

Approaches and tools for gender mainstreaming: findings of the gender screening of programmes on waste prevention and circular economy

Gotelind Alber
Sustainable Energy and Climate Policy

Overview

1. Introduction
2. Gender approach and its application
3. Overview on checklists
4. Questions and answers
5. Discussion, including written input using a padlet

Programmes screened for gender entries

National Waste Prevention Programme for the period 2020-2025 (NWPP)

Measures in priority areas:

- ▶ Industrial waste
- ▶ Hazardous waste
- ▶ Packaging waste
- ▶ Food Construction and Demolition Waste
- ▶ Waste of Electric and Electronic Equipment
- ▶ Household waste

Roadmap for Circular Economy in Serbia (RCE)

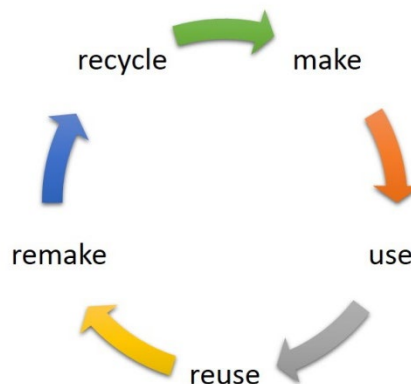
Recommendations for priority sectors:

- ▶ Manufacturing industry
- ▶ Agriculture and food
- ▶ Plastics and packaging
- ▶ Construction

What gender data do we have in the sector?

Waste

- ▶ Gender differences in attitudes and behaviour towards avoiding waste
- ▶ Amount of waste generated?
- ▶ Unpaid waste work at home -> women
paid work on waste -> men



Circular economy

- ▶ Consumption side -> women in charge of everyday consumption choices
- ▶ Gender differentiated consumption, e.g. clothes, electronics
- ▶ Women more interested in sustainable consumption and health issues
- ▶ Production side -> men overrepresented in most sectors, except production of cheap goods
- ▶ Women overrepresented in "non-productive" sectors such as care and services

Gender Screening of a Programme

Entry points for **gender balance / gender parity**, inclusion and participation of women and women's organisations, and **gender-sensitive communication**

- ▶ Are any bodies going to be created, such as cross-sectoral coordination bodies, specialised agencies, expert / advisory boards, or networking schemes?
- ▶ Are any events planned such as dissemination conferences or expert workshops?
- ▶ Does the programme involve any training or capacity building activities?
- ▶ Are any outreach activities such as information campaigns planned?
- ▶ Does the programme involve participatory approaches?

Gender Screening of a Programme (cont.)

Entry points on the contents

- ▶ Is gender (and social) equality included in the objectives of the programme?
- ▶ Are there any data to be collected? -> Gender-disaggregation
- ▶ Is there gender analysis or Gender Impact Assessment foreseen?
- ▶ Which sectors do the planned policies and measures seek to influence?
- ▶ Who are the target groups of planned policies and measures?
- ▶ Which fields of action are directly affecting persons and households?
- ▶ Are there any policies that explicitly address women or gender issues, and are other social dimensions mentioned?
- ▶ Are there gaps from a gender perspective?

Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)

GIA can be used for programmes, policies, measures and projects

Steps:

1. Is the policy **relevant in terms of gender**? Does the policy concern one or more target groups, and will it affect their daily life?
2. How does the **current situation** in the field of action look like? What data and findings are available on gender differences and their underlying causes?
3. **Who designed** the policy and **what are its intended impacts**, what does it seek to achieve?
4. **Which activities** does it involve, who are the **actors** and which social **groups** are affected?
5. What might be the unintended **impacts** on gender equality and gender relations? Are they positive or negative?
6. How could the **policy be improved** to avoid adverse impacts and maximise positive effects on gender?

Gender Impact Assessment (cont.)

Representation and participation in decision-making

This is about equal participation and consideration of gender expertise in decision-making in science, technology and politics.

- ▶ Who was/is involved in the policymaking process?
 - ▶ Who is involved, makes interventions, and is heard in consultations?
 - ▶ Who decides at household level?
-
- In research funding, include gender criteria and ensure gender-balanced evaluation
 - Provide special support for women-led SMEs (e.g. on eco-design)
 - Study decision-making on waste and consumption at household levels in Serbia

Gender Impact Assessment (cont.)

Resources and infrastructures

Needs for and access to resources and infrastructures such as food, housing, time, space, energy and transport services, water and waste management services, technologies, including provision and prioritisation of public infrastructures and for whom they are accessible and usable.

- ▶ Does the policy contribute to better access for all to energy and transport services, water etc.?
- ▶ Are there gender-specific consumption patterns that need to be considered?
- ▶ Are some infrastructures and services biased in terms of their orientation towards specific interests and social groups, rather than serving also underprivileged groups?
- Proper waste infrastructure is key -> work with local government on better waste management services incl. bins, recycling options

Gender Impact Assessment (cont.)

Care economy/care work

In most societies, the responsibility for family care and household work is attributed to women, yet without proper acknowledgement of its importance, as it is externalised from the market economy.

- ▶ Does the policy acknowledge care work and its value for society?
- ▶ Does it relieve women from household chores or does it rather increase efforts for family care and time constraints of women?
- ▶ Does it contribute to the redistribution of care work?
- ▶ Are responsibilities shifted to consumers, while neglecting the supply side?

Gender Impact Assessment (cont.)

Care economy/care work (cont.)

- Labelling is only the second best solution, as it makes consumer choice difficult and time-consuming
- Rather consider bans and other regulatory instruments, e.g. regarding plastic waste, excessive packaging, e.g. in drugstores, and in general for unsustainable products, wherever possible
- E.g. ban plastic bags in shops, commit them to offer reusable bags
- Develop policies addressing trade!

 The trend towards more packaged food in supermarkets should be stopped

 Stopping the trend towards larger packaging units would reduce food waste

- Consider redesigning “best before” labels in order to avoid households discarding food that is still
- In collaboration with local governments, work with women in focus groups, living labs, communities of practice etc. to explore barriers and develop feasible options for preventing waste, recycling and reuse

Gender Impact Assessment (cont.)

Market economy and income

Social values, norms and institutions that cause and maintain gender-specific inequalities in access to paid work and its remuneration, including pay gap, wealth gap and pension gap.

- ▶ Does the policy put an additional financial burden on people with lower income?
- ▶ Who benefits from public investments and subsidies?
- ▶ Does the policy lead to job creation, and if yes, for whom?
- ▶ Does it contribute to better access to formal jobs?
- ▶ Does it ensure equal access to, ownership and control over productive assets and financial resources, such as credit?

Gender Impact Assessment (cont.)

Market economy and income (cont.)

- Improve gender balance among waste workers and decision-makers, e.g. through gender criteria for local government finance
- Ensure employment also for women, e.g. in the repair sector (socially disadvantaged people are mentioned, but not women)
- As for fiscal instruments, e.g. waste disposal charges, ensure that they are affordable for low-income households
- As for support for enterprises, ensure a fair balance between large companies and SMEs

Gender Impact Assessment (cont.)

Body, intimacy, health, safety

Social organisation of health, freedom from violence, privacy, sexuality, and sexual self-determination.

- ▶ Does the policy take sex-specific vulnerabilities into account?
 - ▶ Does it ensure women's safety in public spaces?
 - ▶ Does it contribute to reducing harassment and gender-based violence?
 - ▶ Does it improve the health of underprivileged groups?
-
- Consider also action on waste from hygiene products and baby nappies
 - Public waste bins, e.g. for waste separation, must be accessible and in safe places
 - Waste equipment must be manageable for all genders

Gender Impact Assessment (cont.)

Androcentrism and gender order (cross-sectional dimension)

Social hierarchies and gender power relations at individual, structural and institutional levels. Gender norms and differences are constructed, constituted and reproduced, masculinity models are prevailing in problem perceptions, methods and approaches.

- ▶ Does the policy contribute to challenging male norms and privileges?
- ▶ Does it help to change institutional settings and approaches in order to integrate women's and paid and unpaid care workers' needs, preferences and approaches?
- Promotion of waste prevention should address men and women specifically, but avoid reinforcing stereotypes
- Even though women are more interested in sustainable consumption, measures should also address men, e.g. in the workplace

Checklists

- ▶ Participatory approaches
- ▶ Gender sensitive communication
- ▶ Questions for intersectional analysis
- ▶ Alternative methods

Thank you for your attention!