

FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN ALBANIA

Gentian OPRE

Ministry of Finance and
Economy of Albania

LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON GRB

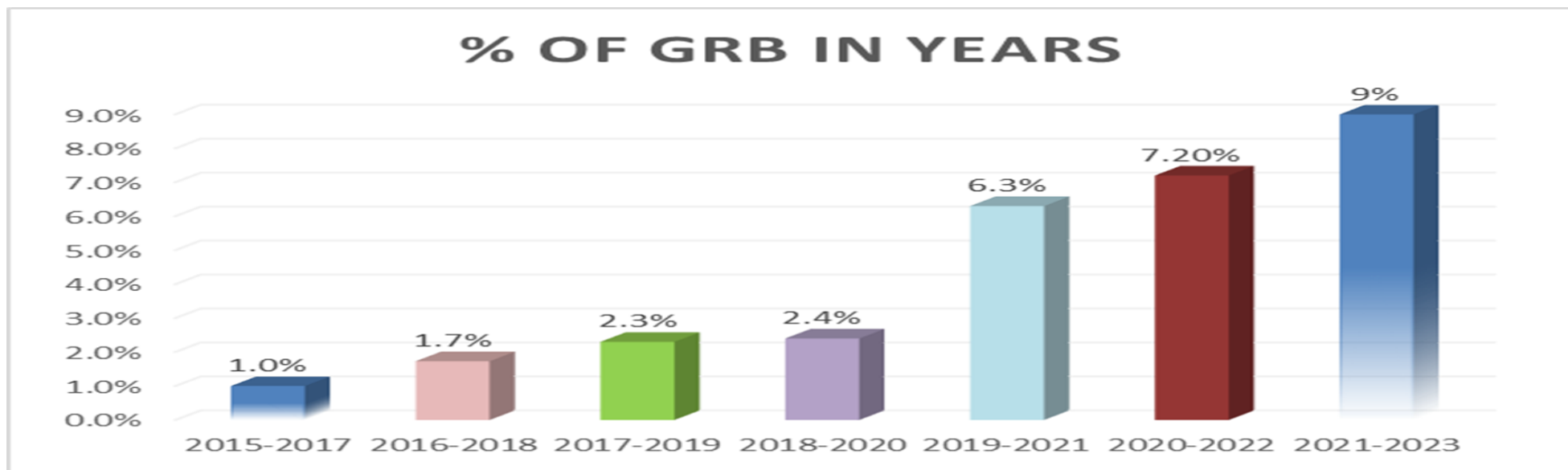
- **2008** – Institutionalization of Program and Performance Based Budgeting – New Organic Budget Law;
- **2012** - Council of Ministers' Decision no. 465 on “Gender Mainstreaming in the MTBP”;
- **2016** - Inclusion of gender equality as a core principle in the Organic Budget Law
- **2016** – Standard Budget Preparation and Monitoring Instructions containing specific GRB procedures;
- **2017** – The new Law on Local Finance included Gender Equality as a core objective and also made GRB mandatory for all the local government units in all budget stages;

ROLE OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY

- Leads the process of budgeting and Gender Responsive Budgeting at all levels of government;
- Advises, recommends and instructs all levels of Government on the budget process (planning, monitoring and evaluation) and Gender Responsive Budgeting
- Responsible for the legal framework on budgeting and Gender Responsive Budgeting
- On-job-trainings, coaching and technical assistance at all levels of government on budgeting and GRB

FACTS & FIGURES

Year	Budget Programs (total)	Budget Programs that include GRB	No. of Policy Objectives	No. of Outputs (by type)	GRB related budget funds (in million USD)	% of Total Budget Expenditures
2015	84	9	11	14	38	1.0%
2016	84	20	27	23	63	1.7%
2017	84	24	32	33	90	2.3%
2018	84	28	41	41	120	2.4%
2019	75	33	52	52	298	6.3%
2020	75	38	57	57	348	7.2%
2021	75	43	38	62	506	9.0%



GRB TRACKING AND MONITORING TOOLS

IPSIS & AFMIS

- Both systems fully operational since June 2020 (constraints due to lockdown and social distancing rules preventing institutions to work in full potential);
- AFMIS includes gender tracking tools allowing for specific reports on GRB planning and monitoring;
- IPSIS (Integrated Planning System Information System) provides the opportunity to track gender indicators included in the strategic/policy documents.

LESSONS LEARNED


- Gender Responsive Budgeting is an effective tool for “good budgeting”
- MoFE leadership provides solid foundations for success;
- Participatory Budgeting Processes provides a great impetus for GRB implementation;
- Use of GRB in emergency situations helps in the prioritization process of policies and budgets to address the GE gaps and mitigate its negative effects.

FUTURE STEPS

- Improve the collection of gender data and the effective use of existing ones for evidence-based policy analysis;
- Better use of GRB in policy analysis as a tool to improve the overall budget, helping to re-shape public policies and related budget resources, where possible, so that it enables women and men to benefit equally from public money;
- A stronger role of oversight institutions, especially in monitoring with gender lenses the whole budgeting processes, leads to public policies that effectively include gender equality principles.

FINAL REMARKS

- GRB interventions would be most effective if closely paired with ongoing and planned PFM reforms;
- Gender mainstreaming should cover all levels of the government, while preserving close and sustainable cooperation;
- Enhancing knowledge and skills about budgeting issues and especially gender responsive budgeting should by no means be “property” of finance and budget employees, but for all the public sector employees as they are all important in public policy processes including Gender Equality!



We are aware that mainstreaming a gender perspective in policy and budget planning as well as in its implementation is an ongoing process, but so far, the achievements in GRB implementation make us believe that we are in the right path and we will continue to intensify our efforts until gender equality in Albania is achieved!

**Mrs. Anila DENAJ, Minister of Finance and
Economy of Albania**