

Open Budget Survey 2021

Questionnaire

Romania

May 2022

Country Questionnaire: Romania

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 2020

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.pdf

Comment:

According to the law 500/2002 on public finance (<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/37954>), the Government should send the EBP to the legislature before November 15 of the previous FY. However, there is an exception for years in which general elections are organized in the last three months of the year, and 2020 was such an exception. Therefore, the PBS and the EBP for FY 2021 were not published yet as of 31 December 2020.

A preliminary PBS was sent to the main credit release authorities (ministries, local authorities) on September 2019 and is available at https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/documents/35673/153791/scrisoareacadru2020_20sept2019.pdf. The regular document usually published as a PBS (Strategia fiscal bugetară/ The fiscal-budgetary strategy) for FY 2020 was also published in December 2019.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: A preliminary PBS was released on September 12, 2019 (registration number 463.549) according to the Word document available on https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/153791/scrisoareacadru2020_20sept2019.doc

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. The PBS is not released to the public, or is released less than one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is introduced to the legislature

Source:

Comment:

As in previous years, the full PBS for FY 2020 (Strategia fiscal bugetară pentru anii 2020-2022/ The fiscal-budgetary strategy for 2020-2022) was published with just a few days before the EB was sent to the legislature (published on 12 December 2019, sent to the legislature on 18 December 2019: http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280).

However, it should be noted that the preliminary PBS (the Letter sent to the main credit release authorities was sent to them on 20 September 2019 - https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/documents/35673/153791/scrisoareacadru2020_20sept2019.pdf). Similarly to the discussions in the previous OBS, this letter does not fulfill the standards of a PBS and the full one was published with just 6 days before the EBP being introduced in the legislature.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: According to the art. 26 (1) of the Fiscal Responsibility Law no. 69/2010 (republished in 2020) (<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocumentAfis/226552>), the PBS (Strategia fiscal bugetară / The fiscal-budgetary strategy) should be available to the public on August. Even so, the full PBS for FY 2020 was available to the public with 6 days before EBP.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

12/12/2019

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.docx

Comment:

The date was determined through the publication date available on the MoF website and by examining the proprieties of the document.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 publication date was determined by the title included in the link to the document -https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.docx and https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.pdf.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.docx

Comment:

The publication date was determined by the title included in the link to the document -https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.docx and https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.pdf.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Also, the data are indicated based on the information obtained when the properties of the documents were inspected.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.pdf

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
d. Not applicable

Source:
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.pdf and https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.docx

Comment:
The data is available in .pdf and .docx formats that do not meet the criteria for machine readable.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: c. No

Comments: The PBS is publicly available in pdf format. But for the FY 2020, the PBS can be found both as Word and pdf document (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/-startegia-fiscal-bugetara>).

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IBP Comment
Thank you for the Peer Reviewers comments. Since the PBS is not publicly available by OBS standards, this question must score D.

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:

a. Produced but made available online to the public too late (published after the acceptable time frame)

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.docx

Comment:

As in the previous OBS, the PBS is published, but with just 6 days before being registered at the legislature.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The PBS was made available to the public online on December 12, 2019. But the EBP was published online on December 18, 2019 (http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280).

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

"Strategia fiscal-bugetară pentru perioada 2020–2022" (The fiscal-budgetary strategy for the period 2020-2022)

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.docx

Comment:

The usual full title (according to Law 500/2002 as well) is „Raport/ Strategia fiscal bugetară pe anii FY-FY+2”/ Fiscal-budgetary report/ strategy for FY - FY+2

On the basis of the PBS, when the EBP is sent to the legislature, an accompanying document called "Raport privind situația macroeconomică pe anul 2020 și proiecția acesteia pe anii 2021-2023" (Report on the macroeconomic situation for 2020 and its projection for 2021-2023) is also registered (http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/7/rap_macro667.pdf)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

No such document is produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 2020

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?>

[p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_resetCur=false&com_liferay_asset_pu](https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_resetCur=false&com_liferay_asset_pu)

blisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=7

Comment:

The EBP is usually published in the dedicated section for "Transparency in decision-making" on the website of the MoF. The EBP for FY 2020 was published on 17 December 2019 in that section.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

18/12/2019

Source:

http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Comment:

According to the law 500/2002, the EBP should be sent to the legislature for approval by November 15 in the previous FY. The EBP for FY 2020 was sent to the legislature for consideration on December 18 2019 and the the EBP for FY 2021 was sent to the legislature after the cut-off date (because 2020 was a general elections year, this is one of the exceptions to submitting the EBP before the November 15 deadline).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Less than two months in advance of the budget year, but at least in advance of the budget being approved by the legislature

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?>

[p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=7](https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?)

Comment:

For FY 2020, the EBP was published on the website of the MoF on December 17, 2019, sent to the legislature on December 18, 2019 and approved via a special procedure that avoided the debate (in accordance with art. 114 of the Romanian Constitution: Assumption of responsibility by the Government). The President signed it into law (and thus enacted it) on January 6, 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

17/12/2019

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?>

[p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=7](https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?)

Comment:

The EBP is usually published on the website of the MoF on the dedicated section on "Transparency in the decision-making" (mandatory by law). For FY 2020, the EBP was published at: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?>

[p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=7](https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

For FY 2020 EBP (and for all the documents published by the MoF), the date is stated together with the document in the dedicated section for "Transparency in the decision-making process".

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?>

p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=7

Comment:

For FY 2020 EBP (and for all the documents published by the MoF), the date is stated together with the document in the dedicated section:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?>

p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=7

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?>

p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=7

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?>

p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=7

Comment:

For FY 2020, the list of documents includes:

- Proiect Legea bugetului de stat pe anul 2020/ Draft law on the state budget for 2020 -

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegebugetdestat2020_17122019.docx

- Raport privind situația macroeconomică pe anul 2020 și proiecția acesteia pe anii 2021-2023/ Report on the macroeconomic situation for 2020 and projections for 2021-2023 - <https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

- Anexele 1- 11/ Annexes 1-11 - various detailed versions on the economic, functional, administrative classifications

Also, the version of the documents registered in the legislature can be found here: http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

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

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=7

Comment:

For FY 2020, just some of the documents were in a machine readable format (.xlsx) but not the major ones.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Annexes 4-9 are published in a machine readable format (.xlsx)

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=7

Comment:

The EBP was published on the website of the MoF.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Produced but made available online to the public too late (published after the acceptable time frame)

Comments: According to the Law no. 500/2002, the EBP should be sent to the legislature for approval by November 15 in the previous FY. But for the FY2020, the EBP is publicly available on 17/12/2019. Also, after 1 day, the EBP was submitted to the legislature for consideration.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Thank you to the Peer Review for the comments. A score of E here indicates that the document is publicly available by OBS standards, which is the case also in accordance with your comments, as it was published before approval by the legislature. The researcher's response of E is confirmed.

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:

"Proiect legea bugetului de stat pe anul 2020"/ Draft law on the state budget for 2020

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegebugetdestat2020_17122019.docx

Comment:

The regular title (i.e. for FY 2020) is "Proiect legea bugetului de stat pe anul 2020"/ Draft law on the state budget for 2020

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: "Proiectul Legii bugetului de stat pe anul 2020" / The draft law on the state budget for 2020

Comments: http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Thank you the Peer Reviewer for the comment.

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:

n/a

Comment:

No such document was produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 2020

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/buget-2020>

Comment:

According to Law 500/2002, the EB should be approved by the end of the fiscal year (December 31). There are some exceptions for the years in which general elections are held in the last 3 months of the year. This is the case for FY 2021, but it was not for FY 2020.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:
27/12/2019

Source:
http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Comment:

For the EB 2020, a special constitutional provision was used so the EBP was not actually enacted by the legislature in a traditional fashion. The Government used the procedure named "Assumption of responsibility by the Government", as per Article 114 of the Romanian Constitution that states that: "(1) The Government may assume responsibility before the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, in joint sitting, upon a programme, a general policy statement, or a bill.

(2) The Government shall be dismissed if a motion of censure, tabled within three days of the date of presenting the programme, the general policy statement, or the bill, has been passed in accordance with the provisions under Article 113.

(3) If the Government has not been dismissed according to paragraph (2), the bill presented, amended, or completed, as the case may be, with the amendments accepted by the Government, shall be deemed as passed, and the implementation of the programme or general policy statement shall become binding on the Government.

(4) In case the President of Romania demands reconsideration of the law passed according to paragraph (3), the debate thereon shall be carried in the joint sitting of the Chambers."

Source: EN version of the Romanian constitution on the website of the Presidency available at <https://www.presidency.ro/en/the-constitution-of-romania>

For the EB 2020 this meant that the Government presented the draft bill on 23 December 2019 and since no motion of censure was tabled within three days of the date of its presentation, it was considered passed. The calendar is available here: http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/buget-2020>

Comment:
The EB for FY2020 was made available through its publication in the Official Gazette and on the website of the MoF on January 6, 2020: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/buget-2020>.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
30/12/2019

Source:
http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/docs/F1602589273/pr667_19.pdf

Comment:
For FY 2020 the EB was published as following - on December 30, 2019, immediately after being passed through the legislature with the version sent to the President - http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/docs/F1602589273/pr667_19.pdf); on January 6, 2020, immediately after being signed into law by the President in the Official Gazette and on the legislative portal (<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/221847>) as well as on the website of the MoF (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/buget-2020>)

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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 was determined from the official website of the legislature: http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Source:
n/a

Comment:
For FY 2020 the EB was published as following - on December 30, 2019, immediately after being passed through the legislature with the version sent to the President - http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/docs/F1602589273/pr667_19.pdf); on January 6, 2020, immediately after being signed into law by the President in the Official Gazette and on the legislative portal (<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/221847>) as well as on the website of the MoF (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/buget-2020>)

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/buget-2020>

Source:

n/a

Comment:

For FY 2020 the EB was published as following - on December 30, 2019, immediately after being passed through the legislature with the version sent to the President - http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/docs/F1602589273/pr667_19.pdf); on January 6, 2020, immediately after being signed into law by the President in the Official Gazette and on the legislative portal (<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/221847>) as well as on the website of the MoF (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/buget-2020>)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/148567/buget2020xml.rar>

Comment:

For FY 2020, the data was published in a xml format available on the website of the MoF in the dedicated section:
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/buget-2020>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The EB is made available online on the Chamber of Deputies website before the end of the FY (http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280). According to the public finance Law 500/2002, the EB should be approved by the end of the fiscal year (December 31).

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

"Legea bugetului de stat pe anul 2020"/ Law on state budget for FY 2020

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/148567/legeabugetuluidestat2020.pdf>

Comment:

The EB usually has as a title "Legea bugetului de stat pe anul FY x"/ Law on state budget for FY x

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
b. No

Source:
n/a

Comment:
No such document was produced.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
FY2020

Source:
n/a

Comment:
A CB was not available for FY 2019 or for FY 2020 either.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

d. Not produced at all

Source:

n/a

Comment:

No such document was produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

No such document was produced publicly in any of the previous FY either.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

No such document was produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Source:

n/a

Comment:

No such document was produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Source:

n/a

Comment:

No such document was produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Source:
n/a

Comment:
No such document was produced.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
n/a

Source:
n/a

Comment:
No such document was produced.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
n/a

Source:
n/a

Comment:
No such document was produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
Execuția bugetară/ Budget execution
Consolidated data: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Data for every institution: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

Comment:
IYR are published on a monthly basis in Romania:
1. Consolidated data is available on the website of the MoF, usually around the 25th of the next month.
The IYR documents are: Bugetul general consolidat/ General consolidated budget - data on the budget evolution until the month under review, with economic details (revenues and expenditure) for the various budgets (central, local, special funds etc)
- Sinteza/ Synthesis - data on the consolidated budget with economic details and comparisons with the similar month of the previous FY
- Notă privind execuția bugetului general consolidat/ Note on the execution of the general consolidated budget - short narrative report on the evolution of the budget
2. Detailed data for almost every institution in Romania is available on a dedicated website of the MoF, usually around the 25th of the next month.
Data is available on economic, functional and administrative classifications.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
Consolidated data: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Data for every institution: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

Comment:
IYR are published on a monthly basis in Romania:

1. Consolidated data is available on the website of the MoF, usually around the 25th of the next month.
The IYR documents are: Bugetul general consolidat/ General consolidated budget - data on the budget evolution until the month under review, with economic details (revenues and expenditure) for the various budgets (central, local, special funds etc)
- Sinteza/ Synthesis - data on the consolidated budget with economic details and comparisons with the similar month of the previous FY
- Notă privind execuția bugetului general consolidat/ Note on the execution of the general consolidated budget - short narrative report on the evolution of the budget
2. Detailed data for almost every institution in Romania is available on a dedicated website of the MoF, usually around the 25th of the next month.
Data is available on economic, functional and administrative classifications.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
28 December 2020

Source:
Consolidated data available at: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Comment:
IYR are published on a monthly basis in Romania:
1. Consolidated data is available on the website of the MoF, usually around the 25th of the next month.
The IYR documents are: Bugetul general consolidat/ General consolidated budget - data on the budget evolution until the month under review, with economic details (revenues and expenditure) for the various budgets (central, local, special funds etc)
- Sinteza/ Synthesis - data on the consolidated budget with economic details and comparisons with the similar month of the previous FY
- Notă privind execuția bugetului general consolidat/ Note on the execution of the general consolidated budget - short narrative report on the evolution of the budget
2. Detailed data for almost every institution in Romania is available on a dedicated website of the MoF, usually around the 25th of the next month.
Data is available on economic, functional and administrative classifications.

The monthly report for November 2020 was publicly available online on 28 December 2020
The monthly report for October 2020 was publicly available online on 26 November 2020
The monthly report for September 2020 was publicly available online on 27 October 2020
The monthly report for August 2020 was publicly available online on 28 September 2020
The monthly report for July 2020 was publicly available online on 26 August 2020
The monthly report for June 2020 was publicly available online on 28 July 2020
The monthly report for May 2020 was publicly available online on 26 June 2020
The monthly report for April 2020 was publicly available online on 27 May 2020
The monthly report for March 2020 was publicly available online on 27 April 2020
The monthly report for February 2020 was publicly available online on 27 March 2020
The monthly report for January 2020 was publicly available online on 25 February 2020

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree
Comments: Also, the data are indicated based on the information obtained when the properties of the documents were inspected.

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Date determined through documents properties.

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Comment:

Unfortunately, the website of the MoF was recently changed, so it was hard to search through the suggested tools (i.e. Wayback machine). The data was determined by verifying the properties of the documents and confirmed through media monitoring (i.e. for IYR published on December 28, there are also media appearances: https://www.economica.net/execu-ia-bugetara-deficit-bugetar-de-8prc-dupa-11-luni-din-2020_194763.html)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Source:

Execuția bugetară/ Budget execution

Consolidated data: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Data for every institution: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

Data for public debt: <https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?method=arhiva&c=trezordatoriegubernamentala>

Comment:

IYR are published on a monthly basis in Romania:

1. Consolidated data is available on the website of the MoF, usually around the 25th of the next month.

The IYR documents are: Bugetul general consolidat/ General consolidated budget - data on the budget evolution until the month under review, with economic details (revenues and expenditure) for the various budgets (central, local, special funds etc)

- Sinteza/ Synthesis - data on the consolidated budget with economic details and comparisons with the similar month of the previous FY

- Notă privind execuția bugetului general consolidat/ Note on the execution of the general consolidated budget - short narrative report on the evolution of the budget

2. Detailed data for almost every institution in Romania is available on a dedicated website of the MoF, usually around the 25th of the next month.

Data is available on economic, functional and administrative classifications.

3. Data for public debt is also presented on a monthly basis here - <https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?method=arhiva&c=trezordatoriegubernamentala>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Execuția bugetară/ Budget execution: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Data for every institution: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

Comment:

The consolidated data is available in a .xlsx format.

The data for each institution is available in .xlsx, .pdf, .xml

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

The IYR documents are: Bugetul general consolidat/ General consolidated budget - data on the budget evolution until the month under review, with economic details (revenues and expenditure) for the various budgets (central, local, special funds etc)
- Sinteza/ Synthesis - data on the consolidated budget with economic details and comparisons with the similar month of the previous FY
- Notă privind execuția bugetului general consolidat/ Note on the execution of the general consolidated budget - short narrative report on the evolution of the budget

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

No such documents are produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

MoF - "Raport privind situația economică și bugetară pe primele șase luni ale anului 2020" / Report on the economic and budgetary situation for the first six months of 2020 available at: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Comment:

Documents are available under the "Rapoarte semestriale" (Mid-year reports) tab. The MYR is published as a narrative report together with three annexes detailing the evolution of the budget for the first semester of the FY.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. Nine weeks or less, but more than six weeks, after the midpoint

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Comment:

The MYR for FY 2020 was published on 13 August 2020 as a narrative report together with three annexes detailing the evolution of the budget for the first semester of the FY. Documents are available under the "Rapoarte semestriale" (Mid-year reports) tab.

This is just over six weeks after the mid-point & reporting period.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

13/8/2020

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Raportsemi2020_13082020.docx

Comment:

Documents are available under the "Rapoarte semestriale" (Mid-year reports) tab and the date is visible in the document properties.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The document also contains the publication date.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Raportsemi2020_13082020.docx

Comment:

The MYR for FY 2020 was published on 13 August 2020 as a narrative report together with three annexes detailing the evolution of the budget for the first semester of the FY. Documents are available under the "Rapoarte semestriale" (Mid-year reports) tab.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The data are indicated based on the information obtained when the properties of the documents were inspected.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Raportsem12020_13082020.docx

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Raportsem12020_13082020.docx

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr1sem12020.xls>

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr2sem12020.xls>

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr3sem12020.xls>

Comment:

The MYR for FY 2020 was published on 13 August 2020 as a narrative report together with three annexes detailing the evolution of the budget for the first semester of the FY. Documents are available under the "Rapoarte semestriale" (Mid-year reports) tab available here:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

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

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Comment:

The MYR for FY 2020 was published on 13 August 2020 as a narrative report together with three annexes detailing the evolution of the budget for the first semester of the FY. Documents are available under the "Rapoarte semestriale" (Mid-year reports) tab available here:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

The numerical data is available in .xlsx format for the annexes to the MYR (which is in a narrative format, available in .docx as well).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

n/a

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

"Raport privind situația economică și bugetară pe primele șase luni ale anului 2020"/ Report on the economic and budgetary situation for the first six months of 2020

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Raportsemi2020_13082020.docx

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

No such document was produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?>

p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=5

Comment:

There are two kinds of reports that can be assimilated to the YER. Both are published on the website of the MoF.

The first one, a narrative report, is usually published in a separate section for YERs - <http://www.mfinante.gov.ro/pagina.html?categoriebunuri=executie-bugetara,rapoarte-trimestriale,rapoarte-semestriale,rapoarte-anuale,arieratele-bugetului-general-consolidat&pagina=domenii&menu=Buget&tab=4>

The second one, more comprehensive, must be also sent for approval to the legislature. According to Law 500/2002 on public finances, the Report must be sent to the Parliament by July 1, in the next year following the covered FY. This report for FY 2019 was published on the website of the MoF on 25 June 2020 (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?>

p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=5), but it is not yet registered in the legislature (http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.lista?cam=2).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>

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:

a. Six months or less after the end of the budget year

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?>

p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=5

Comment:

There are two kinds of reports that can be assimilated to the YER. Both are published on the website of the MoF.

The first one, a narrative report, is usually published in a separate section for YERs - <http://www.mfinante.gov.ro/pagina.html?categoriebunuri=executie-bugetara,rapoarte-trimestriale,rapoarte-semestriale,rapoarte-anuale,arieratele-bugetului-general-consolidat&pagina=domenii&menu=Buget&tab=4>

The second one, more comprehensive, must be also sent for approval to the legislature. According to Law 500/2002 on public finances, the Report must be sent to the Parliament by July 1, in the next year following the covered FY. This report for FY 2019 was published on the website of the MoF

on 25 June 2020 (https://mfinante.gov.ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=5), but it is not yet registered in the legislature (http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.lista?cam=2).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

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:
25/6/2020

Source:
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

Comment:
There are two kinds of reports that can be assimilated to the YER. Both are published on the website of the MoF.

The first one, a narrative report, is usually published in a separate section for YERs - <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

The second one, more comprehensive, must be also sent for approval to the legislature. According to Law 500/2002 on public finances, the Report must be sent to the Parliament by July 1, in the next year following the covered FY. This report for FY 2019 was published on the website of the MoF on 25 June 2020 (https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc), but it is not yet registered in the legislature (http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.lista?cam=2).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 documents on the MoF also contain in their link the publication date.
There are two kinds of reports that can be assimilated to the YER. Both are published on the website of the MoF.

The first one, a narrative report, is usually published in a separate section for YERs - <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara> and was published on 15 August 2020.

The second one, more comprehensive, must be also sent for approval to the legislature. According to Law 500/2002 on public finances, the Report must be sent to the Parliament by July 1, in the next year following the covered FY. This report for FY 2019 was published on the website of the MoF on 25 June 2020 (https://mfinante.gov.ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=5), but it is not yet registered in the legislature (http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.lista?cam=2).

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>

https://mfinante.gov.ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=5

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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://mfinante.gov.ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=5

https://mfinante.gov.ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=5

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

There are two kinds of reports that can be assimilated to the YER. Both are published on the website of the MoF.

The first one, a narrative report, is usually published in a separate section for YERs -

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>

The second one, more comprehensive, must be also sent for approval to the legislature. According to Law 500/2002 on public finances, the Report must be sent to the Parliament by July 1, in the next year following the covered FY. This report for FY 2019 was published on the website of the MoF on 25 June 2020 (https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc), but it is not yet registered in the legislature (http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.lista?cam=2).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. No

Source:

For FY 2019 no data was available in what is considered a machine readable format.

Comment:

There are two kinds of reports that can be assimilated to the YER. Both are published on the website of the MoF.

The first one, a narrative report, is usually published in a separate section for YERs -

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>

The second one, more comprehensive, must be also sent for approval to the legislature. According to Law 500/2002 on public finances, the Report must be sent to the Parliament by July 1, in the next year following the covered FY. This report for FY 2019 was published on the website of the MoF on 25 June 2020 (https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf), but it is not yet registered in the legislature

(http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.lista?cam=2).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

n/a

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:

"Raport privind la execuția bugetară finală a anului 2019"/ Report on the implementation of the final budget for 2019

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>

Comment:

There are two kinds of reports that can be assimilated to the YER. Both are published on the website of the MoF.

1. The first one, a narrative report, is usually published in a separate section for YERs - <http://www.mfinante.gov.ro/pagina.html?categoriebunuri=executie-bugetara,rapoarte-trimestriale,rapoarte-semestriale,rapoarte-aniuale,arieratele-bugetului-general-consolidat&pagina=domenii&menu=Buget&tab=4>. This report is called "Raport privind la execuția bugetară finală a anului 2019"/ Report on the implementation of the final budget for 2019
2. The second one, more comprehensive, must be also sent for approval to the legislature. According to Law 500/2002 on public finances, the Report must be sent to the Parliament by July 1, in the next year following the covered FY. This report for FY 2019 was published on the website of the MoF on 25 June 2020 (https://mfinante.gov.ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&_com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=5), but it is not yet registered in the legislature (http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.lista?cam=2). The report is called "Proiect Lege pentru aprobarea contului general anual de execuție a bugetului de stat, a contului anual de execuție a bugetului Fondului național unic de asigurări sociale de sănătate și a contului general anual al datoriei publice aferente anului 2019"/ Draft Law approving the annual general state budget execution account, the annual budget execution account of the Single National Health Insurance Fund and the annual general government debt account for the year 2019

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: "RAPORT PRIVIND EXECUȚIA BUGETARĂ FINALĂ PE ANUL 2019" / REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL BUDGET FOR 2019 is the title of the YER (https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc). "Raport privind la execuția bugetară finală a anului 2019"/ Report on the implementation of the final budget for 2019 is the title of the document on the MoF

website (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>) and not the title of the YER. The researcher's comment 2. is correct and I totally agree with it.

Comments: "RAPORT PRIVIND EXECUȚIA BUGETARĂ FINALĂ PE ANUL 2019" / REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL BUDGET

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Thank you to the peer reviewer for confirming the title as reported in the researcher's comments.

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:

n/a

Comment:

No such document was produced.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 2018

Source:

Court of Accounts: <http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii.aspx?niv1=1>

Comment:

The latest AR was published on 29 January 2020 as per the press release: <http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/ComunicateDet.aspx?den=29/01/2020%2013:23:43fop5n>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://www.curteadeconturi.ro/publicatii/rapoarte-publice-anuale>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. More than 12 months, but within 18 months, after the end of the budget year

Source:

According to Law 94/1992 on the National Court of Accounts (article 38), within 6 months of receiving the YER from the Government, the Court of Accounts elaborates the Annual Public Report which it submits to the Parliament. (http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/2364#id_artA250_ttl).

Comment:

Even though the AR for FY 2019 was supposed to be published and sent , no such report was yet published for FY 2019 as of December 31, 2020. The last available AR is for FY 2018 and was published in 29 January 2020. In accordance with the law, the Court of Accounts was supposed to draft the 2019 AR and send it to the legislature by December 2020. No such report is available on the website of the Court of Accounts or on the website of the legislature.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

29/1/2020

Source:

<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/ComunicateDet.aspx?den=29/01/2020%2013:23:43fop5n>

Comment:

Besides the press release available above, the AR is published at: <http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii.aspx?categ=29.01.2020%2013:01:01>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://www.curteadeconturi.ro/publicatii/rapoarte-publice-anuale> <https://www.curteadeconturi.ro/publicatii/30-siteze-rapoarte>

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 date of the press release for the AR.

Source:

<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/ComunicateDet.aspx?den=29/01/2020%2013:23:43fop5n>

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii.aspx?categ=29.01.2020%2013:01:01>

Source:

n/a

Comment:

The ARs are usually published in full and in synthesis at: <http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii.aspx?niv1=1>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://www.curteadeconturi.ro/publicatii/rapoarte-publice-anuale> <https://www.curteadeconturi.ro/publicatii/30-siteze-rapoarte>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:
<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii.aspx?categ=29.01.2020%2013:01:01>

Comment:
The document is available only in a .pdf format.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
n/a

Comment:
n/a

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

"Raportul public al Curții de Conturi pe anul 2018"/ The Public Report of the Court of Accounts for FY 2018

Source:

<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii.aspx?categ=29.01.2020%2013:01:01>

Comment:

The report title is usually "Raportul public al Curții de Conturi pe anul x"/ The Public Report of the Court of Accounts for FY x and is accompanied by a synthesis.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii.aspx?categ=29.01.2020%2013:01:01>

Comment:

There is a synthesis of the AR, but that cannot be assimilated to a citizen version.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

The website of the MoF is usually the main portal for government fiscal information: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

A dedicated portal for IYR also exists and offers comprehensive information for budget execution on a monthly basis for almost all the public institutions in Romania: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

The open data portal of the government also provides some datasets: <http://data.gov.ro/dataset?q=ministerul+finantelor&organization=mfp>

The National Prognosis Commission also publishes twice a year reports on the fiscal data, both for the national level and local level (especially macro-economic assessments): <http://www.cnp.ro/ro/prognoze>

Comment:

Dedicated platforms or sections include other data, such data on debt: <https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?method=inceptut&locale=ro>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The website of the MoF is usually the main portal for government fiscal information: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

A dedicated portal for IYR also exists and offers comprehensive information for budget execution on a monthly basis for almost all the public institutions in Romania: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

The open data portal of the government also provides some datasets: <http://data.gov.ro/dataset?q=ministerul+finantelor&organization=mfp>

The National Prognosis Commission also publishes twice a year reports on the fiscal data, both for the national level and local level (especially macro-economic assessments): <http://www.cnp.ro/ro/prognoze>

Comment:

Not all the detailed data is available in a consolidated file and some of the most comprehensive platforms offer individual data for institutions that can be downloaded via a captcha code insertion.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The website of the MoF is usually the main portal for government fiscal information: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

A dedicated portal for IYR also exists and offers comprehensive information for budget execution on a monthly basis for almost all the public institutions in Romania: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

The open data portal of the government also provides some datasets: <http://data.gov.ro/dataset?q=ministerul+finantelor&organization=mfp>

The National Prognosis Commission also publishes twice a year reports on the fiscal data, both for the national level and local level (especially macro-economic assessments): <http://www.cnp.ro/ro/prognoze>

Comment:

Not all the detailed data is available in a consolidated file and some of the most comprehensive platforms offer individual data for institutions that can be downloaded via a captcha code insertion.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. No

Source:

n/a

Comment:

There are some traditional pie charts and other Office suite based visualizations in some of the reports, but they can barely be assimilated to infographics/ visualizations.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Law 500/2002 on public finance: <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/37954>

Law 273/2006 on local public finance: <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/73527>

Law 69/2010 on fiscal responsibility: <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/118059>

Comment:

There are several pieces of legislation that provide both guidance and mandatory requirements for the fiscal policy.

Law 500/2002 on public finance - provides that:

"Article 9

The budgetary system is open and transparent, by:

- (a) public debate on draft budgets at the time of their approval;
- b) the public debate on the annual general accounts for the execution of the budgets, upon their approval;
- c) the publication in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, of the normative acts approving the budgets and the annual accounts for their execution;
- d) mass media for disseminating information on the content of the budget, with the exception of unpublicable information and documents provided by law."

Law 69/2010 on fiscal responsibility - provides that:

"Article 4.

1. The Government will define and carry out its fiscal and budgetary policies based on the following principles:

- (1) The principle of transparency regarding the setting of the budgetary targets and objectives and in carrying out its fiscal and budgetary policies, The Government and the local authorities have the obligation to make public and maintain in public debate, for a reasonable period of time, all information necessary to allow the assessment of the implementation of fiscal and budgetary policies, the respective outcomes and the stance of central and local public finances."

and

"Chapter IX

Transparency of Fiscal and Budgetary Policy

Section 1

Budget Execution and Monitoring of Fiscal Targets

Article 37.

1. Within 45 days after publication of the budget law, the Ministry of Public Finance will publish on its website a quarterly schedule of expenditures of the state budget, social budgets, and each special funds budget by economic classification based on the quarterly collection targets for budgetary revenues.
2. Within 55 days after publication of the Budget Law, the Ministry of Public Finance will publish on its website a quarterly schedule of expenditures of Local Budgets, Self-Financed Institutions Budgets, and other budgets in the consolidated general budget by economic classification.
3. For this purpose, central government institutions will submit to the Ministry of Public Finance their proposals on the quarterly schedule of expenditures, within 15 days of the publication of the Budget Law. The deadline for other entities is 45 days of the publication of the Budget Law.
4. Based on quarterly schedule of expenditures and the quarterly collection targets for budgetary revenues, the Ministry of Public Finance will approve and publish quarterly expenditure, revenue and consolidated general budget balance targets, as well as quarterly personnel expenditure targets for each central government institutions financed from the state budget and the social security budgets.

Article 38.

1. The Ministry of Public Finance publishes on its website cash-based budgetary data or equivalent data from public accounting if the cash-based data are not available, at least with the following frequency:

- monthly and before the end of the following month for the central administration, the state administration and the sub-sectors of the social security administrations;

- quarterly and before the end of the following quarter, for the sub-sector of the local administration.

2. The Ministry of Public Finance publishes on its website the data related to public debt according to EU methodology, with the following frequency:

- monthly and before the end of the following month, for public debt corresponding to the sub-sectors of the central public administration and the sub-sectors of the social insurance funds system;

- quarterly and before the end of the following quarter for the public debt according to the EU methodology corresponding to the sub-sector of the local public administration.

Article 39.

The Ministry of Public Finance publishes on its own webpage for all the sub-sectors of the public administration relevant information regarding the contingent debt with major potential impact on the public budgets, including information related to state securities, non-performing loans and liabilities resulting from the functioning of the public institutions, including the amount of the liabilities. Also, the Ministry of Public Finance publishes on its own webpage information related to the shares of the public administration in the capital of commercial companies as established by the Law no. 31/1990, republished, as amended and supplemented, and national companies.

Article 40.

Until the end of April, July and October of each year, the Government will present a public evaluation of the quarterly budget execution and the performance against the quarterly targets mentioned in article 37, paragraph (4). In case of slippages from the targets, the Government will present measures envisaged for corrections (spending reductions or revenue increasing measures).

Article 41.

Both the evaluations of the quarterly budget execution and the measures envisaged to correct slippages will be subject to analysis and evaluation by the Fiscal Council."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Others documents such as methodological norms of MoF. For example: i) "ORDIN nr. 1.792/2002 pentru aprobarea Normelor metodologice privind angajarea, lichidarea, ordonanțarea și plata cheltuielilor instituțiilor publice, precum și organizarea, evidența și raportarea angajamentelor bugetare și legale" / ORDER no. 1,792 / 2002 for the approval of the Methodological Norms regarding the employment, liquidation, ordering and payment of the expenses of the public institutions, as well as the organization, the evidence and the reporting of the budgetary and legal commitments; ii) "ORDIN Nr. 3155/2020 pentru aprobarea Normelor metodologice privind încheierea exercițiului bugetar al anului 2020" / ORDER Nr. 3155/2020 for the approval of the Methodological Norms regarding the end of the budget year 2020

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Access to information law: <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/31413>

Sunshine law / Transparency in the decision-making process law: <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/41571>

Comment:

There are also general regulations applicable to all legislation with an impact on the fiscal policy of the government. Law 544/2001 on free access to public information (<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/31413>) states that all public institutions should publish ex officio information on "financial sources, the budget and the balance sheet". Law 52/2003 on transparency in the decision making process provides that:

"

Art. 7. - (1) Within the procedures for elaboration of draft normative acts the public administration authority has the obligation to publish an announcement regarding this action on its own site, to display it at its own premises, in an accessible space to the public, and forward it to the central or local media, as the case may be. The public administration authority will submit the draft normative acts to all persons who have submitted a request for receiving this information.

(2) The announcement regarding the drafting of a normative act shall be brought to the attention of the public, according to para. (1) at least 30 working days prior to submission to the public authorities for endorsement. The announcement will include: the date of display, a substantiation note, a statement of reasons, an approval report on the need to adopt the proposed normative act, an impact and/or feasibility study, as the case may be, the full text of the draft act, the term and the way in which the interested persons can submit in writing proposals, suggestions, opinions with recommendation value regarding the draft normative act.

(3) The announcement regarding the elaboration of a draft normative act with relevance to the business environment shall be transmitted by the initiator to the business associations and other legally established associations, by specific fields of activity, within the term stipulated in paragraph (2).

(4) Upon publishing the announcement, the public administration authority shall set a period of at least 10 calendar days for the draft normative acts provided for in paragraph (2) to receive in writing proposals, suggestions or opinions on the draft normative act subject to public debate.

(5) Proposals, suggestions or opinions on the draft normative act subject to public debate shall be recorded in a register, mentioning the date of receipt, the person and the contact details from which the proposal, opinion or recommendation was received.

(6) The interested persons or organizations who submit in writing proposals, suggestions or opinions on the draft normative act subject to public debate shall specify the article or articles in the draft normative act to which they refer, mentioning the date of dispatch and the contact details of the sender.

(7) The head of the public authority shall designate a person within the institution, responsible for the relationship with the civil society, to receive the proposals, suggestions and opinions of the interested persons on the proposed draft normative act.

(8) The draft normative act shall be submitted for analysis and approval to the public authorities concerned only after finalization, on the basis of the observations and proposals formulated according to par. (4).

(9) The public authority concerned is obliged to decide on the organization of a meeting in which the draft normative act is publicly debated if this has been requested in writing by a legally established association or by another public authority."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

When the EBP is presented, several annexes are published which comprise:

- the overall proposals (with the major units)
- detailed proposals (in which the revenue and spending is detailed on economic and functional classification)
- Annexes for administrative units, detailing for each of them the spending based on functional and economic classifications.

For example, in the link provided for the source, all the administrative units can be found (each ministry or agency acting as main release credit authorities). For each of them, the details for each classification can be found.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf

Comment:

In the Annex to the EBP that presents the entire budget the functional classification is detailed (and each classification has its own code). For example, at page 8, we can find the details for line 5100 - "General public services"; at page 13, with the code 5501 we can find "Transactions related the public debt and credits" which is a sub-category for "General public services". Below each functional classification, we can also find the economic classification.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf

Comment:
The functional classification is compatible with international standards, the last revision being applied before Romania joined the European Union. At this point, all the member states report based on the COFOG, a standard which is used to check, for example, the requirements to meet criteria such as public debt below 3% of the GDP for the EU member states.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Comment:
In the Annex 1 to the EBP that presents the entire budget the economic classification is presented for the general expenditure. The expenditures are detailed in Annex 2 (and each classification has its own code). For example, at page 2, we can find, for the code 01 "Current expenditure", details for spending for "Personnel costs" (code 10) and further details such as for code 10.01 "Costs for salaries paid in money" and then an even greater detail for code 10.01.01 - "Base salaries". Below each functional classification, we can also find the economic classification.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Comment:

The economic classification is compatible with international standards, the last revision being applied before Romania joined the European Union. At this point, all the member states report based on the COFOG, a standard which is used to check, for example, the requirements to meet criteria such as public debt below 3% of the GDP for the EU member states.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Line ministries and agencies have details on the programs financed through national funds or European funds:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

At the end of each budget for every administrative unit (see the source above), a list of programs and their sources of funding is present.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

The EBP presents in all the annexes details on the expenditure in three expenditure classifications for FY-2, FY-1, FY, FY+1, FY+2, FY+3.

Administrative: Annex 3

Economic: Annex 2

Functional: Annex 1

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Overall figures: https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Administrative: https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

The EBP presents in all the annexes details on the expenditure in three expenditure classifications for FY-2, FY-1, FY, FY+1, FY+2, FY+3.

Administrative: Annex 3

Economic: Annex 2

Functional: Annex 1

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 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 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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

For the programs detailed within each line ministry budget, there are multi-year estimates.

For example, if we look at the EBP for the Ministry of Transportation (Ministerul Transporturilor), we can see, at page 573, the expenditures for: the total value, FY-2, FY-1, FY, FY+1, FY+2, FY+3, the estimates for the following years.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf

Comment:

At pages 1-7, all the individual sources of revenue are dis-aggregated and detailed, each having its unique code. One example of detailed "tax" revenues can be found at page 1:

0001 - Total revenues (Venituri totale)

0002 - Current revenues (I. Venituri curente)

0003 - Fiscal revenues (A. Venituri fiscale)

0004 - Income tax, profit tax and capital earnings (A1. Impozit pe venit, profit si castiguri din capital)

0005 - Income tax, profit tax and capital earnings from legal entities (A1.1 Impozit pe venit, profit si castiguri din capital de la persoane juridice)

0101 - Profit tax (Impozit pe profit)

0101.01 - Profit tax on companies (Impozit pe profit de la agentii economici)

"Other" categories of taxes are provided with additional details as well, except for a very small amount well below 1% under Code 1801 (PDF p. 4), which qualifies for an "A" score.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf

Comment:

At pages 1-7, all the individual sources of revenue are dis-aggregated and detailed, each having its unique code. One example of detailed "non-tax" revenues can be found at page 4:

2900 - Non-fiscal revenues (C. Venituri nefiscale)

3000 - Revenues from property (C1. Venituri din proprietate)

3001 - Revenues from property (Venituri din proprietate)

3001.01 - Revenues from the net profit of the autonomous service providers of the state/ state-owned service providers (Varsaminte din profitul net al regiilor autonome)

Unclassified non-tax revenues are found in Code 3601, sub-code 50, on PDF p. 6, but only as 2.5% of total non-tax revenues for FY 2020, as this is below 3% it qualifies for an A score

Peer Reviewer

Opinion:

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf

Comment:

The revenue estimates are present at pages 1-7 and provide information for FY-2, FY-1, FY, FY+1, FY+2, FY+3 for each category of revenue.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf

Comment:

The revenue estimates are present at pages 1-7 and provide information for FY-2, FY-1, FY, FY+1, FY+2, FY+3 for each individual source of revenue accounting for all revenues.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Comment:

The EBP for FY 2020 contains information regarding interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year ("TITLUL III DOBANZI"), the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year (new debt is indicated as "TITLUL XVI IMPRUMUTURI" (Title XVI Loans); debt repayment is presented as "TITLUL XVII RAMBURSARI DE CREDITE" (Title XVII Loans repayments)). The total amount of outstanding debt is presented as a % of GDP, where there is also a figure for total nominal GDP so the actual amount can be calculated - the figures are present in a separate chapter of the Report accompanying the EBP, at page 48 (http://www.cdep.ro/pdfs/buget/2020/raport/Raport_buget_2020.pdf)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Comment:

The EBP for FY 2020 contains information regarding interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year ("TITLUL III DOBANZI"), the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year (new debt is indicated as "TITLUL XVI IMPRUMUTURI" (Title XVI Loans); debt repayment is presented as "TITLUL XVII RAMBURSARI DE CREDITE" (Title XVII Loans repayments)).

The total amount of outstanding debt is presented as a % of GDP, where there is also a figure for total nominal GDP so the actual amount can be calculated - the figures are present in a separate chapter of the Report accompanying the EBP, at page 48 (http://www.cdep.ro/pdfs/buget/2020/raport/Raport_buget_2020.pdf)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, information related to composition of total debt outstanding is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

A narrative discussion on the estimates related to the total debt burden is presented in Chapter 6 of the Report accompanying the EBP. Other than this information, this kind of details are not present in the EBP documents. However, on the website of the MoF there is a dedicated section for public debt which is constantly updated.

Additional data on debt is presented on the website of the MoF, but it is not part of the EBP package:

<https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?method=inceptu&locale=ro>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements.

Comments: Information regarding the core elements at the end of the budget year is presented for FY 2019 in other supporting budget documentation such as: - "Evoluția datoriei guvernamentale conform metodologiei UE aferenta perioadei 2010 - decembrie 2019" (Evolution of government debt according to the EU methodology for the period 2010 - December 2019)

https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/static/10/Mfp/buletin/executii/EvdatorieguvconformUEromanadecembrie2019rom_reviz042020.pdf - "Structura datoriei publice la 31 decembrie 2019" (Structure of the public debt on 31 December 2019)

<https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/static/10/Mfp/buletin/executii/Structuradatorieiipublice2000-2019decembrieRo.pdf> - "Raport privind datoria publica la 31 decembrie 2019" (Public debt Report on 31 December 2019)

https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/static/10/Mfp/buletin/executii/Raportprivinddatoriapublicadecembrie2019_reviz042020.pdf - "Garanții de stat emise conform OUG nr.64/2007 privind datoria publică *) - decembrie 2019" (State guarantees issued in accordance with Law no. 64/2007 on public debt *) - December 2019

<https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/static/10/Mfp/buletin/executii/Anexa17decembrie2019Ro.pdf> The above documents don't present information regarding interest rate on the debt even so are included data beyond core information. For FY 2020, information beyond the core elements at the end of the budget year is detailed in other supporting budget documentation published after December 31, 2020.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

As mentioned in the comments as well, the data is published but it is not part of the EBP package. Per the methodology, it shouldn't be accounted if it is not part of the same bundle that is sent to the legislature.

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:

None of the above

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

A narrative discussion on the estimates related to the total debt burden is presented in Chapter 6 of the Report accompanying the EBP. Other than this information, this kind of details are not present in the EBP documents. However, on the website of the MoF there is a dedicated section for public debt which is constantly updated, but it is not part of the EBP package: <https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?method=inceptut&locale=ro>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Elements of the composition of the total debt outstanding are presented in other supporting budget documentation and EBP such as: - Interest rates on the debt referring to: i) the structure of public debt based on the type of interest rate (variable or fixed)(please see "Raport privind datoria publica la 31 decembrie 2019" (Public debt Report on 31 December 2019)); ii) interest rate risks presented as "Riscul de rată de dobândă" (please see "Raport privind datoria publica la 31 decembrie 2019" (Public debt Report on 31 December 2019)); iii) interest payments ("TITLUL III DOBANZI") in Annex 1 and Annex 2 of EBP. - Maturity profile of the debt (please see "Raport privind datoria publica la 31 decembrie 2019" (Public debt Report on 31 -December 2019). - "Structura datoriei publice la 31 decembrie 2019" (Structure of the public debt on 31 December 2019)) - Whether the debt is domestic or external (please see "Evoluția datoriei guvernamentale conform metodologiei UE aferenta perioadei 2010 - decembrie 2019" (Evolution of government debt according to the EU methodology for the period 2010 - December 2019)) - Information beyond the core elements such as: i) structure of the guarantees; (please see "Garanții de stat emise conform OUG nr.64/2007 privind datoria publică *) - decembrie 2019" (State guarantees issued in accordance with Law no. 64/2007 on public debt *) - December 2019)); ii) structure of the public debt based on creditors, instruments, currency (please see "Structura datoriei publice la 31 decembrie 2019" (Structure of the public debt on 31 December 2019), "Evoluția datoriei guvernamentale conform metodologiei UE aferenta perioadei 2010 - decembrie 2019" (Evolution of government debt according to the EU methodology for the period 2010 - December 2019)); iii) risks ("Raport privind datoria publica la 31 decembrie 2019" (Public debt Report on 31 December 2019)). Also, the EBP for FY 2019 and FY 2020 contains in "Anexa 1" and "Anexa 2"(Annex 1, Annex 2) information regarding interest payments on debt ("TITLUL III DOBANZI"), domestic debt (new debt is indicated in "TITLUL XVI IMPRUMUTURI"; debt repayment is presented in "TITLUL XVII RAMBURSARI DE CREDITE"). Sources:

https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/static/10/Mfp/buletin/executii/Raportprivinddatoriapublicadecembrie2019_reviz042020.pdf

http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

<https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/static/10/Mfp/buletin/executii/Structuradatorieiipublice2000-2019decembrieRo.pdf>

https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/static/10/Mfp/buletin/executii/EvdatorieguvconformUEromanadecembrie2019rom_reviz042020.pdf

<https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/static/10/Mfp/buletin/executii/Anexa17decembrie2019Ro.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Thank you to the peer reviewer for the comment. See the response to this feedback in Q14.

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:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for the macroeconomic forecast.

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

The report presented together with the EBP presents (pages 18-19) the core elements except for interest rates, as well as additional ones such as the unemployment, the contribution of each sector to the GDP growth etc

As there is one core element missing, but elements beyond the core, this qualifies for a B score

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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
Information beyond the core elements (please specify)

Source:
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:
At pages 18-19 we can find the core information, as well as beyond the core information on macroeconomic indicators such as exchange rates, unemployment, average income, GDP composition etc. The presentation of the data is followed by a narrative discussion on some policies accompanying/ generating these indicators.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
d. No, information related to different macroeconomic assumptions is not presented.

Source:
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:
At difference from the previous OBS (FY2018), the EBP for FY2020 does no longer contain a sensitivity analysis.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

The report presents narrative discussions on how policy proposals affect expenditures, as well as some explanations regarding the continuation of previous expenditure policies.

At pp. 4-6, the Report accompanying the EBP has an overview of major policies and then some of them are detailed. For example, the investment policy is presented at pp. 23-24 and then the major investments are somewhat detailed again at page 47.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

There are several references to some new policy proposals affect revenues - there is an initial mention of the major lines at the beginning of the report (pages 20-25) and a more detailed presentation for specific revenues. For example, at pages 37-38, new policies that affect excise duty changes are explained in a brief narrative form.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

The EBP has three major annexes - annex 1 in which the major chapters detailing revenues & expenditure on functional and economic classification; annex 2 in which the information goes into more detail, both for the economic and functional classification; annex 3, in which the administrative classification is applied, with expenditure being detailed for each main credit release authority (ministry or agency).

In all these documents, expenditure is presented for BY-2 and BY-1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

The EBP has three major annexes - annex 1 in which the major chapters detailing revenues & expenditure on functional and economic classification; annex 2 in which the information goes into more detail, both for the economic and functional classification; annex 3, in which the administrative classification is applied, with expenditure being detailed for each main credit release authority (ministry or agency).

In all these documents, expenditure is presented for BY-2 and BY-1, including for the programs presented for line ministries.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Comment:

The EBP has three major annexes - annex 1 in which the major chapters detailing revenues & expenditure on functional and economic classification; annex 2 in which the information goes into more detail, both for the economic and functional classification; annex 3, in which the administrative classification is applied, with expenditure being detailed for each main credit release authority (ministry or agency).

In all these documents, expenditure is presented for BY-2 and BY-1. Final figures ("Realizari") are presented for BY-2 and preliminary execution

("Executie preliminata") for BY-1.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

The EBP has three major annexes - annex 1 in which the major chapters detailing revenues & expenditure on functional and economic classification; annex 2 in which the information goes into more detail, both for the economic and functional classification; annex 3, in which the administrative classification is applied, with expenditure being detailed for each main credit release authority (ministry or agency).

In all these documents, expenditure is presented for BY-2 and BY-1.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

The EBP has three major annexes - annex 1 in which the major chapters detailing revenues & expenditure on functional and economic classification; annex 2 in which the information goes into more detail, both for the economic and functional classification; annex 3, in which the administrative classification is applied, with expenditure being detailed for each main credit release authority (ministry or agency).

In all these documents, expenditure is presented for BY-2 and BY-1, including for the administrative, economic, and functional classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

The EBP has three major annexes - annex 1 in which the major chapters detailing revenues & expenditure on functional and economic classification; annex 2 in which the information goes into more detail, both for the economic and functional classification; annex 3, in which the administrative classification is applied, with expenditure being detailed for each main credit release authority (ministry or agency).

In all these documents, expenditure is presented for BY-2 and BY-1, including for the programs presented for line ministries.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Comment:

For BY-2 the actual outcomes are reflected ("Realizari"), for BY-1 preliminary execution figures are presented ("Executie preliminata").

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Comment:

The EBP has three major annexes - annex 1 in which the major chapters detailing revenues & expenditure on functional and economic classification; annex 2 in which the information goes into more detail, both for the economic and functional classification; annex 3, in which the administrative classification is applied, with expenditure being detailed for each main credit release authority (ministry or agency)

In all these documents, revenue for each category is presented for BY-2 and BY-1, including for tax and non-tax as well as other revenue.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Comment:

The EBP has three major annexes - annex 1 in which the major chapters detailing revenues & expenditure on functional and economic classification; annex 2 in which the information goes into more detail, both for the economic and functional classification; annex 3, in which the administrative classification is applied, with expenditure being detailed for each main credit release authority (ministry or agency)

In all these documents, revenue for each category is presented for BY-2 and BY-1, including for individual sources of revenue. Please see the level of detail at the corresponding question. The details are presented for each source of revenue.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Comment:

Preliminary figures are presented for BY-1 (updated but not final budget execution for the previous year).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Comment:

The EBP has three major annexes - annex 1 in which the major chapters detailing revenues & expenditure on functional and economic classification; annex 2 in which the information goes into more detail, both for the economic and functional classification; annex 3, in which the administrative classification is applied, with expenditure being detailed for each main credit release authority (ministry or agency)

In all these documents, revenue for each category is presented for BY-2 and BY-1, including for specific categories of revenue. Please see the level of detail at the corresponding question. The details are presented for each category of revenue.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 EBP has three major annexes - annex 1 in which the major chapters detailing revenues & expenditure on functional and economic classification; annex 2 in which the information goes into more detail, both for the economic and functional classification; annex 3, in which the administrative classification is applied, with expenditure being detailed for each main credit release authority (ministry or agency)

In all these documents, revenue for each category is presented for BY-2 and BY-1, including for specific categories of revenue. Please see the level of detail at the corresponding question. The details are presented for each category of revenue.

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf

Comment:

The EBP has three major annexes - annex 1 in which the major chapters detailing revenues & expenditure on functional and economic classification; annex 2 in which the information goes into more detail, both for the economic and functional classification; annex 3, in which the administrative classification is applied, with expenditure being detailed for each main credit release authority (ministry or agency)

In all these documents, revenue for each category is presented for BY-2 and BY-1, including for individual sources of revenue. Please see the level of detail at the corresponding question. The details are presented for each source of revenue.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr1_18122019.pdf
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Comment:

The EBP has three major annexes - annex 1 in which the major chapters detailing revenues & expenditure on functional and economic classification; annex 2 in which the information goes into more detail, both for the economic and functional classification; annex 3, in which the administrative classification is applied, with expenditure being detailed for each main credit release authority (ministry or agency).

In all these documents, revenue for each category is presented for BY-2 and BY-1, including for individual sources of revenue. Please see the level of detail at the corresponding question. The details are presented for each source of revenue. Revenues for FY 2018 are actual (column "Realizari").

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

The narrative discussion presents total debt outstanding (as % of GDP) and the interest rates on the debt instruments for the internal and external market (pages 48-50).

Even if it is not part of the EBP package, it should be noted that updated data on debt is available in a dedicated section of the MoF:

<https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?method=inceptut&locale=ro>.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?luna=&anul=2020&method.arhiva=submit&c=trezordatoriegubernamentala&locale=ro>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

Debt figures and a narrative discussion, including the evolutions are reflected at pages 9, 13, 48.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some extra-budgetary funds.

Source:

NHIF: https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr11_18122019.pdf

NSIF: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexeBASS2020.pdf>

Comment:

Detailed information is presented for the National Health Insurance Fund and for the National Social Insurance Fund. However, some extra-budgetary funds are not presented, such as the Privatisation Fund or Romanian Counter-Guarantee Fund, nor detailed info related to the State-owned enterprises.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

The EBP and the EB are not presenting central government finances on a detailed consolidated basis (i.e. the Social Insurance Budget comprising pensions and the State Budget are separate documents). However, in the report accompanying the budget, at pages 53-54, there are the rough numbers for the major categories of revenue and expenditure.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, estimates of all intergovernmental transfers are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegebugetdestat2020_18122019.docx
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

Comment:

Some intergovernmental transfers are presented - for some, there is a short narrative discussion, but not for all of them (i.e. the funds within the National Local Development Program are presented as a bulk even though these are transfers to the local governments; similarly, the transfers from the Ministry of Health to local authorities are not detailed).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Comment:

The EBP does not present alternative displays of expenditure. The report accompanying the budget is discussing some policies of the government for the next years, but not in a way that describes the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.

In the source document, all the information of the EBP sent to the legislature is available, as registered at the Parliament, and no such information can be found in any of the documents

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexanr2_18122019.pdf

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

For Annex 2 - the transfers are included almost on a consolidated basis under "TITLUL VII ALTE TRANSFERUR"/ A. Transferuri interne. Then, in Annex 3 they are split for each line ministry that has SoEs under its coordination. However, we don't have a narrative discussion or even the naming of all the SoEs.

Comment:

The narrative discussion is lacking as well as some detailed information for some of these transfers.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

No such information is available in the EBP or supporting documents. This issue has been a long-standing one, included in some IMF evaluations as well (<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2015/cr1567.pdf>)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Comment:

EBP presents an estimate of value and some descriptive details of the financial assets held by the government, but core information is lacking, such as the listing of the financial assets. Page 48 of the report accompanying the EBP contains a footnote listing liquid financial assets held by the government, but without values attached.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some nonfinancial assets.

Source:

http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Comment:

Some information (under "Active Nefinanciare") about expenditures on non-financial assets is available in the EBP or supporting documents (Annexes 1-3) but core information (including a list) is missing.

Note from IBP: As a methodology clarification in OBS 2021, sales or purchases of assets are not assessed with this question and only assets that show the valuation (stock) or a listing of assets for the budget year will score a C. The score is therefore revised from C in the previous round to D for OBS 2021.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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/gfs/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:

d. No, estimates of expenditure arrears are not presented.

Source:

http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Comment:

No such information is provided in the EBP or supporting documents. However, this information is available during the budget execution and published on a monthly basis (the tab "Arieratele bugetului general consolidat"): <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

The EBP does not contain a complete overview of none of the core elements. A discussion about contingent liabilities is briefly present in the Report accompanying the EBP (page 49) but it does not contain complete information for any of the core elements.

However, it should be noted that the MoF publishes updated data on contingent liabilities, but not as part of the EBP package:

<https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?method=inceptut&locale=en>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.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:

d. No, information related to future liabilities and the sustainability of finances over the longer term is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

The EBP for FY 2020 does not contain any long term projections; the Report has only medium-term projections.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all sources of donor assistance are presented.

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegebugetdestat2020_18122019.docx

Comment:

The European funds received by Romania are presented in a significant detail, both in terms of estimates as well as narrative discussions. However, the same level of detail is not available for other assistance, such as the one from the MoU is signed for the EEA Grants and the Norway Grants.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, information is presented, but it excludes some core elements or some tax expenditures.

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

At pages 36-37 of the Report on the budget we have an overview of the fiscal activities, including the estimates related to their financial impact. Also, the document presents estimated figures for some categories of activities. However, even the presentation reflects just some examples for each of the categories and their intended beneficiaries, and not their full list.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/37954>

Comment:

According to the Romanian legislation (Law 500/2002) no revenues (besides donations and sponsorship) can be earmarked, even though some of taxes were "branded" as generating earmarked revenue.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all earmarked revenues are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Comments: According to Romanian legislation (Law 500/2002, and Law 227/2015 (art. 2206 alin. (6)), the EBP presents estimates (for FY, FY+1, FY+2, FY+3) and narrative description for earmarked revenues represented by "contribuția asigurătorie pentru muncă"/ insurance contribution for work. This earmarked revenues is collected at state budget and allocated to fund the government' expenses for specific purposes as is detailed in art.57 of EBP for 2020 (<http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/7/pl667a.pdf>). Estimates are presented in Annex 1 of the EBP (<http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/7/aa01.pdf>) as "Venituri din contributia asigurătorie pentru munca aferenta bugetului de stat" /Revenues from the insurance contribution for work related to the state budget. Also, EBP refers to "bugetul Fondului național unic de asigurări sociale de sănătate"/The budget of the Single National Social Insurance Fund of health with: - narrative description in "SECȚIUNEA a 3-a"/Section 3 of EBP (<http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/7/pl667a.pdf>); - estimates (for FY, FY+1, FY+2, FY+3) in Annex 11 of EBP (<http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/7/aa11.pdf>).

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

The peer-reviewer is referring to a dedicated budget for Social Insurance and the respective social contributions. Similarly, the health insurance funds or EU funds have another regime. However, these are not earmarked revenues in the sense of the process involved by earmarking (having a discretionary amount of revenues out of which you set aside funds for a certain destination / as per the example above, a tax on fuel to fund roads), but are of a different nature.

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:

c. Yes, information that shows how the proposed budget is linked to some but not all of the government's policy goals for the budget year is presented.

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

The Report presents a narrative discussion and the policy goals at pages 37-39, for example, note the discussion on the medium-term policy about sustainable public sector wage bill, and the resulting discussion of personnel expenditure. . However, not all policy proposals are presented in detail and the estimates are not necessarily linked to budget proposal. As a comparison, the difference in the level detail from previous assessment (See Chapter 4 for FY 2018 <http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2017/500/60/7/Raport%20buget%202018.pdf>) is significant and a clear deterioration should be noted.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Information are presented in Chapters 2, 4, and 5 of a supporting budget documentation represented by "Raport privind situația macroeconomică pe anul 2020 și proiecția acesteia pe anii 2021-2023" / Report on the macroeconomic situation for 2020 and its projection for

2021-2023 (http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/7/rap_macro667.pdf).

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Raportbuget18122020.doc>

Comment:

Chapter 7 of the Report (pages 51-54) is dedicated to the medium term policy (BY+3). On the revenue side, there is a mention on the excise duty policy at page 52 and it shows its impact on the budget. However, it comprises only estimates and a narrative discussion on the evolutions, without the links to the policies. In comparison with the previous assessment, less details are available and there is no coverage on the impact for the policy goals.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

d. No, nonfinancial data on inputs are not presented.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

For some of the line ministries or agencies, we can find detailed information related to non-financial data. For others, no such information is available.

For example, the budget of the Ministry of Health, at pages 251 - 267, we have the description of the programs. At difference from the financial data, the nonfinancial data is present without any evolution (we don't know what is the base line value, what is the target value etc). This happens for all the programs.

On the other hand, if we look at the budget of the Ministry of Labor, at pages 256-259, we see that the non-financial data is presented along the financial data (i.e. at page 258, we can see the base line value for indicators, their early evolution and projections for the FY+3).

However, the only inputs are financial inputs, and there are no non-financial inputs shown (only outputs/outcomes).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

For some of the line ministries or agencies, we can find detailed information related to non-financial data. For others, no such information is available.

For example, the budget of the Ministry of Health, at pages 251 - 267, we have the description of the programs. At difference from the financial data, the nonfinancial data is present without any evolution (we don't know what is the base line value, what is the target value etc). This happens for all the programs.

On the other hand, if we look at the budget of the Ministry of Labor, at pages 256-259, we see that the non-financial data is presented along the financial data (i.e. at page 258, we can see the base line value for indicators, their early evolution and projections for the FY+3). There are three results indicators present for that program: number of beneficiaries of social assistance / benefits, number of farmers pension beneficiaries, number of PINs (a special pension).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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 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:

c. Yes, performance targets are assigned to some nonfinancial data on results.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/Anexa3proiectbuget2020_18122019.rar

Comment:

For some of the line ministries or agencies, we can find detailed information related to non-financial data. For others, no such information is available.

For example, the budget of the Ministry of Health, at pages 251 - 267, we have the description of the programs. At difference from the financial data, the nonfinancial data is present without any evolution (we don't know what is the base line value, what is the target value etc). This happens for all the programs.

On the other hand, if we look at the budget of the Ministry of Labor, at pages 256-259, we see that the non-financial data is presented along the financial data (i.e. at page 258, we can see the base line value for indicators, their early evolution and projections for the FY+3). For the presented program, there are two indicators that can be assimilated to performance indicators: the share of the program in the budget of the ministry and the annual growth rate.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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 for 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:

d. No, estimates of policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations are not presented.

Source:

<http://www.cdep.ro/pdfs/buget/2020/anexa3a/Ministerul%20Muncii%20si%20Protectiei%20Sociale.pdf>

Comment:

No such information is available in the EBP or the supporting documents. Some policies (including some related to poor social categories) are sometimes present in the Report accompanying the EBP. However, this is not a rule and estimates are rarely present. As an exception, there are three EU funded projects in the EBP for the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection that address poverty. However, it should be noted that these are just projects limited in time/ one-time only and not policies/ programs.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. No, estimates of policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations are not presented.

Comments: Narrative description on the policy' objective regarding the country's most impoverished populations are presented in the supporting budget documentation "Raport privind situația macroeconomică pe anul 2020 și proiecția acesteia pe anii 2021-2023" / Report on the macroeconomic situation for 2020 and its projection for 2021-2023 (pages 5, 15, and 24) (http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/7/rap_macro667.pdf).

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

Agreed with the peer-reviewer.

IBP Comment

Thanks to the reviewer's comments, the researcher has adjusted the score on this question from C to D because the policies mentioned are not accompanied by estimates of the funding or costs of these policies.

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:

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/37954>

Comment:

In Law 500/2002 on public finance there is a rather strict general calendar for the entire budgetary cycle. However, that calendar is rarely respected (for FY 2020, the EBP was supposed to be sent to the legislature before November 15, 2019 and it was sent to them December 18, 2019). No annual timetable detailing the general rule for that particular fiscal year is made available for the public.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, information related to the macroeconomic forecast is not presented.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.pdf

Comment:

For FY 2020, the PBS was published late as it was released together with just 5 days before EBP was published and 6 days before it was sent to the legislature. According to the methodology, it is thus considered to be published late and cannot be considered for further analysis.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: PBS contains information (narrative description and estimates) beyond the core elements for the macroeconomic forecast. For example pages 16, and 26-28 from "Strategia fiscal bugetară pentru perioada 2020-2022"/ The fiscal-budgetary strategy for 2020-2022 (https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.pdf). Also, pages 3, 26, 35 from "Raport privind situația macroeconomică pe anul 2020 și proiecția acesteia pe anii 2021-2023" (Report on the macroeconomic situation for 2020 and its projection for 2021-2023) is also registered (http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/7/rap_macro667.pdf).

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Thank you to the peer reviewer for the comment. However, as the Pre-Budget Statement was assessed as not being publicly available in the related PBS questions in section 1, the contents of the document are not scored. The researcher's response is confirmed.

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:

d. No, information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is not presented.

Source:

As the PBS is published late, the contents are not assessed, and the score for this question is D

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the government's expenditure policies and priorities.

Comments: Information are detailed in "Strategia fiscal bugetară pentru perioada 2020-2022"/ The fiscal-budgetary strategy for 2020-2022 (https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.pdf) on pages 34, 57-86.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Thank you to the peer reviewer for the comment. However, as the Pre-Budget Statement was assessed as not being publicly available in the related PBS questions in section 1, the contents of the document are not scored. The researcher's response is confirmed.

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:

d. No, information related to the government’s revenue policies and priorities is not presented.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.docx

Comment:

For FY 2020, the PBS was published late as it was released together with just 5 days before EBP was published and 6 days before it was sent to the legislature. According to the methodology, it is thus considered to be published late and cannot be considered for further analysis.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the government’s revenue policies and priorities.

Comments: Information are detailed in "Strategia fiscal bugetară pentru perioada 2020-2022"/ The fiscal-budgetary strategy for 2020-2022 (https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.pdf) on pages 31-34, 49-52. I don't agree with the researcher's comment because PBS was released to the public on 12/12/2019 and was available to the public with 6 days before EBP (released less than one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is introduced to the legislature). For clarification please see PBS-2 and PBS-3a. Therefore, PBS is considered for further analysis.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Thank you to the peer reviewer for the comment. However, as the Pre-Budget Statement was assessed as not being publicly available in the related PBS questions in section 1, the contents of the document are not scored. The researcher's response is confirmed. To clarify the timeliness question, the PBS must be published at least one month before the EBP is submitted to the legislature, and 6 days does not fulfill this minimum timeliness criteria, which is why the PBS is assessed as being late.

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:

d. No, none of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are not presented.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.docx

Comment:

For FY 2020, the PBS was published late as it was released together with just 5 days before EBP was published and 6 days before it was sent to the legislature. According to the methodology, it is thus considered to be published late and cannot be considered for further analysis.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: PBS present information for all three variables related to government borrowing and debt in the following documents: i) "Strategia fiscal bugetară pentru perioada 2020-2022" / The fiscal-budgetary strategy for 2020-2022 (https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.pdf) on pages 145-150 are both narrative description and estimates for: 1) the central government's total debt burden at the end of the upcoming budget year; 2) the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the upcoming budget year; ii) "Raport privind situația macroeconomică pe anul 2020 și proiecția acesteia pe anii 2021-2023" / Report on the macroeconomic situation for 2020 and its projection for 2021-2023 (http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/7/rap_macro667.pdf) on pages 48-50 are both narrative description and estimates for all the three indicated variables. Therefore, the three estimates are indicated in PBS in these two documents.

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

Thank you to the peer reviewer for the comment. However, as the Pre-Budget Statement was assessed as not being publicly available in the related PBS questions in section 1, the contents of the document are not scored. The researcher's response is confirmed.

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:

b. No, multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.docx

Comment:

For FY 2020, the PBS was published late as it was released together with just 5 days before EBP was published and 6 days before it was sent to the legislature. According to the methodology, it is thus considered to be published late and cannot be considered for further analysis.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented.

Comments: On pages 52-54 of the PBS for FY 2020 are indicated multi-year expenditure estimates (FY-3, FY-2, FY-1, FY, FY+1, FY+2). Source: https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/150176/SFB2020-2022_12122019.pdf

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

IBP Comment

Thank you to the peer reviewer for the comment. However, as the Pre-Budget Statement was assessed as not being publicly available in the related PBS questions in section 1, the contents of the document are not scored. The researcher's response is confirmed.

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:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/buget-2020> <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/221847>
http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Comment:

The Law on the Enacted Budget has three main annexes (similar to the EBP) which comprise all the three classifications - functional and economic (Annexes 1-2) and administrative (Annex 3 details the expenditure for each ministry/ agency acting as a main credit release authority, including additional economic and functional descriptions within each administrative unit).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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
Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/buget-2020> <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/221847>
http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Comment:

The Law on the Enacted Budget has three main annexes (similar to the EBP) which comprise all the three classifications - economic and functional (Annexes 1-2) and administrative (Annex 3 details the expenditure for each ministry/ agency acting as a main credit release authority, including additional economic and functional descriptions within each administrative unit).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/148567/Anexa3.rar>

Comment:

Annex 3 of the EB presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures. However, the level of detail might vary for the various programs.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/148567/legeabugetuluidestat2020.pdf>

Comment:

Similar to EBP. The revenue estimates are present at pages 15-19 (1-7 of Annex 1 to the law) and provide information for FY, FY+1, FY+2, FY+3 for each category of revenue (tax and non-tax).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/148567/legeabudgetulidestat2020.pdf>

Comment:

Similar to EBP. Annex 1 to the Law on the enacted budget presents all individual sources of revenues. At pages 1-7 of Annex 1 (15-19 from the law), all the individual sources of revenue are dis-aggregated and detailed, each having its unique code.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, two of the three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented.

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/148567/legeabugetuluidestat2020.pdf>

Comment:

The EB for FY 2020 contains in "Anexa 1" and "Anexa 2"(Appendix 1, Appendix 2) information regarding interest payments on the debt ("TITLUL III DOBANZI"), domestic debt (new debt is indicated in "TITLUL XVI IMPRUMUTURI"; debt repayment is presented in "TITLUL XVII RAMBURSARI DE CREDITE").

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. The Citizens Budget is not published.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. A Citizens Budget is not published.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

n/a

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

There is no Citizens budget in Romania.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

d. No citizens version of budget documents is published.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

There is no Citizens budget in Romania.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. A citizens version of budget documents is published for at least one stage of the budget process.

Comments: The summary of the AR is a sort of "citizens" versions of budget documents published for one stage of the budget process. The latest available is "Sinteza Raportului public pe anul 2018" (Summary of the Public Report for 2018). Source:

https://www.curteadeconturi.ro/uploads/55fcc030/1aad4898/da0a7ae8/260eff95/ffef09a4/50726494/93267bf6/7e9213f9/Sinteza_RPA_2018_6_feb.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

Disagreed, the document cannot account for a CB, it is an Executive Summary.

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:

a. Yes, the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

Comment:
A dedicated portal can be accessed to retrieve IYR on almost any public institution - <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

Data is available for all the three expenditure classification for each administrative unit in accordance with COFOG standards.

The consolidated IYRs (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>) present only data detailed on the economic and functional classifications.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
Administrative classification
Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

Comment:
A dedicated portal can be accessed to retrieve IYR on almost any public institution - <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

Data is available for all the three expenditure classification for each administrative unit in accordance with COFOG standards.

The consolidated IYRs (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>) present only data detailed on the economic and functional classifications.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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 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," 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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

Comment:

The data is not available for programs.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Comment:

The IYRs present data on the enacted budget in comparison with actual expenditures for the same period in the previous year. For example, if we look at the IYR report for October 2020, each revenues and expenditure line is compared with the similar 10 months of 2019 (https://mfinante.gov.ro/static/10/Mfp/buget/executii/Anexa2_bgc31oct2020.xls)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

Comment:

A dedicated portal can be accessed to retrieve IYR on almost any public institution - <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>
Data is available for actual revenue by category for each administrative unit in accordance with COFOG standards.

The consolidated IYRs (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>) present only data detailed on the economic and functional classifications.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

Comment:

A dedicated portal can be accessed to retrieve IYR on almost any public institution - <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>
Data is available for actual revenue by category for each administrative unit in accordance with COFOG standards.

The consolidated IYRs (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>) also present data for individual sources of revenue, but not to the level of detail encountered in the EBP or EB.

In order to access the dis-aggregated data, after accessing the portal (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>) and clicking "Vezi aici", the website prompts to <https://forexepublic.mfinante.gov.ro/web/transparenta-bugetara/rapoarte-entitati-publice>.

There, one can chose "Executie bugetara detaliata" (detailed budget execution) from a drop down menu on the left where the various types of reports are available in the section "Tip raport" and chose the month and year for which they want to consult the report (right side, "perioada raportare") and introduce either the main credit release authority name (Denumire Entitate Publica Ordonator Principal) or the institution in itself (Denumire Entitate Publica). The reports generated are available in .pdf, .xlsx or .html.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Comment:

The IYRs present data on the enacted budget in comparison with actual revenues for the same period in the previous year. For example, if we look at the IYR report for October 2020, each revenue line is compared with the similar 10 months of 2019 (https://mfinante.gov.ro/static/10/Mfp/buget/executii/Anexa2_bgc31oct2020.xls)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

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

Source:

<https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?method=arhiva&c=trezordatoriegovernamentalala>

Comment:

A dedicated portal can be accessed to retrieve IYR on almost any public institution - <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>
Data is available for actual revenue by category for each administrative unit in accordance with COFOG standards, and the interest payments to-date

on the outstanding debt ("Dobanzi") and the amount of net new borrowing so far during the year ("Operatiuni financiare"). Total outstanding debt can also be found here: https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/static/10/Mfp/buletin/executii/Structuradorieipublice2000-2020aprilie_Ro.pdf

A separate report on debt is also updated monthly though in a dedicated section of the MoF website: <https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?method=inceptut&locale=en>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for the composition of the total actual debt outstanding.

Source:

<https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?method=arhiva&c=trezordatorieguvernamentala>

Comment:

The MoF has a dedicated section for debt related updates and statistics: <https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?method=arhiva&c=trezordatorieguvernamentala>

See https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/static/10/Mfp/buletin/executii/Structuradorieipublice2000-2020aprilie_Ro.pdf that shows type of creditor, fixed or variable interest rates, and maturity information

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, the estimates for macroeconomic forecast have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated forecasts is presented.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Raportsemi2020_13082020.docx

Comment:

The report updates several macroeconomic indicators and explains some of the differences (including GDP and inflation), but not interest rates. However, with the exception of the estimated GDP, the report does not discuss the difference, but just operates the updates. It should be noted that the report puts a lot of focus on the impact of Covid-19 on these indicators and it is probably the most extensive MYR in terms of narrative discussions.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

IBP Comment

See pages 5 and 11 of the cited document.

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:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates have been updated, and an explanation of all of the differences between the original and updated expenditure estimates is presented.

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr2semi2020.xls>
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Raportsemi2020_13082020.docx

Comment:

The updated expenditure estimates (see "Program initial 2020" vs "Estimări 2020" categories) are available in the Annex and a narrative discussion are explained in the report that accompanies the MYR at pp. 27-31.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents expenditure estimates by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Raportsem12020_13082020.docx
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr2sem12020.xls>
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr3sem12020.xls>

Comment:

Please see the following documents:

- Narrative report with some update on the macroeconomic forecast and a discussion on the developments in the first half of the year
- Annex 2 - consolidated budget (including local budgets or extra-budgetary funds) in an economic classification, but dis-aggregated for each budget; the document also provides information/ comparison on: initial program for the year (as per the EB), updated estimates for the year (differences from the EB); actual expenditure for the first semester; budget credibility (% actual expenditure out of the initial program for the first semester)
- Annex 3 - administrative classification with details on the economic classification for the central institutions (main credit release authorities) and comparisons for each of these data between the initial program for the year, updated program for the year, actual expenditure for the first semester

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

Administrative classification
Economic classification

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr2semi2020.xls>

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr3semi2020.xls>

Comment:

Please see the following documents:

- Annex 2 - consolidated budget (including local budgets or extra-budgetary funds) in an economic classification, but dis-aggregated for each budget; the document also provides information/ comparison on: initial program for the year (as per the EB), updated estimates for the year (differences from the EB); actual expenditure for the first semester; budget credibility (% actual expenditure out of the initial program for the first semester)

- Annex 3 - administrative classification with details on the economic classification for the central institutions (main credit release authorities) and comparisons for each of these data between the initial program for the year, updated program for the year, actual expenditure for the first semester

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 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 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://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>

Comment:

No such data is available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

a. Yes, revenue estimates have been updated, and an explanation of all of the differences between the original and updated revenue estimates is presented.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Raportsemi2020_13082020.docx
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr2semi2020.xls>
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr3semi2020.xls>

Comment:

Please see the following documents:

- Narrative report with some update on the macroeconomic forecast and a discussion on the developments in the first half of the year (see pp. 20-27 for a discussion of revenues)

- Annex 2 - consolidated budget (including local budgets or extra-budgetary funds), but dis-aggregated for each budget; the document also provides information/ comparison on: initial program for the year (as per the EB), updated estimates for the year (differences from the EB); actual revenues for the first semester; budget credibility (% actual revenues out of the initial program for the first semester) (please see the legend:

I. Program initial 2020

II. Estimări 2020

III. Realizari 1.01.-30.06.2020

IV. Grad de realizare sem I/program initial)

- Annex 3 - administrative classification with details on the economic classification for the central institutions (main credit release authorities) and comparisons for each of these data between the initial program for the year, updated program for the year, actual revenues for the first semester

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Raportsemi2020_13082020.docx
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr2semi2020.xls>
<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr3semi2020.xls>

Comment:

- Narrative report with some update on the macroeconomic forecast and a discussion on the developments in the first half of the year (see pp. 20-27

for a discussion of revenues)

- Annex 2 - consolidated budget (including local budgets or extra-budgetary funds), but dis-aggregated for each budget; the document also provides information/ comparison on: initial program for the year (as per the EB), updated estimates for the year (differences from the EB); actual revenues for the first semester; budget credibility (% actual revenues out of the initial program for the first semester) (please see the legend):

I. Program initial 2020

II. Estimări 2020

III. Realizari 1.01.-30.06.2020

IV. Grad de realizare sem I/program initial)

- Annex 3 - administrative classification with details on the economic classification for the central institutions (main credit release authorities) and comparisons for each of these data between the initial program for the year, updated program for the year, actual revenues for the first semester

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Anexanr2semI2020.xls>

Comment:

Please see the following documents:

- Annex 2 - The document provides information/ comparison on: initial program for the year (as per the EB), updated estimates for the year (differences from the EB); actual revenues for the first semester by category; budget credibility (% actual revenues out of the initial program for the first semester)

In Annex 2, individual sources of revenue are present, though not to the level of details available in the EBP or EB.

More detailed (and dis-aggregated) data for the first six months of the year can also be found on the dedicated platform for budget execution transparency.

In order to access the dis-aggregated data, after accessing the portal (<http://www.transparenta-bugetara.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara/index.htm>) and clicking "Vezi aici", the website prompts to <https://mfinante.gov.ro/transparenta-bugetara>

There, one can chose "Executie bugetara detaliata" (detailed budget execution) from a drop down menu on the left where the various types of reports are available in the section "Tip raport" and chose the month and year for which they want to consult the report (right side, "perioada raportare") and introduce either the main credit release authority name (Denumire Entitate Publica Ordonator Principal) or the institution in itself (Denumire Entitate Publica). The reports generated are available in .pdf, .xlsx or .html.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, estimates of government borrowing and debt have been updated, but information on the differences between the original and updated estimates is not presented.

Source:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/domenii/bugetul-de-stat/informatii-executie-bugetara>
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170165/Raportsemi2020_13082020.docx

Comment:

The MYR does not provide such a level of detail for debt, the narrative mentions are purely descriptive - please see page 32-34 of the Report.

In Annex 2 - there is an updated estimate for interest payments (Dobanzi - this is interest payments on debt) as well as finance operations (Operatiuni financiare - is this net new borrowing), which qualifies for a C score here

However, it should be noted that the MoF has a separate section updated regularly, that offers such information:
<https://www.mfinante.gov.ro/trezor/pagina.html?method=inceptut&locale=en>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

There are two types of YER available – one of them appears rather quick after the end of the fiscal year, which contains mainly a narrative discussion on the fiscal year (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>) - see for example p. 27-33.

The other one is made available and sent to the legislature, according to the law, in the first six months of the next year. This one is more complex and detailed (https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc). For the purpose of the evaluation, the YER sent to the legislature for approval was analysed.

The YER contains both the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditure, including a narrative discussion.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

There are two types of YER available – one of them appears rather quick after the end of the fiscal year, which contains mainly a narrative discussion on the fiscal year (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>).

The other one is made available and sent to the legislature, according to the law, in the first six months of the next year. This one is more complex and detailed (https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc). For the purpose of the evaluation, the YER sent to the legislature for approval was analysed.

The YER presents in its annexes both an overview of all expenditure by economic and functional classification as well as a detailed account based on the administrative classification for all main credit release authorities (line ministries/ agencies). For each authority, the data is also presented by economic and functional classifications.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

There are two types of YER available – one of them appears rather quick after the end of the fiscal year, which contains mainly a narrative discussion on the fiscal year (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>). The other one is made available and sent to the legislature, according to the law, in the first six months of the next year. This one is more complex and detailed (https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc). For the purpose of the evaluation, the YER sent to the legislature for approval was analysed. The YER presents in its annexes both an overview of all expenditure by economic and functional classification as well as a detailed account based on the administrative classification for all main credit release authorities (line ministries/ agencies). For each authority, the data is also presented by economic and functional classifications.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

d. No, the Year-End Report does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

The data for each program is not available in the YER.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

The YER presents in its annexes a detailed account for all revenues, including information on the initial program, final program, and the actual execution.

At pages 2-10 of the Report that accompanies YER there is a narrative discussion on the influences over the revenues:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

The YER presents in its annexes a detailed account for all revenues, including information on the initial program, final program, and the actual execution. The information is available for each category of revenue, similar to the EBP and EB (as level of detail).

At pages 2-10 of the Report that accompanies YER there is a narrative discussion on the influences over the revenues:
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

The YER presents in its annexes a detailed account for all revenues, including information on the initial program, final program, and the actual execution. The information is available for each individual source of revenue, similar to the EBP and EB (as level of detail).

At pages 2-10 of the Report that accompanies YER there is a narrative discussion on the influences over the revenues:
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

The information on the debt is available in the YER sent to the legislature in a separate annex together with the other documents. The data is very extensive, but it presents only a picture of the debt, with no details on the initial estimates and the actual outcomes.

There is some limited information in this document:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

on p. 2 - deficit figure as a comparison to the budget (which can count for net new borrowing)

on p. 20 - information on interest payments of debt including deviation from the budgeted level

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

The information on the debt is available in the YER sent to the legislature in a separate annex together with the other documents.

The data is very extensive, but it presents only a picture of the debt, with no details on the initial estimates and the actual outcomes. A narrative discussion is present though in the Report sent to the Parliament at pages 37-41.

There is some limited information in this document:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

on p. 2 - deficit figure as a comparison to the budget (which can count for net new borrowing)
on p. 20 - information on interest payments of debt including deviation from the budgeted level

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>

Comment:

The narrative report sent to the Parliament does not include such information. However, such update is present in the report published on the MoF website (pages 2-4). Differences are not presented for interest rates. However, there is information beyond the core (exchange rate and unemployment).

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Comments: A narrative description is presented on pages 2-4 of the YER (<https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>).

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

Researcher Response
The interest rate is missing.

IBP Comment
Thanks to the researcher and peer reviewer's comments. Based on this information, as interest rates are missing the score for this question is confirmed as B.

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/170589/Rapexec2019.docx>

Comment:

The narrative report sent to the Parliament does not include such information. However, such update is present in the report published on the MoF website (pages 2-4). Differences are not presented for interest rates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

The data on individual programs is not available and that is where such information was available in the EBP and EB.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

No such information available in the YER.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the enacted level for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are not presented.

Source:

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc

https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

No such information available in the YER.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/proiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/anexaemproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.doc
https://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/contbugetdestatFNUASSDATpub_25062020.pdf

Comment:

Some extra-budgetary funds are presented in detail and a narrative discussion is also available. A good example in this regards is the National Health Insurance Fund, for which the data is available in one of the Annexes sent to the legislature.

However, the data for extra-budgetary funds such as the Privatization Fund or Romanian Counter-Guarantee Fund or for state-owned enterprises, for example, is not available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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://mfinante.gov.ro/documents/35673/78782/bilantconsolidatproiectlegecontgenfnuassdatpub2019_25062020.xlsx

Comment:

The financial statement is both published, and sent to the legislature together with the YER. This is a legal obligation.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii/Raportul%20public%20pe%20anul%202018.pdf>

Comment:

All three types of audit are conducted, in accordance with the law that establishes that the SAI can conduct them. However, some of them are recurrent, others can be periodical.

In the contents of the Report for FY2018, all the three types of audit are present:

- financial audits - p. 40
- performance audits - p. 188
- compliance audits - p. 221

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

a. All expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

Source:

<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii.aspx?niv1=1>

Comment:

In accordance to the law, the SAI has to audit all expenditures of the budget every year. Chapter 1.1 of the Annual report for FY 2018 shows the audit results for all expenditures of the central government.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

a. All extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

Source:

<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii/Raportul%20public%20pe%20anul%202018.pdf>

Comment:

The SAI audited, for example, the National Health Insurance Fund every year, together with the general audit on the budget. The authority also performed various types of audits for other EBFs as well (such as on the Romanian Counter-Guarantee Fund).

After checking the document it appears that there are no known EBFs missing from the report, therefore the score is A and not B.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

The full document> <http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii/Raportul%20public%20pe%20anul%202018.pdf>

The summary>

http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii/Sinteza_RPA_2018_6_feb.pdf

Comment:

In addition, a separate summary of the public report is available and is published together with the complete report.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

No such information available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, the SAI or legislature reports publicly on some audit recommendations.

Source:

The full document > <http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii/Raportul%20public%20pe%20anul%202018.pdf>

Comment:

Some mentions exist in separate mentions on the results of the audits - for example, at pages 28-30.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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.gob.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:

www.consiliulfiscal.ro

Comment:

Set up by Law 69/2010 - <http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/167959>

Article 53 (1) states that: "The Fiscal Council is an independent authority, composed of five members with experience in macroeconomic and budgetary policies that will support the work of Government and Parliament in the process of elaboration and development of fiscal and budgetary policies to ensure the quality of macroeconomic and budgetary mid and long term forecasts underlying such policies. Fiscal Council members will exercise their mandate under the law and will not seek or receive instructions from public authorities or from any other institution or authority."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<http://consiliulfiscal.ro/>

Comment:

Law 69/2010 provides at article 53 that the Fiscal Council also publishes macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts and that their analyses, prognosis, opinions and recommendations should be published on their website. The Council publishes on a regular basis opinions on the EBP as well as on the budget rectifications, as well as annual report.

The Fiscal Council publishes regular report with its own forecasts. Available in English as well: <http://www.fiscalcouncil.ro/presa.htm>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: For example, Fiscal Council presents its own forecasts and narrative description for FY2020 in : i) "Opinia preliminară a Consiliului Fiscal cu privire la Legea bugetului de stat și Legea bugetului de asigurări sociale pentru anul 2020" /Preliminary opinion of the Fiscal Council on the State Budget Law and the Social Security budget Law for 2020 (<http://www.consiliulfiscal.ro/Opinie%20preliminara%20buget%202020%20-%20final.pdf>) (<http://www.fiscalcouncil.ro/Preliminary%20opinion%20of%20the%20Fiscal%20Council%20on%20the%20State%20Budget%20Law%20and%20the%20So>

cial%20Security%20budget%20Law%20for%202020.pdf); ii)"Raport anual 2020"/ Annual Report 2020 (<http://www.consiliulfiscal.ro/RA%20CF%202020%2028%20iunie%20ora%2015.pdf>).

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, the IFI publishes its own costings of major new policy proposals.

Source:

<http://consiliulfiscal.ro/>

Comment:

Art. 53 (2) of Law 69/2010 mentions that one of the main tasks of the Fiscal Council is "(e) Analysis and issuing opinions and recommendations on the annual budget laws before approval by the Government and before submission to Parliament, on the supplementary budgets and other legislative initiatives that may have an impact on the budgetary targets, as well as assessing their compliance with the principles and rules specified in this Law"

Most of the opinions covered by the Fiscal Council are related to the EBP or yearly rectifications of the Enacted budget (the mandatory opinions by law). They usually include major policy proposals: <http://www.fiscalcouncil.ro/opinii.htm>

A significant number of ex-post evaluations are also present in the Annual Report of the IFI: <http://www.fiscalcouncil.ro/Annual%20report%20Fiscal%20Council%202019.pdf>

However, the Council does not cover all new policy proposals and especially during the pandemic it was almost impossible to do so given the significant number of emergency regulations that were introduced in accelerated procedures.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <http://www.consiliulfiscal.ro/Opinie%20preliminara%20buget%202020%20-%20final.pdf>

<http://www.consiliulfiscal.ro/Opinie%20Rectificare%20I%202020.pdf> <http://www.consiliulfiscal.ro/Opinie%20Rectificare%20II%202020.pdf>

<http://www.consiliulfiscal.ro/Opinie%20CF%20Rectificare%20I%202020.pdf>

<http://www.consiliulfiscal.ro/Opinia%20Consiliului%20Fiscal%20rectificare%203%202020.pdf>

<http://www.consiliulfiscal.ro/Opinie%20CF%20propunere%20legislativa%20nr.%20396%202020%20Senat.pdf>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. Never, or there is no IFI.

Source:

media monitoring

website of the Parliament

http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_com.lista

<http://www.cdep.ro/co/sedinte2015.lista?tip=2&an=2020>

Comment:

After verifying the list of all meeting for FY 2020 of the Fiscal and Budget Committee, we could not identify a single meeting at which the IFI was present. It is also true that during the pandemic a lot of meetings were moved online or they had a limited audience. However, line ministries as well as other independent institutions appeared sometimes in the list of invited participants.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Sometimes (i.e., three times or more, but less than five times).

Comments: Head or a senior staff member of the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature for: i) EBP (<http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/7/opinia.pdf>) (<http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/8/opinia.pdf>); ii) First Budget Revision for 2020 (<http://www.consiliulfiscal.ro/Opinie%20Rectificare%20%202020.pdf>) iii) Second Budget Revision for 2020 (<http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2020/400/90/1/opconsfisc652.pdf>) (<http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2020/400/90/2/opconsfisc653.pdf>) (<http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2020/100/50/2/opconsfisc856.pdf>) iv) Third Budget Revision for 2020 (<http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2021/200/20/4/opconsfisc895.pdf>)

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

The quoted documents are the written opinions of the IFI, which are mandatory by law. Those are sent to the Government, to the Parliament and published on their website, but they do not constitute a hearing.

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:

d. No, neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

<http://www.cdep.ro/co/sedinte2015.lista?tip=2&an=2020>

<http://www.cdep.ro/co/sedinte2015.comisii>

Comment:

From the agenda of the specialized Finance & Budget Committee, we can see that the budget policy priorities are only debated after the EBP is registered in the Parliament.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. The legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month before the start of the budget year, or does not receive it all.

Source:

http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Comment:

In theory, according to Law 500/2002, the government should send the EBP to the Parliament by 15 November of the previous year (in Romania the FY starts at 1 January). In practice, the deadline is rarely respected. For example, for FY 2020, the budget was sent to the legislature on 18 December 2019.

Also, at difference from any other year, the FY 2020 went through an expedite procedure which meant that it was not even debated in the Parliament (this was before the pandemic). As per section1, this special procedure is permitted by the Romanian Constitution (Art. 114 - Assumption of responsibility by the Government). However, it was never been used for the EBP ever before and attracted a lot of criticism.

The 2021 EBP was sent even later to the legislature, on 23 February 2021 (http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=19178). In theory, in years in which there are general elections, such a delay is permitted, but for just 15 days.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Comment:

The special procedure states that:

"(1) The Government may assume responsibility before the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, in joint sitting, upon a programme, a general policy statement, or a bill.

(2) The Government shall be dismissed if a motion of censure, tabled within three days of the date of presenting the programme, the general policy statement, or the bill, has been passed in accordance with the provisions under Article 113.

(3) If the Government has not been dismissed according to paragraph (2), the bill presented, amended, or completed, as the case may be, with the amendments accepted by the Government, shall be deemed as passed, and the implementation of the programme or general policy statement shall become binding on the Government.

(4) In case the President of Romania demands reconsideration of the law passed according to paragraph (3), the debate thereon shall be carried in the joint sitting of the Chambers."

The Government introduced the EBP in the legislature on December 18 and the Government presented it on December 23. The legislature did not file a motion of censorship, so the budget was considered approved and sent to the President to be signed into law on January 6, 2020.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

b. Yes, the legislature has authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, with some limitations.

Source:

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/37954>

Comment:

Article 17 of Law 500/2002 establishes the limits within which the legislature can amend the EBP.

Provision 3 of Article 17: During the debates, no amendments to the annual budget laws can be approved which lead to an increase in the budget deficit.

Provision 3.1 of Article 17: Modification of the budget and/or appropriations as a result of amendments proposed under provision 2.1 is made only by redistributing amounts between sub-units of the budget classification.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

Comment:

The EB includes some amendments made by members of the Parliament.

EBP: <http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/7/pl667.pdf>

EB with amendments: <http://www.cdep.ro/proiecte/2019/600/60/7/pl667a.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, a specialized budget or finance committee did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Comment:

Due to the special procedure (assumption of responsibility by the Government) no such examination was made for FY 2020, the first time in recent times since this happens. It is worth noting that this happened before the pandemic and it was not linked to it.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, sector committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

http://www.cdep.ro/pls/proiecte/upl_pck2015.proiect?cam=2&idp=18280

Comment:

Due to the special procedure (assumption of responsibility by the Government) no such examination was made for FY 2020, the first time in recent times since this happens. It is worth noting that this happened before the pandemic and it was not linked to it.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. No, a committee did not examine in-year implementation.

Source:

<http://www.cdep.ro/co/sedinte.lista?tip=2&an=2020>

Comment:

The agenda of the meetings as well as public recordings are available in a dedicated section. No record of a debate is found.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, but in practice the executive shifts funds before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Source:

<http://www.fiscalcouncil.ro/legea.htm> (Law 69/2010)

Comment:

According to Law 69/2010, article 23 (2) "Not more than two supplementary budgets may be approved in any financial year, and no supplementary budget may be sent to Parliament during the first six months of the financial year."

According to Law 500/2002 on public finance, budget rectifications must follow the same rules as the EBP – to be passed through a law adopted by the Parliament. In practice, the government uses emergency ordinances (executive decrees) to pass these kind of rectifications (limited though to twice per year). However, during FY 2020, three rectifications were passed, all through emergency ordinances. The exception was generated though by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenues, but in practice the executive spends these funds before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Source:

<http://www.fiscalcouncil.ro/legea.htm>

Comment:

According to Law 69/2010, article 23 (2) "Not more than two supplementary budgets may be approved in any financial year, and no supplementary budget may be sent to Parliament during the first six months of the financial year."

According to Law 500/2002 on public finance, budget rectifications must follow the same rules as the EBP – to be passed through a law adopted by the Parliament. In practice, the government uses emergency ordinances (executive decrees) to pass these kind of rectifications (limited though to twice per year). However, during FY 2020, three rectifications were passed, all through emergency ordinances. The exception was generated though by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

c. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below enacted levels, but in practice the executive implements these cuts before seeking approval from the legislature.

Source:

<http://www.fiscalcouncil.ro/legea.htm>

Comment:

According to Law 69/2010, article 23 (2) "Not more than two supplementary budgets may be approved in any financial year, and no supplementary budget may be sent to Parliament during the first six months of the financial year."

According to Law 500/2002 on public finance, budget rectifications must follow the same rules as the EBP – to be passed through a law adopted by the Parliament. In practice, the government uses emergency ordinances (executive decrees) to pass these kind of rectifications (limited though to twice per year). However, during FY 2020, three rectifications were passed, all through emergency ordinances. The exception was generated though by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<http://www.cdep.ro/co/docs/F-1833721275/ordine%20de%20zi.pdf>

Comment:

The AR Report was published on 29 January 2020 (<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Articol.aspx?den=29/01/2020%2013:27:24fop5n>), and the Budget Committee in the Chamber of Deputies debated it on 27 November 2020 (we could not identify a similar examination at the Senate: <https://www.senat.ro/afisarelistafisiere.aspx?pagina=48a70284-ca0b-4282-8ba8-f05399c546d6>). However, no report on the findings or recommendations is available.

On another note, the Parliament did request special report on the expenditure occurred as a consequence of fighting the Covid-19 pandemic (during the first part of FY 2020), and SAI published it in record time (August 2020): <http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Articol.aspx?den=11/08/2020%2010:29:17atenh>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/CadruJuridic.aspx>

<http://www.cdep.ro/pls/dic/site.page?id=371>

Comment:

The regulation is set up in the Romanian Constitution: Article 140 " (4) The Counselors of Accounts shall be appointed by the Parliament for a nine-year term of office, which may not be extended or renewed. The Members of the Court of Accounts shall be independent in the conduct of their mandate and irremovable on the whole duration of such. They shall be subject to the incompatibilities laid down in the law on judges."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/CadruJuridic.aspx>

<http://www.cdep.ro/pls/dic/site.page?id=371>

Comment:

According to Article 140 of the Romanian Constitution: "(6) The Court of Accounts Members shall be revoked by the Parliament, in the instances and under the conditions laid down in the law."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/2364>

Comment:

Article 6 of Law 94/1992 states that: "The Court of Accounts shall draft and approve its own budget, which it shall submit to the Government, for it to be included in the state budget draft which the Parliament shall approve."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. The SAI has significant discretion, but faces some limitations.

Source:

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/2364>

Comment:

According to Law 94/1992 there is a list of accounts that can be verified by the SAI and the institution has the option to decide the minimum limit over which it conducts audits (but only on that specific lists). Articles 26 and 27 of the law describe this list and limitations:

"ART. 26 The Court of Accounts shall conduct financial audit of the following implementation accounts: a) the general state annual budget implementation account; b) the state social insurance annual budget implementation account; c) the special funds annual implementation accounts; d) the local budgets and that of Bucharest Municipality, the budgets of counties, of Bucharest Municipality sectors, of the municipalities of towns and communes annual implementation accounts; e) the State Treasury annual budget implementation account; f) the autonomous public institutions annual budgets implementation accounts; g) the accounts relating to the implementation of public institutions annual budgets, financed integrally or partially from the state budget, from the state social insurance budget, from the local budgets and from the budgets of the special funds, according to case; h) the public institutions integrally financed from own revenues annual budgets implementation accounts; i) the state general annual public debt account; j) the non-reimbursable external funds annual budget implementation accounts; k) the accounts of other budgets implementation provided by law."

ART 27: "The Court of Accounts has the competence to set the minimum value limits from which the accounts provided for in art. 26 are subject to control in each budget exercise, so that the statutory limitation period ensures that all accounts are audited."

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

c. No, but a unit within the SAI conducts a review of the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis.

Source:

<http://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/2364>

Comment:

Contestations can be filled in and/or attacked in the judiciary. Article 1 of Law 94/1992 states that: "(4) The litigations devolving from the activity of the Court of Accounts shall be settled by the specialized legal courts."

"Quality control structure" of the Court of Accounts is organized at service level - "Audit and control activity evaluation service" within the Directorate 1 of Department I "Department of methodology, training, evaluation of audit and control, programming, reporting, synthesis and IT" (http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Regulamente/Ghid_pentru_asigurarea_si_controlul_calitatii_activitatilor_specifice_CC_2017.pdf)

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
d. Never.

Source:
<http://www.cdep.ro/co/sedinte.lista?tip=2&an=2020>

Comment:
There were some limitations introduced due to the pandemic and the SAI did not even take part in the hearing of a committee of the legislature because the EBP was passed through the assumption of responsibility procedure.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Rarely (i.e., once or twice).

Comments: SAI issue Special Report at the demand of the Parliament (<https://www.curteadeconturi.ro/publicatii/rapoarte-la-cererea-parlamentului>).

Also, this document is approved by the Parliament. For example, on August 11, 2020, SAI submitted to the Romanian Parliament the Special Report on the management of public resources during the state of emergency. This document was approved by the Plenum of the Court by Decision no. 387/2020 and presented the results of a comprehensive control, carried out in May-July 2020, at 949 entities in the central and local public administration (<https://www.curteadeconturi.ro/comunicate-de-presa/raportul-special-privind-gestionarea-resurselor-publice-in-perioada-starii-de-urgenta>)

(https://rcc.natenson.com/uploads/d7bd7ebd/0869b3c5/10a5fca8/503c004f/b6e91220/2b676e2f/1d501536/1a4f2146/Raport_stare_urgenta_11082020.pdf).

.pdf).

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Researcher Response

These are regular or extraordinary reports of the SAI, but not hearings.

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:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

[https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?](https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative?p_p_id=com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_delta=20&p_r_p_resetCur=false&com_liferay_asset_publisher_web_portlet_AssetPublisherPortlet_INSTANCE_Bg185RyrkUe4_cur=7)

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Comment:

The Government does not use any mechanisms of participation during the formulation of the annual budget. No such debate was conducted in the last five years.

The debates are usually announced here: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/dezbateri-publice>

All the documents available for public debate (written input) are available in a dedicated section on the website of the MoF:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative>

The dedicated section of the website also provides an email address where citizens are allowed to send comments (for all draft legislation, not only for budget related legislation) - this is established by Law 52/2003 which provides for at least a 10 days public consultation. The law also provides that a public debate can be organized. In order to have an exchange of view (answer), at least such a debate could have been organized. In announcement section for public debates there is no such record.

Moreover, at difference from the past years, the EBP for FY 2020 was published in that section on December 18, the very same day in which it was already sent to the Parliament. In that section, it states that concerned parties can send recommendation in maximum 10 days. As mentioned in previous sections, FY 2020 was also not debated in the Parliament, having been passed through the assumption of the responsibility of the Government. Thus, EBP for FY 2020 did not allow for participation from citizens either in a direct way or through their elected representatives.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

No such mechanism exists in place.

The Government does not use any mechanisms of participation during the formulation of the annual budget. No such debate was conducted in the last five years.

The debates are usually announced here: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/dezbateri-publice>

All the documents available for public debate (written input) are available in a dedicated section on the website of the MoF:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative>

The dedicated section of the website also provides an email address where citizens are allowed to send comments (for all draft legislation, not only for budget related legislation) - this is established by Law 52/2003 which provides for at least a 10 days public consultation. The law also provides that a public debate can be organized. In order to have an exchange of view (answer), at least such a debate could have been organized. In announcement section for public debates there is no such record.

Moreover, at difference from the past years, the EBP for FY 2020 was published in that section on December 18, the very same day in which it was already sent to the Parliament. In that section, it states that concerned parties can send recommendation in maximum 10 days. As mentioned in previous sections, FY 2020 was also not debated in the Parliament, having been passed through the assumption of the responsibility of the Government. Thus, EBP for FY 2020 did not allow for participation from citizens either in a direct way or through their elected representatives.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

The Government does not use any mechanisms of participation during the formulation of the annual budget. No such debate was conducted in the last five years.

The debates are usually announced here: <https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/dezbateri-publice>

All the documents available for public debate (written input) are available in a dedicated section on the website of the MoF:

<https://mfinante.gov.ro/ro/acasa/transparenta/proiecte-acte-normative>

The dedicated section of the website also provides an email address where citizens are allowed to send comments (for all draft legislation, not only for budget related legislation) - this is established by Law 52/2003 which provides for at least a 10 days public consultation. The law also provides that a public debate can be organized. In order to have an exchange of view (answer), at least such a debate could have been organized. In announcement section for public debates there is no such record.

Moreover, at difference from the past years, the EBP for FY 2020 was published in that section on December 18, the very same day in which it was already sent to the Parliament. In that section, it states that concerned parties can send recommendation in maximum 10 days. As mentioned in previous sections, FY 2020 was also not debated in the Parliament, having been passed through the assumption of the responsibility of the Government. Thus, EBP for FY 2020 did not allow for participation from citizens either in a direct way or through their elected representatives.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

No such mechanism in place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

No such mechanism exists in place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

No such mechanism exists in place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 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:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

No such mechanism exists in place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

No such mechanism exists in place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:
No such mechanism exists in place.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:
n/a

Comment:
No such mechanism exists in place.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion:

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:

c. Yes, at least one line ministry uses participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or implementation 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:

<http://dialogsocial.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MFP-Minuta-CDS-17.12.2019.pdf>

Comment:

According to the social dialogue legislation, some line ministries held some hearings before the EBP is approved by the Government. However, only trade unions or employers organisations which meet certain representativeness criteria are allowed to participate and often their views are not reflected in the EBP.

Law 62/2011 on social dialogue states that: "Article 120 (1) Within the ministries and other public institutions listed in Annex no. 1, as well as at the level of the counties and of the municipality of Bucharest, social dialogue committees consisting of the representatives of the central or local public administration, representatives of employers' organizations and of representative trade union organizations at national level are set up and will function."

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

In general, no such mechanism exists in place. The media is allowed to be present but only to report from the hearings. At the debates, only the members of the government and other authorities were present, no other individuals or groups are invited.

Due to the special procedure of the assumption of responsibility by the Government for FY 2020, no such public hearing was even organized.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

No such mechanism exists in place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

n/a

Comment:

No such mechanism exists in place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 legislature 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:

n/a

Comment:

No such mechanism exists in place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Articol.aspx?den=01/10/2020%2015:47:0853gzx>

Comment:

The SAI introduced this possibility since 2019 and announced its replication in 2020, on October 1.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://www.curteadeconturi.ro/parerile-cetatenilor> <https://www.curteadeconturi.ro/comunicate-de-presa/programul-prin-care-cetatenii-pot-trimite-sugestii-pentru-activitatea-institutiei-continua-si-in-2021>

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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 suggest issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program.

Answer:

d. The requirements for a "c" response or above are not met.

Source:

<http://www.curteadeconturi.ro/Publicatii.aspx?categ=3/1/2021%2010:50:34%20AM>

Comment:

Even though the initiative was announced in 2019, no such written record is visible yet.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

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:

b. The requirements for an "a" response are not met.

Source:

n/a

Comment:

No such mechanism exists in place.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: