



Stockholm  
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# Gender budgeting in Sweden

Social policy from the perspective of gender inequalities

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## Timeline of policies and challenges in Sweden

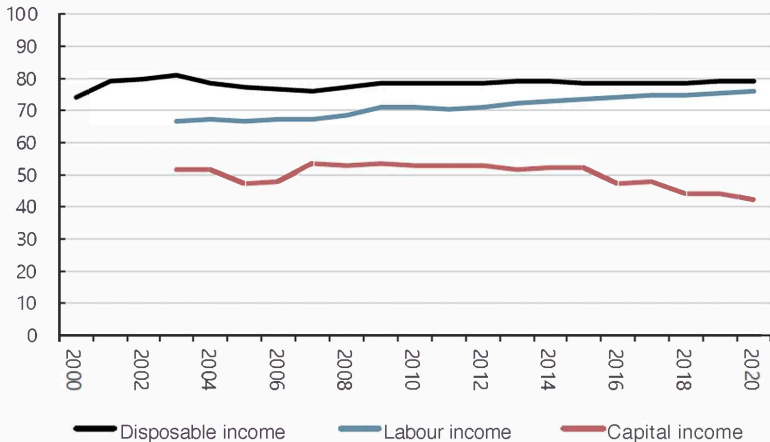
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# Timeline of important policies for gender equality

- 1971 Individual income taxation
- 1974 Paid parental leave
- 1970s Expansion of high-quality, low-cost public childcare
- 1980 Legislation against discrimination of women in the labour market
- 1984 Statistics Sweden started to publish *Men and women in Sweden*
- 1989 Report on the distribution of economic resources between women and men as part of the Government's Budget Bill
- 1995 First month of paid parental leave reserved to each parent
- ...
- 2018 Swedish Gender Equality Agency

# Despite all pro-active gender equality policy

Figure 1: Women share of men's income



# Gender budgeting

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# 1. All policies have a gendered impact

Since men and women differ in many economic outcomes (education, labour force participation, earnings, savings, care burden, life expectancy, ...) most policies have a gendered impact.

To guarantee policy efficiency, it is crucial to analyse the policy impact for men and women separately.

Two types of policies:

1. Policies with the explicit goal of increasing (economic) gender equality
2. All other policies

## 2. Steps in gender budgeting

### 1. Ex ante:

- Gender equality needs assessment
- Gender impact assessment of budget measures
- Gender dimension in performance setting
- Gender dimension in resource allocation

### 2. Concurrently:

- Gender perspective in performance setting
- Gender perspective in resource allocation
- Gender-related budget incidence analysis

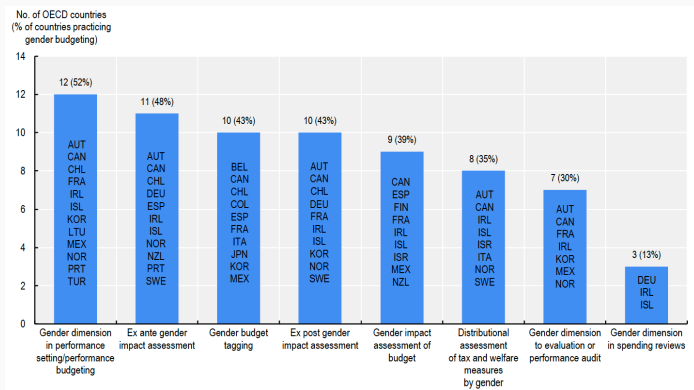
### 3. Ex post:

- Gender impact assessment of budget measures
- Distributional assessment of tax and welfare measures by gender
- Gender dimension in spending reviews

**Gender-related statistics are key in all these steps**

### 3. Challenges in implementation and evaluation

Figure 2: Methods and tools used in GB according to an OECD survey



OECD is a great source of Gender Budgeting tools:

<https://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/gender-budgeting/>



## Two examples

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# 1. A child care reform

In 2002 the cost of public childcare was reduced considerably: A cap on total childcare costs was introduced effectively lowering costs for families.

- **Intention of the reform:** unclear - it was an election promise.
- **Expected impact:** increase female labour force participation after.
- **Outcome:** No impact on FLFP, but fertility increased (in particular in families with two children)

Why?

- Somewhat restricted opening hours of childcare centers
- Social norms prescribe picking up children early from childcare
- Most children were full-time in childcare before the reform
- Costs of childcare might impede a family to have many children

**Unintended effects of policies are not unusual making ex-post evaluations essential.**

## 2. Best practice at the local level: Eskilstuna

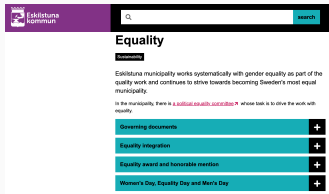
Local governments are responsible for childcare provision, provision of elderly care, local public transport, ...

To guarantee policy efficiency, it is important to analyse the policy impact for men and women separately.

Gender equality committee in local government:

1. Reviews ex ante and ex post policies and their impact
2. Monitors progress
3. Continuously formulate goals for gender equality

**Figure 3:** Local government in Eskilstuna



THANK YOU!

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