



**Government of Albania  
Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth**

**National Gender Equality Policies in Albania**

*6th Meeting of Officials from EU Enlargement  
Countries, Vilnius 1-2 June 2017*

# Achievements in the field of gender equality

The Government of Albania pays close attention to women's rights and gender equality, which it considers important in terms of the economic and social development of the country, and increasing the role of women in all spheres.

The Government of Albania has made important progress in moving towards greater gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with international and national gender equality standards and obligations.

These include the European Union's (EU) accession agenda in the Western Balkans, in which equality of women and men is a clear priority.

# National Legislation

- Equal rights of men and women are enshrined in the most supreme legal act, the **Albanian Constitution**, which promotes the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as well as protection of human dignity and human rights and freedoms.

## *Specific law on gender equality and domestic violence*

- Law No. 9970, dated 24.07.2008 on "**Gender equality in society**"
- Law No. 9690 dated 18.12.2006 on "**Measures against domestic violence**" (as amended),
- Law No.10221 dated 04.02.2010 on "**Protection from Discrimination**"
- and several other supportive laws or secondary legislation.

# National Gender Machinery of Albania

## PARLIAMENT OF ALBANIA

- Committee on Labour, Social Affairs and Health Care
- Subcommittee on Minors, Gender Equality and Domestic Violence
- Subcommittee on Human Rights under the Committee on Legal Matters, Public Administration and Human Rights
- The Alliance of Women MPs

## ADVISORY BODY

- National Council on Gender Equality (composed of 9 deputy ministers, 3 CSO representatives and chaired by the Minister of Social Welfare and Youth)

## MINISTRY LEVEL

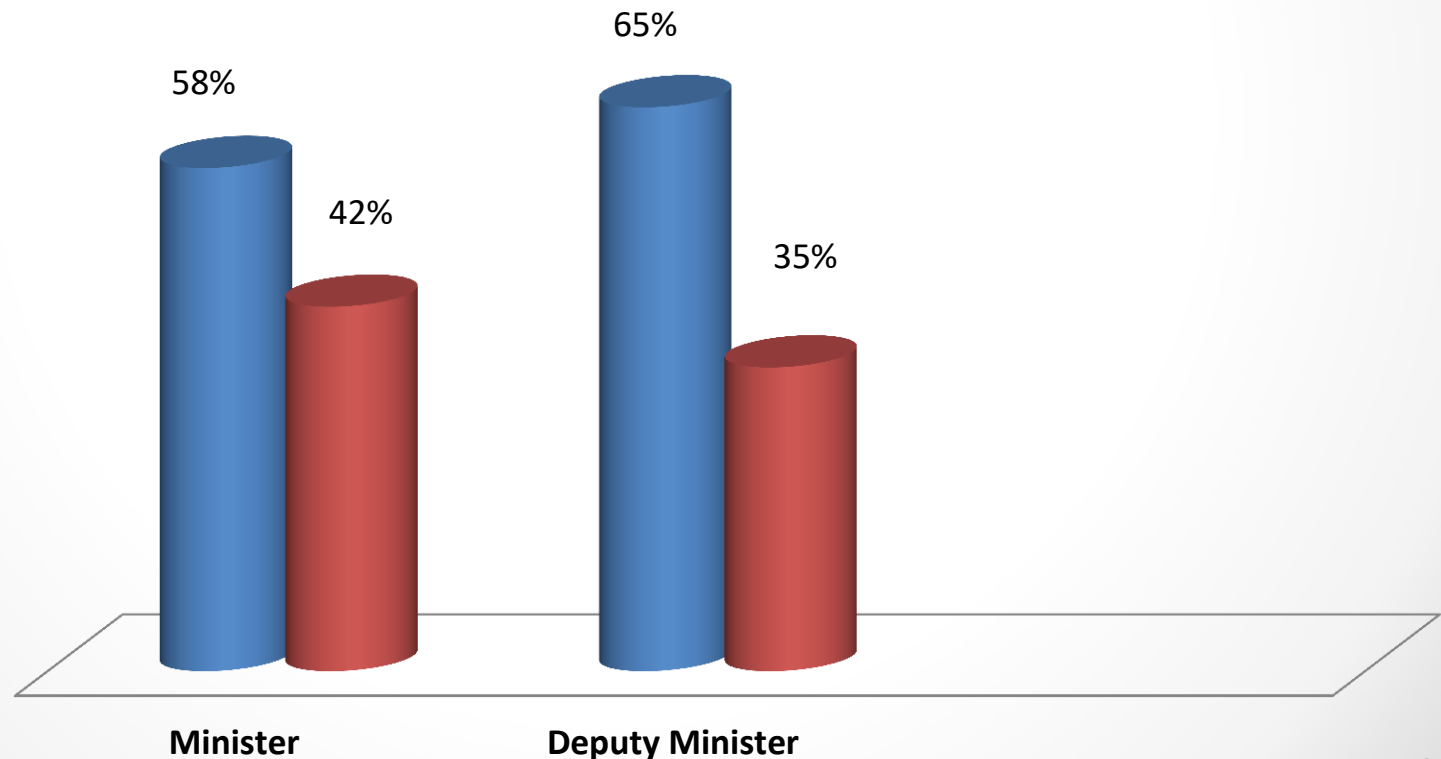
- Minister of Social Welfare and Youth
- Sector of Gender Equality (composed of a Chief of Sector and two specialists), as part of the Directory of Social Inclusion and Gender Equality, under the General Directory of Social Policies in MSWY
- 18 GEEs (in 16 Ministries plus one in PMO and another one in DoPA) dealing part-time with GE, GBV and DV issues (Gender Focal Points)

## MUNICIPAL LEVEL

- 58 GEEs (in 58 out of 61 Municipalities) in charge of GE, GBV and DV issues as well as other social issues

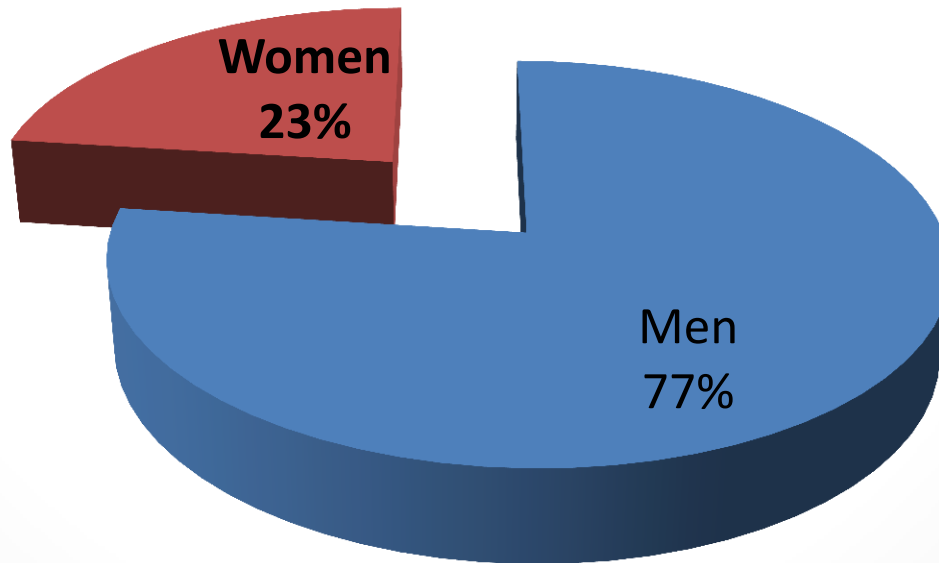
# Representation of women in Albanian Government

- The Albanian Government has currently 10 women ministers representing 52% of all members of the Cabinet (19), making Albania one of the few European countries with such representation at the central level. There are 10 women deputy ministers in Albania out of a total of 29, or 34.4%.



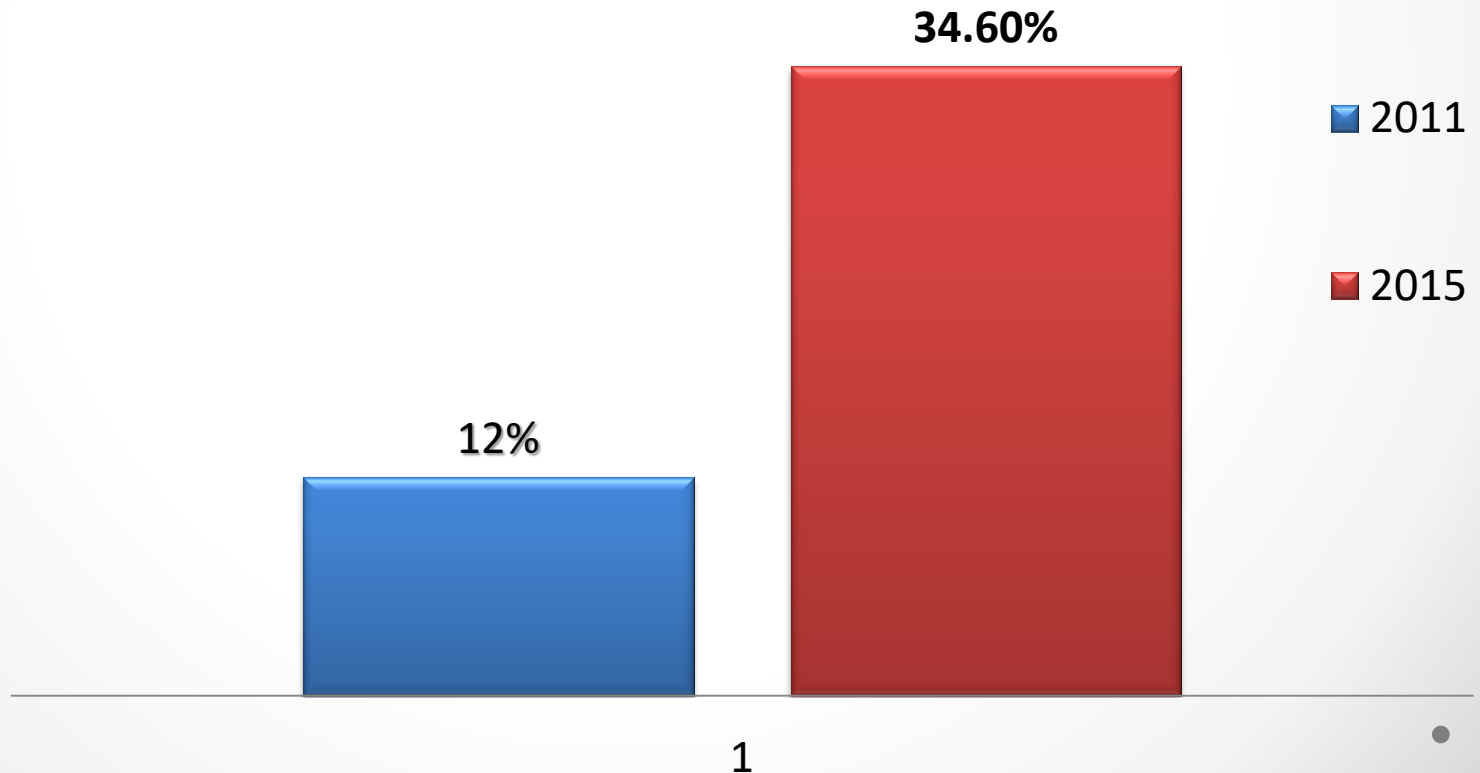
# Representation of women in Albanian Parliament

- Albanian Parliament has a total of 140 members, 32 of whom are women (23%).



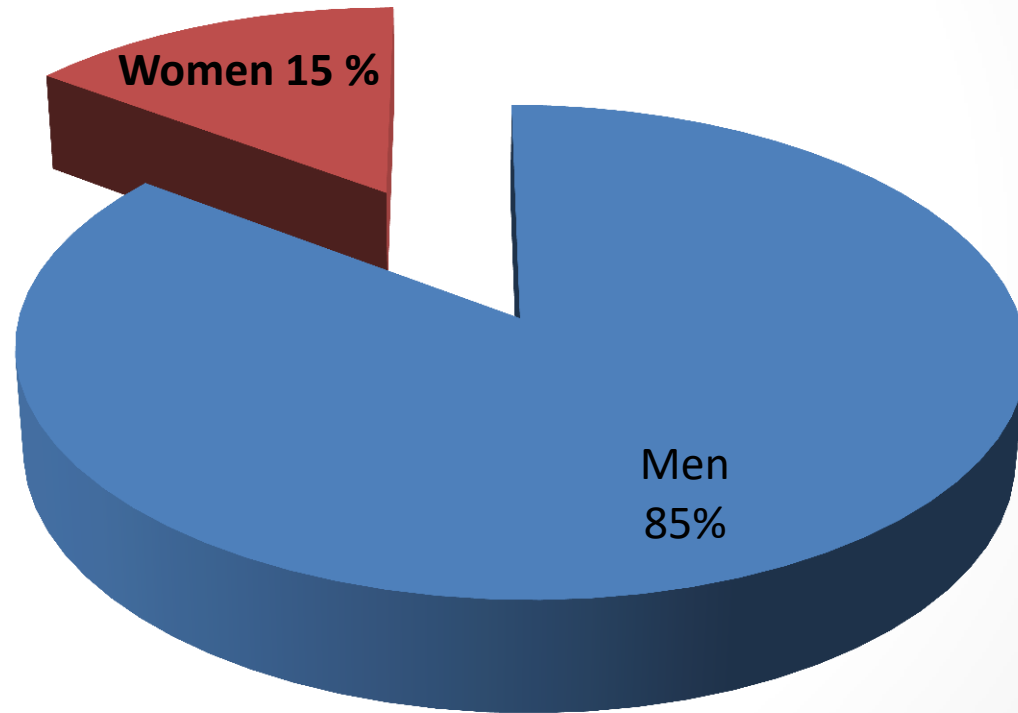
# Representation of women in the municipal councils as councillors

- Representation of women in the municipal councils as councillors is up to 34.6% (from 12% in the 2011 local elections), and 9 women (14.7%) were elected as mayors out of 61 municipalities in total.



# 61 Mayors

## Men/Women





# **“National Strategy for Gender Equality and Action Plan 2016-2020”**

The vision of the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2016-2020 seeks: “A society which holds gender equality as prerequisite for sustainable development and aims zero tolerance towards gender-based violence and domestic violence”.

Strategic Goal 1: Economic empowerment of women and men.

Strategic Goal 2: Guaranteeing factual and equal participation of women in the politic and public decision-making.

Strategic Goal 3: Reduction of gender-based violence and domestic violence.

Strategic Goal 4: Empowerment of the coordination and monitoring role of the National Gender Equality Mechanism, as well as awareness-raising of the society on gender equality advancing.



## **The Government considers economic empowerment of women as a necessity for sustainable development of the country**

Increasing the rate of profitability of women entrepreneurs through grants financed from the state budget. A total of 40 enterprises are run by women and have benefited from the competitiveness fund, fund for creative economy and start-up fund.

Measures to promote women's development initiatives in rural areas. With the approval of Instruction No.4 / 2014 "On procedures and management of the program on agriculture and rural development", was suggested the scoring system under competitive criteria, 15 of 21 defined benefit scheme with 5 points many, if applicants would be women farmers.

It continued support for the empowerment of women, through the Extension Service programs. According to the latest data, 7,000 women farmers are informed and contacted by the Extension Service, 465 women farmers and beneficiaries by the National Schemes.

## **Economic independence for women and higher participation in vocational training programs and employment are priorities of Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth for inclusion of vulnerable groups.**

- Programs for employment promotion, approved with government decisions were revised and amended in January 2016, with changes including adjustments to existing programs, as well as three new programs aimed at increasing transparency, enhancing efficiency of the funds used and greater involvement of unemployed applicants and employers.
- During the timeframe of January-December 2016, from implementation of programs promoting employment a total of 5211 unemployed jobseekers, 58% of whom women and girls, were employed.
- There are 17,524 trainees at public vocational training Centres, of whom 8262 are women, out of those 5672 are unemployed jobseekers services of beneficiaries. 797 persons were employed after being certified from a course (of whom 221 women).

# Gender budgeting

- With the assistance of UN Women, is currently made possible the number of budgetary programs that include elements partially or completely gender-responsive budgeting in the Medium Term Budget. Number of Programs has achieved to 20 programs identified in the 2016-2018 Preliminary Mid-Term Budget.

# Mainstreaming GRB in the Budgeting Process

**Close partnership between Ministry of Finance and UN Women since 2010 resulted in:**

- Institutionalization of GRB in the Medium-Term Budgeting Process (MTBP);
- Council of Ministers' Decision no. 465/2012 on "Gender Mainstreaming in the MTBP";
- Minister of Finance and the Minister of LSAEO issued a Joint Instruction no. 21/2013, outlining budgetary procedures line ministries has to follow when preparing respective MTBP;
- A joint Practical Guide, (MoF & MoLSAEO) details "How to implement" this Decision by all line ministries.

# The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) mechanism

- Based on inter-institutional partnership and cooperation, requires a common multi-sectoral philosophy for addressing GBV
- The goal is to respond to the immediate and multiple needs of the victims/survivors
- CCR ensures the safest and most effective way of reporting on GBV cases and its coordinated management
- Victim/survivor-centred decision-making

# CCR members at municipal level



# CCRs in the country and services

- Short-term services:
- emergency protection,
- safety,
- medical assistance,
- accommodation,
- transportation to safe accommodation,
- information on/assistance with obtaining protection orders,
- referral to further services

## Long-term services:

- support employment,
- social assistance, accommodation,
- legal advice and assistance with divorce procedures,
- counselling and psycho-therapy,
- help with children





# On line registering and tracking system of GBV

## cases - REVALB

- In July 2014, Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY) with the UNDP support started to implement the online data-base system for registering and monitoring GBV cases addressed through CCRs.
- The online tracking system is secure and respects privacy and confidentiality of domestic violence survivors.
- The system is used by a limited number of local and central employees, professionally trained on how to respond to domestic violence cases, on how to preserve privacy and confidentiality and how to use the system.
- Local coordinators trained to use the system

## **Main functions of the case tracking system**

- Registration of domestic violence victims
- Registration of abusers
- Registration of violence cases
- Registrations of services given to victims
- Registration of referrals
- Registration of agreements between LGU's and other institutions/organizations that provide services to victims
- Registration of periodic meetings of the Steering Council /Technical Group that organize and coordinate the support given to the victims of domestic violence
- Reporting

## Reporting

As the system is online and centralized, the data entered at the LGU level are immediately available for the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth.

The data are striped of personally identifiable information ( name, surnames, birthdays). Instead codes assigned during the registration are used for the victim and the abuser.

### **The system provides two types of reports:**

- pdf format
- interactive reports

The pdf reports are generated according to predefined static format, and have limited variability ( the user can filter by date)

The interactive reports can be customized extensively by the end user, filtered by any field or combination of them, columns can be added or removed, can be grouped and aggregated, displayed as data or graphically and the customized report can be saved to be used later.

**Thank you !**



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