



Romanian Presidency of the EU, together with Austria and Finland, cordially invite you to the side event

14 MARCH
16.45-18.00
ROOM D (CR D)

GENDER BUDGETING: SMART SPENDING FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION, PUBLIC SERVICES AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURES

PROGRAMME

Chair: **Laura Albu**, President Romanian Women's Lobby, Vice President European Women's Lobby

Speakers:

Gratiela Draghici, National Agency for Equal Opportunities, Secretary of State, Romania

Ines Stilling, Vice Minister for Women and Equality, Federal Chancellery

Tanja Auvinen, Director, Gender Equality Unit, Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Clara Berglund, Swedish Women's Lobby

Ana Sofia Fernandes, Portuguese Platform Women's Rights

Monica Cristea, RIFFI, Migrant Women's Association, Sweden

Jurgita Peciuriene, European Institute for Gender Equality - EIGE

Viviane Teitlebaum, MP, Former deputy to the Mayor, Ixelles - Brussels

Gwendoline Lefebvre, President, European Women's Lobby

GENDER BUDGETING - TRANSFORMATIVE TOOL TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

Budgets mirror political, social and economic priorities. The budget is the most important economic policy instrument and a powerful tool to transform societies. How money is spent, and income generated, tells us about the type of values our society is projecting.

At a time when public spending is being curtailed and austerity measures are impacting disproportionately on women's rights and gender equality, it is time to put in place systematic gender budgeting as a tool for advancing women's rights and equality between women and men. In other words, **gender budgeting is smart economics.**

Gender budgeting is defined as the application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process, which increasingly more countries in Europe and around the world are embarking on. There is no one-single model but many ways in which it can be done.

What is the state of play with regards to gender budgeting in Europe? What is the role as the critical voice of civil society? How can the general public benefit from the lessons learned in applying gender budgeting and what are the lessons for public expenditure? Do women or men benefit more from public spending and subsidies? Are women and men affected differently by austerity measures? These are some of the questions and issues that will be explored at the side-event.

The event aims to **demystify gender budgeting** as an effective **transformative tool** to ensure that public spending is targeting gender equality outcomes, particularly with regards to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructures.