



Kosova Women's Network

Serving, Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Women and Girls

Kosova Women's Network to Launch *Budgeting for Social Welfare Report*

1 July 2014, 9:45-12:00
Sirius Hotel, Prishtina, Kosovo

Tomorrow the Kosova Women's Network (KWN) will present key findings and recommendations from its newest report: *Budgeting for Social Welfare: A Rapid Gender Analysis to Inform Gender Responsive Budgeting in the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare* – the first report of its kind in Kosovo.

The report involves an analysis of beneficiaries of all departments, divisions and other units within the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW). It then examines the budget amounts allocated to women and men beneficiaries, identifying areas of potential inequality. Findings inform specific inputs for MLSW's budget for 2015-2017.

In this report, KWN reveals several surprising findings:

- The social assistance budget line is unnecessarily limited. Social assistance as per the minimum basket of goods for an average family of four members, the funding gap in the budget is roughly €24,000,000.
- In 2013, men MLSW staff members' salaries comprised 56% of the budget, whereas 44% of the budget went to women. Men tend to hold higher positions than women within the Ministry, which may impact the quality of services provided to women and men.
- Although women and men register as jobseekers in almost equivalent numbers, far more men (64%) are placed in jobs than women (34%).
- Men collected 89% of the basic contributory pension, whereas women received 11% in 2013.
- MLSW has not had sufficient funding for providing most social services in accordance with the legal framework.

KWN Lead Researcher Nicole Farnsworth and Researcher Ada Shima will present other findings and recommendations at the launching event tomorrow.

The report was written in the context of the Government of Kosovo's Medium Term Expenditure Framework, which considers social welfare a priority. It seeks to provide evidence that will inform governmental budget choices, including from a gender perspective. Further, gender-responsive budgeting has been proven to increase transparency and effectiveness of public expenditures.

While this report focuses on MLSW, KWN anticipates that it can serve as a guide for other ministries and municipalities on how to concretely carry out gender responsive budgeting, as encouraged in the current Budget Circular.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH funded the report and KWN collaborated closely with MLSW. The report will be available on KWN's website: www.womensnetwork.org and Facebook page in English, Albanian and Serbian on 1 July.

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