

BUDGe for Gender Equality

A Swedish tool for gender budgeting



Since the early 2000s, Sweden's Government has worked with gender budgeting. Gender budgeting means that prioritisations, choices of direction and resources in the budget should promote gender equality as far as possible. BUDGe is a Swedish budgeting tool that comprises gender equality, surveying, analysis and conclusions.

The Council of Europe's definition of gender budgeting is:

Gender budgeting is an application of gender mainstreaming in the budgetary process. 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.

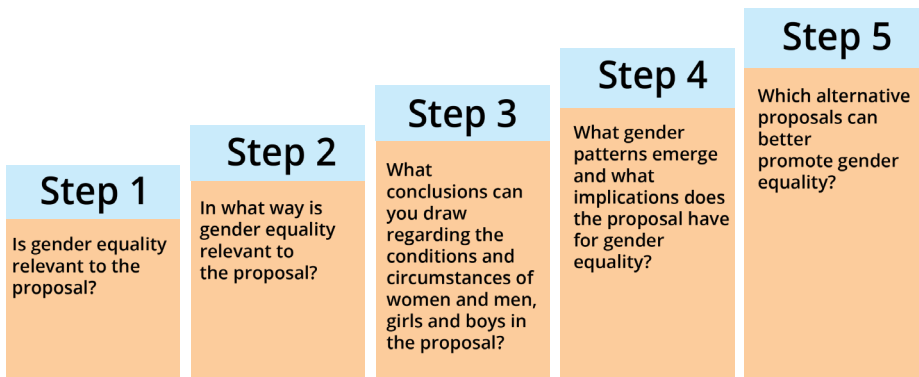
conduct gender analysis of different budget proposals. It applies a method that helps the user to:

- determine whether a gender perspective is relevant to the proposal to be submitted
- conduct a gender analysis
- account for the proposal's impact on gender equality

How BUDGe works

BUDGe is an analytical tool that can be used to introduce a gender perspective to the budget and to

The method consists of five steps. Each step is based on a question.



Step 1: Is gender equality relevant to the proposal?

Determine whether it is relevant to apply a gender perspective to the work on the proposal to be submitted. Does the proposal have a direct or indirect impact on individuals or groups of people? If so, a gender perspective is relevant.

To answer the question of whether gender equality is relevant, you can refer to supporting documentation and data, such as individual-based gender-disaggregated statistics, findings from reports, annual reports of public agencies and other knowledge bases.

If the answer is *yes*:

→ **Continue to step 2.**

If the answer is *no*:

→ **Conclude the stocktaking and write a brief commentary explaining why gender equality is not relevant to the proposal.**

Step 2: In what way is gender equality relevant to the proposal?

Take stock of how gender equality is relevant to the proposal and how the proposal contributes to gender equality.

Start with any gender equality goals in the area in question or set out by the Parliament/elected assembly or the Government.

If you **determine that the proposal has implications for gender equality** and/or is relevant to achieving gender equality goals in the area in question, you must document your conclusions:

→ **Continue to step 3.**

If the stocktaking above shows that **the proposal does not have implications** for relevant gender equality goals:

→ **Conclude the stocktaking and write a brief commentary explaining your conclusion that gender equality is not relevant to the proposal.**

Step 3: What conclusions can you draw regarding the conditions and circumstances of women and men, girls and boys in the proposal?

Highlight the conditions and circumstances of women and men, girls and boys by analysing the gender patterns that emerge in the stocktaking in step 2.



Draw conclusions and provide an account of the proposals' implications for gender equality. You can illustrate the conditions and circumstances of women and men, girls and boys as follows:

- Highlight gender in the text by writing which groups of people are concerned, i.e. women, men, girls and boys. Avoid using gender-neutral and gender-blind terms such as students, pensioners, young people, entrepreneurs, newly arrived immigrants and pupils.
- Present, comment on and/or analyse all individual-based statistics by gender throughout the process.
- Account for known circumstances and conditions for the groups of women and men, girls and boys concerned.
- Provide commentary and analysis of the gender patterns that emerge regarding the circumstances and conditions for women and men, girls and boys.

Refer back to and conduct a detailed analysis of relevant existing documentation, such as inquiry reports, annual reports of public agencies and other knowledge

bases. From a gender perspective, analyse and describe any facts about the conditions for women/men or girls/boys in the supporting data and documentation.

Step 4: What gender patterns emerge and what implications does the proposal have for gender equality?

For proposals submitted in the budgetary process, account for the consequences the proposal has for women and men, girls and boys. Also describe the proposal's consequences for the specific gender equality goals in the area in question.

When drafting the proposal and allocating resources, factor in known gender patterns so as to draft the proposal in a way that promotes gender equality. These steps can serve as a guide for your analysis:

- analyse and report on the breakdown of women and men or girls and boys in the groups of people impacted by the proposal;
- analyse and report on the consequences of the proposal for these different groups;



- and analyse how the proposal impacts on gender equality and any specific gender equality goals in the area in question.

If the proposal **does not promote gender equality** or runs the risk of counteracting gender equality:

→ **Continue to step 5.**

If the proposal promotes gender equality:

→ **Congratulations, your budget now includes a proposal that improves gender equality.**

Step 5: Which alternative proposals can better promote gender equality?

If the gender analysis of a proposal reveals that the proposal does not promote gender equality or runs the risk of counteracting gender equality, investigate alternative solutions to see whether the proposal can be designed so that it can contribute to improved gender equality. You can do this through the following steps:

- Go through the changes to the proposal or other solutions that would better promote gender equality.

Refer to the available knowledge bases in the area in question that may contain proposals for alternative solutions or design of the proposal.

If an amendment to the proposal is not possible, consider alternative solutions.

Document the analytical work you have carried out:

- The various alternative proposals you considered.
- Description of pros and cons of various solutions so as to clearly present the deliberations that led to the final draft of the proposal.

How do you develop national tools for gender-responsive budgeting?

BUDGe was developed within the framework of a Swedish government assignment with the aim of developing methods and models for gender mainstreaming. The tool was initially developed for gender mainstreaming of the Government Offices' core activities and has since been enhanced and adapted to suit public agencies, municipalities and other organisations. Many of these organisations now use BUDGe.

Photo frontpage: Folio



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