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.

For further information contact Lisa von Trapp at Lisa.vontrapp@oecd.org or visit [www.oecd.org/gov/budget/pbo](http://www.oecd.org/gov/budget/pbo)
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](http://www.oecd.org/gov/budget/pbo)

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)

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.

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