Albania: Gender Responsive Budgeting as a Tool for Better Policy Formulation

*Breakout Session A: Strengthening Public Policy Processes*

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The Story

Medium Term Expenditure Framework introduced in 1998, which afterwards was reshaped to fit in to the PPB requirements;

Program and Performance Budgeting through Medium Term Budget Program (MTBP) since 2008 (New Organic Budget Law);

Annual budget to be approved by the Parliament at least on a program level (room for introducing objectives and KPI at a latter stage);

IT platform set up for the Line Ministries to enter the required information and financial data.

Introduction of MTBP
• 2016 - Inclusion of Gender Equality as a Core Principle in the Organic Budget Law
• May 2017 - New Law on Local Finances made Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) as mandatory requirement

✓ At least one policy objective should be Gender Based and have distinct KPIs that measure gender related outcomes;
✓ Where possible, Central and Local Budget Institutions (BI) should program and cost Gender Based outputs;
✓ Each BI should keep gender based, disaggregated data, during the preparation of MTBP requests and in the monitoring and evaluation of the annual budget.
• Organic Budget Law (2016 amendments):
  • Mandatory hearing sessions with each Central Budget Institution and with the Ministry of Finance;
  • Minutes are part of the MTBP document;
• Law on Local Finances (2017):
  • Mandatory community involvement in LGUs Strategic Planning and MTBP exercises (Participatory Budgeting)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Budget Programs (total):</th>
<th>No. of Budget Programs that include GRB:</th>
<th>No. of Objectives:</th>
<th>No. of Outputs (by type):</th>
<th>GRB related budget funds (in million USD):</th>
<th>% of Total Budget Expenditures:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-2017</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>38.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016-2018</td>
<td>84</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>63.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-2019</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019-2021</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
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RESULTS

• 3 out of 11 Line Ministries have conducted hearing sessions with the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in 2018;

• 2 Policy options from CSOs have been adopted by the Parliament as part of the 2019 Budget Law;

• 5 Municipalities (out of 61) actively supported by UN Women Albania for GRB and Participatory Budgeting;

• 35 out of 61 LGUs have conducted hearing sessions with the communities for the 2019 Budget;
For the first time, Gender Responsive Budgeting has been included as a tool to explaining the different social impacts in the life of men and women in the budget planning for 2019, in the “Citizens Budget".
LESSONS LEARNED

• Gender Responsive Budgeting is a tool for “good budgeting”
• MoF leadership provides good ground for success;
• Participatory Budgeting Processes enhance the implementation of GRB as well as improving the public policy formulation and implementation processes;
LESSONS LEARNED

• Strong Political Leadership crucial for a fully fledged GRB at both central and local level;

• Full awareness from all civil servants at all levels about gender related issues still lacking;

• Higher levels of participation and contributions of CSOs and communities in the budget processes are required.
THANK YOU!