

Special feature: Gender budgeting

Today, many disparities and inequalities between the sexes appear to have become embedded, to a greater or lesser extent, in public policies and the allocation of public resources. Several international organisations and others have pioneered work to promote gender mainstreaming, i.e. including in the design and review of public policies an assessment of the differential impact of gender with the aim to progressively remove gender inequalities in the public sector and the wider economy. Gender budgeting is an application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. It involves the integration of a clear gender perspective within the budget process, through the use of special processes and analytical tools, to promote gender-responsive policies with the aim of addressing gender inequalities and disparities.

According to the 2016 OECD Survey on Gender Budgeting, just over one third of OECD countries (12 countries) report having introduced gender mainstreaming in their budgetary process. From the rest of the OECD countries, one country is planning to introduce gender budgeting (Italy) and two report actively considering the introduction of gender budgeting (the Czech Republic and Turkey). It has for the most part been introduced over the course of the last decade, with perceived inequalities being the factor cited most frequently as the primary reason for its introduction.

Although gender budgeting practices are varied in those countries where it has been introduced, there appear to be three broad categories of gender budgeting systems: 1) gender-informed resource allocation, where gender assessments inform individual policy decisions and/or funding allocations; 2) gender-assessed budgets, where the budget as a whole is subject to gender assessment; and 3) needs-based gender budgeting, where a gender needs assessment forms part of the budget process. The categories are broadly incremental, in that those that have gender-assessed budgets generally undertake gender-informed resource allocation and countries that do needs-based gender budgeting also generally have gender-assessed budgets. Two thirds of the OECD countries (8 countries) that undertake gender budgeting fall into the first or second category, with just four undertaking a gender needs assessment as part of the budget process (Austria, Mexico, Netherlands and Norway).

Half of those countries (6 countries) with some form of gender budgeting could point to specific examples where the gender budgeting tool had brought about significant changes in policy design and/or outcomes. In these cases, countries often cite examples of where gender budgeting has stimulated the adoption of policy developments to improve gender equality. There were more limited examples of instances where the introduction of gender budgeting has brought about changes to budget allocations. Since the

introduction of gender budgeting is still relatively new in a number of countries, a wider range of impacts may become more evident in the future.

The vast majority of those countries which have not formally introduced gender budgeting still implement some form of gender-responsiveness into the policy-making process, which may in turn impact spending. The nature and quality of these approaches appear quite variable, ranging from a *pro forma* statement of impacts on gender equality attached to all new policies coming before government, to more structured and systematic gender impact assessments.

Methodology and definitions

Data are derived from the 2016 OECD Survey of Gender Budgeting Practices. Respondents were predominantly senior budget officials in OECD countries. Responses were received from all OECD countries except Latvia (which was not yet an OECD country at the time when the data were collected). Responses represent the countries' own assessments of current practices. For the most part, responses refer only to central/federal governments and exclude gender budgeting practices at the state/local levels.

Information from the 2016 OECD Survey of Gender Budgeting Practices has been used to develop a typology of gender budgeting systems. Countries that introduced gender budgeting were asked to indicate the tools and methods through which gender budgeting is being implemented. The tools and methods used by each country provide an indication of the nature of the gender budgeting system in that country. The OECD has used this information to identify three broad categories of gender budgeting systems and these are presented in Table 5.4.

Further reading

OECD (2016), "Gender Budgeting in OECD Countries", OECD Publishing, Paris, www.oecd.org/gender/Gender-Budgeting-in-OECD-countries.pdf.

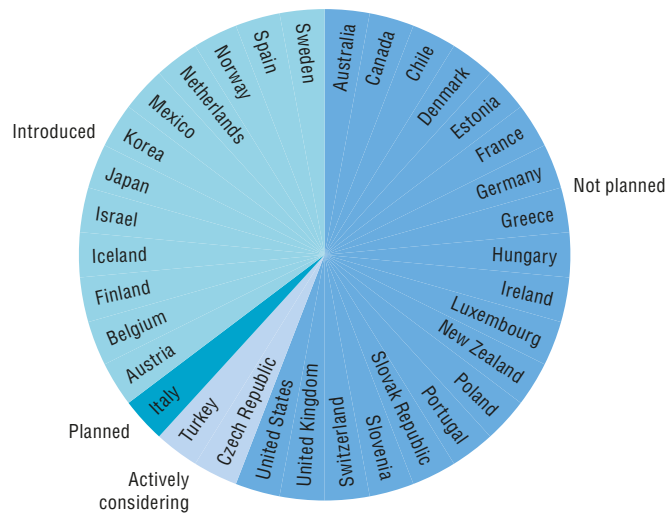
OECD (2016), *2015 OECD Recommendation of the Council on Gender Equality in Public Life*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264252820-en>.

Figure notes

Data for Latvia are not available.

Information on data for Israel: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602>.

5.3. Status of gender budgeting, 2016



Source: OECD (2016), Survey of Gender Budgeting, OECD, Paris.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933532732>

5.4. Typology of gender budgeting systems, 2016

Gender budgeting categories		Use of gender budgeting tools								
		<i>Ex ante</i> gender impact assessment	Gender perspective in resource allocation	<i>Ex post</i> gender impact assessment	Gender perspective in performance setting	Gender perspective in spending review	Gender-related budget incidence analysis	Gender budget baseline analysis	Gender audit of the budget	Gender needs assessment
1) Gender informed resource allocation	Belgium	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	Japan	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
	Finland	○	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	○
	Iceland	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
2) Gender assessed budgets	Israel	●	○	●	○	○	●	●	○	○
	Korea	○	●	○	●	●	○	●	○	○
	Spain	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	○
	Sweden	●	○	●	●	●	○	○	●	○
3) Needs based gender budgeting	Austria	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	○	●
	Mexico	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●
	Netherlands	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●
	Norway	●	●	○	○	○	●	○	●	●
OECD Total										
● Gender budgeting tool in use		9	8	7	8	2	6	7	4	4
○ Gender budgeting tool not in use		3	4	5	4	10	6	5	8	8

Source: OECD (2016), Survey of Gender Budgeting, OECD, Paris.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933534936>



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