



“Budgets 4 Citizens” Programme

About us



The “Budgets 4 Citizens” programme funded by the European Union is implemented by the Armenian Lawyers’ Association, in partnership with the “Economic Development and Research Center” NGO and Czech “Agora Central Europe” NGO.

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Programme Objective

The Overall Objective of the programme is to foster an inclusive and transparent budgetary process with participation of Civil Society in Armenia and to enhance participation of Civil Society in public budgetary processes.

The following group of activities will be implemented within the framework of the programme:

- Improving capacity of CSOs for participation in the budgetary process.
- Increasing and improving knowledge and awareness opportunities of civil society on the budgetary processes.
- Development and implementation of evidence based public policies.
- Implementation of public control (monitoring) and advocacy.
- Implementation of a sustainable and constructive dialogue with the Government and the National Assembly.

Programme Target Sectors

The Sectors of justice, education, social security and agriculture are selected as the target sectors of the Programme.

Target Groups and Final Beneficiaries

The target groups of the Programme are: CSOs, independent experts, young specialists, and mass media.

Final beneficiaries include: civil servants who are engaged in drafting and implementing budgets in the target sectors. This group includes the representatives of the ministries of the four target sectors, as well as the representatives of the RA Ministry of Finance and the Standing Committee on Financial Credit and Budgetary Issues of the National Assembly and the committees of 4 more target sectors.

Issues to be solved

- ✓ Conducting review and analysis of fiscal transparency and budget-related public communication practices.
- ✓ Study of international best practices on sharing and simplification of budget information, focusing on the Czech experience.
- ✓ Developing awareness raising and user-friendly budget information tools, such as: Budget Guides, Sectoral Simplified Budgets and information charts.
- ✓ Creation of an innovative electronic platform for the exchange of budgetary knowledge, where CSOs, mass media, young experts, professionals and citizens will have access to affordable and professional budgetary information, including sectoral simplified budgets, budget analyses, and guidelines prepared within the framework of the programme, budgeting experience of the EU country Czech Republic, monitoring and advocacy implementation results, evidence based recommendations and public policy changes, public discussions Government - CSOs and NA-CSOs, video materials including infographics, and etc.
- ✓ Developing the CSOs Skills Development Plan and a Capacity Change Tracking Tool. CSOs' skills development process will include training in online and face-to-face format, mentoring, virtual visits, and study of best practices, followed by an annual progress assessment using the specially developed tool.
- ✓ Developing simple, easy-to-understand training programs on analytical tools for working with basic concepts of monitoring and advocacy as well as with budget information.
- ✓ Establishment of a school for young professionals, where young professionals, representatives of CSOs and mass media will be trained. The school will also be a forge of experienced budget specialists and experts.
- ✓ Providing three types of grants to: **CSOs** for analysis, of budgets, budgetary programs and expenditures; **CSOs and Mass Media** to conduct advocacy campaigns based on the results of budget analysis and monitoring, organize public discussions and dialogues; **young professionals** to analyse budgets, monitor and implement changes in public policies in cooperation with CSOs.
- ✓ Organising workshops and a Conference to present budget monitoring and advocacy results, as well as the lessons learned.

What will the public-at-large gain from this Programme?

Capacity of CSOs for participation in the budgetary process will be improved.

Through the implementation of the analysis of budgets and budget applications, as well as monitoring and advocacy, the quality of public participation in budget design and budgetary processes will be improved.

Knowledge and awareness opportunities on the budgetary processes will be increased and improved.

An electronic platform will be created, where each target group of the Programme and the public-at-large will find the useful information and tools they need.

4 important facts about the Programme

◇ The Programme duration is 48 months, from 8 December, 2022 to 7 October, 2026.

◇ The Programme is financed by the European Union with a budget of € 777,778, of which € 77,778 will be contributed by the implementing partners of the Programme .

◇ The Programme has a sub-grant component (44 grants for CSOs, media and young specialists).

◇ Within the framework of the Programme, the first innovative electronic platform for the exchange of Budgetary knowledge will be created, which will consist of the following components

→ The first innovative e-platform "Budget Knowledge Exchange", which includes the following components, will be created: Informational component of the platform, which will contain affordable, accessible and professional information about the budgeting process,

→ Educational component of the platform, which will contain online and traditional/in-person modules of budget training for CSOs and young professionals and other necessary information deriving from it.

Every beneficiary of the Programme, including CSOs, experts, young professionals, mass media, civil servants and others, will find the issue of their interest on the platform.



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union in the scope of “Budgets 4 Citizens” Programme. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the “Armenian Lawyers’ Association” NGO and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.