



Policy Brief 6

Gender Mainstreaming

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Gender Mainstreaming in Health

- Research, interventions, health system reforms, health education, health outreach, and health policies and programs should incorporate the gender perspective.
- Health status is influenced, not only by biology aspects or by health care, but also by socio-economic determinants of health.
- Gender mainstreaming should be integrated into all policies, even if they appear to be gender neutral.
 - Gender mainstreaming should be applied at all levels—national, regional, and local.
 - Gender equality must be taken into consideration during the planning as well as during the realisation and evaluation.

Steps for Policy Action

1) Strengthen gender mainstreaming at EU and national levels

- Most EU Member States have formally signed up to gender mainstreaming, but implementation has been slow
 - Explanations of the value of considering gender in policy is lacking
- Resources—including disaggregated data and gender indicators—need to be better developed
- Models of good gender mainstreaming practice from member states must be examined and more widely disseminated

Steps for Policy Action

2) Raise awareness inside and outside the government sector

- Tools exist that demonstrates how to implement gender at all institutional levels
- These tools should be made available to organisations at all levels
- Support should be made available to organisations to build capacity and expertise in the area of gender mainstreaming

Steps for Policy Action

3) Strengthen the political will to implement gender mainstreaming

- At the EU level, convince governments and NGOs of the need for gender mainstreaming
- At the organisational level, ensure that sufficient funding and resources in personnel training are devoted to gender mainstreaming acceptance and implementation
- Involve civil society in the process of raising awareness raising implementing gender in all policies and programmes



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