

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ELBASAN

WATCHDOG REPORT

WOMAN FORUM ELBASAN

Watchdog report
Municipality of Elbasan
2020 - 2021

1. Introduction

This watchdog report was conducted by the Association "Woman Forum Elbasan" (WFE) with the assistance of the Gender Alliance for Development Center (GADC), in compliance to the "Gender responsive budgeting in the Municipality of Elbasan for the years 2020-2021" project, supported by the Austrian Development Agency and Sida - Styrelsen för Internationellt Utvecklingssamarbetefocusing on budget analysis from a gender perspective in the municipality of Elbasan.

2. General situation in the municipality of Elbasan

2.1 Demographic data

The municipality of Elbasan is located in the central part of Albania. The municipality of Elbasan is bordered on the north by the municipality of Tirana, on the east by the municipality of Librazhd, on the south-east by the municipality of Prrenjas, on the south-west by the municipality of Gramsh and on the west by the municipalities of Cërrik and Peqin. The center of the municipality is the city of Elbasan.

The municipality of Elbasan is one of the largest in Albania, as well as one of the most complex municipalities to be administered. The city of Elbasan, with about 80 thousand inhabitants, currently has about 60% of the population of the municipality while the rest were attached after the new territorial division which consists of 12 administrative units, units Bradashesh, Papër, Gjergjan, Labinot - Fushë, Labinot - Mal, Funarë, Gracen, Tregan, Shushuica, Shigjan, Gjinar and Zavalina. The area of Elbasan is 872 km, from 79 km before the Territorial Administrative Reform of 2014. We have an increase of approximately 110 times the area of the municipality. The new organizational scheme of the municipality of Elbasan after the new territorial division is located in the appendices, Annex 1.

2.2 Situation of men and women

According to the 2011 Census, this municipality has 147,014 inhabitants with a density of 162.51 inhabitants per km², while according to the Civil Registry it has a population of 205,892 people and a density of 236.11 inhabitants per km². According to this population we have approximately 50.4% males and 49.6% females.

Another important demographic indicator is the age structure of the population and the average age which show that currently the population of the municipality of Elbasan, continues to be still a young population as well as the Albanian population as a whole. For 2015, the age structure of the population of the municipality, shows that 69% of it (or 100,000 inhabitants), belongs to the age group 15-64 years and 20% age group (0-14) years, these very optimistic data that show that

the municipality / the county has high potential of working age population that can be economically active.

More detailed data for 12 Administrative Units and 6 Regions of the municipality of Elbasan, divided into females and males can be found in the *appendices in annex no. 2¹*.

2.3 Social-economic situation in the municipality of Elbasan

Unemployment

Unemployment in the municipality of Elbasan in 2013 and 2015 has increased by 0.15% and 2.15% respectively compared to 2012. The number of registered unemployed until the first half of 2016 are 10,247 unemployed or about 32.1 % according to municipal sources. 1 in 2 young people are unemployed. The percentage of women against the total registered unemployed people is 47.7% while this ratio increases in 2015 in progression with the increase of unemployment in this year leading to 49.7% female unemployment compared to the total registered unemployed in the municipality of Elbasan.

Economic well-being

The economy of municipality of Elbasan is divided between services, trade and industry in the city and agriculture and livestock in rural areas. Official statistics show that in the urban part 45% of economic enterprises belong to the trade sector, 41% to the services sector, 11% to industry and 3% to construction. Agriculture is concentrated in the part of the territory of the villages of the municipality.

In the municipality of Elbasan about 11,446 families receive social assistance and (other transfers) from the state (people included in the economic assistance scheme; disability payments and other payments according to the status obtained). Approximately half of the population provides income not from paid work or self-employment, but from the state in the form of social assistance and pensions or from remittances. In some administrative units in the municipality of Elbasan, the source of income of households from social economic assistance and other benefits is several times higher than the national average.

Poverty

Data for the Elbasan region show that the poverty rate is 10.7% compared to 14.3% of poverty at the national level. The municipality of Elbasan is the center of Elbasan Region, which is considered one of the regions with the lowest poverty rate in the country.

The poverty gap shows how far individuals are from the poverty line. Elbasan region has a poverty gap of 2.3%, relatively lower than the national one by 2.9%. In the division of expenditures by functions, the purpose of using the available funds or budget programs, the expenditure structure

¹ Source of data municipality Elbasan

of the new municipality of Elbasan for the years 2010-2014 turns out to be dominated by expenditures for the functions of "social protection", "economic" and education".

Low level of education, poverty and unemployment, poor living conditions and insufficient health care are the main problems addressed by the strategic documents of the municipality of Elbasan.

Economic Assistance

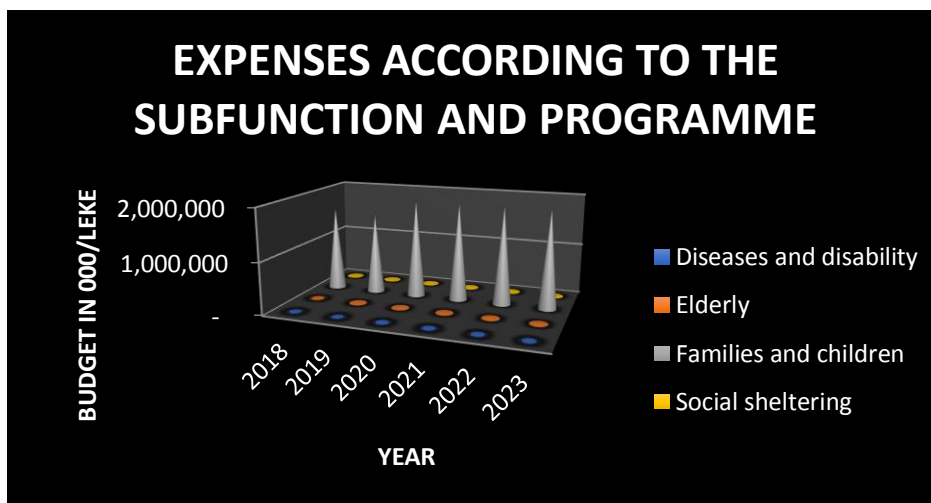
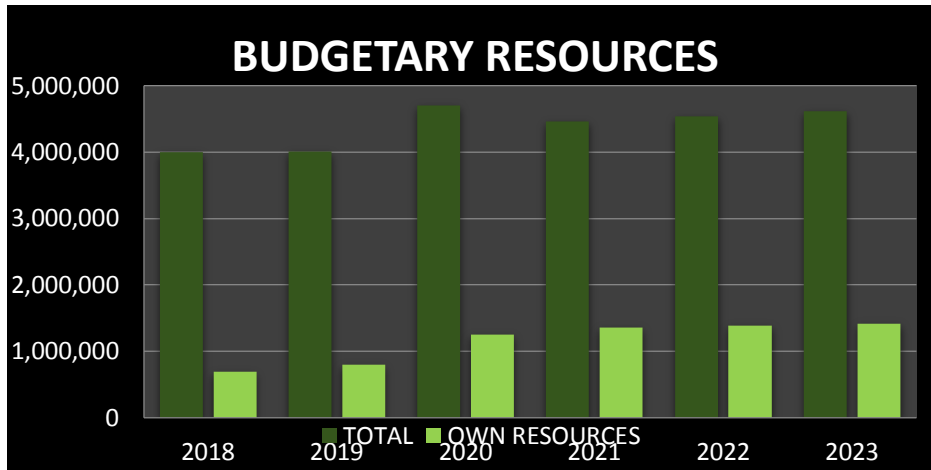
According to the data of the UNICEF study for 2013, Elbasan turns out to be one of the municipalities that has the lowest poverty level, but the number of beneficiaries of economic assistance is higher, respectively 10.7% of the population in poverty and 13.7% in Economic Assistance. Perhaps this has led to the implementation of the new law on the benefit of economic assistance under the scoring system, for which the municipality of Elbasan has been a pilot municipality, "many families are excluded from the scheme and this due to very strict criteria, which do not allow flexibility even though many families are in poverty". Online scoring treats a family from the city that has no income at all the same as a family from the village who can own land and engage in livestock and agriculture. The system is rigid and many families in real poverty after applying through online system have been left out of the economic assistance scheme.

3.1.1 The analyses of the budget in total

After receiving various financial documents from the employees of the municipality of Elbasan, from the official website of the municipality, the local finance portal and the portal www.vendime.al. These data were processed and presented in the report through figures and tables. Budget data were analyzed taking into account the specific objectives of drafting this report.

From the analysis of documents on budgetary resources of the municipality of Elbasan from 2018 - 2020 as seen from the table and graphic no. 1 below, the municipality of Elbasan has an increase in its revenues. Also, the municipality predicts to have an even greater increase during the years 2021 - 2023. The increase of the municipality's own income creates the freedom to address the funds in those programs and projects that it cannot do with government or various donor funds.

YEAR	TOTAL	OWN INCOME
2018	4,003,369	691,898
2019	4,006,346	801,589
2020	4,703,408	1,252,459
2021	4,461,238	1,357,802
2022	4,536,875	1,384,906
2023	4,617,270	1,412,605



5.1.2 Budget analyses according to the invoices of social services

TABLE 2: EXPENSES ACCORDING TO THE SUBFUNCTION AND PROGRAMME in 000/Leke
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Year	Diseases and disabilities	Elderly	Families and children	Social sheltering
2018	2,890	1,471	1,638,744	6,991
2019	2,713	9,453	1,552,639	11,120
2020	3,443	13,758	1,881,830	20,331
2021	3,264	11,656	1,884,204	16,268

2022	3,329	15,829	1,887,059	17,830
2023	3,396	16,095	1,890,263	17,921

As we can see in the graph and table on expenditures according to sub-functions and programs, the item that occupies the most weight is that of family and children, where the number of beneficiaries is higher and where the number of women heads of the family supported is also higher.

SUBFUNCTION/PROGRAMME	YEAR 2020	
	VALUE IN 000/ALL	SPECIFIC WEIGHT IN %
011 Executive and legislative bodies, for financial and fiscal matters, internal affairs	505,809	10.75%
017 Local loan services	125,428	2.67%
031 Police services	29,392	0.62%
032 Fire-protection services	95,550	2.03%
036 Community relations	0	0.00%
041 General economic, trade and labor issues	13,591	0.29%
042 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	206,115	4.38%
045 Transport	409,853	8.71%
047 Other industries	0	0.00%
051 Waste management	149,247	3.17%
052 Waste-water management	5,668	0.12%
053 Pollution reduction	8,418	0.18%
056 Environmental protection	0	0.00%
061 City Planning	14,950	0.32%
062 Community development	232,902	4.95%
063 Water supply	2,777	0.06%
064 Street lighting	130,199	2.77%
072 Primary care services	960	0.02%
081 Recreational and sports services	49,938	1.06%
082 Cultural services	74,897	1.59%
091 School and preschool education	566,191	12.04%
092 Pre-university education	162,161	3.45%
101 Diseases and disability	3,443	0.07%
102 Elderly	13,758	0.29%

104 Families and children	1,881,830	40.01%
105 Unemployment	0	0.00%
106 Social sheltering	20,331	0.43%
Grand Total	4,703,408	100.00%

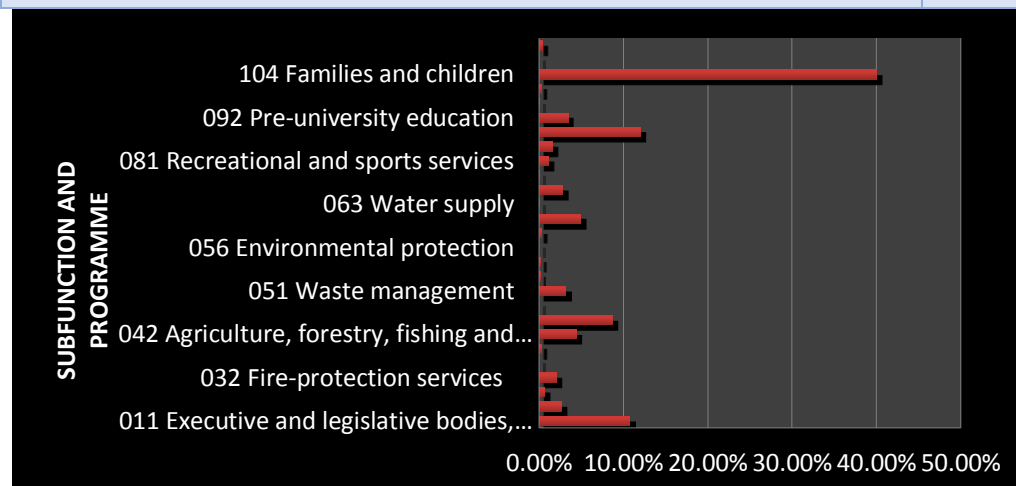


Figure 1: EXPENSES ACCORDING TO THE SUBFUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMMES/ YEAR, 2020

According to the table and graph above on expenditures by sub-function and programs for 2020 we again have the invoice of families and children which dominates with 40% of the total budget fund, followed by the voice of education with 12.04%.

YEAR 2021	
SUBFUNCTION/PROGRAMME	SPECIFIC WEIGHT IN %
011 Executive and legislative bodies, for financial and fiscal matters, internal affairs	9.68%
017 Local loan services	2.87%
031 Police services	0.66%
032 Fire-protection services	2.14%
036 Community relations	0.00%
041 General economic, trade and labor issues	0.38%
042 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	4.39%
045 Transport	7.53%
047 Other industries	0.00%
051 Waste management	2.98%
052 Waste-water management	0.30%
053 Pollution reduction	0.31%
056 Environmental protection	0.00%
061 City Planning	0.34%
062 Community development	4.02%
063 Water supply	0.16%
064 Street lighting	2.80%

072 Primary care services	0.02%
081 Recreational and sports services	1.22%
082 Cultural services	1.79%
091 School and preschool education	11.66%
092 Pre-university education	3.41%
101 Diseases and disability	0.07%
102 Elderly	0.26%
104 Families and children	42.24%
105 Unemployment	0.00%
106 Social sheltering	0.36%
TOTAL OF RESERVE FUNDS + CONTIGENCE	0.41%
Grand Total	100.00%

Figure 2: EXPENSES ACCORDING TO THE SUBFUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMMES/ YEAR, 2021

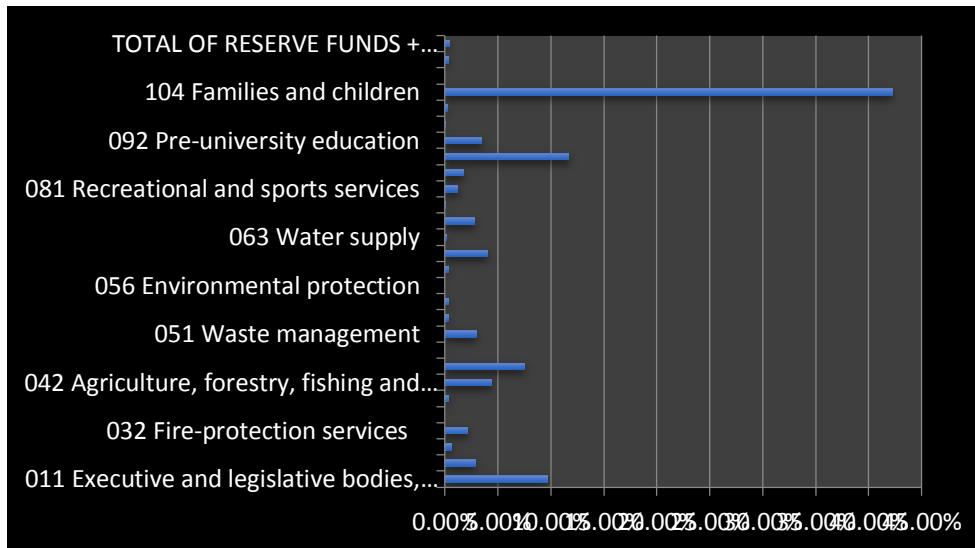


Figure 2: EXPENSES ACCORDING TO THE SUBFUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMMES/ YEAR, 2021

According to the table and graph above on expenditures by sub-function and programs for 2021 we have an even greater increase in the invoice of families and children from 40% that was for 2020, to 41.59% that is projected for 2022 and is 42.24% of the total budget fund, followed by the invoice of education which is decreasing in 2022 by 11.80% compared to 2020 which was 12.04% and we have planned 11.66% for 2021.

	YEAR 2022	
SUBFUNCTION/PROGRAMME	VALUE IN 000/ALL	SPECIFIC WEIGHT IN %
011 Executive and legislative bodies, for financial and fiscal matters, internal affairs	437,341	9.64%
017 Local loan services	127,897	2.82%
031 Police services	31,943	0.70%
032 Fire-protection services	97,343	2.15%
036 Community relations	0	0.00%
041 General economic, trade and labor issues	22,132	0.49%
042 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	198,964	4.39%
045 Transport	343,434	7.57%
047 Other industries	0	0.00%
051 Waste management	140,626	3.10%
052 Waste-water management	13,780	0.30%
053 Pollution reduction	17,133	0.38%
056 Environmental protection	0	0.00%
061 City Planning	15,083	0.33%
062 Community development	182,708	4.03%
063 Water supply	7,232	0.16%
064 Street lighting	127,538	2.81%
072 Primary care services	998	0.02%
081 Recreational and sports services	56,585	1.25%
082 Cultural services	83,458	1.84%
091 School and preschool education	535,470	11.80%
092 Pre-university education	154,436	3.40%
101 Diseases and disability	3,329	0.07%
102 Elderly	15,829	0.35%
104 Families and children	1,887,059	41.59%
105 Unemployment	0	0.00%
106 Social sheltering	17,830	0.39%
TOTAL RESERVE FUNDS + CONTIGENCE	18,727	0.41%
GENERAL TOTAL	4,536,875	100.00%

**Figure 3: EXPENSES ACCORDING TO THE SUBFUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMMES/
YEAR, 2022**

According to the table and graph above on expenditures by sub-function and programs for 2022 we have an even greater increase in the voice of families and children from 40% that was for

2020 goes to 41.59% of the total budget fund, followed by the item of education which is decreasing by 11.80% compared to 2020 which was 12.04%.

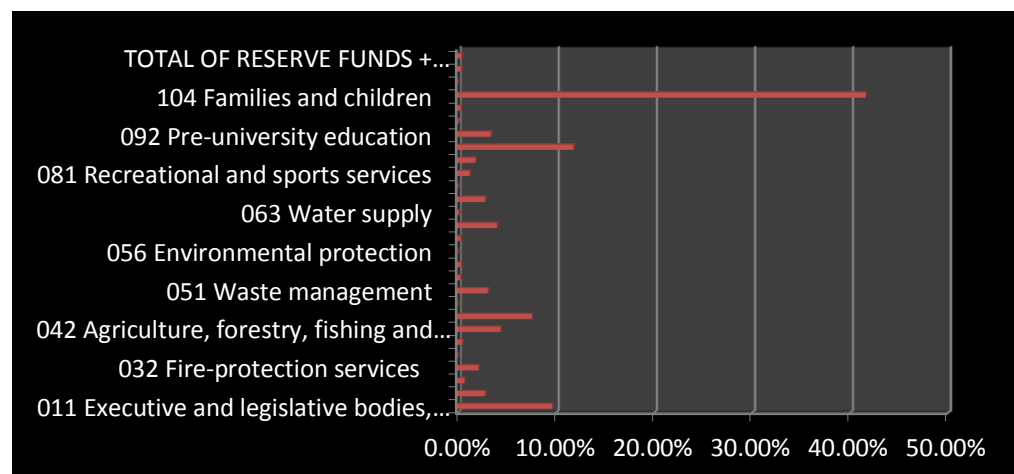


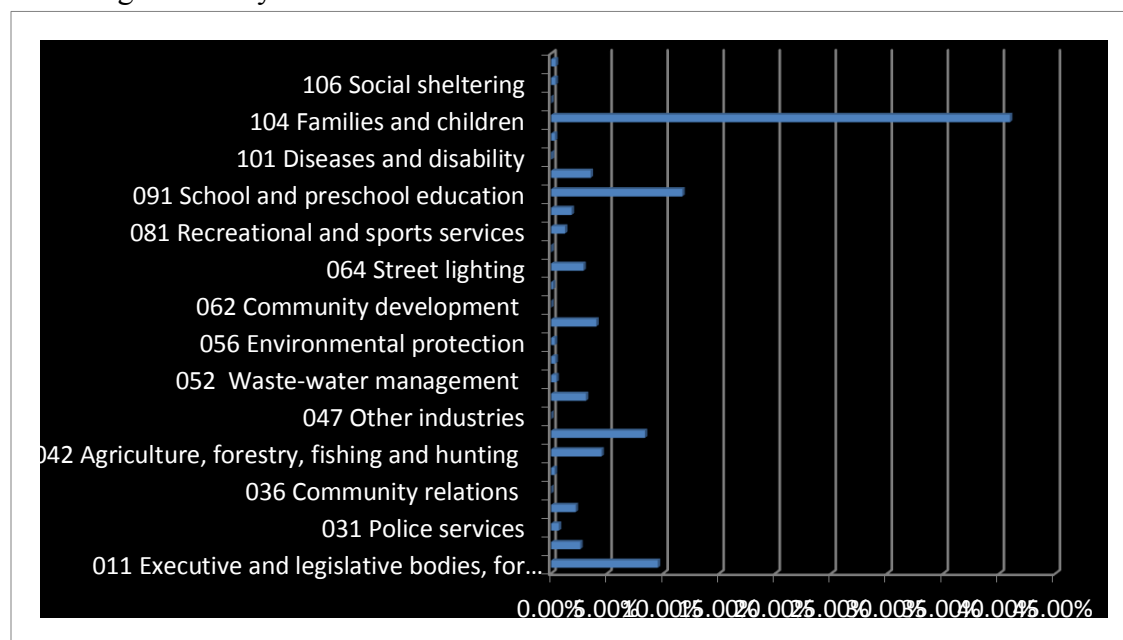
Figure 3: EXPENSES ACCORDING TO THE SUBFUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMMES/ YEAR, 2022

SUBFUNCTION/PROGRAMME	YEAR 2022	
	VALUE IN 000/ALL	SPECIFIC WEIGHT IN %
011 Executive and legislative bodies, for financial and fiscal matters, internal affairs	439,563	9.52%
017 Local loan services	120,000	2.60%
031 Police services	32,017	0.69%
032 Fire-protection services	100,699	2.18%
036 Community relations	0	0.00%
041 General economic, trade and labor issues	14,809	0.32%
042 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	207,295	4.49%
045 Transport	386,190	8.36%
047 Other industries	0	0.00%
051 Waste management	143,392	3.11%
052 Waste-water management	21,621	0.47%
053 Pollution reduction	17,389	0.38%
056 Environmental protection	15,186	0.33%
061 City Planning	186,020	4.03%
062 Community development	0	0.00%
063 Water supply	7,449	0.16%
064 Street lighting	133,089	2.88%
072 Primary care services	1,006	0.02%
081 Recreational and sports services	57,157	1.24%
082 Cultural services	84,280	1.83%
091 School and preschool education	540,401	11.70%

092 Pre-university education	162,930	3.53%
101 Diseases and disability	3,396	0.07%
102 Elderly	16,095	0.35%
104 Families and children	1,890,263	40.94%
105 Unemployment	0	0.00%
106 Social sheltering	17,921	0.39%
TOTAL OF RESERVE FUNDS + CONTIGENCE	19,102	0.41%
Grand Total	4,617,270	100.00%

Figure 4: EXPENSES ACCORDING TO THE SUBFUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMMES/ YEAR, 2023

According to the table and graph above on expenditures by sub-function and programs for 2022 the changes are very small from those of 2020 and 2021.

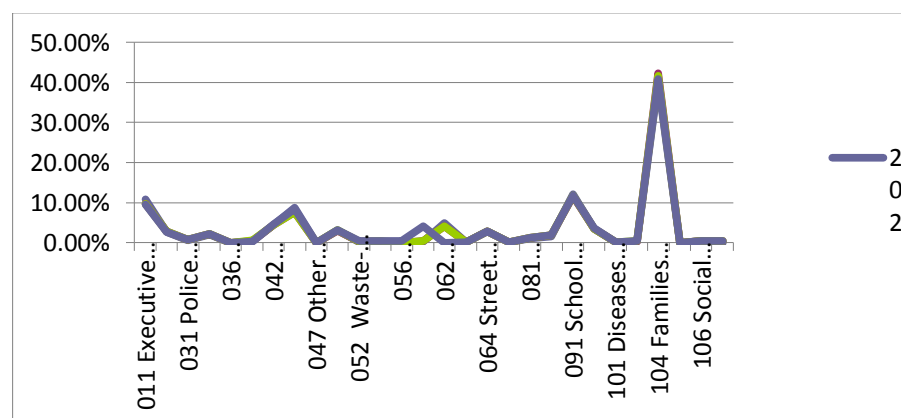


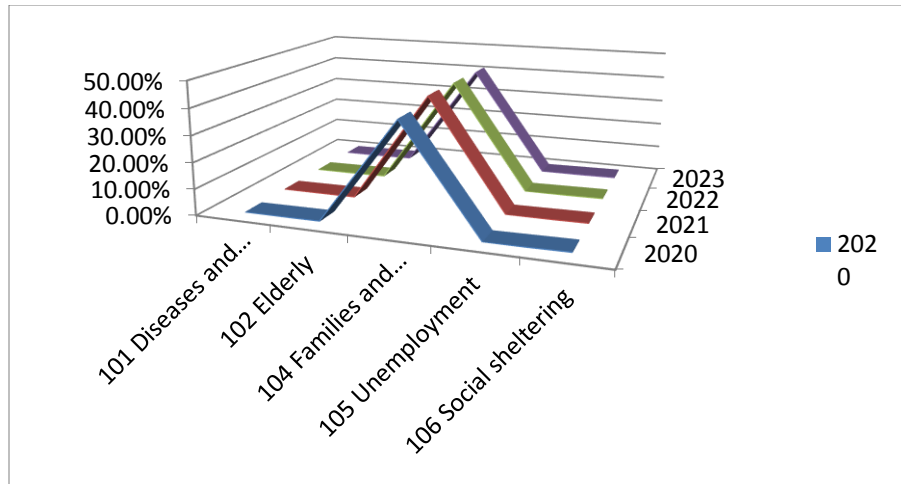
According to the table above on expenditures by sub-function and programs for 2022 the changes are very small from those of 2020 and 2021.

Figure 4: EXPENSES ACCORDING TO THE SUBFUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMMES/ YEAR, 2023

SUBFUNCTION/PROGRAMME	2020	2021	2022	2023
011 Executive and legislative bodies, for financial and fiscal matters, internal affairs	10.75%	9.68%	9.64%	9.52%
017 Local loan services	2.67%	2.87%	2.82%	2.60%
031 Police services	0.62%	0.66%	0.70%	0.69%
032 Fire-protection services	2.03%	2.14%	2.15%	2.18%
036 Community relations	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

041 General economic, trade and labor issues	0.29%	0.38%	0.49%	0.32%
042 Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	4.38%	4.39%	4.39%	4.49%
045 Transport	8.71%	7.53%	7.57%	8.36%
047 Other industries	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
051 Waste management	3.17%	2.98%	3.10%	3.11%
052 Waste-water management	0.12%	0.30%	0.30%	0.47%
053 Pollution reduction	0.18%	0.31%	0.38%	0.38%
056 Environmental protection	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.33%
061 City Planning	0.32%	0.34%	0.33%	4.03%
062 Community development	4.95%	4.02%	4.03%	0.00%
063 Water supply	0.06%	0.16%	0.16%	0.16%
064 Street lighting	2.77%	2.80%	2.81%	2.88%
072 Primary care services	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%
081 Recreational and sports services	1.06%	1.22%	1.25%	1.24%
082 Cultural services	1.59%	1.79%	1.84%	1.83%
091 School and preschool education	12.04%	11.66%	11.80%	11.70%
092 Pre-university education	3.45%	3.41%	3.40%	3.53%
101 Diseases and disability	0.07%	0.07%	0.07%	0.07%
102 Elderly	0.29%	0.26%	0.35%	0.35%
104 Families and children	40.01%	42.24%	41.59%	40.94%
105 Unemployment	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
106 Social sheltering	0.43%	0.36%	0.39%	0.39%
TOTAL OF RESERVE FUNDS + CONTIGENCE	0.00%	0.41%	0.41%	0.41%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%





According to the tables and graph above on expenditures by sub-function and programs for 2020 - 2023 are the same with very small changes.

IV: BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

4.1 Policy and strategies analyses of gender perspectives at the local level

Men and Women are not equal. They have different practical and strategic needs. They have different access to resources and assets. The local government knows better than the central government who in its locality are the poorest and most marginalized. These populations differ from the general national characteristics of the poor. Municipalities need to acknowledge and use national, regional and international human rights standards (including CEDAW) in developing their strategy and monitoring their implementation to assess their impact on core equality.

The municipality of Elbasan since 2010 has appointed a Gender Equality Officer who played until a few months ago the role of Local Coordinator against domestic violence. The municipality of Elbasan currently has a full-time Gender Equality Officer and a full-time Local Coordinator against Domestic Violence. This is an achievement after many efforts by the Directorate of Social Care and lobbying of civil society in Elbasan and beyond.

The municipality of Elbasan *signed the European Charter on February 23, 2017*, making it part of the documents and instruments that guide the actions and steps taken in all aspects of life: political, economic, social and cultural. It has drafted the first Action Plan for Gender Equality 2018 - 2020, which is an important tool for the implementation in practice of public commitments undertaken by the municipality of Elbasan in relation to the principles of equality, planning and implementation of women's needs and rights and men², young men and women³, as well as girls

² "Women and men" include the age period starting from over 35 years, until the end of life (ie. including the elderly).

³ "Young people" includes the age period from 18-35 years

and boys⁴. It was prepared as the first step in the practical implementation of the European Charter for the Equality of Men and Women in Local Life⁵.

Certainly, the municipality of Elbasan, in support of the international and national legal framework, as well as national and local priorities, has made its efforts over the years to build a society of equal opportunities, taking a series of concrete steps in this direction. The municipality of Elbasan was the first municipality in Albania to initially apply the principles of participatory budgeting (since 2004) and then gender budgeting (2009).

Yet, equality between women and men, young men and women, girls and boys in practice, in everyday life, is still far from being a reality!

Therefore, the established gender equality structures in the municipality and the Municipal Council play an important role in budgeting services for victims of domestic violence. In the municipality of Elbasan, the following have been established and are functioning: the Gender Equality Commission in the Municipal Council and the Gender Equality Commission, the Alliance of Women Councilors of the Municipal Council and recently the Extended Alliance of Women Councilors of the Municipal Council has been formed, which consists of heads of departments in municipality. The Gender Equality Commission in the Municipal Council ensures that certain gender decisions are analyzed in relation to gender effects before projects are adopted.

One of the positive initiatives that the Woman Forum Elbasan has achieved through lobbying with local government institutions and particularly the municipality of Elbasan and the Municipal Council was the signing of a cooperation agreement to support with municipality funds the rent of the emergency shelter for women and girls' survivors of domestic violence and gender-based violence for 10 months. On July 29, 2021, this agreement between the municipality and the Woman Forum Elbasan to cover the rent of the emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence, was approved by the Elbasan Municipal Council, where the mayor, council of the mayor, general secretary, budget chief, alliance of women councilors, the head and members of the Municipal Council played a major role for reaching this agreement.

Also, the municipality of Elbasan offered a social bonus in 2020 for 117 people through a co-financing with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy amounting to 14,794,394.80 ALL, subsidized by funds of the municipality of Elbasan in the amount of 4,173,553.60 ALL. Out of 117 beneficiaries of the social bonus, 43 were women. Out of these 43 women beneficiaries of the social bonus, 16 women are victims of domestic violence who have also benefited from the psycho-social and legal services of NGOs.

One of the good practices identified in the municipality of Elbasan is the payment of kindergarten fees for the children of domestic violence victims equipped with protection orders as long as PO is in force. The request was prepared by the local violence coordinator, in order for the victim to

⁴ "Girls and boys" include the age period from 0-18 years

⁵ http://www.ccre.org/docs/charte_egalite_en.pdf

be able to work and become economically empowered. During 2020, 12 children were supported for 12 months with 3500 ALL per month.

Budgeting services for victims of domestic violence:

- The municipality of Elbasan has planned in its budget for 2020 a fund of 8,700,000 ALL in support of women with violence and socio-economic problems, showing an increase in the sensitivity of the municipality and members of the Municipal Council to the target group of women with violence and socio-economic problems.

Below we bring in detail the fund budgeted by the municipality of Elbasan:

- The social fund for 2020 is 2,000,000 ALL.
- The fund for participation in joint projects is 3,500,000 ALL.
- Fund available for gender equality issues 500,000 ALL.
- Fund from the municipality revenues for economic assistance in total is 3,200,000 ALL, of which economic assistance for IPO/PO cases is 2,000,000 ALL.

For the time-period September 2018 - September 2020, this municipality has co-financed in the amount of \$ 25,000, with UNDP under the Regional Program for Local Democracy in the Western Balkans (ReLOaD) funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in six countries of the Western Balkans, for joint funding of NGOs inside and outside Elbasan, where one of the main objectives has been domestic violence and gender-based violence.

The municipality pays from its budget the salary of the Gender Employee and coordinator of domestic violence, in the annual amount of 696,000 ALL (58,000 ALL / month).

There is an increasing tendency of reporting cases of domestic violence from year to year according to the data of the Local Coordinator of Domestic Violence in the municipality, which requires more services dedicated to victims of domestic violence.

The municipality of Elbasan is one of the few municipalities that for 20 years has a model of providing “*welfare-mix*” services. The municipality of Elbasan itself manages several centers for the elderly, the disabled, the Community Center for Roma & Egyptian Children & Families and two Community Centers for Families in Need and has at least 21 registered civil society organizations, covering a wide range of issues. including: children's rights, women's rights, Roma community rights, families in extreme poverty, people with disabilities, etc. Civil society / other institutions operating in the municipality (mainly before the reform, but also during 2016 and onwards) are active. This public & private partnership makes the municipality of Elbasan one of the municipalities with a wide range of services to help vulnerable people.

V: MONITORING THE BUDGET PREPARATION AND APPROVAL 2021

5.1 Participatory Budgeting Monitoring

The WFE experts have monitored two of the 18 participatory budgeting meetings held by the municipality of Elbasan, one in AU Gjinar and one in region no. 4 during November 2020. In both monitoring meetings the no. of participants in each meeting ranged from 35-40, where 20% of participants were women. The mayor and his staff informed through the presentation of investments and interventions realized during 2020 and investments and interventions planned for 2021. Then the citizens discussed on the investments, needs and concerns such as:

- Lighting of streets and alleys,
- Restoration of Kindergarten no. 2,
- Arrangements and maintenance of roads and alleys
- Cleaning
- Children's playgrounds
- Regulatory plan and road regulation and the main center of Adm, Unit Gjinar,
- Establishment and subsidization of family businesses for women with local products,
- Etc.

The mayor and staff answered all the concerns and questions of the citizens. Two of the most prominent responses were the planned fund for the arrangement of streets, parks and playgrounds in every neighborhood of the city and the realization of a project to stimulate businesses for women and girls for traditional products of the area.

5.2 Monitoring of the Budget Committee

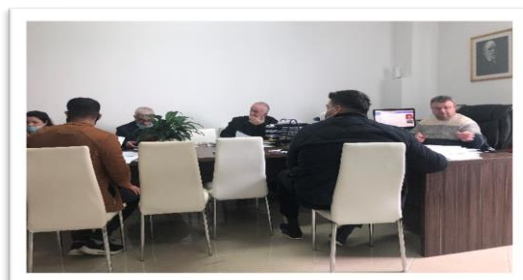
A meeting was held with the mayor and the budget responsible in the municipality of Elbasan, where he was explained to the project and the activities that will take place in the municipality of Elbasan. The mayor and the chief of budget expressed their readiness for cooperation. The budget director explained the budget and the general lines, as well as some challenges we might have in reading the budget and assured us that she would support us with all the information we would need to carry out a consistent monitoring. The same day the chief budget officer e-mailed us the draft budget for 2021, the budget and expenditures for 2020 and some other information agreed during the meeting.

Photo during the meeting with the budget chief



On December 22, the coordinator participated in the meeting of the budget committee, which was attended by 9 members of this committee (3 women and 6 men). The commission discussed in particular the investments in the “5 May” neighborhood, where most Roma / Egyptian families live, on canal cleaning, house restructuring, children's education, social businesses for women in Adm. Unit Gjinar, etc. At the end of the meeting, the chairman of the budget committee made available to us all the materials distributed to the members in physical and electronic copies.

Photo from the budget committee monitoring meeting



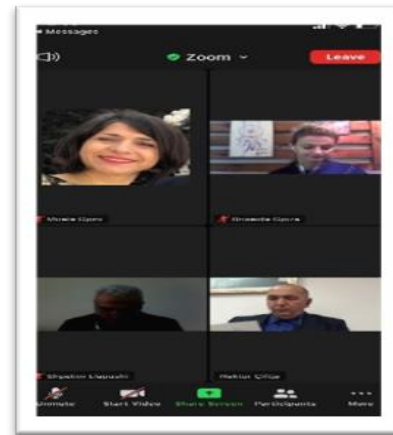
5.3 Monitoring the approval of the 2021 budget by the Municipal Council

The meeting of the Municipal Council was held on December 24, where, among others, the budget for 2021 was discussed for approximately 2 hours and at the end the council approved the budget for 2021. 50 people were present at the meeting and out of these 24 were women. The mayor of Elbasan made a presentation of the budget for 2021, the main investments, where the most

ambitious and social investment presented was that of paving roads in each neighborhood, lighting, fixing benches, parks and playgrounds for children.

Given that the situation with the pandemic according to forecasts will be continue in grave terms it was talked and discussed about the funds needed to cope with it, which absorbs a lot of funds that could go to other necessary investments of the city.

Photo from the approval of the budget of the Municipality of Elbasan 2021



In conclusion, this monitoring in practice showed that the point of view of women and girls is necessary and essential to have budgets that respond better to the needs of citizens.

This monitoring also revealed the real challenges that these initiatives have to be financially supported. Discrimination against women / girls is evident in decision-making and benefiting from public funds, therefore an increased attention is required for citizen awareness, especially of women / girls, monitoring of budget building processes, expenditure analysis and lobbying for a budget that responds to the needs of women and men, in the most balanced way without creating large gender differences.

VI. Mapping of Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Needs	How can they be helped by gender budgeting	Benefits to be received
Abused women and their children	Emergency Sheltering	Planning the continuation of the emergency shelter rent budget	Increasing life security for women and their children surviving violence in the family
Abused women and their children equipped with PO	Sheltering	Planning a fund for 20 women with PO who can apply throughout the year for apartment rent	Women emerging from violence and moving towards reintegration
Children of women with socio-economic problems	Establishment of 1 or 2 nurseries in one or two of the largest tailoring companies in	Planning a group of children 0-3 years old from 10-15 children in one or two of the largest tailoring	Employment and economic empowerment of women coming from the most vulnerable

	the municipality of Elbasan.	companies in the Municipality of Elbasan	strata of the municipality of Elbasan.
Children and women	Illumination of areas with potential risk of violence and abuse, especially for women and children (e.g. "Rinia" park).	Planning a fund for lighting the Rinia Park.	Prevention of cases of sexual harassment and abuse, drug abuse, accidents, etc.
Rural women	Women's economic development program by increasing their access to small business subsidy schemes offered by the Municipality of Elbasan.	Budgeting a subsidy scheme of a group of 5 women in Adm. Unit Gjinar for the production of handicraft products of the area.	Economic empowerment of rural women
Young girls	Establishment of a women's soccer club.	Budgeting a women's soccer club.	Increasing young girls' access to sports.

VII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

GOOD PRACTICES

- The separation of the functions of the Gender Equality Officer and the Local Coordinator against domestic violence, through the appointment of two full-time persons is an Achievement after many years of lobbying from inside and outside the Municipality (NGOs).
- Kindergarten fee payment for children of victims of domestic violence equipped with protection orders as long as the POs are in force and meeting this need helps to empower women survivors of gender-based and domestic violence.
- The municipality of Elbasan has given priority to women survivors of violence with PO, divorced and with many children in benefiting from social housing programs based on the law "On Social Housing". This has resulted in an increase in the number of beneficiaries from about 62 cases in 2019 to about 117 families in 2020, some of whom are victims of domestic violence. (37-2017; 16 in 2019, 19-rent bonus in 2020).
- The municipality of Elbasan for years has created a stable and sensitive model of participatory budgeting.
- Financing the rent of the emergency shelter managed by the Woman Forum Elbasan for 10 months, in the amount of 200,000 ALL is another indicator of the sensitivity of the municipality of Elbasan to the problems of violence and gender inequality.
- Diversification of donors and funds for social, cultural and economic programs.
- The *welfare mix* model of public and private management of social services is one of the strengths of the municipality of Elbasan.

- The establishment of the gender equality commission with the directors of the directorates of the municipality of Elbasan and the creation of the alliance of women councilors and their lobbying work is another asset of the municipality of Elbasan.

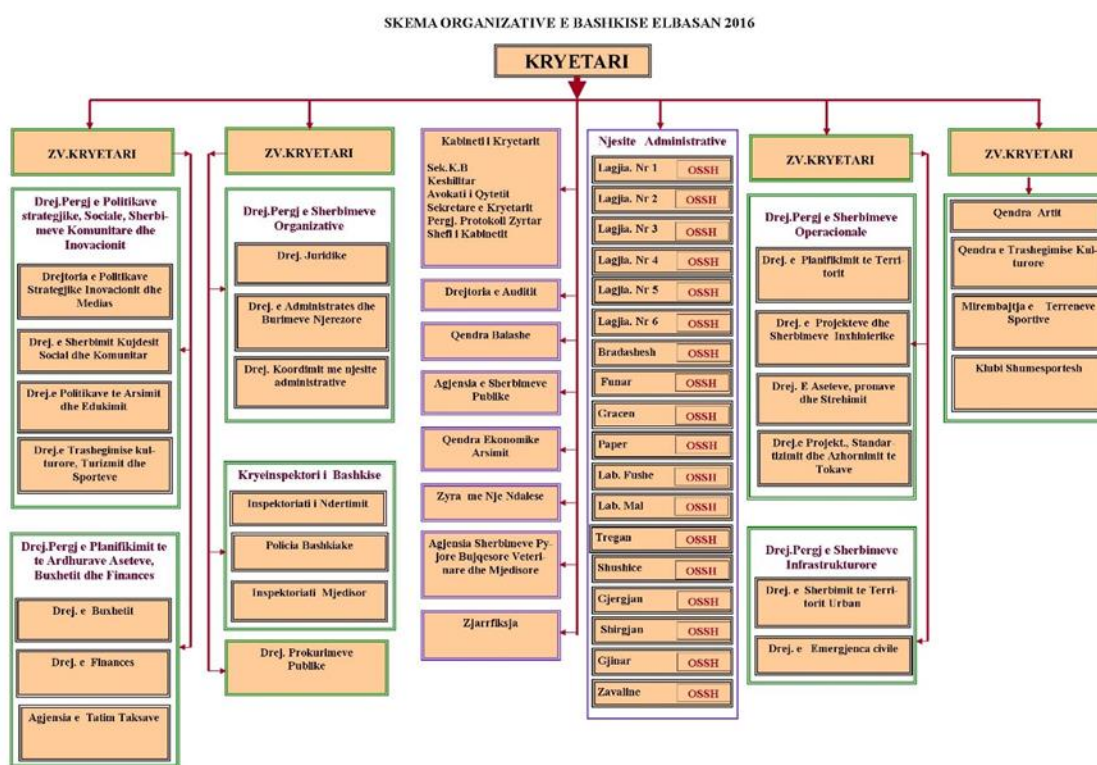
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase the active role of the Gender Equality Officer as part of working groups in drafting strategies, programs and when participatory budgeting meetings are organized and community needs are discussed.
- The establishment and operation of a rehabilitation center for victims of domestic violence with long-term residence is one of the priorities set by this municipality, for which it is recommended to continue working in order to budget this important service.
- Establishment of 1 or 2 kindergartens in two of the largest tailor companies in the Municipality Elbasan, in order to employ and economically empower women.
- Design / diversify women's economic development programs by increasing their access to small business subsidy schemes offered by the municipality of Elbasan.
- Lighting of areas with potential risk of violence and abuse, especially for women and children (Rinia Park, etc.).
- Development of sports with volleyball, basketball, tennis and the creation of a women's football club.
- All directorates should be committed to achieving gender equality by not considering this only as the responsibility of a directorate, that of social services and gender officers.
- It is recommended to strengthen the Needs Assessment Units as well as the extension of services in the Administrative Units.
- Creating the conditions for gender-responsive local governance Often, a local government's willingness to advance gender equality on the political agenda is directly and strongly linked to its knowledge of what gender equality is and why striving for equality between women and men brings communities political, social and economic benefits. Municipal GEOs should strive to demonstrate the link between gender equality, socio-economic development and local governance. However, it is necessary that the process of building knowledge and skills be led by the leaders of the municipality.
- Knowledge should be combined with the capacity to implement effective projects and programs aimed at addressing gender-based inequalities. The first step towards capacity building should be to raise awareness: to make local officials, at all levels and in all positions, aware of how our institutions, systems, processes, relationships and policies are based on ideas and (often) stereotypes about the different and unequal roles and responsibilities of women and men - and why it matters. Without this basic awareness, efforts to build gender-related capacities can easily be ignored, no longer prioritized, encountered resistance, or actively undermined.
- Development of technical systems that enable the collection of an accurate database for local policy making. From a gender perspective, the most important systems to set up at the local

government level are data systems that enable the collection, processing and analysis of gender-disaggregated data. Gender-disaggregated data - collected to include both men and women, and analyzed by gender experts - are essential for the development of relevant public policies and services that respond to women's needs and priorities. and men, girls, and boys.

- Adaptation of national frameworks for gender equality according to local realities. This is not just a result of decentralization. It is about better understanding the specific needs, priorities and interests of women and men, boys and girls, which are shaped by local practices as well as local socio-economic and political realities.

Annex 1



Annex no. 2

Population January 2021

The population for 6 neighborhoods and 12 administrative units according to the Civil Registry January 2021 is presented as follows:

Municipality Elbasan	Population total	Males	Females
Neighborhood no.1	23,238	11,851	11,378
Neighborhood no.2	23,261	11,863	11,398

Neighborhood no.3	28,043	14,302	13,741
Neighborhood no.4	22,180	11,312	10,868
Neighborhood no.5	16,017	6,998	9,019
Neighborhood no.6	19,010	10,866	8,144
Total urban areas	131,749	67,192	64,558
Administrative Unit Labinot Fushe	7,040	3,590	3,450
Administrative Unit Labinot Mal	5,617	2,865	2,751
Administrative Unit Gjinar	4,892	2,495	2,397
Administrative Unit Shushice	11,667	5,950	5,717
Administrative Unit Gjergjan	8,136	4,149	3,987
Administrative Unit Funar	2,824	1,440	1,384
Administrative Unit Shirgjan	10,896	5,557	5,339
Administrative Unit Tregan	4,602	2,347	2,255
Administrative Unit Gracen	2,340	1,193	1,147
Administrative Unit Bradashesh	13,732	7,003	6,729
Administrative Unit Zavaline	1,422	725	697
Administrative Unit Paper	9,444	4,816	4,628
Total rural areas	82,612	42,130	40,481
Total Municipality Elbasan	214,361	109,322	105,039

References

¹ Medium-term budget program 2020-2022

² Approved by law no. 115/2014, dated 31.7.2014 "On the administrative-territorial division of local government units in the Republic of Albania"

³ Article 24 of Law no. 139/2015 "On local self-government"

⁴ All materials are referred to official documents published by the Municipality of Elbasan and will be quoted following the report

⁵ Data source for 2011 and 2015 INSTAT study at the municipal level

⁶ Source of data for 2021 Municipality of Elbasan

⁷ Data source Municipality of Elbasan

⁸ "Women and men" includes the age period starting from over 35 years, until the end of life (i.e. including the elderly).

⁹ "Young people" includes the age period from 18-35 years

¹⁰ "Girls and boys" includes the age period from 0-18 years

¹¹ http://www.ccre.org/docs/charte_egalite_en.pdf

