

Action Plan on Gender mainstreaming of the Committee on Budgets (BUDG)

Adopted by BUDG coordinators on 21/02/2018

Having regard to Article 8 of Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union which lays down that “In all its activities, the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities, and to promote equality, between men and women.”; the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Article 23 thereof; the European Parliament resolution from 13 March 2003 on gender mainstreaming in the European Parliament¹; the resolution from 13 March 2012 on women in political decision-making²; the resolution from 8 March 2016 on gender mainstreaming in the work of the European Parliament³; and to recommendations made by the Gender Mainstreaming Network, the Committee on Budgets will take the following measures to adopt a gender mainstreaming approach in its work:

Organisation of the Committee’s work:

Equal representation of Members

When it comes to the distribution of reports and opinions, as well as the appointment of standing rapporteurs and representatives in working groups as well as external bodies, the political groups of the Committee should strive for a balance between female and male Members, reflecting the existing gender composition of the political groups within the Committee.

Exchanges of views, public hearings, workshops and other events

There should possibly be a gender balance in the selection of external speakers, and due attention should be paid to their consideration of gender budgeting.

To implement this principle, the checklist below should be used:

- How was the gender balance regarding the speakers respected?
- To what extent the speaking time attributed has been respected or not by speakers, and recalled by the Chair, broken down by gender?
- How was gender neutral language used when preparing documents for the hearing?

In its exchanges, the Committee should also contribute to the sharing of experiences and good practices from regions and member states’ authorities regarding gender budgeting, notably when it relates to the co-financing of EU budget programs.

Bureau composition

The Committee should take advantage of any opportunity to combine the political representation of its Bureau composition with the gender balance objective, with a 50/50 gender representation as a target.

Missions and delegations

The Committee strives to ensure a gender-balanced composition of Members taking part in various missions and delegations organised by the Committee. If possible, missions and delegations should include destinations and visits to actors and bodies working on gender equality issues in the field of budgetary affairs.

¹ European Parliament resolution of 13 March 2003 on gender mainstreaming in the European Parliament (2002/2025(INI)),

² European Parliament resolution of 13 March 2012 on women in political decision-making – quality and equality (2011/2295(INI))

³ European Parliament resolution of 8 March 2016 on gender mainstreaming in the work of the European Parliament (2015/2230(INI))

With the assistance of the Policy Department, missions' programmes should cover the assessment of the situation of the gender budgeting, to analyse the situation of women in different areas of political and civil life of the country, if possible in relation to the criteria defined by the Beijing Platform for Action and its reviews. Meetings with women NGOs should be included in the programme, if relevant.

The assessment of this aspect should be included in the mission report.

Selection of staff

The aim is to ensure equal representation of women and men on all levels. The gender mainstreaming rapporteurs welcome that this action has already been implemented regarding the recruitment of staff for the committee secretariat and in particular at senior level.

Training

The coordinators may decide, as appropriate, on regular training initiatives on gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting for members and staff. The gender mainstreaming rapporteurs will submit proposals in this regard to the coordinators.

Drafting of budgetary, legislative and non-legislative files in the Committee:

Gender neutral language

All documents related to the work of the Committee should use gender neutral language. Special attention should be paid to Committee reports, opinions, resolutions and documents commissioned by the Committee.

Reports, opinions, resolutions and other documents

Thematically relevant gender-related and gender budgeting written material should be circulated to members and staff to feed the preparation of reports, opinions, resolutions and other documents, thereby ensuring systematic gender mainstreaming.

The Committee should pay due attention to the structural gender inequalities within the EU, and therefore aim at adopting EU annual budgets and a new Multiannual Financial Framework on the basis of gender-differentiated EU policies' implementation statistics paying due attention to the best implementation of EU policies to counterbalance gender inequalities.

If relevant, reports and opinions should include a paragraph focusing on how the spending would help in reducing gender inequalities in relation to the topic of the report, possibly taking into account relevant position of the FEMM Committee, if available.

Studies

The Committee should aim to contribute to improving the knowledge and research about gender budgeting, notably relying on the European Institute for Gender Equality resources, the Policy Departments and the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), studies and databases of experts should be duly taken into account when preparing budgetary, legislative and non-legislative files.

Gender budgeting

The Committee endeavours to promote gender budgeting; i.e. a gender based assessment of budgets incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process in order to promote gender equality.

Cooperation between the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)

To the largest extent possible, the Committee should take into consideration the input provided by the FEMM Committee, notably during the budget procedure. This should also include FEMM contributions made to the reports of the BUDG Committee without making formal opinions particularly in cases when there is a need for focused amendments on a specific issue which has potentially a different impact on women and men.

Follow-up to the Action Plan on Gender mainstreaming:

The gender mainstreaming rapporteurs should report annually to the Committee on the progress made on the implementation of the Committee's Action Plan on Gender mainstreaming.

A person responsible for gender budgeting within the BUDG secretariat staff should be appointed, tasked with monitoring the implementation of this Action Plan, in cooperation with the gender mainstreaming rapporteurs.