



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM  
Federal Public Service  
Foreign Affairs,  
Foreign Trade and  
Development Cooperation



**Workshop on Evaluating Budget Support:**  
**Results of Pilot Cases, Familiarisation with the Methodological Approach and Future**  
**Improvements**  
**Brussels – 21/22 March 2012**

Many bilateral and multilateral donors provide some of their development aid through partner government budgets. There is a very high interest to finding out whether this form of assistance – generally known as budget support – is an effective way to contribute to achieve sound development policies, poverty reduction and economic growth.

To address this need, members of the OECD DAC Network on Development Evaluation developed a methodological approach to evaluate the results of budget support and tested it in three countries (i.e. Tunisia, Mali and Zambia).

The results of these studies have been disseminated and the methodology revised. Members of the network have now begun to roll-out further evaluations in countries receiving budget support.

**Key lessons learned on Budget Support from the three countries evaluations can be summarized as follows:**

- Budget support is an effective tool in countries where the government has the capacity and the determination to put in place robust development policies.
- It benefits from complementarity with other forms of aid, especially for capacity-building.
- It is more beneficial with higher degrees of donor harmonisation and alignment.
- It cannot determine major policy changes but can provide sound support to policy implementation that is not possible with projects only.
- Its effect is strengthened and multiplied when it is linked to wider political and economic partnerships.
- Budget support can increase transparency and accountability of budget processes and public expenditure management and may therefore be used to support anti-corruption policies.
- The choice between general and sector budget support and other aid modalities should be flexible and context-based.

**We would thus like to invite you to the first International Workshop on Evaluating Budget Support, to be hosted by the Belgian government. The workshop will take place on 21/22 March 2012 in Brussels at the Palais d'Egmont, Place du Petit Sablon 8, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium.**  
(<http://euchina.summitsfeb.be/images/uploaded/Egmont%20Palace%20Road%20Description.pdf>)

The **objective** of the Workshop is to allow participants to form a good understanding of the results of budget support programmes, familiarise themselves with the methodological approach and the requirements to obtain evaluations of high quality.

The attached **Agenda** is composed of three major components:

1. During the first half day the major overriding and politically important results from the three pilot evaluations shall be addressed on the basis of a presentation of the methodological approach and the findings of the evaluations. A panel composed of representatives from the evaluated countries, donor community, non-state actors and one of the evaluators will discuss the major issues with further comments and questions from the plenum.

2. During the second half-day the participants of the workshop will be able to develop a better understanding of the 3 Step methodological approach to budget support evaluation. Within working groups and the subsequent plenary, participants will discuss and learn about the possible link between the provision of budget support, technical assistance and policy dialogue and the results at a policy, output, outcome and impact level. This will make the approach more tangible for the participants.

3. During the final half-day evaluators will outline the practical lessons learnt from the three evaluations, and participants will explore how to carry out future evaluations more effectively and efficiently. A panel composed of representatives from governments of countries for which evaluations are planned, participating donors and possibly representatives from oversight bodies and non-state actors will provide ideas how to contribute to the process of programming, designing and implementation of budget support programmes so that the evaluations will be more easily manageable and be of a high standard of quality. Comments and questions from the plenum will enrich the discussion.

We would very much appreciate it if you could inform us at the latest by **24th February**, whether or not you will be able to participate in the Workshop. Please send your answer to [karel.cools@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:karel.cools@diplobel.fed.be) copied to [juergen.lovasz@ec.europa.eu](mailto:juergen.lovasz@ec.europa.eu) and [ioan-adrian.costandache@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ioan-adrian.costandache@ec.europa.eu). Thank you very much for your attention, and we are looking forward to hopefully see you at the Workshop.

For the OECD/ DAC  
Nick York, Chair of the OECD DAC Evaluation  
Network



