



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Government Offices
of Sweden

FACT SHEET

Ministry of Education and Research

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Gender mainstreaming

The overarching objective of the Swedish gender equality policy is that women and men are to have the same power to shape society and their own lives.

The following objectives indicate the direction of the Government's gender equality policy:

- Equal division of power and influence. Women and men must have the same rights and opportunities to be active citizens and to shape the conditions for decision-making.
- Economic equality. Women and men must have the same opportunities and conditions for education and paid work that provides lifelong economic independence.
- Equal distribution of unpaid housework and provision of care. Women and men must have the same responsibility for housework and have the opportunity to give and receive care on equal terms.
- An end to men's violence against women. Women and men, girls and boys, must have the same right and opportunity to physical integrity.

In Sweden, as in many other countries, gender mainstreaming is the principal strategy for achieving the national gender equality policy objectives. Gender mainstreaming means that decisions in all policy areas and at all levels are to be permeated by a gender equality perspective. The fundamental idea is that a gender equality perspective must be an integral part of day-to-day activities where decisions are made, resources are allocated and norms are created. Gender mainstreaming as a strategy has been developed in order to counteract the tendency to neglect gender equality issues or consider them secondary to other political issues and activities.

In the Government Offices this means that all ministers are responsible for gender mainstreaming his or her areas of responsibility. The Minister for Gender Equality is responsible for coordinating, developing and following-up the work on gender mainstreaming.

Platform for gender mainstreaming

In September 2011, the Government decided that the ongoing gender mainstreaming efforts should be

strengthened and developed based on a platform, and with efforts at central, regional and local level.

The platform comprises five different parts:

- strategy for gender mainstreaming in the Government Offices,
- a development programme for government agencies,
- support for gender mainstreaming at regional level,
- quality assurance of the development of gender mainstreaming in municipalities and county councils, and
- initiatives to gather and share experience and knowledge about practical implementation of gender mainstreaming.

Gender mainstreaming in the Government Offices

The Government has adopted a gender mainstreaming strategy for the Government Offices for 2012–2015. The aim of gender mainstreaming efforts is to provide the Government with the best possible conditions to ensure a gender equality dimension in all areas of government policy. The strategy therefore covers all decision-making processes but identifies a number of key processes that are consequently given special priority.

Development programme for government agencies

The Government has initiated a development programme for gender mainstreaming at government agencies. The aim is to strengthen and further develop gender mainstreaming in government agencies so that their activities contribute more effectively to achieving gender equality policy objectives. Eighteen agencies have been tasked with drawing up a plan for gender mainstreaming that will be implemented in 2014.

Selected agencies will showcase good practice and lessons learned about how gender mainstreaming in central government operations can be conducted in an effective and sustainable manner.

The Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research at the University of Gothenburg has been tasked in 2013

and 2014 with supporting the agencies concerned and spreading lessons learned to more agencies via the portal www.includegender.org.

Gender mainstreaming at regional level

At regional level special gender equality experts are employed by the county administrative boards. Their work involves strengthening the conditions to enable implementation of the national gender equality goals at regional level. The county administrative boards have been tasked with bringing forth a regional gender mainstreaming strategy for 2014 and 2015.

Gender mainstreaming at local level

Quality assuring the development of gender mainstreaming in municipalities and county councils is taking place in 2011–2013 within the framework of the Sustainable Gender Equality programme conducted by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions. An important

part of the Government's investment in Sustainable Gender Equality is that the experiences gained from the programme are spread and then serve as a knowledge base for the future development of gender mainstreaming in other municipalities, county councils and cooperative bodies. During 2014 the programme will continue by focusing on evaluation and spreading good practices.

Gather and spread knowledge and experience

The Includegender.org portal is an important tool for gathering and spreading experience and knowledge about practical implementation of gender mainstreaming. It offers methods, models and interactive tools to simplify and quality assure gender mainstreaming efforts. Includegender.org is a cooperative venture by the European Social Fund's Thematic Group on Equality, the Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research, the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions and VINNOVA, the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems.



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The Government's website: <http://www.sweden.gov.se/>

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