

Minutes of the second meeting of the Equality Budgeting Expert Advisory Group

21st November, 2018

Present:

Ronnie Downes (Chair, DPER), Carol Baxter (DJE), Deirdre Ní Néill (DJE), Deirdre Shanley (DEASP), Helen Johnston (NESC), Helen Russell (ESRI), Kieran Culhane (CSO), Laurence Bond (IHREC), Seamus Taylor (NUI Maynooth), Scline Scott (DoF), John Kinnane (DPER), Caroline O'Loughlin (DPER), Struan Charters (DPER) and Mary Dunne (DPER).

1. Minutes of meeting held on 12th September

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed

2. Agreement of the Terms of Reference for the Equality Budgeting Expert Advisory Group

The revised Terms of Reference were agreed.

3. Update from DPER

DPER updated the Group on work for the Revised Estimates Volume 2019, to be published in December, including a new Equality Budgeting section. IHREC proposed that the equality impact of more mainstream programmes be considered in REV 2019, which was agreed by all members.

Equality Budgeting Circular: DPER positively disposed to introducing a Circular, this could coincide with the Data Sharing and Governance Bill currently progressing through the Oireachtas. It was also agreed that, in the broader context of developing an official Circular on equality budgeting, attention should be drawn to the statutory public sector duty.

General agreement around broadening the scope of equality budgeting beyond gender to include the dimension of disability. While it was not possible to identify new indicators for this year's REV, DPER is working with DJE to move forward on this issue.

4. Data

CSO spoke about the organisation's role and operations, as well as data issues including GDPR. Discussion of the CSO publication 'Women and Men in Ireland'. IHREC drew attention to the work of an EU High Level Group on Anti-Discrimination, providing guidelines on relevant data and mapping. A roundtable discussion hosted by the IHREC is planned next spring.

DJE noted that the tendency for 'clean' or minimal data has led to a loss of rich data that could support progress on sensitive areas such as hate crime. DJE are to commission relevant research and that they would be happy to coordinate with the activities of the EU High Level Group on Anti-Discrimination, also noting the work that DJE have done with ESRI around data mapping and governance.

5. Mapping of the National Strategy for Women and Girls with Equality Budgeting

DPER outlined the National Strategy for Women and Girls and the intended approach to develop and expand Equality Budgeting through “intersectionality” with priorities from other strategies such as the Migrant Integration Strategy 2017-2020, the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021 and the National Disability Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021.

DJE noted the 139 actions in the Strategy for Women and Girls. DJE also noted the requirements for a Gender Impact Assessment when introducing a new policy, as well as for any grant programme. 16 of the 139 actions were noted as being relevant to Equality Budgeting.

6. AOB

The recently published ESRI report on the gender impact of budgets 2008-18 was noted, as was a joint report from the ESRI and IHREC regarding disability, and a meeting regarding migrant integration.

- **Action: Members of the Group to send information about relevant publications and events to DPER for circulation in between meetings.**

The next meeting of this group will take place in late January 2019, date to be confirmed.