



Monday, 27 September 2021

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## Ministries of Defence in the Western Balkans initiated work on the Regional Baseline Study to enable integration of gender perspective in the Military Education and Training

Thursday, 23 September 2021,

A total of 20 members of the Regional Working Group for the integration of gender perspective in the military education and training gathered in an online meeting organized by UNDP SEESAC on 23 September 2021, with the aim to agree on the dynamic plan for data gathering, reviewing and finalization of the Regional baseline study on the integration of gender perspective in the military education and training in the Ministries of Defence and Armed Forces of the four Western Balkans countries.

A regional baseline study on the integration of gender perspective in military education and training will be drafted through joint work of MoDs in WB region. Both regional and country-level work will contribute to identifying viable ways to integrate gender perspective in military education and training, as well as to share the existing good practices. The process has been initiated by the MoDs and AFs, with UNDP SEESAC's support, using tried and tested methods of regional cooperation which already proved fruitful in developing regional knowledge tools.

High-quality military education and training with gender perspective integrated is a prerequisite for creating an agile defence sector, ready to respond to the 21st-century complex challenges and to uphold the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda.

The cooperation of four MoDs on developing the Regional baseline study is supported through the project Strengthening of Regional Cooperation on Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans, which is funded by the governments of Norway and the Slovak Republic. With the support of UNDP SEESAC, the project provides the Ministries of Defence and Armed Forces in the Western Balkans with a platform for exchanging information and knowledge to facilitate actions to ensure long-term and sustainable inclusion of the gender perspective in defence policies and practices.

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