Working Party of Senior Budget Officials

40th ANNUAL MEETING OF OECD SENIOR BUDGET OFFICIALS

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Tallinn, Estonia
Park Inn by Radisson Meriton
5-6 June 2019

The meeting is kindly hosted by the Estonian Ministry of Finance.
Meeting Chair: Martin Kelleners, Director, Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance, Germany

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40\textsuperscript{th} Annual Meeting of OECD Senior Budget Officials

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

\textbf{Tuesday, 4 June}

18:00-21:00  Welcome Reception and e-Showroom visit

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\textbf{Wednesday, 5 June}

8:30-9:00  Registration and Collection of badges

9:00-9:15  Opening by Chair
           Delegates’ Introductions

9:15-9:30  Opening Remarks by Martin Helme, Minister of Finance, Estonia

9:30-9:45  Opening Remarks by Jeffrey Schlagenhauf, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

9:45-10:30  SESSION 1 -- Budget Profile of Estonia: State Reform and Future Challenges

The Ministry of Finance will present an overview of Estonia’s system of state finance and related reforms. State reform in Estonia aims to achieve more effective and efficient implementation of public functions, higher quality of public services, reduction of general government expenditure and staff costs, and more flexible and less bureaucratic management of the government sector. The floor will then be opened for general discussion.

\textit{Presenter: Veiko Tali, Secretary General, Ministry of Finance, Estonia}

10:30-11:30  SESSION 2 -- OECD Principles on Budgetary Governance

The OECD Principles on Budgetary Governance, laid out in the 2015 OECD Recommendation of the Council, provide a synthesis of the experience and insights of the SBO. This session will present actions in support of the Principles in terms of the newly-published\textit{ Budgeting and Public Expenditures in OECD Countries 2019}, a draft progress report on how countries have implemented the Principles, and additional plans to monitor developments in budgeting through the Budget Processes and Procedures and related OECD surveys as well as through the development of “composite indicators”. The SBO will discuss also non-member country requests to adhere to the Principles. Delegates will be asked to think about priority issues on the horizon for the SBO for discussion in the final session on Future Work.

Unclassified
Presenters:
- Andrew Blazey, Deputy Head, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD
- Anne Keller, Policy Analyst, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD

Discussants:
- Martin Kelleners, Director, Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance, Germany
- Ronnie Downes, Assistant Secretary, Central Expenditure Policy, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Ireland

11:30-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-13:00 SESSION 3 – Budgets and Transparency of Information

Technological advances have made it easier to present and handle budget data so that the general public can better understand the content and consequences of budgets. In this session, the Secretariat will highlight some best practices on how data visualisation tools and platforms are making spending decisions, spending impacts and fiscal health more easy for the general public to understand and present proposals for the development of an OECD Budget Transparency Index. The floor will then be opened for general discussion.

Presenters:
- Scherie Nicol, Policy Analyst, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD

Discussant:
- Lorena Rivero, Technical Collaboration and Cooperation Manager, Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT)

13:00-14:30 Luncheon hosted by the Estonian Ministry of Finance

14:30-15:30 SESSION 4 – Budgets for Outcomes

The trend towards outcome-based budgeting requires a better understanding of the role of budgets to support strategic outcomes goals such as citizen well-being, gender equity, climate change mitigation, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The session will touch on the recently completed OECD Targeted Review of the Slovak Budget Framework. The objective of this review was to help the Slovak government improve on the governance tools and frameworks in place for setting a vision for national developmental priorities, with stable investment planning and resourcing for sustainable economic growth. It will then look at the case of New Zealand’s innovative new wellbeing budget.

Following specific interventions by Delegates, the floor will be opened for general discussion.
Presenters:

- **Stefan Kiss**, Director, Structural and Expenditure Policies Department, Ministry of Finance Slovak Republic
- **Struan Little**, Deputy Secretary, Budget and Public Services, The Treasury, New Zealand

**15:30-16:00 Coffee Break**

**16:00-17:30 SESSION 5 – Delivering on Citizen-Focused Budgets**

Following the previous two sessions on strengthening the citizen-focus of budgets and on budgeting for outcomes, this session will give Delegates the opportunity to discuss tactics for bringing budgets closer to citizen needs. Delegates are invited to join presentations and discussions in one of **three break-out sessions**:

- **Breakout Group A -- Performance budgeting and links to strategy**
  
  - **Chair**: Niels Kastelein, Director, Inspectorate for the Budget, Ministry of Finance, Netherlands
  - **Presenter**: Eneken Lipp, Project Manager of Performance Based Budgeting, State Budget Department, Ministry of Finance, Estonia

- **Breakout Group B -- Stakeholder management (how to market good budget ideas and reforms)**
  
  - **Chair**: Friederike Schwarzendorfer, Director, Budget Department, Ministry of Finance, Austria
  - **Presenter**: Benoit Laroche de Roussane, Deputy Director, Public Management, Budget Directorate, Ministry of Budget, Public Accounts, and Public Service, France

- **Breakout Group C -- Lifecycle services (budgeting for a citizen and/or process lifecycle)**
  
  - **Chair**: Åke Nordlander, Budget Director, Budget Department, Ministry of Finance, Sweden
  - **Presenter**: Struan Little, Deputy Secretary, Budget and Public Services, The Treasury, New Zealand

**18:00** Bus leaves from the Park Inn by Radisson Meriton

**19:00** Gala Dinner hosted by the Estonian Ministry of Finance
Thursday, 6 June

9:00-9:15  SESSION 5 – Delivering on Citizen-Focused Budgets (.../Cont’d)
Reports by Breakout Groups Chairs.

9:15-10:30  SESSION 6 – Digitalisation of Finance Activities: Challenges and Opportunities
Digitalisation is affecting budget allocation needs as well as the tools to make expenditure decisions. The Secretariat will open the session with an overview of the OECD horizontal Going Digital Initiative. This will be followed by country presentations on the impact of digitalisation on Finance processes and how data can be used for better budgetary decision-making and accountability.

Following specific interventions by Delegates, the floor will be opened for general discussion.

Presenters:
- Edwin Lau, Head, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, OECD
- Andrus Jõgi, Adviser, Local Governments Financial Management Department, Ministry of Finance, Estonia
- Rosemary Huxtable, Secretary, Department of Finance, Australia
- Thomas Larouche, Director, Budget Policy and Analysis, Fiscal Policy Division, Department of Finance, Canada

10:30-11:00  Coffee Break

11:00-12:30  SESSION 7 – Infrastructure and Public Private Partnerships
Getting infrastructure investment decisions right requires appropriate budgeting frameworks, staff competencies and enablers ranging from delivery and financing capacity to regulations and integrity. Following a Secretariat presentation on the Infrastructure Governance framework and the work of the Senior PPP and Infrastructure Officials Network, as well as a country example on building quality assurance for large public investments in Norway, Delegates will be invited to provide their suggestions on how the Infrastructure Governance framework can better integrate SBO work on capital budgeting and balance sheet management.

Presenters:
- Irène Hors, Deputy Director, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD
- Ana Maria Ruiz, Policy Analyst, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD
- Colin Forthun, Deputy Director General, Budget Department, Ministry of Finance, Norway

12:30-14:00  Luncheon hosted by the Estonian Ministry of Finance
14:00-15:00 SESSION 8 -- Budgeting in Greece – Peer Review

Ten years after an initial OECD Budget Review of Greece, the last decade’s reforms to the budgeting and public expenditures system will be reviewed during this session. The objective of Budget Reviews is to provide a comprehensive overview of the budgeting process in the respective country based on a report prepared by the OECD Secretariat, and to offer other countries an opportunity to comment on specific budgeting issues in the country under review.

Following the Secretariat’s introduction of the report, two countries will act as “lead examiners” of the review. The floor will then be opened for general discussion.

Presenters:

- Efthychia Gratsia, Directorate of Programming, Fiscal Data and Methodology, General Accounting Office and Nektaria Papatzanaki, Fiscal Analyst, General Accounting Office, Ministry of Finance, Greece
- Delphine Moretti, Senior Policy Analyst, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD

Peer review:

- Ronnie Downes, Assistant Secretary, Central Expenditure Policy, Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, Ireland
- Richard Hughes, Research Associate, Resolution Foundation, United Kingdom

15:00-16:15 SESSION 9 -- Managing Fiscal Risks: Disasters, Demographics, and Debt

This session will examine different types of fiscal risks, ranging from contingent liabilities linked to natural disasters, to demographic-related risks in health care and other benefit spending, to fiscal risks linked to global growth, in light of countries’ current fiscal circumstances.

Following specific interventions by Delegates, the floor will be opened for general discussion.

Presenters:

- Delphine Moretti, Senior Policy Analyst, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, Directorate for Public Governance, OECD
- Falilou Fall, Senior Economist, Economics Department, OECD
- Jason Harris, Deputy Division Chief, Public Financial Management Division, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF
- Kelly Kinneen, Assistant Director for Budget, Budget Review Division, Office of Management and Budget, United States
16:15-16:45 SESSION 10 – Report by the Secretariat and Future Work

The Secretariat will provide a report on activities since the last meeting of the Working Party, including the activities of each of the SBO subsidiary bodies.

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

Presenter:
- Edwin Lau, Head, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, OECD

16:45 Closing by Chair and Secretariat

- Martin Kelleners, Director, Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance, Germany
- Edwin Lau, Head, Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division, OECD
PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Venue - Meeting Location
The meeting will take place at Park Inn by Radisson Meriton. It is located Toompuiestee 27 / Paldiski mnt 4, Tallinn 10149, Eesti. https://www.parkinn.co.ee/hotel-meriton-tallinn/galerii

Accommodation
The Estonian Ministry of Finance has made arrangements for special rates at several hotels in the vicinity of the meeting venue. Please refer to attached list below. 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.

Airport Transportation
Tram line no. 4 stop is located on the city side of the passenger terminal of the airport. On Mondays through Saturdays, the first tram arrives at the airport at 5:25 AM and at 5:45 on Sundays. The last tram from the airport leaves at 0:45 AM, allowing also the passengers arriving on the late evening flights to reach the city centre with public transport.

The journey to the city centre takes approximately 15-17 minutes.

For a single trip you can buy the ticket from the driver (2€) or buy a QR-ticket on the Internet (1€). In addition, there are hourly tickets and day tickets, for which you need the Tallinn Ühiskaart Transport Card. You can buy the transport card and load money to it at the R-kiosk in the open area of the airport.

The official taxi partners of Tallinn Airport are Tulika Takso, Tallink Takso, Airport Taxi and Tulika Premium, whose cars will be waiting for passengers right in front of the terminal doors.

You can also call a taxi of another company; however, you should consider that the taxis of other companies can stop only in the “Kiss&Fly” parking area in the parking house and in A4 car park that is close to the public transport centre.

Important! Taxi rates are not limited by law in Estonia. Before you start your ride, make sure that the rate is acceptable to you and, if possible, ask the driver for the estimated fare. In order to avoid any unpleasant experiences with taxis, the airport recommends that you only use our partner taxis waiting at the official taxi park of the airport.

Registration Form
All Delegates need to complete the attached registration form and return it to the Secretariat (helene.leconte-lucas@oecd.org). Entry passes can only be issued to registered Delegates and a passport or national identity card needs to be presented in order to receive an entry pass.

Entry Formalities
Delegates are advised to confirm any necessary visa requirements for entry in Estonia.

Documentation
Background documents will be available for all substantive sessions of the meeting. The documents will be distributed electronically to all registered Delegates prior to the meeting.
Social Programme
On Tuesday 4 June from 18:00 to 20:00, the Estonian Ministry of Finance invites all Delegates and spouses at an Informal welcoming evening at the E-showroom located at: Ernst Õpik Building, Valukoja 8, 11415 Tallinn -- https://e-estonia.com/showroom/

On Wednesday 5 June, at the conclusion of the first day of the meeting, the Estonian Ministry of Finance invites all Delegates and spouses to a Gala Dinner at Kadrioru Castle: https://kadriorumuuseum.ekm.ee/en/about-the-museum/palace-and-its-story/