



Colonel OLENA VOLOBUEVA

Gender Advisor to the Rector of Bohdan Khmelnytsky National Academy of State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

In her childhood, Olena dreamed to be an investigator, like her father, a senior police officer. However, her interest and natural aptitude for the English language brought her to Lviv University to study linguistics. After graduation, she got married, spent some time on maternity leave, and then decided to enroll in the National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. During her education at the Academy, she was awarded her first military rank.

In 2015, she moved to Kyiv following an invitation to serve at the position of HR director at her at the headquarters of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. A year after, she went back to Khmelnytsky and took the position of Vice Rector for Human Resources, and in 2019 she became Vice Rector for Research and Gender Advisor to the Rector.

Presently, Olena Volobueva has a PhD, has her own scientific school, and published more than 150 journal articles and scholarly publications. Olena is keen on studying gender topics, she has profound knowledge of issues and challenges women face in their professional life.

Her research activities paved the way for her to visit Great Britain, Austria, Spain, and Canada for professional purposes. After such experience exchange opportunities, each time she brought home many impressions and new knowledge regarding the realization of gender policies in those countries.

As Olena noted, the more you help women, the more confident they become. So she decided: no matter what, women should always be helped. Moreover, if you praise women a bit for what they do, they can move mountains. In fact, her inspiration and motivation come also from women: strong and purpose-driven personalities, those that can be a role model.

Currently, gender aspects are being integrated in the educational process and curricula at the National Academy of the State Border Guard Service following the principles and requirements of the UN Security Council Resolution “Women. Peace. and Security.” Five online courses – both for cadets and for instructions – have been designed to enhance gender competence in students and contribute to achieving gender equality.

"Today, gender policy is gaining momentum. We no longer have restrictions on who can study at the Academy. Girls and boys now have equal opportunities. For the first time in the history of the Academy, 11 girls have entered in a truly masculine specialization "State Border Security", - says Olena.