

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LUSHNJA

POSITION PAPER

CITIZEN'S VOICE



POSITION PAPER – Zëri Qytetar

Topic Background:

Gender Responsive Budgeting in the Municipality of Lushnja

The Municipality of Lushnja is located in the southern part of the western lowland of Albania. Its main activities are: serving the community highest interests; ensuring the citizens' safety and social welfare; ensuring the citizens' social equality, equal rights, environmental protection, etc. This Municipality is divided into 11 Administrative Units: Lushnjë, Allkaj, Bubullimë, Hysgjokaj, Golem, Dushk, Karbunarë, Ballagat, Fier-Shegan, Kolonjë and Krutje. All the Administrative Units are currently part of Lushnja district and Fier County. After the territorial reform, the new Municipality has now the city of Lushnja and 85 villages under its administration. The area of the new municipality is 372.72 km², the density is 341.91 inhabitants per km². The main economic activities in the Municipality of Lushnja are agriculture and livestock products processing. The size of the arable land in the Municipality of Lushnja is 25384 ha.

The Municipality of Lushnja, consists of about 2417 small businesses (mainly self-employed individuals), as well as 934 large businesses. The economy of the Municipality of Lushnja is mainly focused on agriculture and the industry of agricultural products processing and, as a result, these are the main sectors of employment. However, regarding the large percentage of the population employed in the agricultural sector, we refer to the area of the former communes, because the city of Lushnja itself is focused on the provision of services and trade. According to the Civil Register 2021 the population is **130989** individuals, **63787** of which are women while **67202** are males.

Country Policy

On a national scale, Albania has adopted the Law on Gender Equality, the National Strategic Plan on Gender Equality, and other legal frameworks on GRB such as:

- **Law No. 57/2016** on some amendments and additions to Law No. 9936, dated 26.6.2008, "On the management of the budget system in the Republic of Albania", amended. The amendments include mandatory hearing sessions with each Central Budget Institution and with the Ministry of Finance. The Minutes taken will be part of the Mid-term Budget Programming (MTBP) document.
- **Law No. 68/2017- "On the Local Self-government Finances"**. This Law makes GRB a mandatory requirement and creates opportunities for effective inclusion of GRB in all the phases of the local financial management cycle such as annual and mid-term budget programming, monitoring and reporting, evaluation as well as auditing by LGU. Article 2, point 8 states that the Law itself aims to ensure that the creation and distribution of local financial resources of local self-government units is accelerated and gender equality is achieved.

Article 36, point "c" on Mid-Term Local Budget Program, states that at least one of the policy objectives of the programs should address issues of gender inequality or full respect for gender equality, clearly identifying products and other measurable indicators based on gender.

In addition, Article 54, point 2, letter "I" which deals with financial reporting emphasized that financial indicators that are published include, but are not limited to, the ratio of expenditures to policies that support gender equality to total expenditures.

- **PFM Action Plan 2020-2022** on "Strengthening Gender Responsive Budgeting at the Central and Local Level" also focuses on the gender perspective.
- **Guideline No.7/2018"On the standard procedures for the preparation of the medium-term budget program"**. Annex 5 of the Guide contains information on the preparation of gender responsive budgeting.

On a local scale, the Municipality of Lushnja has drafted the 2019-2021 Social Program and is working to update the Social Plan for 2021-2023. However, there is no plan related to gender equality and there is no specific budget item related to GRB.

➤ **Possible Solutions:**

On national scale:

- Include GRB in more budget lines,
- Provide more trainings related to GRB,
- Support GRB projects from CSOs,
- Do more for women empowerment, etc.

On a local scale, the Municipality of Lushnja should:

- Focus more on Gender Responsive Budgeting,
- Have a separate budget item related to GRB,
- Offer more trainings to its staff related to GRB,
- Support women and their initiatives,
- Offer more facilities for women empowerment and entrepreneurship, etc.

Bibliography

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