Experiences with gender budgeting in the City of Reykjavík

Gender Mainstreaming in Municipalities: Sharing of the Nordic Experience
October 4-5, 2018
Kaunas

Freyja Barkardóttir, freyja.barkardottir@reykjavik.is
City of Reykjavik, Iceland

Population 126,000
36% of total population
5 departments: youth and education – welfare – sports and leisure – environment and planning – culture and tourism
Reykjavík city budget 2018 expenditure breakdown

- Education and youth: 44%
- Welfare: 21%
- Culture and tourism: 4%
- Environment and planning: 7%
- Sports and leisure: 7%
- Central administration offices: 3%
- Other common costs: 11%
- Part owned companies: 3%
- Other common costs: 11%
Human Rights Policy

“The policy is based on the principle of equality and aims to allow all persons to enjoy their human rights regardless of origin, nationality, language, color, religion, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, sexual characteristics, age, economic status, heritage, social status, disability, health, ability, or other status”.

Gender budgeting in Reykjavík

• Implementation began 2011
• Focus: Mainstream the financial policy with the human rights policy
• Gender neutral budgets maintain gender inequalities
• Investing in people costs. Not investing in people costs more.
Main tools

1. Analysing city services
   Evaluating already existing services (ex-post)

2. Equality impact assessment
   Evaluating projects before they are approved (ex-ante)
„I don’t make a difference, I treat everybody equally!“

Source: Elisabeth Klatzer and Zita Kün
Lessons learned

• We lack gender disaggregated data
• Gender budgeting needs knowledge of finance and gender equality
• Political and managerial support is crucial
• Gender budgeting creates transparency and efficiency
Thank you!

Freyja Barkardóttir
Gender budgeting project manager
Reykjavík, Iceland
freyja.barkardóttir@reykjavik.is