



Roma Responsive Budgeting in Albania & Kosovo

- Reflections -

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Albania

Institutional Framework

- Ministry of Health & Social Protection - lead
- National Roma Coordinator
- Focal Points (in line ministry & municipality)
 - responsible for the quality of the data reported from the local level,
 - identify gaps (information, data)
- National Institute of Statistics
- Parliamentary Committees: on Labour, Social Issues and Health / Sub-Committee on Human Rights; Committee on Economy and Finance.

Policy & Legal Framework

- Public Finance Management Strategy, 2014-2020.
- Organic Budget Law, amended in 2016.
- Law on Local Self-Government Finances, June 2017
- Law no. 96/2017 "For protection of national minorities in the Republic of Albania".
- National Strategy & Action Plan for Integration of Roma & Egyptians, 2016-2020
 - Important sectors: Education and Culture, Employment, Health, Housing, Social Protection, Civil Registration and Access to Justice;

ALB - Budget Cycle

- Medium-Term Budget Program (MTBP), a 3-year planning.
- Fiscal year January - December
- February 28th, Budget instruction & ceilings
- Crucial phases of the MTBP preparation, (1-30 of April & 10 July - 31 August)
- June, mid-year Budget Review
- Budget approval by Parliament in December

Instructions

- MoFE instruction “on the Standard Budget Preparation Guidelines (SBPG)” .
- MoFE instruction “on the Standard Procedures of Monitoring of Local Government MTBP”
- MoFE Annual Instruction “On the preparation of the MTBP”

Kosovo

Institutional Framework

- Office for Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities & Anti-Discrimination,
- National Roma Coordinator
- Focal Points in each line ministry & municipality
 - responsible for the quality of the data reported from the local level,
 - identify gaps (information, data)
- Kosovo Agency of Statistics
- Parliamentary Committees: on the Rights, Interests of the Communities & Return; on Health, Labour & Social Welfare; on Budget & Finance.

Policy & Legal Framework

- Strategy for integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the Republic of Kosovo* 2017-2021
- The Law on Protection of Community Rights and their members in the Republic of Kosovo,
- The Law on Protection against Discrimination,
- The Law on Cultural Heritage,
- Public Finance Management Reform Strategy 2016-2020.
- Law on Local Self-Governance,
 - Important sectors: Education and Culture, Employment, Health, Housing, Social Protection, Civil Registration and Access to Justice;

KOS - Budget Cycle

- Fiscal year 1 January - 31 December
- March - Instruction on Budget, issued by MoF
- April 30th - Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
- May 15th - Budget Circulars issued by the MoF - provide information on the process & budget ceilings to budget users,
- May-June - semi-annual Budget Review
- June 15th-October 31st - Budget Proposals preparation by LM/budget organizations,
- October 31st Budget submitted to Parliament in December

Instructions

- March - Instruction on Budget, issued by the MoF;
- May 15th - Budget Circulars;
- Budget Circular provides for **performance indicators** for BP on: Input, Product, Output, Efficiency levels.

Challenges:

- No specific Budget Programs/subprograms to address Roma integration (ALB, KOS)
- Limitations to extract public allocations on Roma integration through Budget Programs (ALB, KOS)
- No specific reference of Roma responsive budgeting in the Budget instructions (MTBP, Budget Circular)
- Horizontal (line ministries) coordination and alignment of NAP with MTBP/MTEF.

- Lack of information & data segregation
- Limited dedicated and trained personnel working on Roma integration
- Focal Points limited time and often knowledge & skills

An approach to Roma Responsive Budgeting - Entry points



Structural Changes



Considerations

- ❖ **Improve by-laws** on national minorities to guarantee financial mechanisms (ALB, KOS);
- ❖ Improve/amend MoF's **Instruction** "On the preparation of the MTBP" – setting up mandatory requirements for Roma Budgeting objective/s within BP of budget institutions (ALB);
- ❖ Amend "**Budget Circular**" to include reference to Roma Responsive Budgeting for budget organizations (KOS);
- ❖ Improve/amend **Budget Circular** to include principles of budget consultation with Roma community by LM/budget organization (KOS)

Guidelines



Considerations

- ❖ **Unify** an **Approach** on Roma Budgeting across sectors and – **endorse** the approach!
- ❖ Draft **guidelines** /briefs on how to perform Roma responsible budgeting – train and coach planning and budgeting specialists (ALB, KOS);
- ❖ Define Key **Performance Indicators**, including target, baseline, info source, (ALB)
- ❖ Define Roma related **Indicators** at all levels of BP: **Input, Product, Output, Efficiency**, (KOS)
- ❖ Set up **objectives, products, targets** and **allocations** within Budget Programs

Capacity Building



Considerations

- ❖ Train & coach specialists of ministry of finance on Roma integration, social inclusion and human rights;
- ❖ Train & coach specialists in line ministries & budget organizations & **CSOs** on:
 - **Roma responsive budgeting** – Linking policy priorities, capacities and budget
 - Minority rights and social inclusion;
 - **Data, statistics** and performance **indicators**;
 - **Budget analysis and monitoring** reporting

Consultation



Considerations

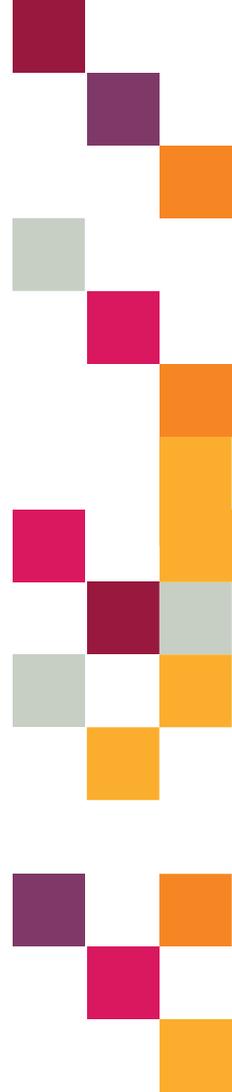
- ❖ Budget consultations by LM during MTBP preparation phase one (1-30 of April) (ALB)
- ❖ Budget consultations by LM/Municipalities during May-June (KOS)
 - Line ministries to guarantee a consultative process of BP with stakeholder, groups of interest & representatives of Roma community (ALB,KOS)
- ❖ MoF ensures consultation of final draft budget with Roma related organizations /representatives, (ALB, KOS)
- ❖ Advocacy with Parliamentary Committee/s for the purpose of budget consultation (ALB, KOS) Participation needs to be **informed** and **organized!**

Proposed approach to improve Budget Program/s



Questions?

- Thank you!



Other considerations

