

Unleashing Economic Growth Potential in the Western Balkans By Improving Equity and Gender Equality in Access to Economic Opportunities

Meeting of Western Balkans Regional Partners

May 14th, 2018

World Bank Vienna Office, 21st Floor—Praterstrasse 31, Vienna 1020, Austria

Motivation: Promoting gender equality is smart economics. Every year, the Western Balkan region loses on average 18 percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) due to gender gaps in the labor market—this is more than the total GDP of Serbia. Despite recent progress in promoting gender equality in the labor market, gaps persist. Women tend to be better educated than men, but only 2 in 5 women in the Western Balkans has a job or is even looking for one. The region is missing out on its human capital potential.

Objective: Discuss policy options to promote gender equity in access to economic opportunities, including addressing barriers that hinder female labor force participation and entrepreneurship; agree on a pathway to overcome common challenges in the region; and promote a regional agenda for coordination, collaboration and peer-learning.

AGENDA

8:30 – Arrival of participants

8:45 - Introductions

9:00 - Welcoming and introductory remarks

Short Video - Promoting Gender Equality to Unleash Economic Growth in the Western Balkans

Linda Van Gelder, Regional Director for the Western Balkans, World Bank

Marie Pierre Nicolle, Head of Human Development, French Agency for Development

09:30 - Session 1: The Economic and Social Costs of Excluding Women from the Labor Market

Chaired by Carolina Sanchez,

Senior Director, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank

The objective of this session is to reflect on the economic and social costs of gender inequalities, and the implications of not addressing these disparities for the region's aspirations for faster, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, and European Union accession.

Panel:

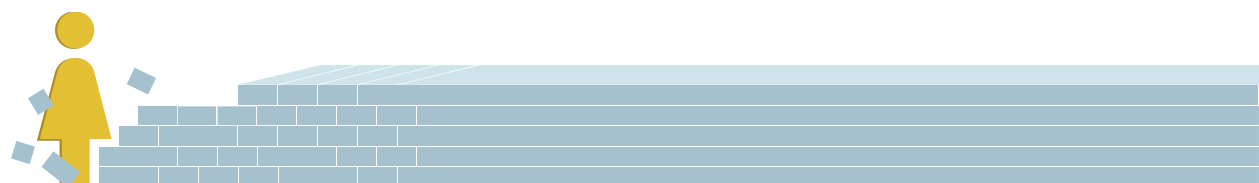
Senida Mesi, Deputy Prime Minister and National Coordinator for Gender Equality, Albania

Shiret Elezi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, FYR Macedonia

Dušan Vujović, Minister of Finance, Serbia

Gallina Vincelette, Practice Manager for Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment, The World Bank

Discussion



10:30 – Session 2: Promoting Equality in Entrepreneurship: Property and Finance

Chaired by Margreet Goelema

Manager of Open Regional Fund for Southeast Europe, Legal Reform, GIZ

Tackling gender inequalities calls for promoting equity in access to assets (finance and land). This includes the recognition of ownership of immovable property, to ensure that women co-owners of property are registered in property titles and are decision-makers in any transaction made with such property. A low share of properties has women registered as co-owners across the region, calling for harmonization of regulations and procedures for joint property registration. The objective of this session is to discuss and propose solutions to remove the legal and institutional obstacles in property registration processes that currently hinder women's access to property, and reflect on related their impact on access to finance and entrepreneurship.

Maria E. Dávalos, Senior Economist, World Bank (setting the stage with short presentation)

Panel:

Mila Carovska, Minister of Labor and Social Policy, FYR Macedonia

Dhurata Hoxha, Kosovo Minister of European Integration

Bojana Boskovic, Director General, Ministry of Finance, Montenegro

Maja Peric, Assistant Minister of Finance, Republika Srpska Ministry of Finance, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mirjana Vucic, Adviser to the Minister of Finance, Federation Ministry of Finance, Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Discussion***11:30 – Coffee break****12:00 – Session 3: Promoting Equality in Access to the Labor Market**

Chaired by David Saunders

Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, UN Women

Promoting equality in access to labor markets calls for removing legal and institutional obstacles to labor market participation, to ensure that barriers or disincentives to work or to hire women are eliminated. Important obstacles to tackle are those around access and affordability of child and elder care, and those embedded in labor regulations, such as in family leave policies. The objective of this session is to discuss and propose solutions to remove the legal and institutional obstacles in labor regulations, access to child or elder care, and others, that keep women out of jobs.

Marco Hernandez, Lead Economist, World Bank (setting the stage with short presentation)

Panel:

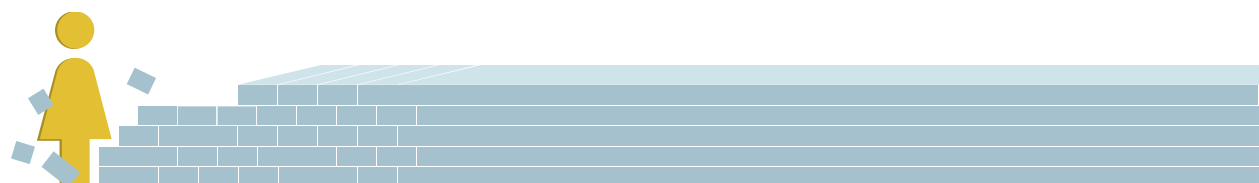
Edi Gusia, Head of Kosovo Gender Agency

Dajna Sorensen, Albania Deputy Minister of Finance

Marie Pierre Nicolle, Head of Human Development, French Agency for Development

Ana Vukovic, Director, Gender Center of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mijana Lukac, Director Gender of Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Discussion

13:00 – Lunch

14:00 – Session 4: Monitoring and Evaluation and Regional Coordination

Chaired by Goran Svilanovic
Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council

Strengthening the legal and institutional national and regional arrangements that support social inclusion is key for increased accountability and impact by better tracking the challenges and progress. The objective of this session is to discuss and propose solutions to strengthen the institutional framework on gender equality at the regional, national, and subnational levels for enhanced coordination, implementation and monitoring of gender equality commitments.

Panel:

Majlinda Bregu, Secretary General-Elect, Regional Cooperation Council
Samra Filipovic-Hadziabdic, Director Gender Equality Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ljiljana Loncar, Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister for Gender Equality, Serbia

Discussion

15:00 – Coffee break

15:30 – Session 5: Wrap Up and Future Look

Chaired by Linda Van Gelder
Regional Director for the Western Balkans, World Bank

Summary by the session chairs

Open discussion on next steps

Endorsement of the communiqué on “Unleashing Economic Growth Potential in the Western Balkans by Improving Gender Equality in Access to Economic Opportunities”

16:30 – Family photo

19:30 – Informal dinner hosted by the World Bank

(Cafe Ansari - Praterstrasse 15, 1020 Wien)



List of Participants

Ana Vukovic	Director, Gender Center of the Federation, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bojana Boskovic	Director General, Ministry of Finance, Montenegro
Carolina Sanchez Paramo	Senior Director, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, The World Bank
Celine Gratadour	Education and Labor Specialist, French Agency for Development
Clifton John Cortez	Adviser, The World Bank
Dajna Sorensen	Deputy Minister of Finance, Albania
David Saunders	Representative, UN Women, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Dhurata Hoxha	Minister of European Integration, Kosovo
Dominik Koehler	Consultant, The World Bank
Dominique Hautbergue	Head of the Balkans Unit, French Agency for Development
Dusan Vujović,	Minister of Finance, Serbia
Edi Gusia	Head of Kosovo Gender Agency, Kosovo
Gallina Vincelette	Practice Manager, The World Bank
Goran Svilanovic	Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council
Goran Tinjic	Senior Operations Officer, The World Bank
Lada Strelkova	Operations Adviser, The World Bank
Linda Van Gelder	Regional Director for the Western Balkans, The World Bank
Ljiljana Loncar	Adviser, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Gender Equality, Serbia
Maja Peric	Assistant Minister of Finance, Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Majlinda Bregu	Secretary General-Elect, Regional Cooperation Council
Marco Hernandez	Program Leader and Lead Economist, The World Bank
Margreet Goelema	Manager, Open Regional Fund for Legal Reform, GIZ
Maria Arribas-Banos	Adviser, The World Bank
Maria E. Dávalos	Senior Economist, The World Bank
Marie Pierre Nicollet	Head of Human Development, French Agency for Development
Mila Carovska	Minister, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, FYR Macedonia
Mirjana Lukac	Director, Gender Center of Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mirjana Vucic	Adviser, Federation Ministry of Finance, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Samra Filipovic-Hadziabdic	Director Gender Equality Agency, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Senida Mesi	Deputy Prime Minister, Albania
Shiret Elezi	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance, FYR Macedonia

For questions, please contact:

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