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Work with key spending units

Between April and May 2019, the GRB Project conducted a series of hands-on seminars on the application of a gender-responsive approach in the budget process for the representatives of 35 key spending units of state budget funds (KSU). The hands-on seminars were attended by 133 people.

According to the results of the survey carried out at the beginning of the seminars, 77% of the participants did not possess or not sufficiently possessed the knowledge on gender equality issues and GRB. For 67% of the participants, this seminar was the first seminar on this subject ever.

The seminars’ program was varied and informative. The participants have gained practical skills in applying the gender-responsive approach in the budget process. With the support of national and international experts, representatives of each KSU conducted a gender analysis of budget
programs. The results were presented at a joint meeting of KSU representatives and representatives of the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, which took place on June 7, 2019.

At the same time, an in-depth expert and advisory support was continuously provided to four other state budget spending units: National Guard, Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Utilities, State Fiscal Service, and National Police. In total, 42 budget programs that receive funding from the state budget were analysed in 2019. We are currently awaiting the introduction of changes to the process of collecting gender-disaggregated data and the preparation of gender-sensitive budget requests.

“All budget process stake-holders should realize that narrowing gender inequality is not only a matter of the country’s dignity, but also a potential for increasing labour productivity, for economic growth. This is a powerful factor for the growth of budget revenues; therefore, the analysis of budgetary decisions’ influence on gender equality should become a reflexive action for our economists, politicians and civil servants. It is vital to understand the essence and importance of this instrument through painstaking training, through examples and dissemination of information.”

Yuriy Dzyhyry, Deputy Minister of Finance

Key spending units

- Supreme Court
- Prosecutor General’s Office
- State Management of Affairs
- National Securities and Stock Market Commission
- National Commission for State Regulation of Energy and Public Utilities
- National Commission for State Regulation of Financial Services Markets
- Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers
- Constitutional Court
- National Academy of Agrarian Sciences
- Administration of the State Special Transport Service of the Ministry of Defence
- State Judicial Administration
- Supreme Council of Justice
- Security Service
- Ministry of Culture
- National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting
- Antimonopoly Committee
- National Anti-Corruption Bureau
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
Results of the gender budget analysis of the programs financed from local budgets

Have you heard of our success in implementing and applying a gender-responsive approach to the budget process at the local level? Let us tell you everything!

On May 29-30, during a meeting with the Ministry of Finance, the participants presented the gender gaps identified during the analysis and recommendations for their reduction. A lot of suggestions have been elaborated and we continue working to turn them into effective solutions.
We are always glad to communicate with future generations. We have conducted training sessions on the prospects and necessity of applying a gender-responsive approach in budgeting of public financial resources for students of the Faculty of Finance of Vadym Hetman Kyiv National Economic University. Practical examples of the lack of a gender-responsive approach to budget planning caused lively discussions and astonished the audience.

We would also like to thank Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University for cooperation, in particular, the faculty staff and students of the Department of Finance of the Faculty of Economics.

We are looking forward to further communication with future financial experts who will work on the application of the gender-responsive approach in Ukraine.

The Swedish government has been supporting the Kyiv School of Economics for more than 10 years with the view to implementing an important mission – to create an intellectual foundation for Ukraine’s innovative development.

The «Public Finance Management» training program implemented by the Department of Public Policy and Governance with the support of the Governments of Sweden, Germany and the UK is designed for public sector professionals to let them develop their skills of financial management, policy analysis, preparation of analytical materials, interaction with colleagues and so on. Among the new participants of the program, there are civil servants from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science, as well as State Fiscal Service, National Police, National Health Service and eight regional state administrations. The GRB project has also made efforts to organize a training module within the program on the importance of applying the gender approach in the budget process.

We are pleased to share the feedback from the training participants. We are destroying stereotypes together.

«It turns out that gender-responsive budgeting is not only about the rights of women and men, but also about the financial benefits and effectiveness of budget execution at all levels through the awareness of the socio-demographic and other characteristics of the target group.»

Yuriy Holynskyi, training participant
Participation in the Ukrainian Women’s Congress (the city of Mariupol).

The Ukrainian Women’s Congress is an excellent opportunity to learn about the latest research and current trends in the development of the gender policy in Ukraine and in the world. We were happy to join the discussions, to meet like-minded people and to share our experience once again.

«Gender-responsive analysis is a very effective tool. Every year we see in the reports how much money the city budget spent on certain projects without thinking about whether the lives of people have improved, whether the needs of women and men have been met. And once we get a statistical assessment, we will have arguments and a clear understanding of whether the goal has been achieved and whether the tasks have been fulfilled.»

Tamara Ohorodova, local consultant of the GRB project in Zaporizhia region

Cooperation with educational institutions involved in the training, specialization and professional development of civil servants and officials of local self-government bodies

The GRB project signed a trilateral cooperation agreement with the National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation to integrate gender equality and GRB topics into the study programs of the system of training, specialization and qualification development for civil servants and officials of local self-government bodies.

An agreement of cooperation with the National Academy for Public Administration under the President of Ukraine was also signed with a view to including the GRB in training programs of the system of training, specialization and qualification development for civil servants and officials of local self-government bodies. In particular, work is underway to develop a module on GRB within the course “Evidence-Based Policy” of the Master’s Degree Program of the National Academy for Public Administration and to develop an elective course of “Gender-Responsive Budgeting” for the students of the Institute for Advanced Training of Civil Servants.

4 training sessions were held in the 2nd quarter of the year (Zhytomyr, Ivan-Frankivsk, Zaporizhia, Sumy) for the teachers of the Centres for retraining and advanced professional training of employees of state authorities, local self-government bodies, heads of state enterprises, institutions and organizations (14 centres); employees of the Interregional Departments of the National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service (10 departments); teachers of Regional institutes of public administration of the National Academy for Public Administration under the President of Ukraine (4 institutes); teachers of the Master’s programmes of higher education institutions that carry out the training of masters of Public Administration and Management.

80 People have gained knowledge about the application of a gender-responsive approach in the budget process, among other things.
Trainings for United territorial communities

Within the framework of cooperation with the "U-LEAD with Europe" program, it is planned to hold 18 training sessions for the financial experts of United territorial communities throughout Ukraine, except for Chernivtsi, Sumy, Zhytomyr, Kherson and Iванo-Frankivsk regions.

We are also going to announce a great opportunity for the heads of councils of the United territorial communities and heads of their financial subdivisions – training on the topic "From theory to practice of applying a gender-responsive approach in the budget process". The seminar will be held in cooperation with the Association of United Territorial Communities and the "U-LEAD with Europe" program. Details are soon to follow.

Involving representatives of other administrative-territorial levels in the GRB implementation

Experts of the GRB project held a real two-week-long marathon for the financial experts of districts, cities of regional subordination, and United territorial communities of the Kherson region.

Planned events

- Provision of expert and advisory support to the key spending units regarding the application of a gender-responsive approach in drawing up budget requests for 2020-2022 and passports of budget programs;
- Continuation of the work with pilot ministries: Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Social Policy, Ministry of Youth and Sports, and Ministry of Culture; awaiting appropriate changes in budget requests for 2020-2022. We will be sure to let you know about the news;
- The inclusion of gender mainstreaming and GRB topics in study programs of the system of training, specialization and qualification development for civil servants and officials of local self-government bodies from the new 2019-2020 training year;
- Wait for the graduation of the Fourth School of NGO Trainers – final trainings are underway;
- In the course of next three months, we will be actively working with United territorial communities of Chernihiv, Volyn, Dnipropetrovsk, Vinnytsia, Cherkasy, Kharkiv, Donetsk and Luhansk regions in cooperation with the «U-LEAD with Europe» program.
- We are also preparing a gender budget analysis of United territorial communities’ programs together with the advisors on local finances of the Local Government Development Centres in cooperation with the «U-LEAD with Europe» program.

Soon we will separately present new informational materials with the results of the analysis of budget programs financed from the state and local budgets. Stay tuned!

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A fair budget for everyone!