

TRAINING AGENDA

Shkodër, July 15th, 2024

ARKA Youth Centre, Street Palokë Kurti Nr.1, Shkodër

Civil Society and the role of the Parliament in the Drafting, Consultation and Approval
Process of the State Budget

Organized by:

AIS, promotor of Open Data Albania

Project and Partnership:

Increasing Parliament's Responsiveness to Citizens' Concerns, Project supported by the
British Embassy in Tirana and implemented by a consortium led by IDM, in partnership with
Citizens Channel and AIS.

Objective:

Building the capacities of CSOs, activists and local media to contribute in the planning of the
state budget and public spending policies

Area:

Districts of Lezhë; Dibër; Shkodër; Kamzë; Kukës; Tiranë; Malësi e Madhe

Target group:

Representatives of Civil Society; Activists and Local Journalists

Project Preview

With the support of the British Embassy in Tirana, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) in partnership with Citizens Channel and the Albanian Institute of Sciences (AIS), will implement the project "*Increasing the responsiveness of the Parliament to citizens' concerns*". This project aims to strengthen the Parliament's efforts to foster an enabling environment for inherent engagement of citizens in the policy and legislative processes in the country, as a means of promoting public interest and building trust in the institution.

Activity Preview

The Training, which will be held in July 2024 in two of the targeted districts, aims to increase the capacities of civil society, allowing them to improve their understanding of the Budgeting process and enable their participation in the Budgeting cycle in the Parliament. The training aims to strengthen comprehension and monitoring skills in regards to the Drafting, Approval and Reporting Process of the State Budget in the Parliament, as well as raise responsiveness and participation capabilities during the phases of Planning and Approval of the State Budget and policies concerning Public Finances. Another aims of the training is to inform about the existing legal instruments who allow for participation, proposals or hearings in the Parliamentary Committees.

Target group:

Representatives of Civil Society; Activists and Local Journalists.

9:45 - 10:00	Registration of Participants
10:00 - 10:45	<p>Lecture: State Budget as an Important Constitutional Instrument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting, Implementation and Reporting on the Budget • Budget Implementation and Reporting Process • Government Expenditures and Revenues • Hearing Session on Budget Drafting • Civil Actors and Parliamentary Participation Instruments concerning the Budget • Supreme State Audit and its Implementation of the State Budget Report • Q&A. Discussion <p>Trainer: ARANITA BRAHAJ, LEGAL EXPERT</p>
10:45 - 11:30	<p>Practical Exercise</p> <p>Instruments and Opportunities at the disposal of an Organization. Interest Group or Local Community asks to be heard and proposes items to be discussed during the Budgeting in the Parliament. Budgeting based on Sector, Project and Investment Listing the steps and developments that lead to a Successful Proposal.</p> <p>Facilitator: PAJTIM NIKOLLI</p>
11:30 - 12:00	Recess
12.00 - 13:15	<p>Lecture: Public Budgeting and Regional Impact. District Distribution of Programs and Investments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The difference between the Government Budget and Local Budgets • Local Government revenues and re-allocations through the State Budget • Regional Development Fund • Rules for Assigning Unconditional Transfers. Purpose and Progress • The Impact of the State Budget on the Development of Regional Investments • Illustration through Articles Published in Open Data Albania • The Role of the People's Representative, the Members of Parliament and the Distribution of Public Money <p>Trainer: BLERINA LESI, PUBLIC FINANCES EXPERT</p>
13:15 - 14:00	<p>Practical Work: Advocating for a Cause, in which we petition the Parliament for better Budgeting for a Project/ Function or Interest Group</p> <p>Trainer: AIS TEAM</p>
	Discussion and Conclusions