



CITIZEN'S BUDGET 2026 GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Budget Review for Republic of Serbia

KEY CONCEPTS

GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING



Uses budget objectives, gender-responsive indicators and sexdisaggregated data to assess how public resources are allocated and whether spending contributes to greater equality between women and men, while helping identify areas where gender gaps persist.

GENDER ASPECTS OF IMPACT



Looks beyond nominal budget allocations to examine who actually benefits from public spending, who participates in programmes and services, and whether these interventions contribute to reducing existing gender gaps and inequalities

CITIZEN'S PERSPECTIVE



Translates the official budget into a clear and accessible view of how public spending decisions affect women and men, helping citizens understand who benefits from public resources and how budget priorities can contribute to greater gender equality.

GENDER INEQUALITY



Requires consistent and reliable data that connect programme spending with differences in access, participation and outcomes, helping to identify gender inequalities and assess whether women and men have equal opportunities to benefit from public resources and participate in decision-making.

Constitution of the Republic of Serbia

01

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LABOUR LAW

BUDGET SYSTEM LAW

02

09

LAW ON SOCIAL PROTECTION

LAW ON GENDER EQUALITY

03

08

LAW ON LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

LAW ON PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION

04

07

LAW ON CIVIL SERVANTS

LAW ON PREVENTION OF HARASSMENT AT WORK

05

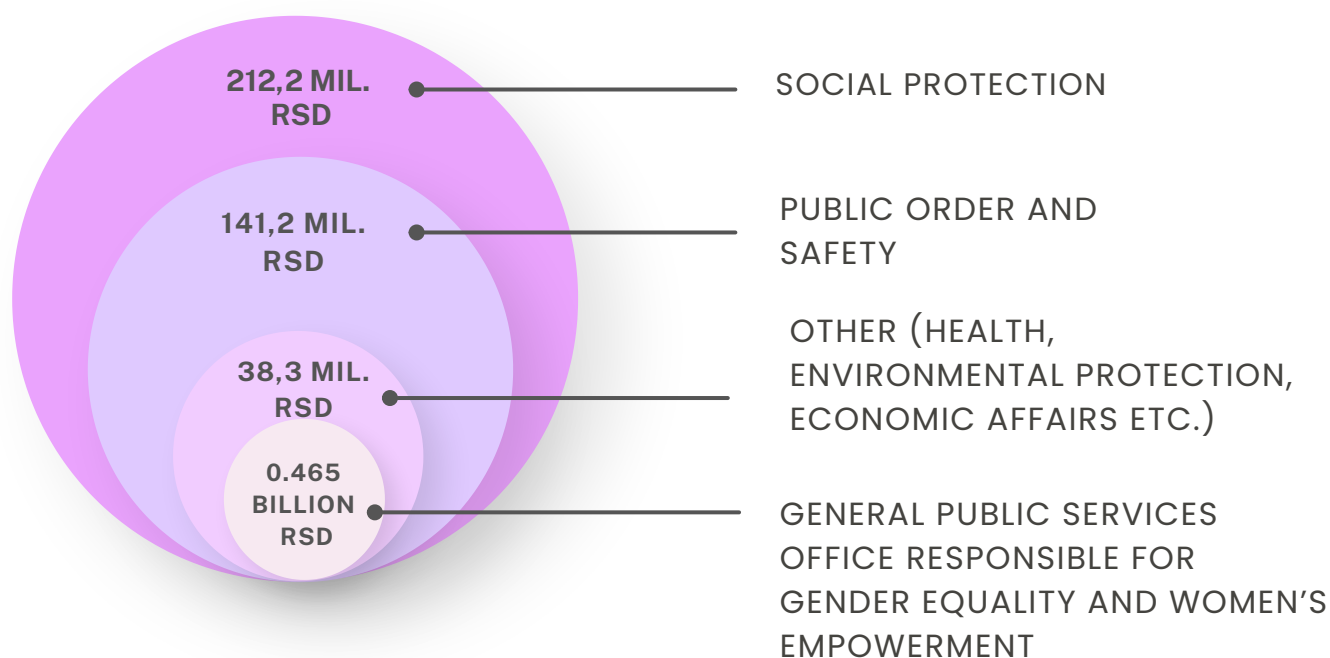
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ANNUAL PLAN FOR INTRODUCING GRB IN THE 2026 BUDGET PROCESS

BASIC LEGAL FRAMEWORK

COVERING
GENDER
BUDGETTING

STRUCTURAL COMPONENT OF GENDER PROGRAMS FROM THE TOTAL BUDGET BY SECTOR



DIRECT GENDER-EQUALITY CAPACITY RSD 464.557 million is allocated to the Office of the Minister without Portfolio responsible for coordinating gender equality and women's empowerment.

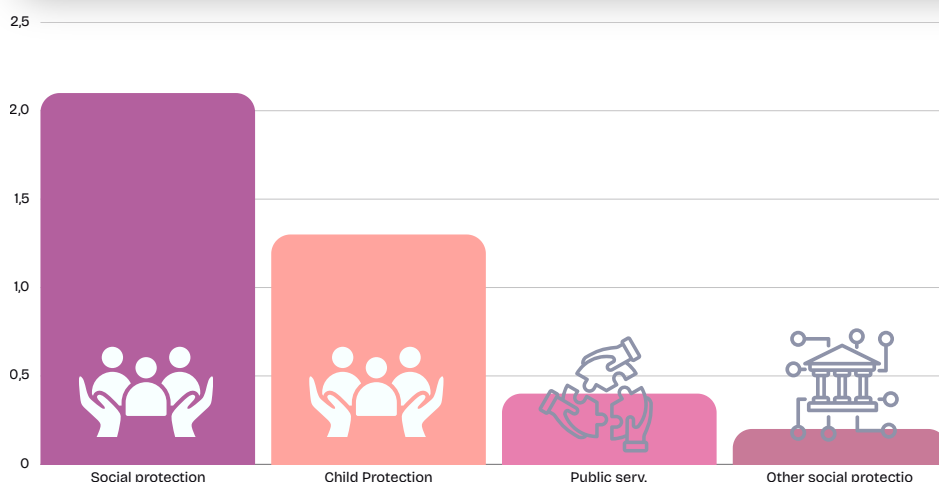


TARGETED EDUCATION MEASURE RSD 15 million is planned within the Ministry of Education for improving and promoting women's school sports among school-age girls.



EXAMPLES OF GRB INDICATORS
Budget documentation includes indicators on women in local election commission training, institutional gender analyses, sex-disaggregated appointments and participation of the underrepresented gender in selected activities

STRUCTURAL COMPONENT OF GENDER PROGRAMS FROM THE TOTAL BUDGET BY SECTOR



01 SOCIAL PROTECTION Budget-financed social protection benefits amount to RSD 212.21 billion. Child protection is the largest component at RSD 131.18 billion, followed by social protection and veteran/disability protection. A gender lens should examine household type, care responsibilities, poverty risk and actual access to services.

02 LABOUR-MARKET PARTICIPATION In Q1 2026 the activity rate was 62.6% for men and 49.2% for women; the employment rate was 56.9% for men and 44.9% for women. The inactivity gap is the mirror image: 37.4% for men and 50.8% for women.

03 REGISTERED EMPLOYMENT In Q2 2026 Serbia had 2,355,940 registered employed persons: 1,238,584 men and 1,117,357 women. Women therefore represented about 47.4% of registered employment.

04 WHAT GRB SHOULD TRACK Employment programmes, subsidies and social transfers should report beneficiaries by sex, value of support received, completion or retention outcomes, and whether gaps in employment, earnings, inactivity or poverty narrow over time.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

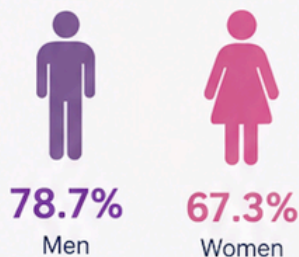
Key institutions include the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, the Ministry for Family Welfare and Demography, and the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue.

In the 2026 budget, RSD 212.2 billion is allocated to social insurance and social protection, including RSD 131.2 billion for child protection, RSD 40.7 billion for social protection, and RSD 24.9 billion for veterans' and disability protection.

The Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs has a total allocation of RSD 237.5 billion. However, the budget does not separately identify what proportion of these expenditures is specifically gender-oriented.

Activity rate (15–64), 2026

Share of population that is economically active



Structure of social protection spending, 2026 (RSD billion)



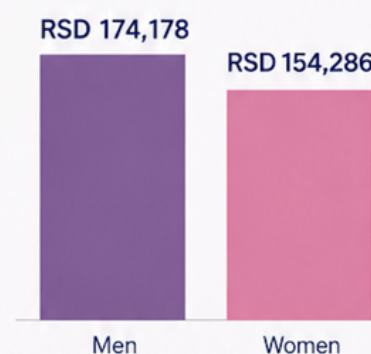
PUBLIC SERVICES

Gender-responsive budgeting is integrated into Serbia's public-sector budgeting framework. Budget beneficiaries are required to formulate gender-responsive objectives and indicators and to disaggregate indicators relating to individuals by sex.

The 2026 budget includes RSD 464.6 million for the Office of the Minister without Portfolio responsible for coordinating activities in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment.

The gender-responsive objectives identified in the budget include increasing participation of the underrepresented gender, employee training in gender equality, institutional gender analysis and monitoring appointments, placements and dismissals by gender.

Average gross monthly earnings in public administration, September 2026



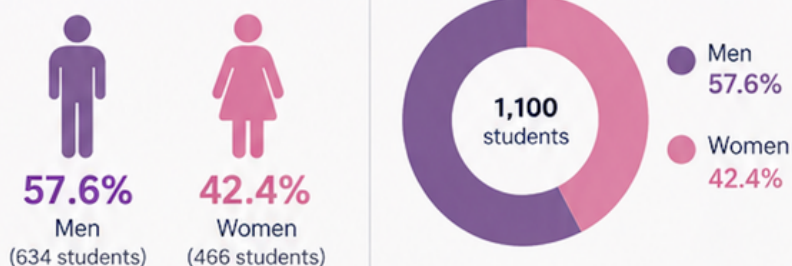
Women earned **11.4% less** on average than men in public administration in 2026.

DEFENCE

Defence represents one of the largest institutional allocations in Serbia's 2026 budget. The Ministry of Defence is allocated RSD 277.0 billion. Serbia's gender-responsive budgeting framework also applies across budget beneficiaries, but the published 2026 budget commentary does not separately identify the amount of defence expenditure classified as gender-oriented. This means that the total Ministry of Defence allocation should not be presented as gender-responsive expenditure.

Gender analysis in this sector is therefore better focused on women's representation and participation in the defence system, rather than attempting to estimate gender-related spending from the total defence budget.

University of Defence students by gender, 2025/26



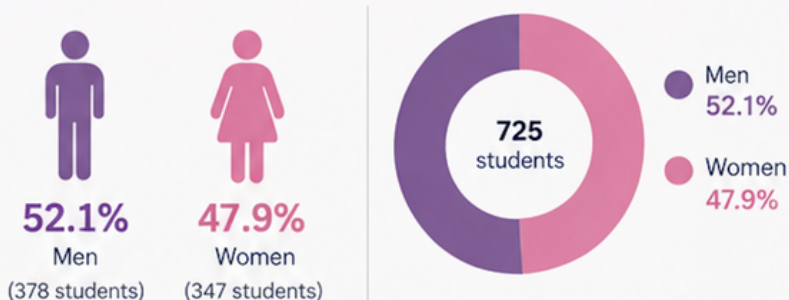
PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY

Public order and safety is another major area of public expenditure. The Ministry of Internal Affairs receives RSD 141.2 billion in the 2026 budget.

As with defence, the available budget documentation does not provide a separate monetary amount showing how much of this allocation is specifically gender-oriented.

Gender relevance in this sector extends beyond institutional representation. It includes prevention of gender-based and domestic violence, protection of victims, equal participation of women in security institutions and the integration of gender considerations into policing and public safety.

Criminalistics and Police Studies students by gender, 2025/26



WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE IN THE BUDGET IN 2026?

MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO – GENDER EQUALITY



Dedicated funding for gender equality

The 2026 Budget allocates RSD 464.6 million to the Office of the Minister without Portfolio responsible for coordinating activities in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment. Gender-responsive budgeting remains mandatory, requiring budget beneficiaries to formulate gender-responsive objectives and indicators and to disaggregate person-related indicators by sex.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY



New targeted support for women entrepreneurs

In 2026, the Ministry of Economy introduced the "Women Who Drive Serbia" programme, specifically supporting women-owned businesses in manufacturing. The programme provides RSD 100 million in grants. Eligible businesses can receive grants covering up to 50% of an investment, with a maximum grant of RSD 1.5 million.



Additional support for rural women

A separate Programme for Supporting the Development of Women's Entrepreneurship in Rural Areas was implemented in 2026. The programme provides RSD 50 million in grants to women entrepreneurs, women-majority micro-enterprises and cooperatives operating in rural areas. Grants can cover 100% of eligible costs, up to RSD 1 million per beneficiary.



WOMEN'S BUSINESS



HOW CAN CITIZENS PARTICIPATE MORE?

Serbia has a formal GRB architecture and identifiable gender-responsive objectives, but a citizen cannot yet derive a verified single gender-budget total from the available 2026 budget material. The strongest next step is therefore not to manufacture one, but to make programme-level allocations, beneficiaries, execution and gender outcomes consistently visible and comparable.

GENDER STATISTICS AND DATA

Publish sex-disaggregated indicators alongside programme budgets and execution data, allowing citizens to see not only how resources are allocated, but also who benefits from them. Linking financial data with gender-specific targets and actual results would make it easier to assess whether public spending is effectively contributing



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Provide searchable, user-friendly dashboards showing budget allocations, GRB objectives and indicators, implementation status, and achieved outcomes across public institutions. Bringing this information together in one accessible platform would allow citizens to track progress, compare institutions and programmes, and see whether allocated resources are translating into measurable improvements in gender equality

CONSISTENT SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Use public consultations, hearings and co-design processes to give women, men and underrepresented groups a meaningful role in identifying priorities and shaping gender-responsive programmes. Their participation should continue throughout implementation, creating opportunities to provide feedback, monitor whether commitments are being delivered, and contribute to evaluating whether public spending is addressing their needs and reducing existing inequalities.

