

## **Webinar for Sector 3:**

### **Content:**

- Low level of child-gender sensitive budgeting mechanisms at national and local levels, as well as within CSOs and CSOs coalitions. The need for improving these mechanisms, as well as of greater involvement of CSOs/NGOs in monitoring and advocacy activities.
- Low level of CSOs/NGOs participation in discussions on the Simplified Budget of RA and its public process. The need for improving these mechanisms, as well as of greater involvement of CSOs in monitoring and advocacy activities.

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# Part 1 - Background Information

## Background information on European Commission Strategy in the area of Gender Equality

European Commission Strategy in the area of Gender Equality focuses on the following areas:

- Promoting equal economic independence for women and men
- Closing the gender pay gap
- Advancing gender balance in decision making
- Ending gender based violence
- Promoting gender equality beyond the EU

At the EU level there are organisations that deal specifically with this issue, for instance:

- National gender equality bodies
- High-level group for gender mainstreaming
- European Institute for Gender Equality
- Network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination
- European network of experts on gender equality
- Mutual learning program in gender equality

As it is clear from the above provided information EU strategy in Gender Equality is a wider area than just Gender/Child sensitive budgeting and it is a big topic within the EU.

**Question no. 1: Do you have currently any institutions/policy making bodies that deal with Gender Equality issues in RA?**

## **What is Gender Mainstreaming**

Here we shall use information provided by The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).

Based on information from EIGE webpages:

<http://eige.europa.eu/about-eige>

### **Gender Mainstreaming is:**

a strategy for realising gender equality. It involves the integration of a gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures and spending programmes, with a view to promoting equality between women and men, and combating discrimination.

### **Why is it important:**

ensures that policy-making and legislative work has a greater relevance for society, because it makes policies respond more effectively to the needs of all citizens. Gender mainstreaming makes public interventions more effective and ensures that inequalities are not perpetuated.

### **Who is responsible:**

At the European level the EU institutions are in charge of implementing gender mainstreaming. At national levels national governments are responsible. For successful mainstreaming it is important that the entire staff of public institutions is involved in promoting gender mainstreaming under the leadership of the institutions management.

**How does it work:**

Political commitment for gender equality is very important. Implementation requires clear action plan.

**How it helps the society/public budgets:**

Gender mainstreaming requires to work with data, both financial and demographical. During this work many imbalances and inefficiencies in public spending can be discovered and improved.

**Question no. 2:**

**Please explain in your own words what is gender mainstreaming?**

**Question no. 3:**

**Do you know about any existing gender mainstreaming activities in RA?**

**Question no. 4:**

**Do you know about / do you participate in any organisations working in the area of gender mainstreaming, both public administration/CSOs-NGOs?**

## **What is Gender Budgeting**

### **Gender Budgeting:**

is a mechanism that allows to translate gender mainstreaming policies into concrete public policies/activities by providing financial resources to activities that promote well-being and needs of all groups of citizens/inhabitants.

### **To implement this mechanism it requires some preparatory work:**

-to have available statistical data about your relevant population - national, regional, local inhabitants: share of men and women/share of children under 15/18...and similar depending on your objective where you want to intervene with the budget

### **To implement this mechanism it requires to have more detailed budgets available:**

Budgets are usually made public in simplified versions, usually by Budget Chapters like for instance-

- Revenues vs. Expenditures
- Operational and Investment Budgets
- By Chapters - Infrastructure/Transport/Education/Social affairs.....

But for implementing gender budgeting measures you have to have much more detailed information about individual expenditures to be able to understand who/which group of population benefits the most from such expenditure.

### **Question no. 5:**

**Do you have detailed statistical data describing your relevant population/national, regional, local/available?**

### **Question no. 6:**

**Do you have access to detailed budgets/national, regional, local?**

## **Summary of Part 1**

### **In Part 1 you have learned about:**

- European Commission Strategy in the area of Gender Equality
- What is Gender Mainstreaming and why Gender Mainstreaming is important for promoting Gender Equality
- What is Gender Budgeting and what preparatory work has to be done to start with Gender Budgeting.

### **In Part 1 you have responded to these questions:**

- Question no. 1: Do you have currently any institutions/policy making bodies that deal with Gender Equality issues in RA?
- Question no. 2: Please explain in your own words what is gender mainstreaming?
- Question no. 3: Do you know about any existing gender mainstreaming activities in RA?
- Question no. 4: Do you know about / do you participate in any organisations working in the area of gender mainstreaming, both public administration/CSOs-NGOs?
- Question no. 5: Do you have detailed statistical data describing your relevant population/ national, regional, local/available?
- Question no. 6: Do you have access to detailed budgets/national, regional, local?

## **And now we need information from you to proceed to Part 2:**

We need some information from you **NOW** to be able to provide you with useful information how to go about gender budgeting promotion and implementation in your concrete situation.

### **We need to know more about your - RA - budgetary process**

- Please describe in a simple way how your national budget is created and who can provide suggestions for what should be financed by the national budget in the coming year/period?
- Please describe in a simple way how your regional budget is created and who can provide suggestions for what should be financed by the regional budget in the coming year/period?
- Please describe in a simple way how your local budget is created and who can provide suggestions for what should be financed by the local budget in the coming year/period?
- Please provide us with a typical budget structure/budget chapters for a local/municipal budget?

***Part 2 - What to do***

***Gender Budgeting and CSOs/NGOs in RA***

***to be continued.....***