

2nd Announcement

The European Gender Budgeting Network

In collaboration with the
Cyprus Gender Budgeting Platform & the Foundation FIMONOI

Take great pleasure in inviting you
at the European Gender Budgeting Conference:

Gender Budgeting in the New EU Multiannual Financial Framework: Making Budgets work for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights in Europe

Which will take place
on the 26th and 27th March 2026
at the University of Cyprus, Aglantzia at Auditorium B108,
Anastasios Leventis Council & Senate Building

Sponsors and supporters



EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
LOBBY
EUROPEEN DES FEMMES



Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου
University of Cyprus



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Chamber of
Commerce &
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Εθνικός Μηχανισμός
για τα Δικαιώματα
της Γυναίκας



Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality

Introduction

As the EU prepares its next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), urgent questions arise about how public budgets reflect our values. Despite binding commitments to gender equality and inclusive governance, the EU's budgetary processes remain far from being gender responsive. Increased militarization of EU budgets threatens to crowd out social spending and further marginalize the gender equality agenda. It's time to reaffirm a rights-based fiscal approach and ensure that gender responsive budgeting (GRB) is not sidelined but at the centre of its planning, formulation and execution.

Title of the conference

Gender Budgeting in the New EU Multiannual Financial Framework: Making Budgets work for Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights in Europe

The aims of the conference

The conference aims at:

- contributing to building solid foundations for the next EU budget (MFF 2028-2034) to promote gender equality, women's rights, peace and social investments
- sharing perspectives with European institutions, especially co-legislators, on how to strengthen the legislative proposals in the negotiation process in order to strengthen investments in what matters for people in Europe
- fostering inclusive cooperation with civil society and global partners to effectively contribute to the negotiation process
- discussing the way forward for the European Gender Budgeting Network and building partnerships and joint advocacy strategies.

Dates and duration of the conference

The conference will take place in Nicosia, Cyprus on the 26 and 27 March 2026

Official language

English

Provisional Conference Programme

Wednesday 25 March 2026

19:00-21:00 Informal get together

Thursday 26 March 2026

9:00-9:30 Arrival and registration

9:30-10:00 **OPENING SESSION**

9:30-9:45 Welcome addresses

Mary Pyrgos, European Gender Budgeting Network, Cyprus Gender budgeting platform

Josie Christodoulou, Commissionaire for Gender Equality,
on behalf of the President of the Republic of Cyprus

Annita Demetriou, President of the Cyprus Parliament

Penelope Papavassiliou, Permanent Secretary, DG Growth, Ministry of Finance
- on behalf of the Deputy Minister of European Affairs, Ms Marilena Raouna

9:45-10:15 **Setting the Stage: Invest in What Matters for People's Lives:
Gender Budgeting in the next long-term EU Budget**

Elisabeth Klatzer, Economist/Gender Budgeting Expert,
European Gender Budgeting Network

- 10:15-12:00** **Panel 1: From commitment to action: Putting gender equality and social investments at the core of the next EU budget**
- Panelists:**
- Annikky Lamp, European Court of Auditors, Head of Cabinet
 - Emanuela Tassa, Gender Equality Unit, European Commission, DG JUST
 - Mary Collins, Secretary General, European Women's Lobby
 - Helena Morais Maceira, Gender Mainstreaming Researcher and Team Leader, European Institute for Gender Equality
 - Marie Lena Groenewald, Policy Officer, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
 - Magdalena Mandl, Deputy Head of Unit Budget Strategy and Analysis, Austrian Ministry of Finance
- Moderator:** *Anna Elomäki, Senior Researcher, Tampere University*

12:00-13:30 **Lunch and networking**

- 13:30-15:00** **Panel 2: National and regional partnerships need gender equality**
- Panelists:**
- Themis Christophidou, Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy (video input)
 - Anna Elomäki, Senior Researcher, Tampere University
 - Henriette Meseke, Head of the Agency of Horizontal Principles in ESF+, Germany
 - Lenita Freidenvall, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Employment, Sweden
 - Sari Rautio, EPP Committee of Regions president and CoR rapporteur on the post-2027 MFF
 - Carlotta Besozzi, Director, Civil Society Europe
- Moderator:** *Regina Frey, Gender Budgeting expert*

15:00-15:30 **Coffee break**

- 15:30-17:00** **Panel 3: Global Europe and gender equality**
- Panelists:**
- Petra Debusscher, Professor, Ghent University
 - Brigitte Luggin, Gender Advisor, European Commission, DG INTPA
 - Aude Maio-Coliche, Ambassador for Equality, EEAS
 - Aline Burni, Research Fellow at ODI Europe, member of the Feminist Foreign Policy Progressive Voices Collective (FFPPVC) & the Walking the Talk consortium
 - Florence Raes, Director, UN Women Brussels Office
- Moderator:** *Nicole Farnsworth, Gender Budget Watchdog Network*

Dinner & Networking

Friday 27 March 2026

- 9:00-10:00** **Key Note: Transformative gender budgeting for gender justice and people's wellbeing**
- Prof. Diane Elson
- Followed by plenary exchange

- 10:00-10:30 Coffee break**
- 10:30-12:00 Panel 4: Gender equality and gender budgeting: Viewpoints from EU accession and neighbourhood countries**
- Panelists:**
- Mirela Arqimandriti, Executive Director, Gender Alliance for Development Centre, Albania
 - Nicole Farnsworth, Kosovo Women's Network, Gender Budget Watchdog Network
 - Marija Risteska, CRPM, North Macedonia, Gender Budget Watchdog Network
 - Oksana Tsuipa, Associate Professor, Vasyl Stefanyk Carpathian National University, Ukraine (TBC)
 - Ásta Bjarnadóttir, Head of Division - Department of Fiscal Affairs Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Iceland (TBC)
- Moderator:** *NN, Kvinna till Kvinna (TBC)*
- 12:00-13:30 Lunch and networking**
- 13:30-15:00 Panel 5: Moving forward: Sharing experiences in engaging in gender budgeting at different governance levels**
- Panelists:**
- Ermira Lubani, GRB-Programme Specialist Europe & Central Asia Regional Office, UN Women
 - Marion Böker, Human Rights expert, European Women's Lobby
 - Zefi Dimadama, Panteion University, former Secretary General for Gender Equality, Greece
 - Scherie Nicole, OECD, Budget and Public Expenditure Department (TBC)
 - Jennifer Curtin, Director Public Policy Institute, University of Auckland, New Zealand
- Moderator:** *Maya Doneva, European Women's Lobby*
- 15:00-15:15 Break**
- 15:15-15:45 Key Note: Paving the way forward: Integrating gender equality in the MFF during the negotiations**
- Lina Gálvez, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of FEMM Committee
- Perspectives:**
- NN Irish Presidency of the (upcoming) Council of the European Union (TBC)
- 16:00-16:15 The Nicosia Declaration – Making the EU budget work for gender equality and women's rights**
- Summary of key take-aways and endorsement of the Nicosia Declaration
- 19:00-21:00 Networking dinner**

Saturday 28 March 2026

- 9:00-12:00 MFF Advocacy: Joint Working Session**
- 14:00-16:00 EGBN Strategic Working Group meeting**

Information to participants

The welcome committee of the Cyprus Gender Budgeting Platform and the foundation FIMONOI look forward to welcoming you in Cyprus. We cannot cover the air tickets and the hotel for participants. However, we shall be glad to cover coffees, lunches and dinners (Wednesday and Thursday) during the conference, and transport, from the hotel to the conference venue. Please let us know if you need additional information.

Conference venue



On the 26th and 27th March the conference will take place at the University of Cyprus which is located in Panepistimiou Avenue 2109 Aglantzia Nicosia Cyprus, and is around 8 km from the city centre. A shuttle bus will be available to take participants there in the morning and bring them back in the afternoon. There are also busses that run from the University to Solomou Square which is in the center of Nicosia.

Hotel accommodation

Because of the EU Presidency, most of the hotels fill up very quickly. If you intend to participate at the conference please make your reservation the soonest. If you need help please let us know

Transport from Larnaka airport to Nicosia

Please make sure that you arrive at the Larnaka airport (40 minutes from Nicosia) or Pafos airport (1 ½ hour from Nicosia)

From the airports you can come to Nicosia either by taxi or by shuttle bus.

Taxis

- Taxi from Larnaka to Nicosia 55 euro
- Taxi from Pafos to Nicosia 135 euro during the day

Shuttle bus

Shuttle bus from Larnaka to Nicosia (aprox 40 minutes) adults 9 euro .

Please note that the terminal of the shuttle bus from the airport to Nicosia is at the outskirts of Nicosia. From there you need to take a taxi to bring you to the hotel. Taxis have to be reserved in advance so that they can wait for you at the terminal. The taxi from the terminal to the hotel is 10 euro.

Cyprus the Host Country



Cyprus, the island of Aphrodite, the Goddess of peace and patron of loving couples is situated in the northeastern mediterranean corner of the mediterranean sea, at the crossroad of three continents.

In the course of its 10 000 years of history the island has been a cultural and trade meeting place of great importance and traces of Hellenic, Roman, Lusignan and Venetian cultures are found everywhere.

The island's natural beauty, golden sandy beaches, cool pine-clad mountains, nature walks, in still-unspoiled areas, a varied nightlife, good shopping and good food, coupled with advanced telecommunications and latest technology, make Cyprus the perfect conference and holiday destination.



Nicosia the conference city has a history of 5000 years and has been the capital of Cyprus for the last 1000. Its rather stormy history and the many invaders enriched it with their monuments but did not change its heart. Even today, torn in two and being the only divided capital of the world, the city looks upon the future with optimism and takes great pride in showing its rich cultural and historical heritage to its many visitors.

Registration

Dr ☐ Ms ☐ Mr ☐

Last name

First Name

Title

Organization -Institution

Country City

Email Telephone.....

I intend to participate

Arrival..... Airport

Departure Airport

I shall stay at the hotel

(let us know where you will stay for organisational reasons)

• I shall participate at the get together cocktail on the 25th March

• I shall participate at the networking dinner on the 26th March.....

Please send this invitation to persons that may be interested to participate or send us their emails

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Contact for any issues related to the conference organization and participation:

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