

Presentation of the Final Report of the Joint Performance Audit on the Topic: “Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women from Rural Areas through Participation in the Labor Market”

On 17 July 2024, a regional meeting was held in Skopje to promote the final report of the joint performance audit on the topic: “Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women from Rural Areas through Participation in the Labor Market”. This audit was conducted in cooperation with the State Audit Office of North Macedonia, the National Audit Office of Kosovo, the Albanian Supreme Audit Institution (ALSAI) and UN Women.

The meeting was addressed by Mr Maksim Acevski, Auditor General of the State Audit Office of the Republic of North Macedonia, who spoke about the importance of international cooperation and highlighted the audit report as a joint effort towards achieving gender equality.

In her remarks, Ms Vlora Spanca, Auditor General of the National Audit Office of Kosovo, emphasized the essential role that we, as auditors, play in holding governments accountable for their commitments to gender equality and in identifying missed opportunities for the empowerment of women and marginalized groups.



In his remarks, Mr Alfred Zylfi, Director of the Performance Audit Department at the Albanian Supreme Audit Institution (ALSAI), focused on the importance of cooperation among our SAIs as an opportunity to discuss an issue of such significance and sensitivity for our society. He also emphasized the contribution that this cooperation can make towards encouraging public institutions and non-governmental organizations, raising public awareness, and highlighting the significance of the issues identified through the performance audit entitled “Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women from Rural Areas through Participation in the Labor Market”, conducted in cooperation with the State Audit Office of North Macedonia, the National Audit Office of Kosovo, and UN Women.

The meeting was also addressed by Ms Elisa Fernandez Saenz, UN Women Deputy Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia; Mr Lusien Aegerter, Deputy Ambassador of Switzerland to North Macedonia; and Mr Mikael Aterhog, Head of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Sweden in North Macedonia. They emphasized the role played by Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in auditing and assessing government expenditure to ensure that budget allocations are gender-responsive, thereby effectively reducing gender inequalities. They also highlighted the SAIs' oversight role in providing policy advice, integrating the principles of Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) into budgetary processes, and building capacity across all aspects of budget planning, execution, and evaluation.

The meeting then continued with presentations of the audit results by the audit teams from the State Audit Office of North Macedonia, the National Audit Office of Kosovo and the Albanian Supreme Audit Institution (ALSAI). In conclusion of the meeting, participants engaged in a question-and-answer session and highly commended the cooperation achieved to date.

At this meeting, ALSAI was represented by Mr. Alfred Zylfi, Director of the Performance Audit Department; Ms. Ermira Hoxha, Director of Human Resources, who presented the audit; Ms. Arminda Bushi and Ms. Jorida Zhegu, auditors and members of the audit team.