Background: Since 2022, CRPM and the Gender Budget Watchdog Network are organizing the regular biannual Community of practice that gathers academics, experts, and practitioners of GRB. The objective of the 3rd GRB Community of Practice is to strengthen the role of gender-responsive budgeting as a transformative tool for financing gender equality, social justice, and sustainable development. The conference will bring together academics, civil society organizations, practitioners, public finance experts, financial sector actors, and development partners to examine how budgets, policies, and financing instruments can better respond to gender inequalities in care, climate action, and women's economic empowerment.

A particular focus of the conference is to deepen collaboration between universities and civil society organizations in producing evidence, developing gender-sensitive data and research methods, and translating knowledge into budget advocacy, policy reform, and accountability practices. Through academic papers, case studies, panels, and interactive workshops, the conference aims to identify effective GRB practices, innovative methodologies, and partnership models that can support more inclusive, transparent, and gender-equal societies.

Call for Papers:

Gender-Responsive Budgeting for Gender-Equal Societies: Financing Care, Climate Action, and Women's Economic Empowerment

The Center for Research and Policy Making and the Gender Budget Watchdog Network invite abstracts for the 3rd GRB Community of Practice, dedicated to strengthening university–CSO collaboration for gender-equal societies. The conference will be held 25-27 August in Ohrid, Macedonia and will explore how gender-responsive budgeting can be used to transform public finance, climate finance, care systems, and access to finance for women-led businesses and women entrepreneurs.

Scientific committee of the conference:

Prof. Dr. Marija Risteska, CRPM/GBWN/SEEU, MKD

Prof. Dr. Gloria Alarcon Garcia, UM, ES

Prof Dr. Ana Marija Sikirić Simčić, UR, CRO

Prof. Dr. Magnus Ring, LU, SE

Prof Dr. Kristina Misheva, UGD, MKD

Conference Themes

We welcome theoretical, empirical, comparative, and practice-oriented papers addressing one or more of the following themes:

1. **Financing the Care Economy through Gender-Responsive Budgeting** - Papers may examine how public budgets recognize, reduce, redistribute, reward, and represent care work; how investments in childcare, eldercare, long-term care, health, social protection, and care infrastructure contribute to gender equality; and how GRB can support more sustainable and inclusive care systems.

2. **Gender-Responsive Climate Finance and Just Transition** - Papers may explore how climate budgets, green investments, disaster risk reduction financing, energy transition policies, and adaptation measures can be assessed and redesigned through a gender lens. Contributions may address gender-sensitive climate data, climate budgeting tools, local-level climate finance, and the inclusion of women and vulnerable groups in climate-related decision-making.

3. **Financing Women's Entrepreneurship and the Women's Economy** - Papers may focus on access to finance for women entrepreneurs, women-led SMEs, start-ups, and informal or underserved businesses; the role of financial regulators and financial service providers; gender-disaggregated financial data; the WE Finance Code; and policy instruments that expand women's economic participation.

4. **University–CSO Collaboration for Gender-Equal Societies** - Papers may analyze models of cooperation between academia and civil society in producing evidence, developing gender-sensitive research and data, strengthening public accountability, and translating research into advocacy, policy reform, and budget change.

5. **Innovative GRB Methodologies, Tools, and Technologies** - Papers may examine new approaches to gender budget analysis, expenditure tracking, gender tagging, participatory budgeting, digital tools, dashboards, AI-supported analysis, intersectional data, and other innovations that strengthen transparency and accountability for gender equality.

6. **Budgeting for Well-being, Equality, and Social Justice** - Papers may address how well-being economy approaches, inclusive growth frameworks, social investment, and gender-responsive fiscal policies can contribute to more equitable outcomes. Contributions may include comparative experiences, local and national case studies, and policy lessons from different regions.

Please submit an abstract of a paper under the following gender responsive budgeting themes, which is on some of the afore mentioned themes and will be no longer than 300 words, including:

- Title
- 3-8 keywords indicating paper's subject, theme and scope
- Paper's presenter's email address and co-author's email address

Important dates:

- Abstract Submission Deadline: 30.06.2026
- Notification of Acceptance: 15.07.2026
- Conference Date: 25-27.08.2026
- Full Paper Submission Deadline: 31.10.2026.

GBWN will cover accommodation with full board for the accepted paper's authors during the conference. The travel costs to Skopje or directly to Ohrid are supposed to be covered by the paper's authors.

GBWN will put an effort to prepare a proposal for a book to be published with recognized international publisher.

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