



# ***Gender budgeting at the Belgian federal level***

*Jeroen Decuyper*

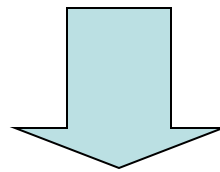


In 2001: pilot project *gender mainstreaming* and *gender budgeting*

Conclusion: institutionalization, regulation and attribution of responsibilities

12 January 2007 - law on *gender mainstreaming*

*gender mainstreaming* was chosen as the principal strategy to reinforce gender equality + inclusion of *gender budgeting*



legal obligation to integrate the gender dimension in the budgetary preparations



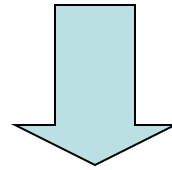
Emphasis: ex-ante analysis of the expenditures

*Gender budgeting*: ex-ante way to stimulate the integration of a gender perspective in their work

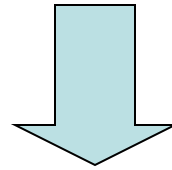
Tool: gender note

From 2010: gender note from all the Federal Public Services

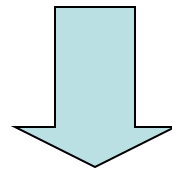
Project managers: reflection on the gender aspect of their projects



Project managers: request for a budget for their projects → also mention the result of the gender reflection



Budget service: insert information in the gender note



Budget service: enclose the gender note with the documents sent to the Federal Public Service in charge of the Budget.



## **Gender note: three categories**

### First category:

credits that can be exempted from a gender analysis

e.g.: purchase of furniture

credits could be left out  $\leftrightarrow$  possibility of control

### Second category:

specific actions for the promotion of equality between women and men

e.g.: salary for a coordinator on gender issues



## Third category:

credits for projects which have a gender dimension

→ projects have to be analysed

→ gender aspect has to be taken into account

e.g.: project on drug prevention

→ gender dimension?

→ women and men use drugs in the same way?

→ look into this matter when working on the project

→ mention intentions in the gender note.



Stimulate gender reflection and create more gender sensitive policies

→ ex-ante gender-aware policy appraisal

Reflection about the target public of the projects

→ gender-disaggregated beneficiary assessment

Encouragement to plan an analysis of the actual beneficiaries of the projects

→ gender-disaggregated public expenditure incidence analysis



## Institute for the equality of women and men:

- mentioned in the law on *gender mainstreaming*
- developed a template for the gender note
- made a tour of all the Federal Public Services
- developing a manual on *gender budgeting*

## Federal Public Service in charge of the budget:

- *gender budgeting* in the circular letter containing the guidelines for the budget
- control the enclosure of the gender notes

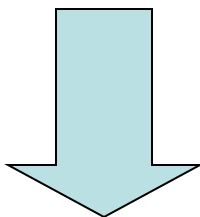




## Integration of the gender dimension into the regular budgetary controls

- Inspectors of Finance
- Court of Audit

Different controls: sort of ex-post evaluation



Results used to improve the completion of the gender note



## Subsidies:

- equal opportunities and the fight against inequalities
- integration of the gender dimension in all (relevant) subsidies

## Public procurement contracts:

- selection criteria: exclusion of discriminating companies
- contract award criteria: gender equality as sub-criterion when evaluating the quality of the offer
- contract performance conditions: obligation to take the gender perspective into account when executing the commissioned tasks



## Achievements:

- legal obligation
- leverage

## Promoting factors:

- gender note as a concrete tool
- specific meetings with the budget services
- use of concrete examples for each administration



## Obstacles:

- reticence towards the effort
- need for a clear incentive

## Aim:

- practice → routine
- improve the process
- arrive at an efficient *gender budgeting* process



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