PUBLIC GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE
PUBLIC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Working Party of Senior Budget Officials

AGENDA

14th Annual Meeting of the OECD Regional Network of
Central, Eastern & South-Eastern European Senior Budget Officials (CESEE-SBO)

Zagreb, Croatia
24-25 May 2018

The meeting is hosted by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Croatia and chaired by Niels Kastelein, Director, Inspectorate for the Budget, Ministry of Finance, Netherlands.

For further information, please contact Lisa VON TRAPP
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14th Annual Meeting of the OECD Regional Network of CENTRAL, EASTERN & SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN SENIOR BUDGET OFFICIALS (CESEE-SBO)

AGENDA

Thursday, 24 May 2018

8:30 – 9:00  Registration and Collection of Badges

9:00 – 9:15  Welcome address by Dr. Zdravko Marić, Minister of Finance, Croatia

9:15 – 9:30  Family photo

9:30 – 9:45  Welcome Remarks by Chair and OECD Secretariat and Delegates’ Introductions

9:45 – 10:45  Budgeting in Croatia

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Croatia will present an overview of Croatia’s system of budgeting and public expenditure management, highlighting especially any recent or planned reforms or innovations. The floor will then be opened for general discussion.

Presenters:
- Ivana Jakir Bajo, Assistant Minister and Chief State Treasurer, and Hana Zoričić, Head of Department, Ministry of Finance, Croatia

10:45 – 11:15  Coffee break

11:15 – 12:30  Budgeting in Kazakhstan and peer review

This session will examine the OECD’s Budget Review of Kazakhstan. The review provides an action-oriented Roadmap of Budgetary Governance Reform for the medium term, with a view to advancing Kazakhstan towards best international practice across the various dimensions of budgetary governance. Following an introductory presentation by the OECD Secretariat and the Ministry of National Economy, Estonia will act as the “lead peer examiner” of the review. The floor will then be opened for general discussion.
Presenters:
- Vagiz Khismatulin, Director, Budget Policy Department, Ministry of National Economy, Kazakhstan
- Ronnie Downes, Deputy Head, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD

Lead peer reviewer
- Veikko Kapsta, Adviser, State Budget Department, Ministry of Finance, Estonia

12:30 – 14:00  Luncheon

14:00 – 15:15  Spending review
Following a brief overview of new data on spending review in OECD countries from the 2018 Performance Budgeting Survey, this session will look at country examples of targeted spending reviews. The floor will then be opened for general discussion.

Presenters:
- Lisa von Trapp, Senior Policy Analyst, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD
- Pedro Comín Rodríguez, Coordinator of the Spanish Spending Review, Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility (AIReF)
- Niels Kastelein, Director, Inspectorate for the Budget, Ministry of Finance, Netherlands

15:15 – 15:45  Coffee break

15:45 – 17:00  Medium term budgetary frameworks
Effective budgetary management requires medium-term planning, by which the horizon for fiscal policymaking is extended beyond the annual budget cycle. OECD (and EU) member countries typically have a MTBF in place but these frameworks often differ in terms of political commitment, planning horizon, coverage, level of detail, formulation of targets, exclusion of certain items, carryover arrangements and whether they are of a binding nature. This session will examine MTBFs and how they have been impacted by broad-ranging reforms to national fiscal frameworks in recent years.

Presenters:
- Flavio Padrini, Director, Parliamentary Budget Office, Italy
- Brian Finn, Senior Policy Adviser, Public Financial Management, SIGMA, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD
- Emil Nurgaliev, Senior Expert, Budget Methodology Division, Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance, Bulgaria
17:00 – 18:00  New initiatives – “Green budgeting”

Environmentally-responsive or green budgeting uses budgetary tools to promote environmentally sustainable policies. This includes assessing the coherence of resource allocation and policies in delivering Paris Agreement commitments and other green objectives. The Paris Collaborative on Green Budgeting, launched in December 2017, works with governments, institutions and experts to design practical and pragmatic approaches to green budgeting to maximise the impact on national and international policy design. Following a presentation by the OECD Secretariat on the Paris Collaborative on Green Budgeting, Delegates will be invited to discuss the green budgeting concept, including a prototype of a standardised Green Budget Statement.

Presenter:
- Ronnie Downes, Deputy Head, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD

19:00  Social programme event and dinner
Friday, 25 May 2018

9:00-10:15  Budget transparency – trends, tips and ideas for improving disclosure of budget information

Drawing on new data from the OECD Budget Practices and Procedures Survey and the International Budget Partnership (IBP) Open Budget Survey, this session will look at trends in budget transparency and common challenges in the region and more globally. Georgia will provide a case study illustrating advances around key documents that are not yet widely published in the region, in particular the Pre-Budget Statement, Mid-Year Review, and Citizens Budget. Following the case study, delegates will be asked to comment on successful practices in their own countries, and plans to produce, publish, and improve those documents.

Presenters:
- Ronnie Downes, Deputy Head, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD
- Elena Mondo, Senior Technical Advisor, Open Budget Initiative, International Budget Partnership
- Alastair Swarbrick, Senior Policy Adviser, Public Financial Management, SIGMA, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD
- Natia Gulua, Deputy Head, Budget Department, Ministry of Finance, Georgia

10:15-10:45  Coffee break

10:45-12:00  Public participation – taking stock of participatory initiatives and looking ahead

Drawing on new data from the OECD Budget Practices and Procedures Survey and the IBP Open Budget Survey, this session will look at how countries are attempting to increase public participation and its implications for budgeting. Following a country case study, delegates will be asked to comment on successful practices and upcoming plans to introduce public participation mechanisms in their own countries.

Presenters:
- Lisa von Trapp, Senior Policy Analyst, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD
- Elena Mondo, Senior Technical Advisor, Open Budget Initiative, International Budget Partnership
- Mihaela Bronić, Researcher, Institute of Public Finance, Croatia
- Lorena Rivero del Paso, General Director of Performance Monitoring and Information Analysis, Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Mexico

12:00-13:00  Luncheon
13:00-14:00 Parallel Sessions: Putting it into practice – developing strategies to enhance budget transparency and public participation

Delegates will separate into two groups. CSO experts will join each session to continue the morning’s discussions and develop a shared roadmap with concrete measures to improve disclosure of budget information and public participation. The results of these discussions will be used to inform a regional ministerial meeting planned alongside the Open Government Partnership Global Summit in Tbilisi in July 2018.

*Session A – Disclosure of budget information:* Drawing on the morning’s discussions and referring to the relevant Open Budget Survey indicators, delegates will debate and develop strategies to ensure that key budget documents are published, comprehensive and useful.

*Facilitator:* Elena Mondo, Senior Technical Advisor, Open Budget Initiative, International Budget Partnership

*Session B – Enhancing Public Participation in the Budget Process:* Drawing on the morning’s discussions and referring to the relevant Open Budget Survey indicators on this topic, delegates will debate and develop strategies to improve existing public participation mechanisms or introduce new ones.

*Facilitator:* Juan Pablo Guerrero, Network Director, Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT)

14:00 – 14:30 Reports back from parallel sessions

*Rapporteurs:*
- Kanat Asangulov, Head, Directorate of Budget Policy, Ministry of Finance, Kyrgyz Republic
- Anna Belenchuk, Head, Budget Analysis and Development Unit, Department of Budget Methodology and Public Sector Financial Reporting, Ministry of Finance, Russian Federation

14:30 – 15:00 Report on Relevant Activities and Future Work

The OECD Secretariat will provide a report on relevant activities since the last meeting of the CESEE SBO. It will also highlight the activities of the Working Party of the Senior Budget Officials and each of the SBO subsidiary bodies.

Delegates will then be asked to identify future work priorities for the OECD’s Programme of Work in the area of budgeting and public expenditures, and indicate their interest in particular studies.

15:00 Closing by Chairman and OECD Secretariat
MEETING INFORMATION

Accommodation
The Croatian Ministry of Finance has made arrangements with special rates at two hotels. Please contact the hotel directly to make your reservations using the registration forms provided. Rooms are limited and rates are subject to availability at the time of booking. Credit/debit card details will be required to confirm the booking.

1. Hotel Esplanade
   Mihanovicews 1, 1000 Zagreb
   Tel: +385 1 4566 666
   https://www.esplanade.hr
   Superior rooms: 175 EUR single occupancy; 190 EUR double occupancy
   Deluxe rooms: 200 EUR single occupancy; 215 EUR double occupancy
   Junior suite: 235 EUR single occupancy; 250 EUR double occupancy
   Deluxe suite: 295 EUR single occupancy; 310 EUR double occupancy

2. Hotel Dubrovnik
   Ljudevita Gaja 1, PP 246, 10000 Zagreb
   Tel: +385 1 4863-555
   https://hotel-dubrovnik.hr
   Deluxe rooms: 108 EUR single occupancy
   Code to be quoted when booking: mfin

3. Hotel Westin
   Krsnjavoga 1, 10000 Zagreb
   Tel: +385 1 4892-000
   http://www.westinzagreb.com/hr
   Single deluxe room: 130 EUR
   Double deluxe room: 150 EUR

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1 Last day for special prices booking 27 April
2 Last day for special prices booking 9 May
3 Last day for special prices booking 27 April
Entry Passes
Meeting badges can only be issued to registered delegates. For security reasons, delegates are requested to wear their badges visibly throughout the entire meeting and during related events. Each delegate should also carry personal identification at all times.

Interpretation
Interpretation into English, Russian and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian will be provided.

Meeting Location
The meeting will take place at Hotel Esplanade, Emerald ballroom.

Registration Form
All Delegates must complete the registration form and return it to Ms. Lyora Raab in the OECD Secretariat: lyora.raab@oecd.org

Social Programme

Wednesday, 23 May - Welcome Reception
All Delegates are invited to a Welcome Reception at Hotel Esplanade, Oleander terrace on the eve of the meeting, Wednesday, 23 May at 19:00.

Thursday, 24 May – Social programme and dinner
Following the conclusion of the first day of the meeting, all Delegates are invited to the social programme event and a dinner at 19:00. Dress code is business casual.

Friday, 25 May – Guided City Tour (optional)
Following the conclusion of the meeting Delegates are invited to an optional guided city tour of Zagreb. Please indicate if you will participate on your registration form.