



Vilnius, 20-04-2017
EIGE/hm D/2017/ 236

Subject: Ex-ante publicity notice for middle-value procurement procedure (€60 000.01 – Directive threshold)

**Gender budgeting in the European Structural Funds (ESF and ERDF):
the change towards gender equality**

Reference number: **EIGE/2017/OPER/03**

Description of the contract:

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) envisages awarding a middle-value contract to carry out applied research to mainstream gender budgeting in the European Structural Funds. The research question is: What is the impact of the initiatives using gender budgeting and the practical consequences of using it? The research question is further refined as: Based in practices at Member State level, could a practical methodology for the introduction of gender budgeting within the Structural Funds be developed?

Description of the requested services:

Gender budgeting is an application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. Gender budgeting refers to the systematic examination of budget programmes and policies for their impact on women and men, girls and boys. It means a gender-based assessment of budgets, incorporating a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process and restructuring revenues and expenditures in order to promote gender equality.

Gender budgeting is an integral part of gender mainstreaming and is to be understood within the wider framework of the gender mainstreaming strategy and its widespread political commitment found both at international and EU level. There is not blueprint for successful gender budget work that fits for every context.

Previous research has showed that the improved gender equality commitments in the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 regulations have not been translated into an overarching method for implementing gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting as a central approach to support the implementation of gender mainstreaming in the ESI Funds and the experiences differ widely between MS.

The interest in effectively implementing gender mainstreaming and GB in the structural fund programming has increased, and Member States have started to create framework conditions for

the implementation of the GB approach. However, there are still very few practical examples of approaches to GB Strategies in the structural funds.

The already existing body of research covers many of the aspects related to gender budgeting, but it fails to provide a clearer picture of how this tool could be used across the EU, what models match best with the current budgetary architecture and what factors influence the success in terms of gender equality outcomes. Moreover, public authorities often struggle to receive tailored information to assist them in integrating gender aspects into the procedures guarding the raising and spending of public money. Gender mainstreaming tools tailored to the specific needs of different target groups and to specific policy areas remain underdeveloped. There is a need to identify, document, systematize and transfer the lessons learnt and know-how derived from the different gender budgeting initiatives at EU, national and local levels. Within the ESI Funds, a strategic and a step-by-step approach for GB tailored to the existing regulations and procedures also needs to be developed.

Facilitating participatory learning and decision-making processes is an enabling factor for the success of gender budgeting experiences. In order to open windows of opportunity for gender responsive budgeting within the ESF Funds at European, Member States, regional and local levels, it is important to organise gender budgeting work as a combination of all level ESI Funds actors, in order to facilitate achievement of good results and sustainability.

The overall aim of this contract is to contribute to more effective and sustainable implementation of gender budgeting as a tool for gender mainstreaming in the Structural Funds by:

- (1) Strengthen the evidence base and raise awareness of gender budgeting as an effective tool to support the translation of gender equality objectives into objectives and operational procedures in the Structural Funds.

The project will cover four main organisational layers that reflect the idiosyncrasies of the work on gender budgeting and the multilevel institutional and governance arrangements of the ESI Funds: European, national, regional and local levels.

Description of the procedure:

This ex-ante publicity is the first stage of the negotiated procurement procedure through which EIGE may award the above-mentioned contract.

All parties interested in providing the services described above should express their interest 400 words maximum, by e-mail, to **procurement@eige.europa.eu** with the subject reference: **EIGE/2017/OPER/03, before 05/05/2017, 12:00 Vilnius time.**

Tender documents will be sent by e-mail.

This publication constitutes no obligation for EIGE to launch the mentioned procurement procedure.

We look forward to receiving your declaration of interest.