



6/13/2006

## Pre-announcement and pre-invitation

The Ministry of Finance in Finland will host an International Conference on:

### **The process towards Integrating a Gender Perspective in the Budgetary process (Gender Budgeting), - the Nordic Experience.**

**8-9<sup>th</sup> of November, 2006, in Helsinki, Finland.**

The Nordic Council of Ministers has run a project on the integration of a gender perspective in the budgetary process in the Nordic States. The project was a cooperation between Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland and Sweden, with representation from Ministries of Finance and the Governments' Gender Units.

The Nordic Council of Ministers in cooperation with the Finnish Government is organising a conference to present ongoing initiatives and experience gained in the Nordic countries. The conference will focus on experiences gained in the course of integrating a gender perspective in the budgetary process. It will include work in relation to steering of, and instructions to, the budget process, gender analysis methods, and lessons learnt from the implementation process. As well as present products such as the Swedish and Norwegian attachments to the Budget Bill, describing economic distribution between women and men.

The conference is supported by the Council of Europe and UNIFEM.  
The Conference will be conducted in English.

The conference will start in the afternoon of the 8<sup>th</sup> November with a panel discussion, followed by a Key speaker and a reception. The 9<sup>th</sup> will be focusing on presentations of Nordic experience and end with a panel discussion based on the presentations.

A formal invitation will be issued in August 2006.

Coordinate Minister for Finance

This conference is a follow-up to the Gender Budgeting conference in Brussels in 2001, organised by the Nordic Council of Ministers in cooperation with UNIFEM, IDRC and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

#### Background:

By signing the final document of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, the Nordic countries committed themselves to integrating a gender perspective in all political decisions (gender mainstreaming). This also includes the national budget that plays a key role in setting political priorities. A public budget with a consistent, visible and well-incorporated gender perspective has a vital role to play in ensuring development towards equitable societies in the Nordic countries. The objective of the project was to develop methods for integration of a gender perspective in the budget process, share experience through cooperation, and develop knowledge and competence through pilot projects.

The project is based on the European Council's definition of Gender Budgeting:

*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.*

Questions regarding the conference can be sent to Project Director Catharina Schmitz. e-mail: [catharina.schmitz@publicmanagement.se](mailto:catharina.schmitz@publicmanagement.se)