



09/03/2020

Skopje, Podgorica, Sarajevo

Novi Sad, Prishtina, Tirana

Dear TACSO,

The Gender Budget Watchdog Network is an initiative of Centre for research and policy making – CRPM Skopje, Women's Action – Niksic, Gender Knowledge Hub – Novi Sad, Gender Alliance for Development Cooperation – Tirana and Kosovo Women's Network – Prishtina. Our Network has an objective to unite 88 CSOs whose capacities are being built to monitor public spending from gender perspective and through balance distribution of finances to improve gender equality in the region. To this end we are submitting this input to the ongoing consultations with civil society on the IPA III.

Considering that gender inequality is prominent in the IPA countries, and that the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP-II) with indicator 5.3.2. commits to 85% of all projects must be G-1 (significant objective) or G-2 (main objective) by 2020 we propose that IPA III should make a requirement that all projects under this financing framework should have a gender equality specific objective and allocate 10-20% of project finances to realization of that objective.

In addition, a separate budget line within IPA III amounting to 20% of the finances of the program should be specifically dedicated to gender equality interventions, earmarked for financing qualified, autonomous women's rights organizations, as well as organizations that are managed by women and work with women as target group.

We as Gender Budget Watchdog Network can offer in partnership with TACSO to develop a tool that EUDs could use when assessing projects. Based on experiences of other development agencies (OECD, OSCE and bilateral SIDA, ADA and etc.) the tool would feature indicators used to determine if the project is going to transform gender relations, respond to different needs of women and men or be neutral to gender inequalities. The gender indicators we propose to be linked with a weighing system of proposals, where the gender transformative proposals will be ranked higher than those that are gender specific and the later will be ranked higher than those that are gender neutral, with an objective IPA III not to fund gender neutral proposals at all.

On behalf of the network yours sincerely,

Dr. Marija Risteska

CRPM, Macedonia