

NEWSLETTER

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Gender responsive budgeting in Ukraine

The COVID-19 pandemic is delivering a blow to the global financial and economic system. Now, more than ever, it is important that public financial management systems take into account the needs of everyone – women, men, children, the elderly, and other population groups. Gender-sensitive decisions of governments, as well as implementation of the GRB tool, are topical like never before! Despite the fact that the GRB Project team is presently working remotely, it is not only carrying on with the planned activities but is also looking for answers to gender challenges that have arisen in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic.

More information about priority tasks for the near future will be announced soon. We are always ready to keep you updated on our activities and work results, namely:

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Expanding the range of KSU that work with GRB

We are welcoming new members of the GRB family! The Project team works to ensure equal rights and opportunities of women and men in the law enforcement sector. The Project has been actively cooperating with the National Guard of Ukraine and the National Police of Ukraine. Therefore, the relevant memorandum has been signed between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the Project in order to deepen this cooperation.





“Signing of the document is extremely important for the security sector since our country is moving along the path of reforms, and gender mainstreaming in budget programs is another step towards ensuring that women and men in the security sector will use the sector’s resources equally”

Kateryna Pavlichenko,
Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine

In particular, the first hands-on workshop on implementation of the gender-responsive approach in the budget process for employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Central Executive Bodies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine has already taken place.

It is also worth noting that while in 2019, 12 out of 30 passports of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' budget programs contained gender aspects, there are as many as 15 such passports in 2020.

As a result of the joint work of the Project experts and the Ministry of Internal Affairs specialists, amends were introduced to the Ministry's budget programs, which



will allow more efficient and targeted allocation of budget funds (taxpayers' money) in accordance with the needs of women and men in the future.

Program “Enforcement of the tasks and functions of the National Guard of Ukraine”

GRB Project recommendations regarding the level of provision of women and men with armour protection were taken into account in the passport of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' budget program “Enforcement of the tasks and functions of the National Guard of Ukraine” for 2020.

Thus, gender analysis carried out jointly with specialists of the National Guard of Ukraine had revealed direct gender discrimination – servicewomen are not provided with bulletproof vests, combat uniform and service dress uniform that would take into account their anthropometric data. The reason for this discrimination lies in the fact that there are no gender-sensitive rules for the supply of military uniforms and gear, with the exception of some items of service dress. The quality indicators of the budget

program's passport show that the level of provision with armour protection taking into account the needs of men makes up 48%, while the level of provision with armour protection taking into account the needs of women is as low as 1.3%.

That is, the level of providing servicewomen with armour protection is disastrously low, which, consequently, limits their participation in combat missions.

The Project team has prepared a set of recommendations aimed at overcoming this discrimination, meeting the needs and ensuring opportunities of both women and men.

The results of other budget programs gender analysis will be soon published as well!



Training on implementation of the gender approach in the budget process by financial control bodies

Financial control is exercised by a whole system of bodies having relevant competence. In the previous issue of the newsletter, we informed about our cooperation with the State Audit Service of Ukraine (since January 1, 2020 – the Office of Financial Control). Now we are glad to announce the beginning of cooperation with the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine as well!

The first stage of training was also conducted for the Accounting Chamber's specialists; presently, the team of experts is carrying out an analysis of regulatory legal acts and strategic documents in order to integrate the gender approach



into the activities of the Accounting Chamber.

In particular, on February 25-26 of this year, a hands-on workshop on the implementation and application of gender approach in the budget process, housed by the Northern Office of the State Audit Service, was held within the framework



of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the State Audit Service of Ukraine and the Project, with the aim of ensuring professional development of financial control bodies' employees. It is worth noting that the workshop was attended by the senior management of the State Audit Service.

GRB in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine



Another Project's achievement is the beginning of cooperation with the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada's Budget Committee. This is especially important given the fact that the Committee is in charge of state budgetary policy issues and intergovernmental fiscal relations, among other things, and directly administers the budget

process. We are pleased to note that having reviewed the principles of the gender-responsive approach to the budget process, experts commended the work of the Ministry of Finance and the Project on the implementation and application of this tool. The participants of the meeting expressed a desire to gain a more in-depth knowledge of

the approach that promotes gender equality and increases the efficiency of state and local budgets use.

The gender-responsive budgeting tool was presented during a roundtable meeting on the implementation of gender equality standards in the work of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The event was organized as part of the EU-UNDP Parliamentary Reform Project. Deputy Project Manager Oksana Tsiupa and national expert Vladyslav Ierusalymov took part in the meeting on behalf of the GRB Project.



Training participants



Participation in the meeting “Local self-government and the reform of intergovernmental fiscal relations” of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine

The Project is actively operating both at the state and local levels. Results of the work performed at the local level were one of the key issues discussed at the joint meeting, held on January 24 of this year. The meeting was headed by the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine and attended by deputy heads of finance of regional state administrations and Kyiv city state administration, as well as directors of financial departments of regional state administrations and Kyiv city state administration. We shall remind that in 2019, gender aspects were taken into account in 325 passports of budget programs in 18 regions and the city of Kyiv.



“It is essential to keep up the good work on implementation of the gender-responsive approach in the budget process at the local level! Local social and gender context must be taken into account for the effective allocation of funds.”

Hennadiy Plis,
Deputy Minister of Finance of Ukraine



When presenting achievements in the GRB area, Acting Director of the Department of Local Budgets, Head of the Local Budgets Planning Office Olena Machulna emphasized that GRB is precisely the tool that helps analyse and plan revenues and expenditures in such a way which lets changing neutral budget programs into gender-sensitive ones – the ones that take into account the needs of women and men and/or their groups.

GRB as the subject of international discussions

We are traditionally informing you about international news from February Vienna! This year, we joined a three-day course on GRB at the Vienna Joint Institute, which was presented by the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund. The course introduces the IMF's public finance management approach to gender budgeting and aims to share experiences between participants and to lay the foundation for the potential development of a community of finance practitioners. Ukrainian experience of introduction and application of GRB approach in the budget process was presented by Olena Machulna, Acting Director of the Department of Local Budgets, Head of the Local Budgets



Planning Office of the Ministry of Finance, and Oksana Tsiupa, Deputy Project Manager, while Project's advisor Maja Bosnic spoke of the relevant international experience.

Continuation of cooperation with the Kyiv School of Economics

The Project started cooperation with the Kyiv School of Economics in 2019 by incorporating the subject of gender budgeting into the "Public Finance Management" academic program for public sector specialists; in 2020 we are actively continuing our cooperation!

In the course of January-March, we conducted trainings for civil servants of central executive bodies, officials of local self-governments, finance and economics teachers of higher education institutions. We use each and every opportunity to actively disseminate knowledge and skills needed for the application of the gender-responsive approach in the budget process!



Training participants



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|----|-------|---|
| 32 | 65.6% | Employees of state level central executive bodies |
| | 34.4% | Employees of local level central executive bodies |
| 13 | 61.5% | University teachers and associate professors |
| | 38.5% | 12.0% |
| 17 | 88.0% | |

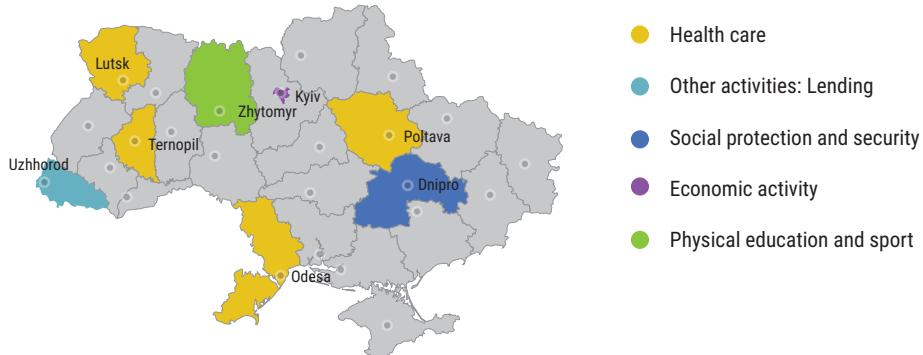
Trainings for new members of the GRB working groups at the local level

The GRB team is constantly growing by getting more and more new GRB advocates at the local level. On February 18-19 and 25-26 of this year, the Project experts conducted intensive training on the essence and stages of applying the gender-responsive approach in the budget process for new members of working groups, as well as practised gender analysis of programs in various sectors together with the participants.

It is worth stating that in 2020, the GRB working groups in the regions and the city of Kyiv selected 16 budget programs financed from local budgets in six different economic sectors for gender analysis. It should be noted



that budget programs in these sectors will be analysed for the first time. Information on the results of the gender budget analysis will be published soon, stay tuned!



Partnership with the Association of Ukrainian Cities



In the course of the reporting period, the Project continued cooperation with the Association of Ukrainian Cities on conducting trainings dedicated to the implementation and application of the gender-responsive approach in the budget process for the representatives of local self-government bodies. The first training was held

on March 3 in the Ternopil region, involving 19 participants (78.9% of women and 21.1% of men) from 9 united territorial communities and 3 cities of the region. It was planned to conduct the next training in the city of Kharkiv. Once the quarantine is over, efforts in this regard will definitely continue!

Training participants



Joining discussions about gender equality

We are glad to join discussions dedicated to the state of gender equality. In the framework of "Female leadership in sport" roundtable discussion, Project Manager Oksana Kyseliova presented the main problems and identified gender gaps in the field of physical education and sport and emphasized the importance of using GRB as an effective tool for achieving gender equality. The event was organized by the Office of the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy.



Announcements and upcoming events

We hope we will be able to return to a busy schedule packed with various activities and trainings in the near future. Meanwhile, we have defined the following priorities in our work:

- Monitoring the passports of 2020 budget programs financed from state and local budgets with regard to the gender approach application;
- Working with the KSU of the state and local budgets on gender analysis of the selected programs: providing expert and advisory support in the process of analysis, preparation of recommendations, in particular, on making amendments to the documents used in the budget process;
- Development of recommendations regarding the application of the gender approach in legislative and legal regulatory acts governing budgetary relations in Ukraine;
- Analysis of legal regulatory acts and strategic documents that govern the activities of the key spending units with which the Project cooperates and development of recommendations on incorporation of gender aspects into them;
- Conducting training in video format for KSU and stakeholders.
- Determining and conducting activities connected with the gender aspect of COVID-19.

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Fair Budget for Everyone!