



CITIZEN'S BUDGET 2026 GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Budget Review for Albania

KEY CONCEPTS

GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING



Treats the budget as an **instrument for transforming social relations**, not just as a technical act of resource allocation. This approach is being used to reform public financial management (PFM), through program budgeting, medium-term budget frameworks, and performance budgeting.

GENDER ASPECTS OF IMPACT



Shows how public budgets that take into account the different needs and circumstances of women and men can contribute to higher employment and participation, improved well-being, reduced poverty and inequality, and more inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

CITIZEN'S PERSPECTIVE



Presents the official budget in a simplified, accessible, and visually engaging way, highlighting how public spending affects women and men differently and which government programmes and policies aim to promote gender equality and reduce gender gaps.

GENDER INEQUALITY



Refers to unequal opportunities, access to resources, rights, and outcomes for women and men. Reliable gender-disaggregated data help identify these inequalities and assess whether public policies and spending are effectively reducing gender gaps.

LAW ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BUDGETARY SYSTEM

01

10

LAW ON THE PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION SYSTEM

LAW ON GENDER EQUALITY

02

09

LAW ON STATE-GUARANTEED LEGAL AID

LAW ON PREVENTION AND PROTECTION FROM DISCRIMINATION

03

08

LABOUR CODE

LAW ON THE PREV. AND PROT. FROM VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

04

07

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR GENDER EQUALITY

LAW ON SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

05

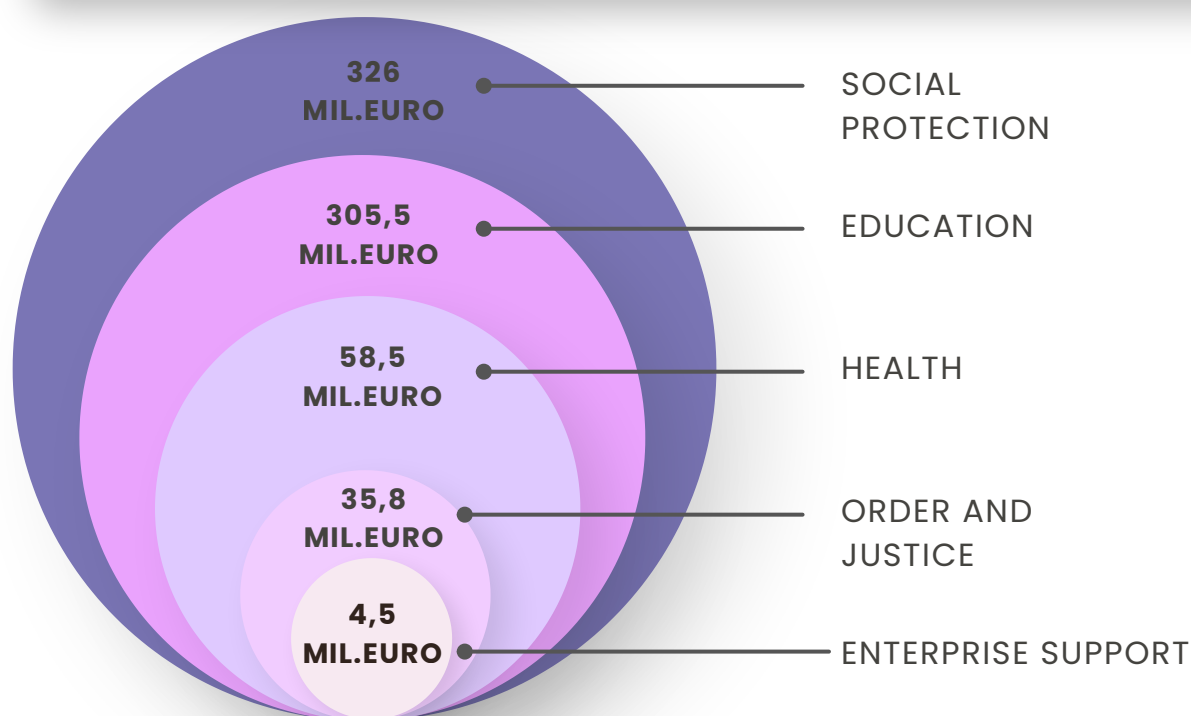
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ANNUAL MTBP PREPARATION GUIDELINES

BASIC LEGAL FRAMEWORK

COVERING GENDER BUDGETTING

BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMES BY SECTOR



87 of Albania's 131 budget programmes incorporate gender-responsive budgeting elements within the 2026–2028 MTBP.

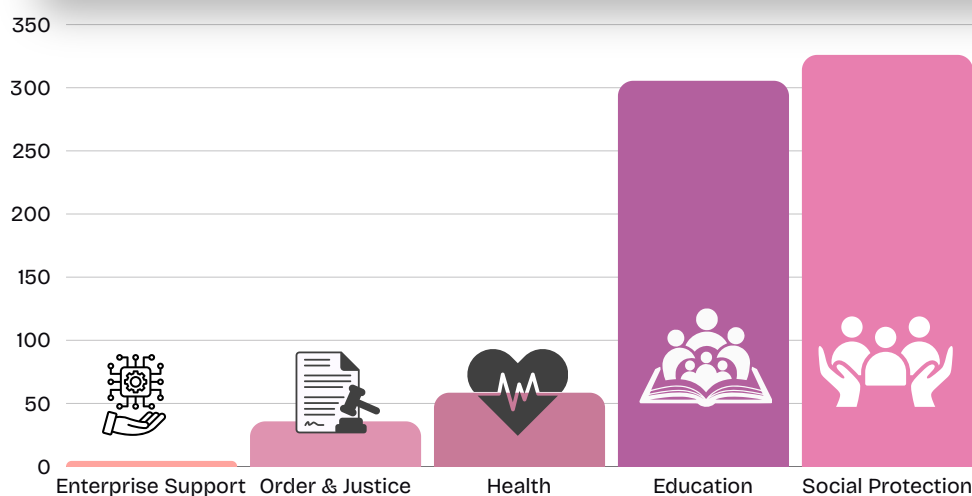


In 2026, EUR 824.5 million is allocated to programmes incorporating gender-responsive budgeting, demonstrating its integration across key areas of public spending.



Among the sectors presented, social protection and education account for the largest gender-responsive allocations, at EUR 326 million and EUR 305.5 million respectively.

GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS BY SECTOR, 2026



The largest gender-responsive budget allocations are concentrated in:

- Social Protection
- Education
- Health
- Order and Justice
- Enterprise Support

Gender-responsive budgeting has been integrated into at least one budget programme across 11 line ministries and 31 central government institutions, demonstrating its broad integration into Albania's medium-term budget planning.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection programmes play an important role in advancing gender equality by providing targeted income support and services to women throughout different stages of life, as well as to women facing economic vulnerability.

Gender-responsive measures include Economic Assistance, disability and caregiver benefits, support for unemployed women with three or more children, maternity benefits, social housing and residential care services. These programmes contribute to reducing poverty and social exclusion and strengthening women's social and economic security.



28,670
women (survivors of abuse)
identified



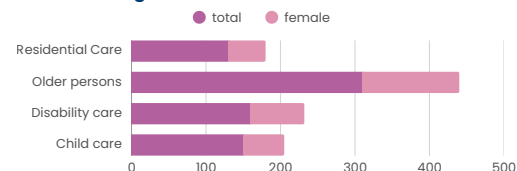
7,930
female heads of household



32%
of beneficiaries live in rural areas

Gender chart on

Women and girls in residential care services



Gender illustration on

Women among pension beneficiaries

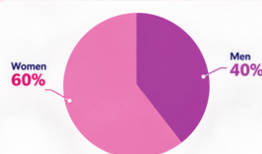


Women represent 54.6% of pension beneficiaries and are more vulnerable to poverty in old age due to lower lifetime earnings and career interruptions.

EDUCATION SECTOR

Education is one of the leading sectors in gender-responsive budgeting. Gender-responsive measures are integrated across all levels of education, supporting equal access to learning opportunities and strengthening girls' and women's participation.

While girls and women show strong participation across most levels of education, significant gender disparities remain in vocational education.



60%
WOMEN
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

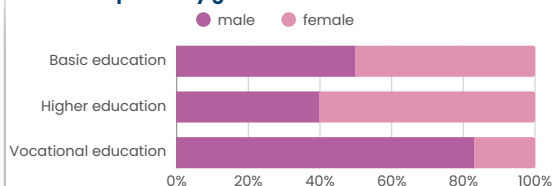
Women represent approximately 60% of students in higher education, where €67.2 million of the €112 million programme budget is estimated to support female students.



€67.2 million of €112 million
estimated to support female students

Gender chart on

Participation by gender across education levels



Gender illustration on

Girls in vocational education



17% GIRLS

2,700 of 15,700 students

Girls remain significantly underrepresented in vocational education, highlighting a persistent gender gap in this field. **€5.4 million of €31 million** expenditure benefits girls.

HEALTH SECTOR

Gender-responsive health programmes focus on women's preventive, reproductive and maternal health, supporting early diagnosis, treatment and access to essential healthcare services.

Key measures include breast and cervical cancer screening, maternity care, breast reconstruction, IVF packages and preventive check-ups.



MATERNITY CARE IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS



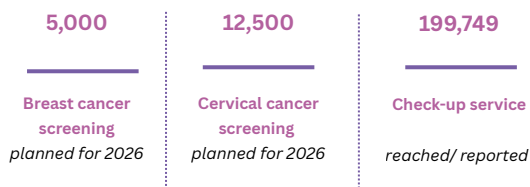
€53.5 MILLION
planned expenditure
in 2026



52,530 women in 2025
→ **53,560** planned in 2026

Gender chart on

Women benefiting from preventive health services



Gender illustration on

Targeted women's health services



350
WOMEN
Breast reconstruction



200
COUPLES
IVF packages

Gender chart on

Women / women-led beneficiaries of entrepreneurship support



Gender illustration on

Women in agricultural support



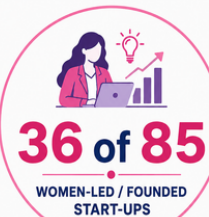
2,154 of 45,000 = 4.8% women

€1.9m planned gender-responsive expenditure

ENTREPRENEURS SUPPORT

Entrepreneurship support programmes contribute to women's economic empowerment by increasing access to financing, supporting women-led businesses and encouraging women's participation in innovation, entrepreneurship and tourism.

New gender-responsive products introduced for 2026 strengthen the integration of gender equality into economic development policies.

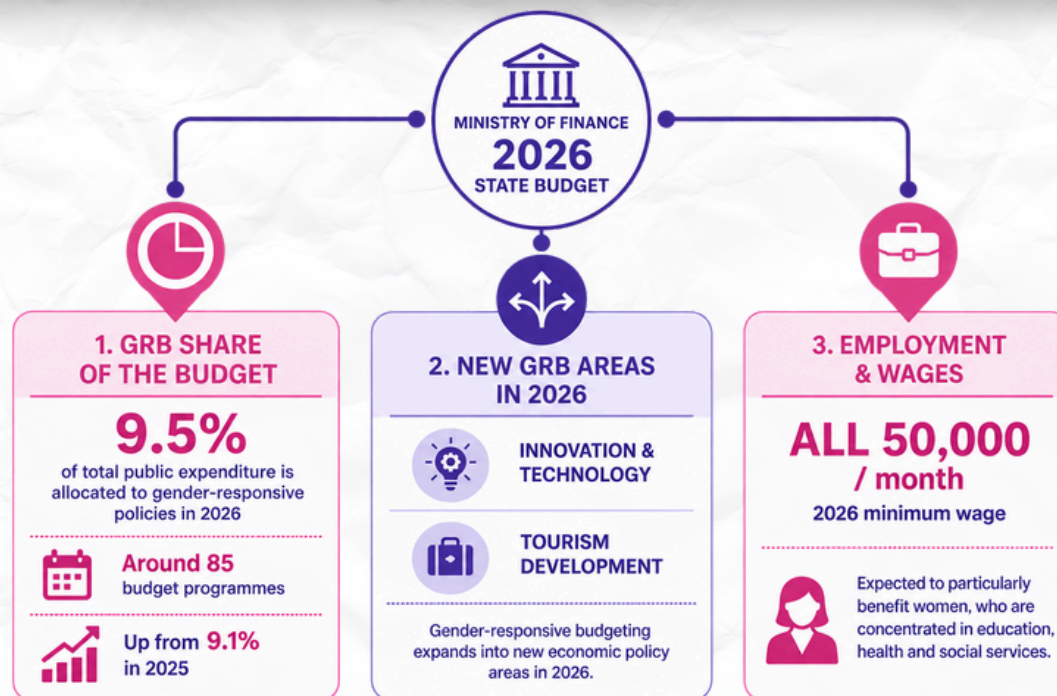


≈42%
of supported start-ups
are women-led or women-founded



€1.3 MILLION
planned gender-responsive
expenditure

WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE IN THE BUDGET IN 2026?



HOW CAN CITIZENS PARTICIPATE MORE?



Albania has increasingly integrated GRB into its medium-term budget planning framework. However, citizen-centred participation remains constrained by limited gender-disaggregated data, insufficient reporting on actual beneficiaries and results, and weak monitoring mechanisms. Strengthening accessible budget information, transparent reporting and opportunities for citizen and civil society engagement can support greater accountability and more meaningful participation in gender-responsive public finance.

GENDER STATISTICS AND DATA

Gender disaggregated data should be systematically collected, analysed and published across budget programmes. Reliable information on women and men beneficiaries is essential to understand who actually benefits from public spending and whether gender-responsive measures are reaching the intended groups. Stronger gender indicators and measurable results would improve evidence-based assessment of progress in reducing gender gaps and inequalities.



DIGITAL TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Accessible and transparent budget information should clearly connect planned gender objectives and allocations with actual expenditure, beneficiaries and achieved results. Publishing this information in user-friendly and accessible formats would enable citizens and civil society organisations to follow the implementation of gender-responsive programmes, assess whether allocated resources deliver the expected results, and strengthen public accountability for gender equality commitments.

CONSISTENT CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Citizens and civil society organisations should have stronger and more consistent opportunities to engage throughout the budget cycle, from consultation and priority-setting to monitoring implementation and results. Access to clear budget information and gender-disaggregated evidence would enable meaningful participation, helping citizens assess whether public resources respond to different needs and advocate for more equitable and effective allocation of public funds.

