

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

November 23-24, 2022, Istanbul, Türkiye

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

From 2010, UN Women has continuously provided technical and financial support to the governments and civil society organizations in the Western Balkans to strengthen democratic governance and advance women's rights by mainstreaming gender in policy planning and budgeting. As a result, gender responsive budgeting (GRB) has been increasingly recognized as an important tool for advancing de facto gender equality, supporting the implementation of SDGs and the 2030 Agenda as well as for contributing to the achievements of the commitments of the Western Balkans in line with the EU Gender Action Plan 2021 – 2025.

In order to deepen the work previously done, launch new initiatives and ensure sustainability of the interventions on GRB, UN Women initiated a regional programme “Transformative Financing for Gender Equality towards more Transparent, Inclusive and Accountable Governance in the Western Balkans”, with participation of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo¹, North Macedonia and Serbia. Overall objective of the programme is that Western Balkans systematically integrate gender equality and become more transparent at all stages of national and local policymaking and budgeting processes. Working in parallel at the central and local level, the project applies strategies focused on mainstreaming gender in Public Finance Management (PFM). On the other hand, the project works with parliaments and Supreme Audit Institutions to increase oversight and accountability on budget allocation for advancing gender equality.

The programme sees transformative financing as an enabling factor for policy and financing actions to accelerate implementation of existing national and international commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment. The project supports replication and adaptation of tested solutions, improves regional cooperation and strengthens the debates on public finance reform, gender equality and good governance by providing platforms for networking and exchanging best practices.

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.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The purpose of the regional conference is to facilitate exchange of knowledge and experience in the implementation of gender responsive budgeting, to learn from regional and global practices, and discuss financing for gender equality.

The conference will bring together high-level government officials and practitioners from Ministries of Finances, line ministries, national gender mechanisms, local government representatives, Supreme Audit Institutions, civil society organizations and media.

During the conference, participants will be introduced with two new initiatives rolled out by UN Women ECA to monitor progress on the implementation of SDG 5.c.1 indicator and the development of a GRB index which will enable Governments to identify progress and entry points for future interventions on GRB.

FORMAT

The regional conference will take place on 23rd and 24th November in Radisson Blu Sisli Hotel in Istanbul. The conference will be held in person with an option to follow on-line through the Zoom platform. It contains seven thematic panel sessions followed by plenary discussions.

The conference aims to minimize its environmental footprint by using less plastic and paper.

LANGUAGE

Simultaneous interpretations to Albanian, Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian, English, Macedonian and Russian language will be provided.