**Women, Business and the Law 2014 Fact Sheet: Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

**Eastern Europe and Central Asia** has the most job restrictions on women as measured by *Women, Business and the Law*. For example, in the Russian Federation women are prohibited from 456 jobs, followed by 299 in Kazakhstan and 252 in Belarus. The region has strong maternity and parental leave policies. Over the past two years, the following reforms occurred:

**Latvia** introduced small claims procedures.

In the **Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** public credit registries now include information from microfinance institutions.

**Montenegro** adopted legislation obliging employers to give women their jobs back or equivalent positions after returning from maternity leave and introduced parental leave.

**Tajikistan** has a new credit bureau which records loans of any size including loans from microfinance institutions.

**Ukraine** raised and equalized retirement and pensionable ages for women and men, while **Lithuania** and **Poland** are gradually raising and equalizing retirement ages. **Slovenia** is gradually increasing retirement and pensionable ages, and **Croatia** is gradually increasing retirement and pensionable ages for women to match those of men. **Latvia** raised retirement and pensionable ages.

---

**About the Women, Business and the Law Report series:**

*Women, Business and the Law* measures how laws, regulations and institutions differentiate between women and men in ways that may affect women’s incentives or capacity to work or to set up and run a business. It analyzes legal differences on the basis of gender in 143 economies, covering six areas: gaining access to institutions, using property, getting a job, providing incentives to work, building credit, and going to court. The project provides a clear picture of gender gaps based on legal differences in each economy, but it does not capture the full extent of the gender gap, nor does it indicate the relative importance of each aspect covered. This year’s report was published by Bloomsbury Publishing. For more information, please visit: wbl.worldbank.org. Join us on Facebook: wbl.worldbank.org/Facebook

**About the World Bank Group**

The World Bank Group is one of the world’s largest sources of funding and development expertise for developing countries. It comprises five closely associated institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), which together form the World Bank; the International Finance Corporation (IFC); the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA); and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). Each institution plays a distinct role in pursuing the World Bank Group’s mission to fight poverty and improve living standards for people in the developing world. For more information, please visit www.worldbank.org, www.miga.org, and www.ifc.org.

**For more information on Women, Business and the Law 2014, please contact:**

Nadine Ghannam +1 (202) 473-3011
E-mail: nsghannam@ifc.org
Contacts for region-specific queries on *Women, Business and the Law 2014:*

**Central and Eastern Europe**
Nezhdana Bukova +7 (985) 411-3986
E-mail: nbukova@ifc.org

**Southern Europe**
Slobodan Brkic +381 (11) 30-23-750
E-mail: sbrkic@ifc.org
Kristyn Schrader-King +1 (202) 458-2736
E-mail: kschrader@worldbank.org