

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 405 (2016)¹ Gender budgeting

1. The struggle to achieve gender equality, one of the key rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5), remains a huge challenge for Council of Europe member States at all levels of government. In 2006, the ministers on equality between men and women of the Council of Europe member States stated that one of the main goals of any democratic society must be to achieve *de facto* gender equality, and that there can be no sustainable economic development without the full participation of women.

2. In the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017, the national and, where applicable, regional governments of the member States committed themselves to pursuing greater gender equality in all areas, with a particular emphasis on specific fields, notably local government, and called on the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (“the Congress”) to contribute to this strategy through its policies and activities (Strategic objective 5).

3. To make measurable progress in this area requires the introduction and application of tools and institutional mechanisms, as recognised by the Committee of Ministers in Recommendation. CM/Rec(2007)17 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on gender equality standards and mechanisms. In this respect, gender budgeting has proved to be one of the most effective tools for mainstreaming gender equality and for ensuring a balanced, gender-sensitive approach to public services.

4. Gender budget analysis relies on the availability of sound data. To enable local and regional authorities to apply this tool widely requires the compilation and analysis of reliable gender-disaggregated data on a nationwide level. Officials charged with drawing up local and regional authority budgets also require gender analysis skills in order to be able to apply this data.

5. The Congress, therefore, bearing in mind the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 and Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)17:

a. recommends that associations of local and regional authorities:

i. encourage ministers of finance and other senior personnel responsible for budgetary policy and its implementation to ensure that national or, as applicable, regional, equality strategies provide for the allocation of funds to implement gender budgeting at local and regional levels;

ii. encourage national governments to ensure that their statistics offices compile sex disaggregated data in all policy areas;

iii. encourage the investigation and dissemination of data analysis tools of, tools to enable gender-sensitive organisation of budgets and tools to promote budgetary accountability;

iv. encourage and support local and regional authorities to develop pilot projects to introduce gender budgeting;

v. provide or encourage training in gender analysis skills for officials charged with drawing up local and regional authority budgets;

b. recommends that local and regional authorities:

i. introduce gender budgeting methods when preparing their annual budgets, using appropriate tools such as gender-aware policy appraisal, gender-disaggregated public expenditure and tax incidence analysis, gender-disaggregated beneficiary assessments and gender-aware budget statements;

ii. ensure that appropriate monitoring mechanisms are put in place;

iii. exchange experience and good practice with those cities and regions already practising this approach;

iv. establish consultation mechanisms with civil society, which has been the driver of many gender budgeting initiatives throughout Europe and beyond, so as to avail themselves of its expertise in this area.

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 20 October 2016, 2nd sitting (see Document [CG31\(2016\)10final](#), rapporteur: Cathy Bennett, Ireland (L, ILDG)).