

## Gender Budgeting – an effective strategy to achieve gender equality

On the occasion of the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Austrian Federal Minister for Women and Civil Service is pleased to invite you to a discussion on “**Taking into account effective gender equality in the budgetary process**”. The event will focus on the impact of implementing comprehensive gender equality policies in budget management and hence ensure equal opportunities for women and men.

Women have a right to a fair share in the budget: this has been enshrined in the Austrian Federal Constitution since the beginning of 2009 as an objective to be achieved by the state. Important steps have been taken and significant progress has been made in terms of the legal, institutional and practical aspects of gender budgeting in Austria.

**Tuesday, 28 February 2012, 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

**Conference Room A (North Lawn Building)**

### Opening statement

*Ms. Gabriele Heinisch-Hosek*, Federal Minister for Women and Civil Service, Austria  
"Gender Budgeting: An important tool to achieve gender equality"

### Moderator

*Ms. Lakshmi Puri*, Deputy Executive Director, Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, UN Women

### Panelists

- *Mr. Gerhard Steger*, Director General for Budget and Public Finances, Austria  
"Gender Budgeting in the Context of the Austrian Budget Reform"
- *Ms. Vera Jauk*, Head of Department, Federal Chancellery, Austria  
"The Austrian Experiences of Gender Budgeting"
- *Ms. Elisabeth Schindler*, Federal Chancellery, Austria  
"Performance Budgeting and Regulatory Impact Assessment as Tools for Gender Budgeting"

Please RSVP by 20 February 2012 ([tania.delgado@bmeia.gv.at](mailto:tania.delgado@bmeia.gv.at))

## Background

In the course of a wide-ranging budget reform, the internationally established concept of gender budgeting was enshrined in the Austrian Federal Constitution. This objective will be implemented at federal level but also at state and community level.

**Art. 13 para 3 of the Austrian Constitution:**

*“Federation, Laender and municipalities have to aim at the equal status of women and men in the budget management.”*

**Art. 51 para 8 of the Austrian Constitution** (due to enter into force on 1st January 2013):

*“In the budget management of the Federation the fundamental principles of impact orientation, especially considering the objectives of the effective equality of men and women, [...] are to be observed.”*

In order to achieve effective gender equality in the budgetary process, tools have been developed including

- Establishment of various working groups such as the interministerial working group on gender mainstreaming/gender budgeting;
- Workshops, seminars and consultations on the subjects of gender budgeting and for the development of equality targets;
- Guidance, e.g. on gender budgeting in public administration;
- Tool box on gender budgeting ([www.imag-gmb.at](http://www.imag-gmb.at));
- Gender Mainstreaming Newsletter.

## More information

- Austrian Federal Chancellery: <http://www.bundeskanzleramt.at/>
- Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance: <http://www.bmf.gv.at>
- Federal Minister for Women and Civil Service: <http://www.frauen.bka.gv.at>
- Interministerial working group on gender mainstreaming/gender budgeting (IMAG GMB): <http://www.imag-gmb.at>

The Federal Chancellery (Federal Performance Management Office) provides process-based methodological support to the Federal Ministries in implementing the performance management scheme. It also provides quality assurance of the outcome and output statements with a focus on the implementation of gender-equality related outcomes and outputs. In addition, it is responsible for the Annual Performance Report to the Parliament which contains an evaluation of last year's performance and a special chapter about gender-equality.

The Ministry of Finance defines the framework of performance budgeting within the budget documentation. This comprises the quantitative and qualitative illustration of performance information in the budget documentation in a consistent and transparent manner on all levels of the budget structure including performance information on gender.

The example of Austria highlights a best-practice case of creating favourable conditions to achieve gender equality on all levels of public administration.

In the future, equality aspects will be considered explicitly throughout the management cycle of administrative action, from planning to implementation to evaluation.