

Media Advisory

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47 member States

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Conference assesses how state budgets can contribute to equality between women and men

Dates: 5-6 May 2009

Location: Athens-Vouliagmeni (Greece)

Organised by: the Council of Europe and the Greek government

Description: Gender equality policy makers, representatives of Council of Europe member states, experts and NGOs will meet to discuss the way in which state budgets can contribute to equality between women and men.

Budgets are not neutral, as they can influence men and women differently. Especially in a time of financial crisis, such as the current one, it is more important than ever for budgets not to be discriminatory.

Gender budgeting implies that budgets must be assessed in terms of their influence on men and women separately, allowing to incorporate a gender perspective at all levels of the budgetary process, and restructuring revenues and expenditure when necessary. It allows governments to spend better even if they have to spend less.

At the conference the Council of Europe will present a handbook on the practical implementation of gender budgeting. Sheila Quinn, an independent expert, was commissioned by the Council to prepare the handbook, which aims to guide policy makers when introducing gender budgeting or considering reforms in this area.

Practical information

The conference, which will take place at the Divani Apollon Palace Hotel (10 Ag. Nikolaou & Iliou Str. 166 71 Athens-Vouliagmeni), is **open to the press**. The opening ceremony will start at 10.00 am with the presence of high officials of the Council of Europe and the Greek government.

[Council of Europe website dedicated to equality between women and men](#)

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