

EN

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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
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Gender inequality causes gender gaps in employment, pay and pensions, thereby reducing the overall productivity of the EU's economy. Gender budgeting allows to concretely address gender inequalities, thereby leading to broad societal benefits for European citizens. It also allows for a more efficient use of resources, which is particularly important in times of crisis.

The Financial Regulation¹ establishes that programmes and activities shall be implemented taking into account the principle of gender equality, in accordance with an appropriate gender mainstreaming methodology (Article 33). The Commission's proposal for the Performance Regulation² establishes that, for that purpose, activities of the budget shall be classified according to their contribution to gender equality, and that the Commission will provide specific guidance to do so (Article 7), as also committed in the Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030³. This is fully in line with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, notably Article 8⁴.

Implementing gender budgeting bears no costs other than the use of administrative resources needed to track its progress. These costs are vastly offset by the result of having addressed gender inequality, thereby the benefits of gender equality.

Implementing gender budgeting does not require a reallocation of resources from one sector to the other. It is about incorporating a gender perspective in the budgetary process, whereby gender equality strongly contributes to the EU's overall strategic goals, including social cohesion and competitiveness, multiplying the return on investments in critical sectors.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0545>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52026DC0113>.

⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2012/oj/eng.