

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

Introduction of gender responsive budgeting in the Republic of Serbia 2019



"The conviction that there truly is a better way makes changes possible"

Rutger Bregman

Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) is an innovative public policy tool for assessing the impact of policies and budgets from gender perspective and for ensuring that policies and their accompanied budgets do not perpetuate gender inequalities but contribute to more equal society for women and men. GRB aims to close the "implementation gap" that exists in countries like Serbia, which have laws and policies in place to advance gender equality, but these are not fully implemented in practice.

Serbian Government has formally introduced gender responsive budgeting (GRB) in 2015 with the adoption of the new Budget System Law, when the promotion of gender equality was identified as one of the budget goals (Article 4). New provisions of the above-mentioned Law introduced GRB as an obligation in the planning and execution of budgets, implying gradual introduction from 2016 to 2020. Additional amendments to the Budget System Law adopted in December 2016 further enhanced the GRB implementation, through introduction of obligatory reporting on impact of the budget programmes on improvement of gender equality as part of the Annual Budget Statement (Article 79). Furthermore, information on gender responsive objectives and indicators became integral part of programme information (Article 28).

The gradual introduction of this new practice in creation, financing, implementation and monitoring of public policies is governed by the Ministry of Finance, the Provincial Secretariat of Finance and heads of finance departments at local level, with support of the Coordination Body for Gender Equality of the Republic of Serbia, provincial and local gender equality mechanisms. UN Women provides technical assistance and expertise to all target institutions throughout the annual cycle, starting with the issuing of the annual Plan for GRB introduction, until the adoption of the national and provincial budgets for the following year.

GRB definition, Budget System Law, article 2, 58v:

Gender responsive budgeting entails gender mainstreaming of the budget process, including gender analysis of the budget and restructuring of income and expenditures in order to advance gender equality.

Budget objectives, Budget System Law, article 4:

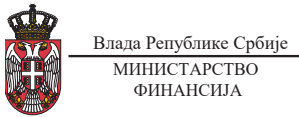
Budget system should achieve the following: 4) efficient allocation of budget resources with the objective of advancing gender equality.

KEY ACTORS

- Ministry of Finance, Republic of Serbia
- Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Government of the Republic of Serbia
- Provincial Secretariat of Finance, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
- Provincial Secretariat for Social Policy, Demography and Gender Equality, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
- Women's Parliamentary Network, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
- Women's Parliamentary Network, Assembly of the AP Vojvodina
- Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities
- Network of local women's civil society organizations and gender experts
- UN Women

GRB SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- The Budget System Law
- National Strategy for Gender Equality 2016-2020
- The Gender Sensitive Budget Instructions
- The annual Plan for GRB Introduction issued by the Minister of Finance, the Provincial Secretary of Finance and heads of finance departments at local level
- The Annual GRB Progress Report with recommendations for improvement of the process
- Handbook on gender responsive budgeting introduction
- Step by step guidebook on sectoral gender analysis



SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLES ON A PATH TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY



Ministry of Internal Affairs continues its progress within the GRB process by introducing a gender perspective in higher education in the field of public security and in the human resource management system.



Ministry of Economy will work towards greater equality in corporate governance, by gradual increasing of number of women in Supervisory Boards of Public Enterprises.



Ministry of Health will invest in improved health of Roma women through increased coverage with regular gynecological examinations.



Office for Cooperation with Media of the Government of the Republic of Serbia will track coverage of priorities of the NAP for Gender Equality on the website of the Government of the Republic of Serbia.



Ministry of Environmental Protection will conduct a sector gender analysis in 2019 aiming to determine the priorities for gender equality in the field of environmental protection.



Office for Human and Minority Rights will start monitoring the implementation of gender-responsive recommendations received from UN mechanisms and adopted by the Government of Serbia.



State Audit Institution has included verification of GRB implementation among its regular audit activities targeting institutions included in annual audit plan, similar to the Provincial Office for Internal Audit of Budget Users, both being important for further strengthening of the GRB process.



Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, the Ombudsman, and the Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth have applied GRB fully, meaning that they have introduced gender perspective in their entire budget.



Fiscal Council of the Republic of Serbia will contribute to monitoring of the effects and impact of GRB application, through introduced outcome/ impact analysis, in addition to regularly conducted annual analyses.



Provincial Secretariat of Finance will work towards increased participation of public in budget preparation, adoption and realization during 2019, enabling greater involvement of women's CSOs thus promoting gender equality in APV.



Appellate Public Prosecutors' Office and the Higher Public Prosecutors Office set ambitious objectives of increasing the representation of women in managerial positions in public prosecutors, with realization of parity planned for 2021.



Provincial Secretariat for Economy and Tourism will continuously increase the number of women entrepreneurs and women owned businesses supported through subsidies.



Provincial Secretariat for Culture, Public Information and Relations with Religious Communities will continuously increase the number of supported gender sensitive projects in realm of visual, musical and theatrical arts.



Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia continues to work on further improvements of gender sensitive data by increasing the number of indicators within regular statistics.



Ministry of Defense will include gender equality in the curricula of the Military Academy and the Military Medical Academy



Public Procurement Directorate will develop a plan of activities that will contribute to the establishment of gender-sensitive public procurement.

GENDER ANALYSIS OF TRANSPORT, CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Mobility patterns of women and men are considerably different, due to their gender roles. Women use public transportation more, for numerous short-distance trips (for all purposes, daily tasks and business), while men tend to use more private vehicles for smaller number of trips that are longer and usually related to work.
- Participation of women among active drivers is 27.2%, far less compared to 45% average in the EU Member States, while only 4% of women use the motorcycle as means of transportation.
- The highest number of women who have driving license is in Belgrade (37.17% of total number of issued driving licenses), while the lowest number is in Toplica district (25.26%).
- Women count for 18% of the total number of fatalities resulting from car traffic accidents on Corridor 10 and Corridor 11 in 2016. In only 5% of these cases women were drivers.
- As passengers in buses, women are more vulnerable to traffic accidents – 80% of fatalities and 60% of injured passengers were women.
- Of the total number of women commuting, 36.6% use public transportation, while 25% of women use a car.

GRB IN NUMBERS

53 BUDGET USERS AT NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL APPLIED GRB IN THEIR 2019 BUDGETS

OVER 1010 CIVIL SERVANTS TRAINED

300 INFO-SESSIONS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS HELD

2 SECTOR BUDGET GENDER ANALYSES CONDUCTED AND 4 MORE PLANNED

GRB IMPLEMENTED IN ENTIRE 2019 BUDGETS OF 3 INSTITUTIONS

GRB TIMELINE

2008

- **2008-2015** Piloting of individual GRB initiatives at local and provincial level in line budgeting, in cooperation between UN Women, the Provincial Secretariat for Labor, Employment and Gender Equality¹, and women's CSOs.

2014

- Shift from line budgeting to programme budget enables gender mainstreaming of the budget process at the national level.

2015

- Ministry of Finance includes GRB in the Budget System Law, and gender equality becomes one of the objectives of the budget.
- **16 national level institutions apply GRB in their respective budgets for 2016.**
- Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Ministry of Finance and UN Women establish a highly operational group for support to GRB that is tasked with GRB planning, implementation and monitoring. This model of work is replicated at the provincial level.

2016

- Introduction of a mandatory gender analysis and reporting on GRB contribute to further strengthening of the legal framework.
- GRB is integrated in the budget planning software in the AP Vojvodina.
- **26 institutions at national level and 10 at provincial level apply GRB in their respective budgets for 2017.**
- GRB included as one of the specific objectives under the Strategic Goal 3 of the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2016-2020, which implies system-wide gender mainstreaming in the policy adoption, implementation and monitoring processes.

2017

- **33 institutions at national and 14 at provincial level apply GRB in their budgets for 2018 through 65 programmes and 93 programme activities.**
- Handbook on GRB introduction and Step by step guidebook on sectoral gender analysis are prepared based on direct work with budget users.

2018

- **35 institutions at national and 18 at provincial level apply GRB in their budgets for 2019 through 76 programs and 141 gender sensitive budget objectives.**

2019

- **47 institutions at national and 26 at provincial level are to apply GRB in their budgets for 2020,** according to the annual Plan for GRB introduction in 2020 budget.

1. This institution has changed its name and mandate several times over the course of GRB development: Provincial Secretariat for Labour, Employment and Gender Equality (until 2012); Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality (2012-2016); and from 2016, Provincial Secretariat for Social Policy, Demography and Gender Equality.

2015-2019

1010 public sector employees were encompassed by the GRB capacity building programmes at the national, provincial and local level.

Public sector employees further strengthen their GRB-related knowledge and skills through more than **300 individual mentoring and information sessions** tailored to each institution.

2016-2019

Four annual GRB progress reports are produced, encompassing institutions at the national and provincial levels.

Four Annual Plans for GRB Introduction issued by the Minister of Finance and the Provincial Secretary of Finance.