**Call for expression of interest for experts to participate in Training of Trainers (ToT) to support capacity building initiatives in the Western Balkans on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB)**

1. **BACKGROUND**

UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; the empowerment of women; and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

UN Women maintains a large presence throughout Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region, covering 12 countries and territories, with programme presence in Kosovo\*, Serbia, Tajikistan and North Macedonia; and country offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine.

UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office (the “ECARO”) has positioned GRB as one of the priority areas in which the ECARO has unique technical expertise grounded in the combined technical skills that has been cultivated with respect to budgetary processes including GRB and the overarching expertise and credibility the Office has with respect to GEWE. Furthermore, this work is in line with global Strategic Plan 2018–2021 under Outcome 2: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems.

Over the past years, through the technical and financial support UN Women different initiatives have been carried out in Western Balkans’ countries and territories with the goal of strengthening democratic governance and advance women’s rights aiming at mainstreaming gender in policy planning and budgeting. As result, gender responsive budgeting has increasingly been recognized as important tool for advancing de facto gender equality, supporting the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda and other global goals as well as for contributing to the achievements of the commitments of the Western Balkans under the Gender Action Plan in the EU External Relations 2016-2020.

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 with participation of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia and North Macedonia “Transformative Financing for Gender Equality towards more Transparent, Inclusive and Accountable Governance in the Western Balkans” (2020-2024). The main programme approach will be transformative financing as an enabler factor for policy and financing actions to accelerate implementation of existing national and international commitments on gender equality and women’s empowerment in the in Western Balkans.

\* For UN Women, references to Kosovo shall 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 UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

The programme includes activities focused on enhancing the institutionalization of GRB at central level and local level.

The programme is structured around two outcomes:

* By 2024, national and local governments apply gender responsive budgeting to integrate gender equality principles in public financing processes

* By 2024 public oversight bodies CSOs, women including the disadvantaged, demand transparency and accountability of public policies and budgets to gender equality processes

The regional nature of the project also contributes to the exchange of best practices and learn from the challenges in the region while implementing GRB and demanding accountability from respective governments. A pool of GRB trainers will be equipped with knowledge and resources to support project implementation across the outcomes in case of need and availability of resources.

1. **DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this Call is to invite Public Finance Management (PFM) Experts, Gender Equality Experts and GRB Experts, members of academia with finance and economic research background to express their interest to participate in the UN Women ECA RO ToT on GRB. The experts will have an opportunity to implement the acquired knowledge in their respective fields of work. Moreover, the independent experts who fully participate to all sessions will receive a certificate of participation. It is expected that the ToT is the first step for the establishment of a regional pool of GRB experts.

**c)                             DURATION/ CONTENT**

The ToT will be divided in two parts, due to COVID-19 restrictions in countries and territories of project implementation. The First part of the ToT will be delivered virtually during the week of July 12-16, 2021 from 14.00 to 17.00 CEST.

The Second part of the ToT is expected to be delivered in November 2021 (as the epidemiological circumstances allow), in person. The participants will be notified about the exact time and date of the trainings once they are selected.

**d)                            APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The experts that are interested in participating the ToT are expected to meet the following **criteria for eligibility**.

* Proven record of experience and knowledge in one or more of the following fields: PFM, gender equality, gender mainstreaming, GRB, gender data and statistics.
* Proven practical experience in one or more of the following: delivering trainings, conducting research, developing reports, analysis, capacity building documents in one or more of the above-mentioned topics
* Experience in working with one or more of the following actors; public institutions at central and local level, academia
* Fluency in English is required. The ToT will be held in English

The priority will be given to applicants who did not previously received GRB ToT training.

This ToT call is open to experts residing in or nationals from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia and North Macedonia.

An expert who fulfils the criteria above, are invited to submit an application including the following documents:

* Attached application form;
* CV of the applicant;

Please note that part of the ToT will be held virtually. Only experts who fully participate to all sessions will receive a certificate of participation. It is expected that participants have taken every pre-caution for the availability of good internet connection and will be able to use fully functioning microphones and cameras (participants will be asked to keep their cameras on unless necessary otherwise). Technical difficulties in connection impeding participants from being present during any of the session will cancel the possibility of receiving certificate of participation unless it is well documented and/or justified the unforeseeable nature of the technical difficulty.

1. **EVALUATION OF RECEIVED APPLICATIONS**

UN Women applies a fair and transparent selection process. The applications will be evaluated according to the above-mentioned eligibility criteria based on the information contained in their CV and application form.

Please submit your CV and application form to this address grbproject@unwomen.org with the subject „GRB ToT 2021“by June 11 th, 2021

Questions may be sent via email to the address grbproject@unwomen.org no later than two days before the deadline of the call.

**Application Form**

**Full Name:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

**Country of Residence:**

**Nationality:**

**Please briefly indicate your motivation for your application to this ToT. How do you plan to use what you have learned in the future? (5 lines)**

**Please briefly summarize your knowledge and practical experience in one or more of the following fields: PFM, gender equality, gender mainstreaming, GRB, gender data and statistics. (max. 10 lines)**

**Please briefly summarize your practical experience in one or more of the following: delivering trainings, conducting research, developing reports, analysis, capacity building documents in one or more of the above-mentioned topics (max. 8 lines)**

**Please briefly summarize your experience in working with one or more of the following actors; public institutional at central and local level, CSOs, academia (max. 5 lines)**