

Gender Budgeting

The Swedish Experience

14 June 2018 Lisbon

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Sweden has a long history of promoting women's opportunity to economic independence

- Separate income taxation
- Parental allowance
- Development of public childcare



Resulting from Several Factors

- Mainly motivated by a demand for increased labour force
- Strong women's movement
- A political will to shape a fair and gender equal society



Consequences for the Labour Market

- Gender segregation
- Increased pay gap
- Harder to reach top positions



Impact Assessments in General

- Requirements are already contained in governing documents
- Implementation challenges
- Incentive challenges
- The application of economic theory



The Economic Case for Equality

- Positive Externalities
- Unpaid Care
- More Equitable distribution



The Government is a Feminist Government

- “Sweden’s new Government is a feminist government. Inhibitive gender roles and structures must be combated.”
- “Gender equality policy will be given greater weight in the Government Offices. Ministries and government agencies will receive a clearer mandate for gender mainstreaming in all of their activities. Work will begin on gender budgeting in the Budget Bill.”



The policy goal

Women and men are to have the same power to shape society and their own lives

- *equal division of power and influence*
- *economic gender equality*
- *equal distribution of unpaid housework and provision of care*
- *men's violence against women must come to an end*
- *gender equal education*
- *gender equal health*



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.”

(Council of Europe)



The Implementation of Gender Budgeting in Sweden

- Formalized requirement in Budget circular
- Strengthened process for support and coordination
- Trainings for “know-how”
- Indicators to follow up the result



Challenges for Gender Budgeting

- Limited to the reforms
- Wider perspective early in policy design
- Ensure sufficient know how
- Ensure the priority
- Maintain the Commitment



The case for Gender Budgeting

- Renewed focus on Gender budgeting
- Results: improved analysis, more systematic use of statistics disaggregated by sex
- And now what?

