

PROJECT OVERVIEW

INTEGRATION OF A GENDER EQUALITY PERSPECTIVE IN THE NORDIC NATIONAL PUBLIC BUDGETS, 2004-2006

By signing the final document of the World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, the Nordic countries committed themselves to integrate a gender perspective in all political decisions (gender mainstreaming). It also includes the national budgets that play a key role in setting political priorities. A public budget with a consequent, visible and well thought through gender perspective has a vital role to ensure a development towards equal societies in the Nordic.

The project will use as its basis 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.

The long term goal, to integrate gender- and equality perspective in budget processes and national budgets, is to contribute to the Nordic countries' political goals and platforms.

The purpose of the project is to:

- Establish a cooperation between ministries of finance and other relevant actors for methods to assess gender equality in the political economy;
- Coordinate and guide activities in the Nordic countries;
- Develop methods and models for a gender- and equality perspective in national public budgets;
- Communicate experiences contributing to synergy effects;
- Identify needs of continued development of methods and research; and,
- Present experiences of integrating a gender perspective in the national public budget process and the national public budgets.

The project's three main components:

1. Cooperation and exchange of experiences between the Nordic countries;
2. Cooperation and coordination with other actors; and,
3. Method development.

A Nordic project manager will manage the project. The project manager is supported by a Nordic project group, including two representatives from each member country – one from the Ministry of Finance, and one from the equality sector. The five countries will individually manage their pilot projects, as the basis for method development and exchange of experiences.

The final report will include a concluding report synthesizing experiences from the project, with a presentation of the pilot projects. The report will include developed methods and models, as well as a presentation of conclusions and recommendations for continued work.

Method development through pilot projects in the Nordic countries

The basis for the method development of the project is the national pilot projects. The method development includes both gender analysis including with resource allocation with a gender perspective, as well as integration of a gender- and equality perspective in the national budget process and the national public budget.

The following areas will be the pilot project:

Denmark: Gender analysis of the program for elderly care, the Ministry of Social Affairs

Finland: Gender analysis of the entire budget for the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Iceland: Gender analysis of the program for disability payments, the Ministry of Social Affairs

Norway: Not yet decided

Sweden: Integrate the gender perspective throughout the budget process for all political areas. By introducing gender analysis and through establishing gender equality goals and indicators in all political areas.

The project will submit a report at the end of 2006. An international conference will also be arranged during 2006.

The project can be accessed at the Nordic Council of Ministries' website, www.norden.org/gender.

Information can also be obtained from project director Catharina Schmitz. catharina.schmitz@publicmanagement.se