

Anastasia M. Yermoshenko, Igor M. Kuksa

GENDER BUDGETING APPROACHES IN SWEDEN

The article presents the main approaches to gender budgeting in Sweden. This strategy aims to prevent the distribution of public funds unfairly or in a discriminatory manner, as well as to achieve a fairer distribution of resources between the sexes. This is mostly important because the budget can look gender neutral. Gender budgeting focuses on the allocation of resources, not on the need to change budgets.

Gender budgeting is a modern public finance strategy that is mainly used to analyse how public resources are spent from a gender perspective. This strategy is aimed at preventing public funds being distributed in a way that is unfair or discriminatory and at achieving a more equitable distribution of resources between the sexes. This is mostly important as a budget can give an appearance of being gender neutral. In reality budgets allocate resources so that it effects various groups of population (women and men, girls and boys) in a different way.

As a result of implementation of the advanced gender budgeting approaches in Sweden, the following results could be seen. When it comes to economic equality, for example, there are measures to invest into more secure work environment for women, annual salary surveys for equal pay are performed by employers to make sure that men and women get equally paid for their work. In the healthcare area, funds are invested into strengthening parental care programmes and reducing the difference between women's and men's absence at work place due to illness. In the education area, funds are invested to increase boys' school results and reduce girls' stress. At the same time, a great portion of funds is streamlined in the implementation of gender equality policy objectives, especially in the expenditure areas that, at the first glance, are not connected to gender equality, such as innovations, infrastructure, energy, defence, rural and environmental policy.

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