

Budget Surveys: The OECD's Contribution

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10 years of OECD budget surveys

- ▶ 1998 OECD Survey of Budgeting Developments: 40 questions on fiscal policy, legislature, IGFR, accounting, flexibility and capital budgeting – 27 countries
- ▶ 2000 OECD Survey of Budgeting Developments: 56 questions on legislature, accounting, flexibility and capital budgeting – 27 countries
- ▶ 2003 OECD/World Bank Survey on Budget Practices and Procedures: 373 questions on entire budget process – 44 countries (some partial)
- ▶ 2006 OECD/IDB Survey of Latin American Countries: pilot of new survey, 97 questions on entire budget process – 13 countries
- ▶ 2007 OECD Survey on Budget Practices and Procedures: 89 questions on entire budget process – 30 OECD + 8 other countries (so far)

Use of OECD survey data - examples

- ▶ Curristine 2005: 'Government Performance: Lessons and Challenges' (2003 survey)
- ▶ Alt & Lassen 2006: 'Fiscal Transparency, Political Parties, and Debt in OECD Countries' (1998 survey)
- ▶ Alt & Lassen 2006: 'Transparency, Political Polarization, and Political Budget Cycles in OECD Countries' (1998 survey)
- ▶ Filc & Scartascini 2004: 'Budget Institutions and Fiscal Outcomes' (2003 survey)
- ▶ Wehner 2006 'Assessing the Power of the Purse: An Index of Legislative Budget Institutions' (2003 survey)

Other budget surveys

- ▶ Von Hagen 1992: 'Budgeting Procedures and Fiscal Performance in the European Communities'
- ▶ Alesina et al 1996/1999: 'Budget Institutions and Fiscal Performance in Latin America'
- ▶ Hallerberg et al 2001: 'The Use and Effectiveness of Budgetary Rules and Norms in EU Member States'
- ▶ Yläoutinen 2004: 'Fiscal Frameworks in the Central and Eastern European Countries'
- ▶ EU 2005: 'Numerical Fiscal Rules in EU Member States'
- ▶ International Budget Project 2003 and 2006: 'Open Budget Index'

How OECD adds value

- ▶ Covers the entire budget cycle; other surveys have a more narrow focus (fiscal rules, budget transparency)
- ▶ Broadest coverage in terms of countries; other surveys are limited to selected geographical regions (EU, LAC, CEE)
- ▶ Can be adapted to different purposes; other surveys often tied to predefined analytical perspectives
- ▶ Of use to both practitioners and academics; other surveys often have a limited user group
- ▶ Potential to have data over time; many other surveys are one-offs

Challenges for the future

- ▶ Extending coverage of countries / regional surveys
- ▶ Simplifying questions / reduce number
- ▶ More stringent quality control – involving the SBO
- ▶ Not just results, more value added and analytical work
- ▶ Institutionalising the process, with more secure funding