

Sweden's Programme for Gender Mainstreaming in Government Agencies (GMGA)

Title of the governance practice: Programme for Gender Mainstreaming in Government Agencies (GMGA)

Summary of the governance practice

The nationwide Government Programme for Gender Mainstreaming (GMGA) was launched in 2012 and encompasses sixty Public Government Agencies. This programme has boosted gender mainstreaming in governmental agencies' core activities. The program is acknowledged to have achieved tangible and profound results that has a clear impact on gender equality and people's lives. The successful outcomes of this program have led to the implementation of identical program targeting all Swedish public-sector universities and higher education institutions and for the implementation of LGBT rights and the Rights of the Child in Public Government Agencies.

Short description of the governance practice

Gender mainstreaming is one of the Swedish government's main strategies for achieving gender equality policy objectives. To promote this strategy, the government launched a Nationwide Government Programme for Gender Mainstreaming in Government Agencies (GMGA) 2012-2019. The aim is to further incorporate gender mainstreaming in government agencies so that the activities and services provided contribute to gender equality policy goals.

The programme encompasses sixty agencies in the cultural, judiciary, labour and health care sectors. These agencies must integrate a gender equality perspective in their core activities, following a tailor-made action plan. The Swedish government has commissioned the Swedish Gender Equality Agency to support the agencies in their endeavour. Each agency reports back to their associated Ministry in a yearly report and presents their results to the Minister for Gender Equality on a yearly basis. The Government recently expanded the programme to include more than 30 universities and university colleges. University and University colleges are to develop their work on gender mainstreaming in the period 2016-2019.

Achievement/outcome of the governance practice

Reports from the Swedish Gender Equality Agency and the mid-term evaluation from the Swedish Agency for Public management indicate that agencies have identified critical challenges as well positive results linked to their contribution to gender equality. For instance, the Migration Agency has updated its protocol so that payment of compensation to asylum seekers is no longer doled out only to male family members. With the support of the programme, the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has successfully doubled the financial resources destined to businesses run by women, and the Swedish Research Council has now reached gender equality in the allocation of research grants. Similarly, the Swedish Arts Grants Committee has developed a tool to support a gender equal process for assessing applications for grants and scholarship. The Swedish Work environment Authority, The Swedish Schools Inspectorate and the Social Insurance agency, have all integrated a gender perspective in their work in tangible ways.

In light of these results, the Government recently expanded the programme to over 30 higher education institutions and implemented similar programmes to promote LGBT Rights and the Rights of the Child.

Source: Example of country practice provided by the Government of Sweden as part of the Policy Framework's consultation process