



Towards a more gender-responsive 2026 Kosovo Budget

28 August 2025

Dear Secretary General, Fadile Dyla,

Dear Head of Budget and Finance Division, Fehmi Zylfiu,

I am writing on behalf of the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN) to request your urgent attention related to the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation 2026 budget request.

As you may be aware, gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) seeks to ensure that funds are budgeted and spent towards addressing the potentially differing needs of diverse women, men, boys, and girls, identified through gender analysis. According to Kosovo [Law No. 05/L-020 on Gender Equality](#), GRB is mandatory for all public institutions. The non-implementation of GRB constitutes a legal offense subject to sanctions. Further, the Government has an interest in implementing GRB in the context of its [commitments to the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), precisely [SDG 5, indicator 5.c.1](#); the Supplementary Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Framework (PEFA) for the assessment of gender responsive public financial management (GRPFM); and, most importantly, as a best practice in financial management. Implementing GRB can contribute to more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent spending of government resources, including towards achieving gender equality. Thus, the Ministry of Finance, Labour, and Transfers, through the budget circular, has requested that [all central level budget organisations](#) provide an annex to their budget allocation requests for 2026 explaining how their budget ensures GRB.

The Government must involve gender equality officials from government entities and civil society organisations in public consultations pertaining to the budget, as mandated by [Regulation \(GRK\) No. 12/2016 on Duties and Responsibilities of Relevant Officials for Gender Equality in Ministries and Municipalities](#) and [Regulation \(GRK\) No.17/2024 on Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic Of Kosovo](#). To support the Government in implementing its responsibilities, KWN, a network of 102 diverse women's rights organisations, has prepared this letter towards improving GRB in the Law on Budget Appropriations for 2026.

We strongly recommend that the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) **invest directly in and encourage municipalities to budget for establishing more affordable public childcare centres and kindergartens, particularly in rural areas**. By setting concrete targets and budget [allocations based on comprehensive needs assessments, municipalities can address high unemployment and inactivity rates](#). KWN has estimated that expanding childcare options [can create approximately 9,899 new jobs](#), transforming unpaid care work into paid employment. This also will enable more women to enter the labour market and improve educational outcomes in line with the [EU Barcelona Objectives](#). The Government has committed to these investments in the National Development Strategy, and now budget allocations must be made. While the Government has relied on international donations for improving childcare availability, we implore MESTI to allocate more such funds and to strongly encourage municipalities to do similarly. We hope for reduced reliance on external funding to ensure sufficient and sustainable budgetary resources for the future for this important national development priority.

We strongly encourage MESTI to **include GRB in the Education Strategy and Action Plans, the annual education budget, and other early childhood education** (ECE) and social assistance policies and legislation to improve the quality of ECE and [promote learning that challenges harmful stereotypes](#). Please budget for implementing gender-responsive pedagogy and quality assurance, including indicators for assessing the implementation of curricula, the quality of services, and the beneficiaries of services for girls and boys, using KWN's established methodology. Budget lines should

allocate funding for quality assurance strategies, social schemes, recruitment strategies (particularly for men in ECE), community engagement activities, and training, including **obligatory teacher training to ensure teachers can implement curricula that provide diverse girls and boys with equitable learning opportunities.**

Investing in quality education can ensure that budget allocations translate into meaningful gender equality outcomes, in line with the [EU Gender Action Plan III](#), [CEDAW](#), [SDGs](#), and the EU Barcelona Objectives.

We also recommend that MESTI invest directly in and encourage municipalities to **budget for achieving universal access to computers and the internet** within all Kosovo schools, particularly in rural areas. Resources should be allocated to ensure **gender-responsive digital skills** are integrated into curricula, so that both girls and boys gain the competencies needed for labour market participation. [Evidence shows that while women and men have similar access to smartphones and the internet, 41% of rural women \(compared to 33% of rural men\) lack digital skills required by the labour market.](#) Investing in equitable information and communications technology access and skills training will enable rural women and men alike to use digital tools for farming, markets, and public services, supporting women's economic empowerment, and expanding their opportunities in the labour market.

We also strongly encourage MESTI to publish the annex to your Ministry's 2026 Budget, requested by the Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers and in line with SDG 5.c.1., explaining transparently how your 2026 budget will contribute to furthering gender equality and the related expenditures foreseen.

We thank you for your attention and remain ready to continue our collaboration and support.

Sincerely,

Igballe Rogova
Executive Director
Kosovo Women's Network