

31st SESSION

Gender budgeting

Resolution 405 (2016)¹

1. The struggle to achieve gender equality, one of the key rights enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights, remains a huge challenge for Council of Europe member states at all levels of government. In 2006, the Ministers on Equality between Women and Men 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 2014-2017 Gender Equality Strategy, the national and, where applicable, regional governments of the Member States have committed themselves to pursuing greater gender equality in all areas, with a particular emphasis on specific fields, notably local government, and call on 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 its 2007 Recommendation. In this respect gender budgeting has proven to be one of the most effective tools to mainstream gender equality and to ensure a balanced gender 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 on a wide basis 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 analytic skills in order to be able to apply this data.
5. The Congress therefore,
 - a. Bearing in mind:
 - i. the 2014-2017 Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy;
 - ii. Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)17 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on gender equality standards and mechanisms;
 - b. recommends that associations of local and regional authorities:
 - i. encourage ministers of finance and other senior personnel engaged with budget policy and its implementation to ensure that national or, as applicable, regional, equality strategies allocate funds for implementing 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;

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

- iii. encourage the exploration and dissemination of tools of analysis, tools for the gender-related organisation of the budget and tools for budget accountability;
 - iv. encourage and support local and regional authorities to develop pilot projects to introduce gender budgeting;
 - v. provide or encourage training in gender analytic skills for officials charged with drawing up local and regional authority budgets;
- c. recommends that local and regional authorities:
- i. introduce gender budgeting methods in 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 they put in place mechanisms to monitor this;
 - iii. exchange experience and good practice with those cities and regions which already practice this approach;
 - iv. devise mechanisms to consult with civil society, which has been the driver of many gender budget initiatives across and beyond Europe, so as to avail themselves of its expertise in this subject.