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


► Wehner 2006 ‘Assessing the Power of the Purse: An Index of Legislative Budget Institutions’ (2003 survey)
Other budget surveys

► 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)

► Brodest 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