

TRANSFORMATIVE FINANCING AS AN ACCELERATOR FOR GENDER EQUALITY: DRAWING FROM GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING EXPERIENCES AND LESSONS LEARNED

November 23-24, 2022,

Hotel Radisson Blu Sisli Hotel, Istanbul, Türkiye

AGENDA

23 NOVEMBER, WEDNESDAY

09:30 - 10:00 | Registration

10:00 - 10:30 | Opening remarks

Speakers:

Alia El-Yassir

Regional Director, UN Women
Regional Office for Europe
and Central Asia (ECA RO)

Maria Melbing

Head of Unit, Western Balkans and Turkey,
Department for Europe and Latin America,
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

10:30 - 11:15 | **PANEL I Leadership and policy makers' perspectives on
Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)**

Absence of political will is often identified as one of the key impediments in achieving de facto gender equality across the Western Balkans region. Political support is important as it influences the pace and the scope of the implementation of the GRB initiatives, thus it must be secured. This panel, organized as a high-level ministerial panel, will present an overview for GRB focusing on the processes and key achievements in the implementation of GRB initiatives. Moreover, panelists will discuss the next steps for further advancement of GRB institutionalization.

Moderator:

Ermira Lubani

Regional GRB Programme Specialist, UN Women ECA RO

Panelists:

Delina Ibrahimaj

Minister of Finance
and Economy
of Albania

Jovana Trenchevska

Minister of Labor
and Social Policy of
North Macedonia

Elbert Krasniqi

Minister of Local
Governance
Administration
in Kosovo¹

Davor Cicic

Minister of Finance
of Canton Sarajevo,
Bosnia and
Herzegovina

11:15 - 11:30 | **Stories from the field: GRB implementations in Western Balkans**

¹ All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999). For the European Union, this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

23 NOVEMBER, WEDNESDAY

11:30 - 12:00 | **Coffee break**

12:00 - 13:15 | **Panel II Public Finance Management (PFM) as an avenue to achieve gender equality**

Gender responsive budgeting calls for inclusion of gender perspective at all levels of government budgetary processes. Therefore, PFM reforms are critical to the achievement of gender equality outcomes. This panel will present the role of PFM reform in achieving gender equality, the enabling factors that allow PFM reform to have a greater impact on gender equality and the important role of Ministries of Finance in the application of GRB approaches. Panelists will present country specific examples on how their public financial management systems incorporate the principle of gender equality and how they track allocation of public resources for advancing gender equality.

Moderator:

Ivona Paunovich Bishevac

Programme Analyst, UN Women North Macedonia

Panelists:

Gentian Opre

Head of Budget Analysis and Programming, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania

Alija Aljovic

Assistant Minister for Budget and Public Expenditure, Ministry of Finance of Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina

Vesna Krpacovska

Head of Unit, Department for Budget and Funds, Ministry of Finance of North Macedonia

Salvador Elmazi

Director of Kosovo Budget Department, Ministry of Finance

| **Plenary discussion**

13:15 - 14:30 | **Lunch**

14:30 - 15:15 | **Co-creating Melodies**

15:15 - 16:45 | **Panel III Changing the lives of women and men through sectoral policy application of GRB**

GRB initiatives have been successfully implemented in Europe and Central Asia targeting different policies and budgets with the goal of leaving no one behind by addressing the needs and priorities of both women and men. This panel will focus on the results achieved, share examples, practices and challenges as well as the plans for future GRB interventions.

Moderator:

Azra Becirovic

National GRB Expert, UN Women Bosnia and Herzegovina

Panelists:

Goce Georgievski

Head of Sector for Agriculture and Rural Development, North Macedonia

Zoran Kapor

GFA Southeast Europe

Edi Gusia

Executive Chief of Agency for Gender Equality, Kosovo

Stela Pavlovic

Head of Sector for Development of Small and medium-sized enterprises, Republika Srpska Ministry of Economy and Entrepreneurship

| **Plenary discussion**

16:45 - 17:00 | **Overview of the key takeaway points and closing**

Elisabeth Klatzer

International GRB expert

24 NOVEMBER, THURSDAY

09:30 - 09:40 | Welcome back and introduction of the Agenda for the day

Diego De La Rosa Pereira
Communications Specialist, UN Women ECA RO

09:40 – 11:00 | Panel IV Internationally agreed approaches to assess the implementation of GRB

To ensure that policies and budgets do not perpetuate gender inequalities but contribute to a more equal society for women and men, girls and boys, UN Women has been working closely with numerous stakeholders in Western Balkans to introduce GRB. According to the latest global report for assessing the progress against indicator SDG 5c1, Serbia and Albania are among the 7 European countries that have established monitoring systems to track budget allocations for gender equality. In this session, panelists will discuss the preconditions and success factors for linking policy and legal requirements with resource allocations, and how SDG5c1 helps measuring the progress towards more gender responsive public finance management systems. In this panel, participants will be introduced with two new initiatives rolled out by UN Women ECA to monitor progress on the implementation of SDG 5C1 indicator and the development of a GRB index which will enable Governments to identify progress and entry points for future interventions on GRB.

Moderator:

Ermira Lubani
Regional GRB Programme Specialist, UN Women ECA RO

Panelists:

Ermira Lubani Regional GRB Programme Specialist, UN Women ECA RO	Olja Jankovic Lekovic GRB Programme Coordinator, UN Women Serbia	Johann Seiwald Senior PFM and lead expert on GRB Index	Blerina Xhani PFM and GRB expert, Albania
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Plenary discussion

11:00 – 11:30 | Coffee break

11:30 - 12:30 | Panel V The role of public oversight institutions in advancing gender equality

Supreme audit institutions provide independent and objective analyses of the extent to which gender equality is effectively promoted and/or attained through policies, as set out in the overall annual budgets. Offices of the Ombudsperson independently monitor enforcement of human rights, identify injustice, and seek to put injustices right. Through their oversight role, they contribute to improving the lives of women and men. In this panel, panelists will share best practices of how public oversight bodies in the region demand transparency and accountability of public policies and budgets to gender equality processes, with the aim to further explore their role in monitoring programming and budgeting processes with gender lens, as well as their plans for future related initiatives.

Moderator:

Edita Miftari
Governance and Leadership Coordinator, UN Women Bosnia and Herzegovina

Panelists:

Maksim Acevski Auditor General, State Audit Office North Macedonia	Vilma Shurdha Commissioner at Ombudsperson Office Albania	Petra Schirnhofner Senior Manager Strategic Support Unit (SSU), INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI)	Aleksandra Vladisavljevic PFM and GRB expert, Serbia
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Plenary discussion

12:30 - 14:00 | Lunch

24 NOVEMBER, THURSDAY

14:00 - 15:15

Panel VI Application of gender responsive budgeting at local level: practices from the region

Local level institutions play a significant role in achieving de facto gender equality. With increased decentralization, implementation of GRB at the local has become even the more relevant for addressing the issues that local communities face by developing tailored responses while considering diverse starting points of different groups, particularly those that are marginalized. This panel will focus on the experiences of mayors and practitioners at the local level. The panelist will present examples of best practices from the region by discussing the impact and benefits that the implementation of gender responsive budgeting brought to everyday lives of women and men in local communities.

Moderator:

Olja Jankovic Lekovic

GRB Programme Coordinator, UN Women Serbia

Panelists:

Gledian Llatja

Mayor of Elbasan
Municipality, Albania

Boran Ivanovski

Programme Manager,
NALAS

Mustafa Cadir

Programme Specialist
GRB, UN Women Turkiye

Ardian Gjini

Mayor of Gjakova,
Kosovo

Plenary discussion

15:15 - 15:45

Coffee break

15:45 - 17:00

Panel VII Impact of gender responsive budgeting on lives of women and men

The media can play an important role in the promotion of gender equality as well as in dissemination of information and raising public awareness about public policies, allocation of public budgets, and responsibility and transparency in the allocation of public funds. On the other hand, CSOs have a specific role in contributing to increased accountability of authorities to increase financing for gender equality by promoting gender-responsive planning and budgeting. Several initiatives in this regard have been successfully implemented throughout the region, and the focus of this panel discussion will be on related examples, including on media reporting on GRB and effects of that reporting on gender inequality, as well as CSO initiatives in the region to monitor public expenditures from gender equality perspective.

Moderator:

Selma Zulic

Mediacentar Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Panelists:

Astrit Panxha

Media consultant,
Kosovo

Selma Ucanbarlic

Media Consultant,
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Marija Risteska

Center for Research
and Policy Making,
North Macedonia

Marina Grnja Klaic

Novi Sad School of Journalism,
Serbia

Sonja Boshevaska Hadjinikolov

Akcija Zdruzenska, North Macedonia

Plenary discussion

17:00 - 17:15

Closing remarks:

Alia El-Yassir

Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECA RO)

Master of Ceremony

Diego De La Rosa Pereira, *Regional Communications Specialist, UN Women ECA RO*

Communication and Public Relation

Yesim Aslihan Caglayan, *GRB Communication Expert, UN Women ECA RO*