

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

5th April, 2019

Present

Ronnie Downes (Chair, DPER), Carol Baxter (DJE), Deirdre Ní Néill (DJE), Jennifer McCarthy Flynn (NWCI), Helen Johnston (NESC), Laurence Bond (IHREC), Seamus Taylor (NUI, Maynooth), Kieran Culhane (CSO), Scline Scott (D/Finance), Ciaran Lawler (DEASP), John Burke (DPER), Caroline O'Loughlin (DPER) and Mary Dunne (DPER).

1. Minutes of Meeting held on February 8th

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

2. Update from Expenditure Reform Section, DPER

2.1 *Equality Budgeting* webpage currently on the DPER website will transition to gov.ie on April 11th. In line with the Transparency Code, minutes, agendas, terms of reference and other relevant documentation will be made available through this portal. Documentation will be posted once it has been reviewed by all group members.

- **Action: DPER to circulate link to Equality budgeting webpage to members;**
- **Action: DPER to prepare documentation for posting online, in line with Transparency Code.**

2.2 DPER received an invitation from the Budgetary Oversight Committee to discuss the Public Service Performance Report 2018 on May 14th.

2.3 DPER and DJE have requested the OECD to carry out a Policy Scan of the Equality Budgeting programme in the near future. Once detailed documentation is supplied to the OECD, a date for this Scan will be confirmed.

- **Action: DPER to circulate documentation to be agreed by group members (re. Policy Scan).**

3. UNCSW Debrief

DPER, DJE and the NWCI debriefed the group on the UNCSW International event held in New York in March. DJE informed the group that the Committee of the Status of Women agreed an overall framework of advanced women's rights. Gender equality advocacy voices from civil society groups in both Ireland and Uganda gave their perspectives. Ireland held a side event on the theme of gender budgeting which was chaired by DJE, and included presentations from NWCI and DPER.

4. Public Service Performance Report 2018

DPER gave a progress report on this document, which is due for publication on May 8th, 2019. The Report will include an Equality Budgeting Update which will make reference to this group. There was acknowledgement that much work is needed to include appropriate metrics reflecting disability. DPER informed the group that members are welcome to suggest additional metrics for inclusion in the report. The group also discussed the wording of the *Equality Themes* included in the report. New wording was agreed for some of the themes.

- **Action: DPER to amend *Equality Themes* in the draft Public Service Performance Report 2018, as agreed by this group.**
- **Action: Members to email DPER within one week with any additional metrics for inclusion in Public Service Performance Report 2018.**

5. Update from the National Women’s Council of Ireland

The NWCI delivered a presentation entitled “Towards Gender Responsive Budgeting in Ireland’. In order to have effective gender budgeting, the NWCI feel a direct ministerial representative e.g. Minister of State, is desirable. It was noted that an implementation framework for effective gender budgeting requires data, expertise, consultation, and funding.

6. Equality Budgeting Circular – Draft Heads

It was agreed that a Circular issued from DPER would help to raise awareness and participation levels across government departments, concerning the Equality Budgeting programme. This Circular should reference the Public Sector Duty, National Strategies, and the Programme for Government commitment to Equality Budgeting, and include technical guidance. It was noted that the Circular should be sent to vote sections well before budgetary negotiations begin, allowing it to be embedded in the budgetary process.

- **Action: Agreed Circular on Equality Budgeting to be drafted by DPER and circulated to votes.**

7. AOB

The proposed date for the next meeting is Monday 17th June 2019 at 11.00.