

Short Overview Gender Budgeting Germany

Besides a few steps on government level, some more concret actions exist for the implementation of Gender Budgeting on the level of the Bundeslaender and on municipal and communal level.

Some of the Laender – like North Rhine-Westphalia, Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein - discuss possibilities how to integrate Gender Budgeting in obligations or in their concepts of the implementation of Gender Mainstreaming.

The Bundesland Berlin is already one step ahead. It is the only Bundesland where an explicit obligation for Gender Budgeting as well the political will to implement it exists. In 2003 the Berlin parliament committed itself to implemt Gender Budgeting. Integrated in the bigger frame of Gender Mainstreaming activities in Berlin, a first pilot phase started in autumn 2003. Four different pilot projects were identified including the three districts Lichtenberg, Marzahn-Hellersdorf, Tempelhof-Schoeneberg and the ministry (Senatsverwaltung) of economy, work and women. Starting point are cost-benefit-analyses of some subsidies (e.g. subsidies for sports) and some special budget items. Currently the processes are analysed and evaluated. The results will be published presumably in July in the "Second Report about Gender Mainstreaming in policies and administration of Berlin". The "Commission for Gender Mainstreaming" already decided that the main phase for Gender Budgeting will start in autumn 2004. Then, all districts and all administrative offices will be obliged to implement Gender Budgeting. The final goal is a complete gender-sensitive budget in the year 2006.

For more details it is possible to contact:

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http://www.berlin.de/senwiarbfrau/frauen/gender_gs/budget.html

An example for Gender Budgeting on communal level is the city of Marl in North Rhine-Westphalia. A „Working-Group for Gender Budgeting“ was established in 2003. Its function is the analysis of the communal budget respectively gains and losses for men and women. The goal is an budget which shows separately the percentages of all budget items for men and for women.

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Besides these examples for Gender Budgeting in the public administration there exist some very busy Gender Budget initiatives which try to promote Gender Budgeting in different cities and on different governmental levels. The most important are the initiatives in Berlin, Munich and Frankfurt. They are building up a network with regularly meetings to compare and exchange experiences. The initiative in Berlin was also influential during the process to oblige the administration in Berlin to Gender Budgeting. For more information the following contacts might be helpful

1) Berlin

Initiative für einen geschlechtergerechten Haushalt

<http://www.gender.de/budgets/>

2) Munich

Gender Budget Initiative München

www.frauenakademie.de

info@frauenakademie.de

3) Frankfurt

Arbeitskreis Gender Budgeting

Info@agisra.de

Some smaller Gender Budgeting initiatives exist as well – like a working-group in Cologne on municipal level - but they are not yet organised in networks.