

Berlin's Gender Budgeting from an International Perspective

KONFERENZ Gender Budgeting – von der Analyse zur Steuerung,
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Overview of Presentation

- Current issues in debate on gender budgeting
- Main characteristics of Berlin gender budgeting experience
- Examples of GB – San Francisco, Korea, Belgium
- How these international examples relate to Berlin and what can be learned for this next phase of GB in Berlin

What's happening with GB Worldwide

- An Important shift – from analysis to reformulation
- Assessment of overall effectiveness of GB in achieving gender equality
- Now a critical mass of learning
- GB will not work if it remains a technocratic exercise
- Hence we need to take our eyes off the process and engage with the debate – this conference

Current issues in the debate

- Moving beyond analysis – beyond sex-counting
- The link with gender mainstreaming
- The link with budgeting for human rights
- Gender budgeting and budget reform
- Government cuts and gender equality

Moving beyond analysis

- Move beyond analysis of nos of men and women using public funded services to change public spending to be more gender equitable
- Need to extend analysis to find out more demographic information on service users

Link with Gender Mainstreaming

- Re-evaluation of GM – a current focus of European Institute for Gender Equality
- Concerns that gender has not become a legitimate category of analysis
- GM remains peripheral and not part of the mainstream

Link with budgeting for human rights

- Many forms of budget work with focus on transparency, participatory budgeting, children's budgets etc.
- Until recently the link with GB not so defined
- Diane Elson's work on CEDAW

Gender Budgeting and Budget Reform

- A move toward performance budgeting – even more so in current economic crisis
- Austria as example of integration of GB as part of budget reform process
- Korea and San Francisco also examples

Government Cuts and Gender Equality

- Many studies reveal impact of cuts harder on women – use of public services, care responsibilities
- UK Women's Budget Group analysis of UK emergency budget
- Fawcett Society in UK high court action in relation to violation of equality laws in emergency budget

Berlin GB's characteristics

- A firm legal basis
- A collaborative structure
- Led by Ministry of Finance
- Solid political will
- Civil society role in feeding political will
- Multi-sectoral approach
- Adaptation of tools

Berlin's Achievements

- Its continued existence
- Localised gender expertise/the humanisation of administration
- Better data
- A widening exercise

San Francisco

- It stills exists – 1998, based in law, importance of data
- CEDAW
- Performance-based budgeting – GB integrated into reform process in 2008
- This now core to approach

Korea

- Advocacy by grassroots women's groups
- 2006 National Finance Law – GB statement and settlement of accounts
- 2nd GB statement in train – moved from 128 projects to 195 (Total 8000)
- Similar structure to Berlin
- Concern re lack of influence of GB statement
- Confident of legal basis
- See importance of more parliamentary debate

Belgium

- GM law of January 2007
- Methodology requires classification of all budgetary allocations re gender relevance
- Gender dimension requires written elucidation and included in budget documents
- Good preparation work for implementation – early days to make assessment

Moving forward in Berlin – the new Gender Equality Framework (GEF)

- 5 areas of intervention – education, employment, demographic development, social justice & integration of ethnic minorities
- Targets – raising women’s employment rate
- Indicators – for measuring gender balance in political decision-making

What place GB in new GEF

- Needs to be determined by what is happening at local level
- Needs of citizens are best known at local level – budget reformulation at this level
- Communication of local impacts to governing departments is vital
- Macro economic policy is the domain of Bezirke administrators

Considerations going forward

- Data – known here in Berlin, as in SF – some improvements are budget neutral – vital to performance budgeting
- Be careful what is mainstreamed – what is institutionalised
- Facilitate more debate, particularly in parliament and among citizens
- This conference is evidence of the strength and robustness of structure and process