

- Providing a critical reflection on the ongoing implementation of GB in Berlin, which started in 2002 – for example we did a “shadow report”, commenting on the second report on Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Budgeting in Berlin delivered by the Berlin Senat.

All members of the Initiative are working on a voluntary basis. The participants in this group are women from NGOs, foundations, scientists, parties and labour unions. The initiative is part of the participation process because it functions as an NGO. However, it is connected to groups of the women’s movement in Berlin, though this could be intensified. It was involved in the Berlin people’s Budget Initiatives, however many do not longer exist. In Berlin Lichtenberg a people’s budget is going on, also reflecting gender-aspects.

The initiative was active in the Berlin-election in 2001, introducing Gender Budgeting into the election campaign. A first step was an open letter to the parties in Berlin and the representatives of the local government. This letter was signed by 104 individuals and 26 organisations/ associations. The Senate from Berlin decided to implement GB with support from women from different parties. After the election, the initiative set up talks with politicians and selected members of the Berlin administration in order to get Gender Budgeting going quickly.

The initiative has a seat in the political process in Berlin the working group for Gender Budgeting in the respective commission (*Landeskommission*).

The initiative did not analyse budgets by itself because the administration is doing so in Berlin. The Berlin Senate nowadays focuses on a benefits incidents analysis, relying heavily on quantitative data. The Initiative is pushing for making the analysis more qualitative orientated.

In the “shadow report” of the initiative to comment on the implementation process of GB in Berlin the following points are highlighted:

- It is not enough to state that there are quantitative disparities in the budget and not look at the causes of these disparities. It would be helpful to interlink Gender Mainstreaming with Gender Budgeting activities to design policies in the respective sectors which are addressing disparities or actively promoting gender equality.
- The Initiative holds a seat in the main implementation committee. We push topics like communication strategy between politicians and the administration, to build up gender competence through external experts, also to establish a network with universities, to demand financial support for the process.
- Some members of the initiative are working as external experts in the implementation process and are involved in the pre-feasibility study for the implementation of Gender Budgeting on national level.

The initiative tries to influence the budgetary process by lobbying: Shadow report, public relations (flyer), networking with other civic groups, critical questioning of politicians, organising events in GB. We have a Germany wide Gender Budgeting webpage, where you can find all activities and reports: [www.gender-budgets.de](http://www.gender-budgets.de).

We are initiated network meetings with other Gender Budgeting initiatives and groups in Germany and we started with an co-ordinated activities (letter to the administration in Munich).

Lobbying activities include presentations of the initiative activities at local, national and international meetings and congresses (Berlins women’s centre, at Femme Global, at international congresses from political Foundations Heinrich Böll), in the local government, presentation of the activities in Poland.

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