

MEETING OF THE REGIONAL THEMATIC GROUP ON POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION AND TRAINING ON GENDER-INFORMED POLICYMAKING

18-19 FEBRUARY 2025

Science and Technology Park Montenegro

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Background

The ReSPA Members are committed to advancing public administration reforms to enhance services for citizens and businesses. Public Administrations in the Western Balkans are working to implement the necessary reforms in a timely manner, aligned with their EU accession agendas. Preparing for EU membership requires robust administrative capacities for policy planning and development, as well as their alignment with the EU integration agenda. While these responsibilities primarily lie with Centre-of-Government (CoG) institutions, achieving policy priorities also depends on the active involvement of line ministries. These ministries and other relevant bodies must have sufficient administrative capacities for effective policy development and the ability to set medium-term strategic objectives.

Through the Regional Thematic Group on Policy Development and Coordination (PDC), ReSPA supports the enhancement of administrative capacities for policy planning, better regulation, and alignment with the EU integration agenda, in collaboration with CoG institutions. The primary objective of the PDC Regional Thematic Group is to promote more effective implementation of public administration reforms in the region by fostering collaboration among key officials responsible for this thematic area and facilitating the exchange of experiences.

The upcoming meeting of the Regional Thematic Group on PDC will take place on 18-19 February 2025 at the Science and Technology Park in Podgorica, Montenegro. This meeting will serve as a regional platform to share best practices and exchange insights on the challenges. The recently published [2024 SIGMA Monitoring Reports](#) offer valuable insights that will serve as a foundation for discussion. Additionally, the meeting will focus on identifying shared priorities to guide ReSPA capacity-building activities in the coming period and exploring opportunities for in-country support and mobility scheme programs within this thematic area. Participants will also engage in practical training on gender-informed policymaking.

Integrating gender perspectives into policy development is essential to addressing the diverse needs of all citizens. This approach aligns with international best practices and commitments to gender equality, driving socio-economic development and enhancing institutional accountability. By building capacities to adopt a gender-informed approach, the meeting aims to equip participants with the tools to create equitable and inclusive policies, fostering better governance and sustainable outcomes. The training will be organized in collaboration with UNDP Montenegro, under the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding, which highlights the enhancement of development activities in the area of gender-responsive public administration reform as one of the objectives.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Tuesday, 18 February 2025

08.30 – 09.00	<i>Registration and Welcome Coffee</i>
09.00 – 09.10	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Maja Handjiska Trendafilova</i>, Director of ReSPA
09.10 – 09.30	Opening Session: Introductions and Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Jelena Mrdak</i>, ReSPA Programme Manager• All participants
09.30 – 10.00	<i>Presentation of ReSPA Strategic Orientation 2025-2030 and Indicative Programme of Work for 2025</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Jelena Mrdak</i>, ReSPA Programme Manager• Discussion
10.00 – 10.30	2024 SIGMA Monitoring Reports: Key findings in the area of policy development and coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Bagrat Tunyan</i>, SIGMA Senior Adviser
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 12.30	Current developments, good practices and challenges in the area of policy development and coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations by participants
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.30	Identifying shared priorities to guide ReSPA capacity-building activities in the coming period <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group work
15.30 – 15.45	Wrap-up Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Jelena Mrdak</i>, ReSPA Programme Manager

Wednesday, 19 February 2025

8.45 – 9.00	<i>Welcome Coffee</i>
09.00 – 09.15	Introduction to the training objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jelena Mrdak, ReSPA Programme Manager• Kaća Đuričković, Team Leader for Gender Equality, UNDP Montenegro
09.15 – 10.00	Regional Overview: Legal Framework for Gender Mainstreaming in Policy Making <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marija Blagojević, Project Manager, UNDP Montenegro
10.00 – 11.00	Principles and methodology of gender-informed policy making <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kaća Đuričković, Team Leader for Gender Equality, UNDP Montenegro• Marija Blagojević, Project Manager, UNDP Montenegro
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 – 13.00	Practical exercise for applying gender perspectives in policy development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group work
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.00	Presentation of the group work and discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations by participants
15.00 – 15.30	Closing Remarks and Evaluations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jelena Mrdak, ReSPA Programme Manager