

Panel 4 – Tools for enhancing gender mainstreaming – from political will to e-solutions

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In view of the time available to discuss this subject, I intend to focus on the development of gender mainstreaming at national level, without considering what is happening at local and regional level, although it is part and parcel of the French strategy.

1) Explicit political commitment expressed in France in 2012 to making gender mainstreaming systematic

- Gender mainstreaming is no longer a peripheral issue but a key, cross-cutting aspect of public policies. (...) We are changing methods and increasing the pace. Because inequalities are to be found everywhere, we are taking action at all levels and in all sectors; because inequalities have existed for too long, we are taking rapid and immediate action. »

>> Following a particularly active feminist movement during the presidential campaign, the gender equality issue now has support at the highest level of government - the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister and a female minister for women's rights has been elected.

Implementation through new or reactivated gender mainstreaming instruments

At institutional level: a minister appointed (with full authority for) to deal solely with gender equality + an independent national advisory body (the HCE – High Council for Gender Equality)

At inter-ministerial level: reactivation of the inter-ministerial committee for women's rights and equality and its corollaries (making ministers aware of the problem; appointing contact persons in ministerial offices and one senior official responsible for gender equality in each ministry, annual equality roadmaps drawn up by each ministry at the end of annual equality conferences).

- With regard to the production of laws and regulations: gender impact assessment

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2) Situation in 2016: significant limits on the institutionalisation of gender mainstreaming

- Inadequate human and financial resources allocated to giving impetus to, assisting and evaluating gender mainstreaming;
- Training programmes not implemented quickly enough + no reference framework guaranteeing a minimum standard of such training

The monitoring of the gender mainstreaming approach is too difficult to understand an in- efficient

- High level political support has been lost in the medium term

- 3) Two key instruments proposed by the High Council for Equality
- Develop the principle of the conditionality of public funding along the same lines as *ecoconditionality for environmental issues*
 - Ensure that there are no gender stereotypes in public communications (see Guide pratique drafted by the HCE and accompanied by a commitment to its principles)