

STUDY VISIT GUIDE

THEME: GENDER MAINSTREAMING



Before the study visit

- Try to ensure that both partners have similar level of knowledge on Gender Mainstreaming by conducting ICLD core online course: [Gender Equality in Local Governance](#)

Discussion guide for your study visit

The role of local politicians and local governments can vary depending on the context. Visiting a local government in another country can contribute to new learnings and insights. This guide provides a set of questions to initiate discussion with a gender perspective between local politicians in Sweden and their counterparts in ICLD partner countries during study visits abroad. The intention is to enhance the understanding of different systems in terms of the role of the local governments and local politicians when it comes to how gender mainstreaming is carried out.

Political Decisions on Gender Equality

- Has your municipality endorsed the SDGs, including gender mainstreaming commitments?
- Are there long-term political decisions aimed at gender mainstreaming in your local government?
- How is gender mainstreaming defined and implemented in your local government?
- What strategies for gender mainstreaming exists in your local government?

Responsibility, Planning, and Evaluation

- Who holds the responsibility for gender equality in your local government? Is there a dedicated political role or department?
- How is gender equality work monitored and evaluated?
- Do you apply gender-based or human rights-based budgeting?

Women's Representation in Politics

- What is the percentage of women in elected positions? Are there quotas or reserved seats for women or other groups?
- Are persons elected into special seats participating on the same terms? Why/Why not?
- Has your local government set goals for balanced political participation or gender parity?

The Role of Local Politicians

- Does the role of politicians differ due to gender?
- How are the head of the executive (mayor or governor) and councillors elected? Are they part of political parties?
- Do women face additional challenges in leadership positions?

Opposition and Conflict

- How do you work with majority and opposition? Are their influences proportional to electoral results?
- Are there current political conflicts linked to gender?

Equity and Gender Roles

- Are women and minority groups equally represented in leadership roles or as employees in your local government?
- What gender norms exist within your organisation? How do they affect women's ability to participate on equal terms?
- How is your local government working to challenge gender norms that hinder women's participation? Internally within your organisation? Externally with your communities?

Privileges

- What privileges do local politicians have, and how do they differ between men and women?
- Is there corruption or favouritism in the local government, and does it differ by gender?

Community Participation

- How does your local government engage with citizens, particularly minorities and vulnerable groups?
- Does your local government use participatory budgeting, gender budgeting and/or gender segregated data?

Visiting ideas

- ✓ **Visit to a Gender Equality Office or Department:** A tour of the local government's dedicated gender equality office or department offers a behind-the-scenes look at how gender mainstreaming is coordinated. Participants can meet with key officials to discuss their methods for tracking progress and collaborating with other departments to promote gender equality across various sectors.
- ✓ **Field Visit to a Gender-Sensitive Public Service Initiative:** Participants will visit a public service project that has applied gender mainstreaming, such as in healthcare or education. This allows them to observe firsthand how gender considerations are embedded into service delivery and how these improvements impact the community.
- ✓ **Meet with Women in Leadership Roles:** A roundtable discussion with female local politicians and department heads will provide valuable perspectives on the experiences of women in leadership. This session highlights the challenges they face and the gender parity initiatives in place to support women in governance.