

Public Governance Directorate
Working Party of Senior Budget Officials

Experts Meeting on Gender Budgeting

Reykjavík, Iceland • 18-19 May 2017



Experts Meeting on Gender Budgeting Reykjavík, 18-19 May 2017

Wednesday, 17 May 2017

18:30 - 20:30 Welcome Reception

Thursday, 18 May 2017

9:00 - 9:30 Registration

9:30 - 9:45 Opening by Chair and OECD Secretariat

9:45 – 10:00 Keynote Address

- Mr. Benedikt Jóhannesson, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Iceland

10:00 – 11:00 **SESSION 1 – Institutional Framework for Equity: Towards Gender Budgeting**

To ensure that a government is fit to deliver gender equality outcomes it is important that there are clear institutional roles and responsibilities in relation to gender-sensitive policy making and budgeting. It is also key that there is adequate institutional capacity across line ministries, that there is routine availability of gender-disaggregated data and statistics, and that there is effective coordination and oversight.

This session will introduce gender budgeting as a gender mainstreaming tool and present findings from the OECD publication: '[Gender Budgeting in OECD Countries](#)'. It will also explore the merits and challenges associated with different leadership and co-ordination models for gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting across OECD countries.

Presenter:

- Ronnie Downes, Deputy Head, Budgeting & Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD

Discussants:

- Aline Pennisi and Daniela Collesi, Heads of Unit, Budget Division, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Italy
- Michael Kallinger, Head of Unit for Innovative Administrative Development, Austrian Federal Chancellery, Austria
- Elisabeth White, Deputy Director, Division for Gender Equality, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, Sweden

11:00 - 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 – 11:45 Keynote Address

- Ms. Anna Lilja Gunnarsdóttir, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare, Iceland

11:45 - 13:00 SESSION 2 – Measuring the Impact of Gender-sensitive Policies and Budgets on Economic Growth and National Well-being

Research findings suggest that countries that take steps to close gender gaps in relation to access to education, health care, employment, and credit, narrow the differences between men and women in terms of access to economic opportunities, increasing their pace of economic development and reducing poverty. Equal access to economic, social and political opportunities is crucial for achieving economic growth and ensuring citizens' welfare.

This session will look at what evidence there is to date on the impact of gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting. It also looks at what more can be done to effectively measure the impact of gender budgeting on reducing gender disparities and improving economic outcomes, as well as national well-being.

Presenters:

- Helena Morais, Gender Mainstreaming Researcher, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
- Finnborg Salome Steinþórsdóttir, Faculty of Political Science, University of Iceland

Discussant:

- Jukka Mattila, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Finance, Finland

13:00 - 14:00 Luncheon

14:00 - 15:15 SESSION 3 – Lessons from “Early Champions” in Gender Budgeting

Several OECD countries have been implementing gender-responsiveness into the budget and policy-making process for a number of years.

This session looks at the ongoing implementation of gender budgeting practices in these early champion countries, highlighting what has worked well as well as identifying where results have fallen short of expectations and analysing why this may be.

Presenters:

- Helen Forslind, Deputy Director, Ministry of Finance, Sweden
- Brian Moosang, Senior Advisor, Expenditure Management Sector, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat and Jean Lamirande, Senior Advisor, Budget Policy and Analysis, Department of Finance Canada, Canada
- Mercedes Caballero, Gender Budgeting in the Central Government Budget, Ministry of Finance and Civil Service, Spain

15:15 - 15:45 Coffee break

15:45 - 17:15 **SESSION 4 – Gender Budgeting: Case Studies**

This session provides an opportunity to study the variety of approach to gender budgeting using a series of case studies from across the OECD. Each example will highlight what have been the driving forces behind the introduction of gender budgeting, the responsibilities of different stakeholders, the tools and techniques of implementation and the evidence of impact to date. The extent to which gender budgeting approaches at the national and sub-national level are aligned will also be discussed.

15:45 - 16:30 **Case Study 1: Austria**

Gender budgeting was an integral part of the Austrian budget reform which was introduced in 2013. For each of the 32 budget chapters, a maximum of five outcome/impact objectives (and related performance indicators) have to be defined by the ministries, out of which one objective must be related to improving gender equality. This session looks at how gender budgeting has been integrated with performance budgeting in the Austrian system and highlights what are seen as the main benefits and challenges to date.

Presenter:

- Friederike Schwarzenborfer, Director, Ministry of Finance, Austria

Discussant:

- Michaela Schatz, Head of Gender Budgeting Division, Department of Finance, City of Vienna

16:30 - 17:15 **Case Study 2: Reykjavik**

The City Council of Reykjavík took a decision in 2011 to start the implementation of Gender Budgeting. The ambition is for the practice to build on the Human Rights Policy of the City, since the principle of equality or the ban against discrimination is one of the cornerstones of human rights. The implementation of gender budgeting has been supported by a steering group which has chosen to introduce the practice in four phases over the period 2011-2018. This session showcases the role gender budgeting can play in the context of a wider human rights framework and looks at how implementation is progressing.

Presenter:

- Dagur B. Eggertsson, Mayor of the City of Reykjavik, Iceland

Discussant:

- Halldóra Friðjónsdóttir, Head of the Gender Budgeting Committee, Iceland

17:15

Excursion and Gala Dinner

Friday, 19 May 2017

9:15 – 10:45 SESSION 4 – Gender Budgeting: Case Studies (Continued)

9:15 – 10:00 Case Study 3: Berlin

The Parliament of Berlin initiated the implementation of gender budgeting in the City State and its districts through a comprehensive resolution passed in 2003. This session looks at how gender budgeting has been integrated into the annual budget production process under the aegis of the Berlin Budget Department. It also highlights how strong parliamentary engagement together with a clear, practical and pragmatic approach has helped achieve good practices.

Presenter:

- Torsten Puhst, Head of Department of Budget and Finance, Senate Department for Finance, Berlin

Discussant:

- Tanja Burckardt, Head of Unit, Federal Ministry of Finance, Germany

10:00 - 10:45 Case Study 4: Mexico

Mexico provides an example of a country where gender budgeting efforts have been undertaken both at federal and state levels. Federal budget reforms have helped support the institutionalisation of gender budgeting across the government. This session looks at how Mexico has rolled out gender budgeting across different levels of government and highlights the different systems in place to help ensure accountability.

Presenter:

- Alfonso Isaac Gamboa Lozano, Head of the Policy and Budgetary Control Unit, Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP), Mexico

10:45 - 11:15 *Coffee Break*

11:15 – 12:15 SESSION 5 – International Developments Relevant to Gender Budgeting

This first part of this session will update delegates on progress made in designing a global indicator for gender budgeting (SDG indicator 5.c.1), based upon analysis led by UN Women, to which OECD and other international organisations have contributed.

The second part will present the IMF's new public financial management (PFM) Framework for the G7. This provides an integrated conceptual framework for institutions that play an enabling role in implementing gender-responsive fiscal policies and is used to make assessment of the status of gender budgeting in the G7 countries.

These presentations will be followed by a discussion on implications and lessons for the design of national policies.

Presenters:

- Zohra Khan, Policy Advisor, UN Women
- Teresa Curristine, Senior Economist, IMF

12:15 – 12:45 SESSION 6 – Synthesis Discussion

This session will summarise the main messages from the meeting and reflect on areas where further progress is needed. It will also discuss the future role of the OECD Experts Group on Gender Budgeting.

Presenter:

- Scherie Nicol, Policy Analyst, Budgeting & Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD

12:45 – 13:00 Closing by Chair and OECD Secretariat

GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION

Back-to-Back OECD Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming

The first meeting of OECD Gender Equality Institutions: "Better Governance for Gender Equality" will take place in Reykjavik on Wednesday 17 May. It will bring together senior officials from OECD countries' gender equality institutions and representatives from the Centre of Government to promote gender-sensitive policy-making and share insights that can help increase the impact of gender equality initiatives. It is being held back to back with the Experts Meeting on Gender Budgeting so that gender equality and gender budgeting experts have an opportunity to meet and discuss matters of joint interest.

Venue - Meeting Location

The meeting will be held in Fosshotel Reykjavik. Þórunnartúni 1 in downtown Reykjavík.

<http://www.fosshotel.is/hotels/fosshotel-in-reykjavik/fosshotel-reykjavik/>

Accommodations

The Icelandic authorities have arranged preferential rates for Delegates at Fosshotel Reykjavik. Delegates can book this accommodation through the conference website: <http://radstefna.is>. Delegates are encouraged to make early hotel bookings as Iceland is a very popular tourist destination in May.

Registration Form

All Delegates need to complete the attached registration form and return it to the Secretariat. Entry passes can only be issued to registered Delegates. On the registration form, there is also the option of registering for the back-to-back meeting on gender mainstreaming.

Welcome Reception

The Icelandic Ministry of Finance invites all Delegates to a Welcome Reception on the eve of the meeting, Wednesday, 17 May at 18:00. It will take place at the Fosshotel Reykjavik. Delegates from the back-to-back meeting on gender mainstreaming will also be in attendance.

Excursion and Gala Dinner

The Icelandic Ministry of Finance invites all Delegates to an excursion and gala dinner at the conclusion of the first day of the meeting, Thursday, May 18. It will include a visit to the Geothermal Exhibition at the Hellisheidi Power Plant followed by a gala dinner at Fjöruborðið restaurant on Iceland's south shore. Delegates can expect to return to Reykjavík at 22:00.

Entry Formalities

Delegates are advised to confirm any necessary visa requirements for entry in to Iceland. Iceland is a member of the Schengen Area.

www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting