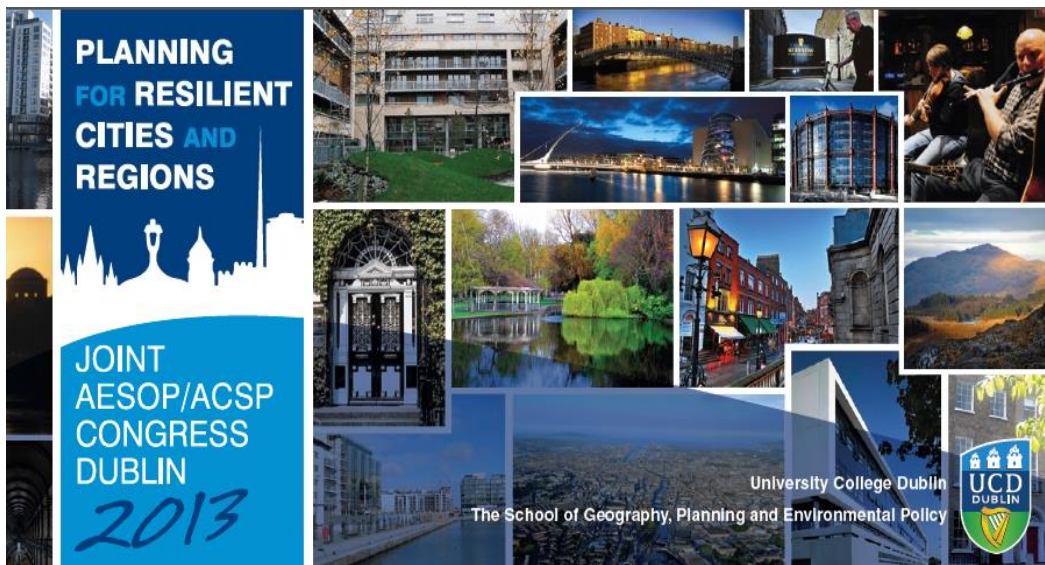




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eBOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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15 Years after: Gender Mainstreaming and Regional Development in Austria

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In 1999 the European Union (EU) declared gender mainstreaming as a main goal of their politics and implemented it in their funding politics following the Beijing declaration on women's rights by the UN Commission in 1995 (in 2010 the UN Commission reviewed the gender mainstreaming process). The gender mainstreaming strategy of the EU influenced the planning practice by co-funding spatial development projects. Did this really make a change?

The climax of gender mainstreaming in regional development was reached in the mid 2000 in Austria. Various projects focusing on gender mainstreaming and planning were realised. Examples can be found on the regional planning level by implementing a project manager for gender mainstreaming in the Lungau or the project "GEKO – gender sensible cooperation" in the EUREGIO Weinviertel-South Moravia-West Slovakia, but also in local planning activities where divers requirements were specially considered within the master plan for the city development project on the "Flugfeld Aspern". Basic research studies were published and the equality in regional development was discussed from the local up to the national level. After this peak of interest the topic disappeared more and more from the picture: The projects were finished and the studies were not updated. Are the guidelines and good practices still used?

Monitoring regional development shows that the gender perspective is still far off mainstream. The structures have not really changed, e.g. women are still a minority in decision-making. Most activities nowadays take place on the national level. The Gender Index on basic statistics (governance, education, economy, health, violence) is published every year, but not available on the regional level. Several guidelines on different aspects of gender mainstreaming and newsletters are published by the ministries every year (gender budgeting, gender in the administration, gender in projects and funding, etc.) and gender mainstreaming representatives/working groups are settled and committed. The provinces are far less active – it's the task of the women's departments to deal with gender mainstreaming. Was the equality already achieved?

This paper reviews approaches to gender mainstreaming in the context of regional planning and identifies barriers for the implementation. Some projects in Austria showed how gender mainstreaming and diversity management can work in practice. Proposals for the implementation on the regional level are introduced.

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