



What is Gender Mainstreaming?

Gender Mainstreaming, a strategy to foster equality between women and men, aims to integrate a gender perspective in all decision processes of organisations, institutions and administrations and to utilize all decision processes to foster equality between women and men.

How to work for Gender Mainstreaming in Early Childhood Education?

The project, Gender Loops, describes Gender Mainstreaming in Early Childhood Education in four focus areas:

- **Enlarge gender** identities of children, educators, parents, students and teachers.¹
- **Improve the equal allocation of resources** (executive positions, money, time, attention) among children, educators, parents, students and teachers
- **Improve the gender competence** (gender knowledge) and gender sensibility among children, educators, parents, students and teachers
- **Increase the proportion of men** participating in the training for educators and as educators, respectively.

Working for a successful implementation of Gender Mainstreaming in Early Childhood Education Institutions and in the field of training and further qualification for educators implies that all participants take these focus areas into account. Relevant social, political and educational measures must be addressed.

Who are responsible for Gender Mainstreaming in Early Childhood Education Institutions?

Responsible for the implementation of Gender Mainstreaming in Early Childhood Education Institutions and in the field of training and further qualification for educators are in the first instance ministries of education, training and further qualification institutions for educators, state/public institutions of Early Childhood Education Institutions and the Early Childhood Education Institutions.

Responsible in the second instance are further/other policy makers and divers participants and institutions of the civil society like for example NGOs in the field of education.

Literature:

European Commission (Ed.): 100 words for equality. A glossary of terms of equality between women and men, 1998

¹Enlargement of gender identities means primarily the opening of scopes of action and scopes of personal development to girls and boys through the break down/the reduction of gender stereotypes. The enlargement of gender identities is also for the EU a basic condition to reach equality between women and men. The EU defines equality between women and men as follows „The concept meaning that all human beings are free to develop their personal abilities and make choices without the limitations set by strict gender roles; that the different behaviour, aspirations and needs of women and men are considered, valued and favoured equally.“ (100 words for equality. A glossary of terms of equality between women and men European Commission 1998) see: http://www.hearc.ch/export/sites/default/hearc/fr/hearc/Portrait/EgaliteChances/ARC_Egalitedeschances_gallery_glossaire/4-02-words-en.pdf