

# **Turning the European Council's definition of gender budgeting into practice in the Nordic countries**

**Committee on Women's Rights  
and Gender Equality**

**4 October 2006**

# **The Council of Europe and gender budgeting**

- **Informal group of Experts on gender budgeting/Group of Specialists on gender budgeting 2002-2004**

**Definition, survey and inventory  
(EG-S-GB 2004)**

- **Resolution and action plan at the 6th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men in Stockholm 8-9 June 2006**

# The European Council's definition of gender budgeting

**“Gender budgeting is an application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality.”**

# Resolution at the 6th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men

**Recommend the Committee of ministers of the Council of Europe to take all the necessary measures for the achievement of the objectives set out in the Resolution and in particular:**

- a) to undertake actions to assess the cost of the lack of gender equality in different fields**
- b) to encourage the full use of gender analysis and sex-disaggregated data to implement the gender mainstreaming strategy, including gender budgeting, in order to achieve *de facto* gender equality,**

# **Action Plan at the 6th European Ministerial Conference on Equality between Women and Men**

**Governments are invited to**

- a) use gender analysis in their planning and policies in order to improve the economic effectiveness of the measures adopted (better targeting of inputs) and the services for citizens (the custom/client focus is clearer);**

# **The Nordic Council's project on integration a gender equality perspective into the state budgets**

- **Joint project between the Committees for senior officials for Gender Equality and Finance**
- **Purposes:**
  - **establish cooperation between the ministries of Finance and other actors (incl. gender equality units) for making gender equality assessments of economic policy**
  - **develop methods and models for integrating a gender equality perspective into the state budgets**
- **Conference in Helsinki 8-9 November**
- **Report and “country reports” will be published in November**
- **<http://www.norden.org/gender>**

# Development work in each Nordic country – common traits

- **Results-oriented budgeting in all countries**
- **Gender budgeting initiated by the governments and carried out within the government offices – to a large extent by “the actors normally involved”.**
- **All countries began with pilot projects to gather experience and develop methods and tools,**
- **in different pace and with differing scope extending the gender budgeting work within the government offices.**

# Five different roads, despite ...

- the similarities between the Nordic countries,
- the Council of Europe's definition as a joint starting point,
- and the exchange of experience through the Nordic project.

⇒ Different settings takes different measures and generate different results.



# **Gender budgeting requires sustained development work**

## **Development of four central areas:**

- **Management and control**
- **Work organisation**
- **Methods and tools**
- **Training**

# Management and Control

## *Formal steering mechanisms:*

- Laws
- Steering documents
  - overriding
  - for sub-processes
- Follow-up and evaluation

## *Informal steering mechanisms:*

- Demand from politicians and heads for gender analyses and results of the work – and remarks when it is missing
- Politicians and heads showing interest in gender equality issues – for instance by taking part in seminars and training.

# Work organisation, for example ...

- *Steering group*
- *Gender equality coordinators at the ministries*
- *Gender equality unit*
- *“The actors normally involved”*

# Methods and tools – for example ...

## *Methods for analyses:*

- Gender analyses/ Gender impact assessment
- Gender equality analyses

## *Other tools:*

- Guidelines for gender mainstreaming the budget proposal
- Checklists for formulating gender equality objectives and for giving state agencies feedback on their gender equality work (performance budgeting)
- Handbook on producing and using statistics disaggregated by sex
- Tool-kit on the webb-site

# Training

## *Different target groups:*

- Politicians and heads of departments/units
- Gender equality unit & gender equality coordinators
- Budget officials in the ministry of Finance as well as the line ministries

## *Different needs, such as:*

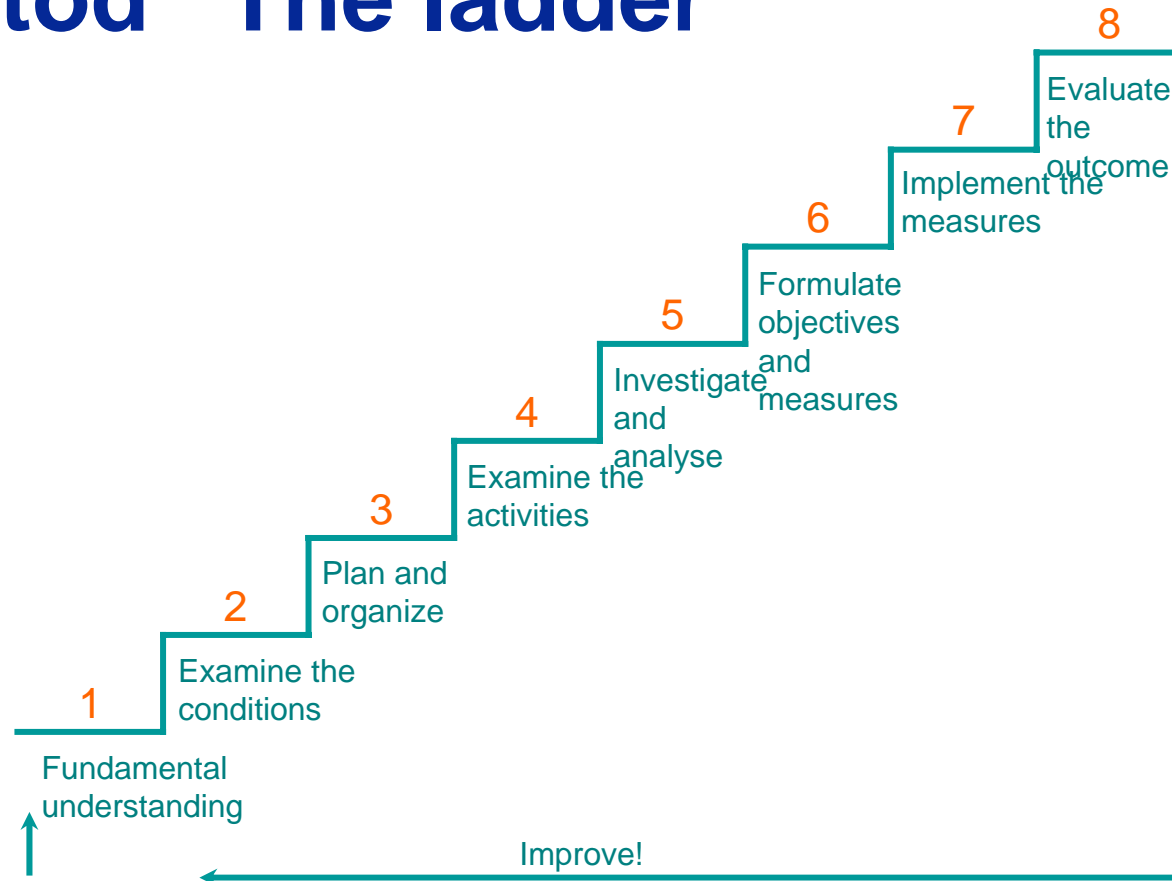
- Knowledge of gender equality issues
- Method training, incl. statistics disaggregated by sex

⇒ Need for differentiated training – general training not so useful

# JämStöd <http://www.jamstod.se>

- **develops methods for gender mainstreaming**
- **provides training in gender mainstreaming**
- **provides guidance on gender analysis**
- **acts as a discussion partner in the work of drawing up strategies**
- **provides coaching in the change process**

# JämStöd “The ladder”



# Some conclusions

- The money not always within reach to start with  
...
- The need for pragmatism and patience
- The importance of addressing all four central areas continuously at all levels
- The necessity for the ministry of Finance to be involved
- The importance of cooperation between the budget coordination and the gender equality coordination
- The need for adapting methods/tools and training to different sub-processes and target groups



# **General conclusion:**

**There is no blueprint, but much to  
be learned from other's  
experiences**