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Ministries of Defence in the Western Balkans jointly working towards comprehensive integration of gender perspective in Military Education and Training

With the support of UNDP SEESAC, the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) *Teaching Gender in the Military: A Handbook* has been translated into BCMS and Macedonian and is available at the SEESAC online learning platform.

Mainstreaming gender in the military education and training at all levels is a precondition for the sustainable implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Armed forces need to take gender perspective into account to be able to fulfill their mission and to respect the rights of men and women, whether they are civilians or uniformed personnel. Education is one of the key methods for integrating gender into military operations and institutions.

MoDs and AFs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia are jointly working on integrating gender perspective in the military education and training to enable sustainable inclusion of the gender perspective, influence transformation of gendered norms and practices while promoting WPS agenda. Translation of the *Handbook* will contribute to a better understanding of MoDs on how to smoothly mainstream gender into military education curriculum and training.

This activity is implemented through the *Strengthening of Regional Cooperation on Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans* project, financed 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 where, they have been exchanging ideas and developing policies from 2012, to ensure long-term integration of gender in defense policies and practices.

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