

Agreement on Gender Equality Roadmap to follow up a survey on working methods and workplace culture in Althingi

Steingrímur J. Sigfússon, Speaker of the Althing, and Ragna Árnadóttir, Secretary General, have signed a co-operation agreement with EMPOWER, the creators of the Gender Equality Roadmap, on the follow-up of a survey on working methods and workplace culture in the Althing.

The Institute of Social Sciences at the University of Iceland conducted a survey on behalf of the Althingi at the beginning of the year, with special emphasis on bullying, sexual and gender-based harassment. Subsequently, the Althingi's Gender Equality Committee was appointed to further elaborate and follow up on the results of the survey. The committee consisted of representatives of MPs and staff, Guðjón S. Brjánsson, 1st Vice President, Bryndís Haraldsdóttir, 6th Vice President, Ragna Árnadóttir Office Manager and Saga Steinþórsdóttir Human Resources Manager. It was the committee's decision to get external experts to join Althingi to work on reforms, and proposals and bids were sought from seven parties who had knowledge and experience of similar projects. The conclusion of the Gender Equality Committee was to seek agreements with the consulting company Empower on the project Gender Equality Indicator. The company is run by Þórey Vilhjálmisdóttir Proppé, who originally developed and led the project at Capacent, and Dögg Thomsen, with whom Steingrímur Sigurgeirsson and other consultants from Empower work.

The Gender Equality Roadmap emphasizes a holistic approach to the status of gender equality in institutions and companies, where practical methods are used to change culture, communication and working methods. The Gender Equality Indicator is therefore a policy-making and awareness-raising in gender equality issues that is intended to assess the status of gender equality issues on the basis of detailed analysis work, establish change projects and implement them. The project has been implemented by companies and public institutions.