

# **The Program for EU-Taiwan Gender Equality Cooperation and Training Framework**

## **I. Origin :**

Since the issue of gender equality was included into the 26<sup>th</sup> EU-Taiwan Annual Consultation on Non-trade Issues in 2015, the both sides have set up main themes such as female participation in decision-making positions, employment and economic activities, and ending gender-based violence etc. So far, the both parties have exchanged regulations and policy perspectives through co-hosting international seminars and organizing visit to the EU and its member states.

In addition, EU proposed to hold consultations with Taiwan on issues regarding human rights in 2017 to strengthen the partnership with like-minded countries. Therefore, Taiwan and EU held the first EU-Taiwan Human Rights Consultation in Taipei on March 22, 2018. Through this meeting, EU proposed to enhance cooperate with Taiwan in promoting LGBTI rights and gender equality issues in Asia and the both parties reached a consensus on establishment of a EU-Taiwan Gender Equality Cooperation and Training Framework (GECTF) and holding the second EU-TW Human Rights Consultation in Belgium in 2019.

## **II. Purpose:**

This program initiate the four-year policy exchange and cooperation activities. Aims at gradually establishing a model for EU-TW GECTF to make Taiwan a training base of human rights in Asia through co-hosted seminars, workshops and bilateral human rights consultations etc.. Thus the program would be beneficial for Taiwan to exert the effect of leading position in gender equality and human rights in Asia and facilitate development of gender equality and human rights of Taiwan, EU and Asia such as the New Southbound countries.

**III. Duration:** 2019 - 2023

**IV. Responsible Unit:** Executive Yuan (Department of Gender Equality), European Economic and Trade Office (EETO)

**V. Plan:**

The four-year program is planned to promote two main issues. First, in line with the EU Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019, Europe 2020 strategy, Horizon 2020 as well as the Gender Mainstreaming Implementation Plan, and prioritized gender issues in Taiwan such as promoting gender-balanced participation in decision-making positions in public and private sectors, eliminating gender stereotypes, reducing gender segregation in education and employment. Government officials, leaders of initiative groups from the New Southbound countries and other Asia countries will be invited to share the gender mainstreaming promotion experiences, dilemmas and best practices of each country and international organizations.

The second issue will focus on human rights promotion of LGBTI among Asia countries. Government officials, members of civil societies, relevant experts and scholars from various Asia countries and EU will be invited to share the policies and experiences with regard to promoting LGBTI rights, marriage equality policy, multi-gender and anti-discrimination strategies, obstacles and future development of transgender and intersex, as well as new challenges to LGBTI anti-discrimination policy. (Note: annual seminars and topics will be determined after discussion with EU)

In 2019 and 2022, seminars, training courses/ workshops are the main contents of the program and a review forum is planned to be held in 2023. Regular participation in Taiwan-EU Human Rights Consultation will also be conducted in this plan. To participate in the consultation meeting in Belgium and according policy visits to the EU and its member states to

exchange, discuss and cooperate on gender equality issues.

## **VI. Expected Benefits:**

The four-year program is expected to deepen the cooperation between EU and Taiwan in respect of gender equality and human rights. Through seminar discussions, workshops, consultation meetings and policy exchange visits, the program will better the exemplary studies in gender mainstreaming and wide-range of themes such as gender-balanced participation in decision-making positions in both public and private sectors, eliminating gender stereotypes. Thus, the program will be beneficial to exert Taiwan and EU's influence in Asia to promote EU-TW gender equality models to Asian countries, so as to facilitate the innovation and inclusive growth of gender equality and human rights in the region.