

GENDER BUDGET WATCHDOG NETWORK ANNUAL MEETING and GRB COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Strengthening University-CSO Collaboration for a Gender-Equal Societies

24-27 August 2026

[Unique Resort & Spa Ohrid](#)

Location: Partizanska No. 56, Ohrid, Macedonia

NETWORK MEETING DAY ONE – 24.08.2026 MONDAY

09:00-17:00 Arrival and registration for GBWN Members Meeting (for network members only)

17:00 – 17:30 Opening of the GBWN Annual Meeting

- Minutes of meeting of last meeting
- Confirming agenda

17:30- 18:30 Nominations and voting for the Executive Committee Members

Welcome Dinner 20:00 in UNIQUE Hotel

NETWORK MEETING DAY TWO – TUESDAY 25.08.2026

09:00-10:00 Reflections on new phase of development

10:00- 11:00 Sustainability of GBWN Resources- Building the ecosystem for gender equal society

- Annual report; membership;
- Sustainability of resources and network

11:00 Registration for Community of practice and coffee break

GRB COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE- TUESDAY 25.08.2026

11:30- 12:00 Conference opening

Keynote speeches

- **JANKULOVSKI Nikolche**, Deputy Minister of Finance, TBC/ Government of North Macedonia
- **ELSON Diane**, Emeritus Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Essex, Visiting Professor, WiSE Centre for Economic Justice, Glasgow Caledonian University

12:00 -12:30 GRB Impact Award

12:30-14:00 Panel 1: Financing the Care Economy through Gender-Responsive Budgeting

Moderator: Gloria Alarcón-García, University of Murcia

Panelists

- **ALARCÓN-GARCÍA Gloria** - From Sustaining Life to Living Well: Everyday Life Infrastructure, Health and Gender-Responsive Budgeting for Gender-Equal Societies
- **RISTESKA Marija** - Rethinking Long-Term Care Systems in Albania and Macedonia Using gender-responsive budgeting to improve the policy response
- **JOVANOVIĆ Danica** - Financing the Care Economy through Gender-Responsive Budgeting
- **VAN OSCH Thera** - How to Decolonize Our Economy? Caring Economics: A New Economic Model for Social and Ecological Justice (online)
- **VUKIĆEVIĆ Anka** - The impact of financial well-being on the quality of life of caregivers of persons with disabilities as an indicator of the need for gender budgeting
- **SOMORIN, Adejare Taofee** - Financing Care in Fragile Settings: Gender-Responsive Budgeting for Post-Conflict Community Recovery TBC

14:00-15:00 Lunch

15:00- 16:30 Parallel workshops:

- Interactive Workshop 1: Gender-Sensitive Research and Data - why is the collaboration between CSOs and academia crucial? (Lund University)
- Interactive Workshop 2: Who Pays, Who Benefits? A GRB Advocacy Lab on the Revenue Side of Budgets (Marija Vukovic)

16:30 Closing of the day and Group photo

17:00-20:00 Optional sightseeing tour de Ohrid

20:00 Dinner in Belvedere restaurant with traditional music

GRB COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE – Wednesday 26.08.2026

09:00-10:30 Panel 2: University–CSO Collaboration for Gender-Equal Societies

Moderator: Magnus Ring, Lund University

Panelists:

- **BELLESI Elisa** - From Civil Society Research to Academic Policy Recommendations: Pathways to Improving Access to Contraception in Croatia
- **PASKALI Rozeta** - A Psychological and Academic Perspective on Evidence-Based Advocacy and Gender-Responsive Policy
- **DHËMBO Elona** - Building Capacity for Gender-Responsive Climate Finance: Needs and Challenges for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Western Balkans
- **JONOSKI Liljana** - Bridging Academia and Civil Society for Gender Equality: University–CSO Partnerships as Drivers of Civil Law Reform, Public Accountability and Gender-Responsive Budgeting
- **BLASI Sabrina** - Elevating GRB Methodologies: Achieving policies impact Measurement through Intersectional Data Feminism and CSO-PA Partnerships
- **STEPHENSON Kathleen** - Researchers as Collaborators: Reflexive Lessons from Evaluating the WE Finance Code for University–CSO Knowledge-Sharing (online)

10:30-12:00 Interactive Workshop: Design of a "Gender Equality Research Hub" for University-CSO Collaboration Model: How to create a comprehensive partnership model between universities and CSOs? (Lund University)

12:30-12:30 Coffee break

12:30- 14:00 Panel 3: Gender-Responsive Climate Finance and Just Transition

Moderator: Zlatko Samardjiev, Programme Specialist, former UN GEF SGP coordinator

Panelists:

- **BORZA Ioana** - Missed opportunities for gender responsive and transformative climate funding. The Green Cities Programme in Western Balkans, Moldova and Romania
- **CHADHA Ankita** - Building It Right: Embedding Gender in India's Municipal Climate Finance Architecture (online)
- **GRIBINCEA Alexandru** - Inclusive mobility in Moldova: Gender, disability, and climate perspectives on public transport



- **NAKO Migena** - From Climate Projects to Climate Budgets Integrating Gender-Responsive Budgeting into Local Climate Finance through Civil Society Practice in Albania
- **CIOCAN Ludmila** - Gender-Responsive Climate Finance in Moldova's Regional Development: Assessing Local Energy and Climate Investments through a Gender Budgeting Lens (online)
- **VUKOVIC Marija** - Gender-Responsive Finance in Sustainable Infrastructure Portfolios in Western Balkan

14:00-15:00 Lunch

15:00-16:30 Panel 4 Financing Women's Entrepreneurship and the Women's Economy

Moderator: Kristina Misheva, University Goce Delchev Shtip

Panelists:

- MISHEVA Kristina; and MALETIC Iskra - Gender-Balanced governance in public enterprises: Legal and Policy Challenges
- LOJIĆ Ana - Predicting Needs, Financing Equality: An AI-Supported Framework for Gender-Responsive Budgeting and Women's Economic Empowerment
- JASKIĆ Mersiha - Breaking the Glass Wallet: Financing Women Entrepreneurs in Bosnia and Herzegovina (online)
- NIKOLIC Aleksandra - Digitalization and AI as Tools for the Economic Independence of Women Entrepreneurs: A Case Study of "FaceFit AI"
- ČOLAKOVIĆ-PRGUDA Nerma - Gender-Responsive Budgeting as an Instrument for Improving the Position of Women in the Labour Market in Bosnia and Herzegovina

16:30 – 17:00 Closing of the GRB Community of Practice

17:30 Optional (for those staying): Boat trip and dinner with sunset