

# REPORT ON THE SDG 5.C.1 INDICATOR

“PROPORTION OF COUNTRIES WITH SYSTEMS TO TRACK  
AND MAKE PUBLIC ALLOCATIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY  
AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT”

# NORTH MACEDONIA



## Delivering on SDG Indicator 5.C.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment

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## INTRODUCTION

The principle of adequate financing for gender equality is rooted in the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (paragraph 345 and 346) adopted in 1995. However, the Secretary General’s report on the twenty-year review and appraisal of the Platform for Action found that underinvestment in gender equality and women’s empowerment has contributed to slow and uneven progress in all 12 critical areas of concern. Inadequate financing hinders the implementation of gender responsive laws and policies. Data shows that financing gaps are sometimes as high as 90% with critical shortfalls in infrastructure, productive and economic sectors.

A widely recognized definition of “gender budgeting” is: “Integrating a clear gender perspective within the overall context of the budgetary process through the use of special processes and analytical tools, with a view to promoting gender-responsive policies” (OECD, 2016). Another definition of Stotsky, 2016 for "gender budgeting is not a special approach to budgeting or even an add-on to budgeting. Rather, gender budgeting is an approach to budgeting that can improve it, when fiscal policies and administrative procedures are structured to address gender inequality and women’s development needs. When properly done, one can say that gender budgeting is good budgeting".

The Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, dedicated not to leave anyone behind under SDG 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, commits to “significant increase in investments to close the gender gap”. Costing and making available the requisite resources for gender equality is central to implementing and achieving SDG 5 and all gender targets across the framework. Tracking resource allocations for gender equality and making them publicly available is an important first step to assess progress towards meeting these goals. Therefore, with the indicator 5.c.1. Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality, it directly evaluates countries transition to gender responsive budgeting which sets an entry point for a globally unified methodology on GRB. This indicator measures three important components of a gender responsive public finance system: (i) intent of a government to address gender equality by identifying whether policies, programs and resources/budgets are in place; (ii) existence of

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mechanisms to track resource allocations towards these policy goals; (iii) existence of mechanisms to make resource allocations publicly available to increase accountability to women.

The main limitation of the indicator, is that it is process oriented. It assesses the process of budgeting whether addressing gender equality, tracks and reports allocations made for women and gender equality. The indicator unfortunately does not provide data on the quantity, quality or

adequacy of resource allocations made. Thus, it does not assess whether the needs of women and girls are met with policies and budgets, whether the policies are implemented and budget spent to improve gender equality and what are the gender results of their implementation. As such, as Elson has observed, the indicator 5 c.1. is “an indicator of characteristics of the fiscal system. It is not an indicator of quantity of finance being allocated for gender equality and women’s empowerment”.

## METHODOLOGY

In the framework of the Gender Budget Watchdog Network project, financed by the Austrian Development Agency and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the partners have conducted an assessment of the status of gender responsiveness of public finance systems in seven countries in 2020: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and the Republic of Moldova. The project partners include: the Centre for Research and Policy Making (Macedonia), Kosovo Women’s Network (Kosovo), Gender Knowledge Hub (Serbia), Gender Alliance for Development Centre (Albania), Women’s Action (Montenegro), Centre for Civil Society Promotion (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Keystone (Moldova).

The methodology encompassed gathering primary data through in-depth interviews, using an open-ended questionnaire as a research tool; and secondary data through desk research, policy and legal analysis. The gathered data was analyzed and presented in country reports in each of the countries of the project. This report captures the regional comparative perspective of Macedonia and presents how far it is in delivering the SDG indicator 5.c.1. Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality. The Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs reclassified the indicator as Tier II in 2015 and developed a methodological note for collecting data by UN Women, together with UNDP and the OECD, piloted in 15 countries of which two countries from the region were included:

Macedonia and Albania. The indicator measures progress towards Target 5c of the SDGs to “adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels”. According to the methodology, the system should be led by the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the sectoral ministries and National Women’s Machineries and overseen by an appropriate body such as Parliament or Public Auditors.

The assessment fully follows the SDG Indicator 5.c.1 Methodological note for the IAEG-SDG. This report has the objective to inform policy makers on their progress towards achieving SDG Indicator 5.c.1 and to provide policy advice for future policy development in this field that is based on evidence. Considering that Macedonia is a candidate country and that the EU has changed the methodology for negotiations of accession, including democratic institutions and governance issues in the negotiation framework, the assessment may serve as a source of information of progress of our country in regards to the EU accession.

In this report, SDG indicator 5.c.1 measures three criteria: (1) Existence of policies / programs and corresponding allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment; (2) systems to track allocations for gender equality; and (3) mechanisms to make allocations for gender equality publicly available.

According to the methodological notes for 5.c.1. from the IAEG-SDG, the assessment should follow the last fiscal year, which for the needs of this report is 2019. Each criterion is evaluated on a binary scale with 1 and 0, where 1 is the grade if there is evidence of meeting the criterion, while 0 if the country does not meet the criterion. At the end of each criterion and assessment, summary information is provided on the progress made by Macedonia in meeting the criteria.

## Criterion 1: Existence of policies / programs and corresponding allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment

The first dimension of the 5c1 indicator measures the intent of governments to address gender equality. It assesses whether there are government programs or policies designed to address well-identified gender equality goals. This criterion is measured by 3 sub-indicators: well-identified gender equality goals are in place; adequate resources for gender equality policy;

procedures for execution of budget allocations for gender equality are in place.

In regards to the first sub-indicator, in Macedonia the gender equality objectives are determined with the lex specialist - Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (hereinafter: LEO). LEO introduces a number of conceptual reforms including gender responsive budgeting; it defines specific obligations for central and local level institutions regarding gender responsive budgeting in art. 11 and art. 14 and requires the establishment of a consultative advisory inter-sectoral working group on gender equality within which a specific sub-group on GRB is established. With regard to policy documents, the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2013-2020 integrates gender issues in policies and financial instruments.

Concerning the second sub-indicator, Macedonia does not have a Budget law that includes gender responsive budgeting. The Strategy for gender responsive budgeting (SGRB) developed with support of UN Women was enforced until 2018 paving the way for introduction of GRB in budgeting and policy development process with the change in the budget circular for central level budget users, and local level budget users in 2018. This was made possible by the Gender Responsive Budgeting Methodology for public administration bodies (hereinafter referred to as the “Methodology”) which explains the process and the ways in which public administration

bodies should act in incorporating a gender perspective in the creation of policies contained in programs, sub-programs and projects and their implementation plans integrated in the strategic plans (hereinafter: implementation plans) and budgets. The GRB Methodology and the respective Manual have been developed by the Equal Opportunities Sector of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (MLSP) with the support of UN Women. Based on that, the process of introduction of GRB is implemented in 4 phases, with the involvement of different ministries and agencies in each of the phases. The state administration bodies that have introduced a gender perspective in at least one program, publish a gender budget statement which presents the gender equal goal, the situation before the introduction of the measures, explanation of the measures, their budgetary implications as well as gender indicators for monitoring the measures. Each program according to the methodology is implemented over a period of three years. Having this in mind, it is feasible to assess whether the country has allocated funds for gender equality, although it is more difficult to assess whether they are sufficient. The CRPM monitoring has shown that in 2019 no new gender mainstreamed programs were adopted by the central government. However, the implementation of 2018 programs continued. The total budget planned was 257,221,680.00 Macedonian denars. On local level, in the 2019 budget, 55 programs were gender mainstreamed. The planned gender

expenditures amounted to 0.1% of total budget expenditures in the 2019 budget.

In terms of the last sub-indicator on this first criteria, *Procedures for execution of budget allocations for gender equality*, in Macedonia the budget execution process is heavily focused on expenditure control through a consolidated Treasury Single Account. In addition, a commitment ledger, in which budget-users are required to register financial commitments in advance, has been put in place. The centralized control of individual payments reduces flexibility at the level of budget-users and may come at the cost of a decreased operational efficiency in the government administration. Nonetheless, current budget execution practice may be the most appropriate for Macedonia given the relatively weak internal financial control systems in budget-users. When a payment is due, the respective budget-user issues a payment request and sends it, either electronically or in paper format, to one of the 17 regional treasury offices. The treasury verifies whether a requested payment is in line with the submitted payment plan, corresponds to what has been entered in the commitment ledger and matches the purpose stated in the budget. It also verifies whether there is a sufficient balance in the appropriate account. If the request is approved, the Treasury sends a payment order to the Central Bank, which is responsible for the payment system. Executed payments are registered in the Treasury General Ledger. The Treasury produces reports on the cash execution of the budget with virtually no delay. Daily reports showing payments and the balance on sub-accounts in the Treasury Single Account are sent to the Minister of Finance and to the Prime Minister. Monthly reports are produced and distributed to the government within a few days after the end of the month. These reports are also published on the Ministry of Finance's website. A semi-annual report on the budget execution is sent to the government no later than 31 July. None of these fiscal reports are gender-specific, i.e. they do not contain information on whether the payments contribute to the achievement of the gender

objectives set by the LEO and the Strategy for Gender Equality.

## Conclusion – Criterion 1

The criterion 1: intent of government to address gender equality by identifying whether policies, programs and resources/budgets are in place is measured through the assessment of the gender equality policies, whether there are budget allocations for their implementation and procedures for budget execution are set. The above analysis shows that in regards to the first criteria availability of programs or policies of the government, that are designed to address well-identified gender equality goals, Macedonia fulfils the requirements. Macedonia can demonstrate how much resources are allocated within the budget for gender equality, but no one can assess whether the funds are sufficient to meet their general goals

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and objectives for gender equality. Finally, in terms of the third sub-indicator - whether there are procedures for budget execution, Macedonia meets the requirements, which makes the result in terms of the first criterion to be 100%.

Country	Are there programs or policies of the government that are designed to address well-identified gender equality goals?	Do these programs or policies have adequate resources allocated within the budget, sufficient to meet both their general objectives and their gender equality goals?	Are there procedures in place to ensure that these resources are executed according to the budget?
<b>North Macedonia</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Percentage / Average</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Criterion 2: Systems to track allocations for gender equality

GRB makes gender an integral part in fiscal and budgetary decision making and brings focus to the recognition that fiscal policies (both expenditures and revenues) have differentiated impacts and that analysis and review of fiscal policies and practices should take this into account. Gender responsive budgeting is intended to ensure that PFM can contribute to addressing gender specific needs and closing gender gaps in men and women's opportunities for economic, social, and political participation and thus development results that can benefit both men and women

equally.

This second criterion is evaluated by seven sub-indicators: (i) Gender responsive goals promoted by the PFM system; (ii) Budget circulars as tools for introduction of gender in public finances; (iii) Ex ante gender impact assessment of key programs and policies; (iv) Use of gender-segregated statistics and data to inform budget-related policy decisions; (v) Gender responsive performance indicators; (vi) Ex post gender impact assessment and (vii) Gender audit.

In terms of the first sub-indicator, the evaluation is done on the basis of the Minister of Finance's speech in the Parliament during the budget



plenary session, as well as through the pre-budget statement, the debate in the Parliament on the draft budget and the existence of a gender budget statement. In the fiscal year 2019, in Macedonia, the Government delivered to the Parliament only the Executive Budget Proposal and not a Pre-Budget Statement. This practice does not allow the members of Parliament (hereinafter: MPs) to be informed about plans for spending public money in the forthcoming year early enough and leaves them with little time for them to internalize and discuss the budget document. According to the IMF Guidelines for Public Expenditure Management, the pre-budget statement should be issued in August so that Parliament and society as a whole, especially relevant stakeholders such as academia, the expert epistemic community and the media, can develop a debate that will inform the Minister of Finance and assist him / her in preparing the final draft budget. The pre-budget statement can and should contain a gender perspective. As no pre-budget statement is prepared in Macedonia, for the purposes of the report we analyzed the speech of the Minister of Finance in 2018 (for the budget for fiscal 2019) and in 2019 (for the budget for fiscal 2020). The speech presents the proposed budget before the parliamentary debate and it is called “exposé”. The presentation on the Budget for 2019 was held on 28.11.2018. In his speech, Minister Tevdovski explained that the Budget will be a key instrument for achieving the most important goals and priorities of society - higher economic growth rate, better living standards, rule of law, higher level of social justice and EU and NATO membership. The speech does not touch on the topic of gender equality in any way, although the Government's annual program for 2019 includes gender responsive budgeting as one of the areas of work.

In the proposed budget bill for year 2020, gender equality is mentioned in the section *M: EU Integration* (pg.16), in regards to the IPA 2 pre-accession instrument. The reference is broad and vague, with no specific information on the gender program or planned activities: The gender equality allocation can be seen in the specific budget for the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy (pg. 275), under the budget line 80, but no specific explanation on the concrete activities is given. Hence, no specific reference on the gender component of the budget can be noticed in the budget or in the Minister of Finance’s exposé at the Parliamentarian commission on finance and budget on 25 November, 2019.

No gender budget statement is included in the adoption of the Budget 2020 to the Macedonian Parliament. Browsing through the Parliament digital archive, no statement on gender equality during the budget discussion can be identified. In all transcripts from the five sessions devoted to the budget, no noticeable mention was made of gender

equality or GRB. There is only a brief discussion on the accepted amendment on the Budget 2020 on granting female farmers in rural areas with 3,000 € grants. Additionally, one opposition female MP raised a question on the extent of the gender sensitivity of the proposed budget as well as the number of gender budget initiatives submitted by the government organizations. However, going through the transcripts, an answer has not been provided by the (vice) ministry of finance present at the debate.

Finally, regarding the gender budget statements as already mentioned in the first chapter, the monitoring found that not a single one was published in 2019, whereas the proposed budget for 2019 envisages implementation of gender budget statements published in 2018, available on the Ministry of Finance website. In 2020, the monitoring found that new gender budget statements were published on the website of the Ministry of Public Finance, in the budget section. Hence, we consider that the requirements of the sub-indicator have been met.

The second sub-indicator refers to the existence of budget circulars as tools for introduction of gender in public finances. The budget circular is a very important tool through which many countries are facilitating the introduction of gender in budgeting. Macedonia has a gender responsive budget circular, and in the fiscal 2019 a gender responsive budget circular was introduced for local self-governments. The circular is sent together with a guide for budget users instructing on how to complete it by identifying the impact of planned expenditures on gender equality using gender analysis of gender-segregated data. The guide that is sent to the central institutions was prepared by the MLSP with the support of UN Women. The CRPM monitoring showed that together with the Budget circular for 2019 budget, all central institutions received the form for gender budget initiatives accompanied with the guidelines for budget calculation that includes explanation what is gender responsive budgeting, what it contributes to and what should each budget user do in order to fill in the Gender Budget Initiative in Macedonia. As a result, none of the 14 central budget users have published gender budget statements and included their gender budget initiative in the 2019 Budget, which is not the case in 2020 when all gender budget initiatives were collected and published by the Ministry of Finance incorporated in the budget circular. For local level institutions the 2019 budget circular was also amended to include a specific gender equality budget program X. As a result, 20 of the 80 municipalities have gender mainstreamed a budget program.

The third sub-indicator provides an overview of the findings on national level from the use of ex ante impact assessments. The ex ante assessment is important because it reflects whether Governments have the capacity to plan and projecting expected results and impact and contributes to greater predictability of policies and budgets and their effect on gender equality. Ex ante evaluation is also important because it reveals whether the government has a system that defines

indicators for performance of the implemented measures and policies. According to the Guidelines for completing the gender budget initiative, the central budget users in Macedonia users should carry on an Ex ante assessment by analyzing the current situation of at least one program, to set a gender equal goal in the individual program for gender inequality, accompanied by a measure for overcoming the situation and evaluation of potential results. For the 2019 budget the central budget users did not publish any budget statement. The budget statements for 2018, though, which are implemented in 2019 and 2020 budget cycles, include ex-ante impact assessment.

The fourth sub-indicator is related to the capacity to collect and use gender-segregated data that includes data collected and stored separately for men and women for the needs of public finance management. Such data enables measurement of differences between women and men on various social and economic dimensions. In order to have gender statistics one needs to collect gender segregated data. Gender statistics reflect gender roles, relations, and inequalities in society and are evidence base for policy development. This is the starting point of the evidence based policy making process. Gender statistics in public finance management are used to inform the budget decision-making process, redistribute finance according to the needs of men and women, as well as proper budget execution. The Law on equal opportunities regulates in Article 18 that all public and private entities that are gathering, evidencing and analysing statistical data are obliged to present gender segregated data and to submit these to the National Statistic Office. The National Statistic Office is conducting and registering gender segregated data in a comprehensive way, but the availability of data in terms of the fiscal implementations is limited, with the exception when it comes to social care recipients. The country has produced the Gender Equality Index in 2019, following the EIGE methodology. The country is only 5.4 points behind the European average score in the most recent Gender Equality Index. However, this data is rarely used by institutions to inform policy development or budgetary processes. In addition, all other relevant laws do not require gender segregated data (Law on budget and Law on accountancy of budgets and budgetary recipients). As a result, the latest balance sheet on the Macedonian Budget does not include gender segregated data; hence, the gender responsive budget reports should include gender segregated data as evidence to the progress of achieving the gendered program goals.

The fifth sub-indicator gender responsive performance indicators assesses whether the public financial management system includes systematic integration of performance indicators (assessment of the achievement of gender objectives). This allows the budget document to be monitored and assessed in regards to achieving gender responsive results and promoting gender equality.

The Fiscal strategy for Republic of Macedonia 2019-2021 is a key document for determining the medium-term fiscal goals of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and their connection with the strategic priorities of the Government, as well

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as a tool for monitoring the dynamics of revenues and expenditures in relation to fiscal goals. It determines the priorities, objectives as well as the expected results, and performance indicators to evaluate the results. Each

priority is further subdivided into several measures. With regard to every measure, the purpose of the measure is presented, alongside with external assessments references; description for each measure is also listed. For each measure it is stated the year to be completed in; results to be achieved and the costs it will incur, as well as the responsible entity / entities, and risk factors that may hinder its implementation. The Fiscal strategy refers to gender equality only once related to the IPA 2 thematic areas: *“The grant will finance projects in the following areas: justice and home affairs works, road and rail infrastructure, environmental protection, education, employment, promotion of gender equality and development of human resources and agriculture and rural development”*. Hence the fiscal strategy does not include gender objectives or gender performance indicators. Neither does the budget document. However, CRPM monitoring showed that the measures developed in the gender budget statement of central institutions in 2018, which are being implemented in the 2019 and 2020 budgets, have incorporated gender performance indicators for a three-year period. These documents (the gender budget statements/initiatives) are presented and reported separately from the budget, so the gender perspective in the context of setting budget-related performance objectives has not been systematically integrated.

The sixth sub-indicator refers to the capacity and practice to conduct an impact assessment of the implementation of policy and budget from a gender perspective. It can be done in two phases: after the budget is implemented or during implementation. This assessment includes findings from all ex post impact assessments and the performance of all gender responsive policies and budgets. The impact that budget execution has had on gender equality can be a subject of an oversight hearing or a parliamentary discussion, towards informing improved policy development in the future.

Budget accounting is centralized in the Treasury in North Macedonia and is based on cash payments registered in the Treasury General Ledger. The centralization of budget accounting facilitates the production of budget execution reports, which can be used to monitor the development of in-year revenue and expenditure. Since the chart of accounts is identical for all budget-users, it is simple to compile aggregated information on government finances. The reports are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Hence, they do not include gender budget expenditures. The budget execution report and annual account sent to Parliament does not include information on the implementation of gender budget initiatives. Such information is generated separately and reported on to the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and not to the Ministry of Finance. This means that the form for gender - budget

initiatives is included in the budget planning phase, but on the other hand gender expenditures are not part of the reporting on public finances. In 2019, out of 14 central budget institutions only 5 have submitted reports on the execution of their gender budget initiative and no gender impact assessment was conducted. In terms of the oversight hearing / parliamentary discussion, the CRPM monitoring suggests that in 2019 the Parliament held a discussion on the 2018 balance sheet, but the review of the debate suggests that the focus was on capital investments and the level of their realization / implementation, without

referring to gender equality performance of the spent finances.

The last, seventh sub-indicator, gender budget audit is an independent and objective assessment by the National Statistic Office on whether the budget effectively contributes to gender equality and its promotion through policies and budgets executed in the current year.

According to the Macedonian Budget Law (article 52):

- (1) *The Ministry of Finance shall submit the annual report of the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia not later than May 31. A report from an authorized state auditor of the base budget shall be submitted with the annual report together with the comments from the Ministry of Finance as well as the annual reports of the municipal budgets.*
- (2) *After the approval of the final account by the Government it shall be submitted to the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia for discussion and adoption until June 30th at the latest.*

The CRPM monitoring shows that in 2019 the discussion on the annual audit in Parliament, both on plenary session and in the parliamentary commission on financing and budget, the MPs have not expressed any concern or comment regarding the gender equality on the proposed Annual report of the State Audit Office held on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

Additionally, in 2019 the State Audit office has published 54 reports, of these 38 are audits on financial regularity, 5 are audits of compliance and 6 are performance audits whereas the supreme audit institution also conducted 2 follow up audits and 3 specific audits of elements, accounts or lines in the financial reports of the Government bodies. None of these has analyzed the ex post impact of budget or tax policy decisions on gender equality. This is because the Guidelines for audit are not gender mainstreamed, nor has the awareness or capacities for gendered audits increased. Consequently, the Law on state audit does not regulate promotion of gender equality policies.

## Conclusions Criterion 2

The Public Financial Management system that promotes gender-related or gender-responsive goals was the second criterion assessed using seven sub-indicators. In this regard, Macedonia uses gender responsive budget circulars and a clear gender-related goals statement or so-called gender budget statement that uses gender-segregated statistics when developing budget-related programs and policies that are intended to meet certain gender equality goals. Macedonia practices a preliminary impact assessment on gender budget initiatives, but not a subsequent impact assessment or gender audit.

Country	Does the government provide, in the context of the budget, a clear statement of gender related goals often known as a gender budget statement?	Does the Ministry of Finance issue call circulars or directives that provide specific guidance on gender responsive budget allocations?	Are key programs and policies, proposed for inclusion in the budget, subject to an ex ante gender impact assessment?	Are sex disaggregated statistics and data used in a systematic manner across key programs and policies in a way which can inform budget-related policy decisions?	Is there a requirement to apply a gender perspective in the context of setting budget related performance objectives?	Are key programs and policies subject to ex post gender impact assessment?	Is the budget as a whole subject to independent audit to assess the extent to which it promotes gender responsive policies?
N. Macedonia	1	1	1	1	0	0	0

## Criterion 3: Existence of mechanisms to make resource allocations publicly on gender equality

The third criterion refers to the publicly available budget allocations for gender equality. The transparency of the budget process is assessed in terms of accessibility and availability of budget information (development, adoption and implementation) for all citizens. Availability means whether this information has been published, and accessibility means what information has been published. Do you need specific knowledge on the budget in order all citizens to be able to use the published budget documents, whether the information is accessible to all, is reader friendly language used?

Why is this necessary? Because in a democracy, every citizen can and should hold the government accountable for implementing gender equality goals, hence citizens should have access to the main budget documents: pre-budget statement, budget execution proposal, adopted budget, mid-term and annual reports and audit report.

Macedonia has a new practice of publishing a Citizens budget established in 2017 and implemented in 2018. However, our research shows that this was not followed in 2019.

The country did not produce reader friendly information on public finances to the citizens. The year was however marked by two new monitoring online tools to track the realization of capital expenditures and all other expenditures/payments. The portal “Open finances” also allows for the public to have an overview on spending from the budget users that is executed through the Treasury account. Hence, the tool does not allow for search of gender equality allocations and spending specifically.

In the course of 2019, the Commission for gender equality in Parliament was very active and discussed important reforms, policy and legal documents. It held a discussion on the draft 2020 budget, but not on the budget execution or audit report for 2018 budget.

## Conclusion Criterion 3

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The third criterion that was evaluated was on the existence of mechanisms for public and available allocation of resources for the promotion of gender equality. According to this criterion, the results are the weakest. The analysis showed that the country does not meet the requirements (in an accessible way, in a timely manner and in a reader friendly way) regarding the budget allocations for gender equality.

Country	Is the information on gender equality allocations published in an accessible manner on the Ministry of Finance (or office responsible for budget) website and/or related official bulletins or public notices?	If published, has the information on gender equality allocations been made public in a timely manner?	If published, has the information on gender equality allocations been made public in a reader friendly format?
N. Macedonia	0	0	0

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Macedonia has a completed framework for gender equality, and although unofficially, uses program budgeting. The country also segregates the financial data allocated to programs, thus the public financial management system provides an overview of the funds allocated to achieving gender equality, especially through gender budget statements. Whether these funds are sufficient

is difficult to assess, especially if we take into account that for 2019 only 0.10% of the total budget can be identified as funds that contribute to achieving gender equality. The country has procedures for determining budget execution, however, it does not collect gender-specific budget execution data. In this regard, Macedonia's fiscal reports do not contain gender-disaggregated data on policies' results and outcomes.

This is due to the lack of program budgeting and good information system for financial management, as well as appropriate tables and budget classifications for funds and expenditures related to gender in order to be visible, accessible and useable to all citizens. However, it is necessary to improve the monitoring of the processes and effects of



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GRB, including the assessment of the identified and spent amount for the implementation of gender equality policies / gender responsive goals and objectives and their impact. Such an assessment of the implementation and its effects is currently not available, neither at the level of budget users, nor at the level of annual budget.

The institutional capacity (including software development) to collect gender-segregated data and use it in assessing the impact and expected results on gender equality of the proposed measures and budget must continue to be upgraded. Ex-ante impact assessment in Macedonia is conducted exclusively in the process of gender responsive budgeting, not systematically of all newly designed policies. Therefore, efforts should be made to improve this situation as soon as possible. The country uses gender statistics to develop ex-ante gender impact assessment in determining gender budget initiatives both at central and local levels, but not systematically in the policy-making and budget processes. Also, gender performance indicators are part of the public financial management system only in the implementation of GRB initiatives, but not in a systematic way and without being included in the budget process (as well as in terms of the reports because they are separated and presented separately from the budget). So we cannot say that the gender perspective is a systematic part of setting performance goals within the budget.

According to Methodology for measuring Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 5.c.1, a country will be considered to satisfy each criterion as follows:

A country will satisfy Criterion 1	if it answers “Yes” to 2 out of 3 questions in Criterion 1
A country will satisfy Criterion 2	if it answers “Yes” to 4 out of 7 questions in Criterion 2
A country will satisfy Criterion 3	if it answers “Yes” to 2 out of 3 questions in Criterion 3

The assessment above allows us to make the following conclusion: Macedonia meets Criterion 1 and 2, while it does not meet Criterion 3.

Current status on criteria meeting

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Country	Criterion 1	Criterion 2	Criterion 3
N. Macedonia	✓ 1	✓ 1	X 0

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Completely align the public finance management system with program budgeting by introducing program budgeting and abandoning current line budgeting;
- To develop an information system that will enable inflows and expenditures to be categorized in order to recognize gender costs;
- To publish fiscal reports that will present the outcome of the implementation of the programs and the budget on gender equality;
- Build institutional capacity to collect gender-segregated budget execution data and publish budget execution reports;
- Include information on gender equality in the adoption of the budget and the public debates that followed the adoption, by involving the expert public and watchdogs for the promotion of gender equality; active participation of the Club of Women MPs is also recommend;
- Systematically use gender statistics in the ex-ante budget impact assessment as well as the use of gender performance indicators not only in the context of preparation of gender budget statements but also systematically throughout the process of budget creation and execution;
- Capacity building for gender responsive auditing should be a priority of the new government as well as sharing information on the implications and results of budget execution on gender equality in an accessible and reader friendly language for all citizens.