

A systematic approach: Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Budgeting in The Government Offices of Sweden

Division for Gender Equality



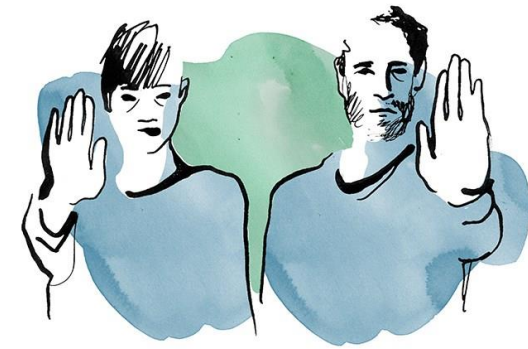
National Gender Equality Policy Goals

Overarching goal

- Women and men are to have the same **power** to shape society and their own lives

Six sub-goals

- Equal division of **power and influence**
- **Economic** gender equality
- Gender-equal **education**
- Equal distribution of **unpaid housework** and **provision of care**
- Gender-equal **health**
- **Men's violence** against women must stop



Gender Mainstreaming

- **“Dual approach”** - gender mainstreaming combined with structural reforms/special measures
- **All Ministers responsible for gender equality**
- **Government Decision** govern GM-work in the Government Offices (current 2016-2020)
- **Government’s main strategy** to achieve the national gender equality policy goals (since **1994**)



Gender Mainstreaming in the Government Offices

- Gender Mainstreaming mandatory in preparation of all Government decisions.
- Statistics disaggregated by sex, gender patterns commented
- Central processes pinpointed: budget, legislation, governance, EU-matters
- Line ministries; annual action plan and GM-coordinator
- Standing intra-ministerial working group for coordination, support exchanges
- Annual follow-ups of line ministries performance by Statistics Sweden (quantifiable)
- External evaluation at the end of the time period to further develop and enhance application of gender GM



Program for Gender Mainstreaming in Government Agencies, from 2013



- Program to enhance gender mainstreaming in government agencies core activities
- Tailor made action plans by each agency, based on a gender analysis
- Support by the Swedish Gender Equality Agency.
- Line ministries govern & follow up



GM in Government Agencies

- The Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education has mainstreamed gender equality into their **education programs**.
- The Swedish Arts Grants Committee has developed a tool to support a gender equal process for **assessing applications** for grants and scholarships.
- The Swedish Migration Agency has modified practices in the asylum process to clearly include **women's asylum reasons**, as opposed to treating the woman as part of the man's application for asylum.
- The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has doubled the **share of funding** to female entrepreneurs after discovering a male bias in grants decisions.



Gender Budgeting in the National Budget

- A gender lens should be applied **throughout** the budget process; directives in the budget circular
- “**Policy priorities & resource** allocations in the budget should strengthen gender equality”
- Ex-ante gender equality impact assessment of policy proposals at **drafting stage**; policy **designed** and **implemented** with a gender perspective
- “Smart economics” – gender in the budget for more **efficient** policy and better use of **resources**



Implementation: Gender Budgeting

1. Government decision and strong political commitment
2. Instructions at operational level for budget work
3. Capacity Building
4. Indicators and follow-ups to measure progress
5. Lessons-learned for further development and enhanced implementation
6. Communication (internal/external)



Analysis and on-going assessments

1. Yearly appendix to the Budget Bill: “Economic Equality Between Women and Men”
2. Report on resource distribution between women and men in government reform work.
3. Statistics Sweden's annual quantitative follow-up.
4. Performance indicators in the budget bill to follow up on the gender equality policy goals.
5. National Gender Equality Agency follow-up, analyse & evaluate measures



Lessons learned

- **Political commitment** and clear **goals** and targets
- **Directives & formal decisions** on GM (policy & operational level)
- **Indicators, Regular follow-ups**
- **Organisational** structure for coordination & support
- **Methods and capacity building**
- **“Dual approach”**



Thank You !

Questions?

Bengt Nilsson

bengt.nilsson@gov.se

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