

5.6 Spain: Overview of ongoing initiatives

by Priya Álvarez

The "Gender Budget" experience is an initiative of Emakunde/Basque Women's Institute³⁰ (Basque Government) to mainstream the gender perspective into the budgets of any public administration, which is included in the III Plan of Affirmative Action for Basque Women: "Gender Perspective in Public Policy", in its first chapter: Building up the normative and prescriptive capacity to develop gender-sensitive policies from the Basque Political Institutions.

This initiative reflects some of the measures that were proposed in the Beijing Conference in 1995 in favour of creating institutional mechanisms in the economic realm and implementing gender-sensitive analysis on public expenditure and taxation.

From 1999 on, Emakunde has fostered several projects in this direction:

- The elaboration of a detailed Smart Digital Library ("Public Gender Budgets") with open access through the internet
http://infopolis.es/qw30sp/topic.cfm?room_id=1005&set_cookie=1
- The set-up of a Seminar at the Basque Government Interdepartmental Committee, led by Dr.^a Rhonda Sharp, an Australian professor of Economics who implemented the first Gender Budget experience in her country.

A follow-up Seminar held at Emakunde's with one of the most salient experts on the field, Dr.^a Diane Elson.

In 2001, they decide to move on into the practical field to implement a pilot project within the Basque administration. A working group has been created, promoted by Emakunde, involving several departments and being assisted by Rona Fitzgerald, who is leading at the same time a similar experience with the Irish and the Scottish government. A technical team is also created to support the whole experience and the people taking part in it.

In 2002, a pilot initiative is carried out with the participation of six Basque Government Departments. It was finished with a closing conference with contributions of national and international experts.

In 2003, a handbook, based on the previous work of Dr.^a Ailsa McKay and Dr.^a Rona Fitzgerald, was released through Emakunde's website (www.emakunde.es/actualidad/presupuestos/web_en/default.htm).

Basque Government Working Group

DEPARTMENTS	SELECTED PROGRAMMES
Home Office	Citizenship Training for Emergences
Industry, Trade and Tourism	Technological Centres
Transport, Public Buildings and Infrastructures	Transport
Health System	Funding and Self Help Groups
Culture	Sports
Land and Environment	Environmental Education

³⁰ Emakunde is a state organization, thus the initiative presented here is a governmental one.

Bizkaia Provincial Government – Spain (2001- UP TO NOW)

2001-2003 Agriculture Department Pilot Experience:
http://www.bizkaia.net/Home2/Archivos/DPTO1%5CTemas/Pdf/transversalidad_genero.pdf

Pilot experience in the Agriculture Department to mainstream gender through all the programme life, including the budget analysis.

Bizkaia Provincial Government Tax Department Initiative (2006)

The Tax department initiative consists of a project to analyse budget documentation and introduce gender indicators, gender equality goals, gender impact analysis and gender budgeting.

A new Equality Act has been passed in February 2004 in the Basque Country forcing administrative units to evaluate gender impact of new acts and regulations.

2005 Bizkaia Sports Association

As a part of their gender mainstreaming plan, sports federations are going through major change to incorporate women massively in their organizations and sports clubs. Women are now needed for some sports to survive, grow and access to public funding.

They are undertaking a gender mainstreaming process to develop capacity building, gender action plans, gender budgeting and gender impact analysis.

It is a very interesting experience to see how gender equality management contributes to better management strategies altogether.

Andalusian Region

In 2002 we organized a gender budget conference in the south of Spain with the aim to start up a gender budget initiative in the biggest Spanish region. Janet Veitch from UK was invited to present us a paper explaining the British experience regarding gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting. Paloma de Villota focused her participation on taxation and retirement and widow pensions in Spain from a gender perspective.

This year the Andalusian government produced a gender budget document reflecting major figures and gender disaggregated statistics on a number of areas. Every department has identified at least one program to analyse from a gender point of view. They all have disaggregated all the indicators concerning people, up to 522 gender indicators in 70 programs. They revised 12 political priorities out of 19 to check if they were responsible regarding gender equality commitments. They conclude by saying that 2006 Andalusian government budget is gender sensitive.

Catalonia

The Catalonian government is a three party coalition that reached a governmental agreement to set up the first gender budgets of the Catalonian administration. They have started by completing a pilot experience in the Sports Ministry to be extended to other departments. Now, they have elaborated a gender budget protocol, still in progress, to test it with some other governmental sectors and programs.