



Vlada Crne Gore  
Ministarstvo za ljudska i manjinska prava



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **IPA Gender Programme: The Counselling board for economic empowerment established and its first conclusion made**

**Podgorica, 12 July 2011** – The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights of the Government of Montenegro, the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Montenegro, in the framework of the IPA Gender Programme, have constituted a counselling board that will support and assist the process of the Programme implementation in the domain of economic empowerment of women in Montenegro. The Council gathers representatives of the Parliamentary Council for Gender Equality, representatives of Montenegrin institutions, business associations, non-governmental and international organizations in Montenegro.

**Participants in the first session of the Counselling board for economic empowerment of women has concluded that Ministries in Montenegro, with the exception of the Ministry of Defense, neither abided to the Decision of the Government of Montenegro of July 29, 2010 according to which all Ministries are obliged to establish their own programs for the implementation of the Activity plans for achieving gender equality, nor have they planned funds for implementation within their budgets.**

**The Counselling Board appeals to the Ministries to find a possibility to get those programs developed as soon as possible, and to plan the needed funds accordingly.**

Achieving equality between men and women is not an end in itself. It is a prerequisite for the realization of human rights, human development and the overall EU objectives related to growth, employment and social cohesion. Status of women in all democratic societies is reflected in the personal integrity, economic prosperity and political representation. The Gender Programme IPA 2010 sets a goal of improving the conditions for implementing the National Action Plan for achieving gender equality through a strengthened capacity and improved institutional mechanisms, as well as improved policies in the areas of domestic violence and political and economic empowerment of women.

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