

MODULE 2

INTERNATIONAL,
NATIONAL AND LOCAL
FRAMEWORK ON GRB





MODULE 2

INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL FRAMEWORK ON GRB

Duration	100 minutes.
Learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complement the gender equality timeline with key instruments that mention GRB. • Understand the criteria of the Indicator 5.c.1. • Analyse how to integrate GRB into the public financial management cycle at the national and local level.
Key content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal and development instruments mentioning GRB. • Indicator 5.c.1. • Instruments to integrate GRB at the national and local level.
Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation (with PowerPoint and handouts). • Group work on Indicator 5c1. • Conclusions: Summary of the main points.
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a PPT presentation. • Prepare the timeline from the previous session on the wall. • Prepare the handouts.
Background information	Chapter 2 of the Resource Pack.

Timetable of activities

Activity	Time	Handouts/Comments
Introduction	5 min	
Activity 1 – GRB timeline	20 min	
Activity 2 – Indicator 5c1 presentation	15 min	
Activity 3 – Group work on 5c1	30 min	
Activity 4 – Reporting in plenary	20 min	
Conclusions	10 min	

Note to facilitators: Before starting the session, organise the timeline from the previous session on the wall and prepare other elements that you will add on paper and in the PPT presentation. Make this part as interactive as possible to maintain interest. For instance, you can ask participants to read out loud some parts or to paste the new instruments on the wall to complement the timeline. For option 1 of activity 3 select the report or the reports you will provide to the participants, hide the scores and read the report or the reports to be able to provide good feedback. In both options, make sure that you can share the document on the screen.

Outline of this module (description of different steps to facilitate the session)

The facilitator will start by completing the timeline with the aspects in which the already identified instruments on gender equality mention GRB and adding some specific instruments and explaining them. The facilitator will present Indicator 5c1 and then invite the participants to do an exercise. One option for the exercise is to use an existing report on a country prepared by civil society and include scores. Another option is to brainstorm based on the questions.

Before the session

- Review the relevant sections of the Resource Pack and prepare the PowerPoint presentation or handouts.
- Prepare a flipchart with the objectives of the session and hang it on a wall for reference.

Introduction

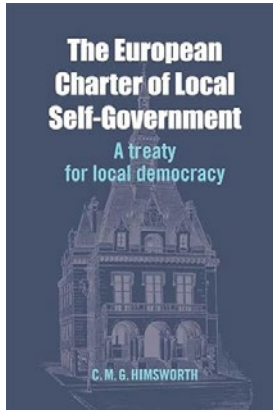
- Read or have participants read out loud the objectives of the session.
- Indicate at which stage of the road map the session stands.
- Describe the process of the session.

Activity 1. GRB timeline

Show the timeline of module 1 and complement it with three new instruments (the European Charter of Local Self-Government, the Addis Ababa Agenda and the European Parliament Resolution on gender mainstreaming) and with GRB elements contained in the BPfA, the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life and the SDGs. You can create an interactive timeline or use the timeline prepared in previous session (reorganised on the wall at the end of last session) and add information and complement it with information in PPT. You can use the Resource Pack and the following summarised information.

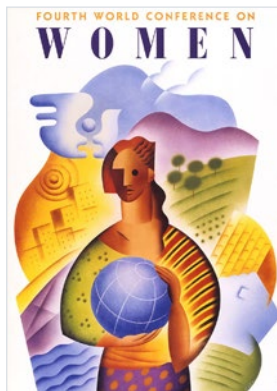


1985



The EU Charter of Local Self-Government (ECLSG) lays down standards for protecting the rights of local authorities and requires those states that have ratified it to comply with a number of conditions, principles and practices. States undertake to respect a core of basic principles to which no reservation is possible: such as the right of citizens to participate in managing public affairs, the key rights of communities to enjoy autonomy and self-government, elect their local bodies and to have their own structures and financial resources.

1995



The Platform of Action makes specific reference to the use of budgets for the advancement of women. It includes a specific reference to GRB:

Financial and human resources have generally been insufficient for the advancement of women. This has contributed to the slow progress to date in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action, including the relevant commitments made at previous United Nations summits and conferences, will require a political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women. This will require the integration of a gender perspective in budgetary decisions on policies and programmes, as well as the adequate financing of specific programmes for securing equality between women and men. To implement the Platform for Action, funding will need to be identified and mobilized from all sources and across all sectors. The reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed within and among programmes, but some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications. Mobilization of additional resources, both public and private, including resources from innovative sources of funding, may also be necessary.

(United Nations, 1995, clause 345).

A number of successive international agreements and policies, including the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (2005), the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly (Beijing+5), the agreed conclusions of the 52nd (2008), 58th (2014) and 59th (2015) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), outline the normative framework for financing gender equality.

2006



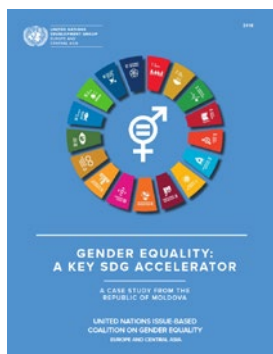
Principles 5 and 6 of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life refer to 'gender budgeting' and define it as the following: "Gender budgeting is an application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality."

2015



In the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015) governments reaffirmed that achieving gender equality, empowering all women and girls and the full realisation of their human rights are essential to achieving sustained inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development. The Action Agenda also reiterated the need for gender mainstreaming, including targeted actions and investments in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies.

2015



In the context of goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) one of the targets, namely target 5.c, refers to the need to “Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels”.

In this context, a specific indicator referring to GRB (*indicator 5.c.1*) “proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment”) has been included in the list of SDG indicators. This SDG indicator of the SDG monitoring framework links national budgeting systems to the implementation of legislation and policies for gender equality and women’s empowerment. The methodological development of this indicator referring to GRB systems in place has been led by UN Women in cooperation with the UNDP and the OECD and was finalised in 2017.

2019



In 2019, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on gender mainstreaming that called for a new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) to be “accompanied by a joint declaration by Parliament, the Commission and the Council”.

The Parliament committed to ensuring that the annual budgetary procedures integrate gender-responsive elements that consider how the overall financial framework of the Union contributes to the objective of achieving equality and ensures gender mainstreaming. While recognising that most parliamentary committees (19 out of 23) have adopted action plans on gender mainstreaming in their work the European Parliament called on those that had not, namely the Budgetary Control and Petitions Committee, the special temporary committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance and the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) itself, to follow suit. It noted the “heterogeneity of these plans and the lack of implementation thereof”. It also called for the adoption of a joint gender action plan for the European Parliament, to include the “introduction of a gender perspective in all its policy activities and its working organizations”.

The European Parliament has established different bodies for implementing gender mainstreaming and promoting gender equality.

Activity 2. Presentation of Indicator 5.c.1

- Present SDG Indicator 5.c.1 (PPT presentation).

Activity 3. Applying or brainstorming on Indicator 5.c.1

Notes for facilitators: The objective of this exercise is that the participants take some time to get familiar with the criteria and questions, begin to relate them to concrete examples and visualise some actions that need to be done to comply with all those criteria.

OPTION 1

- Divide the participants into groups including, if possible, people with more experience in each group.
- Ensure that the participants quickly choose a rapporteur in order to start the exercise as soon as possible.
- Distribute per table one or several copies of the report prepared by the Gender Budget Watchdog Network on SDG Indicator 5.c.1. You need to make sure that the scores for each question of each criterion are not visible. See <https://gbwn.net/en/policy-briefs/>. In order to have an easy plenary session, give the report of the same country to all of the tables. If participants have laptops, they should look at the report on their laptop to avoid making copies.
- Ask the participants to read the document and to include a score in each criterion and questions based on the information provided.
- Ask the participants to write down any doubt they have or questions that need to be clarified during the plenary.
- In plenary, ask the rapporteurs to give their score for each question and to justify their answers. Check if the others gave the same score and discuss if needed. Give the correct answer.
- You can finalise the activity by saying that civil society has a key role in monitoring how the governments apply the criteria and make recommendations, like in this document: <https://bit.ly/4dCkMOS>

OPTION 2

- Divide the participants into groups including, if possible, people with more experience in each group.
- Distribute this document: <https://bit.ly/3XXhMXN>
- Explain that the objective of this exercise is not to give a score but rather to understand the questions of the indicator, identify the need for clarification and exchange ideas and experiences related to those questions.
- Ask the participants to choose a person who will moderate the discussion, write the answers, and present in the plenary.
- Ask the participants to identify the words and expressions that they are not familiar with and share them in the group. They will need more information to understand their meaning and therefore they can highlight them on the paper.
- Ask the participants to identify which actors could inform them to be able to respond to the questions or where they could find the information by themselves.
- Ask the participants to share examples they know that relate to one of the questions.
- In plenary, ask to each rapporteur to highlight one aspect that needs clarification, one source of information for one question and one example that was shared in the group.

- Answer some of the questions but also explain that we they will be explained in more detail in the following session.
- You can finalise the activity by saying that civil society has a key role to play in monitoring how governments apply the criteria and in making recommendations, like in this document: <https://bit.ly/4dCkMOS>

CRITERION 1. Which of the following aspects of public expenditure are reflected in your government programmes and its resource allocations? (In the last completed fiscal year)

Question 1.1. Are there government policies and/or programmes designed to address clearly identified gender equality goals, including those where gender equality is not the primary objective (such as public services, social protection and infrastructure) but that incorporate action to close gender gaps? (Yes=1/No=0)

Question 1.2. Do these policies and/or programmes have adequate resources allocated within the budget, sufficient to meet both their general objectives and their gender equality goals? (Yes=1/No=0)

Question 1.3. Are there procedures in place to ensure that these resources are executed according to the budget? (Yes=1/No=0)

CRITERION 2. To what extent does your Public Financial Management system promote gender related or gender-responsive goals? (In the last completed fiscal year)

Question 2.1. Does the ministry of finance/budget office issue call circulars or other such directives that provide specific guidance on gender-responsive budget allocations? (Yes=1/No=0)

Question 2.2. Are key policies and programmes, proposed for inclusion in the budget, subject to an ex-ante gender impact assessment? (Yes=1/No=0)

Question 2.3. Is sex disaggregated statistics and data used across key policies and programmes in a way that can inform budget related policy decisions? (Yes=1/No=0)

Question 2.4. Does the government provide, in the context of the budget, a clear statement of gender related objectives (i.e., gender budget statement or gender-responsive budget legislation)? (Yes=1/No=0)

Question 2.5. Are budgetary allocations subject to ‘tagging’, including by functional?

classifiers, to identify their linkage to gender equality objectives? (Yes=1/No=0)

Question 2.6. Are key policies and programmes subject to ex post gender impact assessment? (Yes=1/No=0)

Question 2.7. Is the budget subject to independent audit to assess the extent to which it promotes gender-responsive policies? (Yes=1/No=0)

CRITERION 3. Are allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment made public? (In the last completed fiscal year)

Question 3.1. Is the data on gender equality allocations published? (Yes=1/No=0)

Question 3.2. If published, has this data been published in an accessible manner on the ministry of finance (or the office responsible for the budget) website and/or related official bulletins or public notices? (Yes=1/No=0)

Question 3.3. If so, has the data on gender equality allocations been published in a timely manner? (Yes=1/No=0)

Countries will then be classified as ‘fully meets the requirements’, ‘approaches the requirements’ or ‘does not meet the requirements’.

Conclusion

- Repeat the key messages
 - Key legal and development instruments call for the implementation of GRB and there is a specific SDG indicator to monitor its implementation: Indicator 5.c.1.
 - SDG Indicator 5.c.1 links the policy and legal requirements for gender equality with resource allocations for their implementation.
 - By tracking resource allocations, government can introduce deliberate measures into the planning and budgeting cycle to meet their gender policy objectives.
 - By making these allocations public, government commits to higher levels of transparency and accountability in budget decision-making.
- Invite questions and discussions and provide the necessary clarification.
- Refer back to the objectives of the session and check with the participants to ensure that the stated objectives were met. You can write those questions on a flipchart in advance and ask them to stick a 'happy', 'indifferent' or 'bad' face in front of each question. You can also do it online for instance with Menti Metter.
- End of session quick feedback
 - Has your knowledge on international instruments on GRB improved?
 - Are you able to identify actors that are key to the implementation of GRB?
 - Can you identify different dimensions that are useful for assessing gender-responsive public financial management, based on SDG 5.c.1?
- Wrap up and then preview the next session.