

Project title: Gender Budget Watchdog Network in Western Balkans and Republic of Moldova

Problem analysis: The policy making and budgeting processes in SEE and R. Moldova are closed, non-transparent and result with policies that do not respond equally to the needs of women and men. Moreover, public resources are not distributed in just and equal way between men and women. CSOs have limited capacities to contribute to gender assessment of the budget as a policy document and have seldom focused on the collection of revenue and distribution of expenditures by assessing them from the perspective of equity, fairness, and efficiency.

Overall objective: To improve CSO participation in policy and budgeting processes in South East Europe and Republic of Moldova by using gender budget watchdog reporting and networking.

Specific Objectives:

SO1: To strengthen the capacity of CSOs to use GRB tools to evaluate the correspondence of policies and budgets with the needs of men and women

SO2: To develop a network for effective policy advocacy, knowledge and information sharing and strengthened government accountability

SO3: To engage citizens and contribute to policy change leading to gendered reform of public finances

Target group and beneficiaries: Target group: Civil society organizations; Beneficiaries: citizens

Working packages:

WP 1: Capacity building and research:

The purpose of this working package is to map the current capacities of the civil society interested to use GRB in their work. The approach applied will be a bottom-up approach where first of all a call for applications for capacity building will be published followed by an on-line survey of training needs assessment which will inform the development of the training program. The project plans to offer the already available introductory training for CSOs on GRB tools and build on that method developed within the UN WOMEN project funded by ADA by making available an advanced training for CSOs that have already have these skills and knowledge, as well as reach out to specific groups of organizations (think tanks and public finance organizations) and develop a tailor made training for them. The component encompasses training and mentoring session supported with sub-granting that will allow for the production of two types of products: gender budget policy appraisals and gender budget watchdog reports. The products will be used for mobilizing the target groups into structured advocacy for policy and budget change (in Component 3). The activities in this component spread throughout the first and second year of implementation. The outputs are the following:

Output 1.1: CSO capacity for application of GRB tools assessed

Output 1.2: CSO capacity for GRB built

Output 1.3: CSOs produce gender budget policy appraisals and reports

WP 2: Network development

The purpose of this working package is for the CSOs (from component 1), whose capacities in GRB will be built, to be networked in a regional network for effective policy advocacy, within which they will share GRB knowledge and information and work together to strengthen

government accountability by using GRB methods. The approach applied will be bottom-up and that of lessons learnt from other best practices facilitated through two study tours and three networking meetings. The project plans to develop guidelines for communication, internal structure and coordination mechanisms to be applied and make the network sustainable. For the network to become a regional hub for GRB, one IT platform will be developed to be used for exchange of information, knowledge and joint advocacy. The activities in this component are spread throughout the first, second and third year of implementation. The outputs are the following:

Output 2.1: WB and Moldovan CSOs exchange experience and replicate best practices on GRB Networking

Output 2.2: CSOs from the region are linked in a Gender budget network

Output 2.3: The network becomes a hub for exchange of information, knowledge and joint advocacy

WP 3: Policy advocacy for more gender responsive policies

The purpose of the working package is to engage citizens to contribute to the creation of a tipping point for the recommendations on policy and budget change to be adopted on the central and/or local level. The tools used in this respect will be social media, traditional media and meetings with policy makers (participation in policy dialogues, direct meetings and parliamentary committee debates). In some countries the campaign will be directed towards gendered reform of public finances (Montenegro, Moldova and Macedonia). The activities in this component spread throughout the second and third year of implementation. The outputs are the following:

Output 3.1: 42 CSOs advocacy campaigns for gender responsive budgets implemented

Expected Results:

Capacity for use of GRB tools in watch dog and policy appraisal activities built in 84 CSOs; Institutional structure, communication and information sharing channels of GRB network developed; Network networked with other networks and sister type of organizations from Europe; Gender budget watch dog reports produced and tailor-made advocacy implemented; Gendered policies and budgets adopted.

Budget: EUR 554.254 (90% ADA funding, 10% co-financing)

Timeframe: 01.08.2019-31.07.2022 (36 months)

Implementing partners:

Centre for Research and Policy Making – CRPM (Lead partner)

Gender Alliance for Development Centre; Center for civil society promotion; Kosovo Women’s Network; Women Action; Gender Knowledge Hub, Keystone Moldova (Local partners)

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