

Open Budget Survey 2023

Questionnaire

Moldova

May 2024

Country Questionnaire: Moldova (Republic of)

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 2023

Source:

Law on public finance nr 181/2014, art 47 (1), a). https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=135212&lang=ro#
The Law establishes the deadline for June 1st.

Comment:

In the Republic of Moldova PBS is the Mid Term Budget Framework.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Answer:

b. At least two months, but less than four months, in advance of the budget year, and at least one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is introduced in the legislature

Source:

The Government site: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/extras_40_2.pdf

The Parliament site: <https://multimedia.parlament.md/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-sustinut-de-comisia-parlamentara-de-specialitate-urmeaza-votarea-in-plen/>

The portal for legal acts: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134003&lang=ro

Comment:

The PBS proposal was made public on October 3, 2022 (on the Government's website, <https://www.youtube.com/live/FJEtUVRphM?feature=share>), was approved by the Government on October 5, 2022, and the approved document was published on the same day

(https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134003&lang=ro). Also, the approved document is available at The Ministry of Finance portal, at <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/buget/cadru-bugetar-pe-termen-mediu>

The Executive's Budget Proposal was registered in the Parliament on December 8, 2022

(<https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeacteleislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

5/10/2022

Source:

The Government site: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/extras_40_2.pdf

The portal for legal acts: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134003&lang=ro

Comment:

No comments.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

It appears on the Government portal as the date showing when the materials for the government meeting were made public.
<https://gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-guvernului-din-5-octombrie-2022-ora-1500>

Source:

<https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/subiect-08-nu-731-mf-2022.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

Source:

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/documente%20relevante/CBTM%202023%202025.zip>

The Government website:

<https://gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-guvernului-din-5-octombrie-2022-ora-1500>

Comment:

The Governmental portal <https://gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-guvernului-din-5-octombrie-2022-ora-1500>, and the portal FOR legal acts:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134003&lang=ro

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Answer:

c. No

Source:

The Governmental portal <https://gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-guvernului-din-5-octombrie-2022-ora-1500>, and the portal FOR legal acts:

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134003&lang=ro

Comment:

It is in pdf.

Still, the document on the MoF website has all numerical data available in machine readable format

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

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

Comments: The document on the MoF is in machine readable format while the document on the government website is not.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

For this question, we are considering the documents published by the Government, and there is no evidence that some of the documents are provided in another format than .pdf.

IBP Comment

We welcome the comment of the peer-reviewer. However, given that no additional evidence is provided, the response remains unchanged.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

The Governmental portal <https://gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-guvernului-din-5-octombrie-2022-ora-1500>, and the portal FOR legal acts: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134003&lang=ro

Comment:

The document is available for the public

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

N/A

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2023 State Budget" or "Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Plan and Budget for 2022/23."

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

Answer:

"Cadrul bugetar pe termen mediu (2023-2025)" (The medium-term budgetary framework 2023-2025).

Source:

The Governmental portal <https://gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-guvernului-din-5-octombrie-2022-ora-1500>, and the portal FOR legal acts: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=134003&lang=ro

Comment:

"Cadrul bugetar pe termen mediu (2023-2025)" (The medium-term budgetary framework 2023-2025).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

<https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/citizens-budgets/>.

Answer:

b. No

Source:

The Ministry of Finance at (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/buget/cadrul-bugetar-pe-termen-mediu>).

Comment:

No citizens version was identified on the Ministry of Finance portal.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

FY 2023

Source:

Law on public finance nr 181/2014 art 46 and art 47.

Comment:

The budget year starts on 1 January and ends on 31 December.

https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=135212&lang=ro#

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

8/12/2022

Source:

The Parliament web page: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

Comment:

The EBP was registered in the Parliament on 8 December 2022. It was previously published by the Ministry of Finance on the his website on December the 5th, <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023> and on the public consultation platform particip.gov.md, on December 7, 2022, requesting public input to the draft law. The announcement was made during the live presentation by the Cabinet Ministers, on December 7, 2022: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=62WYFvAwnHY>

The project can be found here: <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023/9852>.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

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:

The Ministry of Finance: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

The Ministry of Finance made available to the public the project on December the 7th, and the document endorsed by the Government was made available by the Parliament on December 8 2022.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. 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:

7/12/2022

Source:

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>
Participe.gov.md: <https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=0CAIQw7AJahcKEwigl7Lf2Pn-AhUAAAAAHQAAAAQAg&url=https%3A%2F%2Fparticip.gov.md%2Fro%2Fdocument%2Fstages%2Fproiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023%2F9852&psig=AOvVaw3JqWhIVVg756VHZTp84TxU&ust=1684321486733923>
The Parliament web page: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

Comment:

The EBP package consists of the draft budget law, and annexes to the draft law beginning, and Informative Note to the proposed budget law and Tables to the Informative Note. The document was published by the Ministry of Finance with all relevant and complete information on December 7, on the day of the submission to the Parliament. The Parliament published the project on its website on December 8.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

Source:

The Parliament web page: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>
The Ministry of Finance website: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

The document was published by the Ministry of Finance with all relevant and complete information on December 7, on the day of the submission to the Parliament. The document was registered in the Parliament on December 8, 2020. On the same day, the parliamentary committees discussed the EBP, and on December 12, it was discussed in the first reading. All materials were available on the Parliament portal while the EBS was discussed in the parliamentary commissions.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Answer:

Source:

The Parliament web page: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeacteleislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>
<https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023/9852>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The MoF website: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

The EBP package consists of the draft budget law formed by two distinct set of documents: the informative note and its 20 tables, and the Draft Budget Law and its supporting documents. All supporting documents are in machine readable format, with the exception of Table 1, Macroeconomic indicators afferent to the informative note, that is presented in two formats: docx and .xls. For this reason, the researcher will consider attributing the highest score, since the information is easily identifiable in other supporting documents to in the EBP package.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: On the official web page of the MoF all numerical data (annexes to the draft budget law and tables to the Informational Note are available) are available in Excel format. MoF is the authority responsible for the draft budget law elaboration and presentation to the Government for approval. The draft budget law published by the MoF was approved by the Government and send to the Parliament.

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:

Public consultation website: <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023/9852>

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

The document is produced, published and available.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

n/a

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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 2022-23, 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:

Proiectul legii bugetului de stat pentru anul 2023 or The draft state budget law for the year 2023

Source:

Ministry of Finance website: [https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-](https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023)
<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023>

Comment:

Proiectul legii bugetului de stat pentru anul 2023 or The draft state budget law for the year 2023, produced by the Ministry of Finance of Moldova

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

b. No

Source:

No "citizens version" of the EBP was identified on Ministry of Finance or Parliament portal.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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 2023

Source:

Law on public finance no. 181/2014, art 47 (1), lit e).
https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121242&lang=ro#

Comment:

According to the law on public finance art. 47 (1) lit (e) the state budget for 2023 should be approved by the Parliament until 1 December 2022.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Comments: Proposal for the amendment of the researcher comment: According to the law on public finance art. 47 (1) lit (e) the state budget for 2023 should be approved by the Parliament until 1 December 2022.

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

22/12/2022

Source:

The Parliament adopted the EB in two readings, on December 8 and final reading on December 2022. The Law was published on the Parliament website on the 22 of December:<https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>, with a press release on the same day: <https://multimedia.parlament.md/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-votat-in-lectura-a-doua/>.

Comment:

The Law was published on the Legal acts portal on the 28 of December, 2022: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136128&lang=ro

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The Parliament website: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/legea-privind-bugetul-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-publicată-in-monitorul-oficial>

Comment:

The law in its formal form was published on December 28, 2022, although it has been published and approved by the Parliament on December 22, 2022. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136128&lang=ro

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

22/12/2022

Source:

The Parliament website: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/legea-privind-bugetul-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-publicată-in-monitorul-oficial>

The law in its formal form was published on December 28, 2022, although it has been published and approved by the Parliament on December 22, 2022. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136128&lang=ro

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 law in its formal form was published on December 28, 2022, although it has been published and approved by the Parliament on December 22, 2022. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136128&lang=ro

The Ministry of Finance also published an announcement about the publishing of the Law in its formal form: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/legea-privind-bugetul-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-publicata-in-monitorul-oficial>

The Law was published on the Parliament website on December 22, 2022:

<https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

The Ministry of Finance website made available the EB 2023 on the same day as the Parliament, on December 2022:

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>

Source:

The law in its formal form was published on December 28, 2022, although it has been published and approved by the Parliament on December 22, 2022. https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136128&lang=ro

The Ministry of Finance also published an announcement about the publishing of the Law in its formal form: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/legea-privind-bugetul-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-publicata-in-monitorul-oficial>

The Law was published on the Parliament website on December 22, 2022:

<https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

The Ministry of Finance website made available the EB 2023 on the same day as the Parliament, on December 2022:

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>

Comment:

It takes two weeks to publish the laws on the official legal acts portal. It was made, however, public by the Ministry of Finance on the same day as the adoption in the Parliament, December 22, 2022.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

The law in its formal form: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136128&lang=ro

The Parliament website: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro->

RO/Default.aspx

The Ministry of Finance website : <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>

Source:

The law in its formal form: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136128&lang=ro

The Parliament website: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

The Ministry of Finance website : <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>

Comment:

The Law consist of two big packages: The informative note with its tables and the the budget programs, as well as the draft Law and relevant annexes. All tables that are being referred to in the text of the Law are published in an .xls format. There is one exception, a table on macroeconomic indicators that is published in .docs format but with an easily modifiable table.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

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

soft electronic copy but is not available online.

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

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

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

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

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

N/A

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2023."

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

Answer:

"Legea bugetului de stat pentru anul 2023 Nr. 359/2022"

Source:

"LEGEA bugetului de stat Nr. 359 din 22-12-2022 pentru anul 2023"

Comment:

The official lega acts portal: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136128&lang=ro

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: SUGGESTED TITLE: Legea bugetului de stat pentru anul 2023 Nr. 359/2022

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

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

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Bugetul%20cetatenilor%20pe%202023.pdf>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Answer:

FY 2022

Source:

The Ministry of Finance: <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Bugetul%20cetatenilor%20pe%202022.pdf>

It was disseminated in the press a few days later in the press:

Monitorul Fiscal, 25 January 2022: <https://monitorul.fisc.md/editorial/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022.html/>

Bizlaw, 26 January: <https://www.bizlaw.md/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022>

A CB for the YER 2021 was also produced, the document being published on September 30, 2022 on the Ministry of Finance web portal: <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Raport%20pentru%20cetățeni%202021.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: We suggest the MoF link for Citizens Budget 2022: (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/buget/transparen%C8%9Ba-bugetar%C4%83/bugetul-pentru-cet%C4%83%C8%9Beni>), (<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Bugetul%20cetatenilor%20pe%202022%20n.pdf>).

IBP Comment

We acknowledge the comment of the government reviewer and note the additional links provided. Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/buget/transparen%C8%9Ba-bugetar%C4%83/bugetul-pentru-cetățeni>

The CB is published within 4 weeks after the EB is published. It was published on the MoF website on January 24, 2022. The document can be found here:

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Bugetul%20cetatenilor%20pe%202022.pdf>

It was disseminated in the press a few days later:

Monitorul Fiscal, 25 January 2022: <https://monitorul.fisc.md/editorial/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022.html/>

Bizlaw, 26 January: <https://www.bizlaw.md/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022>

The CB for the YER 2021 was produced, the document being published on September 30, 2022 on the Ministry of Finance web portal:

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Raport%20pentru%20cetățeni%202021.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: N/A

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. 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:

24/1/2022

Source:

The CB was published on the MoF website on January 24, 2022. The document can be found here:

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Bugetul%20cetatenilor%20pe%202022.pdf>

It was disseminated in the press a few days later in the press:

Monitorul Fiscal, 25 January 2022: <https://monitorul.fisc.md/editorial/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022.html/>

Bizlaw, 26 January: <https://www.bizlaw.md/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022>

Comment:

The CB was published on the MoF website on January 24, 2022 (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/tipul-comunicatului/buget?page=2,>). The document can be found here:

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Bugetul%20cetatenilor%20pe%202022.pdf>

It was disseminated in the press a few days later in the press:

Monitorul Fiscal, 25 January 2022: <https://monitorul.fisc.md/editorial/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022.html/>

Bizlaw, 26 January: <https://www.bizlaw.md/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022>

Another CB for the YER 2021 was produced, the document being published on September 30, 2022 on the Ministry of Finance web portal:

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Raport%20pentru%20cetățeni%202021.pdf>The CB was published on the MoF website on January 24, 2022

(<https://mf.gov.md/ro/tipul-comunicatului/buget?page=2,>). The document can be found here:

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Bugetul%20cetatenilor%20pe%202022.pdf>

It was disseminated in the press a few days later in the press:

Monitorul Fiscal, 25 January 2022: <https://monitorul.fisc.md/editorial/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022.html/>

Bizlaw, 26 January: <https://www.bizlaw.md/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022>

Another CB for the YER 2021 was produced, the document being published on September 30, 2022 on the Ministry of Finance web portal:

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Raport%20pentru%20cetățeni%202021.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The MoF site the Citizen Budget 2022 (CB): <https://mf.gov.md/ro/buget/transparen%C8%9Ba-bugetar%C4%83/bugetul-pentru-cet%C4%83%C8%9Beni>

IBP Comment

We acknowledge the comment of the government reviewer and note the additional link provided. Thank you.

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:

Source:

The CB was published on the MoF website on January 24, 2022 (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/tipul-comunicatului/buget?page=2>, second announcement from the end). The document can be found here:

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Bugetul%20cetatenilor%20pe%202022.pdf>

It was disseminated in the press a few days later in the press:

Monitorul Fiscal, 25 January 2022: <https://monitorul.fisc.md/editorial/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022.html/>

Bizlaw, 26 January: <https://www.bizlaw.md/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022>

Another CB for the YER 2021 was produced, the document being published on September 30, 2022 on the Ministry of Finance web porta and the date

was identified using javascript: <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Raport%20pentru%20cetățeni%202021.pdf>

Comment:

The Ministry of Finance published a press release upon the publication of the document that was disseminated by other portals:

<https://monitorul.fisc.md/editorial/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022.html/>

No press release was identified for the CB for the YER 2021.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The MoF site the Citizen Budget 2022 (CB): <https://mf.gov.md/ro/buget/transparen%C8%9Ba-bugetar%C4%83/bugetul-pentru-cet%C4%83%C8%9Beni>

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

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

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

Answer:

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Bugetul%20cetatenilor%20pe%202022.pdf>

Source:

The Ministry of Finance: <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Bugetul%20cetatenilor%20pe%202022.pdf>

It was disseminated in the press a few days later in the press:

Monitorul Fiscal, 25 January 2022: <https://monitorul.fisc.md/editorial/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022.html/>

Bizlaw, 26 January: <https://www.bizlaw.md/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022>

The CB for the YER 2021 was produced, the document being published on September 30, 2022 on the Ministry of Finance web portal:

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Raport%20pentru%20cetățeni%202021.pdf>

Comment:

Citizen Budget for the EB 2022, was published in January 24, 2022, its publication was announced in official press release by the Ministry of Finance. It wasn't possible to identify a similar approach for the CB for the YER 2021.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: We Suggest the MoF link for Citizens Budget 2022: (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/buget/transparen%C8%9Ba-bugetar%C4%83/bugetul-pentru-cet%C4%83%C8%9Beni>) , (<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Bugetul%20cetatenilor%20pe%202022%20n.pdf>).

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 2022 People's Guide" or "2023 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:

"Bugetul Public National (BPN) pentru anul 2022" is the name of the oficial Citizen Budget.

The CB YER 2021 is published as "Raportul privind executarea bugetului pentru cetățeni pe anul 2021"

Source:

The Ministry of Finance portal: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/buget/transparența-bugetară/bugetul-pentru-cetățeni>

Comment:

"Bugetul Public National (BPN) pentru anul 2022" is the name of the oficial Citizen Budget.

The CB YER 2021 is published as "Raportul privind executarea bugetului pentru cetățeni pe anul 2021" :

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Raport%20pentru%20cetățeni%202021.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

Two CB are produced: one corresponds to the EB 2022, and another CB corresponds to the YER 2021.

Source:

The Ministry of Finance portal: <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Bugetul%20cetatenilor%20pe%202022.pdf>

Comment:

Two CB are produced: CB FOR the EB 2022, and CB for YER 2021.

The Citizens Budget corresponds to the EB 2022: The citizens Budget corresponds to the EB 2022

CB for YER 2021 is available: <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Raport%20pentru%20cetățeni%202021.pdf>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Suggested The Ministry of Finance portal: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/buget/transparen%C8%9Ba-bugetar%C4%83/bugetul-pentru-cet%C4%83%C8%9Beni> <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte>

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:

2022

Source:

In the Republic of Moldova the budget year corresponds to a calendar year (Art, 46, law on public finance no. 181 of 25 July 2014, https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121242&lang=ro).

Comment:

Evaluation period is December 2021 -November 2022.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

Publicly available budget documents are defined as those documents that are published on the website of the public authority issuing the document within the time frame specified in the OBS methodology and that all citizens are able to obtain free of charge. (See the Open Budget Survey Guidelines on Public

Availability of Budget Documents.) This is a change from previous rounds of the Open Budget Survey: now at minimum documents must be made available on the Internet and free of charge to be considered publicly available.

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The IYR are published monthly in a dedicated section on the Ministry of Finance website :<https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

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

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD Month YYYY." For example, 5 September 2022 should be entered as 05 September 2022. If the document is not published or not produced, please mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

Monthly reports for following months were published during the next month of reporting period:

December 2021: 31 January 2022

January 2022: 28 February 2022

February 2022: 30 March 2022

March 2022: April 30 2022

April 2022: 31 May 2022

June 2022: 31 July 2022

July 2022: 31 August 2022

August 2022: 31 September 2022

September 2022: 31 October 2022

November 2022: 31 December 2022

Source:

All reports are available at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>

Comment:

Based on the experience the researcher had in 2022.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: We suggest: The correct publication dates of the monthly reports are indicated below: December 2021: 25 January 2022 January 2022: 24 Februarie 2022 February 2022: 24 March 2022 March 2022: 22 April 2022 April 2022: 24 May 2022 May 2022: 21 June 2022 June 2022: 22 July 2022 July 2022: 24 August 2022 August 2022: 23 September 2022 September 2022: 25 October 2022 October 2022: 24 November 2022 November 2022: 22 December 2022

Researcher Response

I agree: December 2021: 25 January 2022 January 2022: 24 Februarie 2022 February 2022: 24 March 2022 March 2022: 22 April 2022 April 2022: 24 May 2022 May 2022: 21 June 2022 June 2022: 22 July 2022 July 2022: 24 August 2022 August 2022: 23 September 2022 September 2022: 25 October 2022 October 2022: 24 November 2022 November 2022: 22 December 2022

IBP Comment

We thank the government reviewer for the clarification on the date of publication of the IYRs.

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:

The date of publication of these reports was determined based on the information contained in the document properties and javascript. Also, based on the previous experience, the researcher monitored the publication date. Starting the Russian Aggression period, the Ministry of Finance published monthly the execution of the foreign assistance and Emergency and Reserve funds, reports closely monitored by implementing agencies and donor representatives.

Source:

All reports are available at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>

Comment:

Also, as a permanent user of these reports, I noticed that in the evaluation period MF usually was publishing monthly reports before the end of the next month.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

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

Answer:

Source:

December 2021: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/21815>
January 2022: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/22609>
February 2022: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/22610>
March 2022: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/22611>
April 2022: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/22759>
May 2022: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23031>
June 2022: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23303>
July 2022: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23507>
August 2022: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23702>
September 2022: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23976>
October 2022: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/24223>
November 2022: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/24496>

Comment:

The name of the report for example for January 2022 is "Raport privind executarea bugetului de stat la situația din 31 January 2022"
Also, the Ministry of Finance are publishing monthly reports on the government debt (all reports are presented at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/datoria-sectorului-public/rapoarte/datoria-de-stat>) and other two monthly reports on the domestic (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/datoria-sectorului-public/rapoarte/datoria-de-stat/datoria-de-stat-intern%C4%83>) and external debt (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/datoria-sectorului-public/rapoarte/datoria-de-stat/datoria-de-stat-extern%C4%83>).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

All monthly reports corresponding to the State Budget are available in the excel format on the Ministry of Finance web page at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>

Comment:

For example, Monthly Report for March 2022 is "Raport privind executarea bugetului de stat la situația din 31 Martie 2022" : <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/22534>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022."

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:

All reports have the same title with appropriate adjustment of month "Raport privind executarea bugetului de stat la situa?ia din -----"

Source:

All monthly reports corresponding to the State Budget are available in the excel format on the Ministry of Finance web page at

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>

All monthly reports on government debts are available at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/datoria-sectorului-public/rapoarte/datoria-de-stat>

All monthly reports on domestic debts are available at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/datoria-sectorului-public/rapoarte/datoria-de-stat/datoria-de-stat-intern%C4%83>

All monthly reports on external debts are available at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/datoria-sectorului-public/rapoarte/datoria-de-stat/datoria-de-stat-extern%C4%83>

Comment:

All reports have the same title with appropriate adjustment of month "Raport privind executarea bugetului de stat la situa?ia din -----"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

b. No

Source:

No

Comment:

No citizens version of the IYRs were identified at Ministry of Finance web page.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: A narrative report is published monthly, which contains data on revenues, expenses, the budget balance and deviations compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Link: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>

IBP Comment

We acknowledge the government reviewer's comment. The additional narrative report that accompanies the monthly IYRs is welcome. Upon further review of the contents of the narrative report, it cannot be considered as a CB without the translation of technical budget documents and financial jargon into language and formats that is more accessible and understandable to ordinary people.

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:

2022

Source:

According to Law no. 181 of 25-07-2014 on public finance art. 47 (1), lit. c) and art.72 (4) the Government until 15 September (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121242&lang=ro).

Comment:

2022 despite being a crisis year, has produced better budgetary documents in comparison to the previous exercise. The MYR 2022, was published on September 2022, and presents macroeconomic estimates, as well as an abridged, but informative and relevant document representing the evolution of the public finance in the first semester of 2022: evolution of the expenditures and revenues in the firsts six month, projections for the rest of the year, revision of the expenditure policies and main issues and how the public budget responded to them.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Answer:

c. More than nine weeks, but less than three months, after the midpoint

Source:

The Ministry of Finance has a dedicated rubric on its website, called "Rapoarte semianuale" - Mid Year Reports: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-semianuale>

Comment:

According to Law no. 181 of 25-07-2014 on public finance art. 47 (1), lit. c) and art.72 (4) the Government until 15 September (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121242&lang=ro).

The MYR and supporting documents were published on September 6 on the site of the Ministry of Finance. In addition the Minister came with a public explanation about the main changes from the budget: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/rectificarea-bugetarã-pe-anul-2022-explicatã-de-ministrul-finanțelor-dumitru-budianschi>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The MYR and supporting documents were presented to the Government on September 6 and published on September 29 on the website of the Ministry of Finance.

Researcher Response

The approved document was indeed published on 29/09/2022 (<https://gov.md/ro/content/guvernul-aprobat-raportul-semianual-privind-executarea-bugetului-public-national-si>). The document that was submitted to the government that the Parliament approved on September 23 (<https://www.parlament.md/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=z17G4mY8lnM%3D&tabid=202&language=ro-RO>), was earlier available on the site at the same category, and published, as the metadata shows it, on September 6.

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

6/9/2022

Source:

The Ministry of Finance has a dedicated rubric on its website, called "Rapoarte semianuale" - Mid Year Reports:

<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-semianuale>.

Comment:

The MYR and supporting documents were published on September 6 on the site of the Ministry of Finance. In addition the Minister came with a public explanation about the main changes from the budget the same week: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/rectificarea-bugetarã-pe-anul-2022-explicatã-de-ministrul-finanțelor-dumitru-budianschi>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Comments: The MYR and supporting documents were published on 29/09/2022 on the site of the Ministry of Finance

Researcher Response

The metadata suggests that the document was published on September 6. It was the exact date it was sent to the Government. The date of validation and adoption of the document is indeed September 29.

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:

It is published before the Government meeting on the governmental portal, all government meetings are online. Document properties of the files contained in the ZIP folder for the MYR 2022 published on the MoF website indicate that the file was last modified on September 6, 2022.

Source:

The MYR 2022 was published on the Ministry of Finance web page on 6 September 2022 at: (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-semianuale>)

By Law, the MYR has to be approved by the Government (Government Cabinet). The document was published on 22 September 2022 (https://gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-guvernului-din-23-septembrie-2022-ora-1100-municipiul-cahul#node_sedinte_online-panel_pane_1-0), the last subject on the agenda, Nr.16, reported by Dumitru Budianschi) on the Government portal, and approved by the Government on 23 September 2022 (<https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/subiect-16-nu-664-mf-2022.pdf>)

Comment:

All documents that are on the Agenda for the Government meetings are published usually one day before the meeting or latest on the same day (as additional Agenda): https://gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-guvernului-din-23-septembrie-2022-ora-1100-municipiul-cahul#node_sedinte_online-panel_pane_1-0

All government meetings are broadcasting live.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: On the site gov.md MYR was published 23.09.2022 (https://gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-guvernului-din-23-septembrie-2022-ora-1100-municipiul-cahul#node_sedinte_online-panel_pane_1-0). The MYR and supporting documents adopted were published on 29/09/2022 on the site of the Ministry of Finance.

Researcher Response

The approved document was indeed published on 29/09/2022 (<https://gov.md/ro/content/guvernul-aprobat-raportul-semianual-privind-executarea-bugetului-public-national-si>). The document that was submitted to the government that the Parliament approved on September 23 (<https://www.parlament.md/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=z17G4mY8InM%3D&tabid=202&language=ro-RO>), was earlier available on the site at the same category, and published, as the metadata shows it, on September 6.

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://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-semianualehttps://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/23764>

Source:

The MYR 2022 was published on the Ministry of Finance web page on 6 September 2022 at: (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/23764>)

By Law, the MYR has to be approved by the Government (Government Cabinet). The document was published on 22 September 2022 (https://gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-guvernului-din-23-septembrie-2022-ora-1100-municipiul-cahul#node_sedinte_online-panel_pane_1-0), the last subject on the agenda, Nr.16, reported by Dumitru Budianschi) on the Government portal, and approved by the Government on 23 September 2022 (<https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/subiect-16-nu-664-mf-2022.pdf>)

Comment:

The MYR is published on two platforms, the Ministry of Finance website and the Government website. Usually, the MoF would publish the document in advance and make the document publicly available before sending it to the Government for review. The document may suffer changes in form and format, and it is published on the Government website the day before the adoption by the Cabinet.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The MYR and supporting documents were published on 29/09/2022 on the site of the Ministry of Finance

Researcher Response

The approved document was indeed published on 29/09/2022 (<https://gov.md/ro/content/guvernul-aprobat-raportul-semianual-privind-executarea-bugetului-public-national-si>). The document that was submitted to the government that the Parliament approved on September 23 (<https://www.parlament.md/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=z17G4mY8lnM%3D&tabid=202&language=ro-RO>), was earlier available on the site at the same category, and published, as the metadata shows it, on September 6.

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:

c. No

Source:

MYR 2022 is published on the Ministry of Finance web page on 6 September 2022 at: (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-semianuale>)

Comment:

The data presented in the informative notes to the MYR is only available in a .pdf format.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The MYR and supporting documents were published on 29/09/2022 on the site of the Ministry of Finance

Researcher Response

The approved document was indeed published on 29/09/2022 (<https://gov.md/ro/content/guvernul-aprobat-raportul-semianual-privind-executarea-bugetului-public-national-si>). The document that was submitted to the government that the Parliament approved on September 23 (<https://www.parlament.md/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=z17G4mY8lnM%3D&tabid=202&language=ro-RO>), was earlier available on the site at the same category, and published, as the metadata shows it, on September 6.

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:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

N/A

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2021/22" or "Mid-Year Report on the 2022 National Budget."

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

Answer:

"Raportul semianual privind executarea bugetului public national si a componentelor acestuia pe anul 2022"

Source:

The MYR, "Raportul semianual privind executarea bugetului public național și a componentelor acestuia pe anul 2022" was published on 22 September 2022 on the Government portal, and approved by the Government on 23 September 2022 (<https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/subiect-16-nu-664-mf-2022.pdf>)

Also, MYR 2022, "Raportul semianual privind executarea bugetului public național și a componentelor acestuia pe anul 2022" is published on the Ministry of Finance web page on 6 September 2022 at: (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-semianuale>)
The Parliament web portal, "Raportul semianual privind executarea bugetului public național și a componentelor acestuia pe anul 2022": https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiqwZiyjLL_AhXkN-wKHZKyAI0QFnoECA0QAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.parlament.md%2FLinkClick.aspx%3Ffileticket%3Dzi7G4mY8InM%253D%26tabid%3D202%26language%3Dro-RO&usg=AOvVaw3N1kevD5MKjukYzjCNZCT

Comment:

The MYR is a document that has been published under the title "Raportul semianual privind executarea bugetului public național și a componentelor acestuia pe anul 2022".

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The MYR and supporting documents were published on 29/09/2022 on the site of the Ministry of Finance

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:

a. Yes

Source:

The Ministry of Finance web portal: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/rectificarea-bugetara-pe-anul-2022-explicata-de-ministrul-finantelor-dumitru-budianschi>

Comment:

The Minister of Finance at the time, Dumitru Budianschi published on the ministry's website a video graphic explaining how the budget evaluated in the first half of the year and how that would affect future expenditures for budget components. The video represents a simple explanation, relevant and done using visual effects.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: b. No

Comments: Suggested answer „b”. In the Commentary, the expert refers to the supplementary budget, but not to the Report on the execution of the national public budget for the first semester of 2022 itself.

Researcher Response

The video is relevant in its structure with elements of the previous evolution and the following changes in the budget. Upon more significant consideration, while core elements from MYR are presented, it is also a presentation of all changes that resulted after the MYR was published, the

so-called rectification. The processes have a parallel timeline, and the rectification results from the MYR, one being impossible at this time of the year without the other.

IBP Comment

Given the additional explanation provided by the Researcher on the presence of core elements of the MYR and its parallel publication timeline, we believe the video can indeed be considered a citizens version of the Mid-Year review. As such, the response remains unchanged.

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:

2021

Source:

According to the law on public finance (nr 181/2014, art 47, (1) lit i) the YER for FY should be approved by the Parliament until 15 July in the next year. (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121242&lang=ro)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

The Parliament website: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6041/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-anuale>

Comment:

The report was available on the Ministry of Finance website on June 1st and Published by the Parliament on June 2nd.

The news of the publication of this document was published in the national news such as Newsmaker.md: <https://newsmaker.md/ro/raportul-privind-executarea-bugetului-de-stat-in-2021-aprobat-de-guvern-ce-venituri-dar-si-cheltuieli-au-fost-inregistrate/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:

1/6/2022

Source:

The Parliament website: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6041/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-anuale>

The Government website: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/extras_21_2.pdf

Comment:

The report was available on the Ministry of Finance website on June 1st and Published by the Parliament on June 2nd.

The news of the publication of this document was published in the national news such as Newsmaker.md: <https://newsmaker.md/ro/raportul-privind-executarea-bugetului-de-stat-in-2021-aprobat-de-guvern-ce-venituri-dar-si-cheltuieli-au-fost-inregistrate/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 publication of the document of widely publicized in the media, discussed in the public Government meeting of the Cabinet Ministers, and referred to the Ministry of Finance website.

Source:

The report was available on the Ministry of Finance website on June 1st: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-anuale>

Published by the Parliament on June 2nd:

<https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6041/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

The news of the publication of this document was published in the national news such as Newsmaker.md: <https://newsmaker.md/ro/raportul-privind-executarea-bugetului-de-stat-in-2021-aprobat-de-guvern-ce-venituri-dar-si-cheltuieli-au-fost-inregistrate/>

Comment:

The Parliament website: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6041/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-anuale>

The Government website: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/extras_21_2.pdf

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-anuale>

Source:

The Parliament website: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6041/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-anuale>

The Government website: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/extras_21_2.pdf

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-anuale>

The Parliament website: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6041/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

Comment:

All relevant documents are in .xls format.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

N/A

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 2022" or "Annual Report 2021 Published by the Ministry of Finance and Planning." If the document is not produced at all, researchers should mark this question "n/a."

Answer:

The name of the YER in Moldova is "RAPORT privind executarea bugetului de stat în anul 2021" as in "REPORT on the execution of the state budget in 2021"

Source:

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-anuale>

The Parliament website: <https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6041/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

Comment:

The name of the YER in Moldova is "RAPORT privind executarea bugetului de stat în anul 2021" as in "REPORT on the execution of the state budget in 2021"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

The Ministry of Finance website: <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Raport%20pentru%20cetățeni%202021.pdf>

Comment:

The YER has a citizen version named "THE REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUDGET FOR CITIZENS FOR THE YEAR 2021"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

FY 2021

Source:

According to the law on public finance nr 181/2014 AR should be produced by the Court of Accounts and presented to the Government and Parliament until 1st June. (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121242&lang=ro)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The Court of Accounts website: https://www.ccrm.md/ro/decision_details/1172/hotararea-nr24-din-30-mai-2022-cu-privire-la-raportul

Comment:

On May 30, 2022, The Court of Accounts Published the Decision no. 24 of May 30, 2022 regarding the Financial Audit Report on the Government Report on the execution of the state budget for 2021.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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

Note that the date of publication is not necessarily the same date that is printed on the document. Researchers should respond to this question if the document is published either within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology or too late.

Please enter the date in the following format: "DD/MM/YYYY." For example, 5 September 2022 should be entered as 05/09/2022. If the document is not published or not produced, leave this question blank.

Answer:
30/5/2022

Source:
The Court of Accounts website: https://www.ccrm.md/ro/decision_details/1172/hotararea-nr24-din-30-mai-2022-cu-privire-la-raportul

Comment:
The Court of Accounts publishes the report on the day of the submission to the Parliament, after consultations with the Ministry of Finance.

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:
According the publication date mentioned on the portal of the institution. Two days later it was discussed in the Parliament with the link to the decision to the Parliament.

Source:
The Court of Accounts website: https://www.ccrm.md/ro/decision_details/1172/hotararea-nr24-din-30-mai-2022-cu-privire-la-raportul

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

Source:

The Court of Accounts website: https://www.ccrm.md/ro/decision_details/1172/hotararea-nr24-din-30-mai-2022-cu-privire-la-raportul

Comment:

On May 30 the Decision no. 24 of May 30, 2022 regarding the Financial Audit Report on the Government Report on the execution of the state budget for 2021, was published.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

Answer:

c. No

Source:

The Court of Accounts website: https://www.ccrm.md/ro/decision_details/1172/hotararea-nr24-din-30-mai-2022-cu-privire-la-raportul

Comment:

The report is published in .pdf and .doc.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

N/A

Source:

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

"Hotărârea nr.24 din 30 mai 2022 cu privire la Raportul auditului financiar asupra Raportului Guvernului privind executarea bugetului de stat pe anul 2021" - Decision no. 24 of May 30, 2022 regarding the Financial Audit Report on the Government Report on the execution of the state budget for 2021.

Source:

The Court of Accounts website: https://www.ccrm.md/ro/decision_details/1172/hotararea-nr24-din-30-mai-2022-cu-privire-la-raportul

Comment:

"Hotărârea nr.24 din 30 mai 2022 cu privire la Raportul auditului financiar asupra Raportului Guvernului privind executarea bugetului de stat pe anul 2021" - Decision no. 24 of May 30, 2022 regarding the Financial Audit Report on the Government Report on the execution of the state budget for 2021.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

b. No

Source:**Comment:****Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GQ-1a asks the researcher to list any government websites or portals where fiscal information can be found. For example, in New Zealand the Treasury website (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/>) hosts important budget-related information, including the Pre-Budget Statement, the Executive's Budget Proposal, the Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, the Mid-Year Review, and the Year-End Report. In addition, New Zealand's Parliamentary Counsel Office (<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>) posts the Enacted Budget while the Controller and Auditor-General website (<http://www.oag.govt.nz/>) publishes the annual Audit Report. The New Zealand researcher would provide the links to each of these sites. Other countries have developed portals that include fiscal information, though not in the "documents" format. For example, these portals have been created by Mexico

(<https://www.transparenciapresupuestaria.gob.mx/>) and Brazil (<http://www.portaltransparencia.gov.br/>). Some countries have both a website and a portal. The Brazilian government, for example, apart from the Transparency Portal, has a dedicated website for the federal budget, where all key documents and other information can be found (<https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/planejamento-e-orcamento/orcamento>). 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:

Ministry of Finance (<http://mf.gov.md/ro>) hosts important budget-related information, including the Pre-Budget Statement, the Executive's Budget Proposal, Enacted Budget, the Citizens Budget, In-Year Reports, the Mid-Year Review, and the Year-End Report. On the Government web page is publishing all materials before the Government meeting, it contains all fiscal documents approved by Government (<https://gov.md/ro/advanced-page-type/sedinte-de-guvern>). The official legal acts site (<https://www.legis.md/>) posts the Pre-Budget Statement after approved by the Government, the Enacted Budget and the annual Audit Report. On the Parliament site (<http://parlament.md/>) the Executive's Budget Proposal and the Enacted Budget. The Court of Accounts site (<http://ccrm.md/>) the annual Audited Report.

Comment:

Some of documents published by the Ministry of Finance are published also on the platform dedicated for the participation in the decision made process (<http://particip.gov.md/>).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Additionally the following website of the Ministry of Finance may be added <https://buget.mf.gov.md/ro>

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 Ministry of Finance provides a platform with actual information on revenues, expenditure and deficit on dedicated platform (<https://buget.mf.gov.md/ro>).

On the Ministry of Finance website, there is available the Catalogue of open data: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/ministerul-finanțelor/catalogul-de-date-deschise-al-ministerului-finanțelor>

Comment:

This is a platform for the visualization of the fiscal data, and data could be downloaded in machine readable format. The Datalogue of Open Data offers actual information on revenues, expenditure, deficit in machine readable format and a disaggregated form.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The Ministry of Finance provides a platform with actual information on revenues, expenditure and deficit on dedicated platform

(<https://buget.mf.gov.md/ro>).

On the Ministry of Finance website, there is available the Catalogue of open data: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/ministerul-finanțelor/catalogul-de-date-deschise-al-ministerului-finanțelor>

Comment:

No comments.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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.

GQ-1d asks the researcher to list any government websites or portals where infographics/visualizations or other similar tools used to simplify data access and analysis are present. For example, in South Africa the Vulekamali portal (<https://vulekamali.gov.za>) is a project by the National Treasury which contains visualizations of the Consolidated Budget Summary, by departments budget, by division of revenue and by infrastructure budget distribution. (See for example <https://vulekamali.gov.za/2022-23/national/departments/basic-education/>). Other countries that have developed portals that include fiscal visualization and graphics include: Brazil's Transparency Portal (<https://portaldatransparencia.gov.br/>), which presents line graphs, bar graphs, pie charts, and visual maps of electronic invoices, public expenditure, public revenue, annual budget, transferred resources, resources transferred by location of beneficiary, among other information. (<https://portaldatransparencia.gov.br/orcamento> and <https://portaldatransparencia.gov.br/transferencias>). Additionally, United States Department of the Treasury, Fiscal Data portal (<https://fiscaldata.treasury.gov/>) is a one-stop shop for federal financial data that uses charts, exhibits, and figures.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

The Ministry of Finance provides a platform with actual information on revenues, expenditure and deficit on dedicated platform:

<https://buget.mf.gov.md/ro>.

On the Ministry of Finance website, there is available the Catalogue of open data: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/ministerul-finanțelor/catalogul-de-date-deschise-al-ministerului-finanțelor>

Comment:

The format is interactive, intuitive and offers data in visual way.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GQ-2 asks about the existence of any national laws governing public financial management and auditing. These may include a public finance act, a section of the constitution, or an organic budget law. In some countries, fiscal responsibility legislation may also be relevant. For example, the Kenya researcher may include the link to its Public Finance Management Act, 2012 (<http://kenyalaw.org:8181/exist/kenyalex/actview.xql?actid=No.%2018%20of%202012>), and the Macedonian researcher may include a link to its State Audit Law (<https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/Audit-law.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 on public finance and fiscal responsibility (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121242&lang=ro#) contains a few provisions regarding transparency: the public finance should be managed under the Principle of transparency, requirements to the Ministry of Finance to publish reports on the state budget executions, also all public entities have obligations to publish their budgets and budget reports (art 21, 23-25, 72, 74). Law on the organization and functioning of the Court of Accounts of the Republic of Moldova no 260/2017 state that Court of Accounts mission is promoting internationally recognized standards on transparency and accountability in public finance management (art 5), also how it should ensure transparency and accountability in its work (art. 10). (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=123538&lang=ro)

Comment:

No comment.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The Law No. 229 of 2010 on Public Internal Financial Control establishes a comprehensive framework for public internal financial control within public entities and Government as a whole. It outlines the principles of good governance and rules for organizing and conducting internal control and internal auditing. The law applies to a broad range of public entities including budgetary authorities, autonomous institutions, and state enterprises, of course to the Ministry of Finance as well. This legislative framework is significant as it provides the legal basis for ensuring budget transparency and accountability in Public Financial Management. (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=135891&lang=ro#)

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. For more information on access to information legislation (constitutional provisions, laws, and regulations), including examples of model laws, see: <https://www.rti-rating.org/country-data/> and <https://www.constituteproject.org/>.

Answer:

a. Yes

Source:

Law no 982/2000 on Access to Information (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=108552&lang=ro). The law regulates the relations between the information providers and citizens and / or legal persons in the process of assuring and implementing the constitutional right of access to information and what are the conditions, ways and modalities of realizing this right.

Law no 239/2008 on transparency in decision-making process (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=106638&lang=ro). This law establishes the applicable rules for ensuring transparency in the decision-making process of the central and local public administration authorities, other public authorities and regulates their relations with the citizens, with the associations formed in accordance with the law, with other stakeholders in order to participate in the decision-making process.

Comment:

No comment.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The Law No. 229 of 2010 on Public Internal Financial Control establishes a comprehensive framework for public internal financial control within public entities and Government as a whole. It outlines the principles of good governance and rules for organizing and conducting internal control and internal auditing. The law applies to a broad range of public entities including budgetary authorities, autonomous institutions, and state enterprises, of course to the Ministry of Finance as well. This legislative framework is significant as it provides the legal basis for ensuring budget transparency and accountability in Public Financial Management. (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=135891&lang=ro#)

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:

Yes, all expenditures are presented by administrative classification, Annex no. 3.1 (from archived document "Proiectul legii bugetului de stat pentru anul 2023") to the budget and Table no. 8 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă") to the Information Note of the law (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by functional classification.

Source:

Yes, expenditures are presented by functional classification, Annex no. 4 (from archived document "Proiectul legii bugetului de stat pentru anul 2021") to the budget and Table no. 6 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă") to the Information Note of the law:
<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

Yes, the functional classification is compatible with international standards.

In the decision of Minister of Finance no. 208 of 24.12.2015 Annex no. 6 is mentioned that functional classification is compatible with COFOG (first paragraph on page 1): https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=126138&lang=ro.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditures are presented by economic classification.

Source:

Yes, expenditures are presented by economic classification, Table no. 4 and Table no. 7(from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă") to the Information Note of the budget law (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The economic classification is compatible with international standards. In the decision of Minister of Finance no. 208 of 24.12.2015 Annex 12 is mentioned that economic classification is elaborated based on GFS 2001 (first paragraph on page 1). (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=126138&lang=ro)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The link from the Source should be replaced with the following: https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=126138&lang=ro

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:

Yes, the programs accounting for all expenditures are presented in Table no. 8 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă") to the Information Note of the budget law, and also in the Annex 3.1 from archived document "Proiectul legii bugetului de stat pentru anul 2023". (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by all three expenditure classifications: by administrative (Table no. 8); economic (Tables no. 4 and 7); and functional classification (Table no. 6) from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă" (as Tables to the Information Note) (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

Answer:

Administrative classification
Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:

Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented by all three expenditure classifications: by administrative (Table no. 8); economic (Tables no. 4 and 7); and functional classification (Table no. 6) from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă" (as Tables to the Information Note) (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

A note for francophone countries: "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as *le plan comptable* or *le plan comptable 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:

Multi-year expenditure estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures are presented in the Table no. 8 from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă" (as Tables to the Information Note) (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

Question 9 assesses the degree to which the individual sources of "tax" revenue are disaggregated in the budget. The largest sources of tax revenue in some

countries are taxes on personal and business income and taxes on goods and services, such as sales or value-added taxes.

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The individual sources of tax revenue accounting for all tax revenue are presented in the Table no. 5 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă") to the Information Note of the law (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The individual sources of non-tax revenue accounting for all non-tax revenue are presented in the Table no. 5 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă") to the Information Note of the law: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The multi-year estimates of revenue are presented by category in the Table no. 4 and 5 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă") to the Information Note of the budget law (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

he multi-year estimates of revenue are presented by category in the Table no. 4 and 5 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă") to the Information Note of the budget law: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

- the amount of net new borrowing required during the entire 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 entire 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 if no information on borrowing and debt is presented for the entire budget year.

Answer:

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

Source:

All three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented in the Information Note to the budget law (page 18, for net new borrowing and page 36 total debt, and page 19 for interest payments) (Nota informativa, <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legi-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

Answer:

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

Source:

All three estimates related to government borrowing and debt are presented in the Information Note to the budget law (page 18-20, for net new borrowing and total debt, and page 36 for interest payments) (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>)

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The Informative Note - Nota Informativa offers succinct, but relevant data is presented on all three core elements: interest rate on debt (page 18), maturity profile of the debt (page 19, and 36), and data on the origin of the debt - domestic or external (page 18, 37). The data also offers a multiannual perspective (2022 - 2026).

<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

Pages 18-19 (both pages) describe the evolution of the state debt in the last year, in comparison with the last year (first paragraph). The same paragraph is describing in short the evolutions for the next three years, in terms of Percentage of GDP, currency, and profile (internal and external), and what will be financed from it (investment projects). The second paragraph describes the maturity and rates, and the financing instruments. It also describes the main changes that occurred: National bonds for 5-7 years will no longer be issued, the MoF deciding on bonds up to three years with fixed and variable interest rate.

Pages 36-37-38 give more details on on how the internal and the external debt will be financed, main partners, currency, maturity and changes.

Also, document "46. Nota Riscuri" to the Informative note zip map "NI cu tabele", from page 16 to page 20) has extensive information on how interest rates on debt, maturity profile, on both domestic and external, has changed compared to the last year, but also the last program on debt management (from 2017 to 2021), and how, depending on several scenarios will evolve.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

Answer:

Interest rates on the debt

Maturity profile of the debt

Whether the debt is domestic or external

Information beyond the core elements (please specify)

Source:

The Informative Note - Nota Informativa offers succinct, but relevant data is presented on all three core elements: interest rated on debt (page 18), maturity profile of the debt (page 19, and 36), and data on the origin of the debt - domestic or external (pages 18, 37). The information beyond the core elements are: the composition of loans in the domestic market; some information on what the debt is being used to finance; an analysis of the risk associated with the debt management. The data also offers a multiannual perspective (2022 - 2026).

<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

Pages 18-19 (both pages) describe the evolution of the state debt in the last year, in comparison with the last year (first paragraph). The same paragraph is describing in short the evolutions for the next three years, in terms of Percentage of GDP, currency, and profile (internal and external), and what will be financed from it (investment projects). The second paragraph describes the maturity and rates, and the financing instruments. It also describes the main changes that occurred: National bonds for 5-7 years will no longer be issued, the MoF deciding on bonds up to three years with fixed and variable interest rate.

Pages 36-37-38 give more details on on how the internal and the external debt will be financed, main partners, currency, maturity and changes.

Also, document "46. Nota Riscuri", from page 16 to page 20) has extensive information on how interest rates on debt, maturity profile, on both domestic and external, has changed compared to the last year, but also the last program on debt management (from 2017 to 2021), and how, depending on several scenarios will evolve.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The core information is presented, (In the Table no. 1 from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă", <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>), and pages 8-18, Nota informativă, <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>. At the same time, the mentioned documents contain important estimates beyond core elements: export and import volumes (trade balance (page 7, 3rd and 4th para), exchange rate (page 7, 2nd para: "Thus the National Bank has risen the base rate to 21.5% and will maintain it for the time being (the budget approval phase)". This rate affects the interest rates which are then charged to customers by the banks)), industrial and agricultural production (3rd to 6th para on page 6), the total amount of wages and average salaries (5th para, page 7).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

Answer:

Nominal GDP level
Inflation rate

Real GDP growth
Interest rates
Information beyond the core elements (please specify)

Source:

The core information is presented, (In the Table no. 1 from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă", <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>), and pages 8-18, Nota informativă, <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>.

Comment:

The mentioned documents contain important estimates beyond core elements: export and import volumes (trade balance (page 7, 3rd and 4th para), interest rate (page 7, 2nd para), industrial and agricultural production (3rd to 6th para on page 6), the total amount of wages and average salaries (5th para, page 7). "46. Tabelul 1" has the following information with comparison from 2020 to estimates to 2025 as follows:

GDP BIL. lei, Exchange rate (average and at the end of the year) for the same period
Consumer price index, Exports, Imports, trade balance, industrial and agricultural production (in comparable prices), investments.

Interest rate is mentioned in the second paragraph, last sentence, after the description of the inflation evolution: "Thus the National Bank has risen the base rate to 21.5% and will maintain it for the time being (the budget approval phase)." The rate of interest that is set by a central bank, and which is the lowest rate at which it lends money to other banks. This rate affects the interest rates which are then charged to customers by the banks.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

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

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

For an example of how a sensitivity analysis may be presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal, see the following:

- *The United States in its 2021 Budget Analytical Perspectives includes a section titled Sensitivity of the Budget to Economic Assumptions along with a table that shows the impact of each economic scenario on revenues, spending, and the deficit. (see pages 16 – 17, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BUDGET-2021-PER/pdf/BUDGET-2021-PER.pdf>).*

- *The Philippines in its 2021 Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF) presents the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions on expenditures, revenue, and debt (see page 131, Table A.6 titled "Budget Sensitivity to Macroeconomic Parameters, 2021," (<https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/BESF/BESF2021/A6.pdf>); pages 12-13, Technical Notes on the 2021 Proposed National Budget (<https://www.dbm.gov.ph/images/pdf/files/Technical-Notes-on-the-2021-Proposed-National-Budget.pdf>).*

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The EBP presents the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions, and contain the core elements and it is structured as:

1. Explicit budgetary-fiscal risks
 - 1.1 Risks associated with macroeconomic forecasts, page 6
 - 1.2 Risks associated with budget revenue estimates, page 11
 - 1.3 Risks, associated with budget expenditure estimates , page13
 - 1.4 Risks associated with the management of the state debt, page 16
2. Implicit budgetary-fiscal risks, page 20
 - 2.1 Risks associated with local budgets, page 20
 - 2.2 Risks associated with state enterprises and commercial companies with full or majority state capital, page 25
 - 2.3 Risks associated with the financial sector, page 52
 - 2.4 State guarantees issued and payments that could be made by the Ministry of Finance, as the guarantor of the State Program "First Home", page 62
 - 2.5 Risks associated with public-private partnership (PPP), page 62
 - 2.6 Other risks, page 77

This information is presented in the document "46 Nota riscuri" from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă", at <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: Suggested answer „c”. The EBP presents the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions, but do not contain sensitivity analysis and are limited to the outlook systemic risks of GDP, revenue, expenditure, and other factors forecast.

Researcher Response

I can't entirely agree with the Government's response, which, if considered, would show that core information is presented to show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions on the budget, in this case awarding a "b" score. While we all agree that thorough analysis is necessary, we can hope that the narrative explanation translates the result of some risk analysis covering the most relevant issues for the year (war, energy crisis, displacement of people affected by war, SOE), and thus the score was considered "a".

IBP Comment

We welcome the comment from the government reviewer. The discussion of risks associated to macroeconomic forecasts and other budget estimates throughout the document is not the same as providing a clear sensitivity analysis. We acknowledge the researcher's finding that the narrative provides information on how possible changes in macroeconomic fundamentals are associated with potential fiscal risks to the budget, and estimates the likelihood of the risk and its impact should the risk occur. However, there is no specific section in the report that provides a sensitivity analysis together with a table that shows the impact of each economic scenario on revenues, spending, and the deficit, as described by the OBS Methodology. For cross-country consistency, the response has been changed from "a" to "b".

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 of the impact of the new policies, 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:

b. Yes, estimates that show how all new policy proposals affect expenditures are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

The informative note presents some information on the amounts allocated and their changes compared to the previous year and the destination of those funds for some of the biggest new policies (pages 45-50: general overview and main changes in the expenditure policies, causes and risks) , 57 - 71 (expenditures by functional classification, main changes by sector, changes compared to the previous year. Although the some of the most important policies are shortly described, not all of them are described in a narrative form), Nota informativa, <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>). Table 7 describes the estimates for new and old policies by economic classification, and Table 13 describes the new and old policies that involve capital expenditures and their share in the budget.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 of the impact of the new policies, 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:

The Information Note to the budget proposal (pages 40-45) contains a list of new taxation policies and the impact of new measures on the revenue stream for the budget. For example, taxes from foreign trade and foreign operations would decrease by more than 300 million LEI, as effect of the modifications 95/2021 to the Customs Code, that are transposing some of the previous agreements of the Free Trade Agreement between Moldova and the EU.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

19. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 19 asks if expenditure estimates for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) are presented by one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-1 by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-1 must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-1 are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by all three expenditure classifications:
By administrative (Table no. 8), economic (Tables no. 4 and 7) and functional classification (Table no. 6) from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa" (as Tables to the Information Note) (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

20. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 20 asks if expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

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

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-1. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-1. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-1.

Source:

Programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-1 in the Table no. 8 from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa" (as Tables to the Information Note) (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

21. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have expenditure estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect actual expenditures?

GUIDELINES:

Question 21 asks whether the expenditure estimates for the year before the budget year (BY-1) have been updated from the original enacted levels. Updates can reflect actual experience to date; revised estimates due to shifting of funds by the executive, as permitted under the law; enactment of supplemental budgets; and revised assumptions regarding macroeconomic conditions, caseload, and other relevant factors for the remainder of the year.

Answer "a" applies if the estimates have been updated; answer "b" applies if the original estimates are still being used.

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels for administrative classification (Table no. 8), economic (Tables no. 4 and 7) and functional classification (Table no. 6) from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa" (as Tables to the Information Note) (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

22. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years) by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 22 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. (See Questions 1-5 above.)

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by any of the three classifications

Answer:

a. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

Comment:

Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-2 are presented by all three expenditure classifications:

By administrative (Table no. 8), economic (Tables no. 4 and 7) and functional classification (Table no. 6) from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa" (as Tables to the Information Note) (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

22b. Based on the response to Question 22, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications have estimates for more than one year prior to the budget year in the Executive Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Economic classification

Functional classification

Source:

Expenditure estimates for BY-2 are presented by all three expenditure classifications:

By administrative (Table no. 8), economic (Tables no. 4 and 7) and functional classification (Table no. 6) from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa" (as Tables to the Information Note) (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>)**Comment:****Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

23. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for more than one year preceding the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 23 asks if expenditure estimates for more than one year before the budget year (BY-2 and prior years) are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department. For example, the Ministry of Health's budget could be broken down into several subgroups, such as "primary health care," "hospitals," or "administration." These subgroups should be considered programs even if they could be, but are not, broken down into smaller, more detailed units.

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

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for BY-2 and prior years. To answer "b," the programs shown individually in the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must account for at least two-thirds of all expenditures for BY-2 and prior years. A "c" answer applies if the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if expenditures are not presented by program.

Answer:

a. Yes, programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:Programs accounting for all expenditures are presented for BY-2 in the Table no. 8 from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa" (as Table to the Information Note): <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>**Comment:****Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

24. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all expenditures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 24 asks for which year the actual outcomes for expenditures are shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated all its expenditure data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

The actual expenditure is presented for two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

By administrative (Table no. 8), economic (Tables no. 4 and 7) and functional classification (Table no. 6) from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă" (as Tables to the Information Note) (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

25. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue by category (such as tax and non-tax) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 are presented by category.

Source:

The revenue estimates for BY-1 are presented by category in the Table no. 4 and 5 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa") to the Information Note of the budget law (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

26. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-1.

Source:

The individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-1 in the Table no. 4 and 5 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa") to the Information Note of the budget law (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

27. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, have the original estimates of revenue for the year prior to the budget year (BY-1) been updated to reflect actual revenue collections?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels.

Source:

The revenue estimates for BY-1 have been updated from the original enacted levels, the Table no. 4 and 5 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa") to the Information Note of the budget law: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

28. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax) for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, revenue estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by category.

Source:

The revenue estimates for BY-2 and prior years are presented by category, the Table no. 4 and 5 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa") to the Information Note of the budget law (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

29. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present individual sources of revenue for more than one year prior to the budget year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

he individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue are presented for BY-2 and prior years, the Table no. 4 and 5 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa") to the Information Note of the budget law: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

30. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all revenues reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Questions 25 through 30 cover the same topics about prior-year information as the previous six questions, only they ask about information provided for revenues rather than expenditures.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

The EBS reflect actual outcomes for all revenues are presented for BY-2 in the Table no. 4 and 5 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa") to the Information Note of the budget law: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

31. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?"

(The core information must include the total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1; the amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1; interest payments on the debt; interest rates on the debt instruments; maturity profile of the debt; and whether it is domestic or external debt.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 31 focuses on prior-year debt information, rather than on prior-year expenditures or revenues, asking whether "core" information is provided on government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1).

The "core" information includes:

- *total debt outstanding at the end of BY-1;*
- *amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1;*
- *interest payments on the debt;*
- *interest rates on the debt instruments;*
- *maturity profile of the debt; and*
- *whether it is domestic or external debt.*

This core information for BY-1 is consistent with the budget year information for borrowing and debt, which is examined in Questions 13 and 14. Please note that for the purposes of this question, the deficit may be accepted as a proxy for net new borrowing.

In addition, some governments provide information beyond the core elements, such as gross new borrowing required during BY-1; currency of the debt; whether the debt carries a fixed or variable interest rate; whether it is callable; a profile of the creditors (bilateral institutions, multilateral institutions, commercial banks, Central Bank, etc.); where appropriate, what the debt is being used to finance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for BY-1 as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to government borrowing and debt, including its composition, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on government borrowing and debt for BY-1.

Answer:

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

Source:

There are presented the total outstanding debt at the end of BY-1, interest payments on the debt, domestic and external debt, amount of net new borrowing required during BY-1, there is also partial information on interest rates on the debt instruments and maturity profile of the debt. (pages 18-19, 37, "Nota informativa", <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

32. In the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes?

GUIDELINES:

Question 32 asks for which year the actual outcome for total debt outstanding is shown. In most cases, the most recent year for which budget data on actual outcomes are available will be BY-2, as BY-1 is generally not yet finished when the budget proposal is drafted. So a government that has updated its debt data for BY-2 to reflect what actually occurred, as opposed to estimating the outcome for that year, shows good public financial management practice.

For an "a" answer, a country must meet the good practice of having the figures for BY-2 reflect actual outcomes.

It is essential that all government activities that may have an impact on the budget – in the current budget year or in future budget years – be fully disclosed to the legislature and the public in budget documents. In some countries, for instance, entities outside central government (such as public corporations) undertake fiscal activities that could affect current and future budgets. Similarly, activities that can have a significant impact on the budget, such as payment arrears and contingent liabilities, sometimes are not properly captured by the regular presentations of expenditure, revenue, and debt.

Answer:

a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).

Source:

The most recent year for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes is BY-2, the Information Note to the budget law (page 22, 36-39, 51-52, "Nota informativa", (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>) and "27. Table 2", starting lines 64 to 90, Chapter III (Deficit/Balance), Chapter IV (Financing sources and instruments) gives the comparisons from 2020 to estimates of 2025.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

33. "Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on extra-budgetary funds for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund; and complete income, expenditure, and financing data on a gross basis.)"

GUIDELINES:

Question 33 focuses on extra-budgetary funds, asking whether "core" information related to these funds, which exist outside the budget, are presented. These core components include:

- *a statement of purpose or policy rationale for the extra-budgetary fund (i.e., why was a particular fund set up? what is it used for?); and*
- *estimates of its income, expenditure, and financing. (These estimates should be presented on a gross basis so that it is possible to tell how much*

money flows through each extra-budgetary fund.)

In most countries, governments engage in certain budgetary activities that are not included in the central government's budget. Known as extra-budgetary funds, they can range in size and scope. For example, countries frequently set up pension and social security programs as extra-budgetary funds, where the revenues collected and the benefits paid are recorded in a separate fund outside the budget. Another example of an extra-budgetary fund can be found in countries dependent on hydrocarbon/mineral resources, where revenues from producing and selling those resources are channeled through systems outside the annual budget.

In some cases, the separation engendered by an extra-budgetary fund serves a legitimate political purpose, and the finances and activities of these funds are well documented. In other cases, however, this structure is used for obfuscation, and little or nothing is known about a fund's finances and activities.

The availability of information related to extra-budgetary funds is essential for a comprehensive understanding of the government's true fiscal position. In addition to the core information, other information about extra-budgetary funds is also desirable. Such information includes a discussion of the risks associated with the extra-budgetary fund; expenditures classified by economic, functional, or administrative unit; and the rules and procedures that govern the operations and management of the extra-budgetary fund.

For more information about extra-budgetary funds, see the *Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget* (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 2.1.1 of the IMF's *Fiscal Transparency Handbook* (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

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

Please provide in the comments a list of all known extra-budgetary funds.

Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all extra-budgetary funds.

Source:

The Information Note to the central budget law ("Nota informativa", <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>) contains information about both funds, including the relationships between them and the central budget (pages 24, 25, 27, 28, 33-35, 89). All core elements are presented (revenue, expenditure, and financing) for both funds, and also the relationship with the central budget and purpose of the transfers from the central budget

Comment:

In the Republic of Moldova, there are 2 extra-budgetary funds (i) Budget for social security fund and (ii) Health care compulsory fund (Funds for compulsory health care) that are managed by the Central Government. Both have their procedures for elaboration and approval, regulated by special laws.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, information beyond the core elements is presented for all extra-budgetary funds.

Comments: Suggested answer a. As both funds have their own budget laws, separately approved by the Government and adopted by the Parliament, comprehensive information on Social security budget and Health care compulsory funds are presented in the budget proposals and supporting budget information to the respective laws (Informative Notes and Tables to the Notes). Official Government site, Government meeting 07.12.2022 <https://gov.md/ro/content/sedinta-guvernului-din-7-decembrie-2022-ora-1500> Official Parliament site <https://www.parlament.md/SesiuniParlamentare/%c5%9eedin%c5%a3eplenare/tabid/128/SittingId/5137/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Researcher Response

Disagree: All the information and documents reported by the Government reviewer are not part of the of EBP 2023 or its supporting documents. According to the OBS methodology, these documents should be part of EBP or any supporting documents.

IBP Comment

We welcome the comment of the government reviewer. However, upon consultation with the researcher, it was confirmed that the additional documents cited were not part of the EBP or any supporting documents. As such, the response remains unchanged.

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, including both revenues and expenditures, 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:

b. No, central government finances are not presented on a consolidated basis.

Source:

No, central government finances are not presented on a consolidated basis. Though, the supporting documents to the EBP presents the consolidated finance on General Budget (but not separately only for Central Government (state budget, Social security budget and Health care compulsory funds) in the information note to the budget law (pages 23-33, 35, 36, "Nota informativa", <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>), and Table 2 and 3 (from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativa" at (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>)).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

35. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of intergovernmental transfers for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 35 asks about intergovernmental transfers. In many cases, the central government supports the provision of a good or service by a lower level of government through an intergovernmental transfer of funds. This is necessary because, independent from the level of administrative decentralization that exists in a given country, the capacity for revenue collection of a local government is unlikely to be sufficient to pay for all its expenses. However, because the activity is not being undertaken by an administrative unit of the central government, it is unlikely to receive the same level of review in the budget. Thus it is important to include in the budget proposal a statement that explicitly indicates the amount and purposes of these transfers.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all intergovernmental transfers and a narrative discussing these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all intergovernmental transfers are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all,

intergovernmental transfers (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of intergovernmental transfers are presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all intergovernmental transfers are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

The information is presented in Annex 7 from archived document "Proiectul legii bugetului de stat pentru anul 2023", and in the Table no. 6 and 7 from archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă" at (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>). Also, a narrative on pages 24, 27, 35, and 77-83 in the "Nota informativa", (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

36. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present alternative displays of expenditures (such as by gender, by age, by income, or by region) to illustrate the financial impact of budget 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:

c. Yes, one alternative display of expenditures is presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.

Source:

Alternative display of expenditures are presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens, starting page 75 to the informative note "Nota Informativa", that describes transfers with special destination, meant to subsidize expenditure for children for food programs, annual support for teachers, support for language programs for minorities and minorities culture and history study, transfers for the financing of high school from the separatist controlled region on the left bank of Nistru territories, transport compensation for persons with disabilities (page 79), compensations for energy expenses (page 80, 20), : <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

36b. Based on the response to Question 36, select the box(es) below to identify which types of alternative displays are included in the Executive's Budget Proposal:

Answer:

Other alternative displays of expenditure (please specify)

Source:

Alternative display of expenditures are presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens, starting page 75 to the informative note "Nota Informativa", that describes transfers with special destination, meant to subsidize expenditure for children for food programs, annual support for teachers, support for language programs for minorities and minorities culture and history study, transfers for the financing of high school from the separatist controlled region on the left bank of Nistru territories, transport compensation for persons with disabilities (page 79), compensations for energy expenses (page 80, 20). Page 20-22 gives a short description on several groups of citizens such as entrepreneurs, public workers : <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

37. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of transfers to public corporations for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 37 asks about transfers to public corporations. It is often the case that governments have a stake in enterprises that manage resources that are

particularly relevant for the public good (such as electricity, water, and oil). While these public corporations can operate independently, in some cases the government will provide direct support by making transfers to these corporations, including to subsidize capital investment and operating expenses.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all transfers to public corporations and a narrative discussing the purposes of these transfers. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all transfers to public corporations are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, transfers to public corporations (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of transfers to public corporations are presented.

Please provide in the comments a list of all known public corporations.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of all transfers to public corporations are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

Yes, estimates of all transfers to public corporations are presented, along with a narrative discussion. The information is presented on pages 25 to 56 in the document "Nota Riscuri", also some information in the Analytical Note "Monitoring IS" regarding the results of monitoring of public companies for 2023 (archived document "Anexa la Nota informativă" (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>). Also, some information is presented on pages 58-59 for some institutions providing public services, fragmented information on the transfers for road construction who's beneficiaries include SOE from the road sector in the Information Note to the budget law ("Nota informativa", (<https://www.mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/NI%20cu%20Tabele.zip>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The list (PDF) of State-owned enterprises can be found in the "Registrul patrimoniului public", category "Subregistrul întreprinderilor de stat și municipale", link: <https://www.app.gov.md/registrul-patrimoniului-public-3-384> The list is too long to be included here.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

No information related to quasi-fiscal activities is presented.
<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

39. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on financial assets held by the government for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a listing of the assets, and an estimate of their value.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 39 focuses on financial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. These core components include:

- A listing of the financial assets; and
- An estimate of their value.

Governments own financial assets such as cash, bonds, or equities. Unlike private sector businesses, however, few governments maintain balance sheets that show the value of their assets and liabilities.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about financial assets, including for example: a discussion of their purpose; historical information on defaults; differences between reported values and market values; and a summary of financial assets as part of the government's balance sheet.

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

Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all financial assets.

Source:

The information on financial assets are presented in the Annex 2 , line 43 (and other annexes) (from archived document "Proiectul legii bugetului de stat pentru anul 2023"), also some information there is presented in the Information Note to the draft budget law on pages 48 and 49 (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>).

The information that is presented is at it follows:

Shares and other forms of capital participation within the country
Other internal claims of the budget
Internal recredited loans between budgets
Recredited loans between the state budget and local budgets
Domestic recredited loans to non-financial and financial institutions
Recredited loans to non-financial institutions
Loans recredited to financial institutions
liability
Domestic debts
Government securities, except shares
State securities issued on the primary market
State securities issued for other purposes
Internal state guarantees
Internal state guarantees
External loans
External loans
Receiving external loans
Repayment of external loans

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: The Annex 2 present annual flows of financial assets, not the list of them. Note on Monitoring of SOE (annex to explanatory Note to the budget) present financial assets for SOE with more than 50% state share holders.

Researcher Response

Indeed, there is a separate list of financial assets and a presentation of the total value of these transactions. I would maintain the score "b", encouraging the MoF to keep working on the disclosure of the subject and acknowledging the efforts made.

IBP Comment

We welcome the comment of the government reviewer. However, upon further validation and consultation with the researcher, we have reconfirmed that Annex 2 presents core information on financial assets held by government. The list can be found on Annex 2 of the EBP together with total values, while additional information and estimates of some of the financial assets are presented in the Information Note to the draft budget law. As such, the score remains unchanged.

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:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all nonfinancial assets.

Source:

In the annexes to the Nota Informativa to EBP, a dedicated document for the financial and non financial assets is provided in the document "47. Nota Monitoring IS 2022", describing assets owned by SOE such as real estate and land, and risks in their management for the next budgetary year (summary of information non-financial assets, a listing of all non-financial assets, estimated values, as well as narrative discussion on gains and losses under the document): <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>

Comment:

The Information Note to the EBP (folder "Ni cu Tabele", document title: "25 Nota informativa semnata"), additional information on non-financial assets held by government are found on page 49: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: Includes only information mentioned in above Note.

Researcher Response

Formally, this note offers comprehensive information on the non-financial assets of SOEs, as mentioned in the researcher's original response. I acknowledge the inputs from the government reviewer. However, given that additional information beyond this core element has been presented, I would then recommend changing the response from "a" to "b". It should be noted that in 2021-2022, an extensive evaluation of all public non-financial assets started at the Public Property Agency, which is responsible for the management, and if finished, might offer up-to-date data for the first time in 30 years.

IBP Comment

Upon further validation and consultation with the researcher, it has been re-confirmed that a detailed listing of non-financial assets, specifically those of state-owned enterprises (SOE), together with comprehensive narrative discussion and analysis of the structure of assets, as well, as significant gains and losses from each respective asset are presented under the document titled "47. Nota Monitoring IS 2022," that is based on the report from the Public Property Agency. However, acknowledging the comment from the government reviewer, since the listing does not include non-financial assets owned by other public entities that are not SOEs, the score is now changed from "a" to "b".

41. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of expenditure arrears for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 41 asks about estimates of expenditure arrears, which arise when government has entered into a commitment to spend funds but has not made the payment when it is due. (For more information see sections 3.49-3.50 of the IMF's GFS Manual 2001, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/qfs/manual/pdf/all.pdf> (page 29)). Though equivalent to borrowing, this liability is often not recorded in the budget, making it difficult to assess fully a government's financial position. Moreover, the obligation to repay this debt affects the government's ability to pay for other activities.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all expenditure arrears and a narrative discussing the arrears. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all expenditure arrears are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, expenditure arrears (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "d" applies if no estimates of expenditure arrears are presented. Answer "d" also applies if information is only available for the changes in arrears, and not the stock or balance of arrears.

If expenditure arrears do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question.

Public expenditure management laws and regulations often will allow for reasonable delays, perhaps 30 or 60 days, in the routine payment of invoices due. Expenditure arrears impacting a small percentage of expenditure that are due to contractual disputes should not be considered a significant problem for the purpose of answering this question.

Answer:

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

Source:

No, estimates of expenditure arrears are not presented (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2021-0>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

42. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on contingent liabilities, such as government loan guarantees or insurance programs, for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability; the new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments (the gross exposure) at the end of the budget year.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 42 focuses on contingent liabilities, asking whether "core" information related to these liabilities is presented. These core components include:

- a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each contingent liability;
- the new contingent liabilities for the budget year, such as new guarantees or insurance commitments proposed for the budget year; and
- the total amount of outstanding guarantees or insurance commitments at the end of the budget year. This reflects the gross exposure of the government in the case that all guarantees or commitments come due (even though that may be unlikely to occur).

Contingent liabilities are recognized under a cash accounting method only when the contingent event occurs and the payment is made. An example of such liabilities is the case of loans guaranteed by the central government, which can include loans to state-owned banks and other state-owned commercial enterprises, subnational governments, or private enterprises. Under such guarantees, government will only make a payment if the borrower defaults. Thus a key issue for making quantitative estimates of these liabilities is assessing the likelihood of the contingency occurring.

In the budget, according to the OECD, "[w]here feasible, the total amount of contingent liabilities should be disclosed and classified by major category reflecting their nature; historical information on defaults for each category should be disclosed where available. In cases where contingent liabilities cannot be quantified, they should be listed and described."

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about contingent liabilities, including for example: historical default rates for each program, and likely default rates in the future; the maximum guarantee that is authorized by law; any special financing associated with the guarantee (e.g., whether fees are charged, whether a reserve fund exists for the purpose of paying off guarantees, etc.); the duration of each guarantee; and an estimate of the fiscal significance and potential risks associated with the guarantees.

For more details on contingent liabilities, see *Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget* (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and page 59 (Box 11) and Principle 3.2.3 of the IMF's *Fiscal Transparency Handbook* (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

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

Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented for all contingent liabilities.

Source:

Two documents describe contingent liabilities, "45 Nota Riscuri" and "46 Nota IS 2022", describing the risks to all budget components, depending on the main short term and middle term risk, identified by the Ministry of Finance depending on the geopolitical, internal situation. The cost of energy and the war in Ukraine have been heavily affected the expenditure, reshaping priorities. These documents offer scenarios as to how the PFF will react to the risks:

<https://www.mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/NI%20cu%20Tabele.zip>

<https://www.mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Proiect%20lege%202023%20BS%20RO.zip>

Comment:

Introduction, page 3

1. Explicit budgetary-fiscal risks, page 6

1.1 Risks associated with macroeconomic forecasts, page 6

1.2 Risks associated with budget revenue estimates, page 11

1.3 Risks, associated with budget expenditure estimates, page 13

1.4 Risks associated with the management of the state debt, page 16"

"2. Implicit budgetary-fiscal risks, page 20

2.1 Risks associated with local budgets, page 20

2.2 Risks associated with state enterprises and commercial companies with full or majority state capital page 25

2.3 Risks associated with the financial sector, page 52

2.4 State guarantees issued and payments that could be made by the Ministry of Finance, as the guarantor of the "First Home" State Program, page 62

2.5 Risks associated with public-private partnership (PPP), page 62

2.6 Other risks, page 77.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: We suggest: a) to complete the Source with following text: Some information is presented on page 37 in the Information Note to the budget law. b) to exclude from the Comment: „page 6 1.1 Risks associated with macroeconomic forecasts, page 6 1.2 Risks associated with budget revenue estimates, page 11 1.3 Risks, associated with budget expenditure estimates”

Researcher Response

Updated response: Two documents describe contingent liabilities, "45 Nota Riscuri" and "46 Nota IS 2022", describing the risks to all budget components, depending on the main short term and middle term risk, identified by the Ministry of Finance depending on the geopolitical, internal situation. The cost of energy and the war in Ukraine have been heavily affected the expenditure, reshaping priorities. These documents offer scenarios as to how the PFF will react to the risks: <https://www.mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/NI%20cu%20Tabele.zip>
<https://www.mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Proiect%20lege%202023%20BS%20RO.zip> Some information is presented on page 37 in the Information Note to the budget law.

43. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present projections that assess the government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer term?

(The core information must cover a period of at least 10 years and include the macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used and a discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 43 focuses on government's future liabilities and the sustainability of its finances over the longer-term, asking whether "core" information related to these issues is presented. These core components must include:

- *Projections that cover a period of at least 10 years.*
- *The macroeconomic and demographic assumptions used in making the projections.*
- *A discussion of the fiscal implications and risks highlighted by the projections. Good public financial management calls for budgets to include fiscal sustainability analyses.*

The IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) ([https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml](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:

Two documents describe future liabilities, "45 Nota Riscuri" and "46 Nota IS 2022", describing the risks to all budget components, depending on the main short term and middle term risk, identified by the Ministry of Finance depending on the geopolitical, internal situation. The cost of energy and the war in Ukraine have been heavily affected the expenditure, reshaping priorities. These documents offer scenarios as to how the PFF will react to the risks:

<https://www.mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/NI%20cu%20Tabele.zip>

<https://www.mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Proiect%20lege%202023%20BS%20RO.zip>"Introduction page 3"

1. Explicit budgetary-fiscal risks, page 6
 - 1.1 Risks associated with macroeconomic forecasts, page 6
 - 1.2 Risks associated with budget revenue estimates, page 11
 - 1.3 Risks, associated with budget expenditure estimates, page 13
 - 1.4 Risks associated with the management of the state debt, page 16"
- "2. Implicit budgetary-fiscal risks, page 20
 - 2.1 Risks associated with local budgets, page 20
 - 2.2 Risks associated with state enterprises and commercial companies with full or majority state capital page 25
 - 2.3 Risks associated with the financial sector, page 52
 - 2.4 State guarantees issued and payments that could be made by the Ministry of Finance, as the guarantor of the "First Home" State Program, page 62
 - 2.5 Risks associated with public-private partnership (PPP), page 62
 - 2.6 Other risks, page 77.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: All information is medium term.

Researcher Response

I agree with the estimation of the Government. Indeed, the actual projections are at most five years. The score has changed to the government recommendation.

IBP Comment

We welcome and acknowledge the comment from the government reviewer. Upon further validation together with the researcher, we have confirmed that the EBP does not provide projections that cover a period of at least 10 years. As such, the response is now changed to "d."

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:

There is some information on some particular sources of donor assistance (for ex., on pages 60-61 in Information Note to the budget law ("Nota informativa", (<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/1.%20Nota%20informativa.pdf>)), but not all sources.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

45. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on tax expenditures for at least the budget year?

(The core information must include a statement of purpose or policy rationale for each tax expenditure, the intended beneficiaries, and an estimate of the revenue foregone.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 45 focuses on tax expenditures, asking whether "core" information related to these tax preferences is presented. These core components must include for both new and existing tax expenditures:

- *a statement of purpose or policy rationale;*
- *a listing of the intended beneficiaries; and*
- *an estimate of the revenue foregone.*

Tax expenditures arise as a result of exceptions or other preferences in the tax code provided for specified entities, individuals, or activities. Tax expenditures often have the same impact on public policy and budgets as providing direct subsidies, benefits, or goods and services. For example, encouraging a company to engage in more research through a special tax break can have the same effect as subsidizing it directly through the expenditure side of the budget, as it still constitutes a cost in terms of foregone revenues. However, expenditure items that require annual authorization are likely to receive more scrutiny than tax breaks that are a permanent feature of the tax code.

Beyond the core information, some governments may also provide other information about tax expenditures, including for example: the intended beneficiaries by sector and income class (distributional impact); a statement of the estimating assumptions, including the definition of the benchmark against which the foregone revenue is measured; and a discussion of tax expenditures as part of a general discussion of expenditures for those program areas that receive both types of government support (in order to better inform policy choices). For more details on tax expenditures, see *Guide to Transparency in Public Finances: Looking Beyond the Core Budget* (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Looking-Beyond-the-Budget.pdf>) and Principle 1.1.4 of the IMF's *Fiscal Transparency Handbook* (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>).

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

Answer:

d. No, information related to tax expenditures is not presented.

Source:

No information on tax expenditure is presented: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Starting with 2022 the Ministry of Finance started to produce the following the document „Raport de evaluare a facilităților fiscale” (May 2022), which may be access: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/rapoarte-2>

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 individual earmarked revenues and a narrative discussing the earmarks. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all individual 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:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all earmarked revenues are presented.

Source:

Starting page 44 to page 45 presents information that the portability tax of 5.4million lei and the airport tax of 99.8 million, together with voluntary donations of 118.9 million are intended to finance the Population Support Fund. It also presents that transfer to the state budget from local budgets are foreseen for the implementation of projects finances from external sources (FISM, IFAD VIII, construction of social housing). <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0>.

Comment:

It excludes though a description of the financing of the Road Fund and allocation by Local Public Authority.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: Suggested answer „b”. Earmarked revenues are part of State Budget, and detailed estimation on specific earmarked revenue is presented in Annex nr.3.2 (Annex to the State Budget Law for the year 2023 no. 359/2022 ” at (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>)).

Researcher Response

Per the World Bank’s definition, earmarking revenue is considered as assigning revenue from specific sources to specific purposes. While Annex 3.2 presents the resources that are allocated by the administrative unit and the sources of revenue (general budgetary resources, revenues from diverse services provided by the administrative unit, and external funding), it does not represent the earmarked revenues, such as portability tax of 5.4million lei and the airport tax of 99.8 million, together with voluntary donations of 118.9 million are intended to finance the Population Support Fund. Or the recommend to maintain the same score.

IBP Comment

We welcome the government reviewer’s comment. However, the additional evidence cited leads to an annex to the Enacted Budget, and not the EBP, which is the document being assessed under this question. In any case, it is helpful to note that the annex cited by the government only lists the approved budget under each administrative institution, but it still does not provide any information on policies related to specific taxes being used for specific purpose/s, which is what is being specifically being asked under this question. As such, the response remains unchanged.

47. Does the Executive’s Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present information on how the proposed budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to government’s policy goals for the budget year?**GUIDELINES:**

Questions 47 and 48 ask about information that shows how the budget (both new proposals and existing policies) is linked to the government’s policy goals. The budget is the executive’s main policy document, the culmination of the executive’s planning and budgeting processes. Therefore, it should include a clear description of the link between policy goals and the budget – that is, an explicit explanation of how the government’s policy goals are reflected in its budget choices. For an example of a discussion of a government’s policy goals in the budget, see pages 13-18 of New Zealand’s 2011 Statement of Intent (<http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/abouttreasury/soi/2011-16>), one of the many documents supporting its budget.

In some countries the government prepares strategic/development plans. These plans include all the policies the government is planning to implement for the budget year and very often cover a multi-year perspective. In some cases, these plans do not match the budget documentation, and it is possible that they are completely disconnected from the Executive’s Budget Proposal. So the question is examining whether government policy plans are “translated” into revenue and expenditure figures in the actual budget documents.

Question 47 asks about the information covering the budget year, and Question 48 asks about the period at least two years beyond the budget year. To answer “a,” the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present both estimates of how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals for the budget year (for Question 47) or for a multi-year period beyond the budget year (for Question 48) and a narrative discussion of how these policy goals are reflected in the budget. To answer “b” for either question, the Executive’s Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present estimates that show how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals, but no narrative discussion is included. A “c” response applies if the presentation includes only a narrative discussion, or if it includes estimates that show how the budget is linked to some, but not all, of the government’s policy goals (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer “d” applies if no information is presented on how the budget is linked to government’s policy goals.

Answer:

a. Yes, estimates that show how the proposed budget is linked to all the government’s policy goals for the budget year are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Source:

The Informative Note, "Nota Informativa" to the EB describes in a narrative form the majority of policies and their budget representations, the expenditure policies (45 - 77), the revenue policies (39-45) but "28 Tabelul 3", " 29 Tabelul 4", " 31 Tabelul 6" to the Proposal have full estimates. (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>).

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

b. Yes, estimates that show how the proposed budget is linked to all the government's policy goals for a multi-year period are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

The Informative Note, "Nota Informativa" to the EBP describes in a narrative form the majority of policies and their budget representations, the expenditure policies (45 - 77), the revenue policies (but only " 28 Tabelul 3", " 29 Tabelul 4", " 31 Tabelul 6" to the Proposal have full estimates (<https://www.mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/NI%20cu%20Tabele.zip>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

49. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on inputs to be acquired for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 49 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on inputs for the budget year. (Nonfinancial data on outputs and outcomes are addressed in Question 50.)

The budget should disclose not only the amount of money that is being allocated on a program but also any information needed to analyze that expenditure. Nonfinancial data and performance targets associated with budget proposals are used to assess the success of a given policy. For example, even when

allocated funds are spent according to plan, there remains the question of whether the policy delivered the results that it aimed to achieve.

Nonfinancial data can include information on:

Inputs - These are the resources assigned to achieve results. For example, in regards to education, nonfinancial data on inputs could include the number of books to be provided to each school or the materials to be used to build or refurbish a school.

Outputs - These are products and services delivered as a result of inputs. For example, the number of pupils taught every year; the number of children that received vaccines; or the number of beneficiaries of a social security program.

Outcomes - These are the intended impact or policy goals achieved. For example, an increase in literacy rates among children under 10, or a reduction in rates of maternal mortality.

In addition, governments that set performance targets must use nonfinancial data for outputs and outcomes to determine if these targets have been met.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on inputs for each individual program is organized by functions. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on inputs for all administrative units or all functions, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on inputs are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on inputs is presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, nonfinancial data on inputs are provided for each program within all administrative units (or functions).

Source:

The map "Informative Note" to the EBP has over 48 documents annexed, but also a separate map containing all 22 budget programs: (<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Proiect%20HG%20BS%202023.zip>, map "Programe"), describing the authority, the function and the expenditure time, as well the non financial indicators. Although the quality of the programs varies, it is noticeable that the programs are published since 2017:

[https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0,](https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-0)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

50. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present nonfinancial data on results (in terms of outputs or outcomes) for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 50 asks about the availability of nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 49).

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present, for at least the budget year, nonfinancial data on results for each individual program within all administrative units (ministries, departments, and agencies). It is also acceptable if nonfinancial data on results for each individual program is organized by functional classification. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present nonfinancial data on results for all administrative units or all functional classifications, but not for each individual program (or even for any programs) within those administrative units or functions. A "c" response applies if nonfinancial data on results are presented only for some programs and/or some administrative units or some functions. Answer "d" applies if no nonfinancial data on results is presented.

Answer:

a. Yes, nonfinancial data on results are provided for each program within all administrative units (or functions).

Source:

The map "Informative Note" to the EBP has over 48 documents annexed, but also a separate map containing all 22 budget programs, describing the

authority, the function and the expenditure time, as well the non financial indicators:
<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Proiect%20HG%20BS%202023.zip>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

51. Are performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results in the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation?

GUIDELINES:

Question 51 asks about performance targets assigned to nonfinancial data on results for the budget year. The question applies to those nonfinancial results shown in the budget, and that were identified for purposes of Question 50.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to all nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget for at least the budget year. To answer "b," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must assign performance targets to a majority (but not all) of the nonfinancial data on results shown in the budget. A "c" response applies 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:

b. Yes, performance targets are assigned to most nonfinancial data on results.

Source:

The map "Informative Note" to the EBP has over 48 documents annexed, but also a separate map containing all 22 budget programs, describing the authority, the function and the expenditure time, as well the non financial indicators. Although the quality of the programs varies, it is a noticeable that the programs have performance targets assigned to some of the non financial indicators.

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Proiect%20HG%20BS%202023.zip>

Comment:

An evolution from the last evaluation.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

52. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations in at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 52 asks whether the budget highlight policies, both new and existing, that benefit the poorest segments of society. This question is intended to assess only those programs that directly address the immediate needs of the poor, such as through cash assistance programs or the provision of housing, rather than indirectly, such as through a stronger national defense. This information is of particular interest to those seeking to bolster government's commitment to anti-poverty efforts. For purposes of answering this question, a departmental budget (such 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:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations are presented.

Source:

The Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation does not contain an overall amount of allocations for all most impoverished categories and also doesn't present for all policies how these persons will benefit. The Information Note ("Nota informativa", (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>) to the budget law contains social protection allocations dedicated to some impoverished population groups (71-74 pages, for example for unemployed persons, vulnerable population that would need support during the energy crisis.).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

53. Does the executive release to the public its timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal (that is, a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 53 asks about the budget timetable. An internal timetable is particularly important for the executive's management of the budget preparation process, in order to ensure that the executive accounts for the views of the different departments and agencies in the proposed budget. The timetable would, for instance, set deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. So that civil society is aware of the various steps in the budget formulation process, and when opportunities may exist to engage the executive, it is essential that this timetable be made available to the public.

To answer "a," the executive must prepare a detailed budget timetable and release it to the public. A "b" answer applies if the timetable is made public, but some details are not included. A "c" response applies if the timetable is made public, but many important details are excluded, reducing its value for those outside government. Answer "d" applies if no timetable is made available to the public. As long as a timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal is released, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Executive's Budget Proposal is not made publicly available.

Answer:

a. Yes, a detailed timetable is released to the public.

Source:

Formally there is a detailed timetable released to the public. But, the Government doesn't respect it for years, although the delays were numbered in less than a week than the legal deadlines. The law on public finance (nr 181/2014) contains the general timetable for the budget process (art 47, https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=125237&lang=ro#). Also, Ministry of Finance issued the methodological set regarding the elaboration, approval and modification of the budget (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=105131&lang=ro#) (page 18), which contains detailed timetable regarding steps and stages of the budgetary process.

To meet the agenda stipulated in the law, the Ministry of Finance issued annually instructions ("Circulara Bugetara 2022-2024") for both central government (APC) and local authorities (APL) and published them on the MoF website (<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Circulara%20bugetara%20APC%202022-2024.zip>, the .pdf document "Circulara_CBTM_buget_2022-2024.pdf"). These documents contain one deadline for all central authorities and several deadlines for local authorities also intermediary steps to achieve the deadlines stipulated in the law on public finance, with a dedicated paragraph from the Minister detailing the importance of respecting these dates.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

54. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?

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

GUIDELINES:

Question 54 focuses on the macroeconomic forecast that underlies the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to the economic assumptions is presented. These core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates of the following:

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

The PBS presents the core components include a discussion of the economic outlook as well as estimates in the document .pdf "24674-redactat-ro.pdf", Chapter II. Macroeconomic outlook of the following: nominal GDP level; inflation rate; real GDP growth and interest rates.

The government provides additional information related to the economic outlook, including for: regional economic outlook (page 4), 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 details on the composition of GDP growth (pages 9 - 11), "Annex 1. Macroeconomic forecast" page 30 of the same document.

<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/documente%20relevante/CBTM%202023%202025.zip>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

55. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities and an estimate of total expenditures.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 55 focuses on the government's expenditure policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total expenditures.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed programmatic proposals (such detailed information is typically only presented in the budget itself), it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least total expenditures associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can include some detail, for instance, estimates provided by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

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

Source:

The Pre-Budget Statement presents information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities (pages 18-27), estimates on total expenditure (page 20, Table 3.4), and estimates by functional classification (page 24 "Tabelul 4.2", page 32 "Anexa 2.11", page 36 "Anexa 2.1.2") at: <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/documente%20relevante/CBTM%202023%202025.zip>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

56. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's revenue policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of revenue policies and priorities and an estimate of total revenues.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 56 focuses on the government's revenue policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of revenue policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total revenue.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed revenue proposals, it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least the total revenue associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can also include more detail, for instance, with estimates provided by revenue category – tax and non-tax – or some of the major individual sources of revenue, such as the Value Added Tax or the income tax.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

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

Source:

Pre-Budget Statement presents information on the government's revenue policies (pages), estimates on total revenue (page 13-17, Table 3.3), and estimates by economic, functional classification (Anexa 2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2) at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/buget/cadrul-bugetar-pe-termen-mediu>.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

57. Does Pre-Budget Statement present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 57 asks whether the Pre-Budget Statement includes three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

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

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

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

Interest payments on the debt (or debt service costs) are typically made at regular intervals, and these payments must be made on a timely basis in order to

avoid defaulting on the debt obligation. Interest payments are separate from the repayment of principal, which occurs only when the loan has matured and must be paid back in full.

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt for at least the upcoming budget year. For a "b" answer, the Pre-Budget Statement must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the PBS must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the PBS.

Answer:

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

Source:

The Pre-Budget Statement presents all three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year (pages 19-23, and Anexa 2.2.1 (page 46)); the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year (pages 19-20, Table 3.4); and interest payments on the debt for the budget year (pages 21-23, Table 3.5, Table 2.2.1 (page 53)).19 - 24

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

58. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present estimates of total expenditures for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 58 asks about multi-year expenditure estimates in the Pre-Budget Statement.

To answer "a," expenditure estimates for at least two years beyond the upcoming budget year must be presented. The estimates must be for at least total expenditures, but could include more detail than just the aggregate total.

Answer:

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

Source:

A multi-year expenditure estimates are presented, for two additional years (page 18- 23, Table 3.3 - 3.6, page 46, Anexa 2.2.1), at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/buget/cadrul-bugetar-pe-termen-mediu>.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

59. Does the Enacted Budget present expenditure estimates by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 59 asks if expenditure estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of the three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications.

Answer:

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

Source:

The Enacted Budget presents expenditure estimates by two expenditure classifications: by administrative (Annex 3.1), functional (Annex 4) in the map "1 Proiect", and for the economic classification the data is presented in "29 Tabelul 4", "30 Tabelul 5", the functional classification "31 Tabelul 6", the administrative - "33 Tabelul 8" and "34 Table 9", all this in the map " Nota Informativa" to the budget law:

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

59b. Based on the response to Question 59, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Enacted Budget:

Answer:

Administrative classification

Functional classification

Economic classification

Source:

The Enacted Budget presents expenditure estimates by two expenditure classifications: by administrative (Annex 3.1), functional (Annex 4) in the map "1 Proiect", and for the economic classification the data is presented in "29 Tabelul 4", "30 Tabelul 5", the functional classification "31 Tabelul 6", the administrative - "33 Tabelul 8" and "34 Table 9", all this in the map " Nota Informativa" to the budget law:

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

The Enacted Budget presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures, Annex 3.1 to the budget law at: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>, also in the sub-map "Programme" to the "Nota Informativa" map: <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Proiect%20HG%20BS%202023.zip>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

61. Does the Enacted Budget present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 61 asks whether revenue estimates in the Enacted Budget are presented by "category"—that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

"30 Tabelul 5" to the "Nota informativa" (<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Proiect%20HG%20BS%202023.zip>) to the Budget Law presents revenue estimates by category at: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023> (general link). "4 Anexa 2" in the map "Proiect" also presents estimated by category for the revenues.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

62. Does the Enacted Budget present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 62 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Enacted Budget. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

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

Answer:

a. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

"30 Tabelul 5" to the "Nota informativa" (<https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Proiect%20HG%20BS%202023.zip>) to the Budget Law presents revenue estimates by category for all revenue categories: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023> (general link). "4 Anexa 2" in the map "Proiect" also presents estimated by category for the revenues, but in a more aggregated form.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue.

Researcher Response

According to the existing documents provided by the Ministry of Finance, specifically "30 Tabelul 5," it is apparent that information is presented for all individual sources of revenues. Even under "4 Anexa 2," where revenue information are presented in a more aggregated manner, there is individual information presented for 99% of all revenue categories. Less than 3% of the total revenues are presented as "other unidentified" revenues. Therefore, I would consider keeping the "a" score.

IBP Comment

We welcome the government reviewer's comment. However, upon further validation, we uphold the researcher's original assessment. There is complete presentation of all individual sources of revenue under the "30 Tabelul 5". Even Other Incomes are further disaggregated and qualified. As such, the response remains unchanged.

63. Does the Enacted Budget present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 63 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year;
- the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year;
- the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year.

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

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

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

To answer "a," the Enacted Budget must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, the Enacted Budget must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the Enacted Budget must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the Enacted Budget.

Answer:

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

Source:

The Enacted Budget presents (i) the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year "3 Annex 1 RO", lines 16-24, from the map "Proiect" (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>) to the budget law; (ii) the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year (art. 8, law no 359 of 22/12/2022, https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136128&lang=ro); (iii) the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year ("45 Tabelul 20, Column I (Rata Dobanzii" for the external financing and "44 Tabelul 19" for the internal financing of the debt, from the map "Nota Informativa": <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/bugetul-de-stat-2023>, the budget law (EB 2023) no 359 of 22/12/2022 at https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136128&lang=ro

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

64. What information is provided in the Citizens Budget?

(The core information must include expenditure and revenue totals, the main policy initiatives in the budget, the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based, and contact information for follow-up by citizens.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 64 focuses on the content of the Citizens Budget, asking whether "core" information is presented. These core components include:

- *expenditure and revenue totals;*
- *the main policy initiatives in the budget;*
- *the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget is based; and*
- *contact information for follow-up by citizens.*

To answer "a," the Citizens Budget or supporting documentation must present all of the above core information as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," the Citizens Budget must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if the Citizens Budget includes some of the core components above, but other core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if a Citizens Budget is not published.

Answer:

a. The Citizens Budget provides information beyond the core elements.

Source:

The Citizens Budget provides (i) information on expenditure and revenue totals (page 1), (ii) the main government's policies (page 1 and 3), (iii) macroeconomic forecast (page 2), (iv) contact information for follow-up by citizens (page 18), and other information, for ex. sectorial priorities and non-financial indicators. (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/categoria-documentului/citizens-budget>).

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

65. How is the Citizens Budget disseminated to the public?**GUIDELINES:**

Question 65 asks how the Citizens Budget is disseminated to the public. Citizens Budgets should be made available to a variety of audiences. Therefore paper versions and an Internet posting of a document might not be sufficient.

To answer "a," the executive must use three or more different types of creative media tools to reach the largest possible share of the population, including those who otherwise would not normally have access to budget documents or information. Dissemination would also be pursued at the very local level, so that the coverage is targeted both by geographic area and population group (e.g., women, elderly, low income, urban, rural, etc.). Option "b" applies if significant dissemination efforts are made through a combination of two means of communications, for instance, both posting the Citizens Budget on the executive's official website and distributing printed copies of it. Option "c" applies if the Citizens Budget is disseminated through only posting on the executive's official website. Option "d" applies when the executive does not publish a Citizens Budget.

Answer:

b. A Citizens Budget is published by using at least two, but less than three, means of dissemination, but no other dissemination efforts are undertaken by the executive.

Source:

The Citizens versions of the Enacted Budget was published on the

1) Ministry's website, <https://mf.gov.md/ro/categoria-documentului/citizens-budget>, as well as on the websites:

2) Fisc.md at : <https://monitorul.fisc.md/editorial/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022.html/>

3) BizLaw.md at: <https://www.bizlaw.md/bugetul-pentru-cetateni-pentru-anul-2022>

However this is only online, and it might limit the access to budget information for the elderly as well the disenfranchised . Understanding the efforts that the Ministry of Finance made, it is still not sufficient for a wider distribution of the document.

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. A Citizens Budget is published by using at least two, but less than three, means of dissemination, but no other dissemination efforts are undertaken by the executive.

Comments: In addition to above mentioned sources, the .printed version of the "Citizens Budget 2022" document was produced and disseminated to the young people who participated in the financial education activities organized by the Ministry of Finance during 2022.

Researcher Response

That is true, and I would upgrade the score to "b." I recommend in the future, in these cases, that the MoF publish on its website the materials that were presented during these programs, not only to have proof of dissemination but also to contribute to budgetary education in the future.
<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/promovam-educaiia-financiar-alaturandu-ne-campaniei-international-global-money-week-2023?language=ro>

IBP Comment

We welcome and acknowledge the comment provided by the government reviewer. Upon additional validation by the researcher of the additional information provided, the response has now been changed from "c" to "b".

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:

No, the executive has not established any mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information in the Citizen's Budget. Citizens versions of the Enacted Budget (2022: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/buget/transparența-bugetară/bugetul-pentru-cetățeni>)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

67. Are "citizens" versions of budget documents published throughout the budget process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 67 asks if "citizens" versions of budget documents are published throughout the budget process. While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle.

To answer "a," a citizens version of at least one budget document is published for each of the four stages of the budget process (budget formulation, enactment, execution, and audit) – for a total of at least four citizens budget documents throughout the process. Option "b" applies if a citizens version of a

budget document is published for at least two of the four stages of the budget process. Option "c" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least one of the four stages of the budget process. Select option "d" if no "citizens" version of budget documents is published.

Answer:

b. A citizens version of budget documents is published for at least two of the four stages of the budget process.

Source:

The Ministry of Finance the Citizens Budget version of the Enacted Budget on December 24, 2022 at: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/ministerul-finanțelor-publicat-bugetul-pentru-cetățeni-pentru-anul-2022>

Another CB for the YER 2021 was produced, the document being published on June 9, 2022 on the Ministry of Finance web portal: <https://mf.gov.md/sites/default/files/Raport%20pentru%20cetățeni%202021.pdf>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: A citizens version of the budget was published for both budget enactment and budget execution.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

68. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 68 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above.

Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," actual expenditures must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if actual expenditures are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by any of the three classifications in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

b. Yes, the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

The In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by two of the three expenditure classifications: economic and functional (an example for September 2022 , <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/24493>, "Raport privind executarea bugetului de stat la 30.09.2022.xlsx").

All the In-Year Reports are presented at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

68b. Based on the response to Question 68, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the In-Year Reports:

Answer:

Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:

The In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by two expenditure classifications: economic and functional (as an example for September 2022 ,<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/24493>).

All the In-Year Reports are presented at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

69. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 69 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

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

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by program in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

d. No, the In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by program.

Source:

No, the In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by program. All the In-Year Reports are presented at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

70. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date expenditures with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 70 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual expenditures to-date with either the enacted levels or actual expenditures for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date expenditures in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast expenditures (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports

Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

The In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date expenditures with the same period in the previous year, and with the annual estimate according Enacted Budget (as an example, September 2022 <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23973>). All the In-Year Reports are presented at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

The In-Year Reports present actual revenue by category (as an example, September 2022, <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23973>). All the In-Year Reports are presented at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

72. Do In-Year Reports present the individual sources of revenue for actual revenues collected?

GUIDELINES:

Question 72 asks whether In-Year Reports present actual collections of individual sources of revenue (such as income taxes, VAT, etc.). The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for all individual sources of revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual collections for individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue collected, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue that account for less than two-thirds of all revenue collected. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of actual revenue are not presented.

Answer:

b. Yes, In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue.

Source:

In-Year Reports present individual sources of actual revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue (as an example, September 2022, <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23973>). All the In-Year Reports are presented at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>.

Comment:

See Table " Raport privind executarea bugetului de stat la situația din 31 septembrie 2022" , line 18 Other property taxes (42 MIL. LEI), Line 33 Other taxes for goods and services (1,049 MIL. LEI), and Line 36 Other taxes on foreign trade and foreign operations (818 MIL. LEI), Line 51 Other revenues and unidentified revenue (. Although "other revenue" accounts only less than 3 per cent of all revenue, "b" may be a more appropriate answer, considering IYRs are less detailed than the EBP in terms of indirect tax. "Other indirect tax" account for \$1,069m or 2.4% of all revenue for November 2020-21 and \$3,466m or 1.8% of all revenue for YTD 2020-21.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

73. Do the In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date revenues with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 73 asks whether In-Year Reports compare actual revenues to-date with either the enacted levels or actual revenues for the same period in the previous year.

The OECD recommends that the reports contain the total year-to-date revenues in a format that allows for a comparison with the budget's forecast revenues (based on enacted levels) for the same period.

To answer "a," comparisons must be made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Answer:

a. Yes, comparisons are made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

The In-Year Reports compare actual year-to-date revenues with the same period in the previous year, and with the annual revenue estimate according Enacted Budget (as an example, July 2022 <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23504>). All the In-Year Reports are presented at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-lunare>.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

74. Do In-Year Reports present three estimates related to actual government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing; the total debt outstanding; and interest payments?

GUIDELINES:

Question 74 asks about three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

- *the amount of net new borrowing so far during the year;*
- *the central government's total debt burden at that point in the year; and*
- *the interest payments to-date on the outstanding debt.*

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

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

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

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt. For a "b" answer, In-Year Reports must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, IYRs must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

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

Source:

All three estimates related to the government debt are presented in the additional reports to the IYR.

All monthly reports on government debts are available at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/datoria-sectorului-public/rapoarte/datoria-de-stat>

All monthly reports on domestic debts are available at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/datoria-sectorului-public/rapoarte/datoria-de-stat/datoria-de-stat-intern%C4%83>

All monthly reports on external debts are available at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/datoria-sectorului-public/rapoarte/datoria-de-stat/datoria-de-stat-extern%C4%83>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

75. Do In-Year Reports present information related to the composition of the total actual debt outstanding?

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

GUIDELINES:

Question 75 focuses on the composition of government debt, asking whether “core” information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

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

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 74, domestic debt is held by a country’s citizens and banks and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country’s debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

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

To answer “a,” In-Year Reports must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt to-date as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer “b,” In-Year Reports must present all of the core components noted above. Answer “b” is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A “c” answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer “d” applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

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

Source:

Data on the structure of the debt are available at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/datoria-sectorului-public/rapoarte/datoria-de-stat>

Structure and maturity of the debt data is presented at: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/datoria-sectorului-public/rapoarte/datoria-de-stat/datoria-de-stat-intern%C4%83>

Core elements pertaining to the external debts are available at <https://mf.gov.md/ro/datoria-sectorului-public/rapoarte/datoria-de-stat/datoria-de-stat-extern%C4%83>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

76. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 76 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast presented in the Executive’s Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated macroeconomic forecast and explain all of the differences between the initial forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and the updated forecast. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the macroeconomic forecast must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated forecasts are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the macroeconomic forecast has not been updated.

Answer:

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:

The estimates for macroeconomic forecasts have been updated, and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated forecasts is presented. Estimates of the evolution of macroeconomic indicators and differences from the original estimates are presented in Table 1 (page 4). The explanations presented (pages 3-7, and 28) do not explain all the differences from the original forecast. For example, regarding inflation, it does not explain the difference from the original estimate and updated, but explains the evolution in the first half in comparison with the same period of the last year. Also, the explanations explain only the differences related to the evolution in the first semester of the year and less for the second semester.

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23764>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

77. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 77 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of expenditure for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated expenditure estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. The expenditure estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated expenditure estimates, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

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

Source:

The expenditure estimates have been updated (in the annexes to the note Formularul 3-5, naratively page 12 - 17, by category and main affected revenue categories), and an explanation on the differences between the original and updated expenditure estimates is presented in Box 1 (page 13-16) in the MYR "Raportul privind executarea bugetului public național și a componentelor acestuia în semestrul I al anului 2022". An example is the explanation given on the reason why collection the revenue tax has increased by 116%. Also, the outstanding debts by the legal entities have increased on the account of energy crisis and war in the region.

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23764>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: Source: Suggested answer „b” . The expenditure estimates have been updated (Table 4, page 27), and an explanation of some of the differences between the original and updated expenditure estimates is presented (page 27-28). <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23764>).

Researcher Response

I agree with the Government's estimation. The expenditure estimates have been updated (Table 4, page 27), and some of the differences between the original and updated expenditure estimates are presented (page 27-28). <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23764>).

IBP Comment

We welcome the government reviewer's comment. Given the additional pages and information cited, the response has been changed to "b."

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:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, and functional classification).

Source:

The Mid-Year Review report presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classification: administrative (Formularul 4.1 - Formularul 4.2, 4.3), functional (Formularul 4, this is a mixed table that contains the expenditures both by functional and administrative classification), economic (Formularul 2, Formularul 3). The narrative description is presented in a separate informative note "Raportul privind executarea bugetului public național și a componentelor acestuia în semestrul I al anului 2022" <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23764>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by any expenditure classification.

Researcher Response

The government is contradicting itself and previously validated documents. While it is true that the papers could use better separation of data (all expenditures in separate documents by individual classification), the data is nonetheless presented in an aggregated format.

IBP Comment

Upon consulting the researcher and relevant MYR documents, it has been confirmed that the all three expenditure classifications are presented. As such, the original response remains unchanged.

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

Functional classification

Source:

The Mid-Year Review report presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classification: administrative (Formularul 4.1 - Formularul 4.2, 4.3), functional (Formularul 4, this is a mixed table that contains the expenditures both by functional and administrative classification), economic (Formularul 2, Formularul 3). The narrative description is presented in a separate informative note "Raportul privind executarea bugetului public național și a componentelor acestuia în semestrul I al anului 2022"

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23764>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

79. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 79 asks if expenditure estimates in the Mid-Year Review are presented by program for the budget year underway. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

***A note for francophone countries:** "Program" level detail is sometimes referred to as le plan comptable or le plan comptable 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:

a. Yes, the Mid-Year Review presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Source:

Formularul 4.2 and Formularul 4 the annex to the MYR, presents an a very aggregated form the expenditure by programs:
<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23764>

Comment:

All annexes to the MYR, have in the first column a codified number for all budget programs. An example is the following:

Invatamant (functional classification)

Cheltuieii si active nefinanciare (economic clasification)

Invatamint superior (program name) 8810 (program number)

Perfectionarea cadrelor (program name) 8812 (program number).

It would be better though to present the estimates in the format presented for EB and EBP. It is easier to analyze and also more comprehensive.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Comments: MYR presents expenditure estimates (as commented), but not updated expenditure estimates.

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:

The annex to the MYR, "Formularul 3" presents all the estimates in the first chapter of the table "I. Venituri", and in narrative form in the (Table 2 on page 7, narrative description narratively supporting the data in the table, and 12-17, with Boxa 1): <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23764>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, revenue estimates have been updated, but an explanation of the differences between the original and updated revenue estimates is not presented.

Comments: Suggested answer „c”. The revenue estimates have been updated (Table 4, page 27-28), without being presented an explanation of of the

differences between the original and updated revenue estimates.

Researcher Response

It is indeed true that most of the comparisons to the updated date are related to the previous period. Acknowledging the comment of the government reviewer, I would consider changing the answer from "a" to "c".

IBP Comment

Upon further validation and discussion with the researcher, we acknowledge and consider the comment of the government reviewer. While there is a presentation of information on original and updated revenue estimates for the same budget year, there is no narrative discussion that supports the information. The focus of the narrative discussion in the MYR is instead on differences between revenue estimates from the current budget year compared to the previous year's estimates during the same period. As such, the score has been changed from "a" to "c".

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:

Formularul 3, the annex to the MYR presents an updated revenue estimates by categories (tax/nontax, donor assistance etc.) with a comparison to the previous period and the initial prognosis. The narrative discussion refers only to the main revenue categories (page 5 and page 27-28 of the MYR). <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-semianuale>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present revenue estimates by category.

Comments: Suggested answer „b”. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present revenue estimates by category.

Researcher Response

The documents provided by the government give a clear (although aggregated) image of individual sources of revenue for at least 99% of all revenues. Less than 3% of the total revenues are presented as "other unidentified" revenues.

IBP Comment

We welcome the feedback from the government reviewer. However, upon further validation and discussion with the researcher, we have confirmed that information on individual sources accounting for 99% of all revenues is presented under the MYR. As such, the response remains unchanged.

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:

The MYR presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue for the state budget and other extra budgetary funds in the annex "Formularul 3", first chapter of the table "I. Venituri".

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23764>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present individual sources of revenue.

Researcher Response

The documents provided by the government give a clear (although aggregated) image of individual sources of revenue for at least 99% of all revenues. Less than 3% of the total revenues are presented as "other unidentified" revenues.

IBP Comment

We welcome the feedback from the government reviewer. However, upon further validation and discussion with the researcher, we have confirmed that information on individual sources accounting for 99% of all revenues is presented under the MYR. As such, the response remains unchanged.

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:

b. Yes, estimates of government borrowing and debt have been updated, and information on some of the differences between the original and updated estimates is presented.

Source:

"Formularul 2" is an annex presenting the disaggregated data that has been updated to reflect the changes from the EB estimates, the previous period to reflect the change or the first semester of the previous year for domestic and external debt. Pages 22-26 of the "Raportul privind executarea BPN și a componentelor în seml 2022" provides detailed narrative explanations on updated estimates for government borrowing and debt but the information on the interest rates and maturity profiles is missing. (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-semianuale>)

Comment:

"Formularul 2" is an annex presenting the disaggregated data that has been updated to reflect the changes from the EB estimates, the previous period to reflect the change or the first semester of the previous year. Here are some the data that is presented in details in Chapter III and Chapter IV:

III. BUDGET BALANCE

IV. SOURCES OF FINANCING

Financial assets

Internal receivables

Exchange rate difference

Domestic loans to non-financial and financial institutions

Domestic recredited loans to non-financial and financial institutions

liability

Domestic debts

Domestic loans from non-financial institutions and

Finance

External loans

Change in cash balance

Cash balance at the beginning of the period

Correction of the cash balance

Cash balance at the end of the period

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. No, estimates of government borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Comments: Suggested answer „d”. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present individual sources of revenue.

Researcher Response

The government's response contradicts the previously validated documents, so we maintain the score.

IBP Comment

Upon further discussion and validation of documents with the researcher, the original findings has been reconfirmed. As such, the score remains unchanged.

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:

The introduction to the YR offers a summary on the factors and how the revenues and expenditure are affected, A dedicated chapter for all major revenue categories (page 40 - 48), with Annexes: Formularul 1, Formularul 2 describing the differences between the enacted levels and actual outcome. Also in the narrative description, Tables from page 43 and 44 explain the differences, as well as Figure from page 41, explain in a narrative form how the main expenditures categories evolved during the budgetary year: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: We suggest a new version of the source: The introduction to the YR offers a summary on the factors and how the revenues and expenditure are affected, A dedicated chapter for all major revenue categories (page 43 - 52), with Annexes: Formularul 1, Formularul 2 describing the differences between the enacted levels and actual outcome. Also in the narrative description page 53-60 explain the how the main expenditures categories evolved during the budgetary year : <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/22950>

Researcher Response

Updated version: The introduction to the YR offers a summary on the factors and how the revenues and expenditure are affected, A dedicated chapter for all major revenue categories (page 40 - 52), with Annexes: Formularul 1, Formularul 2 describing the differences between the enacted levels and actual outcome. Also in the narrative description from page 53-60, Tables from page 43 and 44 explain the differences, as well as Figure from page 41, explain in a narrative form how the main expenditures categories evolved during the budgetary year: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919> and <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/22950>

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:

The Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications, Diagrame nr 5 and page 12 by functional, Formularul 2 - 3, by economic, and by administrative in the "Formularul nr. 4 -5" .
(<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23764>)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: We suggest a new version of the source: The Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications, Annex nr 5 (116 pdf page) and "Formularul nr. 4" by functional, Annex nr.6 (117 pdf page) and Formularul 3 by economic, and by administrative in the "Formularul nr. 5". <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/22950>

Researcher Response

At the time of assessment the original sources provided by the researcher were checked. The sources provided by the government were published at a later date.

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:

The Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications, Diagrame nr 5 and page 12 by functional, Formularul 2 - 3, by economic, and by administrative in the "Formularul nr. 4 -5" .
(<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/23764>)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: We suggest a new version of the source : The Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates by all three expenditure classifications, Annex nr 5 (116 pdf page) and "Formularul nr. 4" by functional, Annex nr.6 (117 pdf page) and Formularul 3 by economic, and by administrative in the "Formularul nr. 5". <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/22950>

Researcher Response

At the time of assessment the original sources provided by the researcher were checked. The sources provided by the government were published at a later date.

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 detaille*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" if expenditures are not presented by program in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Source:

The Year-End Report presents expenditure estimates for programs in the 4 annexes: "Formularul nr. 3.1 - 3.3" and "Formularul 3" with is in .xls, but not in direct way, they should be calculated from the data presented in the "Formularul nr. 3.1 - 3.3" and "Formularul 3" the date can be found in a compressed map available on the ministry's website : <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: We suggest The MoF website: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/22950>

Researcher Response

At the time of assessment the original sources provided by the researcher were checked. The sources provided by the government were published at a later date.

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:

The estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues are presented (Formularul nr. 1" and "Formularul nr. 2", along with a narrative discussion (pages 16-31).

The data is presented in compressed folder with 16 annexes: Formular, and the Narrative report at: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

88. Does the Year-End Report present revenue estimates by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 88 asks whether revenue estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by "category"— that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents revenue estimates by category.

Source:

The Year-End Report presents revenue estimates by category (Formularul nr. 1" and "Formularul nr. 2"), along with the narrative description starting page 16 to 32. <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

89. Does the Year-End Report present individual sources of revenue?

GUIDELINES:

Question 89 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue are presented in the Year-End Report. The question applies to both tax and non-tax revenue.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenue, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue accounting for all revenue.

Source:

Yes, the Year-End Report presents all individual sources of revenue in "Formularul 2" at: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919>.

Comment:

• 1146 - Other taxes for goods and services, and 145 - Other income and unidentified income account for less than 3% off all expenditure. Property

taxes are described in narrative form and in "Formularul 2" and Annex 1, and Annex 2 - page 114 - 115 from the narrative part of YER.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

90. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 90 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome for the fiscal year for borrowing and debt, including its composition, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

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

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

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

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

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

Source:

The YER offers succinct, but relevant data the origin of the debt - domestic or external (page 61). "Formularul 1" and "Formularul 14" (lines 90-151) gives the difference between estimates -aprobat/precizat and the actual outcome - executat for the same year. The data on the rates is included the first 4 paragraphs on page 60 describing the financing of the service for the internal and external debt:
<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919>

Comment:

The YER offers succinct, but relevant data is presented on all elements for the internal and external debt: 1) the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year ("Formularul 1" - line 18),
2) the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year (page 38, 1st paragraph of the chapter "3.4 Public sector debt",
3) the interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year (page 60, the first 4 paragraphs describing the financing of the service for the internal and external debt)
4) maturity profile of the debt (page 59, third paragraph from the end).
"Formularul 1" and "Formularul 14" both have two chapters "III.Soldul Bugetar" and "IV. Surse de Finantare", that present the relevant data in table format.
Source link: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919T>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

90b. Based on the response to Question 90, check the box(es) to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, have the differences between the original forecast and the actual outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year
The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year
The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year
Interest rates on the debt
Maturity profile of the debt
Whether the debt is domestic or external

Source:

The YER offers succinct, but relevant data is presented on all elements for the internal and external debt: 1) the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year ("Formularul 1" - line 18),
2) the central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year (page 38, 1st paragraph of the chapter "3.4 Public sector debt",
3) the interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year (page 60, the first 4 paragraphs describing the financing of the service for the internal and external debt)
4) maturity profile of the debt (page 59, third paragraph from the end).
"Formularul 1" and "Formularul 14" both have two chapters "III. Soldul Bugetar" and "IV. Surse de Finantare", that present the relevant data in table format.
Source link: <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919T>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

91. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 91 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast in the Executive's Budget Proposal. Core components include estimates of the nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates, although the importance of other macroeconomic assumptions, such as the price of oil, can vary from country to country.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. 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:

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.

Source:

The table on page 9 offers the information on all original macroeconomic assumptions (with the exception of the interest rates) with the narrative discussion on pages 3, 6-9, on the estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for the year 2022 (GDP level and growth, 2nd paragraph on page 6).

Interest rate is mentioned in the second paragraph, last sentence, page 60, after the description of the inflation evolution: "Thus the National Bank has risen the base rate to 21.5% and will maintain it for the time being (the budget approval phase)." The rate of interest that is set by a central bank, and which is the lowest rate at which it lends money to other banks. This rate affects the interest rates which are then charged to customers by the banks.

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919>

Comment:

The table on page 9 has the following information that gives relevant data on the difference between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for the year 2022:

Nominal gross domestic product

Consumer price index

The exchange rate of the leu

Export

Import

Trade balance

Industrial production

Agricultural production²

Investments in fixed assets

The labor remuneration fund

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

91b. Based on the response to Question 91, check the box(es) to identify which elements of the macroeconomic forecast have the differences between the original forecast and the outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

Nominal GDP level

Inflation rate

Real GDP growth

Interest rates

Information beyond the core elements

Source:

The annex "Formularul 1" and "Formularul 2" and the narrative description from page 3, 6-10 offer estimates of the differences between all of the original macroeconomic assumptions for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for the year 2022.

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

92. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 92 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 49 for the nonfinancial data on inputs included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimate of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are presented.

Source:

There is a dedicated analytical note at page 153 of the YER, that describe the evolution of the main indicators regarding the public property, land management and SOEs.

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

93. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 93 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion. Nonfinancial data on results can include data on both outputs and outcomes, but not on inputs (which are addressed in Question 92).

Refer to Question 50 for the nonfinancial data on results included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimate of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results and the actual outcome are presented.

Source:

The information on the actual results (for example - how many building have been built, or km of roads) can be found in narrative form in the chapter "4.5. Expenditures within the main functional groups", where a description of the main results is provided for each functional group:

"At the same time, the rehabilitation/modernization works of 58.6 km of roads and 4 bridges were completed and design works, road evaluation and land procurement were executed;

"page partial repayment of the interest rate on loans accessed by agricultural producers, 4,202 requests for financial support were received with the amount of the requested subsidy of 248.5 million lei, which constitutes 13.9% of the value of the requested subsidies."

"modernization of the infrastructure of the investment object of the Leușeni and Sculeni Customs Post (grant and from the Government's contribution) – 37.1 million lei;

- starting the works to establish the Leova-Bumbăta state border crossing point - 0.4 million lei;

- reconstruction of the headquarters of the Consulate of the Republic of Moldova in Ukraine, city Odessa – 1.6 million lei;"

Comment:

The evaluation is B, because in some cases, no data can be identified on the actual results in the report (number of beneficiaries, for example). The case below, from page 70, could serve as an example:

1)Government decisions no. 157/2022, no. 442/2022, no. 768/2022 and by provisions of the Commission for Exceptional Situations of the Republic of Moldova in the amount of 121.4 million lei, executed in the amount of 103.6 million lei or at the level of 85.3%, of which 74.1 million lei for the management of the refugee crisis in Ukraine, 32.7 million lei for granting one-off allowances to infected employees with COVID-19 from central and local public administration authorities.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

94. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies (both new proposals and existing policies) that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 94 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted level of funds for policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 52 for assistance to the most impoverished populations in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the enacted level for all policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between the enacted level for some but not all of the policies that are intended to benefit the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted level for some but not all of the policies that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome are presented.

Source:

The YER has succinct information on the main policies that are intended to benefit the most impoverished populations. The narrative description and numerical estimates are presented in the narrative part of the YER, page 102 to page 106.

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-anuale>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: New Source : The narrative description and numerical estimates are presented in the narrative part of the YER, page 100 to page 104. Raport privind executarea bugetului de stat în anul 2021 (aprobat de Guvern) <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-anuale>

Researcher Response

updated: The YER has brief information on the main policies to benefit the most impoverished populations. The narrative description and numerical estimates are presented in the narrative part of the YER, pages 100 to page 106. Raport privind executarea bugetului de stat în anul 2021 (aprobat de Guvern): <https://mf.gov.md/ro/trezorerie/rapoarte-privind-executarea-bugetului/rapoarte-anuale>

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:

b. Yes, estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

The estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented (table on page 32). But, it doesn't include a real discussion regarding the differences and just states the registered differences.
<https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/ffd/25919>

Comment:

In the Republic of Moldova there are 2 extra-budgetary funds (i) Budget for social security fund (Bugetul asigurărilor sociale de stat) and (ii) Health care compulsory fund (Fondurile asigurării obligatorii de asistență medicală) that are managed by the Central Government.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes, estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented, along with a narrative discussion.

Comments: Suggested answer „a”. In the Republic of Moldova (i) Budget for social security fund (Bugetul asigurărilor sociale de stat) and (ii) Health care compulsory fund (Fondurile asigurării obligatorii de asistență medicală) are approved by separated Laws. Respectively, the Reports on execution are presented to the Parliament separately. These Reports include a narrative description on the differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome. We present the links:

<https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactenormative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6043/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

<https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactenormative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6042/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

Researcher Response

I agree that the reports are produced, but to be considered, they should be presented as support documents or at least with links in the main narrative

description of the reports.

IBP Comment

We welcome the comment from the government reviewer. However, upon consultation with the researcher, it was confirmed that the additional documents mentioned were not cited in the YER nor were they added as additional supporting documents. As such, these documents cannot be considered in the assessment. Therefore, the response remains unchanged.

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:

The financial statement in the YER, "R A P O R T privind executarea bugetului de stat în anul 2022" has a dedicated chapter and includes a cash flow statement, an operating statement, a balance sheet (Formularul 13), and notes on accounting: Chapter "III. Executarea bugetului public național", from page 16-18. Also details are included "Formularul 1" and "Formularul 14" that come as an annex to the same report. : <https://mf.gov.md/ro/download/file/fid/25919>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

97. What type of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) has the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) conducted and made available to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 97 asks about the types of audits conducted by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). There are three basic types of audits:

- *Financial audits are intended to determine if an entity's financial information is accurate (free from errors or fraud) and presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting and regulatory framework. See ISSAI 200 (<https://www.issai.org/pronouncements/issai-100-fundamental-principles-of-public-sector-auditing/>) 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:

The SAI has conducted all three types of audits (compliance, financial, or performance) (page 10, Activity report of the Court of Accounts for 2021 ,https://www.ccrm.md/ro/raportul-de-activitate-al-curtii-de-conturi-pe-anul-90_92432.html

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

98. What percentage of expenditures within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 98 focuses on the coverage of audits by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), asking what percentage of expenditures within the SAI's mandate has been audited.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to budgetary central government (ministries, departments, and agencies) that are within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 99 addresses audits of extra-budgetary funds.) Further, the question does not apply to "secret programs" (for example, security-related expenditures that are confidential). Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

Only the Audit Report identified in Section 1 should be used to answer this question. Financial audits and compliance audits, or a hybrid of the two, can be taken into account to answer this question. Performance audits should not be considered for this question.

To answer "a," all expenditures within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if at least two-thirds, but not all, expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response is appropriate when less than two-thirds of expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies when no expenditures have been audited.

Answer:

b. Expenditures representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

Source:

The Court of Accounts covers with financial and compliance audits at least two-thirds, but not all, expenditures within the SAI's mandate. Calculated based on the institution's (programs) budgets audited by the Court of Accounts in 2021, Annexes (Misiuni de Audit) with only four LPAs of budgets audited out of 32 districts, 22 Central Authorities without their subsidiaries or agencies : https://www.ccrm.md/ro/raportul-curtii-de-conturi-asupra-administrarii-si-intrebuintarii-resurselor-88_92498.html.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

99. What percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited?

GUIDELINES:

Question 99 focuses on audits of extra-budgetary funds, asking what percentage of extra-budgetary funds within the mandate of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has been audited. These funds, although technically outside the budget, are governmental in nature and thus should be subject to the same audit requirement as other government programs.

The SAI's mandate is typically defined in statute. Only expenditures related to extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate should be considered for this question. (Question 98 addresses audits of budgetary central government.) Further, if the mandate gives the SAI the authority to outsource some audits, then those audits count for purposes of this question.

To answer "a," all extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate must be audited. A "b" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "c" response applies if extra-budgetary funds accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures associated with extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited. A "d" response applies if extra-budgetary funds have not been audited.

Answer:

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

Source:

All (both: (i) Budget for social security fund (Bugetul asigurărilor sociale de stat) and (ii) Health care compulsory fund (Fondurile asigurării obligatorii de asistență medicală) extra-budgetary funds within the SAI's mandate have been audited.

The Court of Accounts decision on Health care compulsory fund audit (https://www.ccrm.md/ro/decision_details/1171/hotararea-nr20-din-26-mai-2022-cu-privire-la-raportul).

The Court of Accounts Decision un budget for social security fund audit (https://www.ccrm.md/ro/decision_details/1170/hotararea-nr-17-din-24-mai-2022-cu-privire-la).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Yes, the AR prepared by the SAI (https://www.ccrm.md/ro/upload/632411225f4de/92498/attached_files) has an Executive summary (https://www.ccrm.md/ro/upload/632413f811700/92498/attached_files).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

101. Does the executive make available to the public a report on what steps it has taken to address audit recommendations or findings that indicate a need for remedial action?

GUIDELINES:

Question 101 asks whether the executive reports to the public on the steps it has taken to address audit recommendations made by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). The ultimate purpose of audits is to verify that the budget was executed in a manner consistent with existing law, and to hold the government accountable for this execution and its future improvement. The extent to which audits achieve the latter depends on whether there is adequate and timely follow-up on the recommendations provided in the SAI's audit reports.

To answer "a," the executive must report publicly on the steps it has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address audit finding, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if the executive does not report at all on its steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

b. Yes, the executive reports publicly on most audit findings.

Source:

The executive reports publicly most audit findings. The State Chancellery has produced a separate report regarding measures the government has been taken for the implementation of the Court of Accounts recommendations, but they refer only to the recommendations stipulated by the Court of Accounts in the previous audit report on executive's report on budget execution, and to some of the most publicized reports in strategic areas such as the energy sector, healthcare, defense, page 18, page 70 (Obiectivul 14.1):

https://cancelaria.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/raport_privind_activitatea_cancelariei_de_stat_in_anul_2020_1.pdf.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

102. Does either the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or legislature release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations?

GUIDELINES:

Question 102 asks whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or the legislature track actions by the executive to address audit recommendations. After audit results and recommendations are discussed and validated by the legislature, the executive is normally asked to take certain actions to address the audit findings. For accountability purposes, the public needs to be informed about the status of those actions, and steps the executive has taken to address audit

recommendations. In addition to the executive reporting on its actions (see Question 101), the SAI and legislature – as the key oversight institutions – have a responsibility to keep the public informed by tracking the executive's progress in addressing audit recommendations.

To answer "a," the SAI or legislature must report publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the SAI or legislature reports publicly on the steps the executive has taken, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if neither the SAI nor the legislature reports on the executive's steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

b. Yes, the SAI or legislature reports publicly on most audit recommendations.

Source:

The Court of Accounts report on the administration and use of public financial resources and public patrimony in 2021 contains information on the implementation of the recommendations from the previous report (Annexes, page 58):

https://www.ccrm.md/ro/upload/632411225f4de/92498/attached_files. These recommendations relate exclusively to the subject matter of this audit and include a summary of the main recommendations of the Court of Accounts expressed to government agencies in other audit missions. Also, the annual activity report of the Court of Accounts presents the general statistics for the execution of the recommendations and the situation with the cases transmitted to the law enforcement bodies (page 44) https://www.ccrm.md/ro/raportul-curtii-de-conturi-asupra-administrarii-si-intrebuintarii-resurselor-88_92498.html). The Court of Auditors also carries out follow-up missions in which it monitors the extent to which the recommendations have complied. All reports of the Court of Auditors are publicly available.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

103. Is there an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) that conducts budget analyses for the budget formulation and/or approval process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 103 examines whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) exists that contributes budget analyses to the budget formulation and/or approval process. According to the Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions, adopted by the OECD Council in 2014, "independent fiscal institutions are publicly funded, independent bodies under the statutory authority of the executive or the legislature which provide non-partisan oversight and analysis of, and in some cases advice on, fiscal policy and performance", and with "a forward-looking ex ante diagnostic task". In practice, they come in two main forms:

- Parliamentary budget offices (also known as PBOs) such as the Congressional Budget Office in the United States (<https://www.cbo.gov/>), the Parliamentary Budget Office in South Africa (<https://www.parliament.gov.za/parliamentary-budget-office>), and the Center for Public Finance Studies in Mexico (Centro de Estudios de las Finanzas Públicas, <http://www.cefp.qob.mx/>); or
- Fiscal councils such as the Office for Budget Responsibility in the United Kingdom (<https://obr.uk/>) and the High Council for Public Finances in France (Haut Conseil des finances publiques, <https://www.hcfp.fr/>).

For more information, see von Trapp et al. 'Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions and Case Studies', OECD Journal on Budgeting 15:2 (special issue, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1787/budget-15-5jm2795tv625>.

To answer "a," there must be an IFI, and its independence must be set in law. In addition, it must have sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks. Answer "b" applies if an IFI exists, but either its independence is not set in law or its staffing and resources are insufficient to carry out its tasks. Answer "c" applies if an IFI exists, but its independence is not set in law and it lacks sufficient staffing and resources. Answer "d" applies if no IFI exists.

If the answer is "a," "b," or "c," please specify in the comments the name and type of IFI that exists (e.g., parliamentary budget office or fiscal council). If the answer is "a" or "b," identify the law that guarantees its independence, and provide evidence in support of the assessment of the adequacy of its staffing and resources. This can include the IFI's total budget allocation over recent years, any press reports that discuss perceived funding shortfalls, assessments by international organizations, and/or information from interviews with staff of the IFI.

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI.

Source:

Confirmed by the Ministry of Finance.

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

104. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts?**GUIDELINES:**

Question 104 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a role in producing the macroeconomic forecast (e.g., GDP growth, inflation, interest rates, etc.) and/or the fiscal forecast (revenues, expenditure, deficits, and debt), and if so, what kind of role it has. Macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasting is a typical core function across IFIs, but their role in forecasting takes several forms (von Trapp et al. 2016, p. 17 and Table 2). Some IFIs produce just a macroeconomic forecast, while others produce a complete fiscal forecast (which also typically requires an underlying macroeconomic forecast). In some cases, the fiscal forecast reflects continuation of current budget policies; such forecasts can be used by the legislature, the media, or the public to assess the projections in the executive's budget reflecting the government's policy proposals.

Some IFIs produce the official macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts used in the executive's budget. In other cases, IFIs do not prepare their own independent forecasts, but rather produce an assessment of the official estimates, or provide an opinion on, or endorsement of, the government's forecasts. Some others have no role at all in forecasting.

To answer "a", there must be an IFI that publishes both its own macroeconomic AND fiscal forecasts. Answer "b" applies if an IFI publishes its own macroeconomic OR fiscal forecast (but not both). Answer "c" applies if the IFI does not publish a macroeconomic or fiscal forecast, but rather publishes an assessment of the official forecasts produced by the executive and used in the budget. Choose option "d" if there is no IFI; or if there is an IFI that neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts for the budget.

Macroeconomic forecasts may include indicators relating to economic output and economic growth, inflation, and the labor market, amongst others. Fiscal forecasts may include estimates of revenues, expenditures, the budget balance, and debt. If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify which indicators and estimates are included in the forecasts and whether the forecast is used by government as the official forecast. If the answer is "c," please describe the nature and depth of the assessment (e.g., the length of the commentary, or whether it covers both economic and fiscal issues).

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI neither publishes its own macroeconomic and/or fiscal forecasts, nor a commentary on the official forecasts produced by the executive.

Source:

No sources.

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

105. Does the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) publish its own costings of new policy proposals, to assess their impact on the budget?

GUIDELINES:

Question 105 assesses whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) has a costing function that involves assessing the budgetary implications of new policy proposals for both revenues and expenditures, and if so, what kind of role it has. Many IFIs have a costing role, but with substantial diversity in the nature and extent of this work (von Trapp et al 2016, pp. 17-18 and Table 2). Some assess virtually all new policy proposals, while others cost only a selection of new policy proposals. Others only publish opinions on, or scrutinize the costings of, budget measures produced by the executive.

To answer "a," the IFI must publish its own costings of all (or virtually all) new policy proposals. Answer "b" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only for major new policy proposals – for instance, only those proposals that cost or save above a certain amount. Answer "c" applies if the IFI publishes its own costings, but only on a limited number of proposals. This could occur, for instance, if the IFI lacked the capacity to assess proposals dealing with certain sectors. Instead of producing a cost estimate, it can also publish an assessment of the estimates produced by the executive. Answer "d" applies if there is no IFI; or if the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals or provide an assessment of the official costings of new policy proposals.

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI; or the IFI does not publish its own costings of new policy proposals.

Source:

No sources.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

106. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 106 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Almost all IFIs interact with the legislature in some form (von Trapp et al 2016, p. 18), but the intensity of the interaction varies. This question assesses this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the IFI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the IFI staff member in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). As evidence to support your answer, you can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the IFI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; and "c" for once or twice. Answer "d" should be selected if the head or a senior staff member of the IFI never took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature, or if there is no IFI.

Answer:

d. Never, or there is no IFI.

Source:

No sources.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

107. Does the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 107 asks whether the legislature debated budget policies prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal for the most recent budget year before the research cut-off date. In general, prior to discussing the Executive's Budget Proposal for the coming year, the legislature should have an opportunity to review the government's broad budget priorities and fiscal parameters. Often times this information is laid out in a Pre-Budget Statement, which the executive presents to the legislature for debate. (See Questions 54-58.)

A number of countries conduct a pre-budget debate in the legislature around six months before the start of the budget year. In some cases, they adopt laws that guide the upcoming budget, for example the Budget Guidelines Law in Brazil and the Spring Fiscal Policy Bill in Sweden. A pre-budget debate can serve two main purposes: 1) to allow the executive to inform the legislature of its fiscal policy intentions by presenting updated reports on its annual and medium-term budget strategy and policy priorities; and 2) to establish "hard" multi-year fiscal targets or spending ceilings, which the government must adhere to when preparing its detailed spending estimates for the upcoming budget year.

To answer "a," the full legislature must debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal and approve recommendations for the upcoming budget.

Answer "b" applies if a legislative committee (but not the full legislature) debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, and approves recommendations for the budget. Option "b" also applies if, in addition to the action by the committee, the full legislature also debates budget policy in advance of the budget, but does not approve recommendations.

Answer "c" applies if the full legislature and/or a legislative committee debates budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal, but does not approve recommendations for the budget. Answer "d" applies if neither the full legislature nor any legislative committee debate budget policy prior to the tabling of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

In your comment, please indicate the dates of the budget debate, and if both the full legislature and a legislative committee held a debate. Note that a debate does not need to be open to the public, but a public record of the meeting or a public notice that the meeting occurred is required. In addition, please indicate whether the budget debate was focused on a Pre-Budget Statement published by the Executive. If the Executive did not publish a Pre-Budget Statement, then please indicate what served as the focus of the legislature's debate (for instance, a report released by an IFI or some other institution).

Answer:

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

Source:

There is no evidence for such debates in the legislature or budget committee.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

108. How far in advance of the start of the budget year does the legislature receive the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 108 examines how far in advance of the start of the most recent budget year the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to the legislature far enough in advance to allow the legislature time to review it properly, or at least three months prior to the start of the fiscal year. (See, for instance, Principle 2.2.2 of the IMF's Fiscal Transparency Handbook (2018) (<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF069/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859/24788-9781484331859.xml>)).

For the purposes of responding to this question, if – and only if – the most recent budget submission occurred later than usual as a result of a particular event, such as an election, please use a more normal year as the basis for the response. If, however, delays have been observed for more than one budget year, and the legislature has not received the Executive's Budget Proposal in a timely manner on more than one occasion in the last three years, then "d" will be the appropriate answer.

To answer "a," the legislature must receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least three months in advance of the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least two months, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month, but less than two months, before the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature does not receive the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month prior to the start of the budget year, or does not receive it at all.

Answer:

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:

The EBP was sent by the Government on December 7 to the Parliament and was discussed on December 12 in the Plenary of the Parliament :

<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pe-anul-2023-va-fi-discutat-saptamana-viitoare-in>

Prior to that the budget was discussed in the committees on December 9: <https://multimedia.parlament.md/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-sustinut-de-comisia-parlamentara-de-specialitate-urmeaza-votarea-in-plen/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

109. When does the legislature approve the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 109 examines when the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal. International good practice recommends that the Executive's Budget Proposal should be approved by the legislature before the start of the fiscal year the budget proposal refers to. This gives the executive time to implement the budget in its entirety, particularly new programs and policies.

In some countries, the expenditure and revenue estimates of the Executive's Budget Proposal are approved separately; for purposes of this question, at least the expenditure estimates must be approved. Further, approval of the budget implies approval of the full-year budget, not just a short-term continuation of spending and revenue authority.

To answer "a," the legislature must approve the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month before the start of the budget year. Answer "b" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year. Answer "c" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal less than one month after the start of the budget year. Answer "d" applies if the legislature approves the Executive's Budget Proposal more than one month after the start of the budget year, or does not approve the budget.

Answer:

b. The legislature approves the budget less than one month in advance of the start of the budget year, but at least by the start of the budget year.

Source:

The Project was approved in the Plenary on December 22, 2022:

<https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>. The agenda of

the Plenary, subjects 15, 16, 17: <https://www.parlament.md/SesiuniParlamentare/Şedinţeleplenary/tabid/128/SittingId/5164/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

The Law was published on December 28, 2022.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

c. Yes, the legislature has authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, but its authority is very limited.

Source:

According to law on public finance nr 181/2014, art 54, (4) (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121242&lang=ro#), the amendments proposed by the Parliament to the EBP shall comply with the principles and the budgetary-fiscal rules established by the present law.

Also, the Constitution, Art 131, (4), (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=111918&lang=ro) stipulate that any legislative proposal or amendment that increases or decreases budget revenues, debt, or budget expenditures should be adopted only after they are accepted by the Government. According to this article, the power of the legislative on the modifications of the budget law is limited by the acceptance of the Government.

Comment:

The legislature has authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, but its authority is very limited. This results from Constitution provisions.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

111. During the most recent budget approval process, did the legislature use its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 111 assesses whether any formal authority of the legislature to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal is used in practice. The responses to this question should be determined based on action by the legislature related to the Enacted Budget used in the OBS. Choose answer "a" if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal during the most recent budget approval process, and amendments were adopted (all, or at least some of them). Answer "a" also applies if the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, but the amendments were rejected by executive veto. Answer "b" applies if the legislature used its authority in law to propose amendments to the Executive's Budget Proposal, but none of these amendments were adopted. Answer "c" applies if the legislature has the authority in law to amend the budget, but no amendments were proposed during its consideration. Answer "d" applies when the legislature does not have any authority to amend the budget (that is, Question 110 is answered "d").

If the answer is "a" or "b", please specify in the comments the number of amendments introduced by the legislature (and in the case of an "a" response, the number adopted, or if applicable, information about an executive veto) and describe their nature. For example, did the amendments result in an increase or decrease of the deficit? What were the most significant amendments to revenues and to expenditures in terms of the sums involved? How did amendments affect the composition of expenditures? If the answer is "a", please specify which amendments were adopted, and provide evidence for it.

Answer:

a. Yes, the legislature used its authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal, and (at least some of) its amendments were adopted.

Source:

There are presented several annexes as additional documents with amendments to the law, from deputies. The initiatives are separated and presented by each member of the Parliament.

<https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeacteleislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

Some of those are:

<https://www.parlament.md/LegislationDocument.aspx?Id=923e14de-09c3-4752-a0cc-1558ce84998e>

<https://www.parlament.md/LegislationDocument.aspx?Id=b1587dd2-8f08-464b-928f-17ad845847e3>

<https://www.parlament.md/LegislationDocument.aspx?Id=a8c23aae-eed3-4c96-91b0-1ec812f15fc1>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

112. During the last budget approval process, did a specialized budget or finance committee in the legislature examine the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

Question 112 assesses the role of a specialized budget or finance committee during the budget approval stage. Effective committee involvement is an essential condition for legislative influence in the budget process. Specialized committees provide opportunities for individual legislators to gain relevant expertise, and to examine budgets and policy in depth. Yet, the involvement of committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures have separate committees to examine spending and tax proposals, while others have a single finance committee. Not all legislatures have a specialized budget or finance committee to examine the budget. In addition, there can be differences in the time available for the committee's analysis of the budget.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, therefore it must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget.

Response "a" requires that, in the last budget approval process, a specialized budget or finance committee had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and it published a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such a committee examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if a committee examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where a specialized budget or finance committee did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please specify in your comment the name of the committee and the number of days it had available to examine the budget. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a copy of the report. Please note also if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

Answer:

b. Yes, a specialized budget or finance committee had less than one month to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and it published a report with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted.

Source:

The specialized budget committee examined the EBP and published reports before the first and second readings by the legislature. The first report for the first reading "445.2022.raport1.CEB.PDF" and other two "445.2022.raport2+pr.red.+sinteza.CEB.PDF"

(<https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>).

The initiation of the discussions was presented in a press release: <https://multimedia.parlament.md/proiectul-legii-bugetului-de-stat-pentru-anul-2023-sustinut-de-comisia-parlamentara-de-specialitate-urmeaza-votarea-in-plen/>

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

113. During the last approval process, did legislative committees, responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.), examine spending in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the sector for which they are responsible?

GUIDELINES:

Question 113 assesses the role of committees of the legislature that are responsible for particular sectors (e.g., health, education, defense, etc.) during the budget approval stage. The role of sectoral committees differs across legislatures. Some legislatures do not involve them in the budget approval process, while others do. In addition, the time available for committee analysis differs.

A report with the committee's findings and recommendations is intended to inform the debate in the full legislature, so therefore must be published before the legislature has adopted the budget. Response "a" requires that sector committees had one month or more to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and published a report with findings and recommendations prior the budget being adopted. Response "b" applies where such committees examined the draft budget and published a report, but within a shorter timeframe of less than one month. Response "c" applies if sectoral committees examined the budget (without regard to the time period), but did not publish a report prior to the adoption of the budget. Response "d" applies where sectoral committees did not examine the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Please note that the examination of sectoral budgets by a specialized budget or finance committee is assessed in Question 112 and should not be considered for this question.

Please provide in the comments a brief overview of the committee structure and specify the number of days that sectoral committees had available to examine the budget and to publish their reports. For bicameral legislatures where one house or chamber has greater constitutional authority in budgetary matters, the question applies to the house or chamber (usually the upper or second one) that is decisive. For bicameral legislatures with co-equal houses or chambers, the question should be answered with reference to the one that achieves the higher score for this question. In the case of bicameral legislatures, please note the relevant arrangements in each house or chamber. If applicable, provide a sample copy of at least one of the reports. Please note if a report is published, but only after the budget has been adopted.

For purposes of responding to this question, use those sectoral committees that are best performing – that is, the ones that examine the budget the longest and that publish reports.

Answer:

b. Yes, sector committees had less than one month to examine the Executive's Budget Proposal, and they published reports with findings and recommendations prior to the budget being adopted.

Source:

Other legislature committees examined the EBP and published their endorsements on the EBP: Social protection "Comisia protecție socială, sănătate și familie", Agriculture and food industry "Comisia agricultură și industrie alimentară", Juridical "Comisia juridică, numiri și imunități", Foreign policy and European integration "Comisia politică externă și integrare europeană". All endorsements are published on:

<https://www.parlament.md/ProcesulLegislativ/Proiectedeactelegislative/tabid/61/LegislativId/6279/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

Here are some of the the of the links to the endorsements:

- 1) <https://www.parlament.md/LegislationDocument.aspx?Id=6dc140f1-6e8f-45ac-9808-2008e4900a9a>
- 2) <https://www.parlament.md/LegislationDocument.aspx?Id=c06fff03-e72e-4693-9929-d8123f5d6bb9>
- 3) <https://www.parlament.md/LegislationDocument.aspx?Id=c4ea0849-e58e-4481-af79-03124bbf8f91>
- 4) <https://www.parlament.md/StructuraParlamentului/SecretariateleComisiilorpermanente/tabid/84/CommissionId/4/language/ro-RO/Default.aspx>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

114. In the past 12 months, did a committee of the legislature examine in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period?

GUIDELINES:

Question 114 is about legislative oversight of budget execution. It assesses whether and how often a committee examined the implementation of the budget during the budget execution period (i.e., financial year) for which it was approved, and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. This question does not apply to the ex post review of implementation following the end of the budget year as part of the audit stage, which is assessed separately. Nor does it apply to the legislature's review of the budget that it may undertake as part of the process of considering a supplemental budget during the year. In-year monitoring by the legislature will be affected by the frequency that the executive publishes In-Year Reports.

To answer "a," a committee must have examined in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget at least three times during the course of the relevant budget year and published reports with findings and recommendations. Answer "b" applies where this occurred only once or twice during the year.

Exception: If a legislature is in session only twice during the year, and it examines the implementation of the budget during both sessions, then it would be eligible for an "a" response.

Choose "c" if a committee examined in-year implementation (without regard to frequency), but did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined in-year implementation.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation.

For purposes of responding to this question, if more than one committee holds in-year reviews of the budget, use the committee that is best performing – that is, the one that examines in-year implementation the most times and that publishes a report.

Answer:

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

Source:

There is no evidence that any committee of the legislature examined in-year reports.

Comment:

According to art.47 letter c) of the Law no.181/2014 (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121242&lang=ro#): The Government submits to the Parliament the semi-annual report on the execution of the national public budget and its components for the current budgetary year - until 15 September. Also, the Ministry of Finance informed the Parliament about the budget execution.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

115. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units that receive explicit funding in the Enacted Budget, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 115 examines whether the executive seeks approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and whether it is legally required to do so.

In some countries, the executive has the power in law to adjust funding levels for specific appropriations during the execution of the budget. This question examines rules around shifting funds between administrative units (ministries, departments, or agencies) or whatever funding unit (or "vote") is specified in the Enacted Budget.

The conditions under which the executive may exercise its discretion to shift funds should be clearly defined in publicly available regulations or law. In addition, the amount of funds that the executive is allowed to transfer between administrative units should not be so excessive as to undermine the accountability of the executive to the legislature.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before shifting funds between administrative units, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before shifting funds, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to shift funds between administrative units and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. Answer "d" also applies if the executive is authorized to shift an amount considered so excessive as to undermine accountability (roughly equal to 3 percent of total budgeted expenditures). A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the shifting of funds after it has already occurred.

In the comments, please indicate any law or regulation that provides the executive with standing authority to shift funds between administrative units and, if so, describe that authority. Similarly, legislative approval for shifting funds between administrative units typically occurs with the adoption of legislation such as a supplemental budget. But if other formal procedures for gaining approval from the legislature exist, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and in practice the executive shifts funds between administrative units before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Source:

Law on public finance no. 181/2014, art. 60 (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112413&lang=ro#). During the fiscal year, Government can redistribute between the central authorities and between programs authority, up to 10 percent of the approved budget allocations. According to the guidelines answer "d" 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).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

116. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue (that is, amounts higher than originally anticipated) that may become available during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 116 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if additional revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, which often happens in oil/mineral-dependent countries, and it was not accounted for in the Enacted Budget, there should be a procedure in place to ensure that the legislature approves any proposed use of these "new" funds. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might deliberately underestimate revenue in the budget proposal it submits to the legislature, in order to have additional resources to spend at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before spending any funds resulting from higher-than-expected revenues, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if prior legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to spend excess revenue and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the additional spending after it has already occurred.

Typically, legislative approval of additional spending beyond what was reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur with the adoption of a supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

a The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenues, and it does so in practice.

Source:

The Law on public finance no 181/2014 Art. 16, para (1) and (2) (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112413&lang=ro#). (1) The level of the budget balance is established through the law, which provides, as appropriate, sources of financing the budget deficit or how the budget surplus should be spent. (2) Any amendments to the budget balance are adopted only by law amending the budget. During 2020 the Government asks for modifications the budget for rising the previously approved amount of revenues by law no. 131 of 12.07.20 (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=122188&lang=ro)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

a. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to reducing spending below the enacted levels in response to revenue shortfalls or other reasons, and it does so in practice.

Source:

The Law on public finance no 181/2014 Art. 16, para (1) and (2) (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=112413&lang=ro#). (1) The level of the budget balance is established through the law, which provides, as appropriate, sources of financing the budget deficit or how the budget surplus should be spent. (2) Any amendments to the budget balance are adopted only by law amending the budget. During 2020 the Government

asks for modifications the budget for reducing the previously approved amount of spending by law no. 173 of 11.09.20 (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=123139&lang=ro)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

118. Did a committee of the legislature examine the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 118 is about ex post oversight following the implementation of the budget. It probes whether a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI), and whether this resulted in an official report with findings and recommendations. A key issue is how soon after the SAI releases the report does it legislature review it. This question does not apply to the legislative scrutiny of in-year implementation of the Enacted Budget during the relevant budget execution period, which is assessed separately. Also, the question is asking specifically about the SAI's annual report on the execution of the budget, not about other audit reports that the SAI may produce. (This is the Audit Report used for responding to Question 98.)

To answer "a," a legislative committee must have examined the annual Audit Report within three months of it being released by the SAI, and then published a report (or reports) with findings and recommendations. (Note that the three-month period should only take into account time when the legislature is in session.)

Answer "b" applies when the committee examines it within six months of it being released (but more than three months), and then published a report with its findings and recommendations. Choose "c" if a committee examined the annual Audit Report more than six months after it became available or it did not publish any report with findings and recommendations. Answer "d" applies where no committee examined the annual Audit Report.

If the answer is "a" or "b," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed the Audit Report, and provide a copy of its report(s). If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the committee and when it reviewed budget implementation. Answers "a," "b," or "c" may be selected if the Audit Report is produced by the SAI but not made publicly available.

Answer:

a. Yes, a committee examined the Audit Report on the annual budget within three months of its availability, and it published a report with findings and recommendations.

Source:

On 23.06.2022, the audit reports on the execution of the state budget, the state social insurance budget and the mandatory healthcare insurance funds, for the 2021 budget year, were heard in the plenary session of the Legislature (page 47, <https://www.parlament.md/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=qNcFnSFmcJo%3D&tabid=202&language=ro-RO>), simultaneously with the respective reports of the Government. The report was published on May 30 2022 (https://www.ccrm.md/ro/decision_details/1172/hotararea-nr24-din-30-mai-2022-cu-privire-la-raportul).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

119. Was the process of appointing (or re-appointing) the current head of the SAI carried out in a way that ensures his or her independence?

GUIDELINES:

Question 119 concerns the appointment process of the current head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). Appointment procedures vary greatly across countries, as well as across different types of SAIs. Moreover, conventions and informal practices can greatly affect the de facto independence of the head of the SAI. While these factors make it difficult to devise a single metric against which all SAIs can be assessed with regard to this particular aspect, this question focuses on whether the legislature or judiciary must appoint or approve the appointment of the head of the SAI as a way to ensure the SAI's independence from the executive. However, if the appointment is carried out in another way that nonetheless ensures the independence of the SAI head, then that approach could be also considered.

To answer "a," the legislature or judiciary must appoint (or re-appoint) the head of the SAI, or approve the recommendation of the executive, as a way that ensure his or her independence from the executive. (As noted above, alternative approaches may also be acceptable.) Choose "b" if the appointment process does not ensure the independence of the head of the SAI, e.g. the executive may appoint the head of the SAI without the final consent of the legislature or judiciary.

Irrespective of which answer you selected, provide a description of how the head of the SAI is appointed.

Answer:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be appointed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the appointment takes effect.

Source:

The Law on Court of Accounts, nr 260/2017, Art. 17 (1) The President of the Court of Accounts shall be appointed by the Parliament for a term of five years at the proposal of the President of the Parliament, on the basis of a public competition with the vote of the majority of the elected deputies (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118293&lang=ro).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

120. Must a branch of government other than the executive (such as the legislature or the judiciary) give final consent before the head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) can be removed from office?

GUIDELINES:

Question 120 covers the manner in which the head or senior members of the SAI may be removed from office. This question draws on best practices identified in the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>), including measures intended to guarantee the office's independence from the executive.

To answer "a," the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before the head of the SAI is removed. For example, the legislature or judiciary may give final consent following a certain external process, such as a criminal proceeding. So while the executive may initiate a criminal proceeding, the final consent of a member of the judiciary – or a judge – is necessary to render a verdict of wrongdoing that may lead to the removal from office of the head of the SAI. Answer "b" applies if the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature.

Answer:

a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before he or she is removed.

Source:

The president and members of the Court of Accounts can be removed only by the Parliament in conditions stipulated in the Law on Court of Accounts, nr 260/2017, Art. 20. (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118293&lang=ro). Law on Court of Auditors, art. 20 (6). The head and the members of Court of Accounts could be removed by a Parliament decision that was adopted by the vote of 2/3 of the elected deputies.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

121. Who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 121 asks who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). To ensure objective audits of government budgets, another important component of the SAI's independence from the executive is the extent to which the SAI's budget is determined by a body other than the executive, and whether the SAI has adequate resources to fulfill its mandate.

Answer "a" applies if the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate, AND either the SAI determines its own budget and then submits it to the executive (which accepts it with little or no change) or directly to the legislature, or the budget of the SAI is determined directly by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body). Answer "b" applies if the SAI's budget is determined by the executive (absent a recommendation from the SAI), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "c" applies if the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body) determines the SAI's budget, but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "d" applies if the executive determines the SAI's budget, and the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Please provide evidence in support of the assessment that the funding level is or is not broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Answer:

c. The budget of the SAI is determined by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Source:

The law on Court of Accounts no 260/2017 Art. 4 (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118293&lang=ro) and law on public finance no 181/2014, Art 51(prim) (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=121242&lang=ro#). The Court of Accounts determines and approve its own budget proposal, the Ministry of Finance issues a statement regarding it (as advisory opinion), and the budget proposal of the Court of Accounts is submitted (by SAI) to the Government to be included in the EBP (the Government don't have competencies to reject or modify the proposed by the SAI budget). Any disputes regarding Court of Accounts budget are discussed in the Parliament.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Comments: The Court of Accounts disagrees The Law on the Organisation and Functioning of the Court of Accounts (the Audit Law) defines the CoA's independence, mandate and organisation. It indicates that the CoA is the SAI of Moldova and that it is functionally, financially and operationally independent and exercises its functions independently from any other body or authority. The CoA implements its budget and performs its statutory functions independently and is free from undue direction or interference from the legislature or the Executive in its audit work and certain aspects of its office management, such as individual recruitment decisions. However, the implementation of other laws, particularly those relating to the budget, the public service and salaries, effectively undermine key elements of the CoA's organisational, functional and financial independence because the MoF and State Chancellery have significant influence in establishing the budget and organising the CoA. Article 51 of the Law on Public Finance and Fiscal Responsibility (N 181/2014) requires that the approved draft budgets of independent/autonomous budgetary authorities, are submitted to the Government, with the advisory opinion of the Ministry of Finance in line with the budget calendar, in order to be included in the draft state budget to be submitted to the Parliament for adoption. If an independent/autonomous budgetary authority does not agree with the parameters of the approved draft budget submitted by the Government, the Authority has the right to submit objections to the Parliament. The Parliament takes the final decision on the budget of the independent/autonomous budgetary authority. In practice, the draft budget submitted by the CoA to the Ministry of Finance, is revised by the Ministry of Finance and included in the draft state budget for submission to the Government. The original budget submitted by the CoA is not provided to the Government or the Parliament. The review of the World Bank identified as well an

important shortcoming related to the budget of the Court of Account which is approved by the Ministry of Finance, and it is submitted by the Government to the Parliament for endorsement. Such practice does not allow the Court of Account to prepare its own budget and submit this to Parliament. Likewise, the Court of Account of Moldova does not have the flexibility to use its budget according to its own priorities in accordance with the national budgetary laws. Consequently, there is room to improve to practical financial independence of the Court of Account of Moldova. Source: Law No. 260 of 17 December 2017 on the Organisation and Functioning of the Court of Accounts of the Republic of Moldova (subsequently amended in 26 April 2018, 27 July 2018, 20 September 2019, 6 February 2020, 11 September 2020 and 12 February 2021), https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136292&lang=ro# Law on Public Finance and Fiscal Responsibility, No.181/2014 , Article 51 https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=21383&lang=ru Circular on the elaboration and presentation of proposals for the draft State Budget 2020-2022 <https://mf.gov.md/ro/buget/circulara-bugetar%C4%83> European Commission Analytical report on Moldova's alignment with the EU acquis https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/commission-analytical-report-moldovas-alignment-eu-acquis_en Peer Review Report of the Court of Accounts <https://www.ccrm.md/en/peer-review-3587.html> SIGMA Monitoring Report "Public administration in the Republic of Moldova" <https://www.sigmaweb.org/publications/Monitoring-Report-2023-Republic-of-Moldova.pdf> World Bank Report "The Quality of Audits by the Court of Accounts of Moldova: A Review of Compliance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions" <https://www.ccrm.md/en/evaluation-reports-3586.html>

Researcher Response

I agree with the SAI statement, and it is essentially true. However, legally and procedurally, the budget is approved independently, under the same budgetary rules as other public institutions. That being said, the same rules allow for unfair competition between the public and private sectors to occur, where wages are at least 50% higher, limiting the potential hires, potential capacities, and skills to be attracted by the Court of Accounts. It also refers to the professional training currently financed by donor support schemes, and not reflected in any way in the public budget.

IBP Comment

We welcome the comment from the Court of Account as provided by the government reviewer. The extensive additional information and evidence provided are acknowledged. Upon further validation and discussion with the researcher, the score is now changed from "a" to "c".

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:

The Court of Accounts has full discretion to decide on the audit program, but with exception on the corporations with less than 50% of public share in the statutory capital. Law on Court of Accounts no 260/2017, Art. 32, (5). (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118293&lang=ro)

Comment:

Beyond mentioned limitations regarding the mandate of the audit, Court of Accounts has full discretion to decide which audits to undertake. Law on Court of Accounts no 260/2017, Art. 9. (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=118293&lang=ro)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

Comments: The Court of Accounts disagrees. Article 9 of the CoA Law gives the CoA the right to independently determine its programme of audit activity and the procedure for its implementation. It requires the CoA to plan its audit activities over the medium term by developing a long-term audit programme (usually for three years), updated annually. The annual audit programme is developed on the basis of a long-term programme. While the CoA Law states that no authority is entitled to amend the audit program, legal and/or natural persons may express their wishes regarding the entities subject to audit. However, the final decision on audit activity is made solely by the CoA. The Law33 gives the CoA broad audit powers to audit public entities and resources. The law states that the CoA has the right to audit the use of public financial resources by any beneficiaries, regardless of the type of ownership and legal form, as well as by political parties, and the right to verify all financial, administrative and other activities, programs and projects including the process of selling, privatizing or concession of assets and the income received from them. Specifically it provides for the CoA to conduct all types of audit in: • all public institutions, including self-governed public institutions and authorities; • state and municipal enterprises, • commercial companies whose share capital is wholly owned by the state or administrative territorial unit, • commercial companies in which the state, the administrative-territorial units, the state and municipal enterprises hold, separately or together, at least half of the share capital. With respect to central regulatory public authorities the CoA is limited to only auditing their expenditure and for political parties the CoA is limited to auditing expenditures made from funds provided by the state budget. The CoA is also entitled to conduct audits on the use of public financial resources allocated to an (private) institution or organisation; the management of public property and its efficiency through public-private partnerships; the management of public property and efficiency under concessions; and loans, credits and debts guaranteed by public sector entities. While the CoA's statutory audit mandate is broad, at the same time it presents a major challenge to ensure that all institutions subject to public external audit are audited with a reasonable degree of regularity, reflecting the risks to the use of public resources. Each year, the CoA's audit programme must include mandatory financial audits (3 Government reports: execution of State Budget, Social insurance and Health insurance budgets and all Ministries budgets (which consolidate more than 300 subordinates)) and the audit of the National Integrity Authority. In addition to these annual mandatory audits there are about 2300 audited entities that could be subject to audit by the CoA including: • 15 central specialised bodies of the public administration, • 14 regulatory authorities, • 15 independent/autonomous public authorities, • 899 first level local public authorities, • 35 second level local public authorities • 226 state enterprises and 550 municipal enterprises, • 435 medical and sanitary institutions, • 65 joint stock companies with a more than 50% state share and 41 joint stock companies with a more than 50% administrative-territorial unit share While the CoA has a broad mandate, the number of entities potentially subject to audit and the limited resources of the CoA creates clear challenges in planning and delivering a comprehensive work programme over the medium term that delivers effective accountability and transparency for public resources. Source: Law No. 260 of 17 December 2017 on the Organisation and Functioning of the Court of Accounts of the Republic of Moldova (subsequently amended in 26 April 2018, 27 July 2018, 20 September 2019, 6 February 2020, 11 September 2020 and 12 February 2021), https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=136292&lang=ro# Peer Review Report of the Court of Accounts <https://www.ccrm.md/en/peer-review-3587.html>

IBP Comment

The comment from the Court of Accounts, as relayed by the government reviewer, is acknowledged. We thank the CoA for the comprehensive explanation. The additional information supports the original finding of the researcher that by law, the SAI enjoys significant discretion to undertake all types of audits, but also outlines considerable resource limitations faced by the SAI in implementing audits it may wish to. However, 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. Given that the legal framework gives the CoA broad authority to undertake audits it may wish to, albeit some limitations, the response remains unchanged.

123. Are the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) reviewed by an independent agency?

GUIDELINES:

Question 123 assesses whether and to what extent the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) are subject to review by an independent agency. The latter could be a peer SAI, an international organization, an academic institution with relevant expertise, or an independent domestic agency with quality assurance functions in the area of financial reporting.

To answer "a," an independent agency must conduct and publish a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis. Answer "b" applies if a review was carried out within the past five years, and published, but it is not conducted annually, but. Choose answer "c" if the SAI has an internal unit that reviews the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis, but an independent agency does not conduct such a review. Answer "d" applies if the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.

If the answer is either "a" or "b," please specify the name of the independent agency and when last it conducted such a review, and provide a copy of the published report. If the answer is "c," please specify the name of the unit within the SAI that is tasked with conducting such reviews.

Answer:

b. Yes, an independent agency conducts and publishes a review of the audit processes of the SAI at least once in the past five years, but not annually.

Source:

Two reports were produced. The first one was developed and published in July 2022 by the World Bank team based on the results of the Public Expenditure and Financial Responsibility Evaluation (CPRF) of the central administration of the Republic of Moldova. The main purpose of the CPRF 2021 assessment was to provide the Government of the Republic of Moldova with an objective and up-to-date diagnosis of the performance of public financial management at the national level, based on the latest internationally recognized CPRF methodology.

The international assessment exercise was carried out at the request and initiative of the CCRM, during the years 2020-2022 by a group of international experts led by SIGMA – the joint initiative of the European Commission and the OECD. The purpose of the exercise was to assess the current situation on a number of strategic dimensions, such as: independence and the legal framework; governance; financial audit: process and quality, reporting and achieving results; as well as stakeholder relations. As a result, the International Evaluation Report was produced, presented in the fall of 2022, which contains findings and recommendations to increase the performance of the supreme audit institution on the analyzed dimensions and to adjust the normative-legal framework in the context of the European Agenda of the Republic of Moldova. <https://www.ccrm.md/ro/rapoarte-de-evaluare-3586.html>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The CPRF report - the observations regarding the audit processes of the SAI are outlined in PILLAR SEVEN: External Examination and Audit. pp. 187-197.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The Court of Accounts agrees. Additional information: World Bank Report "The Quality of Audits by the Court of Accounts of Moldova: A Review of Compliance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions" <https://www.ccrm.md/en/evaluation-reports-3586.html> The CoA has developed and implements a "Quality Management System Guide" in which policies and procedures are designed to promote quality in all of its work in line with the requirements of international standards, and in particular ISSAI 140. The quality control policies and procedures require that all the work of the CoA is subject to review within the quality control and assurance system. The CoA has an appropriate system of quality control and assurance, which covers all aspects of its work and protects the reputation and credibility of the SAI. The systems are compatible with the requirements of ISQC1 and ISSAI 140. The CoA has special policies and regulations concerning "hot reviews" and "cold reviews" of audits and implements in practice by annual planning of the reviews and undertaking them at regular basis. Source: Peer Review Report of the Court of Accounts <https://www.ccrm.md/en/peer-review-3587.html> Quality Management System Guide <https://www.ccrm.md/ro/ghiduri-3558.html> Report on the results of the "hot" and "cold" reviews of the quality of audit missions for the year 2021 https://www.ccrm.md/ro/raport-privind-rezultatele-revizuirilor-la-fierbinte-si-la-rece-87_92323.html

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:

a. Frequently (i.e., five times or more).

Source:

The dedicated legislative committee examines regularly Audit reports of the Court of Accounts and one or more members of the Court and senior members take part and testify in hearings. The SAI Annual Activity report cites over 27 meetings with the Parliaments committees:

https://www.ccrm.md/ro/upload/6450b62de228b/92797/attached_files, page 42, but also some distinct meetings:

1) Rapoartele auditului conformității sistemelor de achiziții publice în cadrul ministerelor: <https://www.parlament.md/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=THQpAENPgBk%3D&tabid=84&mid=486&language=ro-RO>

2) Raportul auditului conformității administrării și gestionării fondului forestier de către Agenția „Moldsilva”: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwj6wZ892BAxW0gv0HHYGUBHAQFnoECA8QAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.p>

[parlament.md%2FLinkClick.aspx%3Ffileticket%3DhS1KDRIP%252FDw%253D%26tabid%3D84%26mid%3D486%26language%3DFR&usg=AOvVaw177ZceBiahLlyE32tvp17&opi=89978449](https://www.parlament.md%2FLinkClick.aspx%3Ffileticket%3DhS1KDRIP%252FDw%253D%26tabid%3D84%26mid%3D486%26language%3DFR&usg=AOvVaw177ZceBiahLlyE32tvp17&opi=89978449)

- 3) Annual Reports on the execution of National Budget components: https://www.ccrm.md/ro/rezultatele-auditul-rapoartelor-bass-si-faoam-examinare-in-sedinta-80_92376.html
- 4) https://www.ccrm.md/ro/the-results-of-the-audit-on-the-execution-of-the-state-budget-and-the-management-80_92408.html
- 5) Audit of JSC MoldovGaz: https://www.ccrm.md/ro/curtea-de-conturi-a-auditat-sa-moldovagaz-80_92557.html

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

125. Does the executive use participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during the formulation of the annual budget (prior to the budget being tabled in parliament)?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Inclusiveness" and "Timeliness" and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the executive are truly interactive and involve a two-way conversation between citizens and the executive.

The drafting of this question and its answers are partially drawn from the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, in particular with regards to the concepts of "involvement" (option "a" in the responses) and "consultation" (option "b"). See:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/foundations_course/IAP2_P2_Spectrum_FINAL.pdf.

Please consider only participation mechanisms that the Ministry of Finance, lead budget agency, or central coordinating agency designated by the government to implement participation mechanisms ("the executive") is currently using to allow the public to participate in the formulation of the annual budget, including annual pre-budget discussions. Participation mechanisms used only by line ministries should not be used to answer this question. If there is more than one mechanism used by the executive, please select the deepest or most interactive mechanism that reflects the government's efforts to incorporate citizens' input into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as spending and tax policy, funding and revenue levels, and macro-fiscal planning.

To answer "a," the executive must use open participation mechanisms that involve the public in the formulation of the annual budget. This means that a public process is in place whereby CSOs and/or individual members of the public and government officials interact, and have the opportunity to express their opinions to each other in what can be considered a public dialogue between them (i.e., in-person and online discussion forums). Additionally, the mechanism should be open to any CSO and/or individual members of the public who wish to participate. By selecting this answer, the researcher must present evidence to support the presence of a public dialogue among citizens and government officials. Examples include public meetings and online deliberative exchanges.

Answer "b" applies if an open consultation mechanism is in place whereby members of the public (i.e., individuals and/or CSOs as well as academics, independent experts, policy think tanks, and business organizations) can provide their input in the formulation of the annual budget. This answer applies if the government is using a mechanism that is structured and well established, and not ad-hoc. The researcher must present evidence to support the presence of consultative processes through which the executive seeks out inputs from citizens. Examples include surveys, focus groups, report cards, published policy consultation exercises, and online platforms that government officials actively manage to solicit inputs.

Answer "c" applies if the executive has established a mechanism or mechanisms to allow citizens to participate in the budget formulation phase, but:

1) The mechanisms are not structured and happen only on ad-hoc basis, or not regularly.

and/or

2) The executive consults with and/or interacts with, citizens, but there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, and the executive determines fully or partially such selection process by inviting specific groups (for example by making an open call but just to experts from a particular sector, or naming specific organizations). While it is not possible for all citizens and/or CSOs to participate in this or other phases of the budget process, options "a" and "b" apply if the government does not exercise any discretion in determining who is allowed to participate. While there is likely going to be self-selection, it is important that the selection is not made by the executive.

In cases where there is discretion in who is allowed to participate, to select answer choice "c", there should be some sort of public record (held in public, minutes of meetings released to public) so that 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:

b. Yes, the executive uses open participation mechanisms through which members of the public provide their inputs on the budget.

Source:

The Ministry of Finance initiated a process of consultation on the early stage of PBS (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/ministerul-finanțelor-lansează-procesul-de-consultare-publică-proiectului-de-lege-pentru>), and came with a feedback presented in a separate document, "Sinteza obiectivelor și propunerilor" (<https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/proiectul-de-lege-cu-privire-la-modificarea-unor-acte-normative-politica-fiscala-si-vamala-pentru-anul-2023/9259>). For the other stages of the elaboration of the EBP, although the Government entered into an open consultation process or involvement with citizens (either on the ministerial website or on <https://particip.gov.md/ro>) the timeframe for requesting proposals was in some cases 2-5 days. The budget proposal was published, but only with 2 days for citizens to come up with proposals (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/anunț-privind-organizarea-consultărilor-publice-543>). In the process of elaborating PBS, the Government uses working groups that include government representatives, but also representatives of trade unions and employers (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/ministerul-finanțelor-lansează-procesul-de-consultare-publică-proiectului-de-lege-pentru-0>). Some consultations with particular actors took place, for example on the platform of collective negotiations (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-politicii-bugetar-fiscale-pe-anul-2023-discutat-de-membrii-cci-cu-ministrul>) and with business associations (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/ministrul-finanțelor-dumitru-budianschi-avut-o-intrevedere-cu-echipa-executivă-amcham>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

IBP maintains researcher's original answer choice of B, but would like to clarify that this is based on the provision of consultations by Executive Agencies on "<https://particip.gov.md/ro>". Ministry of Finance opened up one such consultation on 11 Nov 2022, on the topic of amending a few budgetary-fiscal policies. See invitations: <https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/ministerul-finanțelor-lansează-procesul-de-consultare-publică-proiectului-de-lege-pentru-0> <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/proiectul-de-lege-cu-privire-la-modificarea-unor-acte-normative-politica-fiscala-si-vamala-pentru-anul-2023/9259> On the website, MoF uploaded the bills, additional information and a summary of closed door consultations with private sector (such as AmCham Bank, APPLE) and other line ministries. The opportunity for submissions were open to public for only 9 days.

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:

No evidences (public events, press releases or other information) have been identified that demonstrate concrete steps to include representatives of vulnerable in the budget elaboration process.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

127. During the budget formulation stage, which of the following key topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the formulation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics -- and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget formulation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above -- for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation stage.

Answer:

c. The executive's engagement with citizens covers at least one (but less than three) of the above-mentioned topics.

Source:

We can only say with all certainty that one the topics is fully covered (revenue policies, forecast and administration) and due to increased interest the second topic on public investment started to be discusses on the platform of collective negotiations (<https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/proiectul-politiciei-bugetar-fiscale-pe-anul-2023-discutat-de-membrii-cci-cu-ministrul>) and with business associations (<https://www.mf.gov.md/ro/content/ministrul-finanțelor-dumitru-budianschi-avut-o-intrevedere-cu-echipa-executivă-amcham>).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

No public participation mechanisms were identified for the implementation stage.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

129. With regard to the mechanism identified in question 128, does the executive take concrete steps to receive input from vulnerable and underrepresented parts of the population on the implementation of the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle of "Inclusiveness", and examines the executive's effort to actively reach out to citizens who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes. The emphasis here is on national government's efforts to obtain input from members of the public who are from socially vulnerable groups and/or underrepresented in national processes during the implementation of the annual budget.

To answer "a," the executive must actively seek out individuals from at least one vulnerable and underrepresented community and/or civil society organization representing vulnerable and underrepresented individuals and communities. The researcher must provide evidence to show the government's efforts and actions. The researcher must speak with the relevant government official(s), and subsequently double check with an alternative source, such as representatives from vulnerable/underrepresented groups.

Answer "b" applies if the national executive does not take concrete steps to incorporate vulnerable/underrepresented individuals, or organizations representing them, into participation mechanisms or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

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

Source:

No formal or informal mechanism for this stage of the budgetary process has been identified.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

130. During the implementation of the annual budget, which of the following topics does the executive's engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

- 1. Changes in macroeconomic circumstances**
- 2. Delivery of public services**
- 3. Collection of revenue**

- 4. Implementation of social spending
- 5. Changes in deficit and debt levels
- 6. Implementation of public investment projects

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider all of the mechanisms currently used by the executive to promote public participation during the implementation of the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics -- and for this reason the other questions assessing the executive's engagement with the public during budget implementation can be answered on the basis of engagement on topics other than the six listed above -- for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be ONLY the ones listed above. If the executive's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation stage.

Answer:

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

Source:

No public participation mechanisms were identified for the implementation stage

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

131. When the executive engages with the public, does it provide comprehensive prior information on the process of the engagement, so that the public can participate in an informed manner?

Comprehensive information must include at least three of the following elements:

- 1. Purpose
- 2. Scope
- 3. Constraints
- 4. Intended outcomes
- 5. Process and timeline

GUIDELINES:

This question relates to the GIFT principle of "Openness," and addresses whether the executive provides relevant information on the process of the engagement before public participation takes place, in order to help citizens engage effectively. The question addresses whether the "rules of the public engagement" are clearly spelled out, in advance and in detail, so that those members of the public who want to engage know how to do so, in terms of when they can do so, what they are expected to provide input on, by when, to whom, etc. This question does not cover the substance of the engagement, which is covered by questions 127 and 130.

Non-comprehensive information means that the government provides information that includes at least one but less than three of the elements listed above.

Purpose refers to a brief explanation of why the public engagement is being undertaken, including the executive's objectives for its engagement with the public.

Scope refers to what is within the subject matter of the engagement as well as what is outside the subject matter of the engagement. For example, the scope may include how a current policy is administered but exclude the specifics of the policies themselves.

Constraints refers to whether there are there any explicit limitations on the engagement. An example of a constraint could be that any policy changes must not cost (or forgo revenue) more than a specific amount or have no net fiscal cost.

Intended outcomes refers to what the executive hopes to achieve as a result of the engagement. Examples of intended outcomes could be revising a policy to better reflect citizen or service-user views or to improve the way in which a particular program is administered.

Process refers to the methods by which the public engagement will take place and the discrete steps in the process. For example, the process may simply be a one-off Internet-based consultation, with a summary published of public inputs and the official response. The process may involve simultaneous or overlapping steps, and may be conducted in one round or in two or more rounds of engagement.

Timeline refers to the specific dates on which the discrete steps in the process will take place, or during which they will be completed, and clear start and end dates for the overall engagement.

Answer "d" applies if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation or formulation stage.

Answer:

c. Information is provided in a timely manner in both or one of the two phases, but it is not comprehensive.

Source:

Given that the used mechanisms are the dialogue with certain actors (in the context of the dialogue with business associations), the documents (PBS or the draft budget) are not published in time. At the same time, the Ministry of Finance comes with presentations during the discussions, and video explanations:

(1) <https://mf.gov.md/ro/content/ministerul-finan%C8%9Belor-lanseaz%C4%83-procesul-de-consultare-public%C4%83-proiectului-de-lege-pentru> ; 2) <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/proiectul-de-lege-cu-privire-la-modificarea-unor-acte-normative-politica-fiscala-si-vamala-pentru-anul-2023/9259>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

IBP revised the response from B to C. With reference to the mechanism identified in 125 (see IBP comment), IBP acknowledges that MoF uploads information on the draft act, and a summary of closed door consultations with experts, private sector, other executive agencies. However, citizens were given only 9 days to comments (11 Nov to 20 Nov 2022). The EBP itself was published on the website much later on 7th December 2022. There is no guidance on the kind of feedback MoF was seeking from citizens. <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/proiectul-de-lege-cu-privire-la-modificarea-unor-acte-normative-politica-fiscala-si-vamala-pentru-anul-2023/9259>

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:

So a written record is provided for the input in the formulation of the annual budget. It is presented in the document "Sinteza obiectiilor si propunerilor" at : <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/proiectul-de-lege-cu-privire-la-modificarea-unor-acte-normative-politica-fiscala-si-vamala-pentru-anul-2023/9259>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

IBP revised response from C to D. The link to "summary of objections and proposals/recommendations" is a summary of MoF's closed door consultations with experts (such as National Multifamily Housing Council), private sector (AmCham bank, APPLE) and executive agencies (Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Culture). There is no summary or list published of citizens feedback.

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 take 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:

No formal instrument has been identified and no document to support a higher score.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

134. Are participation mechanisms incorporated into the timetable for formulating the Executive's Budget Proposal?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles on "Sustainability," "Timeliness" and "Complementarity" and addresses whether the executive is able to link participation mechanisms to the administrative processes that are used to create the annual budget.

Please note that "timetable" refers to a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the Ministry of Finance or whatever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget's formulation. This document is sometimes referred to as the budget calendar and is the same document referenced in Question 53.

Answer "a" applies if the national executive establishes a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget. For answer choice "a", the timetable must be available to the public prior to the budget preparation process beginning.

Answer "b" applies if the executive does not establish a clear set of guidelines that enable citizens and civil servants to understand when participation mechanisms should be used to enable citizen inputs to be incorporated into the annual budget or if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget formulation or implementation stage.

Answer:

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

Source:

The Executive does not provide a timetable for consultations on PBS and the preparation of the budget proposal. At least it was not identified on the Ministry of Finance web page, mass media, or other places.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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 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:

Several line Ministries (eg Ministry of Education, Culture and Research; Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure) have developed and published Sectoral Expenditure Strategies (as part of the development of PBS) but have not consulted these documents with citizens (on the consultation platform particip.gov.md). No other mechanisms were identified through which the line ministries consulted these documents. The only form of participation used is the inclusion of non-governmental representatives in the Working Groups. A line Ministry is often responsible for several areas and forms Working Groups for each of them. Taking into account the fact that not all working groups formed within a ministry included people from CSOs or other non-governmental actors (for example at the Ministry of Education in the Working Group on Youth Policies was included, while for the field of research and innovation not) answer (d) was applied.

Comment:**Peer Reviewer**

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

IBP worked with researcher to revise response to C. There are two major policies with budgetary impact where the revision of the way citizens contribute to the budgetary system, and the energetic vulnerability system and compensation. All policies are described in the EBP, and indirectly one can estimate the budgetary impact from its supporting documents. Please follow the links: 1)

<https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/proiectul-de-hotarare-pentru-modificarea-anexelor-nr-3-si-nr-5-la-regulamentul-privind-modalitatea-de-calculare-a-pensiilor-si-modalitatea-de-confirmare-a-stagiului-de-cotizare-pentru-stabilirea-pensiilor-aprobat-prin-hotararea-guvernului-nr-1652017/9015-2> <https://particip.gov.md/ro/document/stages/anunt-privind-initierea-elaborarii-proiectului-hotararii-de-guvern-cu-privire-la-acordarea-suportului-unic-beneficiarilor-de-pensii-si-alocatii-sociale-de-stat/9558>

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:

c. Yes, public hearings on the budget are held. No testimony from the public is provided during the public hearings, and there are no other mechanisms through which public contributions are received, but the legislature invites specific individuals or groups to testify or provide input (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Source:

Parliament did not hold public hearings on the draft budget 2022. The draft budget for 2022 was examined by the Committee on Budgets and Finance (the committee responsible for the budget law) for the first reading on 6 December 2021 and the second reading on 12 December. However, they cannot be considered public hearings, even if the meeting on December 12 was broadcast online (<https://www.youtube.com/live/EAXFmcn0L7c?feature=share>).

Also, Parliament has significant discretion as to whom can participate, even if they are representatives of the biggest CSOs, local and smaller CSOs are overlooked.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

IBP worked with the researcher to revise the response from a D to a C since CSOs are invited and a list is provided to the security offices.

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:

The legislature does not hold a public hearing or took other actions for engagement with citizens.

Comment:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/EAXFmcn0L7c?feature=share>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

138. Does the legislature provide feedback to the public on how citizens' inputs have been used during legislative deliberations on the annual budget?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the legislature provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received and how inputs were used during legislative deliberations (please note that these deliberations can refer to the pre-budget and approval phases). By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the legislature.

Answer "a" applies when the legislature provides a written document with:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and
- A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).

Answer "b" applies when the legislature provides a written document that includes:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) and
- A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used in legislative deliberations on the annual budget (please note that these deliberations refer to the pre-budget and approval phases).

Answer "c" applies when the legislature makes available a video recording of the relevant legislative session or provides a written document that includes:

- The inputs received from the public (e.g., a written transcript) or
- A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

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

Source:

No reports regarding citizens’ participation in the deliberations on the budget were provided by the legislature.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

139. Does the legislature hold public hearings and/or use other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the Audit Report?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principle on “Sustainability,” “Transparency,” and “Complementarity” and assesses the extent to which the participation mechanism(s) used by the 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:

The public hearings on the Audit Report weren't held. No evidence was found regarding the initiation of the public hearing or their conduct. The examination of the AR held by the committee of the Control of Public Finance was public (https://www.ccrm.md/ro/rezultatele-auditul-rapoartelor-bass-si-faoam-examinata-in-sedinta-80_92376.html)

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

140. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program (for example, by bringing ideas on agencies, programs, or projects that could be audited)?

GUIDELINES:

This question assesses whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) has established mechanisms through which the public can provide suggestions on issues/topics to be included in its audit program. When deciding its audit agenda, the SAI may undertake audits for a sample of agencies, projects, and programs in the country; and such a selection could be based on complaints and suggestions made by members of the public. To receive such suggestions, the SAI may create formal mechanisms, like setting up a website, hotline, or office (or assigning staff to liaise with the public).

Please note that formal mechanisms that do not explicitly seek the public's input in the audit program (such as general comment submission boxes on the SAI's website) should not be considered for this question.

Answer:

a. Yes, the SAI maintains formal mechanisms through which the public can suggest issues/topics to include in its audit program.

Source:

The SAI publishes an official announcement on the website, on social media inviting the public to contribute with suggestions for topics to be included in the audit program (<https://www.bizlaw.md/curtea-de-conturi-solicita-propuneri-de-tematici-pentru-programul-activitatii-de-audit-pe-anul-2022>), and the civil society organizations were consulted (https://www.ccrm.md/ro/comunicarea-cu-entitatile-auditare-discutata-cu-societatea-civila-80_92149.html). Also, the Advisory Council of the SAI is consulted by sending official requests by email, by organizing discussions (round tables – online and in person).

Another instrument is a dedicated page "Propune un audit" - "Propose an audit", a dedicated section on the SAI webpage, where citizens can propose a theme, an institution, a collaboration for the future audits: https://www.ccrm.md/ro/propose_audit

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

141. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) provide the public with feedback on how citizens' inputs have been used to determine its audit program?

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Sustainability", and examines the extent to which the Supreme Audit Institution provides information to citizens on which public inputs were received, which ones are used to determine the Supreme Audit Institution's audit program. By "written record" in this question, we mean a document that is produced and released by the Supreme Audit Institution.

Answer "a" applies when the Supreme Audit Institution provides a written document with:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A detailed report on how the inputs were used or not used (such report should include information on which inputs were used or not used, why, and how).*

Answer "b" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The inputs received from the public and*
- *A not-so-detailed report on how public inputs were used or not used. This document only gives a general idea on how those inputs were used or not used to determine the SAI's annual audit program.*

Answer "c" applies when the SAI provides a written document that includes:

- *The received from the public or*
- *A report (being it detailed or not-so-detailed) on how public inputs have been used or not used.*

Answer "d" applies if requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can suggests issues/topics to include in the SAI's audit program.

Answer:

c. Yes, the SAI provides a written record which includes either the list of the inputs received or a report or summary on how they were used.

Source:

The SAI provides some written records which include some information regarding inputs received. But this was not a dedicated report (information, chapter, etc). The information regarding discussed subjects is presented in information about held meetings (https://www.ccrm.md/ro/comunicarea-cu-entitatile-auditare-discutate-cu-societatea-civila-80_92149.html). Also, in the Audit program, there is a reference that the audit program took into account inputs received during meetings with civil society representatives (<https://www.parlament.md/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=TZ%2Bh%2FDupXOw%3D&tabid=202&language=ro-RO>, page 21).

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

142. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations (as respondents, witnesses, etc.)?

GUIDELINES:

This question mirrors question 140, but instead of covering public assistance in formulating the SAI's audit program, it focuses on whether the Supreme Audit Institution has established mechanisms through which the public can participate in audit investigations. In addition to seeking public input to determine its audit agenda, the SAI may wish to provide formal opportunities for the public and civil society organizations to participate in the actual audit investigations, as

witnesses or respondents.

Answer:

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

Source:

For the past period, the SAI does not maintain formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations.

Comment:

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree