



Newsletter #4

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TWO NETWORK PARTNERS' WORKSHOPS IN NORTH MACEDONIA

From June 20 to June 25, the Gender Budget Watchdog Network regional team of coordinators gathered in Skopje for capacity building and discussing important further steps in the advancing of the Network.

The first part of the workshops was dedicated to building up the knowledge on climate change and the sessions related to this topic were led by the expert Slavjanka Pejchinovska-Andonova. During these sessions, the participants had a chance to discuss their views on climate change, but also learn about climate change as such, the human effect on climate change, needs for actions to reduce Green House Gases (GHGs) emissions and their consequences on environment, loss of biodiversity and our lives. Another important point of discussion were the most vulnerable groups in cases of these climate issues. This led to a more thorough discussion on gender and climate change, i.e., how are the two intertwined and how does vulnerability to climate change correlate with gender. A solution to this – of course – gender responsive climate actions. Gordana Nestorovska, another one of GBWN experts, prepared sessions on international commitments for climate change and gender equality, so that the team would be better prepared for developing a methodology for a GRB report on climate change to be conducted in each country.



GRB, Gender and Climate Change

Workshop

Sessions covered by this training:

- International commitments for Climate Change and Gender Equality;
- Opportunities for Climate Change Financing;
- Developing a methodology for a GRB report on climate change;
- Developing a tool for the regional research on gender in climate change financing.

BURNING QUESTIONS:

What are the **primary sources of Green House Gases** (GHGs) emissions, what climate change impacts are, and who are the most vulnerable groups to climate change consequences?

What are **the needs** in each country and what types of actions do we need to start taking to reduce GHGs emissions and their consequences on the environment, biodiversity loss and our lives?

How to **engage women and men** of all ages as stakeholders in the design, development and implementation of climate projects to be financed?

Second part the workshops in North Macedonia was focused on the high-level advocacy and lobbying strategies, opportunities and spaces to be involved in as a network. Our expert, **Ida Manton**, an international lecturer, consultant, and trainer, created an important space for the partners to brainstorm and discuss various ideas about platforms and potential events where it would be beneficial to have the network represented. The workshop ended with a structured plan for the next two years with specific tasks and actions to be done. We have identified key entry points for GBWN networking, attending and participating in high-level discussions and forums. The discussions also helped the team identify what skills are needed to develop in order to have successful advocacy efforts as CSOs and together as a network. This workshop series was another great opportunity for GBWN in building strong partnerships, promoting awareness, and fostering a conducive environment for gender-responsive budgeting, that are crucial for maximizing the potential of strong civil society in the Western Balkans and Moldova.

Sessions covered in this workshop:

- Efficient advocacy,
- Public diplomacy,
- Negotiation skills;
- High level advocacy and lobbying for CSOs;
- How to build skills for high level advocacy and lobbying;
- Strategy for participation of GBWN in international events.



High-level Advocacy and Lobbying

Workshop

BURNING QUESTIONS:

Our network represents **88 CSOs**, so how do we educate “the demos” to make the democratic processes strong and their voices being heard?

How can we get on **“the menu”** even if we are not at the table?
How do we “translate” what has been agreed on at the international level?





NETWORK COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Workshop

From 23 to 28 August 2023, representatives of the Gender Budget Watchdog Network gathered in Chisinau, Moldova with the aim of holding a workshop on network communication strategy.

The entire workshop was led by Dr. Ludmila Malcoci, Keystone's Director for the CEE region. A SWOT analysis of communications within the network and external communication was made, during which all representatives of partner organizations had the opportunity to give their opinion on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the Network. We now have a clear plan for communication channels, messages to reach our target groups as well as the further potential expansion of the network to new organizations using communication tools. Part of the workshop discussions were dedicated to the methodology for gender responsive monitoring of climate action budgets.

The sessions covered the situational analysis of GBWN; Vision, goal, and strategic objectives of GBWN communication strategy; Target audiences' profile and effective messages development; Media channels, methods and tactics of delivering messages to target audiences; Monitoring and evaluation for communication strategy; Discussion on methodology for gender budget watchdogging in climate change financing; Discussion on how to further advance the Network (in terms of increased membership) through communication channels.



Agreements with Sub-Grantees Signed CSOs Capacity Building in progress...

All the partners signed the agreements with the sub-grantees. We have all together 14 national grants and 2 regional ones.

As part of the learning activities, Gender Budget Watchdog Network organized two workshops on Organizational and Advocacy Capacity Assessment (OACA). One of the workshops was internal, only for the Gender Budget Watchdog Network project partners or the core team of the Network, while the second workshop was organized for the sub-grantees. Both workshops were led by the expert Nicole Farnsworth from Kosovo Women's Network. The first half of the workshops was dedicated to Process, Organizational and Capacity Assessment of the CSOs and the second half to Advocacy Capacity Assessment and Reporting using the tools of Index Score Cards. This structured tool for a facilitated self-assessment of an organization's capacity followed by action planning for capacity improvements will be used as part of the strengthening of CSOs as stakeholders who contribute to increasing accountability and transparency and improving public money management.

Organizational and Advocacy Capacity Assessment (OACA)

The workshop aimed to demonstrate the precise methodology to:

- Assess the organizational capacities of CSOs (using the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool);
- Assess capacity of CSOs to engage in effective advocacy (Advocacy Capacity Assessment Tool);
- Identify CSOs' organizational and advocacy capacity development needs;
- Develop clear recommendations for CSO capacity development assistance;
- Determine baseline scores for organizational and advocacy capacity for each organization to measure impact of capacity development assistance in the future; and
- Mentor the GRB teams on assessment techniques.

Once the subgrantees conduct the self-assessment of organizational and advocacy capacities the GBWN team will be meeting them and assist them in drafting their capacity development plans.



Newsletter #4

Message

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When we come together as network partners, we create a space in which we can always share our opinions, ideas, and views while contributing to the collective efforts we work towards in the framework of the GBWN project. The capacity building workshops are especially important for the network to build on the knowledge we already have inside the network as well as develop future strategic plans and steps to follow. As a network we can then provide better support to our target groups throughout the process of building socially responsible communities.

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Ivana Petrisková,
GBWN Grants and Learning Officer (CRPM)



NEW PODCASTS EPISODES RELEASED



First Episode with Gordana Nestorovska Micova and Željana Pjevalica

The first episode of the podcasts series in the framework of the Gender Budget Watchdog Network, where we discuss critical issues related to climate change and gender-responsive budgeting. In this episode, the regional director of the network, Marija Risteska, engages in discussion with Gordana Nestorovska Micova and Željana Pjevalica, activists and representatives of associations working in environmental protection and climate change adaptation.



Second Episode with Slavica Striković, the Director of the network's implementing partner organization, Women Action.

In this podcast, we delve into the significance of gender-responsive budgeting with Marija Risteska, the Regional Director of GBWN, and Slavica Striković, the Director of the network's implementing partner organization, Women Action. In this conversation, Marija and Slavica, two experienced advocates and activists, share their journey of using gender-responsive budgeting as a tool for change. They explore its applications, benefits, and its ability to shape policies and budgets that cater to the needs of all citizens, especially the marginalized and vulnerable groups.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

[@GenderBudgetWatchdogNetwork](https://www.youtube.com/@GenderBudgetWatchdogNetwork)

Want To Listen More?



GBWN forthcoming events

Women's economic empowerment in the Western Balkans, WORKING GROUP MEETING 4 Skopje, 29 September 2023

We are joining forces with the Friends of Europe in organizing the fourth and last Working Group meeting on women's economic empowerment on Friday, 29 September in Skopje, North Macedonia on our favourite theme gender-responsive budgeting. The discussion from the Working Group will be summarized in the report to be launched at Friends of Europe's EU-Western Balkans Summit on the 7 December in Brussels.



Gender Summit The New Gen(D)eration October 4-5, 2023, in Skopje

GBWN will hold a workshop Improving gender equality in allocation of public financing through gender responsive budgeting. The workshop aims to introduce participants to gender responsive budgeting by looking at public finance allocations in one area (it could be sports / energy efficiency / urban mobility / infrastructure), providing basic budget literacy skills, discussing what role CSOs, academia and activists could have, how they can organize a watchdog or gender budget initiative and affect local and central government decision making and budgeting process. It is a practical crash course on GRB for beginners.



GBWN forthcoming events

GRB Forum “Going Glocal: Gender Responsive Budgeting in the Western Balkans & Moldova-Advancing good governance through empowering CSOs to use GRB tools” 18-20 October 2023, Skopje, North Macedonia

The forum will bring together a collaboration of global and local experts and practitioners on a mission to develop and improve Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) methodologies for tracking international funding for gender equality. Considering that several international actors plan to finance climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, specific attention will be paid to methodologies for examining these allocations, towards ensuring that they will be just and address the different needs of diverse women and men.

The conference will provide lessons learned and best practices for how good governance can be advanced by empowering CSOs to use GRB tools, taking global experiences to inform future local initiatives.

