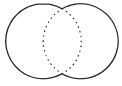


Bosnia and Herzegovina

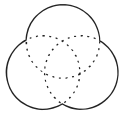
Overview



Transparency:

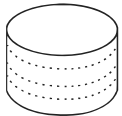
32 /100

(Open Budget Index score)



Public Participation:

9 /100



Budget Oversight:

57 /100

About the survey

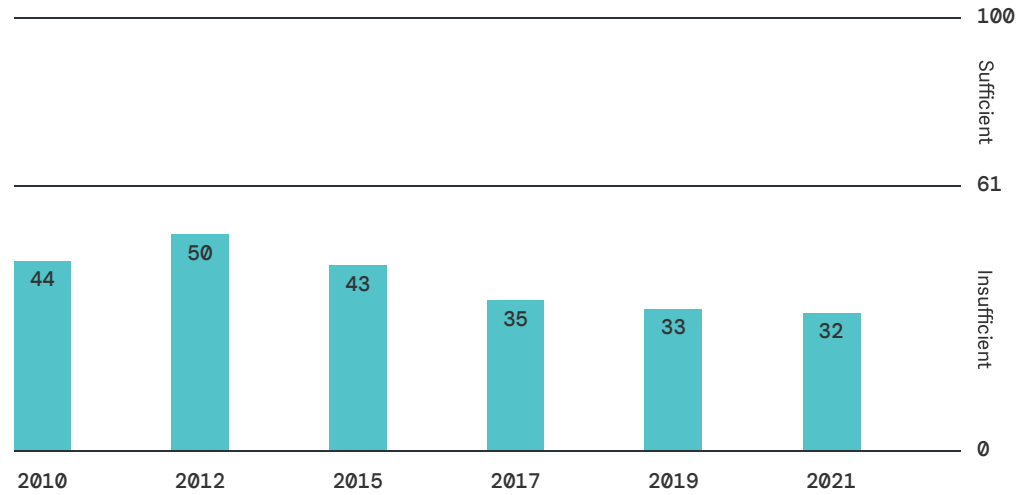
Government budget decisions – what taxes to levy, what services to provide, and how much debt to take on – have important consequences for all people in society. When governments provide information and meaningful channels for the public to engage in these decisions, we can better ensure public money is spent on public interests.

The Open Budget Survey (OBS) is the world’s only independent, comparative and fact-based research instrument that uses internationally accepted criteria to assess public access to central government budget information; formal opportunities for the public to participate in the national budget process; and the role of budget oversight institutions, such as legislatures and national audit offices, in the budget process.

The survey helps local civil society assess and confer with their government on the reporting and use of public funds. This 8th edition of the OBS covers 120 countries.

Visit www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey for more information, including the full OBS methodology, the 2021 Global and Regional Reports, findings for all surveyed countries, and the Data Explorer.

How has the transparency score for Bosnia and Herzegovina changed over time?



Public availability of budget documents in Bosnia and Herzegovina

KEY	
●	Available to the Public
●	Published Late, or Not Published Online, or Produced for Internal Use Only
⊘	Not Produced

Document	2010	2012	2015	2017	2019	2021
Pre-Budget Statement	●	●	●	●	●	●
Executive's Budget Proposal	●	●	●	●	●	●
Enacted Budget	●	●	●	●	●	●
Citizens Budget	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	●
In-Year Reports	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mid-Year Review	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Year-End Report	●	●	●	●	●	●
Audit Report	●	●	●	●	●	●

How comprehensive is the content of the key budget documents that Bosnia and Herzegovina makes available to the public?

KEY	
● 61-100 / 100	
● 41-60 / 100	
● 1-40 / 100	

Key budget document	Document purpose and contents	Fiscal year assessed	Document content score
Pre-Budget Statement	Discloses the broad parameters of fiscal policies in advance of the Executive's Budget Proposal; outlines the government's economic forecast, anticipated revenue, expenditures, and debt.	2021	67
Executive's Budget Proposal	Submitted by the executive to the legislature for approval; details the sources of revenue, the allocations to ministries, proposed policy changes, and other information important for understanding the country's fiscal situation.	2020	29
Enacted Budget	The budget that has been approved by the legislature.	2020	50
Citizens Budget	A simpler and less technical version of the government's Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, designed to convey key information to the public.	2020	Published Late
In-Year Reports	Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly.	2019 & 2020	Published Late
Mid-Year Review	A comprehensive update on the implementation of the budget as of the middle of the fiscal year; includes a review of economic assumptions and an updated forecast of budget outcomes.	2020	Not Produced
Year-End Report	Describes the situation of the government's accounts at the end of the fiscal year and, ideally, an evaluation of the progress made toward achieving the budget's policy goals.	2019	54
Audit Report	Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts.	2019	78

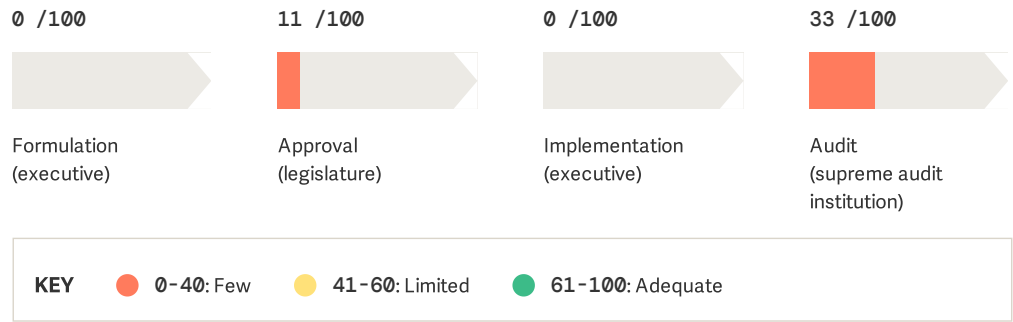
Bosnia and Herzegovina's transparency score of **32** in the OBS 2021 is near its score in 2019.

Recommendations

Bosnia and Herzegovina should prioritize the following actions to improve budget transparency:

- Publish the Citizens Budget and In-Year Reports online in a timely manner.
- Produce and publish the Mid-Year Review online in a timely manner.
- Include in the Executive's Budget Proposal more disaggregated information on debt and its composition, and on the financial position of the government, by including data on quasi-fiscal activities, financial and non-financial assets, and contingent and future liabilities.
- Include in the Year-End Report comparisons between borrowing estimates and actual outcomes, between planned non-financial outcomes and actual outcomes, and between the original macroeconomic forecast and actual outcomes.

Extent of opportunities for public participation in the budget process



Recommendations

To further strengthen public participation in the budget process, Bosnia and Herzegovina's Ministry of Finance and Treasury should prioritize the following actions:

- Pilot mechanisms to engage the public during budget formulation and to monitor budget implementation.
- Actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, directly or through civil society organizations representing them.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Parliamentary Assembly has established public hearings related to the approval of the annual budget and public hearings related to the review of the Audit Report, but should also prioritize the following actions:

- Allow any member of the public or any civil society organization to testify during its hearings on the budget proposal prior to its approval, and during its hearings on the Audit Report.

The Audit Office of the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina has established mechanisms to assist the supreme audit institution in developing its audit program. It should prioritize the following actions to improve public participation in the budget process:

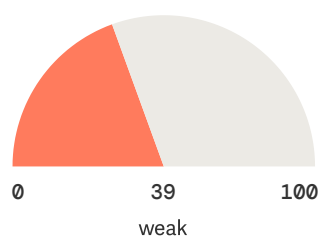
- Establish formal mechanisms for the public to contribute to relevant audit investigations.

Budget Oversight

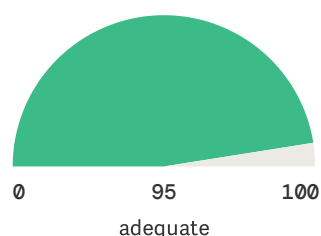
The OBS examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information on independent fiscal institutions (see Box).

The legislature and supreme audit institution in Bosnia and Herzegovina, together, provide limited oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of **57** (out of 100). Taken individually, the extent of each institution's oversight is shown below:

Legislative oversight



Audit oversight



KEY ● 0-40: Few ● 41-60: Limited ● 61-100: Adequate

Recommendations

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Parliamentary Assembly provides weak oversight during the planning stage of the budget cycle and weak oversight during the implementation stage. To improve oversight, the following actions should be prioritized:

- The Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to legislators at least two months before the start of the budget year. The timely submission of the budget proposal to the legislature should also contribute to restoring the practice of approving the proposal before the start of the budget year (i.e., no later than December 31 of the prior year), as per Article 10 of the "Law on Financing of the Institutions of BiH" (Official Gazette of BiH No. 61/04, 49/09, 42/12, 87/12, 32/13).
- Legislative committees should examine the Executive's Budget Proposal as well as in-year budget implementation, and publish reports with their analysis and findings online.
- In practice, ensure the legislature is consulted before the executive shifts funds specified in the Enacted Budget between administrative units or spends any unanticipated revenue during the budget year.

The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions

Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have an independent fiscal institution (IFI). IFIs are increasingly recognized as valuable independent and nonpartisan information providers to the Executive and/or Parliament during the budget process.

**These indicators are *not* scored in the Open Budget Survey.*

Methodology

- Only documents published and events, activities, or developments that took place through 31 December 2020 were assessed in the OBS 2021.
- The survey is based on a questionnaire completed in each country by an independent budget expert:
Aleksandra Banovic
Fondacija "Centar za zastupanje građanskih interesa"
Put života br. 12, 71 000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
aleksandra.banovic@cpi.ba; aleksandrabanovic@yahoo.com
- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina by a representative of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury.