

Gender Budgeting

Implementing Effective Equality
between Women and Men ...

... Step by Step towards
Gender Equality in Budget



Gender Budgeting in Austria ...

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

The Austrian Federal Budget Reform—most importantly the introduction of the principle of outcome orientation (performance budgeting), which was part of this reform—has paved the way for successful **Gender Budgeting** and for promoting gender equality policies in Austria. It is of utmost importance to employ existing funds in the most equitable way in order to implement effective equality of women and men.

Gender budgeting is the fiscal tool of the gender mainstreaming strategy. Austria has made strong commitments at both legal and political level in order to realise gender equality.

What is the legal basis for Gender Budgeting in Austria?

The Austrian Federal Constitution is at the heart of Austria's stipulations on Gender Budgeting by public authorities:

Austrian Federal Constitution, Art. 13, para. 3

“Federation, provinces and municipalities have to aim at the **equal status of women and men** in the budgeting.”

Gender Budgeting at Federal Level ...

... means that since 2013 the federal ministries have been obliged to implement **effective equality of women and men** by applying the principles of **outcome orientation** in federal budgeting processes.

Austrian Federal Constitution, Art. 51, para. 8

“In the management of the federal budgets the principles of striving for efficiency, in particular also under respect of the **goal of equal treatment for women and men** [...] are to be respected.”

The **Federal Budget Law 2013** contains detailed rules on outcome-orientation. These rules, which are targeted at public authorities, also lay down how to implement effective budgetary equality of women and men.

Being considered an integral part of budgeting processes, equality issues must be taken account of in all kinds of administrative budgeting activities. This runs the gamut from budgetary planning to budget implementation, not to forget evaluation and monitoring activities.

How to implement gender budgeting?

Since 1 January 2013 and as a part of Austria's outcome-oriented budget management, all Federal Ministries and the highest national bodies are obliged to define a maximum of five outcome objectives for the annual budget (Annual Federal Budget Statement). One of these objectives must be related to gender equality.

Furthermore, specific measures for achieving the objective related to gender equality and appropriate indicators to evaluate the results must be defined.

What is the political basis for Gender Budgeting in Austria?

The following **Resolutions of the Council of Ministers** have been crucial steps in introducing and furthering Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Budgeting activities:

- **2000:** Establishment of the Inter-ministerial 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:** Gender Mainstreaming in administrative routine; 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

Find out everything there is to know about Gender Budgeting and Gender Mainstreaming at:
www.imag-gmb.at

Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Budgeting (IMAG GMB)

Headed by the member of the government responsible for women's affairs, the **IMAG GMB** has endorsed and furthered the implementation of Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Budgeting in all ministries and at all political levels since 2000.

Its members represent all Federal Ministries, the highest organs (Constitutional Court, Supreme Administrative Court, Ombudsman Board, Austrian Court of Audit, Parliament), the Public Service Union of Austria as well as the federal provinces.

For more information, see: www.imag-gmb.at

Gender Budgeting Blog

Budgets, budget laws, budgeting—a topic, too bulky and cumbersome to be fully understood?

Our **Gender Budgeting Blog** provides current and expert information on Gender Budgeting and presents it in a simple and comprehensible way. In addition, numerous international experts have send us their statements and, if you want to find out who else has written something about this issue, don't hesitate to visit our recommended reading section.

Find out all there is to know about how to ensure equality in budgets at:

blog.imag-gendermainstreaming.at

Knowledge Database “Gender Projects”

Numerous Gender Mainstreaming initiatives and projects have been launched in the last years. They all had one thing in common: The aim of promoting gender equality.

Our knowledge database “Gender equality projects” provides you with

- a concise overview of gender equality projects in the ministries, Austria’s federal provinces, cities and municipalities
- a filter so that you can search projects by subject, organisation and project status.

Take a look at our database at www.imag-gmb.at.
It certainly pays off.

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