

## **III Conference on Economy and Gender Budgeting. Seville, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009, Seville (Andalusia, Spain)**

More than 1000 people from several public and private organisations met in Seville last 6 and 7 May at the III Conference on Economy and Gender Budgeting, organised by the Regional Department of Economy and Finance of the Government of Andalusia (southern region of Spain).

The main goal of the Conference was to continue the reflection developed in the previous editions (2005 and 2007) on the importance of strengthening, from the Public Administration, the commitment with equality between men and women, even more today in the current economic crisis. For this purpose, the budget is pointed as an essential instrument to integrate gender mainstreaming in public policies, in order to allow these policies to be evaluated and reoriented towards achieving equality. The origin of the Conference is in the gender budgeting experience initiated by the Regional Ministry back in 2004. This experience has become a reference at national and international level, including the Council of Europe's Handbook on Gender Budgeting published last April.



The Conference proposed several topics of special interest for gender mainstreaming, such as: the management of the territory, information technologies, the new modes of masculinity, the management of human resources and business talent, and the role of the media. The speakers of the four working sessions analysed the needs and interests of men and women, their different assigned roles, opportunities and expectations.

The audience followed the presentations about, for instance, the importance of balancing the interests of the citizens in urban and architectural planning, taking into account its different age and gender profiles. Then, in the area of information and communications technologies, a slot was dedicated to the gender digital gap and there was a debate on its influence on the role of women in the labour market. In connection with this, the speakers analysed how differently the economic crisis is having an effect on men and women, and to what extent gender inequality persists in labour market, mainly due to the tension between the personal and private life.

Likewise, one of the Conference sessions proposed a reflection about the role that mass media have in maintaining or removing gender stereotypes, as well as and in the visibilization of the balanced presence of women and men in all life spheres, including the economic relations context. Particular attention has been paid to the business leaders who presented their experiences and strategic visions about the gender incidence on the efficiency and competitiveness of companies.

Finally, the Conference became a platform for presenting gender budgeting initiatives from other administrations and organisations with long experience on equality and budget. Finland, Scotland and the United Nations Fund for the Development of Women (UNIFEM) set out the progress and challenges ahead in the path to make a more effective use of public resources to reduce social inequalities and gender inequities, as well as to achieve a greater economic development and social cohesion.

More information at:

III Conference on Economy and Gender Budgeting

<http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/economiayhacienda/servicios/genero/documentacion/conferencia3/conference.htm>

Gender Impact Evaluation Report of the 2009 Budget (ES only):

<http://www.junta-andalucia.es/economiayhacienda/servicios/genero/informe/informe2009/informe2009.htm>

In English, see: Gender Impact Evaluation Report of the 2008 Draft Budget

[http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/economiayhacienda/servicios/genero/informe/informe2008/informe\\_ingles.pdf](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/economiayhacienda/servicios/genero/informe/informe2008/informe_ingles.pdf)