

5.3 Germany: Cologne

by Elisabeth Stiefel

Our initiative is an offspring of the Local Agenda 21 and its commitment to sustainable urban development. We are convinced that social sustainability largely depends on equality and equity for all which means at the same time balancing work and life, the economic and the social, the market and the care economy. Several of our group were engaged in the modelling of the 'Leitbild Köln 2020' (www.stadt-koeln.de/leitbild) which was organized by the municipality and carried out by officials, experts and citizens. When the Leitbild was passed by the city council (2003), our group started to work on the project 'Bürgerinnen und Bürger im Spiegel kommunaler Haushaltspolitik'. We organized a public event in order to find additional contributors (men and women). After a few meetings of the enlarged initiative the only man who had joined us left the common effort, but after one year of hard work 14 women proudly presented their gender appraisal of the municipal budget to the public (November 2004). We had analysed the municipal library and the folk high school and had found that women paid more for their courses than men because their interests seemed to deserve less support by public money. We had compounded the unit costs of adult education separately for women and men, (Download: [www.koelnagenda.de/docs/gender budget.pdf](http://www.koelnagenda.de/docs/gender%20budget.pdf))

In the meantime, we calmly do PR and lobbying towards the public, the administration and the city council. Simultaneously we are engaged in the implementation of the mission statement. We have cooperated with other groups in compiling sets of indicators for sustainable urban development, and we advertise the Gender Budget in the context of a citizens' budget which is envisaged by the mayor and others for the end of the decade.

During the last months, we scrutinized several topics in order to create a new project. Finally, we adopted the open all-day primary school which is new in North Rhine-Westphalia. We are quite sure that our work will bring forth interesting details about the personnel, the methods and the organisation of the schools and - last but not least - the different needs and achievements of girls and boys taking advantage of the new form of entering the school system.

While so far we have had ample support on behalf of all institutions and persons involved in our investigations, the city of Cologne is just on the point of departure for the implementation of Gender Mainstreaming. The official procedure started with a pilot project only three months ago. Gender Budgeting was taken into account, but after some discussions it was postponed. The members of the commission referred to our study and decided that official steps should be taken up in a time to come.

5.4 Germany: Gender Budget Initiative Munich

by Birgit Erbe

The initiative is a civil society group. Its members work honorary. They come from various backgrounds: feminist projects, the Greens and the Social Democratic Party, municipality and city council. The group started its work in November 2002 after the Munich city council planned severe cuts in the area of women's and girls' institutions.

Its demands towards the city council are:

- the development and implementation of a concept of gender budgeting for Munich
- the development of procedures of citizens' active participation within the budgetary process.