with the community of Lutivka village, which is in Radomyshl district of Zhytomyr region. 16 women have been interviewed; 6 women have taken part in the shooting of the documentary, dedicated to the 5th anniversary of the GEF SGP work in Ukraine. They shared their experience in learning new eco-friendly ways of development of households and communities.
4. Due to the work with the community during 2010-2015, in particular, cooperation with the GEF SGP, 7 NGOs were established in Zhytomyr region, 5 of which are led by women.
5. Women researchers from Zhytomyr National Agro-Ecological University initiated the use of herb mixtures to implement the system of managed pastures, which also facilitates removal of radionuclides from the soil; developed new varieties of organic products and shared their experience among farmers of Zhytomyr region. In frame of the workshop participants

(60% women) demonstrated interest in further use of the technology in their own households.

6. In the framework of the project for separate collection and recycling of waste in small towns of Ukraine women were involved in collection and sorting of waste (waste paper and plastic bottles). Therefore, new jobs were created for women.

### 3. Activities of the GEF Small Grants Programme aimed at support of communities in Ukraine

**Background:** SGP considers gender equality and empowerment to be essential elements for achieving sustainable development and global environmental benefits. In this sense, SGP has developed a global gender mainstreaming policy, which lays out the key features of this approach. At the national level, gender is an integral component of the CPS, and SGP country programme teams support all NGO and CBO partners to consider gender in designing and implementing of projects.

Many projects under the GEF Small Grants Programme have been recognized for their success in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. For example, a GEF-supported project to help these families adopt renewable energy technologies included social assessments and consultation with women and men during project preparation, identifying women as a major target and a direct beneficiary of the project. This led to a number of different and successful project strategies that improve lives of rural and remote families, particularly women.

**Best practices:** the GEF Small Grants Programme in Ukraine supports approaches and key features of gender mainstreaming, suggested by the SGP for all participant countries. The achievements of the GEF SGP's work in Ukraine in 2010-2015 are as follows:

- gender is one of the main criteria considered for the approval of grants;
- promotion of gender mainstreaming at the initial stages of the project cycle;
- men and women participate in the initial stages of project concept development, approval and implementation;
- SGP National Steering Committees include a Gender Focal Point
- SGP National Steering Committees include checklists and criteria to assess and screen projects for how they mainstream gender;
- SGP's demand-driven approach at the local level increases the likelihood of receiving proposals from women and socially vulnerable groups;
- 82% of the projects stimulate active involvement of women in development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects;
- gender-focused training is provided for project coordinators and CBO's leaders;
- 78% of potential grantees are aware of the guidance on the comprehensive gender approach in the GEF SGP;
- 56% support partnerships with the local women organizations in order to promote comprehensive gender approach among the grantees.
- 175,070 women participated in the projects, 68 new jobs for women were created;
- due to capacity building activities in the framework of the GEF SGP initiatives in Ukraine, around 25 NGOs were established in accordance with the Ukrainian legislation; 19 of them are headed by women, 2 environmental NGOs (led by women) and 2 NGOs (led by men) joined the Public Council at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine; 3 networks, including the Partnership

Network “Education for Sustainable Development” were created;  
- the Rio Conventions — namely the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) — for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism, also recognize the important linkage between gender-related issues and achievement of the Conventions’ goals and objectives.

97% of the GEF SGP projects in Ukraine are aimed at their implementation on the local level with the community involvement.

6. Useful links
- [www.ecoosvita.org.ua](http://www.ecoosvita.org.ua)
  - [www.zelena.org.ua](http://www.zelena.org.ua)
  - [www.sgp.undp.org](http://www.sgp.undp.org)
  - [www.sgpinfo.org.ua](http://www.sgpinfo.org.ua)

7. Useful contacts
- Partnership Network “Education for Sustainable Development in Ukraine”  
<https://www.facebook.com/ecoosvita.org.ua/>  
e-mail [osvita\\_development@ukr.net](mailto:osvita_development@ukr.net)

8. Comments