Gender Budgeting

Making Effective Equality between Women and Men a Reality …

… Step by Step to a Gender-equal Budget
Gender Budgeting in Austria…

…means to analyse the federal, state and community budgets with regard to their impact on the lives of women and men, and to adapt them according to gender equality objectives.

The **Federal Budget Reform** and the principle of outcome orientation are considered as a great opportunity for gender budgeting and to promote gender equality policies in Austria. It is of the most importance to employ existing funds in the most equitable way in order to achieve effective equality of women and men within the national budget.

Austria has made strong commitments on legal and political level to realise gender equality at all levels.

**What is the legal basis?**
The key foundation for gender-responsive budget management in all public authorities lies in the Austrian Federal Constitution:

**Art. 13, para. 3**

"Federation, Laender and municipalities have to aim at the equal status of women and men in the budget management."
Gender Budgeting at Federal Level...

…means that since 2013 the federal ministries are obliged to implement effective equality of women and men as one of the principles of outcome orientation in managing the budget of the federal public administration.

Austrian Federal Constitution, Art. 51, para. 8

„In the budget management of the Federation the fundamental principles of impact orientation, especially considering the objectives of the effective equality of men and women, […] are to be observed.“

The Federal Budget Law 2013 comprises detailed regulations on outcome oriented administration including the consideration of the objective of effective equality of women and men.

Equality aspects are explicitly a factor throughout the management cycle of administrative action, from planning to implementation to evaluation.

How to implement gender budgeting?
Since 1st January 2013 each federal ministry and supreme state organ has to determine gender equality outcomes for every societal aspect of its activities which – as a consequence – will require gender-specific data. In a next step, these federal authorities have to define concrete measures (outputs) and indicators in order to realise and monitor the respective gender equality outcome.

Furthermore, § 41 of the Federal Budget Law 2013 and the Regulation on the presentation of information on outcome orientation in the Annual Federal Budget Statement and the Explanatory Budget Documents are regulating the details of gender budgeting application regarding outcomes, outputs and indicators.
The details of the outcome orientation are elaborated in the Strategy Report on the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework. In the yearly planning, the gender equality outcomes and outputs are set out in the Annual Federal Budget Statement on budget chapter and global budget level as well as in the Explanatory Budget Documents on detail budget level.

An additional purpose of gender equality outcomes and outputs is to provide members of Parliament and citizens with more information on and insight into the priority areas of each ministry in the respective financial year.

What is the political basis?

In order to establish and enhance gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting important steps have been taken by means of five resolutions of the Council of Ministers since 2000:

- **2000**: Establishment of the Interministerial Working Group on Gender Mainstreaming (IMAG GM)
- **2002**: Working programme for the implementation of gender mainstreaming
- **2004**: Definition of gender mainstreaming-meta-goals, e.g. consideration of the gender perspective in all budget policy measures of the federal ministries
- **2008**: Use of the guide on gender budgeting in public administration
- **2011**: Sustainable implementation of gender mainstreaming in five key priority areas: the successful application of gender budgeting should be continued systematically
Interministerial Working Group on Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Budgeting (IMAG GMB)

Since 2000 the IMAG GMB supports and facilitates the implementation of gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting in all federal ministries and at all political levels. With including gender budgeting in the Austrian Constitution in 2009 the Working Group also took over the task to promote gender budgeting on all levels and was renamed Inter-ministerial Working Group on Gender Mainstreaming/Budgeting (IMAG GMB).

Chair: Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek, Federal Minister for Education and Women’s Affairs

Members: representatives of federal ministries as well as other important public institutions (Constitutional Court, Court of Audit, Parliament, etc.), Union of Public Services, representatives of the Laender.

More information: www.imag-gmb.at
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