



# GBWN Annual Meeting 2024

Report

## GBWN ANNUAL MEETING 9-11 December 2024, Veles, Macedonia

- In order to further institutionalize the network and in accordance with its Statute, GBWN organized the annual network meeting from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of December.
- The annual network meeting is open to all GBWN members, who have a strong interest in advancing GRB skills translating research findings into everyday practice and building joint advocacy strategies through networking.
- Each GRB Hub selected a number of representatives of the GBWN member organizations from the local level.
- The meeting was organized in a hybrid form, so that most of the network members can join in-person or online for the voting and to be fully informed about the network activities.
- 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 was only the arrival of the network members and GBWN coordinators.

### 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Tuesday

The first day of the meeting started with the opening from the GBWN Regional Director, Marija Risteska who have spoken about the main achievements of network, milestones that we have crossed and the vision for the future of the network and its activities in the current implementation region and beyond. The opening remarks were followed by the presentation of Ivana Petrisková, Program Coordinator, who has summed up the status of the GBWN activities, illustrated the percentage of the achieved targets and presented the timeline of network activities.



The next step of the first session was a presentation of the GBWN Statute and its suggested changes, specifically removing the regional/ geographic limitations of the network to Western Balkans and Moldova and opening the membership to other regions and globally. The changes in the Statute have been voted through a Google Form for by 26 network members which complied with a minimum threshold necessary for the approval of the changes (2/3 out of 38 members, including GRB Hubs who confirmed the membership before the Network Annual Meeting)

#### Voting on the GBWN Statute

Do you agree with the changes of the GBWN Statute

26 responses



Next session was dedicated to the presentation of the Network's strategy by Nicole Farnsworth from Kosovo Womens' Network. KWN with other GBWN partners and network members identified the challenges and opportunities for development of GBWN and the development trends in the sector. Based on the information gathered a Network development strategy has been developed and presented at the annual network meeting and voted for adoption by the network members. The presentation included also an open discussion on the mission and terminology used for the network, in order for all the members to be fully aligned with these aspects. Similar method was used of the voting on Network Strategy – Google form questionnaire with 26 votes agreement on the Network Development Strategy.

## Voting on the GBWN Network Development Strategy

Do you agree with the GBWN Network Development Strategy?

26 responses



In the second part of the first day, we continued with the capacity building activities for the network members. First workshop was dedicated to the result-oriented advocacy and outreach facilitated by Mersiha Jaskic, from CPCD. This workshop illustrated some of the good examples of communicating GRB and ways of framing messages for various stakeholders (policymakers, media, public) and using data storytelling to make gender budgeting impactful. During this workshop and discussion space the CSOs had a chance to reflect on tools to how they can improve their advocacy using impact stories. The second workshop led by Valeria Babără from the Gender Justice on AI and digital advocacy tools for CSOs gave the participants a deep overview and detailed guidance on different artificial intelligence platforms for better craftsmanship of communication messages and therefore creating more effective advocacy campaigns.



11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Wednesday

The second day of the meeting was fully dedicated to the discussion on the network expectations facilitated by Liljana Tanevska Arsova from CRPM. The Network members had space to share their expectations and needs that they have as members.

The main insights from the members include:

### What should GBWN do differently?

- Promote more the intersectional aspect of GRB so we are not perceived only as women's network
- Provide continuity of work for a long period, because this is one of guarantees that GRB will become part of daily work of those who plan and implement budgets at all levels- MNE
- Ensure that decision makers recognize GBWN as the most important partner that offers tools for easy implementation of GRB- MNE
- Strengthening national networks, regular meetings at the national level where joint actions, laws, strategies, organizations would get to know each other better and cooperate more
- Members at the same time implementing the designated activities -this means not only speaking on our behalf, but also concrete actions with us
- Produce videos from subgrantees sharing the experiences from the subgrants implementation and results achieved.
- Adjust GRB for wider audience that has not sufficient knowledge in GRB
- Building Local Self Government capacities

### What should GBWN keep doing?

- Influence the collaboration from more than 2 countries through different initiatives. This way NGOs and participants will have a clearer view of the situation on GRB in different countries.
- Further strengthening of concrete advocacy activities at local as well as national level that will produce measurable changes in terms of increasing GRB as response to impact of climate change-MNE
- Expanding of network and recognition of E- platform as a powerful resource of knowledge
- GBWN is recognized as the regional strongest resource of information, place for exchange of knowledge and good practices
- To organize joint events both hybrid and in person. With facilitated networking among members.
- Share good practices online.
- Organize joint regional campaigns with cultural thematic events.
- Empowering women, driving innovation, creating role models, promoting equality, strengthening communities,
- Enhancing global impact.
- Set up the current list, expand the network with new organizations, connect with each other, build capacity from among local self-government representatives
- Networking, building capacities, sub-granting promotion
- To enable new associations to access your trainings, your academy, so that we can better transfer the acquired knowledge
- Continue with the grant scheme
- Keep up with the mentoring on tailored advocacy for the CSOs
- Giving grants and making capacity building activities

### Expectations

- Follow Possibilities for EU funding and management
- Produce shadow report
- Provide support for new members
- Invite members on meetings with officials
- Continue doing OACA
- Continue with mentoring
- Continue monitoring Local Governments' budgets
- Continue the cooperation with Local Governments
- Echoing advocacy efforts
- Continue the promotion and functioning of e- academy
- To look at ADA funding possibilities
- To encourage partnership
- Make profile of each member and offer mutual support as peer learning activities
- Organize webinars on different topics where partners will be included as hosts
- Increase sharing the knowledge among partners.

- Provide support for implementation of the OACA
- Establish cooperation with other sectors like education
- Support all members as sub-grantees are supported.
- To become learning source for soft skills
- Strengthening sustainability of the network
- To secure financial sustainability of the network
- The identification of network experts for improving growth as pool of experts
- Expand the network
- To produce digital marketing strategy for the network
- To establish partnership with private sector and donors
- To open cofounding platform
- To involve youth
- To promote e- academy on higher level.

The closing of the event summarized the key takeaways by each of the participants and formulating the visions and goals for network members based on the fruitful discussion in the morning session.

