



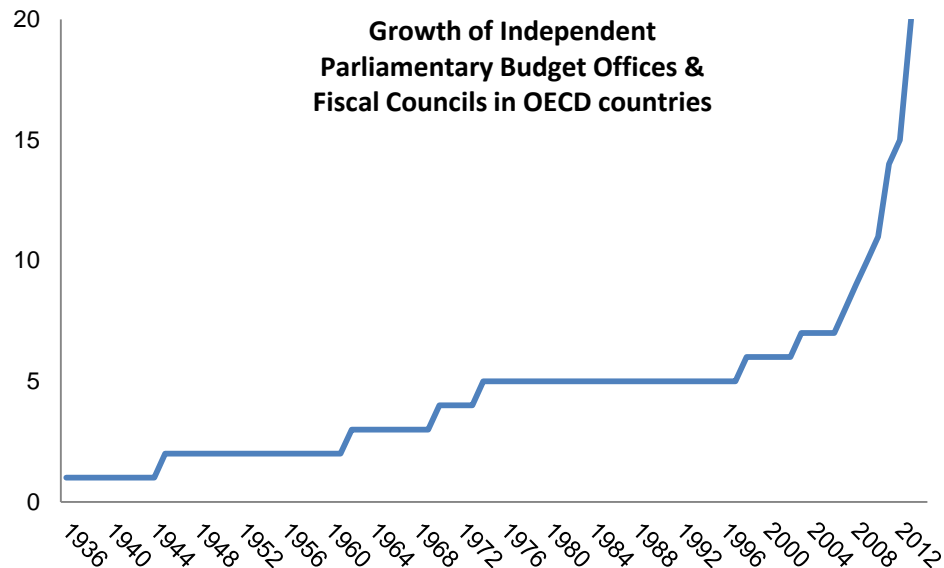
OECD SBO Network of Parliamentary Budget Officials & Independent Fiscal Institutions (PBO)

Who

The PBO is a diverse network of specialised professional staff from:

- Independent fiscal institutions (independent parliamentary budget offices and fiscal councils)
- in-house parliamentary budget research units
- parliamentary budget or finance committees

Academics and representatives from other international organisations (IMF, WB) also participate in PBO discussions.



Our Work

Overview

The PBO network focuses on improving scrutiny of the budget process and the evolving role of independent fiscal institutions (IFIs). The PBO:

- Debates substantive budgeting issues.
- Shares practical experiences on working methods.
- Profiles new institutions and significant changes in the mandates of older institutions.
- Identifies good practices and contributes to standard setting (e.g. the OECD Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions).

Principles

In February 2014, the OECD Council approved the [Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions](#). Geared towards independent parliamentary budget offices and fiscal councils, the Principles provide guidance on issues to consider when designing an IFI, codifying lessons learned and good practices.

The 22 Principles cover local ownership, independence and non-partisanship, mandate, resources, relationship with the legislature, access to information, transparency, communications; and external evaluation. A set of case studies of institutions within the OECD is being finalized.

Following on this work, the PBO network has launched a new workstream on to develop a first framework for evaluation of IFIs.

Recommendation of the Council on Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions

February 2014



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Meetings

The PBO network meets annually and is typically hosted by a member country parliament.

2009 - Italian Chamber of Deputies

2010 – Swiss Parliament

2011 – Swedish Parliament

2012 – OECD Headquarters

2013 – Canadian Parliamentary Budget Office

2014 – Israeli Knesset

2015 – Austrian Parliament

Agendas and documents for PBO meetings are available at: www.oecd.org/gov/budget/pbo



The PBO holds its 5th Annual Meeting in the Canadian Parliament, 2013

Research

PBO members help to inform key OECD work such as the [OECD Budget Practices and Procedures Database](#), OECD [Budget Reviews](#) and [Economic Surveys](#).

Analytical work on the role of IFIs and the legislature in the budget process appear regularly in the [OECD Journal on Budgeting](#), for example:

- Volume 2011/3 “[Independent Fiscal Institutions: Developing Good Practices](#)” (George Kopits)
- Volume 2009/1 “[The Changing Role of Parliament in the Budget Process](#)” (Barry Anderson)
- Volume 7:3 (2007) “[Role of the Legislature in the Budget Process: Recent Trends and Innovations](#)” (Paul Posner and Chung-Keun Park)
- Volume 4:3 – Special Issue (2004) “[The Legal Framework for Budget Systems: An International Comparison](#)” (Ian Lienert and Moo-Kyung Jung)
- Volume 1:3 (2002) “[Can National Legislatures Regain an Effective Voice in Budget Policy?](#)” (Allen Schick)



Other Resources for Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Officials

- The [OECD Global Parliamentary Network](#) organises two High-Level Parliamentary Seminars annually.
- The OECD has longstanding relationships with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly's Economics and Security Committee.
- Research processes frequently require OECD staff to consult with parliamentarians and parliamentary.

For more information contact Lisa von Trapp at lisa.vontrapp@oecd.org
or visit www.oecd.org/gov/budget/pbo