

Women4Advancement

The project “Equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making for women advancement”

Membership Support Regranting Scheme 2024 / RE-GRANTING AGREEMENT No. MASF2024-006

Gender Equality on the local level -experience from Austri

1. Main theme	Gender Equality on the local level
Related themes	Collection of data relevant for gender equality on the local level for each of the 2093 municipalities in Austria
2. Implementing country	Austria
3. Implementation level	Local level, but for each of Austria’s 2093 municipalities data available in the index
4. Main goal and objectives of the good practice	<p>Raising awareness for gender equality on the local level</p> <p>Collection of data in 21 relevant indicators, most of them on the local level, in 9 different dimensions. One dimension is the representation of women on the local level, consisting of the indicators women as mayors, women as vice mayors, women in local assemblies.</p> <p><u>Nine dimensions:</u></p> <p>Education Demography Employment Health Mobility Child care Representation Protection from Violence Income (in the first edition it was elderly Care)</p>
5. Target group/groups	Politicians, Political parties, civil servants on the local level, civil society, media
6. Name of lead organisation/body implementing the practice	<p>Austrian Association of Cities and Towns</p> <p>One of two central associations representing Austrian municipalities towards the national level and towards the regional level, i.e. in the negotiations on fiscal transfers (Finanzausgleich) between the different levels (national, regional, local)</p>
7. Partners, if relevant	<p>For the second Gender Equality Index – Austrian Chamber of Labour (Bundesarbeitskammer) joined as a project partner</p> <p>Technical University of Vienna (TU Wien)/Research unit urban and regional research (department Spatial planning) will design/calculate the mobility dimension</p> <p>Austrian Chamber of Labour - National think tank that is also in the Austrian constitution representing the interests of working people in Austria</p>

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	Technical University of Vienna – Research Unit Urban and Regional Research (Department Spatial Planning)
8. Period of implementation	<p>First Gender Equality Index – published March 2022</p> <p>Second Gender Equality Index – planned to be published in March 2025</p> <p>First results of the 2nd Edition were presented in March 2024 – concerning the representation of women in local assemblies and as female mayors and vice mayors</p>
9. Funding/Financial resources and other resources	<p>Austrian Association of Cities and Towns financed the first edition of the Index and AACT and Austrian Chamber of Labour finance the second edition together</p>
10. Description of good practice and its activities	
<p>Municipalities have a lot of competencies that are fundamental for the everyday life of women and men. The Gender Equality Index shall give an instrument to every municipality seeing how it is doing in terms of equality of women and men.</p> <p>The second editions results (which were presented to public in March 2024) on <u>representation</u> showed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that the level of female politicians on local level has risen to 11 percent. - So has the share of women in local councils – from 24 percent in 2021 edition to 26 percent in Dec. 2023 (the whole equality index will be published in March 2025). - It could also be shown that the number of women in local councils is higher the more inhabitants the municipality has – ranging from a share of 21 percent for municipalities under 500 inhabitants to a share of 38 percent for municipalities over 20.000 inhabitants. - The number of local councils without any women (yes that really exists) has decreased. In the first edition there were 40 local councils without one single women in there. In the second edition of the index this number has decreased to 21 local councils. - The first edition 2022 also showed that there are only about 20 municipalities (including 8 regional councils in Vienna) that have a share of more than 50 percent of women in their local councils of all 2092 municipalities and 23 regional councils. - In the second edition (data from Dec. 2023) showed that in the meanwhile there are 26 municipalities (five of these are Viennese district councils) where the number of women in the local/district council is more than 50 percent. 	
11. Impact/results of monitoring and evaluation of good practice	<p>Austrian Municipalities are according to the Gender Equality Index 2021 on the half way to Equality (which was presented in March 2022 to the public). The average score for all municipalities was 51 (100 meaning there is total equality between men and women). This index is the average score for all dimensions. In the dimension “Representation” the value</p>

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	<p>was 35. It was the lowest score in the whole index amongst all dimensions. Results like this show, how important this Index is.</p> <p>No Evaluation of the Impact of the GEI has been made so far. The second edition will be partially able to answer at least the question if progress has been made, but probably not if the GEI has had any influence on that.</p>
12. Lessons learned	<p>Getting data where the Bundesländer have competencies (i.e. child care) is very difficult and might take more time than assumed.</p> <p>Data privacy protection might be especially on the local level an issue.</p>
13. Success factors of the practice	<p>Trying to get as many municipalities and stakeholders to get to know the project and motivate them to see gender equality as a task for the local level.</p> <p>Reserve enough resources for the distribution of the project</p> <p>Having an advisory board for being able to asks experts on certain topics as there are so many different indicators</p> <p>Having resources left for any other problems coming up. And there will for sure.</p>
14. Ways in which the practice could be improved	<p>Bundesländer or the federal level should collect i.e. data on the representation of women and men in local politics systematically, so it should not be the scientific institute doing this partially by hand. This costs so much resources.</p> <p>Data on Child care should be much more easily available for projects like the GEI.</p>
15. Advice and recommendations for those, who wish to implement this good practice	<p>* Install an advisory board – at least for the first edition – how to deal with several questions coming up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear what can be done with the data – can they be published as raw data, can they be given to i.e. Universities/scientific institutes to go on with research, can they only be published “hidden” in the whole index - Plan enough resources for the distribution of the results and public relations work - Plan enough resources for reliability and plausibility control of the data - Plan enough resources for any other problems coming up
16. Source of good practice, contacts, references	<p>https://www.staedtebund.gv.at/themen/frauen/gleichstellungsindex-2021/ https://www.staedtebund.gv.at/themen/frauen/kommunalpolitik/ (first results of the second edition – the representation of women in politics on the local level)</p> <p>Mag.a Dr.in Astrid Ebner-Zarl as a project leader at FORESIGHT Institute Mag.a Christina Aigner, AACT Mag.a Eva Burger LLM, Austrian Chamber of Labour Dr. Robert Kalasek, SRF, TU Wien</p>