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.

BASIC LEGAL FRAMEWORK COVERING GENDER BUDGETTING

01 LAW ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BUDGETARY SYSTEM

02 LAW ON GENDER EQUALITY

03 LAW ON PREVENTION AND PROTECTION FROM DISCRIMINATION

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

05 LAW ON SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

06 ANNUAL MTBP PREPARATION GUIDELINES

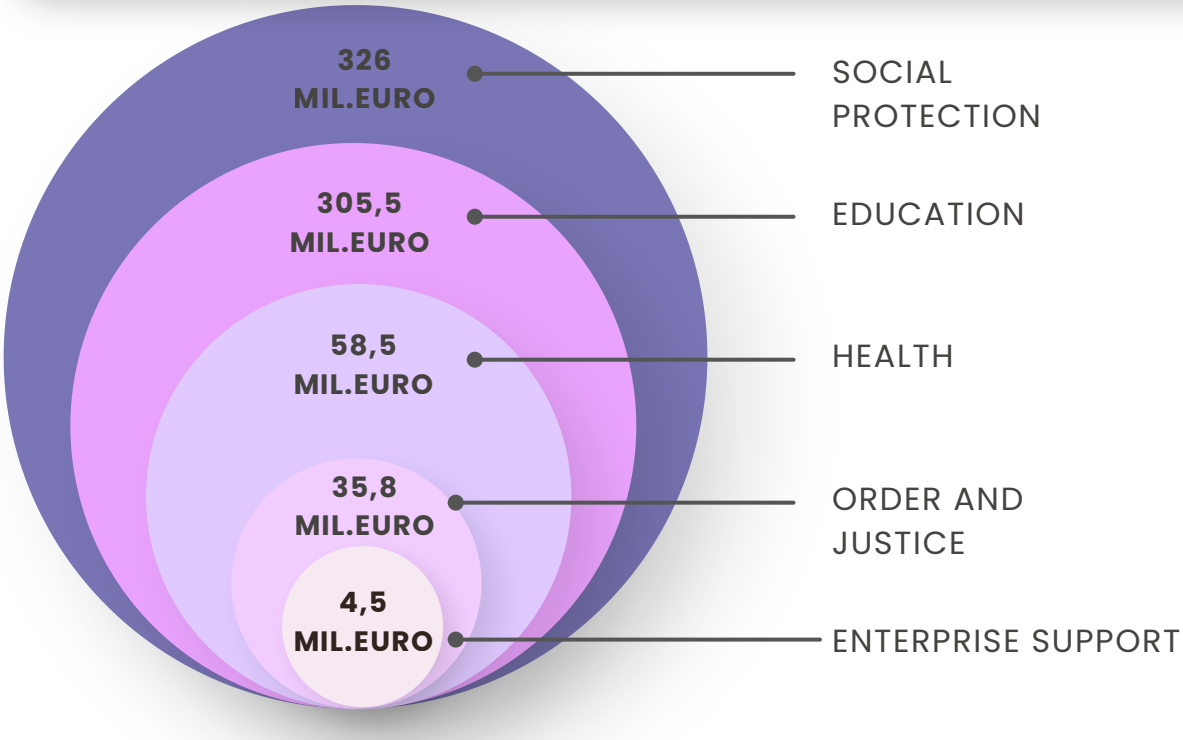
07 NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR GENDER EQUALITY

08 LABOUR CODE

09 LAW ON STATE-GUARANTEED LEGAL AID

10 LAW ON THE PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION SYSTEM

BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMES BY SECTOR

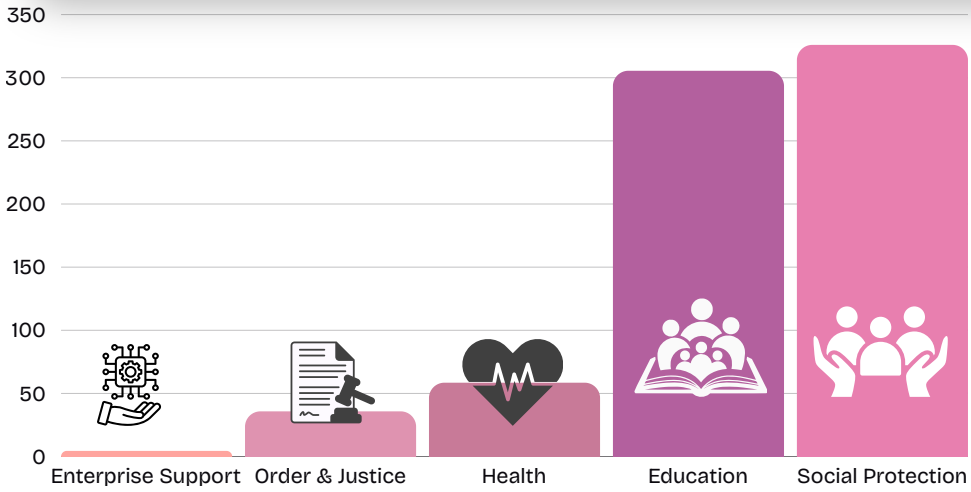


87 of Albania's 131 budget programmes incorporate gender-responsive budgeting elements within the 2026–2028 MTBP.

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.

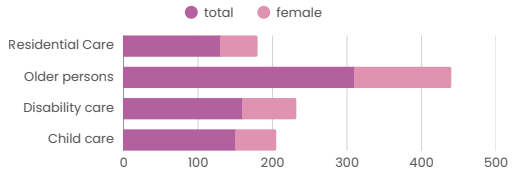
61,000
FAMILIES
of individuals planned to benefit from Economic Assistance in 2026.

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 ilustration on
Women among pension beneficiaries

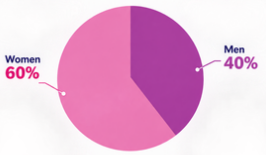


Women represent 54.6% of pension beneficiaries and are more vulnerable to poverty in old age due to lower lifetime earnings and career interruptions.

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.

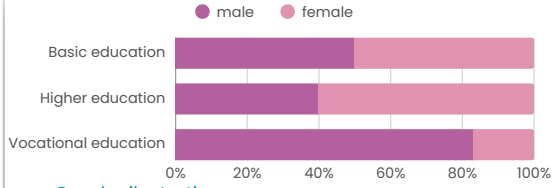


60%
WOMEN
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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 ilustration 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.

53,560
WOMEN
planned to benefit from maternity care in public hospitals in 2026

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

5,000	12,500	199,749
Breast cancer screening	Cervical cancer screening	Check-up service
planned for 2026	*planned for 2026*	*reached/ reported*

Gender ilustration on
Targeted women's health services



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.

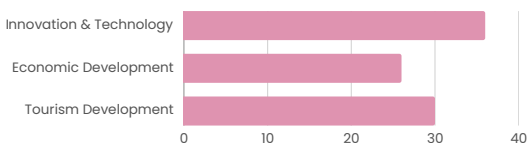
New gender-responsive products introduced for 2026 strengthen the integration of gender equality into economic development policies.

36 of 85
WOMEN-LED / FOUNDED START-UPS

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

€1.3 MILLION
planned gender-responsive expenditure

Gender chart on
Women / women-led beneficiaries of entrepreneurship support



Gender ilustration on
Women in agricultural support



2,154 of 45,000 = 4.8% women
€1.9m planned gender-responsive expenditure

WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE IN THE BUDGET IN 2026?

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
2026
STATE BUDGET

1. GRB SHARE OF THE BUDGET

9.5%
of total public expenditure is allocated to gender-responsive policies in 2026

Around 85
budget programmes

Up from **9.1%** in 2025

2. NEW GRB AREAS IN 2026

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Gender-responsive budgeting expands into new economic policy areas in 2026.

3. EMPLOYMENT & WAGES

ALL 50,000 / month
2026 minimum wage

Expected to particularly benefit women, who are concentrated in education, health and social services.



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.

