

Austria

Ex ante impact assessment on gender equality



TYPE OF TOOL
*Methodology/
Guidelines/
Requirements*



MAIN SECTORS
All sectors



THEME
Gender



INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS
Evidence-informed decision making

In a nutshell



OBJECTIVE: The ex ante impact assessment on gender equality in Austria aims to assess the likely impact on gender equality of proposed infrastructure projects.



Agency in charge
Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport



Levels of government
National



Year of implementation
2013



Current status
Fully operational

Overview

It is important to understand gender disaggregated impacts of infrastructure in order to incorporate these considerations into the overall investment programme as well as into the design of each specific infrastructure project. Complementing traditional project appraisal and prioritisation with methodologies that account for direct and indirect impacts of infrastructure investments on women and men can enable countries to undertake an evidence-based decision-making process. The assessment of gender impacts should not be restricted to the construction phase but should be conducted in all the stages of the infrastructure life cycle. Ex ante evaluations can be undertaken to assess the likely impact on gender equality of proposed infrastructure projects, such as gender impact assessments.

In Austria, investment projects or project portfolios at the federal level are required to undergo, within the process of state budgeting, a mandatory ex ante impact assessment on gender equality for projects that exceed EUR 1 million and meet pre-established criteria for the assessment. The analysis includes several components: the analysis of the problem that requires government intervention or investment; the formulation of goals in terms of impacts and outcomes; identification of indicators to measure results; ex ante impact assessment; and ex post evaluation of project effects and results. Gender impact assessments can allow governments to learn about invisible biases or assumptions about the possible impacts of projects on women and men, which can inadvertently influence the selection of a project over another without awareness of its negative impacts. The assessments aim to highlight the potential impacts in terms of relative distribution of resources, opportunities, constraints and power in a given context or project, fixed in the corresponding budget proposal.

REFERENCES:

- Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport, *Impact assessment*, <https://oeffentlicherdienst.gv.at/wirkungsorientierte-verwaltung/wirkungsorientierte-folgenabschaetzung/>