

Public Management

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Budget Practices and Procedures

Purpose

The goal of this survey is to update the existing database on Budget Practices and Procedures to meet the mandate of the Public Governance Committee (PGC) and of the Working Party of Senior Budget Officials (SBO). The data collected will enable these groups to compare and contrast national practices and provide for well-informed analysis and quantitative measures. It will lead to a better understanding of budget practices and aid in the development of common practices or standards. The data collected will allow the OECD as well as other interested parties to carry out substantial analyses of budgeting issues.

Objectives and outputs

The database was extensively edited and refined in 2007, making it more concise and precise. It was sent to all OECD countries and eight non-member countries. The collected data were presented to the SBO, were made available on line, and will be reported in an OECD document.

The database provides comparable information on about 100 aspects of the budget formulation, approval, implementation and audit phases in each country. The database is a fundamental resource that forms the basis for the OECD's analytical work. The collection of these data is unique. Apart from some targeted and limited country surveys, for the most part these data do not exist. The budget database provides a unique and comprehensive resource for government practitioners, parliaments, academics, international organisations and non-government organisations, ranging from international associations to advocacy and grassroots groups. The data collected will enable these groups to compare and contrast national practices and provide for well-informed analysis and quantitative measures. It will lead to a better understanding of budget practices and aid in the development of common practices or standards. The data collected will allow the OECD as well as other interested parties to carry out substantial analyses of budgeting issues.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Israel, Other, Peru, Slovenia, Venezuela

Main Developments for 2008

General aspects:

The survey will be expanded to African and Asian countries.

Public Management

Comparison of Employment and Costs in the Public Domain

Purpose

To assemble statistical data regarding employment in the public sector and in the "public domain", by taking into account different kinds of organisations (also public enterprises or private organisations financed by public funds), comparing them with the costs of production of the General Government Sector, in order to elaborate the main indicators and to gain a comprehensive overview of the evolution of the public sector.

Objectives and outputs

To refine and to analyse further the results of a questionnaire launched at mid-2006, for all member countries.

Databases

Public Sector Employment, Pay and Salaries

Main Developments for 2008

General aspects:

In 2008 the results will be disseminated.

Public Management

E-Government

Purpose

To help strengthen statistical capacity in support to the e-government project areas of work and to the preparation of the e-government peer reviews.

Objectives and outputs

The objective of the activity is to support the statistical analysis in the area of e-government statistics, monitoring and evaluating e-government and the business case for e-government, in particular:

- Gather data supporting the OECD e-government peer review framework (challenges, leadership, implementation, collaboration frameworks, and outputs and outcomes).
- Support countries' evolving reform efforts in key areas: cost and benefit analysis, transformation.
- Provide front- and back-office indicators as part of the forthcoming "Management in Government: Comparative Country Data" publication.

Databases

OECD E-government Database

Main Developments for 2008

General aspects:

Update the questionnaire collecting information on levels of government. Measurement of user take-up of e-services and of ICT-enabled public sector transformation with special focus on process and outcome indicators.

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Management in Government

Purpose

To collect comparable data and indicators of good government and efficient public services, and to provide robust empirics with which to assess the impact of public management reforms and progress made in their implementation.

Objectives and outputs

The project plans a series of annual working papers, building towards the first publication of "Government at a Glance" in late 2009. This planned biennial publication will provide a set of key indicators of good government and efficient public services to help member countries to better assess, plan and measure their public sector reform agenda.

"Government at a Glance" will comprise measures of both the market and non-market activities of government and government-owned enterprises. This is known as the public sector and includes what the System of National Accounts recognises as general government and the government owned part of the (quasi-) corporate sector. However, and somewhat experimentally, it also pays attention to other activities which are undertaken outside of general government but which are wholly or partly funded by government (including a new classification of "private sector in the public domain"). The significance of this domain is its size and the government involvement through funding or regulation.

The project will encompass six categories of variables: revenues; inputs; public sector processes; outputs; outcomes; and antecedents or constraints that contextualise government efficiency and effectiveness. A steering group is being established drawing on technical experts and leading academics.

Main Developments for 2008

General aspects:

The priorities for 2008 are the development of key governance (machinery of government) output and output indicators, the creation of a core data set for "Government at a Glance" and an improved data presentation and analysis by the careful introduction of composite indicators and clustering of countries.