

Open Budget Survey 2021

Questionnaire

Slovakia

May 2022

Country Questionnaire: Slovakia

PBS-1. What is the fiscal year of the PBS evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2021

Source:
<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/strategicke-materialy/program-stability/program-stability.html>

Comment:
This is the 2020-2023 stability program.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-2. When is the PBS made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for a PBS to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration. If the PBS is not released to the public at least one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the PBS.

Answer:
a. At least four months in advance of the budget year, and at least one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is introduced in the legislature

Source:
Link to a list of all previous PBS documents:
<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/strategicke-materialy/program-stability/program-stability.html>

Link to actual document for 2020:
https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/12/ProgramstabilitySlovenskanaroky2020-2023_final.pdf

Comment:
The PBS for 2020-23 was published in May 2020. The month of publishing is included right under the title in actual document or in brackets as part of title in the list of previous documents: "Program stability Slovenska na roky 2020-2023 (máj 2020) ", which can be translated as "Stability Programme for Slovakia for years 2020-2023 (May 2020)".

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-3a. If the PBS is published, what is the date of publication of the PBS?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
18/5/2020

Source:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/24865/1>

Comment:
The Government approved the PBS for 2020-23 on May 18, 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Date and also link is ok (for all the documents), but the main document (for download) is this: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=6BDDCC4E97454A9398E6136187759AFF-CA48BDF3DC0A2051F01CBECC861F31B4> And approved version also can be downloaded from MF SR: https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/12/ProgramstabilitySlovenskanaroky2020-2023_final.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the PBS.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
The date is written:
- on a Government webpage from meeting on May 18, 2020
- in the Government decision approving the PBS for 2020-23
- in the version of PBS approved by the Government (page 3, Summary)

Source:
Government webpage from meeting:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/24865/1>

Government decision:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Resolution/18437/1>

PBS approved by the Government (actual document): https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/12/ProgramstabilitySlovenskanaroky2020-2023_final.pdf

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: On Page 3 (PBS approved by the Government) there is none such date (only that it is based upon macroeconomic prognosis from 8th of April and 16th of April 2020), but the date is set right (first two sources/Government Decision from 18th of May 2020) based on these sources: Government webpage from meeting: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/24865/1> Government decision: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Resolution/18437/1>

Comments: Also it is worth to mention that European rules sets this duty for member countries to create Stability and Convergence plans... but Slovak republic has its own legislature/budgetary rules and budgetary process including the deadlines as well (it is Slovak law number 523/2004 with updates later/latest in February 2017), which is in fact/in reality above this regulation of EC. Link to the law 523/2004:

<https://www.finance.gov.sk/sk/financie/verejne-financie/regulacny-komplex-pravnych-noriem-metodickych-postupov-z-oblasti-rozpocetoveho-procesu/zakon-rozpocetovych-pravidlach-verejnej-spravy/zakon-c-523/2004-z-z-rozpocetovych-pravidlach-verejnej-spravy-zmene-doplneni-niektorych-zako/> Direct download of the law (pdf): https://www.finance.gov.sk/files/archiv/priloha-stranky/4603/23/Zakon_523_2004_k_6_2_2017_uplne_znenie.pdf

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

The version of PBS approved by the Government (page 3, Summary) includes following sentence: "18. mája 2020 bol Program stability na roky 2020-2023 schválený vládou a prerokovaný bude aj poslancami Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky." English translation: "The Stability Programme for 2020-2023 was approved by the Government on May 18, 2020 and it will also be discussed by members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic." Source: https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/12/ProgramstabilitySlovenskanaroky2020-2023_final.pdf

PBS-4. If the PBS is published, what is the URL or weblink of the PBS?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/strategicke-materialy/program-stability/program-stability.html>

Source:

Link to a list of all previous PBS documents (including attachments):

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/strategicke-materialy/program-stability/program-stability.html>

Link to actual main document for 2020:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/12/ProgramstabilitySlovenskanaroky2020-2023_final.pdf

Comment:

The stability and convergence programs are a requirement of the Stability and Growth Pact and are presented annually to the European Commission and the EU Council. Their goal is to present the development of the fiscal position, the anticipated development of the economy, and a description of the budgetary policy measures to achieve the goals set in the medium term.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I agree (also the links are right/ok), but also it is worth to mention that the European rules sets only duty for member countries to create Stability and Convergence plans... but Slovak republic has its own legislature/budgetary rules and budgetary process including the deadlines as well (it is Slovak law number 523/2004 with updates later/latest in February 2017), which is in fact/in reality above this regulation of EC. Link to the law 523/2004: <https://www.finance.gov.sk/sk/financie/verejne-financie/regulacny-komplex-pravnych-noriem-metodickych-postupov-z-oblasti-rozpocetoveho-procesu/zakon-rozpocetovych-pravidlach-verejnej-spravy/zakon-c-523/2004-z-z-rozpocetovych-pravidlach-verejnej-spravy-zmene-doplneni-niektorych-zako/> Direct download of the law (pdf): https://www.finance.gov.sk/files/archiv/priloha-stranky/4603/23/Zakon_523_2004_k_6_2_2017_uplne_znenie.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-5. If the PBS is published, are the numerical data contained in the PBS available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) or HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the PBS is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

All data:
https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/63/PS_2020_Tabulky_Komplet.xlsx

Mandatory tables:
https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/60/Povinne_tabulky_PS_2020.xlsx

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-6a. If the PBS is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the PBS is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question PBS-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question PBS-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:
e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree (it is available) but source should be added: <https://www.finance.gov.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/strategicke-materialy/navrh-rozpovetoveho-planu/navrh-rozpovetoveho-planu.html> Latest available: https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/2/DBP_2021_master_FINAL_corrigenum.pdf +Stability programs: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/strategicke-materialy/program-stability/program-stability.html> Link to the main PBS document for 2020: https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/12/ProgramstabilitySlovenskanaroky2020-2023_final.pdf

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

PBS-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question PBS-6a, please specify how you determined whether the PBS was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a","b," or "e" was selected in question PBS-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

PBS-7. If the PBS is produced, please write the full title of the PBS.

For example, a title for the Pre-Budget Statement could be "Proposed 2021 State Budget" or "Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Plan and Budget for 2020/21."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Program stability Slovenska na roky 2020-2023

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/12/ProgramstabilitySlovenskanaroky2020-2023_final.pdf

Comment:

English title: Slovakia's Stability Program for the Years 2020-2023

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree but also I would mention & add additional sources too, which are connected to Slovakia's Stability Program for the Years 2020-2023: National Reform Programme 2020: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/strategicke-materialy/narodny-program-reformiem/narodny-program-reformiem.html> Both as result of Six-Pack & Two-Pack European budgetary coordination rules: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO_13_196 After that (as next step) also Proposed Budgetary Plans: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/strategicke-materialy/navrh-rozpocitoveho-planu/navrh-rozpocitoveho-planu.html> Latest available: https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/2/DBP_2021_master_FINAL_corrigendum.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

PBS-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the PBS?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

There is no such document.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree, still no Citizen Budget is currently produced. But we should also mention that in past there has been some "tries" to produce it and partially on of the other budget website of MFSR/rozpocet.sk (<http://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehlad>) has the function of Citizen Budget... but it is not in printed form, so doesn't meet the criteria for Citizen Budget according the methodology.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EBP evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2021

Source:

Link to actual EBP approved by the National Parliament (including attachments):

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Link to actual EBP approved by the Government (including attachments):

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25377/1>

Link to a list of all previous EBPs:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/verejne-financie/rozpocet-verejnej-spravy/>

Link to actual main document:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/18/Hlavnakniha.pdf>

Comment:

The fiscal year is written in the title of the EBP:

In Slovak: Návrh rozpočtu verejnej správy na roky 2021 až 2023

In English: Draft General Government Budget for 2021 to 2023

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-1b. When is the EBP submitted to the legislature for consideration?

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

13/10/2020

Source:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25377/1>

Comment:

The date of publishing is the same as the date of submission to the legislature, i.e. to the Government. The date is written in the bottom of the Government website displaying the document and its approval status by the Government.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. Submitted by MF SR for Government to consideration on 13th of October 2020 and on 14th of October 2020 Government accepted the Draft version. On 15th of October 2020 delivered to NR SR for final consideration. +in Parliament/NRSR Enacted Budget on 18th of December 2020.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-2. When is the EBP made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an EBP to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public while the legislature is still considering it and before the legislature approves (enacts) it. If the EBP is not released to the public before the legislature approves it, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EBP.

The OBS definition of an Executive's Budget Proposal is a document(s) that (i) the executive submits to the legislature as a formal part of the budget approval process and (ii) the legislature either approves or on which it approves proposed amendments.

The OBS will treat the Executive's Budget Proposal as "Not Produced," in the following cases:

- *The executive does not submit the draft budget to the legislature; or*
- *The legislature receives the draft budget but does not approve it or does not approve recommendations on the draft budget;*
- *The legislature rejects the draft budget submitted by the executive, but the executive implements it without legislative approval; or*
- *There is no legislature, or the legislature has been dissolved.*

Answer:

b. At least two months, but less than three months, in advance of the budget year, and in advance of the budget being approved by the legislature

Source:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25377/1>

Comment:

The date of publishing is the same as the date of submission to the legislature, i.e. to the Government - October 13, 2020. This date is written in the bottom of the Government website displaying the document and its approval status by the Government. The date of Government approval is October 14, 2020 - see on the top of the same webpage.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. Submitted by MF SR for Government to consideration on 13th of October 2020 and on 14th of October 2020 Government accepted/approved the Draft version. On 15th of October 2020 delivered to NR SR for final consideration. +in Parliament/NRSR Enacted Budget on 18th of December 2020.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-3a. If the EBP is published, what is the date of publication of the EBP?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not

published or not produced, leave this question blank.

In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their date of publication.

Answer:
13/10/2020

Source:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25377/1>

Comment:
The date of publishing is the same as the date of submission to the Government - October 13, 2020. This date is written in the bottom of the Government website displaying the document and its approval status by the Government.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EBP-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EBP.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:
The date of publishing is written in the bottom of the Government website displaying the document and its approval status by the Government.

Source:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25377/1>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Agree. Submitted by MF SR for Government to consideration on 13th of October 2020 (also time information/time of publication is there: 14:10/2:10 pm) and on 14th of October 2020 Government accepted the Draft version. On 15th of October 2020 delivered to NR SR for final consideration. +in Parliament/NRSR Enacted Budget on 18th of December 2020.

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EBP-4. If the EBP is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EBP?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

In the comment boxes below, researchers should also list any supporting documents to the EBP and their URL or weblink.

Answer:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25377/1>

Source:
Link to actual EBP approved by the Government (including attachments):
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25377/1>

Link to the main document approved by the Government:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Link to supporting analytical document - Draft Budget Plan of the Slovak Republic for 2021:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25380/1>

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=A6C0308FBD6E4FC0985E95F66E0ED425-F5B6359A9DD2B356C263BA57AF747EB7>

Comment:

The Ministry of Finance submits the EBP to the Government for the approval. After approval the Government submits the EBP to the National Parliament.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. Formal publication of EBP is on government site (and it should be our main source for this... because this is how the budgetary process is... from Ministry of Finance, to Government and later to Parliament for final decision). Draft budgetary plans (all of them) are supporting documents and are relevant in context of EU budgetary coordination (Two-Pack & Six-Pack, more:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO_13_196) available here: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/strategicke-materialy/navrh-rozpocetoveho-planu/navrh-rozpocetoveho-planu.html> Draft Budgetary plan for 2021:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/2/DBP_2021_master_FINAL_corrigenum.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-5. If the EBP is published, are the numerical data contained in the EBP or its supporting documents available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Option "d" applies if the EBP is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/cms/clanok/61/SK/rozpocet-sk-dokumentacia-open-api>

Comment:

All numerical data from the EBP were published on October 15, 2020 in API form on a special webpage rozpocet.sk run by the Ministry of Finance. The date can be checked in a "News" section of the portal: <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/cms/kategoria/11/SK/novinky>

After approving the EBP by the National Parliament, the data were replaced and available only for the approved, i.e. Enacted Budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. Both JSON & CSV formats are available and published as Open API with pretty detailed documentation.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-6a. If the EBP is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the EBP is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EBP-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EBP-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. It is all available. Source: <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25377/1> <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EBP-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EBP was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EBP-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EBP-7. If the EBP is produced, please write the full title of the EBP.

For example, a title for the Executive's Budget Proposal could be "Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for BY 2020-21, produced by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development."

If there are any supporting documents to the EBP, please enter their full titles in the comment box below.

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Návrh rozpočtu verejnej správy na roky 2021 až 2023

Source:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25377/1>

Comment:

In Slovak: Návrh rozpočtu verejnej správy na roky 2021 až 2023

In English: Draft General Government Budget for 2021 to 2023

Supporting analytical document:

In Slovak: Návrh rozpočtového plánu Slovenskej republiky na rok 2021

In English: Draft Budget Plan of the Slovak Republic for 2021

Links:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25380/1>

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=A6C0308FBD6E4FC0985E95F66E0ED425-F5B6359A9DD2B356C263BA57AF747EB7>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: +supporting documents/Draft Budgetary Plans available also here: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/strategicke-materialy/navrh-rozpocetoveho-planu/navrh-rozpocetoveho-planu.html>
https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/2/DBP_2021_master_FINAL_corrigenum.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EBP-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EBP?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

There is no such document.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Unfortunately there is still no citizen budget version of EBP/Executive Budget Proposal.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: Citizens budget is published after enacted in the parliament. Here is the link: https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/72/Rozpocet_pre_ludi.pdf
Also is communicated through facebook page of the ministry of finance.

Researcher Response

The document published on a webpage https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/72/Rozpocet_pre_ludi.pdf is the Citizens Budget for the ENACTED BUDGET, which we agreed is published and publicly available. However this question asks about the Citizens Budget for the EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET PROPOSAL which is not publicly available in Slovakia.

EB-1a. What is the fiscal year of the EB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2021

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Source: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000> Main document (Enacted budget on 9th of December and published on 18th of December 2020): <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?DocID=489075> All the documents (Enacted budget on 9th of December and published on 18th of December 2020): https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DownloadSslpZip.aspx?MasterId=8000&ion=3_citanie&WFTID=

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-1b. When was the EB approved (enacted) by the legislature?

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
9/12/2020

Source:
<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2020-425>

Comment:
The EB in Slovakia has a form of a law - for 2021 it is an Act number 425/2020 approved by the National Parliament on December 9, 2020 and published as law on December 29, 2020. The document including attachments as well as the process of approval by the National Parliament is available here: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Publication date: 09/12/2020 (9th of December 2020)

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-2. When is the EB made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an EB to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public three months after the budget is approved by the legislature. If the EB is not released to the public at least three months after the budget is approved by the legislature, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the EB.

Answer:

a. Two weeks or less after the budget has been enacted

Source:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Comment:

The EB on cash basis and only for the Central Government is published right after its approval on webpage of the National Council:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Later, it is published as a law - for 2021 it is an Act number 425/2020 approved by the National Parliament on December 9, 2020 and published as a Law on December 29, 2020: <https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2020-425>

The Ministry of Finance publishes the full document (including calculations on accrual basis and for the whole public finance circle - General Government) by 30 days after the EB becomes effective as a law.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. Enacted it was/has become on 9th of December 2020 (also publically available the same date) and published on 18th of December 2020 so in less than two weeks (and finally as law it was published on 29th of December 2020).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-3a. If the EB is published, what is the date of publication of the EB?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

9/12/2020

Source:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Comment:

The EB on cash basis and only for the Central Government is published right after its approval on webpage of the National Council:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: 29/12/2020 The format of the date should be like this. But agree in general (published on internet the same day as enacted, although as law/in physical form it was published on 29th of December, so it is 29/12/2020 in case that we prefer publication as law and in full form as for the date of official publication).

Comments: Agree in general (published on internet the same day, 9th of December 2020 as it was enacted, although as law/in physical form it was published on 29th of December, so it is 29/12/2020 in case that we prefer publication as law and in full form as for the date of official publication), but prefer the date when it was published also in physical form (as date of publication there should be the date when it was published as law).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Consistent with the OBS methodology, we accept as "date of publication" the date when the Enacted Budget was first posted online, and that is the 9th of December.

EB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the EB.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The date of approval is the same as the date of publication.

Source:

Link to the decision Nr. 501 of the National Council enacting the EB:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?DocID=489459>

Link to the EB document including attachments and the approval process:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Comment:

The EB (on cash basis, Central Government, including attachments) was published immediately after approval by the National Council on December 9, 2020 on a webpage of the National Council: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Agree in general (published on internet the same day, 9th of December 2020 as it was enacted, although as law/in physical form it was published on 29th of December, so it is 29/12/2020 in case that we prefer publication as law and in full form as for the date of official publication), but prefer the date when it was published also in physical form (as date of publication there should be the date when it was published as law).

Comments: The budget was enacted on 9th of December but as law it was published on 29th of December 2020 here: <https://www.slovlex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2020/425/20210605> Available also here (date of official publication is also 29th of December 2020 there):

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2020-425> Available also on the MF SR site here: https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/14/ZZ_2020_425_20210605.pdf

Based upon law No. 231 from year 2021 later also updated: https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/30/ZZ_2021_231_20210605.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Consistent with the OBS methodology, the "date of publication" is the date when the document was first posted online, and that was the 9th of December 2020.

EB-4. If the EB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the EB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Source:

The EB (on cash basis, Central Government, including attachments) published on a webpage of the National Council:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

The Law number 425/2020 published in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic:

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2020-425>

Comment:

The EB (on cash basis, Central Government, including attachments) was published immediately after its approval by the National Council on December 9, 2020 on a webpage of the National Council: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Later, the enacted budget was published according to the existing rules and regulations as a Law:

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2020-425>

Even later, the Ministry of Finance published the full version here: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/verejne-financie/rozpocet-verejnej-spravy/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

EB-5. If the EB is published, are the numerical data contained in the EB available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the EB is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

All data:

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/cms/clanok/61/SK/rozpocet-sk-dokumentacia-open-api>

Some key data:

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/rozpocet/VS/kapitoly/0>

Comment:

All numerical data from the EB are available in API form on a special webpage rozpocet.sk run by the Ministry of Finance.

Some key data from the EB are also available in user-friendly form at webpage rozpocet.sk where any user can for free download also xls version of the data (in csv format) regarding revenues as well as expenditures, however only as a sum for each budget organization, without detailed specification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. Available in both JSON & CSV formats and as Open API with relatively detailed documentation.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-6a. If the EB is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the EB is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question EB-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question EB-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. Publically available: <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2020/425/20210605>

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/14/ZZ_2020_425_20210605.pdf <https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2020-425> And also in updated version:

<https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2021/231/20210605> https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/30/ZZ_2021_231_20210605.pdf

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2021-231>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question EB-6a, please specify how you determined whether the EB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question EB-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

EB-7. If the EB is produced, please write the full title of the EB.

For example, a title for the Enacted Budget could be "Appropriation Act n. 10 of 2018."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Zákon č. 425/2020 Z. z. Zákon o štátnom rozpočte na rok 2021

Source:

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2020-425>

Comment:

In Slovak: Zákon č. 425/2020 Z. z. Zákon o štátnom rozpočte na rok 2021

In English: Law no. 425/2020 Coll. on State Budget for Year 2021

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. Publically available: <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2020/425/20210605>

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/14/ZZ_2020_425_20210605.pdf <https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2020-425> And also in updated version:

<https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2021/231/20210605> https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/30/ZZ_2021_231_20210605.pdf

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2021-231>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

EB-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the EB?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<http://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad>

Comment:

The Ministry of Finance developed a portal displaying key budget data in user-friendly form: <http://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad>

This is not a full-fledged document but a portal displaying key budget data. We consider it as a Citizens' Budget based on IBP decision taken in previous evaluation (2019): "To maintain consistency across countries and with previous rounds of the survey, the "rozpocet.sk" portal is evaluated as a citizens budget for Slovakia."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Source: https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/72/Rozpocet_pre_ludi.pdf + <http://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad> The website rozpocet.sk does not meet (only partially) the criteria of Citizen Budget, because it is not in printed form and widely distributed to public. But published version meets some criteria (not distributed to citizens, but also in printed form and available for public).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: Up to the year 2020 web page rozpocet.sk was used also for the declaration of the citizens budget. In 2020 MoF prepared and published for the first time citizens budget document after the budget was enacted in the parliament. This document was published on the web page of the ministry and communicated through the facebook page as well. Rozpocet.sk remains the very important part for budget communication, but more focused on data availability and is more technical than citizens budget document. https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/72/Rozpocet_pre_ludi.pdf

IBP Comment

The original response was already "a", so the Government Reviewer is actually in agreement with the response selected by the researcher, and confirmed by the peer reviewer.

CB-1. What is the fiscal year of the CB evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for each CB please indicate the document the CB simplifies/refers to, and the fiscal year.

Answer:

FY 2021

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/72/Rozpocet_pre_ludi.pdf

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/rozpocet/VS/kapitoly/0>

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/rozpocet/OSVS/subjekty/0>

Comment:

In December 2020, the Ministry of Finance published the CB as a separate document for the first time in Slovakia (see the first link above).

In the past, the CB had a form of webpage developed by the Ministry of Finance. This is not a full-fledged document but a portal displaying key budget data. Based on IBP decision taken in previous evaluation (2019), this was considered as a Citizens' Budget: "To maintain consistency across countries and with previous rounds of the survey, the "rozpocet.sk" portal is evaluated as a citizens budget for Slovakia."

The second and third links above relate to the data published on a "rozpocet.sk" portal presenting the Enacted State Budget for 2021 of the Central Government (second link) and of other Public Subjects (General Government - third link).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

CB-2a. For the fiscal year indicated in CB-1, what is the public availability status of the CB?

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document (Executive's Budget Proposal or Enacted Budget) you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its public availability status.

Remember that publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

*Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology
Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.*

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/72/Rozpocet_pre_ludi.pdf

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad>

Comment:

In December 2020, the Ministry of Finance published the CB related to the Enacted Budget as a separate document for the first time in Slovakia (see the first link above). The definition as a CB made by the OBS methodology is fulfilled in following points: it is designed to reach and be understood by a large population, there are used various visual elements, it is a separate document with detailed information on key priorities and most relevant budget data, it includes explanatory texts.

In the past, the CB had a form of webpage developed by the Ministry of Finance (the second link above). This is not a full-fledged document but a portal displaying key budget data. Based on IBP decision taken in previous evaluation (2019), this was considered as a Citizens' Budget: "To maintain consistency across countries and with previous rounds of the survey, the "rozpocet.sk" portal is evaluated as a citizens budget for Slovakia." The portal displays data related to the Enacted State Budget for 2021 of the Central Government and of other Public Subjects (General Government).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree that it is finally done and publically available. But also according Citizen Budget Guide (<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Citizen-Budget-Guide.pdf>) governments should make substantial efforts to widely disseminate their Citizens Budgets. Without broad dis-semination, the very purpose of a Citizens Budget is defeated. In this case it is available only online and the download link is not accessible from main page of MF SR (+not included in the main budget documents).

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

CB-2b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question CB-2a, please specify how you determined whether the CB was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question CB-2a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

CB-3a. If the CB is published, what is the date of publication of the CB?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its dates of publication.

Answer:

18/12/2020

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/rozpocet-ludi-2021.html?fbclid=IwAR1c3e6LkUnQJBIMXBjrtVysdfhdbI0_eNm5le_uKjhr-ddrfWjt-Y1Yg

<https://www.facebook.com/ministerstvo.financii.sr/posts/3739253169459643>

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/cms/kategoria/11/SK/novinky>

Comment:

The CB as a separate document was published on a webpage of the Ministry of Finance on December 18, 2020 and on a Facebook page of the Ministry of Finance on December 19, 2020.

The portal "rozpocet.sk" displaying key data from the EB in user-friendly form was updated on December 18, 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Source: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/rozpocet-ludi-2021.html>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the CB.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

CB as a separate document: The date is written on a webpage of the Ministry of Finance where the document is published. Besides, the Facebook post informing about the CB includes a date of its publication.

Portal "rozpocet.sk": The date of publishing key data from the EB in user-friendly form is written in the "News" section of the CB portal.

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/rozpocet-ludi-2021.html?fbclid=IwAR1c3e6LkUnQJBIMXBjrtVysdfhdbI0_eNm5le_uKjhr-ddrfWjt-Y1Yg

<https://www.facebook.com/ministerstvo.financii.sr/posts/3739253169459643>

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/cms/kategoria/11/SK/novinky>

Comment:

Just an additional note that using the "javascript" code, it's possible to see that the document was indeed uploaded online on December 18, 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Source: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/rozpocet-ludi-2021.html>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-4. If the CB is published, what is the URL or weblink of the CB?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

If more than one Citizens Budget is published, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and its URL or weblink.

Answer:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/72/Rozpocet_pre_ludi.pdf

Source:

CB as a separate document:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/72/Rozpocet_pre_ludi.pdf

Portal "rozpocet.sk" with key budget data:

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad>

The EB for 2021 - Central Government:

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/rozpocet/VS/kapitoly/0>

The EB for 2021 - Other Subjects:

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/rozpocet/OSVS/subjekty/0>

Comment:

The first link leads to the actual CB published as a separate document.

The second link leads to the main page of the CB portal with budget data.

The third link relates to the Enacted State Budget for 2021 (Central Government).

The fourth link relates to the Enacted Budget for 2021 of other Public Subjects (General Government).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-5. If the CB is produced, please write the full title of the CB.

For example, a title for the Citizens Budget could be "Budget 2020 People's Guide" or "2021 Proposed Budget in Brief: A People's Budget Publication."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, for the other CB, indicate the document the CB refers to and, next to it, its full title.

Answer:

Rozpočet pre ľudí 2021

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/72/Rozpocet_pre_ludi.pdf

Comment:

Rozpočet pre ľudí 2021 - Citizens' Budget for 2021

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

CB-6. If the CB is produced, please indicate which budget document it corresponds to.

If more than one Citizens Budget is produced, please complete this question for one of them, specifying in the comment box below which document you are referring to, and – in the same comment box – which other Citizens Budget is produced and which budget document it simplifies.

Answer:

Enacted budget

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/72/Rozpocet_pre_ludi.pdf

Comment:

The CB refers to the EB for 2021.

Besides, there is a special portal "rozpocet.sk" (in the past considered as the CB for the purpose of the OBS) that includes budget data in user-friendly form from the EB for the Central Government, other Public Subjects (General Government) as well as for Municipalities and Regions (Local Governments).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. It reflects Enacted Budget (the updated version) for fiscal year 2021.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-1. What is the fiscal year of the IYRs evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2020

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Source: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpocetu-hotovostnej-baze/2020/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-2. When are the IYRs made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for IYRs to be considered publicly available, IYRs must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends. If at least seven of the last 12 monthly IYRs, or at least three of the last four quarterly IYRs are not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the IYRs.

Answer:

a. At least every month, and within one month of the period covered

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpocetu/>

Comment:

The Ministry of Finance publishes on daily basis data on cash development of the State Budget (Central Government) in basic categories of revenues and expenditures as well as the resulting balance: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpocetu/>

On monthly basis, the Ministry of Finance publishes press reports summarizing monthly development: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/>

On a special portal targeted on general public, the Ministry of Finance publishes also monthly data in slightly different categories of revenues and expenditures: <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/rozpocet/priebezne-plnenie>

On monthly basis, the Tax Authority publishes more detailed data on revenues: <https://www.financnasprava.sk/sk/infoservis/statistiky/plnenie-statneho-rozpocetu>

Besides, the Council for Budget Responsibility (public fiscal watchdog) publishes IYRs on monthly basis. These reports do not include actual state of budget revenues and expenditures (as of given date). However, based on actual development, they include updates on expected budget revenues, expenditures, and final balance for the General Government and on accrual basis at the end of current fiscal year: <https://www.rozpocetvarada.sk/svk/rozpocet/400/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-3a. If the IYRs are published, what are the dates of publication of the IYRs?

Specifically: if quarterly In-Year Reports are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least three of the last four IYRs that were publicly available. If monthly IYRs are published, indicate the dates of publication of at least seven of the last 12 IYRs that were publicly available.

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD Month YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05 September 2020. If the document is not published or not produced, please mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

01 December 2020
02 November 2020
01 October 2020
02 September 2020
03 August 2020
01 July 2020
01 June 2020
04 May 2020
01 April 2020
02 March 2020
03 February 2020
02 January 2020

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/>

Comment:

The link leads to a webpage with a list of all press reports of the Ministry of Finance. Here, every month a report on actual cash development of the State Budget (Central Government) is published.

Besides, the Council for Budget Responsibility (public fiscal watchdog) publishes IYRs on monthly basis. These reports do not include actual state of budget revenues and expenditures (as of given date). However, based on actual development, they include updates on expected budget revenues, expenditures, and final balance for the General Government and on accrual basis at the end of current fiscal year:

<https://www.rozpocetovarada.sk/svk/rozpocet/400/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the IYRs.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

All IYRs (press reports) including dates are published among other press reports on a webpage of the Ministry of Finance.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/>

Comment:

The monthly IYRs published by the Council for Budget Responsibility including dates are available here:

<https://www.rozpocetovarada.sk/svk/rozpocet/400/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-4. If the IYRs are published, what is the URL or weblink of the IYRs?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Researchers should provide the weblink to the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the weblinks to older IYRs.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-vyvoji-statneho-rozpocetu-k-31-01-2021.html>

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/>

Comment:

Weblinks to older IYRs:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/stat-oproti-planu-hospodari-lepsie.html>

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/bilancia-statneho-rozpocetu-5.html>

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/bilancia-statneho-rozpocetu-4.html>

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/bilancia-statneho-rozpocetu-3.html>

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/bilancia-statneho-rozpocetu-2.html>

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/bilancia-statneho-rozpocetu.html>

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/medzirocne-klesaju-prijmy-aj-vydavky-2.html>

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/medzirocne-klesaju-prijmy-aj-vydavky.html>

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/statny-rozpocet-aprili-so-schodkom-viac-ako-24-mld-eur.html>

...

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IYRs-5. If the IYRs are published, are the numerical data contained in the IYRs available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the IYRs are not publicly available, therefore their machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpocetu/>

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/financna-statistika-prijmoch-vydavkoch-dlhu-verejnej-spravy/udaje-podla-smernice-rady-2011-85-eu-poziadavkach-rozpocetove-ramce-clenskych-statov/plnenie-prijmov-vydavkov-verejnej-spravy/>

Comment:

Data on some basic categories of revenues and expenditures as well as the resulting balance on cash development of the State Budget (Central Government) can be downloaded:

1. On daily basis (all data used for monthly IYRs published as press reports by the Ministry of Finance) in Excel file at webpage of the Ministry of Finance: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpocetu/>:

2. On monthly basis in CSV format at webpage developed by the Ministry of Finance: <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/rozpocet/priebezne-plnenie>

Detailed data on cash development for the General Government (and its major subjects) can be downloaded on monthly basis in Ecel file at webpage of the Ministry of Finance: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/financna-statistika-prijmoch-vydavkoch-dlhu-verejnej-spravy/udaje-podla-smernice-rady-2011-85-eu-poziadavkach-rozpoctove-ramce-clenskych-statov/plnenie-prijmov-vydavkov-verejnej-spravy/>

Besides, the Council for Budget Responsibility published in December 2020 data for all their monthly IYRs in Excel format: https://www.rozpoctovarada.sk/download2/rrz_semafor_2020_12_online.xlsx (these are data on expected end-year results based on actual development, not actual data on budget implementation as of given date).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IYRs-6a. If the IYRs are not publicly available, are they still produced?

If the IYRs are not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question IYRs-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question IYRs-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Beside mentioned reports there exist also brief In-Year Reports which are made each month at the Ministry of Finance and serve for internal purpose.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: Within published documents most of the data are available, however its not a full report, just limited data and there is a lack of any text, just numbers. Full documents is made for internal use only.

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IYRs-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question IYRs-6a, please specify how you determined whether the IYRs were produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a","b," or "e" was selected in question IYRs-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IYRs-7. If the IYRs are produced, please write the full title of the IYRs.

For example, a title for the In-Year Report could be "Budget Monitoring Report, Quarter 1" or "Budget Execution Report January-March 2020."

If In-Year Reports are not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Researchers should provide the full title of the most recent In-Year Report in the space below, and – in the comment box underneath – the full titles of older IYRs.

Answer:

In Slovak:

Informácia o vývoji štátneho rozpočtu k 31.01.2021

In English:

Information on the development of the state budget as of 31.01.2021

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-vyvoji-statneho-rozpocetu-k-31-01-2021.html>

Comment:

Full titles of older IYRs:

Štát oproti plánu hospodáril lepšie - The state performed better than planned

Bilancia štátneho rozpočtu - State budget balance

Bilancia štátneho rozpočtu - State budget balance

Bilancia štátneho rozpočtu - State budget balance

Bilancia štátneho rozpočtu - State budget balance

Bilancia štátneho rozpočtu - State budget balance

Medziročne klesajú príjmy aj výdavky - Revenues and expenditures are declining year-on-year

Medziročne klesajú príjmy aj výdavky - Revenues and expenditures are declining year-on-year

Štátny rozpočet v apríli so schodkom viac ako 2,4 mld. eur - The state budget in April with a deficit of more than 2.4 billion eur

...

Key data on cash development of the State Budget are published on webportals (not in special documents) marked as:

Data published on daily basis: "Priebežné plnenie štátneho rozpočtu na hotovostnej báze" - Ongoing implementation of the state budget on a cash basis - <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpocetu/>

Data published on monthly basis: "Mesačné plnenie štátneho rozpočtu" - Monthly execution of the state budget - <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/rozpocet/priebezne-plnenie>.

Here are also titles of the IYRs of the Council for Budget Responsibility:

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2021, Január 2021

Budget traffic light, Monitoring the implementation of the budget for 2021, January 2021

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2021, Január 2021

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2020, December 2020

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2020, November 2020

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2020, Október 2020

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2020, September 2020

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2020, August 2020

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2020, Júl 2020

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2020, Jún 2020

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2020, Máj 2020

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2020, Apríl 2020

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2020, Marec 2020

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2020, Február 2020

Rozpočtový semafor, Monitoring plnenia rozpočtu na rok 2020, Január 2020

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IYRs-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the IYRs?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:
b. No

Source:

Comment:

The "Traffic Lights" monthly monitoring on budget implementation produced by the Council for Budget Responsibility (independent fiscal institution - public fiscal watchdog) includes graphs and tables which are easy to understand and often quoted by media. The headline information is the color on "traffic lights" with red color meaning serious risk of budget balance deterioration, orange color mild risk and green color no risk. However, we do consider these reports as main IYRs and not as "citizens version".

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

MYR-1. What is the fiscal year of the MYR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:
FY 2020

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

MYR-2. When is the MYR made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an MYR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than three months after the reporting period ends (i.e., three months after the midpoint of the fiscal year). If the MYR is not released to the public at least three months after the reporting period ends, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the MYR.

Answer:

d. The MYR is not released to the public, or is released more than three months after the midpoint

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpoctu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

Comment:

On 20 July 2020, the Ministry of Finance published a press report informing about actual end-year estimates of the General Government Budget deficit, revenues and expenditures for 2020 based on real data as of the end of June 2020 and macroeconomic and tax revenue forecasts from June 2020. The Ministry of Finance later referred to this document as the MYR. The document includes only updates on the end-year estimates, there is no information on the actual development of revenues and expenditures as of the end of June 2020.

Based on a consultation with the IBP staff, we decided that the document does not qualify as a mid-year review. The document is showing the changes due to COVID, but does not provide a complete picture of the entire revised budget totals till the end of the year, or an assessment of actual revenue/expenditure for the first six months of the year (which is part of the key information a MYR is supposed to include).

Besides this document, the update on actual development (including the end-year estimates) is regularly published in the EBP for next years which is published usually in October.

Moreover, the IYR for June produced by the Council for Budget Responsibility meets certain requirements of the MYR as it (just like all monthly IYRs) includes end-year estimates based on actual development and reflects changes in macroeconomy, legislature as well as unexpected events (just like COVID-19 pandemy in 2020).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Yes, that's right there is not such publicly available document (only for internal purposes of Ministry of Finance).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Six weeks or less after the midpoint

Comments: I consider the mentioned document as the MYR. MoF was used to be criticized, that until the budget document is prepared in October, there is no complex information on actual year projected outcome. Since 2020 MoF published the information on actual year outcome. The document describes main changes compared to originally approved budget. Macroeconomic and tax projection updates are published separately, there is no need to repeat the description to the MYR, also the actual spending is regularly published on the web page. MoF prepares the report based on the budget amendments. Council for budget responsibility prepares it's own calculations based on the outcome of the previous months. These are two different attitudes and that's in line with these institutions nature.

Researcher Response

According to IBP standards, the published document is missing following information to be qualified as a MYR: - the actual development of revenues and expenditures as of the end of June 2020 (for the first six months of the year) - complete picture of the entire revised budget totals till the end of the year

MYR-3a. If the MYR is published, what is the date of publication of the MYR?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:
na

Comment:

On 20 July 2020, the Ministry of Finance published a press report informing about actual end-year estimates of the General Government Budget deficit, revenues and expenditures for 2020 based on real data as of the end of June 2020 and macroeconomic and tax revenue forecasts from June 2020. The Ministry of Finance later referred to this document as the MYR. The document includes only updates on the end-year estimates, there is no information on the actual development of revenues and expenditures as of the end of June 2020.

Based on a consultation with the IBP staff, we decided that the document does not qualify as a mid-year review. The document is showing the changes due to COVID, but does not provide a complete picture of the entire revised budget totals till the end of the year, or an assessment of actual revenue/expenditure for the first six months of the year (which is part of the key information a MYR is supposed to include).

The document is published here: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpocetu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Yes, that's right there is not such publicly available document (only for internal purposes of Ministry of Finance), only monthly reports are public.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: 20/07/2020

Researcher Response

According to IBP standards, the document published by the Government in July 2020 is missing following information to be qualified as a MYR: - the actual development of revenues and expenditures as of the end of June 2020 (for the first six months of the year) - complete picture of the entire revised budget totals till the end of the year

MYR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the MYR.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

On 20 July 2020, the Ministry of Finance published a press report informing about actual end-year estimates of the General Government Budget deficit, revenues and expenditures for 2020 based on real data as of the end of June 2020 and macroeconomic and tax revenue forecasts from June 2020. The Ministry of Finance later referred to this document as the MYR. The document includes only updates on the end-year estimates, there is no information on the actual development of revenues and expenditures as of the end of June 2020.

Based on a consultation with the IBP staff, we decided that the document does not qualify as a mid-year review. The document is showing the changes due to COVID, but does not provide a complete picture of the entire revised budget totals till the end of the year, or an assessment of actual revenue/expenditure for the first six months of the year (which is part of the key information a MYR is supposed to include).

The document is published here: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpocetu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. There is not such publicly available document (only for internal purposes of Ministry of Finance).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: date of the publishing on the web page

Researcher Response

According to IBP standards, the document published by the Government in July 2020 is missing following information to be qualified as a MYR: - the actual development of revenues and expenditures as of the end of June 2020 (for the first six months of the year) - complete picture of the entire revised budget totals till the end of the year

MYR-4. If the MYR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the MYR?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

On 20 July 2020, the Ministry of Finance published a press report informing about actual end-year estimates of the General Government Budget deficit, revenues and expenditures for 2020 based on real data as of the end of June 2020 and macroeconomic and tax revenue forecasts from June 2020. The Ministry of Finance later referred to this document as the MYR. The document includes only updates on the end-year estimates, there is no information on the actual development of revenues and expenditures as of the end of June 2020.

Based on a consultation with the IBP staff, we decided that the document does not qualify as a mid-year review. The document is showing the changes due to COVID, but does not provide a complete picture of the entire revised budget totals till the end of the year, or an assessment of actual revenue/expenditure for the first six months of the year (which is part of the key information a MYR is supposed to include).

The document is published here: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpoctu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. There is not such publicly available document (only for internal purposes of Ministry of Finance).

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-5. If the MYR is published, are the numerical data contained in the MYR available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Option "d" applies if the MYR is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

d. Not applicable

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree, there is data only for monthly reports (and even there not all of them).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: c. No

Researcher Response

According to IBP standards, the document published by the Government in July 2020 is missing following information to be qualified as a MYR: - the actual development of revenues and expenditures as of the end of June 2020 (for the first six months of the year) - complete picture of the entire revised budget totals till the end of the year

MYR-6a. If the MYR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the MYR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question MYR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question MYR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

d. Not produced at all

Source:

Consultation with the people working at the MoF.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Currently not produced, but in past it was produced for internal purposes of Ministry of Finance.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Researcher Response

According to IBP standards, the document published by the Government in July 2020 is missing following information to be qualified as a MYR: - the actual development of revenues and expenditures as of the end of June 2020 (for the first six months of the year) - complete picture of the entire revised budget totals till the end of the year

MYR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question MYR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the MYR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a","b," or "e" was selected in question MYR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The representatives of the Ministry of Finance allowed for accessing the internal MYR and verifying the answer for purpose of the OBS survey.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Currently not produced, but in past it was produced for internal purposes of Ministry of Finance.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

MYR-7. If the MYR is produced, please write the full title of the MYR.

For example, a title for the Mid-Year Review could be "Semi-annual Budget Performance Report, FY 2019/20" or "Mid-Year Report on the 2020 National Budget."

If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

na

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Informácia o predpokladanom vývoji rozpočtu verejnej správy v roku 2020

Researcher Response

According to IBP standards, the document published by the Government in July 2020 is missing following information to be qualified as a MYR: - the actual development of revenues and expenditures as of the end of June 2020 (for the first six months of the year) - complete picture of the entire revised budget totals till the end of the year

MYR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the MYR?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Currently not produced at all.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

YER-1. What is the fiscal year of the YER evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2019

Source:

YER for fiscal/budget year 2019

Comment:

At date of submitting this survey (February 15, 2020), the YER for fiscal/budget year 2019 is the most recent.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Source: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip> +Statement of NKÚ (Najvyšší kontrolný úrad/Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic) regarding Year-End Report for fiscal/budget year 2019

https://www.nku.gov.sk/documents/10157/164819/Stanovisko+NK%C3%9A_%C5%A0Z%C3%9A2019.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-2. When is the YER made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an YER to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than one year after the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the YER is not released to the public within one year after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the YER.

Answer:

c. More than nine months, but within 12 months, after the end of the budget year

Source:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Page.aspx?sid=schodze/hlasovanie/hlasklub&ID=44274>

Comment:

The National Council approved the YER 2019 on September 16, 2020 - the link shows the voting results. According to Slovak legislation (Law Number 523/2004), The Ministry of Finance has to publish the YER by 10 days after its approval at the National Council.

According to the same Law, the YER has to be prepared by the Ministry of Finance and submitted to the Government by April 30. The Government has to submit it to the National Council by May 20. Usually, the National Council approves the document in the first half of a year. However it was not the case in 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Source: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Page.aspx?sid=zakony/cpt&ZakZborID=13&CisObdobia=8&ID=89> All the documents: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip> +Statement of NKÚ (Najvyšší kontrolný úrad/Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic) regarding Year-End Report for fiscal/budget year 2019

https://www.nku.gov.sk/documents/10157/164819/Stanovisko+NK%C3%9A_%C5%A0Z%C3%9A2019.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-3a. If the YER is published, what is the date of publication of the YER?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
17/9/2020

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Page.aspx?sid=zakony/cpt&ZakZborID=13&CisObdobia=8&ID=89>

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Page.aspx?sid=schodze/hlasovanie/hlasklub&ID=44274>

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

Comment:

The first link leads to a document published on a website of the Ministry of Finance - the date of publishing the main document on this website was September 17, 2020 and it is displayed in the first line in the "Date" column.

The National Council approved the YER 2019 on September 16, 2020 - the second link shows the voting results including the date of voting. According to Slovak legislation (Law Number 523/2004), The Ministry of Finance has to publish the YER by 10 days after its approval at the National Council.

The third link leads to the document published on a website of the National Parliament.

The fourth link leads to a webpage of the Ministry of Finance where all YERs are being published.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree with the comment, just the format should be modified. 17/09/2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the YER.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The first link below leads to a YER 2019 published on a website of the Ministry of Finance - the date of publishing the main document on this website was September 17, 2020 and it is displayed in the first line in the "Date" column.

The National Council approved the YER 2019 on September 16, 2020 - the second link below shows the voting results as well as the date of voting. According to Slovak legislation (Law Number 523/2004), The Ministry of Finance has to publish the YER by 10 days after its approval at the National Council.

Source:

Link to a document published on a website of the Ministry of Finance:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Link to voting results at the National Council of the Slovak Republic:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Page.aspx?sid=schodze/hlasovanie/hlasklub&ID=44274>

Law Number 523/2004 on Budget Rules of General Government (see paragraph 29)

Link to a webpage of the Ministry of Finance where all YERs are being published:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Yes, that's right (till the end of April it have to be finished), but in fact the question is when it is published... and that in fact is nearly always in June next year (sometimes in May... this fiscal year/2020 for YER regarding year 2019 it was September 2020).

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-4. If the YER is published, what is the URL or weblink of the YER?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/#collapse-343251611664271479>

Source:

List of all previous YERs:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

Link to YER 2019:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/#collapse-343251611664271479>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Correct source/link is: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comments: Agree with List of all previous YERs but the direct link to YER should be corrected. Alternatively this link:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Page.aspx?sid=zakony/cpt&ZakZborID=13&CisObdobia=8&ID=89>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

Agree, the direct link to YER for 2019: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

YER-5. If the YER is published, are the numerical data contained in the YER available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the YER is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

a. Yes, all of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Source:

Link to YER 2019:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/#collapse-343251611664271479>

343251611664271479

Comment:

The data are published in xls format (28 tables).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. Yes, some of the numerical data are available in a machine readable format

Comments: Only Excel (.xls and .xlsx) format is available (no JSON or CSV) here: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip> and data only in pdf tables/no machine readable format here: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Page.aspx?sid=zakony/cpt&ZakZborID=13&CisObdobia=8&ID=89>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

While thanking the peer reviewer for its detailed assessment, presenting all the data in Excel is sufficient to consider the document machine-readable. For consistency of responses across countries and with the methodology, the response remains unchanged ("a").

YER-6a. If the YER is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the YER is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question YER-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question YER-2)

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

YER-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question YER-6a, please specify how you determined whether the YER was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question YER-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

YER-7. If the YER is produced, please write the full title of the YER.

For example, a title for the Year-End Report could be "Consolidated Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2020" or "Annual Report 2019 Published by the Ministry of Finance and Planning." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Návrh štátneho záverečného účtu SR za rok 2019

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

Comment:

Návrh štátneho záverečného účtu SR za rok 2019
Proposal of the State Final Account of the Slovak Republic for 2019

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

YER-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the YER?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

AR-1. What is the fiscal year of the AR evaluated in this Open Budget Survey questionnaire?

Please enter the fiscal year in the following format: "FY YYYY" or "FY YYYY-YY."

Answer:

FY 2019

Source:

AR for fiscal/budget year 2019

Comment:

By December 31, 2020, the latest available Audit Report was the one for FY 2019.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Source: https://www.nku.gov.sk/documents/10157/164819/Stanovisko+NK%C3%9A_%C5%A0Z%C3%9A2019.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-2. When is the AR made available to the public?

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

The OBS methodology requires that for an AR to be considered publicly available, it must be made available to the public no later than 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds. If the AR is not released to the public at least 18 months after the end of the fiscal year to which it corresponds, option "d" applies. Option "d" should also be chosen for documents that are produced for internal purposes only (that is, produced but never released to the public) or are not produced at all. Some governments may publish budget documents further in advance than the latest possible dates outlined above. In these instances, researchers should choose options "a" or "b," depending on the date of publication identified for the AR.

Answer:

b. 12 months or less, but more than six months, after the end of the budget year

Source:

<https://www.nku.gov.sk/stanoviska-k-navrhu-statneho-zaverecneho-uctu-sr>

Comment:

The link above shows the list of previous ARs with the dates of their publishing. The AR 2019 was published on July 13, 2020.

The obligation to write the Audit Report is based on Act no. 39/1993. It has a form of the SAI statement to the YER approved by the Government. The SAI has to submit the AR to the National Council by 30 days after Government approval of the YER.

Act no. 39/1993: <https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/1993-39>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Source: https://www.nku.gov.sk/documents/10157/164819/Stanovisko+NK%C3%9A_%C5%A0Z%C3%9A2019.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-3a. If the AR is published, what is the date of publication of the AR?

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document.

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2020 should be entered as 05/09/2020. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

13/7/2020

Source:

<https://www.nku.gov.sk/stanoviska-k-navrhu-statneho-zaverecneho-uctu-sr>

Comment:

The link above shows the list of previous ARs with the dates of their publishing. The AR 2019 was published on July 13, 2020.

Additional note, that the Way Back Machine internet archive confirmed that by September 26, this document was indeed posted (<https://web.archive.org/web/20200926114752/https://www.nku.gov.sk/stanoviska-k-navrhu-statneho-zaverecneho-uctu-sr>). Therefore, the response provided in question AR-2 holds.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Just correction of date format. 13/07/2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-3b. In the box below, please explain how you determined the date of publication of the AR.

If the document is not published at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The link below shows the list of previous ARs with the dates of their publishing (the list is published on SAI webpage). The AR 2019 was published on July 13, 2020.

Source:

<https://www.nku.gov.sk/stanoviska-k-navrhu-statneho-zaverecneho-uctu-sr>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Source: https://www.nku.gov.sk/documents/10157/164819/Stanovisko+NK%C3%9A_%C5%A0Z%C3%9A2019.pdf Published in July 2020 but created in June 2020.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-4. If the AR is published, what is the URL or weblink of the AR?

Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late. If the document is not published at all, researchers should leave this question blank.

Answer:

https://www.nku.gov.sk/documents/10157/164819/Stanovisko+NK%C3%A0_%C5%A0Z%C3%A02019.pdf

Source:

List of previous ARs:

<https://www.nku.gov.sk/stanoviska-k-navrhu-statneho-zaverecneho-uctu-sr>

Comment:

All ARs are published on SAI webpage (the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-5. If the AR is published, are the numerical data contained in the AR available in a machine readable format?

Material (data or content) is machine readable if it is in a format that can be easily processed by a computer, such as .csv, .xls/.xlsx, and .json. Numerical data found in PDFs, Word (.doc/.docx) and HTML files do not qualify as machine readable. See more at: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>

Option "d" applies if the AR is not publicly available, therefore its machine readability cannot be assessed.

Answer:

c. No

Source:

Comment:

The AR is published just as one pdf file (that includes also data).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-6a. If the AR is not publicly available, is it still produced?

If the AR is not considered publicly available under the OBS methodology (and thus the answer to Question AR-2 was "d"), a government may nonetheless produce the document.

Option "a" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public online but not within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology (see Question AR-2).

Option "b" applies if the document is produced and made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology but only in hard copy (and is not available online). Option "b" also applies if the document is made available to the public within the time frame specified by the OBS methodology in soft electronic copy but is not available online.

Option "c" applies if the document is produced for internal purposes only and so is not made available to the public.

Option "d" applies if the document is not produced at all.

Option "e" applies if the document is publicly available.

If a document is not released to the public, researchers may need to write to or visit the relevant government office in order to determine whether answer "c" or "d" applies.

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-6b. If you selected option "c" or "d" in question AR-6a, please specify how you determined whether the AR was produced for internal use only, versus not produced at all.

If option "a," "b," or "e" was selected in question AR-6a, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

AR-7. If the AR is produced, please write the full title of the AR.

For example, a title for the Audit Report could be "Annual General Reports of the Controller and Auditor General." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Stanovisko Najvyššieho kontrolného úradu Slovenskej republiky k návrhu štátneho záverečného účtu Slovenskej republiky za rok 2019

Source:

AR 2019 published on SAI webpage:

https://www.nku.gov.sk/documents/10157/164819/Stanovisko+NK%C3%A0_%C5%A0Z%C3%A02019.pdf

Comment:

Stanovisko Najvyššieho kontrolného úradu Slovenskej republiky k návrhu štátneho záverečného účtu Slovenskej republiky za rok 2019

Opinion of the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic on the Proposal of the State Final Account of the Slovak Republic for 2019

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: English version/translation of the name should be: Statement of the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic on the Proposal of the State Final Account of the Slovak Republic for 2019

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

AR-8. Is there a "citizens version" of the AR?

While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle. While it is recognized that it may be unreasonable to expect that a citizens version is produced for each and every one of those key documents, it seems acceptable to expect that according to good practice, the executive releases a citizens version of key budget documents for each of the four stages of the budget process to allow citizens to be aware of what is happening, in terms of public financial management, throughout the entire budget cycle. For more information on Citizens Budget see: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-1a. Are there one or more websites or web portals for disseminating government fiscal information? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation.

GQ-1a asks the researcher to list any government websites or portals where fiscal information can be found. For example, in New Zealand the Treasury website (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/>) hosts important budget-related information, including the Pre-Budget Statement, the Executive's Budget Proposal, the Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, the Mid-Year Review, and the Year-End Report. In addition, New Zealand's Parliamentary Counsel Office (<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>) posts the Enacted Budget while the Controller and Auditor-General website (<http://www.oag.govt.nz/>) publishes the annual Audit Report. The New Zealand researcher would provide the links to each of these sites. Other countries have developed portals that include fiscal information, though not in the "documents" format. For example, these portals have been created by Mexico (<https://www.transparenciapresupuestaria.gob.mx/>) and Brazil (<http://www.portaltransparencia.gov.br/>). Some countries have both a website and a portal. The Brazilian government, for example, apart from the Transparency Portal, has a dedicated website for the federal budget, where all key documents and other information can be found (www.orcamentofederal.gov.br). Researchers should include details about all of the relevant websites and/or portals that can be used to access budget information.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://www.finance.gov.sk/sk/financie/verejne-financie/rozpocet-verejnej-spravy/>

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehlad>

<https://www.rozpocetovarada.sk/eng/home>

Comment:

Most of the information and data are available through the webpage of the Ministry of Finance.

Some basic data is available in user-friendly form on portal <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehlad>

More specific data and analyses are available on webpage of the Council for Budget Responsibility: <https://www.rozpocetovarada.sk/eng/home>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-1b. On these websites/portals, can revenue and/or expenditure data for the current fiscal year be downloaded as a consolidated, machine readable file (or set of files)? If yes, please provide the necessary links in the comment/citation. For more information on machine readability, see: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

GQ-1b, GQ-1c, and GQ-1d ask about whether governments publish specific types of content on their websites/portals: (a) consolidated files that contain disaggregated revenue and/or expenditure information for the current fiscal year; (b) consolidated files that contain disaggregated revenue and/or expenditure information for multiple years in consistent formats; and (c) infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis. Researchers should provide the links to relevant webpages and some explanations of what they contain.

Answer:

a. Yes, both revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded as a consolidated file

Source:

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/rozpocet/priebezne-plnenie>

Comment:

On monthly basis, basic (i.e. not detailed) categories of revenues and expenditures as well as resulting budget balance on cash basis of the State Budget (Central Government) can be downloaded as a consolidated, machine readable file for the current fiscal year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-1c. On these websites/portals, can disaggregated revenue and/or expenditure data in consolidated, machine readable files be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation. For more information on machine readability, see: <http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

Answer:

a. Yes, both revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats

Source:

Comment:

The website <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad> allows for a download of revenues, expenditures and resulting balance for multiple years in Excel files. However, the data is aggregated for the whole State Budget (Central Government) as well as for other subjects (General Government), i.e. three numbers for a year for every subject - overall revenues, expenditures and balance. It is not possible to download more detailed/disaggregated data, e.g. data for particular ministries or structure of revenues and expenditures.

The website of the Institute for Financial Policy at the Ministry of Finance offers time series of disaggregated revenue and expenditure data in consolidated, machine readable files (Excel file). However, last update of this file was December 2018.

<https://www.mfsr.sk/en/finance/institute-financial-policy/economy-statistics/fiscal-indicators/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes, both revenue and expenditure data can be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats

IBP Comment

After further consultation with the researcher, it was confirmed that in the portal rozpocet.sk, one can find three numbers (one for revenues, one for expenditures, and one for the balance) for all budget chapters (including all particular ministries) for multiple years. More detailed structure of revenues and expenditures can be downloaded only for the most recent year, but it's possible in any case to find and download data on expenditure

by functional and economic classification. Revenue is presented by source (non tax, grants, transfers, foreign funds...). This is sufficient to change the response from "d" to "a."

GQ-1d. On these websites/portals, are infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis? If yes, please provide the necessary links and details in the comment/citation.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad>

<https://www.rozpocetovarada.sk/>

Comment:

The first link leads to a portal with user-friendly visualization of key budget data.

The second link leads to a webpage of the Council for Budget Responsibility (Slovak fiscal watchdog) which frequently uses infographics, graphs and tables to address general public. See for example its most recent monthly report on budget implementation:

<https://www.rozpocetovarada.sk/svk/rozpocet/400/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-2. Are there laws in place guiding public financial management and/or auditing? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where the law(s) contains specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

GQ-2 asks about the existence of any national laws governing public financial management and auditing. These may include a public finance act, a section of the constitution, or an organic budget law. In some countries, fiscal responsibility legislation may also be relevant. For example, the Kenya researcher may include the link to its Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (<http://kenyalaw.org:8181/exist/kenyalex/actview.xql?actid=No.%2018%20of%202012>), and the Macedonian researcher may include a link to its State Audit Law (<https://www.finance.gov.mk/files/u11/Audit%20law.pdf>). Researchers should provide links to websites where such laws are published, if possible, or an electronic copy of the law itself. They should also indicate if and where (e.g. which article) these laws include specific provisions for budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<http://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2004-523>

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2011-493>

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/1993-39>

Comment:

The main law on public finance is the Act 523/2004 and its later amendments On budgetary rules of public administration, where in the part 4 the budgetary process is described, in part 5 the budgetary economy is described and in part 8 the rules of the year-end budgetary report are specified including dates and form of its presentation. Other special parts are focused for example on Financial relations with the European Union.

The Constitutional Law on Fiscal Responsibility 493/2011 provides rules for the fiscal responsibility including reporting obligations, framework for the Council for Budget Responsibility management and activities, as well as key principles of the public finance transparency.

The Law on the Supreme Audit Office 39/1993 regulates the functioning of the audit office including its obligation to submit Audit Reports and Opinions on the Executive Budget Proposal..

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In fact there are also additional rules (main sources): Financial Management & Audit rules/law: <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2015/357/20190101> General audit rules/law and oversight rules/law (control in public sector): <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/1996/10/20200101>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

GQ-3. Is there at least one additional law regulating: (1) access to information; (2) government transparency; or (3) citizens participation? If yes, please provide the necessary details and links in the comment/citation, and specify whether and where these laws contain specific provisions for budget transparency and/or participation.

The third and last question asks researchers to list any additional laws regulating access to information, transparency, or citizens' participation that are relevant for the promotion of budget transparency and citizen participation in budget processes. These might include legislation related to access to information, to planning processes, or to public administration more generally. India's Right to Information Act of 2005 (<https://www.ncess.gov.in/facilities/central-public-information-officer/rti-act-details.html>) is an example of this type of law. More information on access to information legislation (constitutional provisions, laws, and regulations), including examples of model laws, can be found here: <http://www.right2info.org/laws/constitutional-provisions-laws-and-regulations#section-1>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

<http://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2000-211>

Comment:

The Law Number 211/2000 Coll. on Free Access to Information provides regulation of citizens' access to all available information from public institutions. Among other obligations it requires publishing of all contracts concluded by any public institution on a special webportal <https://www.crz.gov.sk/>. The Law is frequently used by citizens and belongs to powerful tools increasing transparency in public spending.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

1. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 1 addresses the presentation of expenditure by administrative unit. This information indicates which government entity (ministry, department, or agency, or MDAs) will be responsible for spending the funds and, ultimately, held accountable for their use.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all administrative units, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the administrative units shown individually, in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation, must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. In other words, the sum of the expenditures assigned to the individual MDAs (education, health, infrastructure, interior, defense, etc.) must account for at least two-thirds of the total expenditure budgeted for that particular year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents administrative units that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by administrative unit.

Answer:

a. Yes, administrative units accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:

Annex 3 to the General Government Budget proposal for 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=63FE876D8B93428AA2CD5073779844F6-4AF61FDCE3E88E3762876C567D9A4B17>

Attachments to the General Government Budget proposal for 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

Comment:

Central government budget chapters: Annex 3 to the EBP

Other than central government budget chapters: pages 4-35 of the attachment to the General Government Budget proposal for 2021-23

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

2. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by functional classification?

GUIDELINES:

Question 2 addresses the presentation of expenditure by functional classification. This classification indicates the programmatic purpose, sector, or objective for which the funds will be used, such as health, education, or defense. Administrative units are not necessarily aligned with functional classifications. For instance, in one country all functions connected with water supply (which fall into the "Housing" function) may be undertaken by a single government agency, while in another country they may be distributed across the Ministries of Environment, Housing, and Industrial Development. In the latter case, three ministries have programs addressing water supply, so three ministries contribute to one function. Similarly, some administrative units may conduct activities that cut across more than one function. For instance, in the example above, some programs of the Ministry of Environment would also be classified in the "environmental protection" function.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by functional classification.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by functional classification.

Source:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

General government budget proposal for 2021-23 (main document): pages 59 -167

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

3. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by functional classification, is the functional classification compatible with international standards?

GUIDELINES:

Question 3 asks whether a country's functional classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's functional classification must be aligned with the OECD and the UN's Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG), or provide a cross-walk between the national functional presentation and COFOG.

The OECD Best Practices for Budget Transparency can be viewed at <http://www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/Best%20Practices%20Budget%20Transparency%20-%20complete%20with%20cover%20page.pdf>

COFOG can be viewed at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_84E.pdf or at <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/ch6ann.pdf>.

Answer:

a. Yes, the functional classification is compatible with international standards.

Source:

National Budget Plan for 2021:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=A6C0308FBD6E4FC0985E95F66E0ED425-F5B6359A9DD2B356C263BA57AF747EB7>

Decree of the Statistical Office:

<https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2014/257/>

Comment:

National Budget Plan for 2021 (analytical document accompanying EBP) includes expenditure based on COFOG classification: pages 26, 56

Decree of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic of September 18, 2014, issuing the statistical classification of general government expenditure (SK COFOG) – 257/2014

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

4. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year by economic classification?

GUIDELINES:

Question 4 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification. Economic classification provides information on the nature of the expenditure, such as whether funds are being used to pay for wages and salaries, capital projects, or social assistance benefits. Please note that a presentation of expenditures by current and capital expenditures without additional disaggregation or detail will not qualify as an economic classification.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for the budget year organized by economic classification.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by economic classification.

Source:

Attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

General government budget proposal for 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

Attachments to the EBP: pages 4-35 include a detailed economic classification of other than central government budget chapters

General government budget proposal for 2021-23 (main document): pages 59-71 for salaries and capital expenditure of general government, pages 72-167 include partial economic classification for specified functions

Besides, the webpage <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad> targeted at general citizens includes expenditure of all budget chapters by administrative, functional as well as economic classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

5. If the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation presents expenditures for the budget year by economic classification, is the economic classification compatible with international standards?

GUIDELINES:

Question 5 asks whether a country's economic classification meets international standards. To answer "a," a country's economic classification must be consistent with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 2001 Government Finance Statistics (GFS). The GFS economic classification is presented here: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>. To learn more about Government Finance Statistics also refer to the entire IMF 2001 GFS manual (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf>).

Answer:

a. Yes, the economic classification is compatible with international standards.

Source:

<https://www.finance.gov.sk/sk/financie/verejne-financie/regulacny-komplex-pravnych-noriem-metodickych-postupov-z-oblasti-rozpocetoveho-procesu/rozpocetova-klasifikacia/uplne-znenie-metodickeho-usbmerenia-ministerstva-financii-slovenskej-republiky-k-c-mf/010175/2004-42-zo-dna-8-dec/>

Comment:

This is given by the Methodological Guidance of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic k č. MF / 010175 / 2004-42 of 8 December 2004 and explanatory notes on the economic classification of budgetary classification

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

6. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 6 asks whether expenditures are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should treat the term "program" as meaning any level of detail below an administrative unit – that is, any programmatic grouping that is below the ministry, department, or agency level. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures in the budget year. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Budget decisions for the upcoming year can also affect the parameters of future budgets. It is therefore useful to estimate revenues and expenditures for multi-year periods, understanding that these estimates might be revised as circumstances change. Sometimes referred to as a Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), a three-year period – that is, the budget year plus two more years – is generally considered an appropriate horizon for budgeting and planning.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:

Annex 4 to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=5DE1655520614DD9826E4DD3CCB122F1-B5FF8DFBE6BF1EF17308BD8E00FA4730>

General Treasury Administration budget for FY 2021:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/84/Text.pdf>

General government budget proposal for 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

Annex 4 to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 includes program accounting for all Central Government expenditure.

In addition, specific information on the General Treasury Administration for FY 2021 is presented in a separate document.

General government budget proposal for 2021-23 (main document): pages 72-167 include partial information on programs for specific functions

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

7. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 7 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," multi-year expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

General government budget proposal for 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

Comment:

General government budget proposal for 2021-23: pages 59-167 (functional classification, partially also economic and administrative)
Attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23: pages 4-35 (economic classification for other than central government budget chapters)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

7b. Based on the response to Question 7, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for a multi-year period in the Executive's Budget Proposal?

Answer:
Administrative classification
Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:
General government budget proposal for 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

Comment:
General government budget proposal for 2021-23: pages 59-167 (functional classification, partially also economic and administrative)
Attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23: pages 4-35 (economic classification for other than central government budget chapters)

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

8. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by program?

GUIDELINES:

Question 8 asks if multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaille. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures over the multi-year period. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if multi-year estimates are not presented by program.

Revenues generally are separated into two major categories: "tax" and "non-tax" revenues. Taxes are compulsory transfers that result from government exercising its sovereign power. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes. The category of non-tax revenues is more diverse, ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services. Note that some forms of revenue, such as contributions to social security funds, can be considered either a tax or non-tax revenue depending on the nature of the approach to these contributions. Particularly because different revenues have different characteristics, including who bears the burden of paying the tax and how collections are affected by economic conditions, it is helpful when estimates for revenues are disaggregated and displayed based on their sources.

For more information, please refer to the 2001 GFS manual, in particular Appendix 4 (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/gfs/manual/pdf/app4.pdf>).

Answer:
a. Yes, multi-year estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures are presented.

Source:
General government budget proposal for 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

General Treasury Administration budget for FY 2021-23:
<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/84/Text.pdf>

Comment:

General government budget proposal for 2021-23 (main document): pages 72-167

Attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23: pages 4-35

In addition, specific information on the General Treasury Administration for FY 2021-23 is presented in a separate document.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

9. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 9 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The largest sources of tax revenue in some countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of tax revenue accounting for all tax revenue are presented.

Source:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

General government budget proposal for 2021-23 (main document): pages 37-39

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

10. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present the individual sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of government-produced goods and services) for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 10 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "non-tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The category of non-tax revenues is diverse, and can include revenue ranging from grants from international institutions and foreign governments to funds raised through the sale of government-provided goods and services.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all individual sources of non-tax revenue for the budget year, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all non-tax revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present individual sources of non-tax revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all non-tax revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents individual sources of non-tax revenue that account for less than two-thirds of non-tax revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of non-tax revenue are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of non-tax revenue accounting for all non-tax revenue are presented.

Source:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

General government budget for 2021-23 (main document): pages 42-53

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

11. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 11 evaluates whether revenue estimates are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year) by "category," that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of revenues classified by category for at least two years following the budget year in question.

Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year estimates of revenue are presented by category.

Source:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

General government budget proposal for 2021-23 (main document): pages 37-53

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

12. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates for individual sources of revenue presented for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 12 evaluates whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present multi-year estimates of individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents multi-year estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented for a multi-year period.

Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented.

Source:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

General government budget for 2021-23 (main document): pages 37-53

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

13. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 13 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt that the budget should include:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies no information on borrowing and debt is presented for the budget year.

Answer:

a. Yes, all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

Budget plan proposal for 2021:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=A6C0308FBD6E4FC0985E95F66E0ED425-F5B6359A9DD2B356C263BA57AF747EB7>

EBP main document:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

Budget plan proposal for 2021 includes estimates on the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year (page 29) and on the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year (page 28).

The EBP main document includes information on expenditure on debt service, including interest payments (Tables 106 and 107 on page 141).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

13b. Based on the response to Question 13, check the box(es) below to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year
The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year
The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year

Source:

Budget plan proposal for 2021:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=A6C0308FBD6E4FC0985E95F66E0ED425-F5B6359A9DD2B356C263BA57AF747EB7>

EBP main document:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

Budget plan proposal for 2021 includes estimates on the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year (page 29) and on the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year (page 28).

The EBP main document includes information on expenditure on debt service, including interest payments (Tables 106 and 107 on page 141).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

14. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the composition of the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year?"

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 14 focuses on the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- *interest rates on the debt;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether the debt is domestic or external.*

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 13, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens, banks, and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt at the end of the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding at the end of the budget year.

Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for the composition of the total debt outstanding.

Source:

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

The EBP main document:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 include following information:

- actual average interest rate on debt portfolio (page 60)
- structure of government bonds issued over 2015-20 including information on their nominal value, maturity range and average interest rate on total portfolio (pages 64-65)
- structure of non-tradeable loans taken over 2015-20 including information on their nominal value (page 65)
- refinancing, interest rate and foreign currency risk assessment (pages 65-68)

The EBP main document (pages 139-141) includes following information:

- composition of debt with fixed/variable interest rates
- assessment of refinancing and interest rate risks

No information on structure of external/domestic debt is published.

Since there is only 1 core variable missing, but maturity profile is there, as well as beyond-the-core information, we support response "b" (which applies also in case only 1 core item is missing but there is much more additional information that kind of "compensates" for the 1 variable missing).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

14b. Based on the response to Question 14, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the composition of the total debt outstanding are presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Interest rates on the debt

Information beyond the core elements (please specify)

Maturity profile of the debt

Source:

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

The EBP main document:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 include following information:

- actual average interest rate on debt portfolio (page 60)
- structure of government bonds issued over 2015-20 including information on their nominal value, maturity range and average interest rate on total portfolio (pages 64-65)
- structure of non-tradeable loans taken over 2015-20 including information on their nominal value (page 65)
- refinancing, interest rate and foreign currency risk assessment (pages 65-68)

The EBP main document (pages 139-141) includes following information:

- composition of debt with fixed/variable interest rates
- assessment of refinancing and interest rate risks

No information on structure of external/domestic debt is published.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

15. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?"

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 15 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the budget's revenue and expenditure estimates, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

- *nominal GDP level;*
- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

While the core macroeconomic information should be a standard feature of the Executive's Budget Proposal, the importance of some types of macroeconomic assumptions may vary from country to country. For example, the budget estimates of some countries are particularly affected by changes in the price of oil and other commodities.

Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short and long-term interest rates; rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and composition of GDP growth.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

The budget of General Treasury Administration for FY 2021-23:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/84/Text.pdf>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 11-12) includes forecasts on:

- nominal GDP level
- inflation rate
- real GDP growth
- real/nominal private consumption
- public consumption
- fixed investment
- export/import
- change in employment
- real/nominal wages

The forecasts of interest rates are available in the budget of General Treasury Administration for FY 2021-23 (page 17) includes following information.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

15b. Based on the response to Question 15, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Nominal GDP level

Inflation rate

Real GDP growth

Interest rates

Information beyond the core elements (please specify)

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

The budget of General Treasury Administration for FY 2021-23:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/84/Text.pdf>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 11-12) includes forecasts on:

- nominal GDP level
- inflation rate
- real GDP growth
- real/nominal private consumption
- public consumption
- fixed investment
- export/import
- change in employment
- real/nominal wages

The forecasts of interest rates are available in the budget of General Treasury Administration for FY 2021-23 (page 17) includes following information.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

16. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions (i.e., sensitivity analysis) on the budget?

(The core information must include estimates of the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 16 focuses on the issue of whether the Executive's Budget Proposal shows how different macroeconomic assumptions affect the budget estimates (known as a "sensitivity analysis"). It asks whether "core" information related to a sensitivity analysis is presented, estimating the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for:

- *inflation rate;*
- *real GDP growth; and*
- *interest rates.*

A sensitivity analysis shows the effect on the budget of possible changes in some macroeconomic assumptions, and is important for understanding the impact of the economy on the budget; for instance, what would happen to revenue collections if GDP growth were slower than what is assumed in the budget proposal? Or what would happen to expenditure if inflation were higher than estimated? Or how will revenue be affected by a decrease in the price of oil?

As noted for Question 15, changes in certain macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil and other commodities, can have a significant impact on the budget estimates. As a result, some sensitivity analyses may also examine the impact on the budget estimates of changes in assumptions such as the price of oil that are beyond the core elements of the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to a "sensitivity analysis" as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to a "sensitivity analysis" is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on "sensitivity analysis" is presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Source:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=A6C0308FBD6E4FC0985E95F66E0ED425-F5B6359A9DD2B356C263BA57AF747EB7>

Comment:

The Budget Plan for FY 2021 (supportive analytical document to the EBP) includes two sensitivity scenarios of macroeconomic forecasts over 2021-23 based on different assumptions taking into account (1) more serious impact of COVID-19 epidemic and (2) more intensive use of EU funds:

- pages 10-11: impact on real GDP, inflation, production gap, private consumption, government consumption, real investment, real export, employment, nominal wages, tax revenues and public debt.
- page 28: more detailed impact on public debt forecast

No information is published on the impact of different assumptions for interest rates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

17. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.

Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates that show how all new policy proposals affect expenditures are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=A6C0308FBD6E4FC0985E95F66E0ED425-F5B6359A9DD2B356C263BA57AF747EB7>

Comment:

The Budget Plan for FY 2021 (supportive analytical document to the EBP) includes on pages 22-24 estimates of impact of all new policy proposals on expenditures over 2021-23 including narrative discussion.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, estimates that show how all new policy proposals affect expenditures are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.
Comments: Narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies is missing. On pages 23-25 Budget Plan for FY 2021 only mentions how the expenditures and revenues are planned within the year (basically just "re-told" in text form of the table 7 before without any discussion about impacts of new policies). I think that better answer is "b" because estimates are there (just without narrative discussion).

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

We welcome the peer reviewer's comment. However, after further consultation with the researcher, we observe that the narrative provides more details on the measures. Here are a few examples: Following the government's goal of increasing the share of consumption taxation from negative externalities, excise duties on tobacco products will increase. The increase in rates for tobacco products is to be implemented within the framework of a predictable tax calendar in 2021, 2022 and 2023 respectively. The increase reflects developments in tariff policy in the surrounding EU Member States, while aiming to ensure an appropriate balance between tax revenues and public health objectives. For 2021, rates will rise so that the price of the box will increase by 40 cents, then by 20 cents in 2022 and 2023. The tax on smokeless tobacco products will also increase every year. The adjustment of motor vehicle tax rates aims to increase the competitiveness of the sector. The amendments will reduce the current above-average taxation of semi-trailers in the region and the EU. Specific changes concern the reduction of adjustments to annual tax rates for tractors, lorries and buses. The environmental aspect, where older vehicles pay more, remains the same. The measure is effective as early as 2020. The growth of compensations is slowing down compared to the No-Policy-Change (NPC) scenario over the entire horizon. The consolidation of public finances will be reflected in particular in compensation, as expenditure will be tied up by 10% for selected employees in the central government. Expenditure on compensation will grow more slowly due to a reduction in the number of non-teaching staff at universities. This impact will be further strengthened by the gradual reduction in the number of university teachers, while the remaining salaries will increase. It is also planned to gradually reduce the number of police officers in order to reach the EU average. Due to the current pandemic, there will be an increase in expenditure on the salaries of employees of public health offices. At the same time, the budget considers the entire budget horizon with a slightly slower growth of wages than in the private sector and in other public administration entities, especially in the case of contributory organizations of the state, local governments and ŽSSK (Railways). The response remains unchanged, "a".

18. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 17 and 18 ask about new policy proposals in the budget. In any given year, most of the expenditures and revenues in the budget reflect the continuation of existing policies. However, much of the attention during the budget debate is focused on new proposals – whether they call for eliminating an existing program, introducing a new one, or changing an existing program at the margins. Typically, these new proposals are accompanied by an increase, a decrease, or a shift in expenditures or revenues. Because these changes may have different impacts on people's lives, the budget proposal should present sufficient detail about new policies and their budgetary impact.

Question 17 asks about new expenditure policies, and Question 18 asks about new revenue policies. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how all new policy proposals affect expenditures (for Question 17) or revenues (for Question 18) and a narrative discussion of the impact of these new policies. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show the impact of all new policy proposals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show the impact of only some, but not all, policy proposals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the impact of new policy proposals.

Prior-year information constitutes an important benchmark for assessing the proposals for the upcoming budget year. Estimates of prior years should be presented in the same formats (in terms of classification) as the budget year to ensure that year-to-year comparisons are meaningful. For example, if the budget proposes shifting responsibility for a particular program from one administrative unit to another – such as shifting responsibility for the training of nurses from the health department to the education department – the prior-year figures must be adjusted before year-to-year comparisons of administrative budgets can be made.

Typically, when the budget proposal is submitted, the year prior to the budget year (BY-1), also known as the current year, has not ended, so the executive will provide estimates of the anticipated outcome for BY-1. The soundness of these estimates is directly related to the degree to which they have been updated to reflect actual expenditures to date, legislative changes that have occurred, and anticipated changes in macroeconomic, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

The first year that can reflect actual outcomes, therefore, is generally two years before the budget year (BY-2). Thus the OECD recommends that data covering at least two years before the budget year (along with two years of projections beyond the budget year) are provided in order to assess fully the trends in the budget.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates that show how all new policy proposals affect revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=A6C0308FBD6E4FC0985E95F66E0ED425-F5B6359A9DD2B356C263BA57AF747EB7>

Comment:

The Budget Plan for FY 2021 (supportive analytical document to the EBP) includes on pages 21-22 estimates of impact of all new policy proposals on revenues over 2021-23 including narrative discussion.

More detailed description of legislative measures and their impact on revenues is also included in the main EBP document on pages 34-36:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

19. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 19 asks if expenditure estimates for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) are presented by one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-1 by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-1 must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

The webpage displaying budget data:

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 presents expenditures for 2020 by:

- functional classification (pages 72-167)

- economic classification as for wages and investment (pages 59-71) and partially also within functions (pages 72-167)

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 present expenditures for 2020 by:

- administrative classification for other than central budget chapters (pages 4-35)

- economic classification for other than central budget chapters (pages 4-35)

Besides, the webpage <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad> presents expenditure in 2020 by all three types of classification for particular budget chapters.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

20. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 20 asks if expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable detaillé*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-1. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-1. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-1.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

The budget of General Treasury Administration for FY 2021-23:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/84/Text.pdf>

The webpage displaying budget data:

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 presents expenditures in 2020 by programs (pages 72-167).

In addition, a separate document presents detailed expenditure of the General Treasury Administration (special budget chapter) in 2020.

Besides, the webpage <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad> presents expenditure in 2020 by programs within particular budget chapters.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

21. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have expenditure estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect actual expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 21 asks whether the expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) have been updated from the original enacted levels. Updates can reflect actual experience to date; revised estimates due to shifting of funds by the executive, as permitted under the law; enactment of supplemental budgets; and revised assumptions regarding macroeconomic conditions, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

Answer "a" applies if the estimates have been updated; answer "b" applies if the original estimates are still being used.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 as well as its attachments include information on enacted as well as updated expenditure

in 2020.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

22. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 22 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by any of the three classifications

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

The webpage displaying budget data: <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 and its attachments present expenditure also for 2018, 2019 and 2020 by all three types of classification.

Besides, the webpage <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad> presents expenditure for the previous years (since 2006) by all three types of classification for particular budget chapters.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

22b. Based on the response to Question 22, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year in the Executive Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Administrative classification
Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

The webpage displaying budget data:
<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 presents expenditures for 2018-2020 by:
- functional classification (pages 72-167)
- economic classification as for wages and investment (pages 59-71) and partially also within functions (pages 72-167)

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 present expenditures for 2018-20 by:
- administrative classification for other than central budget chapters (pages 4-35)
- economic classification for other than central budget chapters (pages 4-35)

Besides, the webpage <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad> presents expenditure in previous years (since 2006) by all three types of classification for particular budget chapters.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

23. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for more than one year preceding the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 23 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year before the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-2 and prior years. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-2 and prior years. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

The budget of General Treasury Administration for FY 2021-23:
<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/84/Text.pdf>

The webpage displaying budget data:
<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 presents expenditures in 2018-2020 by programs within identified functions (pages 72-167).

In addition, a separate document presents detailed expenditure of the General Treasury Administration (special budget chapter) in 2018-2020.

Besides, the webpage <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad> presents expenditure in previous years (since 2006) by programs within particular budget chapters.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

24. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all expenditures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 24 asks for which year the actual outcomes for expenditures are shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated all its expenditure data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 and its attachments present actual data for 2019 as the most recent year.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

25. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 are presented by category.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 31-52) present revenue by category for 2020.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

26. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-1.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 31-52) presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue for 2020.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

27. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have the original estimates of revenue for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated to reflect actual revenue collections?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 31-52) presents updated revenue estimates for 2020.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

28. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by category.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 31-52) presents revenue estimates by category for 2018-20.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

29. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 31-52) presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue for 2018-20.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

30. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all revenues reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:
<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/18/Hlavnakniha.pdf>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 31-52) presents the most recent actual revenues as for 2019.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

31. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

(The core information must include the total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1; the amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1; interest payments on the debt; interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 31 focuses on prior-year debt information, rather than on prior-year expenditures or revenues, asking whether "core" information is provided on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1).

The "core" information includes:

- *total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1;*
- *amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1;*
- *interest payments on the debt;*
- *interest rates on the debt instruments;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether it is domestic or external debt.*

This core information for BY-1 is consistent with the budget year information for borrowing and debt, which is examined in Questions 13 and 14. Please note that for the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

In addition, some governments provide information beyond the core elements, such as gross new borrowing required during BY-1; currency of the debt; whether the debt carries a fixed or variable interest rate; whether it is callable; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for BY-1 as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on government borrowing and debt for BY-1.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Source:

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

The main document of EBP for FY 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 include following information as for 2020:

- actual average interest rate on debt portfolio (page 60)
- total debt outstanding at the end of 2020 (page 64)
- nominal deficit at the end of 2020 as a proxy for net borrowing needs (page 64)

- structure of government bonds issued over 2015-20 including information on their nominal value, maturity range and average interest rate on total portfolio (pages 64-65)
- structure of non-tradeable loans taken over 2015-20 including information on their nominal value (page 65)
- refinancing, interest rate and foreign currency risk assessment (pages 65-68)

The main document of EBP for FY 2021-23 includes following information as for 2020:

- total state debt outstanding at the end of 2020 (page 139)
- total borrowing needs in 2020 structured by deficit and maturing debt (page 140)
- interest payments and their structure (page 141)
- composition of debt with fixed/variable interest rates (page 139)

Following information is not published:

- interest rates on particular debt instruments;
- whether it is domestic or external debt.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

32. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 32 asks for which year the actual outcome for total debt outstanding is shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated its debt data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

It is essential that all government activities that may have an impact on the budget – in the current budget year or in future budget years – be fully disclosed to the legislature and the public in budget documents. In some countries, for instance, entities outside central government (such as public corporations) undertake fiscal activities that could affect current and future budgets. Similarly, activities that can have a significant impact on the budget, such as payment arrears and contingent liabilities, sometimes are not properly captured by the regular presentations of expenditure, revenue, and debt.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 and its attachments present actual public debt as for 2019 (as an example, see page 21 in the main document).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

33. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on extra-budgetary funds for at least the budget year?"

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund; and complete income, expenditure, and financing data on a gross basis.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 33 focuses on extra-budgetary funds, asking whether “core” information related to these funds, which exist outside the budget, are presented. These core components include:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund (i.e., why was a particular fund set up? what is it used for?); and
- estimates of its income, expenditure, and financing. (These estimates should be presented on a gross basis so that it is possible to tell how much money flows through each extra-budgetary fund.)

In most countries, governments engage in certain budgetary activities that are not included in the central government’s budget. Known as extra-budgetary funds, they can range in size and scope. For example, countries frequently set up pension and social security programs as extra-budgetary funds, where the revenues collected and the benefits paid are recorded in a separate fund outside the budget. Another example of an extra-budgetary fund can be found in countries dependent on hydrocarbon/mineral resources, where revenues from producing and selling those resources are channeled through systems outside the annual budget.

In some cases, the separation engendered by an extra-budgetary fund serves a legitimate political purpose, and the finances and activities of these funds are well documented. In other cases, however, this structure is used for obfuscation, and little or nothing is known about a fund’s finances and activities.

The availability of information related to extra-budgetary funds is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the government’s true fiscal position. In addition to the core information, other information about extra-budgetary funds is also desirable. Such information includes a discussion of the risks associated with the extra-budgetary fund; expenditures classified by economic, functional, or administrative unit; and the rules and procedures that govern the operations and management of the extra-budgetary fund.

For more information about extra-budgetary funds, see the Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 2.1.1 of the IMF’s Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer “a,” the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to extra-budgetary funds as well as some additional information beyond the core elements . A “b” answer applies if the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation presents all of the core information. Answer “b” is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A “c” answer applies if some information related to extra-budgetary funds is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer “d” applies if no information is presented on extra-budgetary funds.

Please provide in the comments a list of all known extra-budgetary funds.

Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all extra-budgetary funds.

Source:

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23
<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/61/Prilohy.pdf>

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The attachment to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 4-35) includes estimate of revenues, expenditures and financing of all other than central government budget chapters (including all extra-budgetary funds) in detailed structure by administrative and economic classifications.

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 includes specific information for selected extra-budgetary funds relevant to given types of revenues or expenditures.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

34. Does the Executive’s Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 34 asks whether the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documents present the finances of the central government on a consolidated basis,

showing both its budgetary and extra-budgetary activities. Virtually all of the questions in the OBS questionnaire focus on budgetary central government – the activities of the ministries, departments, or agencies of central government. In addition, Question 33 asks about extra-budgetary funds, such as social security funds that are not included in the budget.

Coverage is an important aspect of fiscal reporting. Budget documents should cover the full scope of government's financial activity. In many countries, extra-budgetary activities are substantial, and can represent a sizable share of the central government's activities. To get a full picture of the central government's finances, therefore, it is necessary to examine both activities that are included in the budget and those that are extra-budgetary. This question asks whether such a consolidated presentation of central government finances is provided.

The central government is only one component of the overall public sector. The public sector also includes other levels of government, such as state and local government, and public corporations. (See Box 2.1 under Principle 1.1.1 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018): <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>). For the purpose of answering this question, please consider only the central government level.

In order to answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year.

Answer:

a. Yes, central government finances are presented on a consolidated basis.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 and its attachments include budget data on consolidated basis, i.e. for the whole public sector (see for example table on page 23).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

35. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of intergovernmental transfers for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 35 asks about intergovernmental transfers. In many cases, the central government supports the provision of a good or service by a lower level of government through an intergovernmental transfer of funds. This is necessary because, independent from the level of administrative decentralization that exists in a given country, the capacity for revenue collection of a local government is unlikely to be sufficient to pay for all its expenses. However, because the activity is not being undertaken by an administrative unit of the central government, it is unlikely to receive the same level of review in the budget. Thus it is important to include in the budget proposal a statement that explicitly indicates the amount and purposes of these transfers.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all intergovernmental transfers and a narrative discussing these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all intergovernmental transfers are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, intergovernmental transfers (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of intergovernmental transfers are presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all intergovernmental transfers are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 includes information on transfers to lower levels of government (see tables on pages 37-39) and related narrative (pages 50-52, 77, 164-167).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

36. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present alternative displays of expenditures (such as by gender, by age, by income, or by region) to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 36 asks about "alternative displays" of expenditures that highlight the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens. As discussed above, expenditures are typically presented by at least one of three classifications – administrative, functional, and economic classifications (see Questions 1-5) – and by individual program (Question 6). In addition, governments can provide alternative displays to emphasize different aspects of expenditure policies and to show who benefits from these expenditures.

For the purpose of answering this question, the alternative presentation must differ from the presentations (such as administrative, functional, or economic classifications or presentation by program) used to answer other questions. The alternative display can cover all expenditures or only a portion of expenditures. For instance, it can show how all expenditures are distributed according to geographic region or it can show how selected expenditures (such as the health budget or the agriculture budget) are distributed to different regions. But such a geographic display must be something different than the presentation of intergovernmental transfers used to answer question 35. One exception is when a country includes a special presentation of all policies intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (and is used to answer Question 52) then that can be considered an alternative display for purposes of answering this question as well. Finally, brief fact sheets showing how proposals in the budget benefit particular groups would be insufficient; only more detailed presentations would be considered.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?"

(<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of the importance of alternative displays of budget information and provides a number of examples. For instance,

- *Bangladesh in its 2017-18 Budget included a detailed supplementary Gender Budgeting Report, which presents the spending dedicated to advancing women across various departments. (<https://mof.portal.gov.bd/site/page/3bb14732-b5b1-44df-9921-efedf1496295>).*
- *The UK's 2017 budget included a supplementary analysis that provided a distributional analysis of the budget by households in different income groups (see https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661465/distributional_analysis_autumn_budget_2017.pdf)*
- *South Africa's 2017 Budget Review goes beyond the standard presentation of intergovernmental transfers, discussing the redistribution that results from national revenue flowing to the provinces and municipalities and presenting the allocations on a per capita basis (see chapter 6, <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2017/review/FullBR.pdf>).*

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least three different presentations that illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must include at least two different alternative displays of expenditures. A "c" applies if only one type of alternative display of expenditure is presented. Answer "d" applies if no alternative display of expenditure is presented.

Answer:

d. No, alternative displays of expenditures are not presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.

Source:

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (EBP) presents changes in expenditure on specific healthcare budget items in 2021-23 compared to 2020 based on no-policy change, adopted policies raising expenditures and adopted policies cutting expenditures including narrative explanation (pages 102-106).

Besides, the EBP includes several examples of brief fact sheets illustrating impact of expenditures on specific groups, however without detailed presentation:

- development of average wage expenses on public sector employees (page 64)
- development of per-pupil expenditure in primary and secondary schools (page 77)
- development of average wage expenses on pedagogical and non-pedagogical employees in primary and secondary schools (pages 77-78) and tertiary schools (page 79)

However, based on discussion with the IBP staff, we understood that this question is rather looking at the impact of the budget on a group of people (women, the poor, youth, children, elderly...) across the entire budget, i.e., across *all* departments. The question is trying to understand the overall amount of money being budgeted for specific groups of people. Therefore, we agreed that the specific programs/policies mentioned above, cannot be considered "alternative presentations of the budget".

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

36b. Based on the response to Question 36, select the box(es) below to identify which types of alternative displays are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:
None of the above

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

37. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of transfers to public corporations for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 37 asks about transfers to public corporations. It is often the case that governments have a stake in enterprises that manage resources that are particularly relevant for the public good (such as electricity, water, and oil). While these public corporations can operate independently, in some cases the government will provide direct support by making transfers to these corporations, including to subsidize capital investment and operating expenses.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all transfers to public corporations and a narrative discussing the purposes of these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all transfers to public corporations are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, transfers to public corporations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented.

Please provide in the comments a list of all known public corporations.

Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of all transfers to public corporations are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The attachment to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 includes detailed structure of revenues and expenditures of public corporations. In some cases the transfers from the state budget are clearly outlined (see for example transfers for Public TV and Radio on page 17). In some cases only capital transfers from the state budget are clearly outlined (see for example transfers to railway companies on pages 22 and 23). The main EBP document includes narrative for some of transfers (see for example pages 87-89 for railways companies). The overview of total transfers to all public corporations with respective narrative is missing.

Compared to 2019, the narrative part of the attachment displaying the structure of revenues and expenditures of public corporations is missing.

Also, the attachment does not always include a specific line with the transfers from the state budget. For example it lists overall current transfers to railway companies without specification of the transfer from the state budget (pages 22-23). Usually the overall transfer is equal to the transfer from the state budget but it does not have to be the case every year or the reader does not have to be aware of this.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of all transfers to public corporations are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Comments: Transfers are fully included in the budget document. Although some narrative might be missing. If there is only capital transfer, it means that the corporation do not receive operational transfer. There is no overall review of the all transfers, but when corporation receives the transfers, than it is fully reflected in the budget document.

Researcher Response

In the budget documents, there is no separate line for operation transfers from the state budget to the railway companies. There is only general line for "inland operation grants and transfers". The reader does not know what part is the transfer from the state budget or what part is from EU funds or other sources. However, after checking the numbers with sources from the MoF it shows up that the amount from this "general" line is equal to the operation transfers from the state budget. Therefore I agree to change the answer to "b".

38. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity and the intended beneficiaries.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 38 focuses on quasi-fiscal activities, asking whether "core" information related to such activities is presented. These core components include:

- *A statement of purpose or policy rationale for the quasi-fiscal activity (i.e., what is the reason for engaging in this activity?);*
- *The identification of intended beneficiaries of the quasi-fiscal activity.*

The term "quasi-fiscal activities" refers to a broad range of activities that are fiscal in character and could be carried out through the regular budget process but are not. For example, a quasi-fiscal activity could take place if, instead of providing a direct subsidy through the budget for a particular activity, a public financial institution provides an indirect subsidy by offering loans at below-market rates for that activity. Similarly, it is a quasi-fiscal activity when an enterprise provides goods or services at prices below commercial rates to certain individuals or groups to support the government's policy goals.

The above examples are policy choices that may be approved by the government and legislature. However, quasi-fiscal activities can also involve activities that violate or circumvent a country's budget process laws or are not subject to the regular legislative approval process for expenditures. For example, the executive may issue an informal order to a government entity, such as a public commercial enterprise, to provide the executive with goods and services that normally would have to be purchased with funding authorized by the legislature. All quasi-fiscal activities should be disclosed to the public and subject to public scrutiny.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about quasi-fiscal activities, including for example: the anticipated duration of the quasi-fiscal activity; a quantification of the activity and the assumptions that support these estimates; and a discussion of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the activity, including the impact on the entity carrying out the activity. Principle 3.3.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) provides examples of quasi-fiscal activities that can be consulted as needed. And more details on quasi-fiscal activities can be found in the Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to all quasi-fiscal activities for at least the budget year as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to quasi-fiscal activities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on quasi-fiscal activities.

If quasi-fiscal activities do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question.

Answer:

d. No, information related to quasi-fiscal activities is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

39. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on financial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets, and an estimate of their value.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 39 focuses on financial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. These core components include:

- *A listing of the financial assets; and*
- *An estimate of their value.*

Governments own financial assets such as cash, bonds, or equities. Unlike private sector businesses, however, few governments maintain balance sheets that show the value of their assets and liabilities.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about financial assets, including for example: a discussion of their purpose; historical information on defaults; differences between reported values and market values; and a summary of financial assets as part of the government's balance sheet.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to all financial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to financial assets is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on financial assets held by the government.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some financial assets.

Source:

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:
<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

Comment:

The attachment to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 70-77) includes overview of financial operations with state financial assets including narrative. Both revenue and expenditure operations are listed. However, there is no balance sheet displaying a complete list of financial assets with the information on their estimated values.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

40. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on nonfinancial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets by category.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 40 focuses on nonfinancial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. The core information is a listing of nonfinancial assets, grouped by the type (or category) of asset.

Nonfinancial assets are things of value that the government owns or controls (excluding financial assets) such as land, buildings, and machinery. The valuation of public nonfinancial assets can be problematic, particularly in cases where the asset is not typically available on the open market (such as a government

monument). In these cases, it is considered acceptable to provide summary information in budget documents from a country's register of assets. But, in some cases, governments are able to value their nonfinancial assets; some present a summary of nonfinancial assets as part of their balance sheets. For an example of how nonfinancial assets are presented in one of the many supporting documents to the New Zealand Executive's Budget Proposal, see the Forecast Financial Statement 2011, Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued), Note 14, accessible here: <https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2011-05/befu11-pt6of8.pdf>.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year a listing by category of all nonfinancial assets held by the government as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to nonfinancial assets is presented, but some nonfinancial assets are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on nonfinancial assets held by the government.

Answer:

d. No, information related to nonfinancial assets is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

41. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure arrears for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 41 asks about estimates of expenditure arrears, which arise when government has entered into a commitment to spend funds but has not made the payment when it is due. (For more information see sections 3.49-3.50 of the IMF's GFS Manual 2001, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/qfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf> (page 29)). Though equivalent to borrowing, this liability is often not recorded in the budget, making it difficult to assess fully a government's financial position. Moreover, the obligation to repay this debt affects the government's ability to pay for other activities.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all expenditure arrears and a narrative discussing the arrears. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all expenditure arrears are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, expenditure arrears (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of expenditure arrears are presented. Answer "d" also applies if information is only available for the changes in arrears, and not the stock or balance of arrears.

If expenditure arrears do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question. Public expenditure management laws and regulations often will allow for reasonable delays, perhaps 30 or 60 days, in the routine payment of invoices due. Expenditure arrears impacting a small percentage of expenditure that are due to contractual disputes should not be considered a significant problem for the purpose of answering this question.

Answer:

e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Source:

Comment:

This is not recorded in the budget; arrears are a non-issue since the introduction of the State Treasury system in 2003.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

42. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on contingent liabilities, such as government loan guarantees or insurance programs, for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability; the new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments (the gross exposure) at the end of the budget year.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 42 focuses on contingent liabilities, asking whether "core" information related to these liabilities is presented. These core components include:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability;
- the new contingent liabilities for the budget year, such as new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and
- the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments at the end of the budget year. This reflects the gross exposure of the government in the case that all guarantees or commitments come due (even though that may be unlikely to occur).

Contingent liabilities are recognized under a cash accounting method only when the contingent event occurs and the payment is made. An example of such liabilities is the case of loans guaranteed by the central government, which can include loans to state-owned banks and other state-owned commercial enterprises, subnational governments, or private enterprises. Under such guarantees, government will only make a payment if the borrower defaults. Thus a key issue for making quantitative estimates of these liabilities is assessing the likelihood of the contingency occurring.

In the budget, according to the OECD, "[w]here feasible, the total amount of contingent liabilities should be disclosed and classified by major category reflecting their nature; historical information on defaults for each category should be disclosed where available. In cases where contingent liabilities cannot be quantified, they should be listed and described."

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about contingent liabilities, including for example: historical default rates for each program, and likely default rates in the future; the maximum guarantee that is authorized by law; any special financing associated with the guarantee (e.g., whether fees are charged, whether a reserve fund exists for the purpose of paying off guarantees, etc.); the duration of each guarantee; and an estimate of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the guarantees.

For more details on contingent liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and page 59 (Box 11) and Principle 3.2.3 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year all of the core information related to contingent liabilities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to contingent liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on contingent liabilities.

Answer:

d. No, information related to contingent liabilities is not presented.

Source:

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

Comment:

The attachment to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 48-53) includes only a list of contingent liabilities as of the end of 2019 including narrative.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

43. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present projections that assess the government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer term?

(The core information must cover a period of at least 10 years and include the macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used and a discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 43 focuses on government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer-term, asking whether "core" information related to these issues is presented. These core components must include:

- Projections that cover a period of at least 10 years.
- The macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used in making the projections.
- A discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections. Good public financial management calls for budgets to include fiscal sustainability analyses.

The IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>) recommends that governments regularly publish the projected evolution of the public finances over the longer term (see Principle 3.1.3.). Future liabilities are a particularly important element when assessing the sustainability of public finances over the long term. Future liabilities are the result of government commitments that, unlike contingent liabilities, are virtually certain to occur at some future point and result in an expenditure. A typical example consists of government obligations to pay pension benefits or cover health care costs of future retirees. Under a cash accounting system, only current payments associated with such obligations are recognized in the budget. To capture the future impact on the budget of these liabilities, a separate statement is required.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about the sustainability of their finances, including for example: projections that cover 20 or 30 years; multiple scenarios with different sets of assumptions; assumptions about other factors (such as the depletion of natural resources) that go beyond just the core macroeconomic and demographic data; and a detailed presentation of particular programs that have long time horizons, such as civil service pensions.

For more details on future liabilities, see Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of government finances over the longer term as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to future liabilities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on future liabilities and the sustainability of government's finances

Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented to assess the government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer term.

Source:

The Budget plan for FY 2021:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=A6C0308FBD6E4FC0985E95F66E0ED425-F5B6359A9DD2B356C263BA57AF747EB7>

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

Comment:

The Budget plan for FY 2021 includes a section on long-term public finance sustainability (pages 29-30) presenting key sustainability indicators S1 and S2 and reasons for their changes in 2021 as well as a brief narrative explaining the risk to fiscal stability.

The attachment to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 54-59) includes a section on implicit liabilities including long-term projections until 2060.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

44. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of the sources of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 44 asks about estimates of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind assistance. Such assistance is considered non-tax revenue, and the sources of this assistance should be explicitly identified. In terms of in-kind assistance, the concern is primarily with the provision of goods (particularly those for which there is a market that would allow goods received as in-kind aid to be sold, thereby converting them into cash) rather than with in-kind aid like advisors from a donor country providing technical assistance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all donor assistance and a narrative discussing the assistance. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all donor assistance are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, donor assistance (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if the sources of donor assistance are not presented, but the total amount of donor assistance is presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of donor assistance are presented. Select answer "e" if your country does not receive donor assistance.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all sources of donor assistance are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

The attachments to the General government budget proposal for 2021-23:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=F6C4FEE69C7E46DC94457206CD43B649-17C231796FC6835301A4F7F3D563BE9B>

Comment:

The attachment to the General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 36-45) includes details on all budgetary relations with the EU as well as on other foreign grants such as Norway Financial Mechanism.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

45. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on tax expenditures for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each tax expenditure, the intended beneficiaries, and an estimate of the revenue foregone.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 45 focuses on tax expenditures, asking whether "core" information related to these tax preferences is presented. These core components must include for both new and existing tax expenditures:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale;
- a listing of the intended beneficiaries; and
- an estimate of the revenue foregone.

Tax expenditures arise as a result of exceptions or other preferences in the tax code provided for specified entities, individuals, or activities. Tax expenditures often have the same impact on public policy and budgets as providing direct subsidies, benefits, or goods and services. For example, encouraging a company to engage in more research through a special tax break can have the same effect as subsidizing it directly through the expenditure side of the budget, as it still constitutes a cost in terms of foregone revenues. However, expenditure items that require annual authorization are likely to receive more scrutiny than tax breaks that are a permanent feature of the tax code.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about tax expenditures, including for example: the intended beneficiaries by sector and income class (distributional impact); a statement of the estimating assumptions, including the definition of the benchmark against which the foregone revenue is measured; and a discussion of tax expenditures as part of a general discussion of expenditures for those program areas that receive both types of government support (in order to better inform policy choices). For more details on tax expenditures, see *Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget* (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 1.1.4 of the IMF's *Fiscal Transparency Handbook* (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, all of the core information related to tax expenditures as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to tax expenditures is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on tax expenditures.

Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all tax expenditures.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 52-58) includes:

- list of all tax expenditures with estimates of revenue forgone over 2018-2023,
- estimates by different types of taxes,
- narrative explaining methodology of tax expenditure definition, annual changes in total level of estimates and informing about realized revisions of estimates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

46. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of earmarked revenues for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 46 asks about estimates of earmarked revenues, which are revenues that may only be used for a specific purpose (for example, revenues from a tax on fuel that can only be used for building roads). This information is important in determining which revenues are available to fund the government's general expenses, and which revenues are reserved for particular purposes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all earmarked revenues and a narrative discussing the earmarks. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all earmarked revenues are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, earmarked revenues (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of earmarked revenues are presented. An "e" response applies if revenue is not earmarked or the practice is disallowed by law or regulation.

Answer:

e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Source:

Comment:

There are no earmarked revenues.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In the Slovak republic's budget process, the basic rule is that the income is not earmarked because it could lead to inefficiency of expenditure or under-financing of specific expenditure from the revenue earned is financed by efficiency and necessity regardless of how it is incurred income from which they are financed. So currently there are no earmarked revenues and as for the budgetary law that support this, it is law number 523 from the year 2004, available here: <https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2004-523>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

47. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government's policy goals. The budget is the executive's main policy document, the culmination of the executive's planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government's policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government's policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand's 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive's Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are "translated" into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government's policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government's policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government's policy goals.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates that show how the proposed budget is linked to all the government's policy goals for the budget year are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 59-167) includes narratives describing government goals for all expenditures by functional classification and in some (but not all) cases (employment, investment, healthcare) it also describes how is this expenditure linked to those goals.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

After additional discussions and in agreement with the researcher, for cross-country consistency purposes this response has been changed, from "c" to "a". In the program document <https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=5DE165520614DD9826E4DD3CCB122F1-B5FF8DFBE6BF1EF17308BD8E00FA4730> – each program includes some nonfinancial information such as the "intent" and "goals," and each program + some subprograms have individual budget lines attached. For example, p24: Policy making and implementation Intent: A transparent, efficient and effective system of financing the creation, dissemination, protection and presentation of cultural values and the development of cultural assets. Services in the professional and non-professional state and non-state sphere. Selected goals: To improve the performance of state administration with the aim of effective management and coordination of programs at the level of the Ministry of Culture so that all tasks set out in the legislative and work plan for the year in question have been completed. - Concept of cultural policy, management and coordination of programs - Support of cultural activities RO and PO - Support of cultural activities abroad - Culture Informatization Project - Project of acquisition of collection objects and library funds - Strategy for the development of local and regional culture and culture of national minorities - Development strategy of Slovak librarianship - Restoration of tool equipment and costume parts - Strategy of purchasing dictionaries of museum and gallery value Tvorba a implementácia politik Záměr: Transparentný, účinný a efektívny systém financovania tvorby, šírenia, ochrany a prezentácie kultúrnych hodnôt a rozvoj kultúrnych služieb v profesionálnej a neprofesionálnej štátnej a neštátnej sfére. Vybrané ciele: Skvalitňovať výkon štátnej správy s cieľom efektívneho riadenia a koordinácie programov na úrovni aparátu ministerstva kultúry tak, aby boli splnené všetky úlohy stanovené legislatívnym plánom a plánom práce na príslušný rok. - Konceptia kultúrnej politiky, riadenie a koordinácia programov - Konceptná a riadiaca činnosť - Podpora kultúrnych aktivít RO - Podpora kultúrnych aktivít v zahraničí - Projekt informatizácie kultúry - Projekt akvizície zbierkových predmetov a knižničných fondov - Stratégia rozvoja miestnej a regionálnej kultúry a kultúry národnostných menšín - Stratégia rozvoja slovenského knihovníctva - Obnova nástrojového vybavenia a krojových súčiastok - Stratégia nákupu slovacík múzejnej a galerijnej hodnoty ... We take the researcher's point about a bigger picture set of policy goals that the government includes in its political manifestos, it looks like the micro-level policy goals are included in the program document, as well as financial estimates of how much they cost. For cross country consistency, the response has therefore been upgraded, also consistent with the response selected in the OBS2019, based on the same practice.

48. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government's policy goals for a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government's policy goals. The budget is the executive's main policy document, the culmination of the executive's planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government's policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government's policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand's 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive's Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are "translated" into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer

"a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government's policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer "b" for either question, the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government's policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government's policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government's policy goals.

Answer:

c. Yes, information that shows how the proposed budget is linked to some but not all of the government's policy goals for a multi-year period is presented.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 59-167) includes narratives describing government goals for a multi-year period for all expenditures by functional classification and in some (but not all) cases (e.g. employment, investment, healthcare) it also describes how is this expenditure linked to those goals.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

49. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on inputs to be acquired for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 49 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on inputs for the budget year. (Nonfinancial data on outputs and outcomes are addressed in Question 50.)

The budget should disclose not only the amount of money that is being allocated on a program but also any information needed to analyze that expenditure. Nonfinancial data and performance targets associated with budget proposals are used to assess the success of a given policy. For example, even when allocated funds are spent according to plan, there remains the question of whether the policy delivered the results that it aimed to achieve.

Nonfinancial data can include information on:

Inputs - These are the resources assigned to achieve results. For example, in regards to education, nonfinancial data on inputs could include the number of books to be provided to each school or the materials to be used to build or refurbish a school.

Outputs - These are products and services delivered as a result of inputs. For example, the number of pupils taught every year; the number of children that received vaccines; or the number of beneficiaries of a social security program.

Outcomes - These are the intended impact or policy goals achieved. For example, an increase in literacy rates among children under 10, or a reduction in rates of maternal mortality.

In addition, governments that set performance targets must use nonfinancial data for outputs and outcomes to determine if these targets have been met.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program is organized by functions. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on inputs for all administrative units or all functions, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on inputs are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on inputs is presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, nonfinancial data on inputs are presented for some programs and/or some administrative units (or functions).

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 59-167) includes nonfinancial data on inputs to be acquired for some expenditures

by functional classification, for example:

- number and structure of employees in the public sector including y/y changes (page 62)
- number of pedagogic and non-pedagogic employees at primary and secondary schools (pages 77, 78)
- number of employees working in prisons/guards (page 120)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

50. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on results (in terms of outputs or outcomes) for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 50 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 49).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on results for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on results for each individual program is organized by functional classification. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on results for all administrative units or all functional classifications, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on results are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on results is presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, nonfinancial data on results are presented for some programs and/or some administrative units (or functions).

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23 (pages 59-167) includes nonfinancial data on results for at least the budget year for some expenditures by functional classification, for example:

- number of pupils in primary and secondary education (page 77)
- number of tertiary students (page 80)
- number of imprisoned people (page 120)

The EBP also includes non-financial data on results up to a year preceding the budget year for all expenditures classified by functions.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

51. Are performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results in the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation?

GUIDELINES:

Question 51 asks about performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. The question applies to those nonfinancial results shown in the budget, and that were identified for purposes of Question 50.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to all nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to a majority (but not all) of the nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget. A "c" response applies if performance targets are assigned only to less than half of the nonfinancial data on results. Answer "d" applies if no performance targets are assigned to nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget, or the budget does not present nonfinancial results.

Answer:

d. No, performance targets are not assigned to nonfinancial data on results, or the budget does not present nonfinancial data on results.

Source:

Comment:

Performance targets are not assigned to nonfinancial data on identified results for the budget year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: I think that answer "d" is appropriate. There are some non-financial targets are available for each ministry, however practically none of the targets are quantified, for example within Ministry of Education it is the most obvious.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

52. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations in at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 52 asks whether the budget highlight policies, both new and existing, that benefit the poorest segments of society. This question is intended to assess only those programs that directly address the immediate needs of the poor, such as through cash assistance programs or the provision of housing, rather than indirectly, such as through a stronger national defense. This information is of particular interest to those seeking to bolster government's commitment to anti-poverty efforts. For purposes of answering this question, a departmental budget (such as the Department of Social Welfare) would not be considered acceptable. In general, this question is asking whether the EBP includes a special presentation that pulls together estimates of all the relevant policies in one place. However, if the country uses "program budgeting," where programs are presented as expenditure categories with specific and identified objectives, and it identifies anti-poverty programs within each administrative unit, then that is also acceptable for this question.

The IBP Budget Brief, "How Transparent are Governments When it Comes to Their Budget's Impact on Poverty and Inequality?"

(<https://www.internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/government-transparency-of-budgets-impact-on-poverty-inequality-ibp-2019.pdf>) includes a discussion of countries that have provided information on how its policies affect the poor.

For instance, Pakistan provides a detailed breakdown of pro-poor expenditure as part of its 2017-18 budget proposal. In one document, the government sets out policy priorities, expected outputs, and estimates of past and future spending for several programs aimed at poverty alleviation. Another supporting document provides a comprehensive overview of ongoing policies, including a chapter on social safety nets, covering both financial and performance information of poverty alleviation schemes over a period of eight years. (http://www.finance.gov.pk/budget/mtbf_2018_21.pdf and http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey_1718.html).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must for at least the budget year both present estimates covering all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations and include a narrative discussion that specifically addresses these policies. (For countries using program budgeting that breaks out individual anti-poverty programs, there should be a separate narrative associated with each such program.) Answer "b" if a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented. Answer "c" if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" if no estimates of policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations are presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations are presented.

Source:

The General government budget proposal for FY 2021-23

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/download.dat?id=8A74FC8A1C384905B22441C59A4717C0-E836E112CFB6A302829C2CC29F1AB03B>

Comment:

The General government budget for FY 2021-23 (pages 94-96) includes estimates and narrative on all social inclusion measures and on active labor market policies. However, these are only measures under the "employment and social affairs" program of the state budget. Some other measures are described under particular programs but they are seldom identified as anti-poverty measures and sometimes lack narrative. For example housing support is described under the "transport and housing" program (pages 89-90), expenditure estimate on long-term care is mentioned under "healthcare" program without any narrative, etc.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

53. Does the executive release to the public its timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal (that is, a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 53 asks about the budget timetable. An internal timetable is particularly important for the executive's management of the budget preparation process, in order to ensure that the executive accounts for the views of the different departments and agencies in the proposed budget. The timetable would, for instance, set deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. So that civil society is aware of the various steps in the budget formulation process, and when opportunities may exist to engage the executive, it is essential that this timetable be made available to the public.

To answer "a," the executive must prepare a detailed budget timetable and release it to the public. A "b" answer applies if the timetable is made public, but some details are not included. A "c" response applies if the timetable is made public, but many important details are excluded, reducing its value for those outside government. Answer "d" applies if no timetable is made available to the public. As long as a timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal is released, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Executive's Budget Proposal is not made publicly available.

Answer:

d. No, a timetable is not issued to the public.

Source:

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2004-523>

Comment:

The Act on Budgetary Rules of Public Administration states in the paragraph 14, section 3:

"The government submits a draft public administration budget to the National Council by 15 October of the current year, unless the National Council decides otherwise."

Otherwise, there is no timetable published.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: There are some other dates set by the law 523/2004... f.e. paragraph 29, Section 5 and 6 sets the dates for submission of YER (MR SR submits YER to Government till 30th of April each year) and after that till 20th of May Government submits YER to Supreme Audit Office/NKÚ and Parliament. It is true that the timetable of budget process is not published officially, but there are some "informal" rules as for dates. f.e. March-April Macroeconomic Prognosis and after that in May, the Pre-Budget Statement, after that Draft version Budget in June should be ready, submitted to Parliament by October, enacted till or during December and till June of next Year-End report of the year submitted to NRSR.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

54. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?

(The core information must include a discussion of the economic outlook with estimates of nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 54 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

- nominal GDP level;
- inflation rate;
- real GDP growth; and
- interest rates.

Beyond these core elements, some governments also provide additional information related to the economic outlook, including for instance: short- and long-term interest rates; the rate of employment and unemployment; GDP deflator; price of oil and other commodities; current account; exchange rate; and

composition of GDP growth.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core information related to the macroeconomic forecast as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the macroeconomic forecast is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the macroeconomic forecast is presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/12/ProgramstabilitySlovenskanaroky2020-2023_final.pdf

Comment:

The PBS for FY 2020-23 includes (pages 7-8) forecasts of all core macroeconomic indicators except for the interest rates, plus following indicators:

- private and public consumption,
- export/import,
- production gap,
- nominal growth of the average monthly wage,
- average growth of employment
- unemployment rate, etc.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

55. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities and an estimate of total expenditures.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 55 focuses on the government's expenditure policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total expenditures.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed programmatic proposals (such detailed information is typically only presented in the budget itself), it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least total expenditures associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can include some detail, for instance, estimates provided by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/12/ProgramstabilitySlovenskanaroky2020-2023_final.pdf

Comment:

The PBS for FY 2020-23 includes brief narrative on main policy priorities (pages 33-35), but without expenditure projections for the budget year. The PBS is accompanied with 3 attachments summarizing results of revisions of expenditure on (1) informatization, (2) support of people in risk of poverty or social exclusion and (3) employment and remuneration in the public sector. The reports include calculation of savings as well as

expenditure priorities in given areas.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

56. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's revenue policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of revenue policies and priorities and an estimate of total revenues.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 56 focuses on the government's revenue policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of revenue policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total revenue.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed revenue proposals, it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least the total revenue associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can also include more detail, for instance, with estimates provided by revenue category – tax and non-tax – or some of the major individual sources of revenue, such as the Value Added Tax or the income tax.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/12/ProgramstabilitySlovenskanaroky2020-2023_final.pdf

Comment:

The PBS for FY 2020-23 includes brief narrative on main policy priorities regarding revenues (page 34), but without estimates of the total revenue associated with these policies for the budget year.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

57. Does Pre-Budget Statement present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 57 asks whether the Pre-Budget Statement includes three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- the amount of net new borrowing needed in the upcoming budget year;
- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the upcoming budget year; and

the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the upcoming budget year.

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt for at least the upcoming budget year. For a "b" answer, the Pre-Budget Statement must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the PBS must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the PBS.

Answer:

a. Yes, all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/12/ProgramstabilitySlovenskanaroky2020-2023_final.pdf

Comment:

The PBS for FY 2020-23 includes all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt for 2021-23 (see pages 23-24 for the amount of net new borrowing and the central government's total debt burden and pages 20, 37 for the interest payments on the outstanding debt).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

58. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present estimates of total expenditures for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 58 asks about multi-year expenditure estimates in the Pre-Budget Statement.

To answer "a," expenditure estimates for at least two years beyond the upcoming budget year must be presented. The estimates must be for at least total expenditures, but could include more detail than just the aggregate total.

Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented.

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/12/ProgramstabilitySlovenskanaroky2020-2023_final.pdf

Comment:

The PBS for FY 2020-23 includes total expenditure estimates as well as their basic structure for 2021-23 (see table on page 20).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

59. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 59 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of the three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

b. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents expenditure estimates by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

Law on State Budget for 2021:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/73/ZZ_2020_425_20210101.pdf

General government budget for FY 2021-23 :

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/18/Hlavnakniha.pdf>

Attachments to the General government budget for FY 2021-23:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/61/Prilohy.pdf>

All documents:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/verejne-financie/rozpocet-verejnej-spravy/>

Comment:

Law on State Budget for 2021 includes expenditure estimates of central government by administrative classification (page 6).

General government budget for FY 2021-23 (main document) includes expenditure estimates of general government by functional classification and for some functions partially also by economic classification (pages 60-168). However, based on consultation with the IBP staff, the "a" answer to this question requires the economic classification to be applied to the entirety of the expenditures.

Attachments to the General government budget for FY 2021-23 include expenditure estimates of other than central government chapters by administrative as well as economic classification (pages 4-35).

The Law on State Budget for FY 2021-23 includes expenditure estimates of central government chapters by program classification (pages 7-45).

The General government budget for FY 2021-23 (main document) includes expenditure estimates of general government by program classification (pages 60-168).

Besides, the webpage <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehlad> targeted at general citizens includes expenditure of both central and general government by administrative, functional, economic as well as program classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

59b. Based on the response to Question 59, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Enacted Budget:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Functional classification

Source:

Law on State Budget for 2021:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/73/ZZ_2020_425_20210101.pdf

General government budget for FY 2021-23 :

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/18/Hlavnakniha.pdf>

Attachments to the General government budget for FY 2021-23:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/61/Prilohy.pdf>

All documents:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/verejne-financie/rozpocet-verejnejspravy/>

Comment:

Law on State Budget for 2021 includes expenditure estimates of central government by administrative classification (page 6).

General government budget for FY 2021-23 (main document) includes expenditure estimates of general government by functional classification and for some functions partially also by economic classification (pages 60-168). However, based on consultation with the IBP staff, the "a" answer to this question requires the economic classification to be applied to the entirety of the expenditures.

Attachments to the General government budget for FY 2021-23 include expenditure estimates of other than central government chapters by administrative as well as economic classification (pages 4-35).

The Law on State Budget for FY 2021-23 includes expenditure estimates of central government chapters by program classification (pages 7-45).

The General government budget for FY 2021-23 (main document) includes expenditure estimates of general government by program classification (pages 60-168).

Besides, the webpage <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad> targeted at general citizens includes expenditure of both central and general government by administrative, functional, economic as well as program classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: also economic classification

Researcher Response

Based on consultation with the IBP staff, to check the "economic classification" box, it is necessary to apply this type of classification to the entirety of the expenditures of central government, which is not the case for the Enacted Budget documents. Moreover, this response is in line with the response to question 59 where the Government Reviewer agreed with the proposed answer.

60. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 60 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all programs, which account for all expenditures, in the budget year. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Source:

Law on State Budget for 2021:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/73/ZZ_2020_425_20210101.pdf

General government budget for FY 2021-23 :
<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/18/Hlavnakniha.pdf>

Comment:
The Law on State Budget for FY 2021-23 includes expenditure estimates of central government chapters by program classification (pages 7-45).

The General government budget for FY 2021-23 (main document) includes expenditure estimates of general government by program classification (pages 60-168).

Besides, the webpage <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad> targeted at general citizens includes expenditure of both central and general government by administrative, functional, economic as well as program classification.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

61. Does the Enacted Budget present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 61 asks whether revenue estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by "category" – that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:
a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:
Law on State Budget for 2021:
https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/73/ZZ_2020_425_20210101.pdf

General government budget for FY 2021-23 :
<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/18/Hlavnakniha.pdf>

Comment:
The Law on State Budget for 2021 includes central government revenue estimates classified by category (page 4).

The General government budget for FY 2021-23 (main document) includes general government revenue estimates classified by category (pages 32-54).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

62. Does the Enacted Budget present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 62 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Enacted Budget. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Enacted Budget must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue that account for less than two-thirds of

revenues. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

Law on State Budget for 2021:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/73/ZZ_2020_425_20210101.pdf

General government budget for FY 2021-23:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/18/Hlavnakniha.pdf>

Comment:

The Law on State Budget for 2021 includes estimates of central government individual sources of revenue structured by rather broad categories (page 4).

The General government budget for FY 2021-23 (main document) includes estimates of both central and general government individual sources of revenue structured by detailed categories (pages 32-54). - this is an improvement in practice, compared to the OBS 2019.

Note that the General Government Budget for next 3 years is part of the Enacted Budget package of documents. However, it is not transformed to the Law (as opposed to the Law on State Budget).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

63. Does the Enacted Budget present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 63 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- *the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;*
- *the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year;*
- *the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens, banks, and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Enacted Budget must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Enacted Budget must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:

a. Yes, all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

General government budget for FY 2021-23:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/18/Hlavnakniha.pdf>

Comment:

The General government budget for FY 2021-23 (main document) includes information on the debt and deficit as of the end of budget year (pages 22-23) as well as information on the borrowing needs and the interest payments as of the end of budget year (pages 140-141).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

64. What information is provided in the Citizens Budget?

(The core information must include expenditure and revenue totals, the main policy initiatives in the budget, the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based, and contact information for follow-up by citizens.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 64 focuses on the content of the Citizens Budget, asking whether "core" information is presented. These core components include:

- *expenditure and revenue totals;*
- *the main policy initiatives in the budget;*
- *the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based; and*
- *contact information for follow-up by citizens.*

To answer "a," the Citizens Budget or supporting documentation must present all of the above core information as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Citizens Budget must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if the Citizens Budget includes some of the core components above, but other core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if a Citizens Budget is not published.

Answer:

b. The Citizens Budget provides the core information.

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/72/Rozpocet_pre_ludi.pdf

Comment:

The CB includes:

- expenditure and revenue totals as well as subtotals in key categories;
- the main policy initiatives and expenditure priorities in the budget;
- the macroeconomic forecast of key indicators upon which the budget is based;
- the narrative explanations.

Compared to previous evaluations, publishing this document is an improvement in the practice as the document was not published before 2020.

Besides, there is a special portal <https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehlad> targeted at general citizens which includes data on budget revenues and expenditures of both central and general government units displayed by administrative, functional, economic as well as program classification. Based on previous assessments under the Open Budget Survey, this portal was considered as a citizens budget in Slovakia.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In fact only a very small core of budget information is included (it is more graphical than informative... +published only online & not distributed widely to public in printed version).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

65. How is the Citizens Budget disseminated to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 65 asks how the Citizens Budget is disseminated to the public. Citizens Budgets should be made available to a variety of audiences. Therefore paper versions and an Internet posting of a document might not be sufficient.

To answer "a," the executive must use three or more different types of creative media tools to reach the largest possible share of the population, including those who otherwise would not normally have access to budget documents or information. Dissemination would also be pursued at the very local level, so that the coverage is targeted both by geographic area and population group (e.g., women, elderly, low income, urban, rural, etc.). Option "b" applies if significant dissemination efforts are made through a combination of two means of communications, for instance, both posting the Citizens Budget on the executive's official website and distributing printed copies of it. Option "c" applies if the Citizens Budget is disseminated through only posting on the executive's official website. Option "d" applies when the executive does not publish a Citizens Budget.

Answer:

b. A Citizens Budget is published by using at least two, but less than three, means of dissemination, but no other dissemination efforts are undertaken by the executive.

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/rozpocet-ludi-2021.html?fbclid=IwAR1c3e6LkUnQJBIMXBjrtVysdfhdbI0_eNm5le_uKjhr-ddrfWjt-Y1Yg

<https://www.facebook.com/ministerstvo.financii.sr/posts/3739253169459643>

<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad>

Comment:

The CB is published on a webpage of the MoF (first link, however, it is difficult to find it there) and on the Facebook of the MoF (second link).

Besides, there is a special webportal containing budget data that was considered as a CB in Slovakia in previous OBS assessments (third link).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In fact only a very small core of budget information is included (it is more graphical than informative... +published only online and via social networks & not distributed widely to public in printed version).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

66. Has the executive established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information prior to publishing the Citizens Budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 66 asks whether the executive has established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information before publishing a Citizens Budget. What the public wants to know about the budget might differ from the information the executive includes in technical documents that comprise the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget; similarly, different perspectives might exist on how the budget should be presented, and this may vary depending on the context. For this reason the executive should consult with the public on the content and presentation of the Citizens Budget.

To answer "a," the executive must have established mechanisms to consult with the public, and these mechanisms for consultation are both accessible and widely used by the public. Such mechanisms can include focus groups, social networks, surveys, hotlines, and meetings/events in universities or other locations where people gather to discuss public issues. In countries where Citizens Budgets are consistently produced and released, it may be sufficient for the government to provide the public with contact information and feedback opportunities, and subsequently use the feedback to improve its management of public resources.

Option "b" applies if the executive has established mechanisms for consultation that are accessible to the public, but that the public nonetheless does not use frequently. That is, the public does not typically engage with the executive on the content of the Citizens Budget, even though the executive has created opportunities for such consultation. Option "c" applies if the executive has established mechanism for consultation with the public, but they are poorly designed and thus not accessible to the public. Option "d" applies if the executive has not created any mechanisms to seek feedback from the public on the content of the Citizens Budget.

Answer:

d. No, the executive has not established any mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information in the Citizen's Budget.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

67. Are "citizens" versions of budget documents published throughout the budget process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 67 asks if "citizens" versions of budget documents are published throughout the budget process. While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle.

To answer "a," a citizens version of at least one budget document is published for each of the four stages of the budget process (budget formulation, enactment, execution, and audit) – for a total of at least four citizens budget documents throughout the process. Option "b" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least two of the four stages of the budget process. Option "c" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least one of the four stages of the budget process. Select option "d" if no "citizens" version of budget documents is published.

Answer:

c. A citizens version of budget documents is published for at least one stage of the budget process.

Source:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/72/Rozpocet_pre_ludi.pdf
<https://rozpocet.sk/web/#/prehľad>

Comment:

Both the CB as a separate document as well as the portal "rozpocet.sk" display data on the enacted budget. Besides, the portal presents partial data on the budget monthly execution.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

68. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 68 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above.

Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," actual expenditures must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if actual expenditures are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by any of the three classifications in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

c. Yes, the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

MoF webpage with daily data:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpoctu/>

Press report on monthly data from March 1, 2021:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/bilancia-statneho-rozpoctu-6.html>

Comment:

On its website, the Ministry of Finance publishes daily data on cash expenditures of the central government by economic classification. On a monthly basis, it issues a press report informing about actual budget execution with data on expenditures by partial functional classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

68b. Based on the response to Question 68, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the In-Year Reports:

Answer:

Economic classification

Source:

MoF webpage with daily data:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpoctu/>

Press report on monthly data from March 1, 2021:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/bilancia-statneho-rozpoctu-6.html>

Comment:

On its website, the Ministry of Finance publishes daily data on cash expenditures of the central government by economic classification. On a monthly basis, it issues a press report informing about actual budget execution with data on expenditures by partial functional classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

69. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 69 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by program in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

d. No, the In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by program.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

70. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date expenditures with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 70 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual expenditures to-date with either the enacted levels or actual expenditures for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date expenditures in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast expenditures (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports

Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

Press report on monthly data from March 1, 2021:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/bilancia-statneho-rozpocetu-6.html>

MoF webpage with daily data:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpocetu/>

Comment:

Cash expenditures by partial functional classification published in monthly press reports - comparison with the same period of previous year is available.

Daily cash expenditures by economic classification displayed on MoF webpage - only comparisons to the enacted budget for the whole year are available, i.e. not for the same period.

After consultation with the IBP staff, we have chosen "b" answer as the IBP is mainly looking for comparisons according to the economic classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports.

Comments: monthly presented state budget reports include comparisons to the same time period of the previous year

Researcher Response

As written in original comment, monthly reports include comparison with the same period of previous year for cash expenditures by partial functional classification. However, the IBP is mainly looking for comparisons according to the economic classification.

IBP Comment

The researcher further clarified that: "The following expenditure categories are compared with the same period of the previous year: total exp., public debt service, payments to the EU and their co-funding, transfer to the Social Insurance Agency, others." While this is only a high-level categorization, the question guidelines are not prescriptive about the minimum level of detail that IYRs need to include. Response is upgraded from "b" to "a."

71. Do In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 71 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual revenues by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category.

Source:

MoF webpage with daily data:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpoctu/>

Press report on monthly data from March 1, 2021:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/bilancia-statneho-rozpoctu-6.html>

Comment:

Yes, both daily and monthly reports publish data on revenues by category.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

72. Do In-Year Reports present the individual sources of revenue for actual revenues collected?

GUIDELINES:

Question 72 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual collections of individual sources of revenue (such as income taxes, VAT, etc.). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue collected, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue that account for less than two-thirds of all revenue collected. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of actual revenue are not presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

MoF webpage with daily data:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpoctu/>

Press report from March 1, 2021:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/bilancia-statneho-rozpoctu-6.html>

Comment:

Yes, daily reports publish data on individual sources of actual revenue accounting for all revenue. Monthly reports do not publish individual sources of actual revenues.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

73. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date revenues with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 73 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual revenues to-date with either the enacted levels or actual revenues for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date revenues in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast revenues (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

Press report on monthly data from March 1, 2021:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/bilancia-statneho-rozpoctu-6.html>

MoF webpage with daily data:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpoctu/>

Comment:

Cash revenues published in monthly press reports - comparison with the same period of previous year is available.

Daily cash revenues displayed on MoF webpage - only comparisons to the enacted budget for the whole year are available, i.e. not for the same period.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

74. Do In-Year Reports present three estimates related to actual government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing; the total debt outstanding; and interest payments?

GUIDELINES:

Question 74 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- *the amount of net new borrowing so far during the year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at that point in the year; and*
- *the interest payments to-date on the outstanding debt.*

Debt is the accumulated amount of money that the government borrows. The government can borrow from its citizens and banks and businesses within the country (domestic debt) or from creditors outside the country (external debt). External debt is typically owed to private commercial banks, other governments, or international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Net new borrowing is the additional amount of new borrowing that is required for the budget year to finance expenditures in the budget that exceed available revenues. Net new borrowing adds to the accumulated debt. It is distinct from gross borrowing, which also includes borrowing needed to repay existing debt that matured during the budget year; debt that is replaced (or rolled over) does not add to the total of accumulated debt. For the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, In-Year Reports must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, IYRs must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

c. Yes, one of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

Press report on monthly data from March 1, 2021:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/bilancia-statneho-rozpoctu-6.html>

MoF webpage with daily data:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/priebezne-plnenie-statneho-rozpoctu/>

Comment:

Both daily and monthly reports include data on the cash budget balance which is a proxy for net borrowing.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

75. Do In-Year Reports present information related to the composition of the total actual debt outstanding?

(The core information must include interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 75 focuses on the composition of government debt, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- interest rates on the debt;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether the debt is domestic or external.

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 74, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens and banks and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

Beyond these core elements, a government may also provide additional information related to the composition of its debt, including for instance: whether interest rates are fixed or variable; whether debt is callable; the currency of the debt; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); an analysis of the risk associated with the debt; and where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt to-date as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

d. No, information related to composition of total actual debt outstanding is not presented.

Source:

Comment:

Neither daily nor monthly reports on budget execution include information related to composition of total actual debt outstanding.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

76. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 76 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated macroeconomic forecast and explain all of the differences between the initial forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and the updated forecast. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the macroeconomic forecast must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated forecasts are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the macroeconomic forecast has not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, the estimates for macroeconomic forecast have not been updated.

Source:

Comment:

Based on consultation with the IBP staff the respective document published in Slovakia does not meet standards for the MYR:
<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpoctu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

The document is based on an updated macroeconomic forecast but it does not include narrative explanation of the differences between the original and updated forecast (besides the headline real change of GDP).

The Macroeconomic Forecast Committee updates its forecasts always in June. The update includes comparison with previous forecast and narrative explaining differences.

The update on macroeconomic forecast from June 2020:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy/52-zasadnutie-vyboru-makroekonomicke-prognozy-jun-2020.html>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

77. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 77 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of expenditure for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated expenditure estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. The expenditure estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated expenditure estimates, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Source:

Comment:

Based on consultation with the IBP staff the respective document published in Slovakia does not meet standards for the MYR:
<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpoctu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

The document includes:

Updated expenditure items:

- Compensations for public employees
- Intermediate consumption
- Subsidies
- Interest expenses
- Social benefits other than in kind transfers
- Social transfers in kind (public health insurance expenses)
- Other current transfers
- Capital investments
- Investment grants and other capital transfers

Narrative explanation:

- Compensations for public employees
- Intermediate consumption
- Subsidies
- Social benefits other than in kind transfers
- Capital investments
- Investment grants and other capital transfers

The document includes only estimates of end-year changes of specific expenditure items, i.e. there are no estimates of the absolute end-year amounts of the specific expenditure categories.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, expenditure estimates have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated expenditure estimates is presented.

Comments: MYR is based on the ESA2020 standards and ESA categories

Researcher Response

Based on consultation with the IBP staff, the respective document published in Slovakia does not meet standards for the MYR.

78. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 78 asks if expenditure estimates for the budget year underway in the Mid-Year Review are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Comment:

Based on consultation with the IBP staff the respective document published in Slovakia does not meet standards for the MYR:
<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpoctu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

The document presents expenditure estimates only by economic classification.

The document includes only estimates of end-year changes of specific expenditure items, i.e. there are no estimates of the absolute end-year amounts of the specific expenditure categories.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

78b. Based on the response to Question 78, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Mid-Year Review:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Comment:

Based on consultation with the IBP staff the respective document published in Slovakia does not meet standards for the MYR:
<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpoctu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

The document presents end-year expenditure estimates only by economic classification.

The document includes only estimates of end-year changes of specific expenditure items, i.e. there are no estimates of the absolute end-year amounts of the specific expenditure categories.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

79. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 79 asks if expenditure estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by program for the budget year underway. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaille. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented

by program in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpoctu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

Comment:

The MYR does not include expenditure estimates for individual programs.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

80. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 80 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of revenue for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated revenue estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the revenue estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated revenue estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the revenue estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, revenue estimates have not been updated.

Source:

Comment:

Based on consultation with the IBP staff the respective document published in Slovakia does not meet standards for the MYR:
<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpoctu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

The document includes updated end-year estimates for following categories of revenues:

- Tax revenues
- Social security contributions
- Sales
- Property income total and derived from Dividends and Interest
- Grants and transfers

The document includes a brief narrative explanation of changes for following categories of revenues:

- Tax revenues
- Social security contributions
- Sales
- Grants and transfers

The document includes only estimates of end-year changes of specific revenue categories, i.e. there are no estimates of the absolute end-year amounts of the specific revenue categories.

Moreover, the Tax Revenue Forecasting Committee updates and publishes its forecasts on tax revenues always in June. The update includes detailed comparison with previous forecast as well as with the enacted budget and presentation explaining major differences. The forecast update does not include non-tax revenues.

Update on tax revenue forecasts from June 2021:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/danove-prognozy/57-zasadnutie-vyboru-danove-prognozy-2020.html>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, revenue estimates have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated revenue estimates is presented.

Researcher Response

Based on consultation with the IBP staff, the respective document published in Slovakia does not meet standards for the MYR.

81. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 81 asks whether revenue estimates for the budget year underway in the Mid-Year Review are presented by "category"—that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

b. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present revenue estimates by category.

Source:

Comment:

Based on consultation with the IBP staff the respective document published in Slovakia does not meet standards for the MYR:
<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpocetu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

The document includes updated end-year estimates of changes in following categories of revenues:

- Tax revenues
- Social security contributions
- Sales
- Property income total and derived from Dividends and Interest
- Grants and transfers

The document includes only estimates of end-year changes of specific revenue categories, i.e. there are no estimates of the absolute end-year amounts of the specific revenue categories.

Moreover, the Tax Revenue Forecasting Committee updates and publishes its forecasts on tax revenues always in June. The update includes detailed estimates on tax revenues by category but it does not include estimates of non-tax revenues.

Update on tax revenue forecasts from June 2021:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/danove-prognozy/57-zasadnutie-vyboru-danove-prognozy-2020.html>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

82. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 82 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway are presented in the Mid-Year Review. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenues, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

MYR: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpoctu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

Update on tax revenue forecasts from June 2021:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/danove-prognozy/57-zasadnutie-vyboru-danove-prognozy-2020.html>

Comment:

The MYR includes only estimates of end-year changes of specific revenue categories, i.e. there are no estimates of the absolute end-year amounts of the specific revenue categories.

Moreover, the Tax Revenue Forecasting Committee updates and publishes its forecasts on tax revenues always in June. The update includes revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway but it does not include estimates of non-tax revenues.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

83. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 83 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;
- The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and
- The interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- interest rates on the debt;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether the debt is domestic or external.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, and explain all of the differences between the initial estimates presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the estimates of borrowing and debt must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the estimates of borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of government borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/media/tlacove-spravy/informacia-predpokladanom-vyvoji-rozpoctu-verejnej-spravy-roku-2020.html>

Comment:

The MYR does not include estimates of government borrowing and debt.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

84. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 84 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual expenditures for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all expenditures are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all expenditures, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures, along with a narrative discussion (pages 53-96), data are displayed also in tables on pages 124-182 or in separate Excel files.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

85. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 85 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. Answer "b" if expenditure estimates are presented by two of these three classifications. Answer "c" if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 includes expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications:

Administrative: pages 124-140

Functional: pages 83-86, 141-144

Economic: pages 53-82, 124-140

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

85b. Based on the response to Question 85, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Economic classification

Functional classification

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 includes expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications:

Administrative: pages 124-140

Functional: pages 83-86, 141-144

Economic: pages 53-82, 124-140

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

86. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 86 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to

mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable detaillé. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" if expenditures are not presented by program in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 includes expenditure estimates for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures: pages 160-164

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

87. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Question 87 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual revenues for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all revenues are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all revenues, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 presents the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for revenues for all revenues, along with a narrative discussion - see pages 39-52, or data tables on pages 114-115.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

88. Does the Year-End Report present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 88 asks whether revenue estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by "category" – that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 presents revenue estimates by category - see pages 39-52, or data tables on pages 114-115.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

89. Does the Year-End Report present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 89 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Year-End Report. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue - see pages 39-52, or data tables on pages 114-115.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

90. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 90 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome for the fiscal year for borrowing and debt, including its composition, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

- the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;
- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year; and
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

- interest rates on the debt;
- maturity profile of the debt; and
- whether the debt is domestic or external.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of government borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 presents differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome for the fiscal year for:

- the cash deficit as a proxy of the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year (page 12)
- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year (pages 28-30 including narrative)
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year (page 68).

It also includes information on external/internal composition of debt, however, without comparison with original estimates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

90b. Based on the response to Question 90, check the box(es) to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, have the differences between the original forecast and the actual outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year
The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year
The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 presents differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome for the fiscal year for:

- the cash deficit as a proxy of the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year (page 12)
- the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year (pages 28-30 including narrative)
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year (page 68).

It also includes information on external/internal composition of debt, however, without comparison with original estimates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

91. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 91 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast in the Executive's Budget Proposal. Core components include estimates of the nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates, although the importance of other macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil, can vary from country to country.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of the differences between all the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 presents (page 9) estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year including a brief narrative for following indicators:

- nominal GDP level,
- inflation rate,
- real GDP growth,
- change in real/nominal consumption of households,
- change in real/nominal average wage,
- change in employment and unemployment rate,
- current account balance

After consultation with the IBP staff we agreed that the only "core" item that's missing is "interest rates", but there is beyond the core info. Therefore we selected "b" answer for this question (the "beyond the core" info compensates for the lack of interest rate info.).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

91b. Based on the response to Question 91, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast have the differences between the original forecast and the outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

Nominal GDP level

Inflation rate

Real GDP growth

Information beyond the core elements

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 presents (page 9) estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year including a brief narrative for following indicators:

- nominal GDP level,
- inflation rate,
- real GDP growth,
- change in real/nominal consumption of households,
- change in real/nominal average wage,
- change in employment and unemployment rate,
- current account balance

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

92. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 92 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 49 for the nonfinancial data on inputs included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

93. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 93 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 92).

Refer to Question 50 for the nonfinancial data on results included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimate of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are presented.

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, estimate of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are presented.

Comments: for example number of the employees

Researcher Response

I checked the report and found some comparison on number of employees on pages 56-58 of the Year-End Report for 2019. Therefore I agree to change the answer, from "d" to "c".

94. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 94 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 52 for assistance to the most impoverished populations in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between the enacted level for some but not all of the policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted level for some but not all of the policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are presented.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 presents estimates of the differences between the enacted level and the actual outcome for some but not all of the policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations - see pages 69-70, 144.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

95. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 95 asks whether the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 33 for estimates of extra-budgetary funds in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/statny-zaverecny-ucet-sr/>

ZIP files: <https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/34/NavrhSZUzarok2019.zip>

Comment:

The Year-End Report (Štátny záverečný účet) for 2019 includes a brief narrative with estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates and the actual outcome of some extra-budgetary funds (page 24):

- National nuclear fund
- Environmental fund
- State housing development fund

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

96. Is a financial statement included as part of the Year-End Report or released as a separate report?

GUIDELINES:

Question 96 asks whether a financial statement is included as part of the Year-End Report, or whether it is released as a separate report. The financial statement can include some or all of the following elements: a cash flow statement, an operating statement, a balance sheet, and notes on accounting. For purposes of responding to this question, the financial statement in question does not need to be audited. For an example of a financial statement, see the

document "Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand 2013" (<https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2013-10/fsgnz-year-jun13.pdf>)

To answer "a," a financial statement must either be included in the Year-End Report or must be released as a separate report. Answer "a" applies if a financial statement is released as a separate report, even if the Year-End Report is not publicly available. Answer "b" applies if no financial statement is released either as part of the Year-End Report or as a separate report.

Answer:

a. Yes, a financial statement is part of the Year-End Report or is released as a separate report.

Source:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/statne-vykaznictvo/klucove-dokumenty-uctovne-zavierky/uctovne-zavierky-mfsr/suhrnna-uctovna-zavierka/>

Comment:

The Consolidated Financial Statement of Public Administration (Slovak: Súhrnná účtovná závierka verejnej správy) includes a balance sheet and a profit & loss statement.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

97. What type of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) has the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) conducted and made available to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 97 asks about the types of audits conducted by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). There are three basic types of audits:

- *Financial audits are intended to determine if an entity's financial information is accurate (free from errors or fraud) and presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting and regulatory framework. See ISSAI 200 (<http://www.issai.org/issai-framework/3-fundamental-auditing-principles.htm>) for more detail.*
- *Compliance audits look at the extent to which the relevant regulations and procedures have been followed. See ISSAI 400 (<https://www.issai.org/pronouncements/issai-400-compliance-audit-principles/>) for more details.*
- *Performance audits assess whether activities are adhering to the principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. See ISSAI 300 (<https://www.issai.org/pronouncements/issai-300-performance-audit-principles/>) for more details.*

Financial and compliance audits are more common than performance audits, which usually occur only once a performance framework has been agreed upon. In some countries, the SAI's mandate limits the type of audit it can conduct.

To answer "a," the SAI must have conducted all three types of audit – financial, compliance, and performance – and made all of them available to the public. A "b" response applies if the SAI has conducted two of the three audit types, and a "c" applies if it has conducted only one type of audit. Answers "b" and "c" may be selected even if the Audit Report is not publicly available, as long as the SAI has conducted compliance or performance audits and made them available to the public. A "d" response applies if the SAI has not conducted any of the three types of audits, or has not made them available to the public.

Answer:

a. The SAI has conducted all three types of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) and made them available to the public.

Source:

<https://www.nku.gov.sk/documents/10157/166625/Spr%C3%A1va+o+v%C3%BDsledkoch+kontrolnej+%C4%8Dinnosti+NK%C3%9A+SR+za+rok+2019>

Comment:

The Supreme Audit Office (SAO) of the Slovak Republic performs all three types of the audit (compliance, financial, performance) and makes them publicly available - see pages 11-12 of the SAO Annual Report for 2019.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

98. What percentage of expenditures within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 98 focuses on the coverage of audits by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), asking what percentage of expenditures within the SAI's mandate has been audited.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to budgetary central government (ministries, departments, and agencies) that are within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 99 addresses audits of extra-budgetary funds.) Further, the question does not apply to "secret programs" (for example, security-related expenditures that are confidential). Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. Financial audits and compliance audits, or a hybrid of the two, can be taken into account to answer this question. Performance audits should not be considered for this question.

To answer "a," all expenditures within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if at least two-thirds, but not all, expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response is appropriate when less than two-thirds of expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies when no expenditures have been audited.

Answer:

c. Expenditures representing less than two-thirds of expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

Source:

https://www.nku.gov.sk/documents/10157/164819/Stanovisko+NK%C3%A9A_%C5%A0Z%C3%A2019.pdf

Comment:

In theory, the SAO has authority to audit all public expenditure, including extrabudgetary funds. In practice, it performs audits on just a small percentage of the expenditure. For example, with regards to its statement on Year-End Report for 2019, the SAO performed "quick" controls in just 4 budget chapters (see page 5 in the Statement).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

99. What percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 99 focuses on audits of extra-budgetary funds, asking what percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited. These funds, although technically outside the budget, are governmental in nature and thus should be subject to the same audit requirement as other government programs.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 98 addresses audits of budgetary central government.) Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

To answer "a," all extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies if extra-budgetary funds have not been audited.

Answer:

c. Extra-budgetary funds accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

Source:

<https://www.nku.gov.sk/documents/10157/166625/Spr%C3%A1va+o+v%C3%BDsledkoch+kontrolnej+%C4%8Dinnosti+NK%C3%A9A+SR+za+rok+2019>

Comment:

In theory, the SAI has authority to audit all public expenditure, including extra-budgetary funds. In practice, it performs audits on just a small percentage of the expenditure. In 2019, there have been a few audits of state-owned companies and local governments (for list of all audits, see page 40 of the Report on Audits in 2019).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

100. Does the annual Audit Report(s) prepared by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) include an executive summary?

GUIDELINES:

Question 100 asks whether the annual Audit Report includes an executive summary. Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. The Audit Report can be a fairly technical document, and an executive summary of the report's findings can help make it more accessible to the media and the public.

To answer "a," the Audit Report must include at least one executive summary summarizing the report's content. Answer "b" applies if the Audit Report does not include an executive summary, or the Audit Report is not made publicly available.

Answer:

a. Yes, the annual Audit Report(s) includes one or more executive summaries summarizing the report's content.

Source:

https://www.nku.gov.sk/documents/10157/164819/Stanovisko+NK%C3%A9A_%C5%A0Z%C3%A2019.pdf

Comment:

See pages 4-6 of the PDF document, section called "Zhrnutie" (Summary).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

101. Does the executive make available to the public a report on what steps it has taken to address audit recommendations or findings that indicate a need for remedial action?

GUIDELINES:

Question 101 asks whether the executive reports to the public on the steps it has taken to address audit recommendations made by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). The ultimate purpose of audits is to verify that the budget was executed in a manner consistent with existing law, and to hold the government accountable for this execution and its future improvement. The extent to which audits achieve the latter depends on whether there is adequate and timely follow-up on the recommendations provided in the SAI's audit reports.

To answer "a," the executive must report publicly on the steps it has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address audit finding, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if the executive does not report at all on its steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

d. No, the executive does not report on steps it has taken to address audit findings.

Source:

Comment:
No such information is publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In fact it is mostly ignored (nearly all the outputs of NKÚ/Supreme Audit Office regarding budget because it is only "statements"/have no legal relevance and politicians have no motivations to follow them or address the findings).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

102. Does either the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or legislature release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations?

GUIDELINES:

Question 102 asks whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or the legislature track actions by the executive to address audit recommendations. After audit results and recommendations are discussed and validated by the legislature, the executive is normally asked to take certain actions to address the audit findings. For accountability purposes, the public needs to be informed about the status of those actions, and steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations. In addition to the executive reporting on its actions (see Question 101), the SAI and legislature – as the key oversight institutions – have a responsibility to keep the public informed by tracking the executive's progress in addressing audit recommendations.

To answer "a," the SAI or legislature must report publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the SAI or legislature reports publicly on the steps the executive has taken, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if neither the SAI nor the legislature reports on the executive's steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

d. No, neither the SAI nor legislature reports on steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations.

Source:

Comment:

No such reports are publicly available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: In fact it is mostly ignored (nearly all the outputs of NKÚ/Supreme Audit Office regarding budget because it is only "statements"/have no legal relevance and politicians have no motivations to follow them or address the findings).

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

103. Is there an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) that conducts budget analyses for the budget formulation and/or approval process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 103 examines whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) exists that contributes budget analyses to the budget formulation and/or approval process. According to the Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions, adopted by the OECD Council in 2014, "independent fiscal institutions are publicly funded, independent bodies under the statutory authority of the executive or the legislature which provide non-partisan oversight and analysis of, and in some cases advice on, fiscal policy and performance", and with "a forward-looking ex ante diagnostic task". In practice, they come in two main forms:

- *Parliamentary budget offices (also known as PBOs) such as the Congressional Budget Office in the United States (<https://www.cbo.gov/>), the Parliamentary Budget Office in South Africa (<https://www.parliament.gov.za/parliamentary-budget-office>), and the Center for Public Finance Studies in Mexico (Centro de Estudios de las Finanzas Públicas, <http://www.cefp.qob.mx/>); or*
- *Fiscal councils such as the Office for Budget Responsibility in the United Kingdom (<https://obr.uk/>) and the High Council for Public Finances in France (Haut Conseil des finances publiques, <https://www.hcfp.fr/>).*

For more information, see von Trapp et al. 'Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions and Case Studies', *OECD Journal on Budgeting* 15:2 (special issue, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1787/budget-15-5jm2795tv625>.

To answer "a", there must be an IFI, and its independence must be set in law. In addition, it must have sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks. Answer "b" applies if an IFI exists, but either its independence is not set in law or its staffing and resources are insufficient to carry out its tasks. Answer "c" applies if an IFI exists, but its independence is not set in law and it lacks sufficient staffing and resources. Answer "d" applies if no IFI exists.

If the answer is "a", "b", or "c", please specify in the comments the name and type of IFI that exists (e.g., parliamentary budget office or fiscal council). If the answer is "a" or "b", identify the law that guarantees its independence, and provide evidence in support of the assessment of the adequacy of its staffing and resources. This can include the IFI's total budget allocation over recent years, any press reports that discuss perceived funding shortfalls, assessments by international organizations, and/or information from interviews with staff of the IFI.

Answer:

a. Yes, there is an IFI, its independence is set in law, and it has sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks.

Source:

<https://www.rozpocetovarada.sk/eng/home>

Comment:

A special fiscal council exists in Slovakia that is called Council for Budget responsibility (CBR - <https://www.rozpocetovarada.sk/eng/home>) and which serves as an independent body for monitoring and evaluating the fiscal performance of the Slovak Republic. Its role, tasks and position among other institutions are given by the constitutional law – On budgetary responsibility: Fiscal Responsibility Act (no. – 493/2011) adopted in December 2011 (https://www.rozpocetovarada.sk/images/constitutional_act_493_2011.pdf, <https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2011-493>).

The Council is supported by the Office of CBR, whose budget is financed from the budget of the National Bank of Slovakia. According to the OECD Review of the Slovak Council for Budget Responsibility (CBR) published in February 2020:

Page 31: "To date, the resources allocated to the Council have proven sufficient."

Page 38: "While the Council's staffing levels have been sufficient for it to deliver its mandate in recent years, it is operating at full capacity and there is limited back-up, even across important work streams such as macroeconomic forecasting."

For international comparison, see chart on page 32.

Independence of CBR received positive assessments in comparison to other Slovak public institutions (<https://institucie.ineko.sk/rebricky>, http://www.ineko.sk/file_download/1553) as well as to other EU Independent Fiscal Institutions (https://www.rozpocetovarada.sk/download2/dp1_2017_fc_in_action.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

104. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts?

GUIDELINES:

Question 104 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a role in producing the macroeconomic forecast (e.g., GDP growth, inflation, interest rates, etc.) and/or the fiscal forecast (revenues, expenditure, deficits, and debt), and if so, what kind of role it has. Macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasting is a typical core function across IFIs, but their role in forecasting takes several forms (von Trapp et al. 2016, p. 17 and Table 2). Some IFIs produce just a macroeconomic forecast, while others produce a complete fiscal forecast (which also typically requires an underlying macroeconomic forecast). In some cases, the fiscal forecast reflects continuation of current budget policies; such forecasts can be used by the legislature, the media, or the public to assess the projections in the executive's budget reflecting the government's policy proposals.

Some IFIs produce the official macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts used in the executive's budget. In other cases, IFIs do not prepare their own independent forecasts, but rather produce an assessment of the official estimates, or provide an opinion on, or endorsement of, the government's forecasts. Some others have no role at all in forecasting.

To answer "a", there must be an IFI that publishes both its own macroeconomic AND fiscal forecasts. Answer "b" applies if an IFI publishes its own macroeconomic OR fiscal forecast (but not both). Answer "c" applies if the IFI does not publish a macroeconomic or fiscal forecast, but rather publishes an assessment of the official forecasts produced by the executive and used in the budget. Choose option "d" if there is no IFI; or if there is an IFI that neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts for the budget.

Macroeconomic forecasts may include indicators relating to economic output and economic growth, inflation, and the labor market, amongst others. Fiscal forecasts may include estimates of revenues, expenditures, the budget balance, and debt. If the answer is "a" or "b", please specify which indicators and estimates are included in the forecasts and whether the forecast is used by government as the official forecast. If the answer is "c", please describe the nature and depth of the assessment (e.g., the length of the commentary, or whether it covers both economic and fiscal issues).

Answer:

a. Yes, the IFI publishes its own macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts.

Source:

<https://www.rozpocetovarasda.sk/svk/home>

Comment:

According to the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA), the Council for Budget Responsibility (CBR) does not have responsibility for producing or assessing official forecasts. As a result, CBR forecasts do not enter official budget documents. Instead, there are two ad-hoc bodies provided by the Law: the Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee and the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts. The Council is a regular member of the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts but it has no voting rights in the Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee.

However, the CBR publishes on a monthly basis the short-term macroeconomic forecasts (now-casting). This includes forecasts for the previous and current quarters for following indicators: GDP growth, employment, nominal wages, public and private consumption, inflation, fixed investment, export and import:

<https://www.rozpocetovarasda.sk/svk/rozpocet/397/kratkodoba-prognoza-ekonomiky-nowcasting>

The CBR also publishes on a monthly basis fiscal forecasts for the current year (Budget Traffic Lights). This includes following indicators: budget balance, major deviations from the approved budget for specific items on both expenditure and revenue sides including explanations, detailed numeric forecasts for specific items on both expenditure and revenue sides:

<https://www.rozpocetovarasda.sk/svk/rozpocet/400/>

Twice a year, the CBR publishes more complex analyses and forecasts on both macroeconomic as well as fiscal developments in Slovakia including detailed description of underlying assumptions:

1. CBR official document evaluating the Pre-Budget Statement (Stability Programme): <https://www.rozpocetovarasda.sk/eng/rozpocet/436/evaluation-of-medium-term-budgetary-objectives-for-2020-2023>

2. CBR official document evaluating General Government Budget Proposal: <https://www.rozpocetovarasda.sk/eng/rozpocet/449/evaluation-of-the-general-government-budget-proposal-for-2021-2023>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

105. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish its own costings of new policy proposals, to assess their impact on the budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 105 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a costing function that involves assessing the budgetary implications of new policy proposals for both revenues and expenditures, and if so, what kind of role it has. Many IFIs have a costing role, but with substantial diversity in the nature and extent of this work (von Trapp et al 2016, pp. 17-18 and Table 2). Some assess virtually all new policy proposals, while others cost only a selection of new policy proposals. Others only publish opinions on, or scrutinize the costings of, budget measures produced by the executive.

To answer "a," the IFI must publish its own costings of all (or virtually all) new policy proposals. Answer "b" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only for major new policy proposals – for instance, only those proposals that cost or save above a certain amount. Answer "c" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only on a limited number of proposals. This could occur, for instance, if the IFI lacked the capacity to assess proposals dealing with certain sectors. Instead of producing a cost estimate, it can also publish an assessment of the estimates produced by the executive. Answer "d" applies if there is no IFI; or if the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals or provide an assessment of the official costings of new policy proposals.

Answer:

c. Yes, the IFI publishes its own costings of a limited number of new policy proposals.

Source:

<https://www.rozpocetovarasda.sk/svk/udrzatelnost/costing/stanoviska-podklady>

Comment:

There is no formal and binding requirement of CBR publishing costing of policy proposals. CBR may from its own initiative draw up and publish opinions on various legislative proposals submitted to the National Council. Such opinions can be also requested by a parliamentary caucus, yet CBR has the right to reject such requests. Given its constrained capacity, CBR publishes its costings only on a limited number of proposals - 7 in 2018, 6 in 2019 and 5 in 2020 (costings are available at <https://www.rozpocetovarasda.sk/svk/udrzatelnost/costing/stanoviska-podklady>) focusing on those with substantial impact on long-term sustainability or transparency of the public finances.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

106. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 106 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Almost all IFIs interact with the legislature in some form (von Trapp et al 2016, p. 18), but the intensity of the interaction varies. This question assesses this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the IFI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the IFI staff member in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). As evidence to support your answer, you can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the IFI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; and "c" for once or twice. Answer "d" should be selected if the head or a senior staff member of the IFI never took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature, or if there is no IFI.

Answer:
c. Rarely (i.e., once or twice).

Source:
<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?WFTID=NRDK&MasterID=277613>

Comment:
The only formal interaction of CBR with the legislature explicitly outlined in the Fiscal Responsibility Act concerns the report on compliance with the fiscal responsibility and fiscal transparency rules (<https://www.rozpocetvarada.sk/eng/rozpocet/130/report-on-compliance-with-fiscal-responsibility-and-transparency-rules>). This document is drawn up by the CBR each year by the end of August and is subsequently submitted for parliamentary debate to the National Council (see proceedings from the Financial and Budgetary Committee: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?WFTID=NRDK&MasterID=277613>). The latest such report was presented on 10 September 2020.

In 2020, there was an election of a new Head of the CBR in the National Parliament. As part of this process, the candidate who was later elected as a new head presented his vision to the members of the Financial and Budgetary Committee (see proceedings from the meeting taking place on September 16): <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?WFTID=NRDK&MasterID=277615>)

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

107. Does the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 107 asks whether the legislature debated budget policies prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal for the most recent budget year before the research cut-off date. In general, prior to discussing the Executive's Budget Proposal for the coming year, the legislature should have an opportunity to review the government's broad budget priorities and fiscal parameters. Often times this information is laid out in a Pre-Budget Statement, which the executive presents to the legislature for debate. (See Questions 54-58.)

A number of countries conduct a pre-budget debate in the legislature around six months before the start of the budget year. In some cases, they adopt laws that guide the upcoming budget, for example the Budget Guidelines Law in Brazil and the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill in Sweden. A pre-budget debate can serve two main purposes: 1) to allow the executive to inform the legislature of its fiscal policy intentions by presenting updated reports on its annual and medium-term budget strategy and policy priorities; and 2) to establish "hard" multi-year fiscal targets or spending ceilings, which the government must adhere to when preparing its detailed spending estimates for the upcoming budget year.

To answer "a," the full legislature must debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal and approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.

Answer "b" applies if a legislative committee (but not the full legislature) debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, and approves recommendations for the budget. Option "b" also applies if, in addition to the action by the committee, the full legislature also debates budget policy in advance of the budget, but does not approve recommendations.

Answer "c" applies if the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, but does not approve recommendations for the budget. Answer "d" applies if neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

In your comment, please indicate the dates of the budget debate, and if both the full legislature and a legislative committee held a debate. Note that a debate does not need to be open to the public, but a public record of the meeting or a public notice that the meeting occurred is required. In addition, please indicate whether the budget debate was focused on a Pre-Budget Statement published by the Executive. If the Executive did not publish a Pre-Budget Statement, then please indicate what served as the focus of the legislature's debate (for instance, a report released by an IFI or some other institution).

Answer:

c. Yes, the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, but it does not approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.

Source:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&ZakZborID=13&CisObdobia=8&CPT=113>

Comment:

The National Parliament votes on a Pre-Budget Statement (Stability Programme) but does not approve any recommendations. In 2020 the full legislature took note of the PBS and the Financial and Budgetary Committee debated the PBS on June 3:

Full legislature: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&ZakZborID=13&CisObdobia=8&CPT=113>

Minutes from the Committee meeting: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?WFTID=NRDK&MasterID=276098>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

108. How far in advance of the start of the budget year does the legislature receive the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 108 examines how far in advance of the start of the most recent budget year the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to the legislature far enough in advance to allow the legislature time to review it properly, or at least three months prior to the start of the fiscal year. (See, for instance, Principle 2.2.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

For the purposes of responding to this question, if – and only if – the most recent budget submission occurred later than usual as a result of a particular event, such as an election, please use a more normal year as the basis for the response. If, however, delays have been observed for more than one budget year, and the legislature has not received the Executive's Budget Proposal in a timely manner on more than one occasion in the last three years, then "d" will be the appropriate answer.

To answer "a," the legislature must receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least three months in advance of the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least two months, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month, but less than two months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature does not receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month prior to the start of the budget year, or does not receive it at all.

Answer:

b. The legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least two months, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year.

Source:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Comment:

The legislature received the most recent EBP for 2021-23 on October 15, 2020. This is the usual practice.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

109. When does the legislature approve the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 109 examines when the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be approved by the legislature before the start of the fiscal year the budget proposal refers to. This gives the executive time to implement the budget in its entirety, particularly new programs and policies.

In some countries, the expenditure and revenue estimates of the Executive's Budget Proposal are approved separately; for purposes of this question, at least the expenditure estimates must be approved. Further, approval of the budget implies approval of the full-year budget, not just a short-term continuation of spending and revenue authority.

To answer "a," the legislature must approve the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month before the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month after the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal more than one month after the start of the budget year, or does not approve the budget.

Answer:

b. The legislature approves the budget less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year.

Source:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Comment:

The National Parliament approved the most recent EBP on December 9, 2020.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: The budget might be approved also earlier based on the parliament hearings schedule

110. Does the legislature have the authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 110 examines the legislature's power to amend—as opposed to simply accept or reject—the budget proposal presented by the executive. This question is about legal authority rather than actions the legislature takes in practice. The legislature's powers to amend the budget can vary substantially across countries.

The "a" response is appropriate only if there are no restrictions on the right of the legislature to modify the Executive's Budget Proposal, including its right to change the size of the proposed deficit or surplus. The "b" response would be appropriate if, for instance, the legislature is restricted from changing the deficit or surplus, but it still has the power to increase or decrease funding and revenue levels. The more limited "c" response would apply if, for instance, the legislature can only re-allocate spending within the totals set in the Executive's Budget Proposal or can only decrease funding levels or increase revenues. Finally, response "d" would apply if the legislature may not make any changes (or only small technical changes), or if amendments must first be approved by the executive. In these cases, the legislature is essentially only able to approve or reject the budget as a whole. If the answer is "b" or "c", please indicate the nature of the amendment powers available to the Parliament and how they are limited.

Answer:

a. Yes, the legislature has unlimited authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Comment:

It is usual practice that the National Parliament amends the EBP. The link informing about the voting process includes a list of amendments to the most recent EBP for 2021-23 approved in December 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

111. During the most recent budget approval process, did the legislature use its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 111 assesses whether any formal authority of the legislature to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal is used in practice. The responses to this question should be determined based on action by the legislature related to the Enacted Budget used in the OBS. Choose answer "a" if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal during the most recent budget approval process, and amendments were adopted (all, or at least some of them). Answer "a" also applies if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, but the amendments were rejected by executive veto. Answer "b" applies if the legislature used its authority in law to propose amendments to the Executive's Budget Proposal, but none of these amendments were adopted. Answer "c" applies if the legislature has the authority in law to amend the budget, but no amendments were proposed during its consideration. Answer "d" applies when the legislature does not have any authority to amend the budget (that is, Question 110 is answered "d").

If the answer is "a" or "b", please specify in the comments the number of amendments introduced by the legislature (and in the case of an "a" response, the number adopted, or if applicable, information about an executive veto) and describe their nature. For example, did the amendments result in an increase or decrease of the deficit? What were the most significant amendments to revenues and to expenditures in terms of the sums involved? How did amendments affect the composition of expenditures? If the answer is "a," please specify which amendments were adopted, and provide evidence for it.

Answer:

a. Yes, the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, and (at least some of) its amendments were adopted.

Source:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?DocID=488353>

Comment:

There were two proposed amendments to the most recent EBP for 2021-23 approved in December 2020. One was approved and one was rejected. The approved amendment related mostly to minor changes in taxation of labor income and had minor impact on decreasing revenues (and higher deficit) on cash basis and increasing revenues (and lower deficit) on accrual basis in 2021.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

112. During the last budget approval process, did a specialized budget or finance committee in the legislature examine the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 112 assesses the role of a specialized budget or finance committee during the budget approval stage. Effective committee involvement is an essential condition for legislative influence in the budget process. Specialized committees provide opportunities for individual legislators to gain relevant expertise, and to examine budgets and policy in depth. Yet, the involvement of committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures have separate committees to examine spending and tax proposals, while others have a single finance committee. Not all legislatures have a specialized budget or finance committee to examine the budget. In addition, there can be differences in the time available for the committee's analysis of the budget.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, therefore it must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget.

Response "a" requires that, in the last budget approval process, a specialized budget or finance committee had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and it published a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such a committee examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if a committee examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where a specialized budget or finance committee did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please specify in your comment the name of the committee and the number of days it had available to examine the budget. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a copy of the report. Please note also if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

Answer:

c. Yes, a specialized budget or finance committee examined the Executive's Budget Proposal, but it did not publish a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted.

Source:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>
<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?DocID=487769>

Comment:

The most recent EBP for 2021-23 was submitted to the National Parliament on October 15, 2020. It is a decision of the Chairman of the National Council, which committee would be responsible for the EBP and how much time it would have for debates. The Chairman took decision on October 19, 2020 that the responsible committee would be the Financial and Budgetary Committee and it should give its resolution by November 24, 2020.

The Financial and Budgetary Committee published its resolution on November 20, 2020, prior to the discussion and approval of the EBP by full legislature. However, the resolution does not include any findings or recommendations except for a recommendation to approve the EBP as proposed:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?DocID=487769>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

113. During the last approval process, did legislative committees, responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.), examine spending in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the sector for which they are responsible?

GUIDELINES:

Question 113 assesses the role of committees of the legislature that are responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.) during the budget approval stage. The role of sectoral committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures do not involve them in the budget approval process, while others do. In addition, the time available for committee analysis differs.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, so therefore must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget. Response "a" requires that sector committees had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and published a report with findings and recommendations prior the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such committees examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if sectoral committees examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where sectoral committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please note that the examination of sectoral budgets by a specialized budget or finance committee is assessed in Question 112 and should not be considered for this question.

Please provide in the comments a brief overview of the committee structure and specify the number of days that sectoral committees had available to examine the budget and to publish their reports. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a sample copy of at least one of the reports. Please note if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

For purposes of responding to this question, use those sectoral committees that are best performing – that is, the ones that examine the budget the longest and that publish reports.

Answer:

c. Yes, sector committees examined the Executive's Budget Proposal, but they did not publish reports with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted.

Source:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>
<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?DocID=488280>

Comment:

The most recent EBP for 2021-23 was submitted to the National Parliament on October 15, 2020. It is a decision of the Chairman of the National Council, which committees and for how long will be discussing the EBP before its discussion and approval by the full legislature. The Chairman decided on October 19, 2020 that 13 committees would be involved and debates should be finished by November 20, 2020.

All committees published their resolutions prior to the discussion and approval of the EBP by full legislature. However, from all committees there was just one minor recommendation to change the EBP. Otherwise, there are no findings or recommendations except for a recommendation to approve the EBP as proposed. Here is a joint report of the committees:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?DocID=488280>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

114. In the past 12 months, did a committee of the legislature examine in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period?

GUIDELINES:

Question 114 is about legislative oversight of budget execution. It assesses whether and how often a committee examined the implementation of the budget during the budget execution period (i.e., financial year) for which it was approved, and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. This question does not apply to the ex post review of implementation following the end of the budget year as part of the audit stage, which is assessed separately. Nor does it apply to the legislature's review of the budget that it may undertake as part of the process of considering a supplemental budget during the year. In-year monitoring by the legislature will be affected by the frequency that the executive publishes In-Year Reports.

To answer "a," a committee must have examined in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget at least three times during the course of the relevant budget year and published reports with findings and recommendations. Answer "b" applies where this occurred only once or twice during the year.

Exception: If a legislature is in session only twice during the year, and it examines the implementation of the budget during both sessions, then it would be eligible for an "a" response.

Choose "c" if a committee examined in-year implementation (without regard to frequency), but did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined in-year implementation.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation.

For purposes of responding to this question, if more than one committee holds in-year reviews of the budget, use the committee that is best performing – that is, the one that examines in-year implementation the most times and that publishes a report.

Answer:

c. Yes, a committee examined in-year implementation, but it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations.

Source:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/zakon&MasterID=8000>

Comment:

The Executive Budget Proposal (EBP) for 2021-23, which was submitted to the National Parliament on October 15, 2020, also contained an evaluation of implementation of Enacted Budget for 2020 based on actual data as well as the forecast for the end of 2020. The Financial and Budgetary Committee examined the EBP but did not publish a report with findings and recommendations.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

115. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units that receive explicit funding in the Enacted Budget, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 115 examines whether the executive seeks approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and whether it is legally required to do so.

In some countries, the executive has the power in law to adjust funding levels for specific appropriations during the execution of the budget. This question examines rules around shifting funds between administrative units (ministries, departments, or agencies) or whatever funding unit (or "vote") is specified in the Enacted Budget.

The conditions under which the executive may exercise its discretion to shift funds should be clearly defined in publicly available regulations or law. In addition, the amount of funds that the executive is allowed to transfer between administrative units should not be so excessive as to undermine the accountability of the executive to the legislature.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before shifting funds, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to shift funds between administrative units and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. Answer "d" also applies if the executive is authorized to shift an amount considered so excessive as to undermine accountability (roughly equal to 3 percent of total budgeted expenditures). A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the shifting of funds after it has already occurred.

In the comments, please indicate any law or regulation that provides the executive with standing authority to shift funds between administrative units and, if so, describe that authority. Similarly, legislative approval for shifting funds between administrative units typically occurs with the adoption of legislation such as a supplemental budget. But if other formal procedures for gaining approval from the legislature exist, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and in practice the executive shifts funds between administrative units before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Source:

The Act on Budgetary Rules of Public Administration 523/2004:
<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2004-523>

The Enacted Budget for 2021:

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2020-425>

Comment:

The Act on Budgetary Rules of Public Administration 523/2004 (paragraph 15) states that the Government (or Ministry of Finance authorized by the Government) can adopt changes to the Enacted Budget under conditions set up in the Enacted Budget. The Enacted Budget for 2021 (paragraph 2) states that the Government (or Ministry of Finance authorized by the Government) can adopt changes to the Enacted Budget under conditions that the total expenditures increase by no more than 1 % and the budget deficit remains unchanged. Such changes, including shifts of funds among administrative units, do not need approval from the legislature.

In 2020, it was necessary to adopt bigger changes as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic impact. The National Parliament had to approve the Amendment to the Enacted Budget for 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

116. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue (that is, amounts higher than originally anticipated) that may become available during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 116 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if additional revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, which often happens in oil/mineral-dependent countries, and it was not accounted for in the Enacted Budget, there should be a procedure in place to ensure that the legislature approves any proposed use of these "new" funds. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might deliberately underestimate revenue in the budget proposal it submits to the legislature, in order to have additional resources to spend at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before spending any funds resulting from higher-than-expected revenues, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if prior legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to spend excess revenue and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the additional spending after it has already occurred.

Typically, legislative approval of additional spending beyond what was reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur with the adoption of a supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenues, and in practice the executive spends these funds before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Source:

The Act on Budgetary Rules of Public Administration 523/2004:
<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2004-523>

The Enacted Budget for 2021:

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2020-425>

Comment:

The Act on Budgetary Rules of Public Administration 523/2004 (paragraph 15) states that the Government (or Ministry of Finance authorized by the Government) can adopt changes to the Enacted Budget under conditions set up in the Enacted Budget. The Enacted Budget for 2021 (paragraph 2) states that the Government (or Ministry of Finance authorized by the Government) can adopt changes to the Enacted Budget under conditions that the total expenditures increase by no more than 1 % and the budget deficit remains unchanged. Such changes, including spending of excess revenues, do not need approval from the legislature.

In 2020, it was necessary to adopt bigger changes as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic impact. The National Parliament had to approve the Amendment to the Enacted Budget for 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: Execution can not exceed the expenditure limits without approving the amendment to the enacted budget. In case of capital expenditure carryovers are allowed

117. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls (that is, revenues lower than originally anticipated) or other reasons during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 117 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to cutting spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls or for any other reason, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if less revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, the legislature should approve or reject any proposed reductions in expenditures that are implemented as a result. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might substantially change the composition of the budget at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

Typically, legislative approval of proposals to reduce spending below the levels reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur as part of the supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before implementing spending cuts in response to revenue shortfalls or for other reasons, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive received legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to obtain legislative approval before implementing such cuts, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to implement such cuts and the executive does not obtain such approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the spending cuts after they have already occurred.

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below enacted levels, and in practice the executive implements these spending cuts before seeking prior approval from the legislature.

Source:

The Act on Budgetary Rules of Public Administration 523/2004:
<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2004-523>

The Enacted Budget for 2021:

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2020-425>

Comment:

The Act on Budgetary Rules of Public Administration 523/2004 (paragraph 18) states that the Ministry of Finance authorized by the Government can tie up expenses in case of imbalance between revenues and expenditures. It also states (paragraph 15) that the Government (or Ministry of Finance authorized by the Government) can adopt changes to the Enacted Budget under conditions set up in the Enacted Budget. The Enacted Budget for 2021 (paragraph 2) states that the Government (or Ministry of Finance authorized by the Government) can adopt changes to the Enacted Budget under conditions that the total expenditures increase by no more than 1 % and the budget deficit remains unchanged. Such changes, including cutting spending below the levels in the Enacted Budget in response to revenue shortfalls, do not need approval from the legislature.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

118. Did a committee of the legislature examine the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 118 is about ex post oversight following the implementation of the budget. It probes whether a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. A key issue is how soon after the SAI releases the report does it legislature review it. This question does not apply to the legislative scrutiny of in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period, which is assessed separately. Also, the question is asking specifically about the SAI's annual report on the execution of the budget, not about other audit reports that the SAI may produce. (This is the Audit Report used for responding to Question 98.)

To answer "a," a legislative committee must have examined the annual Audit Report within three months of it being released by the SAI, and then published a report (or reports) with findings and recommendations. (Note that the three-month period should only take into account time when the legislature is in session.)

Answer "b" applies when the committee examines it within six months of it being released (but more than three months), and then published a report with its findings and recommendations. Choose "c" if a committee examined the annual Audit Report more than six months after it became available or it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined the annual Audit Report.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed the Audit Report, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation. Answers "a," "b," or "c" may be selected if the Audit Report is produced by the SAI but not made publicly available.

Answer:

c. Yes, a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget, but it did so after the report had been available for more than six months or it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations.

Source:

<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/cpt&ZakZborID=13&CisObdobia=8&ID=100>
<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?WFTID=NRDK&MasterID=277439>

Comment:

The Supreme Audit Office (SAO) submitted its Audit Report on State Budget 2019 implementation to the National Parliament on June 16, 2020. The Head of the SAO presented the Audit Report to the National Parliament on September 16, 2020. The Financial and Budgetary Committee examined the report but it did not issue any report with findings and recommendations.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

119. Was the process of appointing (or re-appointing) the current head of the SAI carried out in a way that ensures his or her independence?

GUIDELINES:

Question 119 concerns the appointment process of the current head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). Appointment procedures vary greatly across countries, as well as across different types of SAIs. Moreover, conventions and informal practices can greatly affect the de facto independence of the head of the SAI. While these factors make it difficult to devise a single metric against which all SAIs can be assessed with regard to this particular aspect, this question focuses on whether the legislature or judiciary must appoint or approve the appointment of the head of the SAI as a way to ensure the SAI's independence from the executive. However, if the appointment is carried out in another way that nonetheless ensures the independence of the SAI head, then that approach could be also considered.

To answer "a," the legislature or judiciary must appoint (or re-appoint) the head of the SAI, or approve the recommendation of the executive, as a way that ensure his or her independence from the executive. (As noted above, alternative approaches may also be acceptable.) Choose "b" if the appointment process does not ensure the independence of the head of the SAI, e.g. the executive may appoint the head of the SAI without the final consent of the legislature or judiciary.

Irrespective of which answer you selected, provide a description of how the head of the SAI is appointed.

Answer:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be appointed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the appointment takes effect.

Source:

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/1993-39>

Comment:

The text of Act no. 39/1993 Z.z. on the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic

Paragraph 8:

Part 2 - The Chairperson and two Vice-Chairs are elected and recalled by the National Council of the Slovak Republic by secret ballot.

Part 3 - The term of office of the Chairperson and of the Vice-Presidents shall be five years.

Part 4 - The Chairperson and the Vice-Presidents may be elected for no more than two consecutive terms.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

120. Must a branch of government other than the executive (such as the legislature or the judiciary) give final consent before the head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) can be removed from office?

GUIDELINES:

Question 120 covers the manner in which the head or senior members of the SAI may be removed from office. This question draws on best practices identified in the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>), including measures intended to guarantee the office's independence from the executive.

To answer "a," the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the head of the SAI is removed. For example, the legislature or judiciary may give final consent following a certain external process, such as a criminal proceeding. So while the executive may initiate a criminal proceeding, the final consent of a member of the judiciary – or a judge – is necessary to render a verdict of wrongdoing that may lead to the removal from office of the head of the SAI. Answer "b" applies if the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature.

Answer:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before he or she is removed.

Source:
<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/1993-39>

Comment:
Paragraph 12 of the Law 39/1993:

- (1) The function of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairs will end:
- (a) upon expiry of the term of office, unless otherwise provided in this Act,
 - b) by resignation,
 - c) by withdrawal from office.
- (2) The National Council of the Slovak Republic shall recall the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson from office, if
- (a) has been lawfully sentenced for an intentional criminal offense,
 - b) performs a function or activity incompatible with the function of the chairman or vice-chairman according to § 10,
 - (c) failing to comply with the obligations laid down by this Act.
- (3) The National Council of the Slovak Republic may appeal to the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson if it does not perform its function for more than six consecutive calendar months.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

121. Who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 121 asks who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). To ensure objective audits of government budgets, another important component of the SAI's independence from the executive is the extent to which the SAI's budget is determined by a body other than the executive, and whether the SAI has adequate resources to fulfill its mandate.

Answer "a" applies if the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate, AND either the SAI determines its own budget and then submits it to the executive (which accepts it with little or no change) or directly to the legislature, or the budget of the SAI is determined directly by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body). Answer "b" applies if the SAI's budget is determined by the executive (absent a recommendation from the SAI), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "c" applies if the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body) determines the SAI's budget, but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "d" applies if the executive determines the SAI's budget, and the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Please provide evidence in support of the assessment that the funding level is or is not broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Answer:

a. The SAI determines its own budget (i.e., submits it to the executive, which accepts it with little or no change, or directly to the legislature), or the budget of the SAI is determined by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Source:
<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/1993-39>

Minutes from the meeting of the Financial and Budgetary Committee of the National Council on November 19, 2020:
<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?WFTID=NRDK&MasterID=279142>

Comment:

According to the Act on Supreme Audit Office, paragraph 21a:

(1) The budget of the Office forms a separate chapter in the state budget of the Slovak Republic.

(2) The draft budget of the chapter of the Office shall be submitted by the Office for approval to the relevant committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The relevant committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic shall submit the approved draft budget of the chapter of the Office to the Government by 30 June of the current year. The Government shall decide on the draft budget of the chapter of the Office. If the Government makes changes to the draft budget chapter of the Office, it shall justify them when submitting the draft law on the state budget to the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

Approved expenditure of SAI:
2021: 11,53 million EUR
2020: 12,82 million EUR
2019: 10,91 million EUR

2018: 10,74 million EUR
2017: 9,99 million EUR

In 2021, the SAI budget was decreased by 10 % just like for all other central government institutions as part of spending cuts adopted in reaction to shortfall of budget revenues due to COVID-19 impact. The SAI reacted in its statement presented during the meeting of the Financial and Budgetary Committee of the National Council on November 19, 2020:

"The submitted draft budget is not in line with the limits of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic and (SAI) requests an increase, as in the current situation the SAI is not able to meet the Office's control plan as prepared from January 2020 and (control plan) is set for staff capacities which are undersized with regards to controllers; in the event of non-increase of the budget, the SAI will be forced to dismiss 30 employees at the beginning of 2021, not from operating staff, but directly from the performance of control; substitutability no longer exists; when the number of employees is reduced, it will also have to reduce controls."

Nevertheless, 2020 is exceptional year and the level of funding in 2021 is still higher than in 2019. Despite the cuts, the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. The total number of SAI employees as of the end of 2019 was 296.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: MoF might not accept the budget of the SAI, but must justify it's decision to the parliament. In fact this barely happens.

122. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) have the discretion in law to undertake those audits it may wish to?

GUIDELINES:

Question 122 explores the scope of the investigative powers of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) as prescribed in law.

Question 97 asks which of the three types of audits – financial, compliance, and performance – the SAI conducts. This question asks if the SAI is constrained by law (rather than by a lack of capacity or an inadequate budget) from undertaking any form of audit or investigating irregularities in any program or activity.

There are numerous examples of limitations. For instance, some SAIs are not permitted by their legal mandate to audit joint ventures or other public-private arrangements. Others are only allowed to undertake financial audits, precluded from conducting performance or value-for-money audits. The SAIs in some countries do not have the legal mandate to review arrangements involving oil or stabilization funds, or other types of special or extra-budgetary funds. The SAI may also not have the ability to audit commercial projects involving the public and private sector.

To answer "a," the SAI must have full discretion in law to decide which audits to undertake. Answer "b" applies if some limitations exist, but the SAI enjoys significant discretion to undertake those audits it wishes to. Answer "c" applies if the SAI has some discretion, but significant legal limitations exist. Answer "d" applies if the SAI has no power at all to choose which audits to undertake

Consulting the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>) may be useful in answering this question as its provisions serve to define the appropriate scope of a SAI's legal mandate and jurisdiction.

Answer:

a. The SAI has full discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake.

Source:

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/1993-39>

Comment:

Based on the law 39/1993 - paragraph 1:

The Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "the Office") is a state body which is independent in its control activities, bound only by law.

Paragraph 2 defines its broad mandate including controls of:

- management of public funds approved by the National Parliament or the Government,
- management and disposal of property, property rights and claims of public institutions or institutions acting in public interest,
- methods of levying and recovering taxes, levies, fees and penalties, which are the revenue of the State budget

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

123. Are the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) reviewed by an independent agency?

GUIDELINES:

Question 123 assesses whether and to what extent the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) are subject to review by an independent agency. The latter could be a peer SAI, an international organization, an academic institution with relevant expertise, or an independent domestic agency with quality assurance functions in the area of financial reporting.

To answer "a," an independent agency must conduct and publish a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis. Answer "b" applies if a review was carried out within the past five years, and published, but it is not conducted annually, but. Choose answer "c" if the SAI has an internal unit that reviews the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis, but an independent agency does not conduct such a review. Answer "d" applies if the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.

If the answer is either "a" or "b," please specify the name of the independent agency and when last it conducted such a review, and provide a copy of the published report. If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the unit within the SAI that is tasked with conducting such reviews.

Answer:

b. Yes, an independent agency conducts and publishes a review of the audit processes of the SAI at least once in the past five years, but not annually.

Source:

SAI Annual Reports on Results of Audits:

<https://www.nku.gov.sk/sk/spravy-o-vysledkoch-kontrolnej-cinnosti-nku-sr>

Organizational structure of SAI:

<https://www.nku.gov.sk/sekcie-a-odbory-nku-sr>

Comment:

According to SAI Annual Reports on Results of Audits:

- there was an internal review of audit processes (self-evaluation) in 2019 with peers from the Czechia participating (page 7 in electronic document)
- there was an external peer-review of audit processes in 2020 performed by peers from Poland, Hungary, Finland, USA (page 9 in electronic document)

In the organizational structure, there are two departments possibly focusing on an internal review of audit activities of the SAI:

- Control section of the SAI - ensures methodical management and implementation of continuous and subsequent evaluation of the quality of control activities.
- The internal auditor's department is directly managed by the President of the SAI.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

124. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 124 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Many SAIs interact with the legislature in some form, but the nature and intensity of the interaction varies. This question probes this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the SAI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the SAI representative in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). You can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the SAI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; "c" for once or twice, and "d" for never.

Answer:

c. Rarely (i.e., once or twice).

Source:
<https://www.nku.gov.sk/aktuality>

Minutes from debate of the Financial and Budgetary Committee taking place on November 19, 2020:
<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?WFTID=NRDK&MasterID=279142>

Comment:

Every year, the Head of SAI:

- presents to the National Parliament the SAI Audit Report on budget implementation. In 2020, the presentation took place on September 16.
- submits to the National Parliament opinion of SAI on the Executive Budget Proposal (EBP) which is being debated by relevant committees as part of the approval process of the EBP (with active participation of SAI representatives, see minutes from debate of the Financial and Budgetary Committee taking place on November 19, 2020: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?WFTID=NRDK&MasterID=279142>)
- submits summary report on major findings of SAI audits to the Chairperson of the National Parliament (without active participation of SAI representatives on committee meetings)

No other SAI reports have been debated by committees of the National Parliament. The first exception happened on January 14, 2021, when the Economic Affairs Committee debated the SAI report on readiness of state to face the COVID-19 pandemic challenge.

Moreover, the Head of SAI was invited and actively debated the 2021 budget proposal for SAI on a meeting of the Financial and Budgetary Committee taking place on November 19, 2020 (it was the same meeting as for the debate on the opinion of SAI on the EBP) :
<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?WFTID=NRDK&MasterID=279142>

In summary, in 2020 there were 2 cases of active participation of SAI representatives in the National Parliament and its committees sessions.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

125. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation of the annual budget (prior to the budget being tabled in parliament)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf.

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in the formulation of the annual budget, including annual pre-budget discussions. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as spending and tax policy, funding and revenue levels, and macro-fiscal planning .

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government officials. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific

organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

c. Yes, the executive uses participation mechanisms during the budget formulation phase, but either these mechanisms capture only some ad-hoc views, or the executive invites specific individuals or groups for budget discussions (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Source:

For details on roles and composition of forecasting committees, see:

- webpage of the Ministry of Finance: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/ekonomicke-prognozy.html>

- OECD Review of the Slovak Council for Budget Responsibility (page 21): https://www.rozpoctovarada.sk/download2/oecd_sprava_2020_eng.pdf

- webpages of respective committees:

Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy.html>

Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/danove-prognozy/danove-prognozy.html>

Comment:

Usually, the Government debates the Executive Budget Proposal with social partners - representatives of trade unions and employers. However, in 2020 there was no such debate due to internal disputes of social partners and postponing of their dialogue.

Besides, there are two forecasting committees involving some of local experts in formulation of macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts: the Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee and the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts. The Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee has nine regular members including the National Bank of Slovakia, the Institute of Informatics and Statistics, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and five private banks. The Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts has eight regular members including the National Bank of Slovakia, the Institute of Informatics and Statistics, four private banks and the Council of Budget Responsibility.

The forecasting committees work as advisory bodies to the Minister of Finance. The preliminary prognoses are brought by the Ministry of Finance and committee members express their opinion by assessing them as conservative, realistic or optimistic. The prognosis is approved if more than half of regular members assessed it as realistic or conservative.

The committees are legally required to meet twice per year, to enable the production of forecasts to inform the budget preparation process in February and June. In practice there is usually a third meeting in September and sometimes more meetings in the case of the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts, depending on the budget approval process at Parliament.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Comments: As for the involvement of independent, non-state actors on the meetings there are none as far as I know (all invitees are in fact state officials just from different part of the ministry or government officials). So answer should be "d" in my opinion.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

Private banks (and their experts independent from the Government) are important members of the forecasting committees.

126. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive take concrete steps to include vulnerable and under-represented parts of the population in the formulation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially

vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on the executive's efforts to seek out the views of members of the public from socially vulnerable groups and/or who are underrepresented in the process.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from at least one vulnerable and underrepresented community and/or civil society organization representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives of vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

Comment:

There is no inclusion of socially vulnerable and/or underrepresented groups and individuals in the budget formulation process.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

127. During the budget formulation stage, which of the following key topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the formulation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics -- and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget formulation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above -- for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

c. The executive's engagement with citizens covers at least one (but less than three) of the above-mentioned topics.

Source:

For details on roles and composition of forecasting committees, see:

- webpage of the Ministry of Finance: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/ekonomicke-prognozy.html>
 - OECD Review of the Slovak Council for Budget Responsibility (page 21): https://www.rozpoctovarada.sk/download2/oecd_sprava_2020_eng.pdf
 - webpages of respective committees:
- Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy.html>

Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/danove-prognozy/danove-prognozy.html>

Comment:

There are two forecasting committees involving some of local experts in formulation of macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts used in budget formulation: the Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee and the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts. The Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee has nine regular members including the National Bank of Slovakia, the Institute of Informatics and Statistics, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and five private banks. The Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts has eight regular members including the National Bank of Slovakia, the Institute of Informatics and Statistics, four private banks and the Council of Budget Responsibility.

Besides, the Government usually debates all key topics of the Executive Budget Proposal with social partners - representatives of trade unions and employers. However, in 2020 there was no such debate due to internal disputes of social partners and postponing of their dialogue.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Comments: First of all... it is not at all engagement with citizens. And as for the involvement of independent, non-state actors on the meetings there are none as far as I know (all invitees are in fact state officials just from different part of the ministry or government officials). So answer should be "d" in my opinion.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

Private banks (and their experts independent from the Government) are important members of the forecasting committees.

128. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget. If the executive has designated a central coordinating agency to implement participation mechanisms throughout the national budget process, researchers may consider these mechanisms. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the implementation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenue administration, public service delivery, public investment project implementation, including procurement, and the administration of social transfer schemes.

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings, online, deliberative exchanges, procurement complaint mechanisms, and social monitoring and dialogue.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input on the implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include public hearings, surveys, focus groups, report cards, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to provide input on budget implementation, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured, happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the

government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", the researcher must have evidence that the government is holding participation mechanisms that have some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that all CSOs and members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

Examples include hotlines, Facebook announcements, one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

For details on roles and composition of forecasting committees, see:

- webpage of the Ministry of Finance: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/ekonomicke-prognozy.html>

- OECD Review of the Slovak Council for Budget Responsibility (page 21): https://www.rozpocetovarada.sk/download2/oecd_sprava_2020_eng.pdf

- webpages of respective committees:

Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy.html>

Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/danove-prognozy/danove-prognozy.html>

Comment:

Based on consultation with the IBP staff we decided to choose answer "d" because the forecasting committees produce forecasts, but they are not monitoring the actual implementation of the budget.

There are two forecasting committees involving some of local experts in formulation of macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts used in formulation of the Executive Budget Proposal which is released in October as well as the Pre-Budget Statement (Stability Programme) which is released usually in April/May (both documents include the assessment of current budget implementation): the Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee and the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts. The Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee has nine regular members including the National Bank of Slovakia, the Institute of Informatics and Statistics, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and five private banks. The Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts has eight regular members including the National Bank of Slovakia, the Institute of Informatics and Statistics, four private banks and the Council of Budget Responsibility.

The forecasting committees work as advisory bodies to the Minister of Finance. The preliminary prognoses are brought by the Ministry of Finance and committee members express their opinion by assessing them as conservative, realistic or optimistic. The prognosis is approved if more than half of regular members assessed it as realistic or conservative.

The committees are legally required to meet twice per year, to enable the production of forecasts to inform the budget preparation/implementation process in February and June. In practice there is usually a third meeting in September and sometimes more meetings in the case of the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts, depending on the budget approval process at Parliament.

The committees produce (are responsible for) macroeconomic and tax revenue forecasts that serve as a basis for the budget implementation reviews during a year. The non-state members can bring their own forecasts and discuss about proposal of the MoF or forecasts presented by other members. Finally they vote on a given proposal. They can eventually refuse MoF proposal and press for its adjustment to reflect views of committee members. The work of these committees is perceived as highly professional and independent, guaranteeing no political interference in the macroeconomic and tax revenue forecasts.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree. Main problem I see here is that within some of the questions (Q125, Q127, Q128...) regarding involvement of citizens/public are the Committees (all of the mentioned/Macroeconomic Committee, Committee for Tax Revenue Forecast, Economic Affairs Committee or The Financial and Budgetary Committee) considered as involvement of public with which is not right/I don't and can't agree (in each of the questions when it is done so I mentioned it in comments). These people involved (members of the committees) are either directly politicians/state officials, or mostly state officials from various ministries or different branches of government (in other words all of them are state actors and definitely not independent members or ordinary citizens) or political nominants.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

129. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive take concrete steps to receive input from vulnerable and underrepresented

parts of the population on the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on national government's efforts to obtain input from members of the public who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes during the implementation of the annual budget.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from at least one vulnerable and underrepresented community and/or civil society organization representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives from vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the national executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

Comment:

There is no inclusion of socially vulnerable and/or underrepresented groups and individuals in the budget implementation process.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

130. During the implementation of the annual budget, which of the following topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Changes in macroeconomic circumstances
2. Delivery of public services
3. Collection of revenue
4. Implementation of social spending
5. Changes in deficit and debt levels
6. Implementation of public investment projects

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the implementation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics – and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget implementation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above – for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be ONLY the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

For details on roles and composition of forecasting committees, see:

- webpage of the Ministry of Finance: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/ekonomicke-prognozy.html>

- OECD Review of the Slovak Council for Budget Responsibility (page 21): https://www.rozpocetovarada.sk/download2/oecd_sprava_2020_eng.pdf
- webpages of respective committees:
Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee: [https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy.html](https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy.html)
Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/danove-prognozy/danove-prognozy.html>

Comment:

There are two forecasting committees involving some of local experts in formulation of macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts used in formulation of the Executive Budget Proposal which is released in October as well as the Pre-Budget Statement (Stability Programme) which is released usually in April/May (both documents include the assessment of current budget implementation): the Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee and the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts. The Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee has nine regular members including the National Bank of Slovakia, the Institute of Informatics and Statistics, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and five private banks. The Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts has eight regular members including the National Bank of Slovakia, the Institute of Informatics and Statistics, four private banks and the Council of Budget Responsibility.

The forecasting committees work as advisory bodies to the Minister of Finance. The preliminary prognoses are brought by the Ministry of Finance and committee members express their opinion by assessing them as conservative, realistic or optimistic. The prognosis is approved if more than half of regular members assessed it as realistic or conservative.

The committees are legally required to meet twice per year, to enable the production of forecasts to inform the budget preparation/implementation process in February and June. In practice there is usually a third meeting in September and sometimes more meetings in the case of the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts, depending on the budget approval process at Parliament.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Comments: In my opinion these Committees that met on regular basis cannot be considered as engagement with citizens... so as for the involvement of independent non-state actors on the meetings there are none as far as I know (all invitees are in fact state officials just from different part of the ministry or government officials). So answer should be "d" in my opinion.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

Private banks (and their experts independent from the Government) are important members of the forecasting committees.

IBP Comment

IBP revised response to D (from C). As this indicator follows on indicator on 128, and there are no established opportunities for citizens to participate during budget execution, answer choice D applies. Forecasting committees are considered for indicator 125.

131. When the executive engages with the public, does it provide comprehensive prior information on the process of the engagement, so that the public can participate in an informed manner?

Comprehensive information must include at least three of the following elements:

1. Purpose
2. Scope
3. Constraints
4. Intended outcomes
5. Process and timeline

GUIDELINES:

This question relates to the GIFT principle of "Openness," and addresses whether the executive provides relevant information on the process of the engagement before public participation takes place, in order to help citizens engage effectively. The question addresses whether the "rules of the public engagement" are clearly spelled out, in advance and in detail, so that those members of the public who want to engage know how to do so, in terms of when they can do so, what they are expected to provide input on, by when, to whom, etc. This question does not cover the substance of the engagement, which is covered by questions 127 and 130.

Non-comprehensive information means that the government provides information that includes at least one but less than three of the elements listed above.

Purpose refers to a brief explanation of why the public engagement is being undertaken, including the executive's objectives for its engagement with the public.

Scope refers to what is within the subject matter of the engagement as well as what is outside the subject matter of the engagement. For example, the scope may include how a current policy is administered but exclude the specifics of the policies themselves.

Constraints refers to whether there are there any explicit limitations on the engagement. An example of a constraint could be that any policy changes must not cost (or forgo revenue) more than a specific amount or have no net fiscal cost.

Intended outcomes refers to what the executive hopes to achieve as a result of the engagement. Examples of intended outcomes could be revising a policy to better reflect citizen or service-user views or to improve the way in which a particular program is administered.

Process refers to the methods by which the public engagement will take place and the discrete steps in the process. For example, the process may simply be a one-off Internet-based consultation, with a summary published of public inputs and the official response. The process may involve simultaneous or overlapping steps, and may be conducted in one round or in two or more rounds of engagement.

Timeline refers to the specific dates on which the discrete steps in the process will take place, or during which they will be completed, and clear start and end dates for the overall engagement.

Answer "d" applies if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation or formulation stage.

Answer:

b. Comprehensive information is provided in a timely manner prior to citizens engagement only prior to one of the two phases (formulation OR implementation).

Source:

For details on roles and composition of forecasting committees, see:

- webpage of the Ministry of Finance: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/ekonomicke-prognozy.html>

- OECD Review of the Slovak Council for Budget Responsibility (page 21): https://www.rozpoctovarada.sk/download2/oecd_sprava_2020_eng.pdf

- webpages of respective committees:

Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy.html>

Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/danove-prognozy/danove-prognozy.html>

For information on purpose, scope, intended outcomes and process, check the Statutes of the committees:

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/priloha-stranky/3375/61/MV_Statut_201806.pdf

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/82/Statut_202010_podpis.pdf

See also minutes of the September 2020 meetings:

<https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/45/zapisnicaMVsept2020.pdf>

https://www.mfsr.sk/files/archiv/3/VpDP_zapisnica_2020_09.pdf

Comment:

Based on consultation with the IBP staff we decided to choose answer "b" because the forecasting committees produce forecasts, but they are not monitoring the actual implementation of the budget.

There are two forecasting committees involving some of local experts in formulation of macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts used in formulation of the Executive Budget Proposal which is released in October as well as the Pre-Budget Statement (Stability Programme) which is released usually in April/May (both documents include the assessment of budget implementation): the Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee and the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts. The Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee has nine regular members including the National Bank of Slovakia, the Institute of Informatics and Statistics, the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and five private banks. The Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts has eight regular members including the National Bank of Slovakia, the Institute of Informatics and Statistics, four private banks and the Council of Budget Responsibility.

The forecasting committees work as advisory bodies to the Minister of Finance. The preliminary prognoses are brought by the Ministry of Finance and committee members express their opinion by assessing them as conservative, realistic or optimistic. The prognosis is approved if more than half of regular members assessed it as realistic or conservative.

The committees are legally required to meet twice per year, to enable the production of forecasts to inform the budget preparation/implementation process in February and June. In practice there is usually a third meeting in September and sometimes more meetings in the case of the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts, depending on the budget approval process at Parliament.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Comments: In my opinion these Committees that met on regular basis cannot be considered as engagement with citizens... so as for the involvement of independent non-state actors on the meetings there are none as far as I know (all invitees are in fact state officials just from different part of the ministry or other government officials). So answer should be "d" in my opinion.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

Private banks (and their experts independent from the Government) are important members of the forecasting committees.

IBP Comment

Given that this question does not evaluate the inclusiveness of the participation mechanisms itself, but the information provided to the citizens that are in fact allowed to participate, the response remains unchanged, "b." Response to Q125 was "c", meaning that there is limited level of engagement of citizens independent from the Government and, as highlighted by the researcher, in the forecasting committees, the economic experts from private banks are really engaged and included in the process. While admitting that this is a closed group and the banks have been selected by the Government (therefore justifying response "c" in Q125), the fact remains that they receive timely and comprehensive information that allows them to engage in a meaningful manner.

132. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 125, does the executive provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used in the formulation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used in the formulation of the annual budget, and how/why.

By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.

Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used.*

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

b. Yes, the executive provides a written record which includes both the list of inputs received and a summary of the how the inputs were used in the formulation of the annual budget.

Source:

For documents related to particular meetings, see the webpages of respective committees:

Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy.html>

Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/danove-prognozy/danove-prognozy.html>

Comment:

The Ministry of Finance publishes:

- minutes from all meetings of the Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee and the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts (including the list of inputs - comments and voting of members),
- resulting forecasts with official commentaries/reports and power-point presentation which includes assessment of all regular members of forecasting committees (summary on how inputs were used)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Agree that there is a record as for inputs received and summary of the how the inputs were used. But in my opinion (and as I mentioned before) these Committees that met on regular basis cannot be considered as engagement with citizens...

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

Private banks (and their experts independent from the Government) are important members of the forecasting committees.

133. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive provide the public with information on how citizens' inputs have been used to assist in monitoring the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the executive provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received during the implementation of the annual budget, which ones are taken into account to improve budget monitoring, and how/why.

By "written record", we mean a document that is produced and released by the lead budget agency (Ministry of Finance, Treasury) that has set up and holds the participation activity.

Answer "a" applies when the executive provides a written document with:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how)*

Answer "b" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received (e.g., a written transcript) from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report, such as a document with a few paragraphs, on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were or were not taken into account by the executive during budget monitoring.*

Answer "c" applies when the executive provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs (e.g., a written transcript) received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

For documents related to particular meetings, see the webpages of respective committees:

Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy/makroekonomicke-prognozy.html>

Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts: <https://www.mfsr.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/ekonomicke-prognozy/danove-prognozy/danove-prognozy.html>

Comment:

Based on consultation with the IBP staff we decided to choose answer "d" because the forecasting committees produce forecasts, but they are not monitoring the actual implementation of the budget.

The Ministry of Finance publishes:

- minutes from all meetings of the Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee and the Committee on Tax Revenue Forecasts (including the list of inputs),
- resulting forecasts with commentaries and power-point presentation which includes assessment of all regular members of forecasting committees (summary on how inputs were used)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

134. Are participation mechanisms incorporated into the timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Sustainability," "Timeliness" and "Complementarity" and addresses whether the executive is able to link participation mechanisms to the administrative processes that are used to create the annual budget.

Please note that "timetable" refers to a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. This document is sometimes referred to as the budget calendar and is the same document referenced in Question 53.

Answer "a" applies if the national executive establishes a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget. For answer choice "a", the timetable must be available to the public prior to the budget preparation process beginning.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not establish a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or implementation stage.

Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

https://www.rozpovtovarada.sk/images//constitutional_act_493_2011.pdf

Comment:

The Constitutional Act on Fiscal Responsibility states following deadlines for producing macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts (Article 8, part 2):

The Tax Revenue Forecasts Committee shall prepare, at least twice a year, the forecasts of revenues from taxes and social security contributions, by 15 February and 30 June of the current fiscal year. The Macroeconomic Forecasting Committee shall prepare, at least twice a year, macroeconomic forecasts, by 15 February and 30 June of the current fiscal year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Comments: It is all true (as for incorporation of the committees outputs by the executives) but it is not right if participation of these committees into timetable for formulation of EBP is considered as involvement of public into budget process.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

Private banks (and their experts independent from the Government) are important members of the forecasting committees. However, after consultation with the IBP we decided to choose "b" answer, because the timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal is not being published in Slovakia and its publication is necessary condition to assign the "a" answer.

135. Do one or more line ministries use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation or implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES

While questions 125 – 134 focus only on participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency currently use to allow the public to participate in the national budget process, this question asks about participation mechanisms used by line ministries to allow the public to participate in national budget processes. Thus, participation mechanisms used by the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by a line ministry or if multiple line ministries use participation mechanisms, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation and/or implementation of the annual budget.

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf

To answer "a," a line ministry must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to

express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government official. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation or implementation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which a line ministry seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if a line ministry has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) A line ministry consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the line ministry determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that the all CSOs and individual members of the public can have knowledge of the meeting, who participated, and what was discussed.

The researcher must present evidence to support selection of a "c" response.

Examples of mechanisms that might qualify as a "c" response include hotlines, Facebook announcements, and one-off meetings with NGOs in which there is a public record.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Comment:

There are no public participation mechanisms in budget formulation/implementation organized by line ministries.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

136. Does the legislature or the relevant legislative committee(s) hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the formulation of the annual budget (pre-budget and/or approval stages)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislative are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) has put in place and is using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the annual budget. This includes deliberations during the pre-budget phase (i.e., when the executive is still in the process of formulating the draft budget) and the budget discussions after the budget has been tabled to parliament and before it is approved. In the comment box, please specify during which stage of the budget cycle the legislature has put in place a public participation mechanism.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual Members of Parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

If there is more than one mechanism, please select a mechanism that best shows/reflects the legislature's efforts to incorporate citizens into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenues, policy selection, and macro-fiscal planning

(please note that the issue of coverage is covered in a subsequent question).

To answer "a," the legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs; but
- There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs;
- No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, but
- The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)
- The legislature has a provision (via standing orders or in law) through which the public can submit their inputs, and members of the public or CSOs actively use it to submit opinions on the budget.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/1996-350>

Comment:

In 2020, the Financial and Budgetary Committee invited a Head of the Council for Budget Responsibility Mr. Jan Toth to its meeting on the EBP. However, we could not find an example of non-state expert invited to the public hearings/deliberations in the National Parliament on the formulation of the annual budget.

Particular meetings of the full legislature as well as committees of the National Council are publicly available after registration. The participation is passive, i.e. it is not possible to testify or ask questions. However, the committees may invite selected experts for an active participation.

The Act 350/1996 on the procedural rules of the National Council states:

Paragraph 18, part (1): "Meetings of the National Council are public. Public participation in the meetings of the National Council is allowed until the capacity of the seats intended for the public is filled."

Paragraph 18, part (4): "The meetings of the National Council, which discuss the proposals concerning the state budget, taxes and fees, are always public."

Paragraph 50, part (1): "Meetings of committees are public (...) Public participation is allowed until the capacity of the seats in the room in which the committee is meeting is filled."

Paragraph 54, part (1): "The Committees may also invite experts and other persons to their meetings and request their opinion."

Paragraph 54, part (2): "The Committees may request experts, scientific institutes or other institutions to prepare expert opinions and opinions necessary for the deliberations of the Committees. In order to clarify the content of the opinion submitted, the committee may request that the person who drafted it give an oral explanation at a committee meeting."

The FAQ section of the National Parliament explains:

"Meetings of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and its committees (with some exceptions) are public. Participation in committee meetings is limited only by the capacity of seats designated for the public in the Chamber. Meetings in the Chamber can only be watched from the balcony. The only condition for entering the building of the National Council of the Slovak Republic is to prove your identity card and then the employee will escort you to the balcony of the meeting room. If the capacity of seats in the meeting room of the committee or the balcony of the meeting room is full or you cannot come in person, it is possible to watch the meetings of the National Council of the Slovak Republic in the form of online broadcasting, which you can find in the section Quick access - Online broadcasting for mobile devices or Quick access - Online broadcast on RTVS website."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

137. During the legislative deliberations on the annual budget (pre-budget or approval stages), which of the following key topics does the legislature's (or relevant legislative budget committee) engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider the range of mechanisms currently used by the legislature to promote public participation during legislative deliberations on the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics, for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the legislature's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Minutes from meeting of the Financial and Budgetary Committee at the National Council debating Executive Budget Proposal (EBP) for 2021-23:
<https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?WFTID=NRDK&MasterID=279142>

Comment:

Theoretically, public participation can take place in all 6 mentioned topics. However, in reality, there is no such public engagement. For example, in 2020, the Financial and Budgetary Committee at the National Council invited following participants to its meeting on EBP for 2021-23:

- Head of the Council for Budget Responsibility
- Deputy Chair of the SAI
- Both State Secretaries at the Ministry of Finance

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

138. Does the legislature provide feedback to the public on how citizens' inputs have been used during legislative deliberations on the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the legislature provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received and how inputs were used during legislative deliberations (please note that these deliberations can refer to the pre-budget and approval phases). By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the legislature.

Answer "a" applies when the legislature provides a written document with:

- *The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).*

Answer "b" applies when the legislature provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and*

- A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used in legislative deliberations on the annual budget (please note that these deliberations refer to the pre-budget and approval phases).

Answer "c" applies when the legislature makes available a video recording of the relevant legislative session or provides a written document that includes:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) or
- A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Documents of the Committees' meetings: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/default.aspx?SectionId=134>

Minutes from meeting of the Financial and Budgetary Committee at the National Council debating Executive Budget Proposal (EBP) for 2021-23: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?WFTID=NRDK&MasterID=279142>

Comment:

Based on consultation with the IBP staff we decided to select answer "d" as there was no public (non state) actors participating in the legislative deliberations on the annual budget in 2020.

The Committees at the National Council publish minutes from their meetings describing inputs of participants and final decisions. The minutes are available on the website of the National Council.

In 2020, the Financial and Budgetary Committee invited a Head of the Council for Budget Responsibility Mr. Jan Toth to its meeting on the EBP. He actively participated (see Point 27 in the minutes). However, we could not find an example of non-state expert invited to the public hearings/deliberations in the National Parliament on the formulation of the annual budget.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

139. Does the legislature hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the Audit Report?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on "Sustainability," "Transparency," and "Complementarity" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the legislative are interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the legislature, rather than being limited to allowing the public to attend or hear public budget deliberations.

A key constitutional role of the legislature in almost all countries is to oversee the government's management of public resources. While the Supreme Audit Institution is responsible for checking the government's accounts and publishing the outcome of their audits, for accountability purposes it is essential that the legislature reviews and scrutinizes those reports, and checks on whether the executive is taking the appropriate corrective actions based on the Supreme Audit Institution's recommendations.

Holding public hearings to review audit findings allows the public to learn more about how the government has managed its resources for the budget years that have ended, and demand accountability in case of mismanagement and irregularities. Reviewing and discussing those reports in public is therefore a key responsibility of a legislature.

Please note that by "Audit Report" we refer to the same audit report assessed in the transparency section of this Survey, i.e., one of the eight key budget documents that all governments (in this case, the Supreme Audit Institution) must produce, according to best practice.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) have put in place and using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the Audit Report.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual members of parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

To answer "a," the national legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not

exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- No testimony is allowed from the public; BUT
- There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;
- No testimony is allowed from the public;
- No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, BUT
- The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the Audit Report.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Minutes from the Financial and Budgetary Committee meeting on September 10, 2020 <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Dynamic/DocumentPreview.aspx?WFTID=NRDK&MasterID=277613>

Presentation of the Head of the SAI to the full legislature on September 16, 2020:

<https://tv.nrsr.sk/archiv/schodza/8/12?id=227826>

Comment:

The Head of SAI presented the Audit Report for 2019 to the Financial and Budgetary Committee on September 10, 2020 and to the full legislature on September 16, 2020. Both committee meetings and plenary sessions are open to the public but participants may not testify and there are no other mechanisms through which public contributions are received. The committees may invite selected experts to their meetings, however, in 2020 no experts besides SAI and Government have participated.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

140. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program (for example, by bringing ideas on agencies, programs, or projects that could be audited)?

GUIDELINES:

This question assesses whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has established mechanisms through which the public can provide suggestions on issues/topics to be included in its audit program. When deciding its audit agenda, the SAI may undertake audits for a sample of agencies, projects, and programs in the country; and such a selection could be based on complaints and suggestions made by members of the public. To receive such suggestions, the SAI may create formal mechanisms, like setting up a website, hotline, or office (or assigning staff to liaise with the public).

Please note that formal mechanisms that do not explicitly seek the public's input in the audit program (such as general comment submission boxes on the SAI's website) should not be considered for this question.

Answer:

a. Yes, the SAI maintains formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in its audit program.

Source:

Webpage inviting citizens to suggest issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program:
<https://www.nku.gov.sk/podavanie-staznosti-podnetov-a-inych-podani>

SAI strategy of control planning:

<https://www.nku.gov.sk/strategia-planovania-kontrolnej-cinnosti-nku-sr>

Comment:

On its webpage, the SAI invites citizens to suggest issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program. The suggestions can be sent by regular post or electronically.

The strategy of control planning includes collecting of feedback from NGOs, general public and academy. For example, in 2020 there were 6 (out of 32) controls initiated by citizens. To create the control plan for 2021-23, the SAI used (among other methods) a survey among experts.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

141. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used to determine its audit program?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the Supreme Audit Institution provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used to determine the Supreme Audit Institution's audit program. By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the Supreme Audit Institution.

Answer "a" applies when the Supreme Audit Institution provides a written document with:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).*

Answer "b" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used to determine the SAI's annual audit program.*

Answer "c" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggests issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

Webpage informing about life cycle of submitted initiatives and complaints:

<https://www.nku.gov.sk/zoznam-prispevkov-ku-kontrolne>

The SAI annual report on results of controls in 2019:

<https://www.nku.gov.sk/documents/10157/166625/Spr%C3%A1va+o+v%C3%BDsledkoch+kontrolnej+%C4%8Dinnosti+NK%C3%9A+SR+za+rok+2019>

Comment:

There is no information available on list of inputs from citizens and no report on how they were used. The SAI only informs about the state of complaints and incentives from citizens which allows them to monitor the life cycle of their initiatives and complaints. It is available upon signing only to the person who submitted the complaint.

The SAI annual report on results of controls includes some aggregated information - for example, how many inputs have come from citizens or how many controls have been performed based on initiative of citizens. The information about results of particular controls are available in summary reports for these specific controls or in an annual report on results of controls in particular year.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

142. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations (as respondents, witnesses, etc.)?

GUIDELINES:

This question mirrors question 140, but instead of covering public assistance in formulating the SAI's audit program, it focuses on whether the Supreme Audit Institution has established mechanisms through which the public can participate in audit investigations. In addition to seeking public input to determine its audit agenda, the SAI may wish to provide formal opportunities for the public and civil society organizations to participate in the actual audit investigations, as witnesses or respondents.

Answer:

a. Yes, SAI maintains formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations.

Source:

Form for submission of information relevant to existing and planned controls:
<https://www.nku.gov.sk/podavanie-informativnych-prispevkov-ku-kontrolam>

Webpage inviting citizens to suggest issues/topics relevant to SAI's audit investigations:
<https://www.nku.gov.sk/podavanie-staznosti-podnetov-a-inych-podani>

Comment:

On its webpage, the SAI invites citizens to suggest issues/topics relevant to SAI's audit investigations. The suggestions can be sent by regular post or electronically. The SAI webpage also includes a specific form where anybody can submit information relevant to existing and planned controls.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree