

Building Capacity for Gender-Responsive Climate Finance: Needs and Challenges for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Western Balkans

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Context & Challenge

Gender-responsive climate finance needs effective civil society engagement (*Elson, 1995; UN Women, 2015; Schalatek, 2021*)

- ❑ GRB can help ensure that **climate-related public resources advance gender equality**
- ❑ CSOs are important **advocates, evidence producers and accountability actors**
- ❑ Yet meaningful engagement in climate finance and budgeting remains **uneven across the Western Balkans**
- ❑ The capacity question has received less attention than **policy frameworks and financing mechanisms**

Three-part relationship

Climate finance → Gender-responsive budgeting → CSO accountability



Approach & Practice-based Evidence

- **Learning from capacity development in practice**
- The analysis draws on the **Gender Budget Watchdog Network Phase II** capacity-development process
- **Approach:** qualitative and practice-based, examining both **capacity needs** and the **conditions affecting their sustainability**.

I

5 CSOs
Albania &
Kosovo
*Pre-training needs
assessment*

II

**12 tailored
mentoring
sessions**
*Policy advocacy •
Research •
Evidence
production*

III

**Regional
workshop**
Representatives
from **6
Western
Balkan
countries**

Findings

Effective engagement requires multidimensional capacity

Five interrelated domains for CSOs to engage in gender-responsive climate finance



BUT CAPACITY IS DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN


Limited financial and human resources


Project-based learning and short-term funding


Staff turnover and loss of institutional memory


Dependence on external funding and donors


Restricted institutional access to budgetary processes and data

Recommendations & Key Takeaways

One-off training / event is not enough.

- ✓ **Invest for the long term:**
Institutional learning and organisational memory
- ✓ **Connect knowledge regionally:** Peer learning, exchange and coalition-building
- ✓ **Open governance spaces:**
Sustained CSO access to budgeting and climate-finance processes

Thank you!

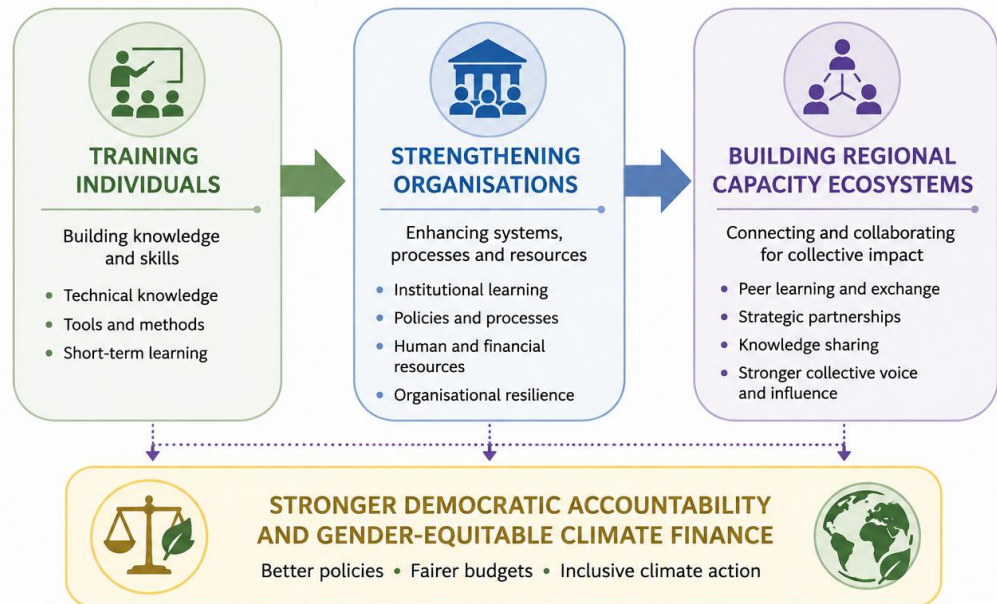
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CSO capacity is not simply technical expertise.

It is a **multidimensional institutional resource** for democratic accountability and gender-equitable climate finance.



From individual learning to collective transformation.