

# Iceland

## Gender mainstreaming in planning and prioritisation



**TYPE OF TOOL:**  
*Legal instrument*



**MAIN SECTOR:**  
*Transport*



**THEME:**  
*Gender*



**INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS:**  
*Long-term strategic vision;  
Evidence-informed decision-making*

### In a nutshell:



**OBJECTIVE:** Iceland's Parliamentary Resolution on the Transport Plan for 2020–2034 is aimed at improving the mainstreaming of gender considerations in transport planning and prioritisation.



**Agency in charge**  
**Ministry of Infrastructure**



**Levels of government**  
**National**



**Year of implementation:**  
**2019**



**Current status:**  
**Fully operational**

### Overview:

Infrastructure can have a major impact on women's access to resources and agency in determining their own well-being. It is thus closely tied to women's empowerment. By incorporating gender considerations into infrastructure strategic planning and prioritisation as well as involving more women in decision-making processes, governments can identify the gender impact of infrastructure decisions and prevent one group from disproportionately benefitting at the expense of another.

Iceland's Parliamentary Resolution on the Transport Plan for 2020–2034 provides a special focus on integrating gender considerations into the planning and prioritisation of transport projects. A key aim is to increasing the share of women using transport services through improved services and better access. Improving gender impacts of infrastructure requires a sound understanding of differentiated patterns of use and preferences between women and men, as well as of the measurable benefits and risks that infrastructure poses to women and girls. This calls for an evidence-based approach to measure the gender impacts of infrastructure projects. Iceland conducted a study on the gender impact of a new road tunnel in the north of the country (Héðinsfjarðargöng) in 2009–2012. The study, which was funded by the Road Directorate's development fund, was the first of its kind in Iceland and laid the foundation for further knowledge generation in the field. The study found important changes regarding the time spent on travelling both within and outside the community of Fjallabyggð after the opening of the Héðinsfjörður-tunnel. It showed that the travelling time of women increased when compared to that of men after the opening of the tunnel, also finding signs of a more gender equal division of labour in the community.

#### REFERENCES:

- Parliamentary Resolution on the Transport Plan for 2020–2034, <https://www.althingi.is/altext/150/s/1944.html>
- Hjalmsdóttir et al (2015), Staða kynjanna fyrir og eftir opnun Héðinsfjarðarganga: Samgöngur, viðhorf til vinnurmarkaðar og verkaskipting á heimilum, Íslenska Þjóðfélagið, 1. tbl., 53-75.