

Open Budget Survey 2023

Questionnaire

North Macedonia

May 2024

Country Questionnaire: Macedonia (the former Yugoslav 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:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Note that this Fiscal strategy was made public 3rd of June 2021 (right click then Inspect then "modified" check).

Note that this document in North Macedonia used to be prepared on a roll-over basis for a three-year period. Unfortunately, the document has not been updated for the purpose of the 2023 fiscal year thus, it is considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Comment:

The document does not roll over, meaning that it is not updated every year. Thus, considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Should be add The Program for the reform of the management of public finance „Smart public finance“ 2022-2025. It is a public finance system that will be based on a clear strategy and will be sustainable, responsible, reform-oriented and transparent, who will implement the reforms what needs to be done in public finances, in terms of long-term and higher quality planning of budget programs and budgets will be continuous, that is, it will act sustainably and continuously to improve transparency. One of the main pillars of the SMART system must be transparency and the accountability of public finances.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fiskalna-strategija-na-RSM-2024-2028-so-Prilog-3.pdf> the updated fiscal strategy are public and on the web side of the MoF in the above link,

Researcher Response

The document presented by the Government is beyond the cut-off date of the survey thus, the PBS is considered not produced as per the OBS methodology.

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. However, the document for Fiscal Strategy 2024-2028 presented in the comment has been published in 2023 as seen in the properties of the document. This is well beyond the cut-off date of the survey. The OBS uses a deadline to standardize the investigation and ensure comparability. Documents are not accepted if published after this date. This means that the current OBS reserach covers documents and practices observed until December 31 of 2022. Since no other document compliant with the methodological requiremets for a PBS was published in 2022, the PBS is considered not produced in this ocasion as per the researcher's reponse.

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Note that this Fiscal strategy was made public 3rd of June 2021 (right click then Inspect then "modified" check).

Note that this document in North Macedonia used to be prepared on a roll-over basis for a three-year period. Unfortunately, the document has not been updated for the purpose of the 2023 fiscal year, thus it is considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Comment:

The document does not roll over, meaning that it is not updated every year. Thus, is it considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: It is available to the public when the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

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

Comments: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fiskalna-strategija-na-RSM-2024-2028-so-Prilog-3.pdf>

IBP Comment

The PBS is considered not produced in this round of the OBS. Please refer to comment in PBS-1 for more details.

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:

Source:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Note that this Fiscal strategy was made public on the 3rd of June 2021 (right click then Inspect then "modified" check).

Note that this document in North Macedonia used to be prepared on a roll-over basis for a three-year period. Unfortunately, the document has not been updated for the purpose of the 2023 fiscal year thus, it is considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Comment:

The document does not roll over, meaning that it is not updated every year. Thus, it is considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The document is not published within the time frame accepted by the OBS methodology, but too late.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: the updated fiscal strategy is public and on the web side of the MoF - link, <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fiskalna-strategija-na-RSM-2024-2028-so-Prilog-3.pdf>

Comments: The Fiscal strategy 2024-2028 is published in June 2023

IBP Comment

The PBS is considered not produced in this round of the OBS. Please refer to comment in PBS-1 for more details.

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:

N/A N/A

Source:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Comment:

The document does not rollover, i.e., it is not updated every year. Thus, it is considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The Fiscal strategy is published when is adopted by the Government. <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fiskalna-strategija-na-RSM-2024-2028-so-Prilog-3.pdf>

IBP Comment

The PBS is considered not produced in this round of the OBS. Please refer to comment in PBS-1 for more details.

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

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

Answer:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/

Source:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:
<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Comment:

The document is not updated every year, thus it is considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The PBS is considered not produced in this round of the OBS. Please refer to comment in PBS-1 for more details.

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:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:
<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Comment:

The document is not updated every year, thus, it is considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The PBS is considered not produced in this round of the OBS. Please refer to comment in PBS-1 for more details.

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:

d. Not produced at all

Source:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Comment:

The document is not updated every year. Thus, it is considered as not produced, as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

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

IBP Comment

The PBS is considered not produced in this round of the OBS. Please refer to comment in PBS-1 for more details.

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:

This Fiscal Strategy was made public 3rd of June 2021 (right click then Inspect then "modified" check).

This document in North Macedonia used to be prepared on a roll-over base for a three-year period. Unfortunately, the document has not been updated for the purpose of the 2023 fiscal year and it is thus considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology. This Fiscal Strategy was made public 3rd of June 2021 (right click then Inspect then "modified" check).

This document in North Macedonia used to be prepared on a roll-over base for a three-year period. Unfortunately, the document has not been updated for the purpose of the 2023 fiscal year and it is thus considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) dated May 2021:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Comment:

The document is not updated every year, and it is thus considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The document is prepared and published according to New Organic Budget Law, link bellow <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fiskalna-strategija-na-RSM-2024-2028-so-Prilog-3.pdf>

IBP Comment

The PBS is considered not produced in this round of the OBS. Please refer to comment in PBS-1 for more details.

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:

N/A N/A

Source:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Comment:

The document is not updated on a yearly basis, and it is thus considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Fiscal strategy of Republic of North Macedonia 2024 - 2028

IBP Comment

The PBS is considered not produced in this round of the OBS. Please refer to comment in PBS-1 for more details.

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:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:
<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Comment:

This document is not updated every year, and it is thus considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Published in November 2022

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:

9/11/2022

Source:

Web page of the Ministry of Finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Right click on the document and then Inspect.

See also media news, for example an article from November 9, on Фактор, <https://faktor.mk/budzet-2023-koj-dobiva-najmnogu-pari-od-planiranite-53-miljardi-evra-za-slednata-godina>

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:

Web page of the Ministry of Finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Right click on the document and then Inspect. Budget year is the calendar year in North Macedonia.

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:

9/11/2022

Source:

Web page of the Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Right click on the document and then Inspect

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:

Right click on the document and select "Inspect."

Source:

Web page of the Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

The budget year is the calendar year in North Macedonia.

While available, the PDF of the document was not very easy to locate in the MoF website.

Step by step guidance, from the landing page of the Ministry of Finance website, <https://finance.gov.mk/>:

1. From the tabs at the top, go to **Области** link
2. Click **Јавни финансии** from the menu
3. Navigate to **Буџет** and then to **Документи**
4. Click on **Документи**. A page opens: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b4%d0%be%d0%ba%d1%83%d0%bc%d0%b5%d0%bd%d1%82%d0%b8-2/>
5. Once on that newly opened web page, click on **Буџет 2023**
6. Open the EBP for 2023

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

Document properties and Way-back machine show consistent evidence supporting the date chosen by the researcher.

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

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

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

Answer:

<https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Source:

Web page of the Ministry of Finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

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:

c. No

Source:

Web page of the Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

The document is in PDF format.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

e. Not applicable (the document is publicly available)

Source:

Web page of the Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

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:

Web page of the Ministry of Finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:
NA

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:

Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2023

Source:

Web page of the Ministry of Finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

In Macedonian: Предлог на Буџет на Република Северна Македонија за 2023 година

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Proposal Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2023

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:

NA

Comment:

In the previous round of the Open Budget Survey, a Citizens Budget was produced albeit published late. This round, a Citizens Budget is not produced at all.

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:

Official Gazette 282/22.

<https://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/c4ef21c38f7b4a44a8e9ef732fbd903.pdf>

Comment:

Also, on the web page of the Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/%D0%91%D0%A3%D0%8F%D0%95%D0%A2-2023-%D0%A1%D0%BB-%D0%92%D0%B5%D1%81%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA.pdf>.

Note: the Gazette document is 900+ long, while the one in the MoF website is smaller (500+). This is because:

1. The Official Gazette presents also the Albanian translation
2. Pages are formatted differently
3. The Official Gazette also publishes the Law on execution of the budget for 2023

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

23/12/2022

Source:

<https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-sednica.nsp?sessionId=4b8f0f74-ad34-4e2c-bc59-150d5d8b5ad8>

Comment:

The link from above takes us to the 97th plenary session of the North Macedonian Parliament.

On that session it was also voted separately for (mandatory requirement per legislation):

1. The budget of the Parliament
2. The budget for the Ombudsman
3. The budget for the SAI
4. The budget for the Commission for protections against discrimination
5. The budget for the EU Audit body for EU IPA

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:

Parliament web page: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-sednica.nsp?sessionId=4b8f0f74-ad34-4e2c-bc59-150d5d8b5ad8>

Comment:

Consultation with administrative staff from the Parliament.

Also, the IBP staff checked with Javascript and find that the date is 12/27/2022 thus, 1 day later than what the administrative staff declared as publication date. We keep the 26th of December as this was confirmed by the administrative staff checked by the IT staff as well from the Parliament

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:

26/12/2022

Source:

Parliament web page: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-sednica.nsp?sessionId=4b8f0f74-ad34-4e2c-bc59-150d5d8b5ad8>

Comment:

Consultation with administrative staff of the Parliament within the Finance and budget committee.

Also, the IBP staff checked with Javascript and find that the date is 12/27/2022 thus, 1 day later than what the administrative staff declared as publication date. We keep the 26th of December as this was confirmed by the administrative staff checked by the IT staff as well from the Parliament

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The EB published in official gazette is 12/27/2022

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:

Consultation with administrative staff of the Parliament within the Finance and budget committee.

Source:

Parliament web page: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-sednica.nsp?sessionId=4b8f0f74-ad34-4e2c-bc59-150d5d8b5ad8>

Comment:

Also, the IBP staff checked with Javascript and find that the date is 12/27/2022 thus, 1 day later than what the administrative staff declared as publication date. We keep the 26th of December as this was confirmed by the administrative staff checked by the IT staff as well from the Parliament

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:

<https://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/c4ef21c38f7b4a44a8e9ef732fbd903.pdf>

Source:

Official Gazette: <https://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/c4ef21c38f7b4a44a8e9ef732fbd903.pdf>

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/%D0%91%D0%A3%D0%8F%D0%95%D0%A2-2023-%D0%A1%D0%BB-%D0%92%D0%B5%D1%81%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA.pdf>

Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-sednica.nsp?sessionid=4b8f0f74-ad34-4e2c-bc59-150d5d8b5ad8>

Comment:

NA

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:

c. No

Source:

Official Gazette: <https://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/c4ef21c38f7b4a44a8e9ef732fbd903.pdf>

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/%D0%91%D0%A3%D0%8F%D0%95%D0%A2-2023-%D0%A1%D0%BB-%D0%92%D0%B5%D1%81%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA.pdf>

Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-sednica.nsp?sessionid=4b8f0f74-ad34-4e2c-bc59-150d5d8b5ad8>

All in pdf

Comment:

NA

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:

Official Gazette: <https://www.slv.esnik.com.mk/Issues/c4ef21c38f7b4a44a8e9ef732fbd903.pdf>

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/%D0%91%D0%A3%D0%8F%D0%95%D0%A2-2023-%D0%A1%D0%BB-%D0%92%D0%B5%D1%81%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA.pdf>

Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-sednica.nsp?sessionId=4b8f0f74-ad34-4e2c-bc59-150d5d8b5ad8>

Comment:

NA

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:

NA

Source:

NA

Comment:

NA

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:

Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2023

Source:

Official Gazette: <https://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/c4ef21c38f7b4a44a8e9ef732fbd903.pdf>

Comment:

Original title in Macedonian: Буџет на Република Северна Македонија за 2023

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

b. No

Source:

NA

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Disagree
Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/tekovni.html> The link of citizens budget.

Researcher Response

The proposed link by the Government does not fulfill the main characteristics of a proper CB. The link proposed is a portal of financial information that do not help citizens to be informed well about the budget document yet not to be efficiently engaged in the budget debate.

IBP Comment

The comment from the reviewers is well received. It is important to note that as per the OBS methodology, the citizen's budget (CB) is designed to reach and be understood by as large a segment of the population as possible. This document presents key public finance information to a general audience and it is typically written in accessible language incorporating visual elements to help non-specialist readers understand the information. For assessing the timeliness criteria, the CB has to comply with the timeliness requirement for the document that it refers to, typically, the executive budget proposal or enacted budget. In the previous round of the OBS (2021) the citizen budget assessed in North Macedonia corresponds to the portal <https://vlada.mk/budzet2021>. The portal presents a series of citizen presentations done by the Council of Ministers. The Citizens Budget for the EBP presented by the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs (Fatmir Bytyqi) was the most comprehensive one. In this regard, the document "Citizen Budget 2021 - For Economic Stability and Speed Growth" (https://vlada.mk/sites/default/files/img/zpvrsm_bitikji-budzheta_2021.pdf) was considered the citizen's version of the 2021 budget proposal, (published on November 19, 2020, within the times of the OBS methodology to be considered available to the public). This round of the OBS assessed documents published until December 31, 2022. In that regard, a document similar to the one presented above was not produced for the proposal 2023. Moreover, the portal <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/tekovni.html> cannot be considered a CB because it hardly presents any narrative explaining in an accessible manner the estimates presented, and it does not include an explanation of priorities and key policies of the budget. The portal indicates that "The Civil Budget" is a web application that allows access and an overview of the budget. It is, therefore, a data portal and not a Citizen's budget as defined by the OBS methodology. To conclude, having revised the evidence available, the assessment from the researcher must be maintained.

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 2023

Source:

NA

Comment:

No CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal year 2023.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Yes, CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal 2023. It produced from 2017.

Comments: Yes,

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/tekovni.html> The link of citizen budget.

Researcher Response

No CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal year 2023. The proposed link by the Government does not fulfill the main characteristics of a proper CB. The link proposed is a portal of financial information that do not help citizens to be informed well about the budget document yet not to be efficiently engaged in the budget debate.

IBP Comment

The comment from the reviewers is well received. It is important to note that as per the OBS methodology, the citizen's budget (CB) is designed to reach and be understood by as large a segment of the population as possible. This document presents key public finance information to a general

audience and it is typically written in accessible language incorporating visual elements to help non-specialist readers understand the information. For assessing the timeliness criteria, the CB has to comply with the timelines requirement for the document that it refers to, typically, the executive budget proposal or enacted budget. In the previous round of the OBS (2021) the citizen budget assessed in North Macedonia corresponds to the portal <https://vlada.mk/budzet2021>. The portal presents a series of citizen presentations done by the Council of Ministers. The Citizens Budget for the EBP presented by the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs (Fatmir Bytyqi) was the most comprehensive one. In this regard, the document "Citizen Budget 2021 - For Economic Stability and Speed Growth" (https://vlada.mk/sites/default/files/img/zpvrsm_bitikji-budzhzet_2021.pdf) was considered the citizen's version of the 2021 budget proposal, (published on November 19, 2020, within the times of the OBS methodology to be considered available to the public). This round of the OBS assessed documents published until December 31, 2022. In that regard, a document similar to the one presented above was not produced for the proposal 2023. Moreover, the portal <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/tekovni.html> for the year 2022, cannot be considered a CB because it hardly presents any narrative explaining in an accessible manner the estimates presented, and it does not include an explanation of priorities and key policies of the budget. The portal indicates that "The Civil Budget" is a web application that allows access and overview of the budget. It is therefore, a data portal and not a Citizen's budget as defined by the OBS methodology. To conclude, and having revised the evidence available, the assessment from the researcher must be maintained.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

d. Not produced at all

Source:

No CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal year 2023.

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

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

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

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

IBP Comment

the CB is considered not produced, for more details please refer to comment in question CB-2a.

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

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

Answer:

No CB in North Macedonia for 2023 fiscal year.

Source:

NA

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: n/a CB is produced and public available from the beginning of the January 2023, as the previous years. (start from 2017)

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: CB is public available. <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/tekovni.html>

IBP Comment

the CB is considered not produced, for more details please refer to comment in question CB-2a.

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:

Source:

Comment:

No CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal year 2023.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: At the beginning of January 2023

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The citizens budget is published in May 2023. <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/tekovni.html>

IBP Comment

the CB is considered not produced, for more details please refer to comment in question CB-2a.

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:

NA

Source:

NA

Comment:

No CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal year 2023.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: With consultation of the administrative staff of the Ministry of finance, budget department.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: We don't have procedures for preparing and publishing the CB.

IBP Comment

the CB is considered not produced, for more details please refer to comment in question CB-2a.

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

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

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

Answer:

Source:

Comment:

No CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal year 2023.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: budget.finance.gov.mk in An archive is also available, from FY 2017

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/tekovni.html>

IBP Comment

the CB is considered not produced, for more details please refer to comment in question CB-2a.

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:

NA

Source:

NA

Comment:

No CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal year 2023.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Граѓански буџет 2023/Citizen budget 2023

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: In Macedonian: Граѓански буџет за 2023 година

IBP Comment

the CB is considered not produced, for more details please refer to comment in question CB-2a.

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:

NA

Source:

NA

Comment:

No CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal year 2023.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: It corresponds to Enacted Budget. 2023/Буџет на Република Северна Македонија за 2023 година

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The CB is correspondents to Budget of North Macedonia 2023.

IBP Comment

the CB is considered not produced, for more details please refer to comment in question CB-2a.

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

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

Answer:

FY 2022

Source:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

It is usual practice of the Ministry of Finance to produce and publish the previous monthly report (t-1) within a month from the end of the reporting period, and to replace it with the most current one as soon as the newer one becomes available.

Reports are cumulative. For example, December 2022 was published in January 2023, and replaced the November 2022 report that was previously posted on that page; the December 2022 report includes 12 columns (one per month), as the November 2022 report included 11 columns.

An archive is also available, from FY 2008 (click on Архива hyperlink).

The latest one is available for December 2022 in Excel here (please click on the hyperlink: Извршување на Буџет на РСМ за 2022 (декември)): <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The tables for the execution of the RSM Budget are published no later than 30 days into the current month for the previous month.

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:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

It is usual practice of the Ministry of Finance to produce and publish t-1 month monthly IYRs.

Comment:

Archived reports are available, from 2008 (click on Архива hyperlink).

The latest one is available for December 2022, in Excel here: (please click on the hyperlink: Извршување на Буџет на РСМ за 2022 (декември)): <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Note: each month, the previous monthly report is replaced by the most current one, and then they are summed to cumulative. For example, December 2022 was published in January 2023, and replaced the November 2022 report that was previously posted on that page; the December 2022 report includes 12 columns (one per month), as the November 2022 report included 11 columns.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The tables for the execution of the RSM Budget are published no later than 30 days into the current month for the previous month.

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:

25 January 2023

Note: The practice of the Ministry of finance-Treasury is within 5 days of the end of the calendar month for the IYR to be published for the t-1 month.

Source:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

1. Click on the hyperlink: "Извршување на Буџет на РСМ за 2022 (декември)"
2. Click on the downloads of your browser
3. Go to the "Show in folder" of your downloads and will bring you to the folder: "Downloads" of your computer
4. In your your folder "Downloads" right click on the excel document that you downloaded and clock on Properties
5. Look in the "Date last saved" information.

You can see the 25th of January 2023 (Hour: 13:22pm).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

1. Click on the hyperlink: "Извршување на Буџет на РСМ за 2022 (декември)"
2. Click on the downloads of your browser
3. Go to the "Show in folder" of your downloads and will bring you to the folder: "Downloads" of your computer
4. In your your folder "Downloads" right click on the excel document that you downloaded and clock on Properties
5. Look in the "Date last saved" information.

You can see the 25th of January 2023 (Hour: 13:22pm).

Source:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

Note: The practice of the Ministry of finance-Treasury is within 5 days of the end of the calendar month for the IYR to be published for the t-1 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:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Source:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

It is usual practice of the Ministry of Finance to produce and publish t-1 month monthly IYR.
There is also an archive available, from 2008 (click on Архива hyperlink).

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:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

The document is in Excel e.g. xls format

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:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

It is usual practice of the Ministry of Finance to produce and publish t-1 month monthly IYRs. Archived reports are also available from BY 2008 (click on Архива hyperlink).

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:

Извршување на Буџет на РСМ 2022

Извршување на Буџет на РСМ 2022 (декември)

In English: Budget realization of RNM for 2022

In English: Budget realization of RNM for 2022 (December)

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

It is usual practice of the Ministry of Finance to produce and publish t-1 month monthly IYRs. Archive reports are also available from BY 2008 (click on Архива hyperlink).

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:

NA

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

FY 2022

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: FY 2023

Comments: Mid-Year Review for 2023 is published on the web site <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%9C%D0%9A-3.pdf>

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. However, the link provided on this occasion corresponds to a document published in 2023, well beyond the cut-off date of the OBS, 31 December 2022. The most recent Mid-Year Review (MYR) in North Macedonia must have been published at the midpoint of the fiscal year 2022. In any case, the document presented by the researcher for FY 2022 does not comply with the methodological requirements to be considered a true MYR. The researcher has correctly pointed out that the MYR provides a detailed explanation of the state of the budget six months into the budget year. This review should assess the state of the economy relative to the initial macroeconomic forecast and update the economic projections for the remainder of the year. The MYR should also provide updated estimates of expenditure, revenue, and debt, reflecting the impact of actual experience to date and revised projections for the full fiscal year. Since these key pieces of information are not presented in the documents included in this round, the MYR is considered not produced and the assessment from the researcher must be maintained.

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

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

Comments: MYR was made available to the public during the second week of September 2023.

IBP Comment

The MYR is considered not available to the public, for a detailed explanation please refer to the comment in MYR-1

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:

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: 13/09/2023

Comments: MYR was made available to the public during the second week of September 2023.

IBP Comment

The MYR is considered not available to the public, for a detailed explanation please refer to the comment in MYR-1

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:

N/A

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: The Ministry of Finance prepares and submits to the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia a MYR for the first half of the year no later than July 31 of the current year. MYR is reviewed at a government session and after it is adopted, it is immediately published on the ministry's website.

IBP Comment

The MYR is considered not available to the public, for a detailed explanation please refer to the comment in MYR-1

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

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

Answer:

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%9C%D0%9A-3.pdf>

IBP Comment

The MYR is considered not available to the public, for a detailed explanation please refer to the comment in MYR-1

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

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

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

Answer:

d. Not applicable

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

Pdf document

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: c. No

Comments: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%9C%D0%9A-3.pdf>

IBP Comment

The MYR is considered not available to the public, for a detailed explanation please refer to the comment in MYR-1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

d. Not produced at all

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

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

Comments: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%9C%D0%9A-3.pdf>

IBP Comment

The MYR is considered not available to the public, for a detailed explanation please refer to the comment in MYR-1

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

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

Answer:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update nor update on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year thus, it can not be considered as MYR.

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: I choose not to review this question

IBP Comment

The MYR is considered not available to the public, for a detailed explanation please refer to the comment in MYR-1

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:

N/A

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: Semi-annual report on execution of the Budget of RNM H1 2023.

IBP Comment

The MYR is considered not available to the public, for a detailed explanation please refer to the comment in MYR-1

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

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

Answer:

b. No

Source:

NA

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

FY 2021

Source:

The web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the YER: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

The document was submitted by the Government to the Parliament on the 21st of June 2022. As per the Parliament staff (phone conversation confirmation to CEA): it was archived at Parliament on the 24th of June 2022 and published on the Parliament web page on the 30th of June 2022.

Please, click on the first link after Документи: Целосен текст на материјалот - Предлог - завршна сметка на Буџетот на Република Северна Македонија за 2021 година, со Конечен извештај на овластениот државен ревизор за извршена ревизија на усогласеност на Основниот буџет на Република Северна М

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The latest YER is for FY 2022. The document was submitted to the Parliament in June 2023. <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/%D0%A1%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-2022-%D0%B4%D0%BE-%D0%92%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B0-270623.pdf>

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:

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

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

Comment:

As per the Parliament staff (phone conversation confirmation to CEA): it was archived at Parliament on the 24th of June 2022, and published on the Parliament web page on the 30th of June 2022.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The latest YER is for FY 2022. The document was submitted to the Parliament in June 2023. <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/%D0%A1%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-2022-%D0%B4%D0%BE-%D0%92%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B0-270623.pdf>

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:

30/6/2022

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

Comment:

The Parliament follows the good practice of publishing budget documents on time once submitted by the Government.

As per the Parliament staff (phone conversation confirmation to CEA): it was archived at Parliament on the 24th of June 2022 and published on the Parliament web page on the 30th of June 2022.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The latest YER is for FY 2022. The document was submitted to the Parliament in June 2023. <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/%D0%A1%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-2022-%D0%B4%D0%BE-%D0%92%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B0-270623.pdf>

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:

Parliament follows the good practice of publishing budget documents on time once submitted by the Government.
As per the Parliament staff (phone conversation confirmation to CEA): it was archived at Parliament on the 24th of June 2022 and published on the Parliament web page on the 30th of June 2022.

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

Comment:

NA

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://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

Click on the first link after Документи: link: Целосен текст на материјалот - Предлог - завршна сметка на Буџетот на Република Северна Македонија за 2021 година, со Конечен извештај на овластениот државен ревизор за извршена ревизија на усогласеност на Основниот буџет на Република Северна М

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%BC%D0%B0%D0%BA.pdf>

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

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

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

Answer:

c. No

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

Comment:

The document is in *.pdf.

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:

NA

Comment:

NA

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:
NA

Comment:
NA

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:
Целосен текст на материјалот - Предлог - завршна сметка на Буџетот на Република Северна Македонија за 2021 година, со Конечен извештај на овластениот државен ревизор за извршена ревизија на усогласеност на Основниот буџет на Република Северна Македонија

Source:
Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

Comment:
In English: Draft final account of the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia for 2021 with a Final report of the audit compliance performed for 2019 on the basic budget of the Republic of North Macedonia

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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

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

Answer:

b. No

Source:

NA

Comment:

NA

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:

Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf

Comment:

It was published on the 7th of September 2022. Please, see: <https://dzt.mk/mk/220907-revizija-na-usoglasenost-2022-osnoven-budet-na-republika-severna-makedonija-za-2021-godina>. You will see the publication date and time of publication on the SAI's website.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: FY 2021

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: According to SAO Annual Program for 2023, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2022 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 20.07.2023, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 30.06.2023 According to SAO Annual Program for 2022, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 07.09.2022, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 24.06.2022 Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date:20.07.2023 https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/KRI_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_2022.pdf Official website of the Assembly in North Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic

of North Macedonia for 2021 -Date: 24.06.2022 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>
Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date 30.06.2023 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=5ba40cb8-b72d-4de3-b12c-129dcfbb21fb>

Comments: According to SAO Annual Program for 2023, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2022 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 20.07.2023, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 30.06.2023 According to SAO Annual Program for 2022, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 07.09.2022, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 24.06.2022 Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date:20.07.2023 https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/KRI_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_2022.pdf Official website of the Assembly in North Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 -Date: 24.06.2022 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>
Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date 30.06.2023 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=5ba40cb8-b72d-4de3-b12c-129dcfbb21fb>

Researcher Response

FY 2021 is accepted!

IBP Comment

The comments are well received. As the reviewer suggests, the correct fiscal year for the Audit Report analyzed on this occasion corresponds to FY2021 and not 2023 as the response suggests. This is corrected to reflect the appropriate answer. Concerning the proposed sources provided by the government it is important to stress that the survey only assesses documents published on institutional websites responsible for the production of such documents until the cut-off date of the survey, in this case, December 31 of 2022. Because of this, the document called "Final report on compliance audit of the basic budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021" published by SAO in September of 2022, and on their institutional website has been considered as AR for this round of the research.

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

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

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

Answer:

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

Source:

Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf

Comment:

It was published on the 7th of September 2022.

Please, see: <https://dzt.mk/mk/220907-revizija-na-usoglasenost-2022-osnoven-budet-na-republika-severna-makedonija-za-2021-godina>. You will see the publication date and time of publication on the SAI's website.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

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

Comments: According to SAO Annual Program for 2023, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2022 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 20.07.2023, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 30.06.2023 According to SAO Annual Program for 2022, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 07.09.2022, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 24.06.2022 Official website of the SAI in

Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 date:07.09.2022 - https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date:20.07.2023 https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/KRI_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_2022.pdf Official website of the Assembly in North Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date 30.06.2023 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=5ba40cb8-b72d-4de3-b12c-129dcfbb21fb> Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 -Date: 24.06.2022 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

IBP Comment

The answer provided by the researcher is maintained, for a detailed explanation, see the previous comment in question AR-1.

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:

7/9/2022

Source:

Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf

Comment:

It was published on the 7th of September 2022.

Please, see: <https://dzt.mk/mk/220907-revizija-na-usoglasenost-2022-osnoven-budet-na-republika-severna-makedonija-za-2021-godina>. One can see the publication date and time of publication on the SAI's website.

The Javascript code [`javascript:alert(document.lastModified)`] also confirmed this date.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: КОНЕЧЕН ИЗВЕШТАЈ ЗА ИЗВРШЕНА РЕВИЗИЈА НА УСОГЛАСЕНОСТ НА ТЕМА ОСНОВЕН БУЏЕТ НА РЕПУБЛИКА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА ЗА 2022 ГОДИНА, published may, 2023, available https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/KRI_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_2022.pdf

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: According to SAO Annual Program for 2023, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2022 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 20.07.2023, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 30.06.2023 According to SAO Annual Program for 2022, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 07.09.2022, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 24.06.2022 Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 date:07.09.2022 - https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date:20.07.2023 https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/KRI_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_2022.pdf Official website of the Assembly in North Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date 30.06.2023 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=5ba40cb8-b72d-4de3-b12c-129dcfbb21fb> Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 -Date: 24.06.2022 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

Comments: According to SAO Annual Program for 2023, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2022 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 20.07.2023, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 30.06.2023 According to SAO Annual Program for 2022, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 07.09.2022, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 24.06.2022 Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 date:07.09.2022 - https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date:20.07.2023 https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/KRI_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_2022.pdf Official website of the Assembly in North Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date 30.06.2023

<https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=5ba40cb8-b72d-4de3-b12c-129dcfbb21fb> Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 -Date: 24.06.2022 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

IBP Comment

The answer provided by the researcher is maintained, for a detailed explanation, see the previous comment in question AR-1.

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:

It was published on the 7th of September 2022.

Please, see: <https://dzt.mk/mk/220907-revizija-na-usoglasenost-2022-osnoven-budet-na-republika-severna-makedonija-za-2021-godina>. You will see the publication date and time of publication on the SAI's website.

Javascript [javascript:alert(document.lastModified)] also confirmed this date.

Source:

<https://dzt.mk/mk/220907-revizija-na-usoglasenost-2022-osnoven-budet-na-republika-severna-makedonija-za-2021-godina>

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: It is publicly comment on the all medias, as other AR of public institutions.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: • According to SAO Annual Program for 2023, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2022 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 20.07.2023, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 30.06.2023 • According to SAO Annual Program for 2022, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 07.09.2022, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 24.06.2022 Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 date:07.09.2022 -

https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date:20.07.2023 https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/KRI_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_2022.pdf Official website of the Assembly in North Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date 30.06.2023

<https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=5ba40cb8-b72d-4de3-b12c-129dcfbb21fb> Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 -Date: 24.06.2022 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c> you will see the date of publication.

Comments: • According to SAO Annual Program for 2023, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2022 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 20.07.2023, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 30.06.2023 • According to SAO Annual Program for 2022, SAO conducted an audit of the Core budget of Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 and final audit report is published on SAO web page on 07.09.2022, as well this report is published on Assembly website on 24.06.2022 Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 date:07.09.2022 -

https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date:20.07.2023 https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/KRI_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_2022.pdf Official website of the Assembly in North Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date 30.06.2023

<https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=5ba40cb8-b72d-4de3-b12c-129dcfbb21fb> Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 -Date: 24.06.2022 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c> you will see the date of publication.

IBP Comment

The answer provided by the researcher is maintained, for a detailed explanation, see the previous comment in question AR-1.

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

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

Answer:

https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf

Source:

Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf

Comment:

It was published on the 7th of September 2022.

Please, see: <https://dzt.mk/mk/220907-revizija-na-usoglasenost-2022-osnoven-budet-na-republika-severna-makedonija-za-2021-godina>. You will see the publication date and time of publication on the SAI's website.

Javascript [`javascript:alert(document.lastModified)`] also confirmed this date.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

Comments: Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 date:07.09.2022 - https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date:20.07.2023 https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/KRI_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_2022.pdf Official website of the Assembly in North Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date 30.06.2023 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=5ba40cb8-b72d-4de3-b12c-129dcfbb21fb> Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 -Date: 24.06.2022 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

IBP Comment

The answer provided by the researcher is maintained, for a detailed explanation, see the previous comment in question AR-1.

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:

Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf

Comment:

The document is in *.pdf.

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:

Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 date:07.09.2022 - https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date:20.07.2023 https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/KRI_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_2022.pdf Official website of the Assembly in North Macedonia: Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date 30.06.2023 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=5ba40cb8-b72d-4de3-b12c-129dcfbb21fb> Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021 -Date: 24.06.2022 <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

IBP Comment

The answer provided by the researcher is maintained, for a detailed explanation, see the previous comment in question AR-1.

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

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

Answer:

Source:

NA

Comment:

NA

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:

КОНЕЧЕН ИЗВЕШТАЈ ЗА ИЗВРШЕНА РЕВИЗИЈА НА УСОГ ЛАСЕНОСТ НА ОСНОВЕН БУЏЕТ НА РЕПУБЛИКА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА ЗА 2021 ГОДИНА

Source:

Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf

Comment:

Full title in English: "Final report on compliance audit of the basic budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2021"

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: КОНЕЧЕН ИЗВЕШТАЈ ЗА ИЗВРШЕНА РЕВИЗИЈА НА УСОГ ЛАСЕНОСТ НА ОСНОВЕН БУЏЕТ НА РЕПУБЛИКА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА ЗА 2022 ГОДИНА Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date:20.07.2023 https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/KRI_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_2022.pdf Full title in English: "Final report on compliance audit of the core budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022"

Comments: КОНЕЧЕН ИЗВЕШТАЈ ЗА ИЗВРШЕНА РЕВИЗИЈА НА УСОГ ЛАСЕНОСТ НА ОСНОВЕН БУЏЕТ НА РЕПУБЛИКА СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА ЗА 2022 ГОДИНА Final Audit Report for the Core Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022- Date:20.07.2023 https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/KRI_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_2022.pdf Full title in English: "Final report on compliance audit of the core budget of the Republic of North Macedonia for 2022"

IBP Comment

The answer provided by the researcher is maintained, for a detailed explanation, see the previous comment in question AR-1.

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:

Answer:

b. No

Source:

NA

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: <https://dzt.mk/mk/220907-revizija-na-usoglasenost-2022-osnoven-budet-na-republika-severna-makedonija-za-2021-godina>
<https://dzt.mk/mk/230720-revizija-na-usoglasenost-2023-osnoven-budet-na-republika-severna-makedonija-za-2022-godina> SAO prepared a press release for this audit report which is a "citizens version" of the AR. This "citizens version" is publicly available on SAO web site, as well as on shared on SAO Facebook page, at the same time a link to the AR and the press release was shared with all (1.111) stakeholders which are part of SAO mailing list.

Researcher Response

The document presented by the Government is a Press release (as they recognize) and rather not a CB version of the AR. Press release and CB are not synonyms as per a prudent and an accountable fiscal transparency standards. They address different groups of audience, they have different functions and different goals.

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. After reviewing the press release presented in the comment, it is possible to conclude that this document is it indeed a summarised version of the audit report, however, it does not constitute a citizen version of the AR. A citizen document will be written and presented in an accessible manner so that non-technical readers can easily understand its content. Another important aspect to consider in a citizen document is the explanation of technical concepts (glossary of terms) and visual elements helping readers to grasp the main points fully. Finally, it is also ideal that audiences are engaged in the process of designing citizen documents so that their needs are considered when publishing this kind of information. Withal, it is possible to conclude that this press release although valuable, is not a true citizen version for the AR.

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:

Government's Open Finance portal: <https://open.finance.gov.mk/mk/home>

Comment:

The Government's Open Finance portal provides all budget execution data produced and owned by the Treasury department within the Ministry of Finance.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: On the web page of the Central Banks, <https://www.nbrm.mk/content/MPI%20publikacii/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

<http://opendatahandbook.org/glossary/en/terms/machine-readable/>.

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

Answer:

b. Yes, but only expenditure data can be downloaded as a consolidated file

Source:

Government's Open Finance portal: <https://open.finance.gov.mk/mk/home>

Comment:

The Government's Open Finance portal provides all budget execution data produced and owned by the Treasury department within the Ministry of Finance.

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:

b. Yes, but only expenditure data can be downloaded for multiple years in consistent formats

Source:

Government's Open Finance portal: <https://open.finance.gov.mk/mk/home>

Comment:

The Government's Open Finance portal provides all budget execution data produced and owned by the Treasury department within the Ministry of Finance.

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:

Government's Open Finance portal: <https://open.finance.gov.mk/mk/home>

Comment:

The Government's Open Finance portal provides all budget execution data produced and owned by the Treasury department within the Ministry of Finance.

NOTE: Besides the complete Treasury data, there are graphic visualizations.

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:

A new Organic Budget Law-OBL for North Macedonia from 19th of September 2022: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B8.pdf>

State audit law: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2021-07/Zakon_drzavna_revizija_21_final_MKD_p.pdf

Comment:

Fiscal transparency is regulated in the Budget law in the Section XI.

Participation is not regulated neither in the OBL nor in the State audit law

However, the SAI in 2020 adopted a tool on their web page inviting interested parties to request for audit:

https://dzt.mk/mk/contact/barane_za_revizija

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes

Comments: Citizen participation is regulated in New Organic Budget Law, article 21.

Researcher Response

CEA do not agree with the Comment from the Government that Article 21 "regulates" Citizen participation. This is an obscure Article that states a basic principles and a Citizen's right to open fiscal data and nothing more. As such it cannot be considered a proper "regulation" of a prudent Citizen participation. We provide ENG translation of this Article 21 for further public scrutiny: "The main budget users at the state level and the municipalities at the local level establish a mechanism for citizens' participation in the process of proposing new ones initiatives in the preparation of strategic plans and fiscal strategy".

IBP Comment

The comment from the reviewer is well received. Answer "a" has been selected given the Organic Budget Law and the State Audit Law.

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:

Freedom of information act: <https://aspi.mk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/%D0%97%D0%90%D0%9A%D0%9E%D0%9D-%D0%97%D0%90-%D0%A1%D0%9F%D0%98-%D0%9F%D0%94%D0%A4.pdf>

Comment:

Macedonian title of the Act: ЗАКОН ЗА СЛОБОДЕН ПРИСТАП ДО ИНФОРМАЦИИ ОД ЈАВЕН КАРАКТЕР

ENG: Law on free access to public information

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Only access to information

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Закон за слободен пристап до информации од јавен карактер на македонски и на англиски

<https://aspi.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B1%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BF-%D0%B4%D0%BE-%D0%B8%D0%BD%D1%84%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%B8%D1%82%D0%B5-%D0%BE%D0%B4-%D1%98%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%BA%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BA%D1%82%D0%B5%D1%80.pdf>

<https://aspi.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Law-on-free-access-to-public-information.pdf> Нацрт стратегија за транспарентност на Владата на РСМ

објавена на ЕНЕР <https://ener.gov.mk/Default.aspx?item=newdocumentdetails&detailid=64> Стратегија за транспарентност на Владата на РСМ (2019-2021) https://vlada.mk/sites/default/files/dokumenti/strategii/strategija_za_transparentnost_mk.pdf

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:

EBP at the web page of the Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Budget expenditures by budget users (Биланс на расходи на централен буџет по буџетски корисници). Pages 155-158.

Comment:

The total of 281.740.641 thousand denars at the top of the table on pg. 155 presents the central budget.

The 324.810.000 thousand denars figure on pg. 1 presents the total consolidated budget that includes the budgets of the funds as well.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: It is clear.

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:

EBP at the web page of the Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Budget expenditures by functional classification (Буџетски расходи по функции). Pages 159-161.

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: It is clear and understandably

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Budget expenditures by functional classification (Буџетски расходи по функции). Pages 159-161.

Comment:

Starting from the main headings (general public services, defense, economic affairs, etc...), the classification is compatible with COFOG international standards.

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Expenditures of the State Budget of Republic of Macedonia by items (Биланс на расходи на Буџетот на Република Македонија по ставки), pages 148 and 149.

Expenditures of the Central Budget of Republic of Macedonia by items (Биланс на расходи на Буџетот на Република Македонија по ставки), pages 153 and 154.

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Expenditures of the State Budget of Republic of Macedonia by items (Биланс на расходи на Буџетот на Република Македонија по ставки), pages 148 and 149.

Expenditures of the Central Budget of Republic of Macedonia by items (Биланс на расходи на Буџетот на Република Македонија по ставки), pages 153 and 154.

Comment:

The order is not exactly the same, but the headings correspond.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, 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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf

Comment:

1. Government programs: pages: 162-163

2. Development 3-years (2023-2025) subprograms by administrative units: pages: 164-172

3. Expenditures on a program level, i.e., expenditures are presented with a level of detail below administrative unit. From page 173 till page 440 you will see Program (Програма) and Subprogram (Потпрограма) as Items.

NOTE: In Macedonia we have line budgeting, but since in the explanation of the question it is stated: "...any programmatic grouping that is below the ministry..." our answer to this question is "a" because we have programmatic grouping with a level of detail below administrative unit.

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:

d. No, multi-year expenditure estimates are not presented by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Multi-year expenditure estimates (for at least two years beyond the budget year) are presented only by administrative classification and only for the development programs (Преглед на развојни потпрограми; 3-years (2023-2025) subprograms by administrative units: pages: 164-172).

But, we cannot select the "c" as answer because the expenditures for the development programs only account for around 12% of the overall expenditures of those fiscal years - less than 2/3 of overall expenditure - thus, we cannot count this as a full administrative classification of expenditure estimates for a multi-year period and that is why the answer is "d".

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:

None of the above

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Multi-year expenditure estimates (for at least two years beyond the budget year) are presented only by administrative classification and only for the development programs (Преглед на развојни потпрограми; 3-years (2023-2025) subprograms by administrative units: pages: 164-172).

But, we cannot select the "c" as answer because the expenditures for the development programs only account for around 12% of the overall expenditures of those fiscal years - less than 2/3 of overall expenditure - thus, we cannot count this as a full administrative classification of expenditure estimates for a multi-year period and that is why the answer is "d".

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:

c. Yes, multi-year estimates for programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures are presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Multi-year expenditure estimates (for at least two years beyond the budget year) are presented only by administrative classification and only for the development programs (Преглед на развојни потпрограми; 3-years (2023-2025) subprograms by administrative units: pages: 164-172).

But, we cannot select the "a" as answer because the expenditures for the development programs only account for around 12% of the overall expenditures of those fiscal years - less than 2/3 of overall expenditure.

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:

b. Yes, individual sources of tax revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, tax revenues are presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Page 147 (budget) and page 150 (central budget)

Item 711 (Данок од доход, од добивка и од капитални добивки) lumps together at least three if not more individual taxes. Item 714 (Домашни даноци на стоки и услуги) lumps together at least 2 individual taxes.

This is why the selected answer is "B." These are not disaggregated into four digit items, but in the 2015, 2017, 2019 OBS research it was agreed with IBP that "Revenues could be further disaggregated but when we compare the level of detail to other countries it merits a B answer (in coordination with IBP in 2015)." Thus "b" remains applicable this round, too.

Further, as per the IBP reasoning for the 2019 and this 2021 OBS research: "As subcategory 711 accounts for less than one third of overall 2023 tax income, the current response of "b" is maintained".

Peer Reviewer**Opinion:** Disagree**Suggested Answer:**

c. Yes, individual sources of tax revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all tax revenues are presented.

Comments: Individual sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) are presented in In-Year Reports.**Government Reviewer****Opinion:** Agree**IBP Comment**

The comment from the reviewer is well received. Page 147, shows lines 711, Income, profit, and capital gain tax, and; 715, International trade and transaction tax, require more disaggregation to be considered an individual source of revenue. To count as an individual source of Tax revenue and not simply a general source, it is important to follow the categories laid out in the IMF's Government Financial Statistics Manual 2014, page 88 in the document. To qualify as an individual source of revenue and not simply a category, the tax listed should be at the 4th level (e.g., "payable by individuals", and "payable by corporations and other enterprises" and not simply "Income tax, profit, and capital gains"). However, lines 711 and 715 account for less than a third of all tax revenue, and therefore, answer "b" is still appropriate and maintained.

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:

b. Yes, individual sources of non-tax revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, non-tax revenues are presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Page 147 (budget) and page 150 (central budget)

Items 722 and 723 for example "Г лоби, судски и административни такси" and "Такси и надоместоци" among other non-tax revenue needs to be further dis-aggregated as these are not disaggregated into four digit items but, the in the 2015, 2017 and 2019 OBS research it was agreed with IBP that: "Revenues could be further disaggregated but when we compare the level of detail to other countries it merits a B-answer (in coordination with IBP in 2015)."

Further, answer "b" is applicable in this round, following the reasoning of IBP from the 2019 and 2021 round, because the "other" non-tax categories (item 725) account for less than a third of all 2023 non-tax revenues

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:

b. No, multi-year estimates of revenue are not presented by category.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

There are no multi-year estimates for revenues in the 2023 EBP.

Revenues are shown on page 147 and 150 of the EBP for 2023, but with no multi-year estimates.

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:

d. No, multi-year estimates for individual sources of revenue are not presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

There are no multi-year estimates for revenues in the 2023 EBP.

Revenues are shown on page 147 and 150 of the EBP for 2023, but with no multi-year estimates.

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year are shown in the Table 1 on page 19 of the EBP for 2023 (net new domestic and net new foreign borrowing e.g. see under: Нето домашно задолжување and Нето странско задолжување lines).

The interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year are shown in Table 1 on page 19 of the EBP for 2023 (see: Каматни плаќања which is interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year).

The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year 2023 is presented. For the 2023 fiscal year it is presented the estimates of the total public debt for 2023 FY in amount of 53.2% of the GDP on page 28 (third paragraph from above).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: More detailed debt data are available at the following link: <https://javendolg.finance.gov.mk/>

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year are shown in the Table 1 on page 19 of the EBP for 2023 (net new domestic and net new foreign borrowing e.g. see under: Нето домашно задолжување and Нето странско задолжување lines).

The interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year are shown in Table 1 on page 19 of the EBP for 2023 (see: Каматни плаќања which is interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year).

The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year 2023 is presented. For the 2023 fiscal year it is presented the estimates of the total public debt for 2023 FY in amount of 53.2% of the GDP on page 28 (third paragraph from above).

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:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Information that is presented in the 2023 EBP are some information that the borrowing is domestic and external (pages 27-28) but nothing about the debt outstanding.

Unfortunately, there is no information on the interest rates on the debt and there is no information on the maturity profile of the debt.

The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year 2023 is presented. For the 2023 fiscal year it is presented the estimates of the total public debt for 2023 FY in amount of 53.2% of the GDP on page 28 (third paragraph from above) but we do not know how much is domestic and how much of it is foreign.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The data on the composition of total debt outstanding are presented in the Public Debt Management Strategy (PDMS), prepared in accordance with Article 7 of the Law on Public Debt, as an independent document related to the debt management policy over a three-year period with 2 years of additional outlook. The PDMS provides data on debt development over a past period, includes debt forecasts at all levels of government, and sets short- and medium-term limits and targets of specific debt indicators related to the level of public debt and debt structure. PDMS is available at the following link: <https://finance.gov.mk/public-debt-strategy/?lang=en> Furthermore, more detailed debt data are available at the following link: <https://javendolg.finance.gov.mk/>

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:

None of the above

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Information that is presented in the 2023 EBP are some information that the borrowing is domestic and external (pages 27-28) but nothing about the debt outstanding.

Unfortunately, there is no information on the interest rates on the debt and there is no information on the maturity profile of the debt.

The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year 2023 is presented. For the 2023 fiscal year it is presented the estimates of the total public debt for 2023 FY in amount of 53.2% of the GDP on page 28 (third paragraph from above) but we do not know how much is domestic and how much of it is foreign.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The data on the composition of total debt outstanding are presented in the Public Debt Management Strategy (PDMS), prepared in accordance with Article 7 of the Law on Public Debt, as an independent document related to the debt management policy over a three-year period with 2 years of additional outlook. The PDMS provides data on debt development over a past period, includes debt forecasts at all levels of government, and sets short- and medium-term limits and targets of specific debt indicators related to the level of public debt and debt structure. PDMS is available at the following link: <https://finance.gov.mk/public-debt-strategy/?lang=en> Furthermore, more detailed debt data are available at the following link: <https://javendolg.finance.gov.mk/>

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:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023->

%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf

Comment:

Core information on interest rates and nominal GDP level are missing in the Macroeconomic Projections (Макроекономски проекции), pages 12-16 of the EBP 2023. There are additional information beyond the core elements: employment and unemployment on p. 14 for example.

Real GDP growth presented in Figure 5 on page 15, and in the text of page 14.

Inflation of 6.5% is expected in 2023 as presented in the text on page 12.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Please take into consideration that on page 12 is noted that expected inflation of 6.5% in 2023 is for the global economy and on page 15 is noted that the inflation rate for RNM is expected to be 7.1% for 2023.

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:

Inflation rate

Real GDP growth

Information beyond the core elements (please specify)

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Core information on interest rates and nominal GDP level are missing in the Macroeconomic Projections (Макроекономски проекции), pages 12-16 of the EBP 2023. There are additional information beyond the core elements: employment and unemployment on p. 14 for example.

Real GDP growth presented in Figure 5 on page 15 and in text of page 14.

Inflation of 6.5% is expected in 2023 as presented in the text on page 12.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Please take into consideration that on page 12 is noted that expected inflation of 6.5% in 2023 is for the global economy and on page 15 is noted that the inflation rate for RNM is expected to be 7.1% for 2023.

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/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:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

There are no estimates of the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. Yes, the core information is presented to show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions on the budget.

Comments: Sensitivity analysis for the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions is presented in the Fiscal Strategy 2024-2028 (page 75) and Fiscal Strategy 2023-2025 (page 47).

Researcher Response

The fiscal strategy is considered not produced for the FY 2023, as it was explained already in question PBS-1.

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. However, the fiscal strategy paper is considered not produced for the FY 2023, as it was explained in question PBS-1. Moreover, the methodology requires that only documents published until December 31 of 2022 can be assessed. Therefore, the answer "d" must be maintained.

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:

d. No, information that shows how new policy proposals affect expenditure is not presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

There are no estimates of the impact on expenditures, revenue, and debt of different assumptions for the inflation rate, real GDP growth, and interest rates.

There is some information (not analysis) and listing showing how policy proposals will affect expenditures presented but these are too generic and do not represent and can not be substitute of a proper analyses and a proper separation between new and old policies.

It is difficult to follow and to distinguish the new from the on-going policies.

Please, note though that on pages 13-16 it is presented a narrative about the: major assumptions behind the expenditures; details on the current and capital expenditures; information on capital expenditures; information on financing deficit.

Note: on page 21-27 there is a discussion on expenditures but we cannot see clearly how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect expenditures.

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:

d. No, information that shows how new policy proposals affect revenues is not presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

There is some information (not analysis) and listing showing how policy proposals will affect revenues presented but these are too generic and do not represent and can not be substitute of a proper analyses and a proper separation between new and old policies.

It is difficult to follow and to distinguish the new from the on-going policies.

Note: on page 18-21 there is a discussion on revenues but we cannot see clearly how new policy proposals, as distinct from existing policies, affect revenues.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion:

19. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) by any

of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

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

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

Answer:

b. Yes, expenditure estimates for BY-1 are presented by two of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Pages:

148 and 149 (and 153-154) for economic classification there is BY-1 e.g., 2022 and BY-2023

151 to 152 there is not BY-1 (155-158 there is BY-1) for administrative classification

159-161 for functional classification. Note: For the functional classification there is not info for BY-1

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 detaille*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer “a,” the Executive’s Budget Proposal or its supporting documentation must present expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures, for 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:

d. No, expenditures are not presented by program for BY-1.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NOTE: you see carefully the BY-1 is only for the administrative unit and not for the program and/or subprogram at all.

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Compared to EBP 2022 on the MinFin web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/BUDZET-2022-DOPOLNET-PREDLOG-03.12.2021.pdf>

Comment:

One can see that the 2023 EBP presents updated from the original 2022 enacted level to reflect actual expenditures.

Compare for example realization in the page 148 (see column for actual expenditures: Расходи на Основен буџет и фондови за 2022 година) from the 2022-EBP (MKD=278.592.184) and page 1 from the 2022 EBP where MKD=272,428,000.

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:

d. No, expenditure estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

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:

None of the above

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

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:

d. No, expenditures are not presented by program for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

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:

d. No actual data for all expenditures are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Page 147 (state budget) and 150 (central budget)

Note: the state budget is the consolidated budget that includes the central budget plus the extra-budgetary funds.

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:

b. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue for BY-1 are presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Page 147 (state budget) and 150 (central budget)

Note: the state budget is the consolidated budget that includes the central budget plus the extra-budgetary funds.

Revenues could be further dis-aggregated, but when we compare the level of detail to that of other countries, this question merits a "b" answer (in coordination and agreement with IBP for the 2015 OBS round, 2017, 2019 and 2021 as well).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all revenues for BY-1 are presented.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

In line with the criteria of question 9, Page 147, shows lines 711, Income, profit, and capital gain tax, and; 715, International trade and transaction tax for BY-1 (2022). These require more desegregation to be considered an individual source of revenue. To count as an individual source of Tax revenue and not simply a general source, it is important to follow the categories laid out in the IMF's Government Financial Statistics Manual 2014, page 88 in the document. To qualify as an individual source of revenue and not simply a category, the tax listed should be at the 4th level (e.g., "payable by individuals", and "payable by corporations and other enterprises" and not simply "Income tax, profit, and capital gains"). However, lines 711 and 715 account for less than a third of all tax revenue, and therefore, answer "b" is still appropriate and maintained.

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Compared to EBP 2022 on the MinFin web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/BUDZET-2022-DOPOLNET-PREDLOG-03.12.2021.pdf>

Comment:

One can see that the 2023 EBP presents updated from the original 2022 enacted level to reflect actual revenues.

Compare for example the page 147 (see column: Приходи на Основен буџет и фондови за 2022 година) from the 2023 EBP (MKD=278,592,184 for 2022) and page 1 from the 2022-EBP where MKD=238,900,000

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:

b. No, revenue estimates for BY-2 and prior years are not presented by category.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

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:

d. No, individual sources of revenue are not presented for BY-2 and prior years.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

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:

d. No actual data for all revenues are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Pages 147 and 150: item 75 domestic borrowing; item 76 foreign borrowing

Pages 148-149 and 153-154: item 45 Interest payment; Item 49 Principle payment

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The data on the composition of total debt outstanding are presented in the Public Debt Management Strategy (PDMS), prepared in accordance with Article 7 of the Law on Public Debt, as an independent document related to the debt management policy over a three-year period with 2 years of additional outlook. The PDMS provides data on debt development over a past period, includes debt forecasts at all levels of government, and sets short- and medium-term limits and targets of specific debt indicators related to the level of public debt and debt structure. PDMS is available at the following link: <https://finance.gov.mk/public-debt-strategy/?lang=en> Furthermore, more detailed debt data are available at the following link: <https://javendolg.finance.gov.mk/>

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:

d. No actual data for government debt are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: Although certain debt figures are presented in the budget document, more information on the debt stock and structure is presented in the

Public Debt Management Strategies (available at: <https://finance.gov.mk/public-debt-strategy/?lang=en>), the Annual Public Debt reports (available at: <https://finance.gov.mk/public-debt-reports/?lang=en>) and the Table "Stock of Government and Public Debt" which presents the debt dynamics from 2002 till present period (available at: <https://finance.gov.mk/stock-of-debt-2/?lang=en>).

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. However, this question asks specifically about the most recent year presented for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes in the executive budget proposal or supporting document. This implies that the information must be presented along the proposal and it must show actual figures. Since this information is not presented for the proposal 2023, answer "d" must be maintained.

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:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Beyond the core elements are presented: priorities and goals of the extra-budgetary fund, number of employees and input/output indicators of the extra-budgetary funds (pages 70-72).

Health Insurance Fund (pages 141 and 442-444),

Employment Service Agency of the Republic of Macedonia (pages 142 and 446 - 448) and

Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of Macedonia (pages 142-143, and 450-452).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

34. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present central government finances (both budgetary and extra-budgetary) on a consolidated basis for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 34 asks whether the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documents present the finances of the central government on a consolidated basis, showing both its budgetary and extra-budgetary activities. Virtually all of the questions in the OBS questionnaire focus on budgetary central government – the activities of the ministries, departments, or agencies of central government. In addition, Question 33 asks about extra-budgetary funds, such as social security funds that are not included in the budget.

Coverage is an important aspect of fiscal reporting. Budget documents should cover the full scope of government's financial activity. In many countries, extra-budgetary activities are substantial, and can represent a sizable share of the central government's activities. To get a full picture of the central government's finances, therefore, it is necessary to examine both activities that are included in the budget and those that are extra-budgetary. This question asks whether such a consolidated presentation of central government finances, 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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, central government finances are presented on a consolidated basis.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The suggested response presented by the reviewer is well received. However, in order to select "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. Such table and information are not found in the source, nor does the reviewer explicitly cite where he sees that information. Therefore, without new evidence to support a different response, answer "b" is maintained.

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:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all intergovernmental transfers are presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

The transfers from the central government to other levels of government are on page 148, line 44 and page 149 line 488.

More detailed this is shown on pages 144-145 "Earmarked and block grants for delegated powers in municipalities for 2023").

Missing are for example transfers from the personal income tax-PIT which is a shared tax. Tax sharing is a common definition in intergovernmental fiscal relations and/or fiscal decentralization when a tax is collected at central government level (in our case) and then a uniform proportion is distributed to the local government on an origin based criteria.

NOTE: Even though the PIT is paid directly to local governments (origin based) still information is missing on how much is that amount that is shared with the local government

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:

d. No, alternative displays of expenditures are not presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: of budget policies by gender

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

We stay to our answer of None of the above.

IBP Comment

Upon reviewing the document again, the reference made by the reviewer has not been found and therefore, the selected answer is maintained.

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:

c. Yes, estimates of some but not all transfers to public corporations are presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Transfers to public corporations are presented on page 148 (line 461) and 153 (line 461) of the 2023 EBP.

We choose "c" as we do not know for sure to be certain that ALL transfers are presented in the EBP. We only see a budget item titled: " Subsidies to public enterprises". Without a proper narrative and a narrative of who receives what and how much we cannot conclude if these are the only transfers as well as we cannot conclude if there are no other transfers from other budget items that the public enterprises in Macedonia are receiving from funds from the central government. Thus, we do not know transparently what exactly is in this budget item line and that is why we choose "c".

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

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:

d. No, information related to financial assets is not presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Limited information is presented on page 149 and 154 (line 485) of the EBP for 2023.

It includes only estimate of the total value of investments and investments in non-financial assets and no listing of the stock of assets.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The suggestion by the reviewer is well received. However, this question asks about a listing of the financial assets; and An estimate of their value. The OBS methodology indicates that information on the acquisition or sale of non-financial assets should be assessed with a "d" response, only information on stock is accepted.

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

(The core information must include a listing of the assets by category.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 40 focuses on nonfinancial assets held by the government, asking whether "core" information related to these assets is presented. The core information is a listing of nonfinancial assets, grouped by the type (or category) of asset.

Nonfinancial assets are things of value that the government owns or controls (excluding financial assets) such as land, buildings, and machinery. The valuation of public nonfinancial assets can be problematic, particularly in cases where the asset is not typically available on the open market (such as a government monument). In these cases, it is considered acceptable to provide summary information in budget documents from a country's register of assets. But, in some cases, governments are able to value their nonfinancial assets; some present a summary of nonfinancial assets as part of their balance sheets. For an example of how nonfinancial assets are presented in one of the many supporting documents to the New Zealand Executive's Budget Proposal, see the Forecast Financial Statement 2011, Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued), Note 14, accessible here: <https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2011-05/befu11-pt6of8.pdf>.

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

Answer:

d. No, information related to nonfinancial assets is not presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

There is no information on nonfinancial assets held by the government.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

If expenditure arrears do not represent a significant problem in your country, please mark "e." However, please exercise caution in answering this question. Public expenditure management laws and regulations often will allow for reasonable delays, perhaps 30 or 60 days, in the routine payment of invoices due. Expenditure arrears impacting a small percentage of expenditure that are due to contractual disputes should not be considered a significant problem for the purpose of answering this question.

Answer:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer:

d. No, information related to contingent liabilities is not presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Note:

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.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

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

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

44. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of the sources of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind, for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 44 asks about estimates of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind assistance. Such assistance is considered non-tax revenue, and the sources of this assistance should be explicitly identified. In terms of in-kind assistance, the concern is primarily with the provision of goods (particularly those for which there is a market that would allow goods received as in-kind aid to be sold, thereby converting them into cash) rather than with in-kind aid like advisors from a donor country providing technical assistance.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all donor assistance and a narrative discussing the assistance. If a narrative discussion is not included, but estimates for all donor assistance are presented, then a "b" answer is appropriate. A "c" response applies if the presentation includes estimates covering only some, but not all, donor assistance (regardless of whether it also includes a narrative discussion). Answer "c" also applies if the sources of donor assistance are not presented, but the total amount of donor assistance is presented as a single line item. Answer "d" applies if no estimates of donor assistance are presented. Select answer "e" if your country does not receive donor assistance.

Answer:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Pages 147 and 150; Items 742 Foreign donations and 744 Current donations

NOTE: As the line items are not disaggregated into individual sources of donor assistance, the response of "c" is selected rather than "b".

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: estimation is scarce, unrealistic.....

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

46. Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present estimates of earmarked revenues for at least the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 46 asks about estimates of earmarked revenues, which are revenues that may only be used for a specific purpose (for example, revenues from a tax on fuel that can only be used for building roads). This information is important in determining which revenues are available to fund the government's general expenses, and which revenues are reserved for particular purposes.

To answer "a," the Executive's Budget Proposal or supporting documentation must present for at least the budget year both estimates covering all 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:

d. No, estimates of earmarked revenues are not presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

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

Answer:

d. No, information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals for the budget year is not presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Some output indicators and basic discussions are presented but do not give any linkage between the budget (revenues and expenditures) and the government policy goals. Thus, there is no 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.

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:

d. No, information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals for a multi-year period is not presented.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Some output indicators and basic discussions are presented but do not give any linkage between the budget (revenues and expenditures) and the government policy goals. Thus, there is no 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.

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:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Input indicators (only human resources) and some output indicators and basic discussions are presented from page 38 to page 143 of the 2023 EBP.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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

GUIDELINES:

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

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

Answer:

c. Yes, nonfinancial data on results are presented for some programs and/or some administrative units (or functions).

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Input indicators (only human resources) and some output indicators and basic discussions are presented from page 38 to page 143 of the 2023 EBP.

For output indicators see tables: Аутпут индикатори

For input indicators see tables: Инпут индикатори

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Still very simplification.....

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:

d. No, performance targets are not assigned to nonfinancial data on results, or the budget does not present nonfinancial data on results.

Source:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

NA

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:

Ministry of finance web page: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%A1%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Some elements for example: on page 23 on socially vulnerable (12.5 billion denars); page 32 and 33 Program B on poverty reduction (also page 162, 347, 354, 448, 470).

Ministry of transportation on page 315 on Roma decade and Ministry of labor and social policy on page 347. Ministry of labor and social policy also on elderly and refugees, gender and non-discrimination, asylum seekers.

Page 358 Ministry of education on Roma education.

Page 400 Ministry of health on Roma decade implementation.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: this is the biggest item.....

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:

b. Yes, a timetable is released, but some details are excluded.

Source:

The law on the budgets: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/5.pdf>

The budget circular for the 2023 budget: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%BD%D0%BE-%D0%BF%D0%B8%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%BE-%D0%B8-%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%81%D0%BE%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D1%86%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%BA%D1%83%D0%BB%D0%B0%D1%80-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2023-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

The law on the budgets is a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational governments, to the Ministry of Finance.

The Budget Circular is actually instruction for submission of application from the government entities for the preparation of the Budget Proposal. Also, the timetables with deadlines for submissions from other government entities to Ministry of Finance are listed in the Budget Law of Republic of Macedonia (Articles: 19-28)

Further. In the Budget Law the timetable of the budget process is presented starting Article 15 until Article 32.

Note however, there is no formal regulation ensuring CSO engagement and that is why we choose answer "b" rather than "a".

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Timetable exist but it is not respected and the consultations are insufficient.

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:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Note that this Fiscal strategy was made public 3rd of June 2021 (right click then Inspect then "modified" check).

Note that this document in North Macedonia used to be prepared on a roll-over basis for a three-year period. Unfortunately, the document has not been updated for the purpose of the 2023 fiscal year, thus it is considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Comment:

The document does not roll over, meaning that it is not updated every year. Thus, is it considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fiskalna-strategija-na-RSM-2024-2028-so-Prilog-3.pdf>

IBP Comment

As discussed in the comment to question PBS-1, the document for Fiscal Strategy 2024-2028 presented in the comment has been published in 2023. This is well beyond the cut-off date of the survey. The OBS uses a deadline to standardize the investigation and ensure comparability. Documents are not accepted if published after this date. This means that the current OBS research covers documents and practices observed until December 31 of 2022. Since no other document compliant with the methodological requirements for a PBS was published in 2022, the PBS is considered not publicly available and all the questions in this section will score a "d" or "b" correspondingly.

55. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government's expenditure policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities and an estimate of total expenditures.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 55 focuses on the government's expenditure policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether "core" information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of expenditure policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total expenditures.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed programmatic proposals (such detailed information is typically only presented in the budget itself), it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least total expenditures associated with these policies for the budget year.

The Pre-Budget Statement can include some detail, for instance, estimates provided by any of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications.

To answer “a,” the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government’s expenditure policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer “b,” the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer “b” is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A “c” answer applies if some information related to the government’s expenditure policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer “d” applies if no information on the government’s expenditure policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Note that this Fiscal strategy was made public 3rd of June 2021 (right click then Inspect then "modified" check).

Note that this document in North Macedonia used to be prepared on a roll-over basis for a three-year period. Unfortunately, the document has not been updated for the purpose of the 2023 fiscal year, thus it is considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Comment:

The document does not roll over, meaning that it is not updated every year. Thus, is it considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fiskalna-strategija-na-RSM-2024-2028-so-Prilog-3.pdf>

IBP Comment

The PBS is considered not publicly available in this round. For more details please refer to comment in question 54.

56. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present information on the government’s revenue policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

(The core information must include a discussion of revenue policies and priorities and an estimate of total revenues.)

GUIDELINES:

Question 56 focuses on the government’s revenue policies and priorities in the Pre-Budget Statement, asking whether “core” information related to these policies is presented. These core components include:

- a discussion of revenue policies and priorities; and
- an estimate of total revenue.

Although a Pre-Budget Statement is unlikely to include detailed revenue proposals, it should include a discussion of broad policy priorities and a projection of at least the total revenue associated with these policies for the budget year. The Pre-Budget Statement can also include more detail, for instance, with estimates provided by revenue category – tax and non-tax – or some of the major individual sources of revenue, such as the Value Added Tax or the income tax.

To answer “a,” the Pre-Budget Statement must present for the upcoming budget year all of the core information related to the government’s revenue policies and priorities as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer “b,” the Pre-Budget Statement must present all of the core

components noted above for the upcoming budget year. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information on the government's revenue policies and priorities is presented.

Answer:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Note that this Fiscal strategy was made public 3rd of June 2021 (right click then Inspect then "modified" check).

Note that this document in North Macedonia used to be prepared on a roll-over basis for a three-year period. Unfortunately, the document has not been updated for the purpose of the 2023 fiscal year, thus it is considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Comment:

The document does not roll over, meaning that it is not updated every year. Thus, is it considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fiskalna-strategija-na-RSM-2024-2028-so-Prilog-3.pdf>

IBP Comment

The PBS is considered not publicly available in this round. For more details please refer to comment in question 54.

57. Does Pre-Budget Statement present three estimates related to government borrowing and debt: the amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year; the total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year; and interest payments on the debt for the budget year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 57 asks whether the Pre-Budget Statement includes three key estimates related to borrowing and debt:

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

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

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

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

To answer "a," the Pre-Budget Statement must present all three estimates of borrowing and debt for at least the upcoming budget year. For a "b" answer, the

Pre-Budget Statement must present two of those three estimates. For a "c" answer, the PBS must present one of the three estimates. Answer "d" applies if no information on borrowing and debt is presented in the PBS.

Answer:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Note that this Fiscal strategy was made public 3rd of June 2021 (right click then Inspect then "modified" check).

Note that this document in North Macedonia used to be prepared on a roll-over basis for a three-year period. Unfortunately, the document has not been updated for the purpose of the 2023 fiscal year, thus it is considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Comment:

The document does not roll over, meaning that it is not updated every year. Thus, is it considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: · the amount of net new borrowing needed in the upcoming budget year (Ref: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fiskalna-strategija-na-RSM-2024-2028-so-Prilog-3.pdf>, see pg.30, Table 7, Memo items: Net Domestic Borrowing and Net Foreign Borrowing) · the central government's total debt burden at the end of the upcoming budget year; (Ref: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fiskalna-strategija-na-RSM-2024-2028-so-Prilog-3.pdf>, see Ch.5 Public debt, pg.71-72) · the interest payments on the outstanding debt for the upcoming budget year.(Ref: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fiskalna-strategija-na-RSM-2024-2028-so-Prilog-3.pdf>, see pg.25, Table 5, Item "Каматни плаќања/домашни/странски")

IBP Comment

The PBS is considered not publicly available in this round. For more details please refer to comment in question 54.

58. Does the Pre-Budget Statement present estimates of total expenditures for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 58 asks about multi-year expenditure estimates in the Pre-Budget Statement.

To answer "a," expenditure estimates for at least two years beyond the upcoming budget year must be presented. The estimates must be for at least total expenditures, but could include more detail than just the aggregate total.

Answer:

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

Source:

Ministry of finance web page; Fiscal strategy 2022-2024 (with prospects till 2026) have date from May 2021:

<https://finance.gov.mk/%d1%84%d0%b8%d1%81%d0%ba%d0%b0%d0%bb%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d1%81%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b0%d1%82%d0%b5%d0%b3%d0%b8%d1%98%d0%b0/>

Note that this Fiscal strategy was made public 3rd of June 2021 (right click then Inspect then "modified" check).

Note that this document in North Macedonia used to be prepared on a roll-over basis for a three-year period. Unfortunately, the document has not been updated for the purpose of the 2023 fiscal year, thus it is considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Comment:

The document does not roll over, meaning that it is not updated every year. Thus, is it considered as not produced as per the IBP methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Fiskalna-strategija-na-RSM-2024-2028-so-Prilog-3.pdf>

IBP Comment

The PBS is considered not publicly available in this round. For more details please refer to comment in question 54.

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:

Official Gazette 282/22.

<https://www.slvesnik.com.mk/issues/c4ef21c38f7b4a44a8e9ef732fbd903.pdf>

Comment:

Revenues and expenditures are on:

Economic, pages: State budget = 147-149, Central budget = 150 and 153-154

Administrative, pages: 152-153 and 155-158

Functional, pages: 159-161

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
Economic classification
Functional classification

Source:

Official Gazette 282/22.
<https://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/c4ef21c38f7b4a44a8e9ef732fbd903.pdf>

Comment:

Revenues and expenditures are on:

Economic, pages: State budget = 147-149, Central budget = 150 and 153-154

Administrative, pages: 152-153 and 155-158

Functional, pages: 159-161

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:

Official Gazette 282/22.
<https://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/c4ef21c38f7b4a44a8e9ef732fbd903.pdf>

Comment:

Government programs pages 162-163

Development programs pages: 164-172

Programs per all administrative units pages: 173-440

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:

Official Gazette 282/22.

<https://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/c4ef21c38f7b4a44a8e9ef732fbd903.pdf>

Comment:

Page 147 State budget

Page 150 Central budget

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:

b. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue.

Source:

Official Gazette 282/22.

<https://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/c4ef21c38f7b4a44a8e9ef732fbd903.pdf>

Comment:

On Page 147 and 150: Данок од доход, од добивка и од капитални добивки is at least three if not more individual taxes. Домашни даноци на стоки и услуги is at least 2 individual taxes. Глоби, судски и административни такси, Такси и надоместоци among other non-tax revenue needs to be further disaggregated. This is why B is the answer.

Revenues could be further disaggregated but when we compare the level of detail to other countries it merits a B answer (in coordination with IBP in the 2015, 2017 and 2019 rounds of the OBS).

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the Enacted Budget presents individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all revenues.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The comment from the reviewer is well received. However, in line with the criteria applied in question 8, lines 711, Income, profit, and capital gain tax, and; 715, International trade and transaction tax, require more disaggregation to be considered an individual source of revenue. To count as an individual source of Tax revenue and not simply a general source, it is important to follow the categories laid out in the IMF's Government Financial Statistics Manual 2014, page 88 in the document. To qualify as an individual source of revenue and not simply a category, the tax listed should be at the 4th level (e.g., "payable by individuals", and "payable by corporations and other enterprises" and not simply "Income tax, profit, and capital gains"). Moreover, this question refers to all revenue sources (tax and non-tax). Therefore, for non-tax revenues the following criteria applies: For social contributions, the revenue source listed should be at the 2nd level (e.g., "Social contributions" would qualify as an individual source of revenue) For grants, the revenue source listed can be at the 2nd level ("Grants"). For a classification under "Other revenue", the revenue source listed should be at least 3rd level (e.g., "Property income", "Sales of goods and services", "Fines, penalties, and forfeits" all qualify as individual sources of revenue). In that regard, the lines mentioned above and the line for "other non-tax revenues" account for less than a third of all revenue combined; therefore, answer "b" is still appropriate and maintained.

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:

Official Gazette 282/22.

<https://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/c4ef21c38f7b4a44a8e9ef732fbd903.pdf>

Comment:

The net new borrowing required during the budget year is shown on page 147 and 150: lines 75, 76, 77 and 78.

The interest payments on the outstanding debt for the budget year is shown on page 148-149 and 153-154: line 45 (interest payment) and on page 78 line 49 (principle payment)

The total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year 2023 will be (page 28): state debt = 51.1% and public debt = 60.6%

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:

d. The Citizens Budget is not published.

Source:

NA

Comment:

No CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal year 2023.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

b. The Citizens Budget provides the core information.

Comments: Expenditure and revenue totals, дефицит, за приходите од што се полни буџетот; расходите-по економска класификација, по функционална област, приказ по буџетски корисници и родово буџетски иницијативи; макроекономски индикатори, едукативни видеа и квиз игри. available on <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. The Citizens Budget provides information, but it excludes some core elements.

Comments: <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/#>

IBP Comment

The CB is considered not produced in North Macedonia in this current OBS round, for a detailed explanation please refer to comment in question CB-1.

65. How is the Citizens Budget disseminated to the public?

GUIDELINES:

Question 65 asks how the Citizens Budget is disseminated to the public. Citizens Budgets should be made available to a variety of audiences. Therefore paper versions and an Internet posting of a document might not be sufficient.

To answer "a," the executive must use three or more different types of creative media tools to reach the largest possible share of the population, including those who otherwise would not normally have access to budget documents or information. Dissemination would also be pursued at the very local level, so that the coverage is targeted both by geographic area and population group (e.g., women, elderly, low income, urban, rural, etc.). Option "b" applies if significant dissemination efforts are made through a combination of two means of communications, for instance, both posting the Citizens Budget on the executive's official website and distributing printed copies of it. Option "c" applies if the Citizens Budget is disseminated through only posting on the executive's official website. Option "d" applies when the executive does not publish a Citizens Budget.

Answer:

d. A Citizens Budget is not published.

Source:

NA

Comment:

No CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal year 2023.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. A Citizens Budget is disseminated only by using one means of dissemination.

Comments: web page <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/>

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. A Citizens Budget is disseminated only by using one means of dissemination.

Comments: <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/#>

IBP Comment

The CB is considered not produced in North Macedonia in this current OBS round, for a detailed explanation please refer to comment in question CB-1.

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:

NA

Comment:

No CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal year 2023.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the executive has established mechanisms to identify the public's requirements for budget information in the Citizen's Budget, but these mechanisms are not accessible.

Comments: <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/#>

IBP Comment

The CB is considered not produced in North Macedonia in this current OBS round, for a detailed explanation please refer to comment in question CB-1.

67. Are "citizens" versions of budget documents published throughout the budget process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 67 asks if "citizens" versions of budget documents are published throughout the budget process. While the Citizens Budget was initially conceived as a simplified version of the Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, good practice is now evolving and suggests that a "citizens" version of key budget documents should be produced during each of the four phases of the budget cycle. This would serve to inform citizens of the state of public financial management throughout the entire budget cycle.

To answer "a," a citizens version of at least one budget document is published for each of the four stages of the budget process (budget formulation, enactment, execution, and audit) – for a total of at least four citizens budget documents throughout the process. Option "b" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least two of the four stages of the budget process. Option "c" applies if a citizens version of a budget document is published for at least one of the four stages of the budget process. Select option "d" if no "citizens" version of budget documents is published.

Answer:

d. No citizens version of budget documents is published.

Source:

NA

Comment:

No CB was produced in North Macedonia for fiscal year 2023.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: After adoption and entry into force of the budget, the beginning of the January.....

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: <http://budget.finance.gov.mk/#>

IBP Comment

The CB is considered not produced in North Macedonia in this current OBS round, for a detailed explanation please refer to comment in question CB-1.

68. Do the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?**GUIDELINES:**

Question 68 asks if expenditure estimates in In-Year Reports are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above.

Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," actual expenditures must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if actual expenditures are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by any of the three classifications in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

c. Yes, the In-Year Reports present actual expenditures by only one of the three expenditure classifications.

Source:**Comment:**

It is usual practice of the Ministry of Finance to produce and publish the previous monthly report (t-1) within a month from the end of the reporting period, and to replace it with the most current one as soon as the newer one becomes available.

Reports are cumulative. For example, February 2023 was published in March 2023, and replaced the January 2023 report that was previously posted on that page; the February 2023 report includes 2 columns (one per month) also a column of the 2023 Budget, sum total of the actual months and a column on the percentage of the realization

An archive (Архива) is also available, from FY 2008 (click on Архива hyperlink).

The latest one is available for February 2023 in Excel here (please click on the hyperlink: Извршување на Буџет на РСМ за 2023 (февруари)): <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

68b. Based on the response to Question 68, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the In-Year Reports:

Answer:

Economic classification

Source:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

It is usual practice of the Ministry of Finance to produce and publish the previous monthly report (t-1) within a month from the end of the reporting period, and to replace it with the most current one as soon as the newer one becomes available.

Reports are cumulative. For example, February 2023 was published in March 2023, and replaced the January 2023 report that was previously posted on that page; the February 2023 report includes 2 columns (one per month) also a column of the 2023 Budget, sum total of the actual months and a column on the percentage of the realization

An archive (Архива) is also available, from FY 2008 (click on Архива hyperlink).

The latest one is available for February 2023 in Excel here (please click on the hyperlink: Извршување на Буџет на РСМ за 2023 (февруари)): <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

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 detaille*. (These data are typically coded in the financial management database, following the chart of budgetary accounts, so that they can be organized by administrative and functional classification.)

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present actual expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. A "c" answer applies if In-Year Reports present actual expenditures for programs that account for less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" applies if actual expenditures are not presented by program in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

d. No, the In-Year Reports do not present actual expenditures by program.

Source:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

It is usual practice of the Ministry of Finance to produce and publish the previous monthly report (t-1) within a month from the end of the reporting period, and to replace it with the most current one as soon as the newer one becomes available.

Reports are cumulative. For example, February 2023 was published in March 2023, and replaced the January 2023 report that was previously posted on that page; the February 2023 report includes 2 columns (one per month) also a column of the 2023 Budget, sum total of the actual months and a column on the percentage of the realization

An archive (Архива) is also available, from FY 2008 (click on Архива hyperlink).

The latest one is available for February 2023 in Excel here (please click on the hyperlink: Извршување на Буџет на РСМ за 2023 (февруари)): <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

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:

b. No, comparisons are not made for expenditures presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

It is usual practice of the Ministry of Finance to produce and publish the previous monthly report (t-1) within a month from the end of the reporting period, and to replace it with the most current one as soon as the newer one becomes available.

Reports are cumulative. For example, February 2023 was published in March 2023, and replaced the January 2023 report that was previously posted on that page; the February 2023 report includes 2 columns (one per month) also a column of the 2023 Budget, sum total of the actual months and a column on the percentage of the realization

An archive (Архива) is also available, from FY 2008 (click on Архива hyperlink).

The latest one is available for February 2023 in Excel here (please click on the hyperlink: Извршување на Буџет на РСМ за 2023 (февруари)): <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/

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:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

Revenues are shown by category: Tax sources (Даночни приходи и придонеси) and non-tax sources (Неданочни приходи).

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:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

While there are revenue line items that are clearly aggregated. Административни такси и Глоби among other non-tax revenue needs to be further disaggregated. This is why B is the answer.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The disaggregation is broaden in In-Year Reports, so the answer "b" is correct.

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:

b. No, comparisons are not made for revenues presented in the In-Year Reports.

Source:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

We choose "b" because the IYRs present figures for the entire fiscal year, rather than the same period to which the report refers thus, the answer "b".

It is usual practice of the Ministry of Finance to produce and publish the previous monthly report (t-1) within a month from the end of the reporting period, and to replace it with the most current one as soon as the newer one becomes available.

Reports are cumulative. For example, February 2023 was published in March 2023, and replaced the January 2023 report that was previously posted on that page; the February 2023 report includes 2 columns (one per month) also a column of the 2023 Budget, sum total of the actual months and a column on the percentage of the realization

An archive (Архива) is also available, from FY 2008 (click on Архива hyperlink).

The latest one is available for February 2023 in Excel here (please click on the hyperlink: Извршување на Буџет на РСМ за 2023 (февруари)): <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

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:

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

Source:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

The IYR contains information for interest payment (excel row 42, 43 and 44 from the table presented in the link above) and net new borrowings (excel row 52,54, 55, 56 and 57 from the table presented in the link above). There is no information on the central government's total debt burden at that point in the year.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: The central government's total debt burden is available in the Table "Stock of Government and Public Debt" which presents the debt dynamics from 2002 till present period (available at: <https://finance.gov.mk/stock-of-debt-2/?lang=en>).

75. Do In-Year Reports present information related to the composition of the total actual debt outstanding?

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

GUIDELINES:

Question 75 focuses on the composition of government debt, asking whether "core" information related to its composition is presented. These core components include:

- interest rates on the debt;

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

The interest rates affect the amount of interest that must be paid to creditors. The maturity profile indicates the final payment date of the loan, at which point the principal (and all remaining interest) is due to be paid; government borrowing typically includes a mix of short-term and long-term debt. As discussed in Question 74, domestic debt is held by a country's citizens and banks and businesses, while external debt is held by foreigners. These factors related to the composition of the debt give an indication of the potential vulnerability of the country's debt position, and ultimately whether the cost of servicing the accumulated debt is affordable.

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

To answer "a," In-Year Reports must present all of the core information related to the composition of government debt to-date as well as some additional information beyond the core elements. To answer "b," In-Year Reports must present all of the core components noted above. Answer "b" is also accepted if one of the core elements is not presented but additional information beyond the core elements is presented. A "c" answer applies if some information related to the composition of government debt is presented, but some of the core pieces of information are not included. Answer "d" applies if no information is presented on the composition of the debt outstanding in In-Year Reports.

Answer:

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

Source:

Ministry of Finance website: <https://finance.gov.mk/%d0%b8%d0%b7%d0%b2%d0%b5%d1%88%d1%82%d0%b0%d0%b8-%d1%82%d1%80%d0%b5%d0%b7%d0%be%d1%80/>

Comment:

It does not present maturity profile of the debt nor interest rates.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: The information on the composition of the total actual debt outstanding, are presented in the Public Debt Annual Report, available at <https://finance.gov.mk/public-debt-reports/?lang=en>.

Researcher Response

We stay to our answer of "No, information related to composition of total actual debt outstanding is not presented." The question at hand is about "IYR" and the Government is suggesting "Annual reports" that would be obsolete and with a time lag way beyond the interest of the citizens, businesses and other interested in the monthly and/or quarterly government performance. Government should take a note that the OBS is considering fiscal transparency from the point of view and interest of the public and not from the point of view of the government administration .

IBP Comment

The comments presented are well received. However, as the government reviewer points out, this question refers to the composition of total actual debt outstanding. This means that actual government debt-to-date information on the debt stock is required to answer this question. This level of detail for the outstanding debt is not presented in the In Year Reports, and therefore, the answer selected by the researcher "c" must be revised to "d".

76. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 76 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 15 for the components of the macroeconomic forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated macroeconomic forecast and explain all of the differences between the initial forecast presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal and the updated forecast. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the macroeconomic forecast must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated forecasts are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes an updated macroeconomic forecast, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the macroeconomic forecast has not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, the estimates for macroeconomic forecast have not been updated.

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the estimates for macroeconomic forecast have been updated, but an explanation of the differences between the original and updated forecast is not presented.

Comments: Mid-Year Review of the budget include macroeconomic forecast for the budget year underway, which is in line with the Fiscal Strategy of the RSM 2024-2028

IBP Comment

The Mid Year Report is considered not available to the public in this round and therefore all questions in this section will score a "d" or "b" response accordingly, for a detailed explanation please refer to the comment in question MYR-1

77. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 77 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of expenditure for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated expenditure estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. The expenditure estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated expenditure estimates, but does not provide an explanation for the revisions. A "d" response applies if the expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, expenditure estimates have not been updated.

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

78. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway by any of the three expenditure classifications (by administrative, economic, or functional classification)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 78 asks if expenditure estimates for the budget year underway in the Mid-Year Review are presented by any one of the three expenditure classifications – by administrative, economic, and functional classifications – which were addressed in Questions 1-5 above. Please note that year-to-date expenditures as assessed in Question 70 do not qualify as updated estimates of expenditure for the purposes of this indicator.

Each of the classifications answers a different question: administrative unit indicates who spends the money; functional classification shows for what purpose is the money spent; and economic classification displays what the money is spent on. Unlike classification by administrative unit, which tends to be unique to each country, functional and economic classifications for government budgeting have been developed and standardized by international institutions. Cross-country comparisons are facilitated by adherence to these international classification standards.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present expenditure estimates by all three of the expenditure classifications. To answer "b," expenditure estimates must be presented by two of these three classifications. A "c" answer applies if expenditure estimates are presented by one of the three classifications. Answer "d" applies if expenditure estimates are not presented by any of the three classifications in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by any expenditure classification.

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

78b. Based on the response to Question 78, check the box(es) to identify which expenditure classifications are included in the Mid-Year Review:

Answer:

None of the above

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

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:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present expenditure estimates by program.

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

80. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 80 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of revenue for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include updated revenue estimates and explain all of the differences between the initial levels presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or the Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the revenue estimates must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated revenue estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the revenue estimates have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, revenue estimates have not been updated.

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

81. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway by category (such as tax and non-tax)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 81 asks whether revenue estimates for the budget year underway in the Mid-Year Review are presented by "category"—that is, whether tax and non-tax sources of revenue are shown separately. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present revenue estimates classified by category.

Answer:

b. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present revenue estimates by category.

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

82. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget present updated individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 82 asks whether revenue estimates for individual sources of revenue for the budget year underway are presented in the Mid-Year Review. Please note that year-to-date revenues as assessed in Question 73 do not qualify as updated estimates of revenue for the purposes of this indicator.

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must present all sources of revenue individually, accounting for all revenues, and "other" or "miscellaneous" revenue must account for three percent or less of all revenue. To answer "b," the Mid-Year Review must present individual sources of revenue that when combined account for at least two-thirds of all revenue, but not all revenue. A "c" answer applies if the Mid-Year Review presents estimates of individual revenue sources that account for less than two-thirds of revenue. Answer "d" applies if individual sources of revenue are not presented in the Mid-Year Review.

Answer:

d. No, the Mid-Year Review does not present individual sources of revenue.

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

83. Does the Mid-Year Review of the budget include updated estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway?

GUIDELINES:

Question 83 asks whether the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the budget year underway, and provides an explanation of the update.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

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

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

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

To answer "a," the Mid-Year Review must include an updated estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, and explain all of the differences between the initial estimates presented in the Executive's Budget Proposal (or Enacted Budget) and the updated estimates. The explanation must include at least estimates of all differences; a narrative discussion is desirable but not required if estimates of all the differences are provided. To answer "b," the estimates of borrowing and debt must be updated, but only some of the differences between the initial and updated estimates are explained. The explanation would be more limited, such as only a narrative discussion of the differences or estimates covering only some of the differences. A "c" response applies if the Mid-Year Review includes updated estimates, but no explanation for the revisions is provided. A "d" response applies if the estimates of borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Answer:

d. No, estimates of government borrowing and debt have not been updated.

Source:

Ministry of finance: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>

Comment:

The "MYR" document published by the Government does not include information on macroeconomic indicators update, nor updates on projected revenues, commitments, and expenditures for the remainder of the budget year. It therefore cannot be considered as Mid-Year Review according to the OBS methodology.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, estimates of government borrowing and debt have been updated, and information on all of the differences between the original and updated estimates is presented.

Comments: See Ch.3.2 (pg.18-19) Public Debt Management in the MYR document (<https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D1%88%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%88%D1%82%D0%B0%D1%98-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D1%83%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%9A%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%9C-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%9F1-2022.pdf>)

IBP Comment

The Mid Year Report is considered not available to the public in this round and therefore all questions in this section will score a "d" or "b" response accordingly, for a detailed explanation please refer to the comment in question MYR-1

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:

b. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all expenditures are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Pages 2 and 3 gives actual and enacted expenditures of state budget but a narrative discussion explaining reasons for the difference is not included

Pages 8 and 9 gives actual and enacted expenditures of central budget but a narrative discussion explaining reasons for the difference is not included

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Economic pages: 2-3 (State budget) and 8-9 (Central budget)

Administrative pages: 10-13

Functional pages: 14-16

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf

Comment:

Economic pages: 2-3 (State budget) and 8-9 (Central budget)

Administrative pages: 10-13

Functional pages: 14-16

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

86. Does the Year-End Report present expenditure estimates for individual programs?

GUIDELINES:

Question 86 asks if expenditure estimates in the Year-End Report are presented by program. There is no standard definition for the term "program," and the meaning can vary from country to country. However, for the purposes of answering the questionnaire, researchers should understand the term "program" to mean any level of detail below an administrative unit, such as a ministry or department.

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

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present expenditure estimates for all individual programs, accounting for all expenditures. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents expenditures for individual programs that when combined account for at least two-thirds of expenditures, but not all expenditures. Answer "c" if the Year-End Report presents programs that account for only less than two-thirds of expenditures. Answer "d" if expenditures are not presented by program in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

a. Yes, the Year-End Report presents estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures.

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Government programs pages: 17-19

Development programs pages: 20-27

Programs by each administrative unit pages: 28-294

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

87. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for revenues?

GUIDELINES:

Question 87 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and actual revenues for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must present estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues, along with a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if estimates of the differences for all revenues are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences are presented for some, but not all revenues, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. Answer "d" if no estimates of the differences are presented in the Year-End Report.

Answer:

b. Yes, estimates of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for all revenues are presented, but a narrative discussion is not included.

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Page 1 State budget but a narrative discussion on the reasons behind the differences is missing.

Page 4 Central budget but a narrative discussion on the reasons behind the differences is missing.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested 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.

Comments: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/%D0%A1%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-2022-%D0%B4%D0%BE-%D0%92%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B0-270623.pdf> In Year End Report for 2022, we presented narrative discussion of the difference between the enacted levels and actual outcome for all revenues.

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:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Page 1 State budget revenues lines 71 and 72

Page 4 Central budget revenues lines 71 and 72

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:

b. Yes, the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue.

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

On pages 1 and 4:

Данок од доход, од добивка и од капитални добивки is at least three if not more aggregated individual taxes.

Домашни даноци на стоки и услуги is at least 2 aggregated individual taxes.

Глоби, судски и административни такси, Такси и надоместоци among other non-tax revenue needs to be further disaggregated.

This is why B is the answer

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the Year-End Report presents individual sources of revenue accounting for less than two-thirds of all revenues.

Comments: In the Year-End Report individual sources of revenue are presented more aggregate

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

IBP Comment

The comment from the reviewer is well received. However, in line with the criteria applied in question 62, lines 711, Income, profit, and capital gain tax, and; 715, International trade and transaction tax, require more desagregation to be considered an individual source of revenue. To count as an individual source of Tax revenue and not simply a general source, it is important to follow the categories laid out in the IMF's Government Financial Statistics Manual 2014, page 88 in the document. To qualify as an individual source of revenue and not simply a category, the tax listed should be at the 4th level (e.g., "payable by individuals", and "payable by corporations and other enterprises" and not simply "Income tax, profit, and capital gains"). Moreover, this question refers to all revenue sources (tax and non-tax). Therefore, for non-tax revenues the following criteria apply: For social contributions, the revenue source listed should be at the 2nd level (e.g., "Social contributions" would qualify as an individual source of revenue) For grants, the revenue source listed can be at the 2nd level ("Grants"). For a classification under "Other revenue", the revenue source listed should be at least 3rd level (e.g., "Property income", "Sales of goods and services", "Fines, penalties, and forfeits" all qualify as individual sources of revenue). In that regard, the lines mentioned above account for less than a third of all revenue combined; therefore, answer "b" is still appropriate and maintained.

90. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

GUIDELINES:

Question 90 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates and the actual outcome for the fiscal year for borrowing and debt, including its composition, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 13 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal of borrowing and debt. Key estimates related to borrowing and debt include:

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

Refer to Question 14 for details on estimates in the Executive's Budget Proposal related to the composition of the debt. Core information related to the composition of government debt include:

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

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt, including its composition, for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

c. Yes, estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of government borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year are presented.

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

On pages 2 and 4:

Estimates are shown only for new borrowing and whether it is domestic or external (page 1 lines 75, 76, 77 and 78); and interest payments of the outstanding debt (page 2 line 45)

The central government's total debt burden at the end of the budget year is missing

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

d. No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year is not presented.

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. However, the evidence presented by the researcher is consistent with answer "c" since estimates for new borrowing for domestic and external sources, and interest payments are presented distinguishing between the original budget and realization.

90b. Based on the response to Question 90, check the box(es) to identify which estimates of government borrowing and debt, including its composition, have the differences between the original forecast and the actual outcome for the year presented in the Year-End Report:

Answer:

The amount of net new borrowing required during the budget year

The interest payments on outstanding debt for the budget year

Whether the debt is domestic or external

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Estimates are shown only for new borrowing and whether it is domestic or external (page 1 lines 75, 76, 77 and 78); and interest payments of the

outstanding debt (page 2 line 45)

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: No, estimates of the differences between the original estimates of government borrowing and debt for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year is not presented.

IBP Comment

the answer selected by the researcher is maintained, for more detail see the previous comment.

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:

c. Yes, 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.

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Please check the pages 477-483 of the pdf document Table 1 and Table 2.

Interest rates and nominal GDP are missing.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

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

Comments: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/%D0%A1%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-2022-%D0%B4%D0%BE-%D0%92%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B0-270623.pdf> In Year End Report for 2022, we presented narrative discussion of the difference between the macroeconomic assumptions and actual outcome.

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. however, this question asks specifically about what we call core estimates, and their differences: nominal GDP level, inflation rate, real GDP growth, interest rates, and other beyond the core estimates. To achieve a higher score on this question, all these core estimates differences must be presented along with additional information. Since two of those core estimates (Interest rate and nominal GDP) are missing, then answer "c" is appropriate, even if additional information is presented.

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:

Inflation rate
Real GDP growth
Information beyond the core elements

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Beyond core elements: gross wage, employment and unemployment rates, trade deficit and current account deficit, unpaid obligations on Table 3 on page 486

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

IBP Comment

please refer to previous comment for further details.

92. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 92 asks whether the Year-End Report includes estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 49 for the nonfinancial data on inputs included in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of nonfinancial data on inputs and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented.

Answer:

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

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

In the YER for 2021 there is no non-financial information on estimated inputs and the actual inputs.

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:

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

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

No estimates of the differences between the original estimates of nonfinancial data on results, outputs, outcomes and the actual outcome for the year nor narrative discussion.

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:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.aspx?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

In the special part of the YER (pages 28-294) is presented by programs and subprograms under ministries or agencies separate programs for Roma people, separate programs for social care, asylum seekers etc, where planned and realized expenditures are presented.

Examples: Roma strategy and decade support program: "ПОДДРШКА НА ИМПЛЕМЕНТАЦИЈАТА НА ДЕКАДАТА И СТРАТЕГИЈАТА ЗА РОМИТЕ" on p. 167

Social care programs: Poverty related measures "МЕРКИ ЗА НАМАЛУВАЊЕ НА СИРОМАШТИЈАТ" on p. 199

Asylum seekers refugees: "НАДОМЕСТОЦИ ЗА ЗАШТИТА НА БЕГАЛЦИ И АЗИЛАНТИ" on p. 204

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

95. Does the Year-End Report present the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome?

GUIDELINES:

Question 95 asks whether the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome for the year, and whether these estimates are accompanied by a narrative discussion.

Refer to Question 33 for estimates of extra-budgetary funds in the Executive's Budget Proposal.

To answer "a," the Year-End Report must include estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, including a narrative discussion. Answer "b" if the Year-End Report presents estimates of the differences between all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome, but does not include a narrative discussion. Answer "c" if estimates of the differences between some but not all of the original estimates of extra-budgetary funds and the actual outcome are presented, regardless of whether a narrative discussion is included. A "d" response applies if estimates of the differences are not presented

Answer:

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:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document (the pages in the comment refer to this document): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

Health insurance fund pages: 295-296

Employment agency pages: 297-298

Pension fund pages: 299-300

Peer Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer
Opinion: Agree

96. Is a financial statement included as part of the Year-End Report or released as a separate report?

GUIDELINES:

Question 96 asks whether a financial statement is included as part of the Year-End Report, or whether it is released as a separate report. The financial statement can include some or all of the following elements: a cash flow statement, an operating statement, a balance sheet, and notes on accounting. For purposes of responding to this question, the financial statement in question does not need to be audited. For an example of a financial statement, see the document "Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand 2013" (<https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2013-10/fsgnz-year-jun13.pdf>)

To answer "a," a financial statement must either be included in the Year-End Report or must be released as a separate report. Answer "a" applies if a financial statement is released as a separate report, even if the Year-End Report is not publicly available. Answer "b" applies if no financial statement is released either as part of the Year-End Report or as a separate report.

Answer:

b. No, a financial statement is neither part of the Year-End Report nor released as a separate report.

Source:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

If the Parliament site is not working (it can happen frequently) then please check here on the Ministry of finance web page the same document: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B3-%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%B2%D1%80%D1%88%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D1%81%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%82-%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%A1%D0%B5%D0%B2%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%B5%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%98%D0%B0-%D0%B7%D0%B0-2021-%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0.pdf>

Comment:

There are no cash flow statement, no operating statement, no balance sheet, and no notes on accounting.

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:

Link: <https://dzt.mk/mk/revizorski-izvestai>

Comment:

Go on the tile Вид на ревизија in the menu and a list will pop out with all three types of audits (compliance, financial, performance, IT audit, audit on implemented recommendations).

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:

Annual SAI report for 2021: <https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-06/2021-godisen-izvestaj-dzt.mk.pdf>

Comment:

On page 60 (62 of pdf) they publish in the table-Опфат на Буџетите преку ревидирани расходи со ГП на ДЗР за 2021 that they audited in 2020 193,738 million denars public expenditures out of 243,241 million denars which is 80%

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:

Annual SAI report for 2021: <https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-06/2021-godisen-izvestaj-dzt.mk.pdf>

Comment:

Health fund pages 98-100

Pension fund pages 125-127

Employment agency pages 127-128;

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:

Official website of the SAI in Macedonia: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-09/01_Osnoven_budzet_RSM_KOMPLET_2021_0.pdf

Comment:

Pages 1-5 of the report

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

101. Does the executive make available to the public a report on what steps it has taken to address audit recommendations or findings that indicate a need for remedial action?

GUIDELINES:

Question 101 asks whether the executive reports to the public on the steps it has taken to address audit recommendations made by the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). The ultimate purpose of audits is to verify that the budget was executed in a manner consistent with existing law, and to hold the government accountable for this execution and its future improvement. The extent to which audits achieve the latter depends on whether there is adequate and timely follow-up on the recommendations provided in the SAI's audit reports.

To answer "a," the executive must report publicly on the steps it has taken to address all audit findings. A "b" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A "c" response applies if the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the executive reports publicly on the steps it has taken to address audit finding, answer "a," "b," or "c" may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A "d" response applies if the executive does not report at all on its steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

d. No, the executive does not report on steps it has taken to address audit findings.

Source:

NA

Comment:

The EXECUTIVE never reports its own report to the public on the steps it has taken to address audit recommendations made by the Supreme Audit Institution in Macedonia

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: a. Yes, the executive reports publicly on what steps it has taken to address audit findings.

Comments: Source: Article 32 of the State Audit Law says that "The legal representative of the auditee shall inform the State Audit Office and the authority responsible for its supervision and control on the measures taken in relation to findings and recommendations in the audit reports within 90 days of the date of receipt of the final report." Comment: In line with Article 32 of the State Audit Law, the legal representative of the auditee is obliged to inform SAO and the authority responsible for supervision and control of auditee's operation on the measures taken upon findings and recommendations in audit reports within 90 days of the date of receipt of the final audit report. SAO follows up on the implementation of audit recommendations within regular audits, follow up reviews and follow up audits, as well as through the information provided by the auditees. Follow up on the implementation of audit recommendations is reported through notifications that are published as part of the final audit reports and are publicly available (see following link for the final audit reports: <https://dzt.mk/mk/revizorski-izvestaj> . For example see Annex 1 - Notification on the follow-up of measures taken by the entity in the final audit report on financial reports and compliance for 2021 of the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management on the following link: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-06/7_MZSV_Smetka_osnoven_budzet_637_2023.pdf) SAO records the information on implementation of recommendations within the SAPRI software (custom made software for analyzing data from audit reports) and publish the information on implementation of recommendation in Annual Report on Performed Audits and Operation of the SAO that is publicly available (see pg. 97-98 of the Annual Report on Performed Audits and Operation of the SAO for 2022 on the following link: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/dzt_godisen_izvestaj_2022_en.pdf) .

Researcher Response

We stay at our assessment of: "No, the executive does not report on steps it has taken to address audit findings." The Government is just referencing what the legislation regulates. Public is interested what the Government administration is doing in order to address irregularities and/or other findings from the external scrutiny from the SAO.

IBP Comment

The comments from the reviewer are well received. However, the sources presented on this occasion correspond to the reports made and published by the SAO and do not constitute reports made available by the executive as the question requires. Therefore, answer "d" must be maintained.

102. Does either the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or legislature release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations?

GUIDELINES:

Question 102 asks whether the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) or the legislature track actions by the executive to address audit recommendations. After audit results and recommendations are discussed and validated by the legislature, the executive is normally asked to take certain actions to address the audit findings. For accountability purposes, the public needs to be informed about the status of those actions, and steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations. In addition to the executive reporting on its actions (see Question 101), the SAI and legislature – as the key oversight institutions – have a responsibility to keep the public informed by tracking the executive’s progress in addressing audit recommendations.

To answer “a,” the SAI or legislature must report publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit findings. A “b” response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address most, but not all, audit findings. A “c” response applies if the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address only some audit findings. As long as the SAI or legislature reports publicly on the steps the executive has taken, answer “a,” “b,” or “c” may be selected, even if the Audit Report is not made publicly available. A “d” response applies if neither the SAI nor the legislature reports on the executive’s steps to address audit findings.

Answer:

d. No, neither the SAI nor legislature reports on steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations.

Source:

NA

Comment:

The public in North Macedonia is not informed about the status of steps/actions the executive has taken to address audit recommendations.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the SAI or legislature reports publicly on what steps the executive has taken to address all audit recommendations.

Comments: Source: According Article 18 of the Rulebook on the Manner of Performance of the State Audit („Official Gazette of Republic of North Macedonia“, no. 264 of 5.11.2020 – see following link:

https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/Pravilnik_za_vrsenje_drzavna_revizija_Sluzben-vesnik_RSM_broj_264_05_11_2020.pdf), (1) The State Audit Office shall monitor the undertaken measures according to the given ones recommendations contained in the final audit reports through the notification received for measures taken following the recommendations of the certified state auditor contained in the final audit report, with the performance of the current audits, through the special ones audits to follow the recommendations contained in the final reports of the authorized persons state auditor (follow up audits) 2 , as well as with the checks of the undertaken measures after the recommendations and established conditions contained in the final report of the authorized person state auditor. (2) The follow up audit may be performed on the conducted financial audits, compliance audits and performance audits to evaluate the measures taken by the subjects, and in relation to the identified conditions and the given recommendations in the final audit report. (3) The audits referred to in paragraph (2) shall be planned in the Annual Work Program of State Audit Office. (4) A draft and a final audit are prepared for the performed follow up audits report in accordance with the methodological acts of the State Audit Office. (5) The checks of the undertaken measures according to the recommendations and the determined conditions contained in the final report of the certified state auditor are performed for those audits of regularity for which the audit reports became final by 31 October current year, in accordance with the Annual Work Program of the State Audit Office for which they are relate. The other reports that after this date receive the status of final audit reports will be subject to checks in the coming period. (6) The inspection begins with a written notification to the subject for the period of performance at the check, at least seven days before the start of the check. (7) The notification referred to in paragraph (6) shall contain: legal basis for performing the inspection, subject of the inspection, beginning of the inspection, duration of the inspection and composition of the audit team that will perform the inspection. (8) For each performed inspection, a Notification for the performed inspection of the measures taken by the audited entity, in relation to the established ones conditions contained in the Final Report of the Certified State Auditor. (9) The notification shall be signed by the Assistant Auditor General who is certified state auditor and the audit team, composed of at least two certified auditors state auditors or state auditors working under the supervision of an authorized state auditor, and who performed the audit. (10) The notification referred to in paragraph (8) shall be prepared in paper form and may be submitted. and as an electronic document recorded on an external memory device or as an attachment to electronic message submitted to the official e-mail address of the entity. Comment: SAO follows up on the implementation of audit recommendations within regular audits, follow up reviews and follow up audits, as well as through the information provided by the auditees. Follow up on the implementation of audit recommendations is reported through notifications that are published as part of the final audit reports and are publicly available (see following link for the final audit reports: <https://dzt.mk/mk/revizorski-izvestai> . For example see Annex 1 - Notification on the follow-up of measures taken by the entity in the final audit report on financial reports and compliance for 2021 of the Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management on the following link: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-06/7_MZSV_Smetka_osnoven_budzet_637_2023.pdf) SAO records the information on implementation of recommendations within the SAPRI software (custom made software for analyzing data from

audit reports) and publish the information on implementation of recommendation in Annual Report on Performed Audits and Operation of the SAO that is publicly available (see pg. 97-98 of the Annual Report on Performed Audits and Operation of the SAO for 2022 on the following link: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/dzt_godisen_izvestaj_2022_en.pdf).

Researcher Response

The public in North Macedonia is not informed about the status of steps/actions the executive has taken to address audit recommendations and therefore we stay to our answer of: "No, neither the SAI nor legislature reports on steps the executive has taken to address audit recommendations."

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. It is important to note the cut-off date of the research is December 31 of 2022. In that line, and followed by the suggestion presented by the reviewer the document described below published in 2022 is accepted as evidence to answer this question. Indeed, in this document, it is possible to find some information that tracks the number of recommendations made on an aggregate level (page 63 and following) and a narrative about findings made during the audits, for instance, Government Economic Measures for Coping with the Crisis Caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, there is no explanation of the actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations. Therefore, answer "d" suggested by the researcher is maintained. 2021 ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMED AUDITS AND OPERATION OF THE STATE AUDIT OFFICE <https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-07/DZT%20godisen%20ANG%20za%20web.pdf>

103. Is there an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) that conducts budget analyses for the budget formulation and/or approval process?

GUIDELINES:

Question 103 examines whether an Independent Fiscal Institution (IFI) exists that contributes budget analyses to the budget formulation and/or approval process. According to the Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions, adopted by the OECD Council in 2014, "independent fiscal institutions are publicly funded, independent bodies under the statutory authority of the executive or the legislature which provide non-partisan oversight and analysis of, and in some cases advice on, fiscal policy and performance", and with "a forward-looking ex ante diagnostic task". In practice, they come in two main forms:

- Parliamentary budget offices (also known as PBOs) such as the Congressional Budget Office in the United States (<https://www.cbo.gov/>), the Parliamentary Budget Office in South Africa (<https://www.parliament.gov.za/parliamentary-budget-office>), and the Center for Public Finance Studies in Mexico (Centro de Estudios de las Finanzas Públicas, <http://www.cefp.gob.mx/>); or
- Fiscal councils such as the Office for Budget Responsibility in the United Kingdom (<https://obr.uk/>) and the High Council for Public Finances in France (Haut Conseil des finances publiques, <https://www.hcfp.fr/>).

For more information, see von Trapp et al. 'Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions and Case Studies', OECD Journal on Budgeting 15:2 (special issue, 2016), <https://doi.org/10.1787/budget-15-5jm2795tv625>.

To answer "a," there must be an IFI, and its independence must be set in law. In addition, it must have sufficient staffing and resources, including funding, to carry out its tasks. Answer "b" applies if an IFI exists, but either its independence is not set in law or its staffing and resources are insufficient to carry out its tasks. Answer "c" applies if an IFI exists, but its independence is not set in law and it lacks sufficient staffing and resources. Answer "d" applies if no IFI exists.

If the answer is "a," "b," or "c," please specify in the comments the name and type of IFI that exists (e.g., parliamentary budget office or fiscal council). If the answer is "a" or "b," identify the law that guarantees its independence, and provide evidence in support of the assessment of the adequacy of its staffing and resources. This can include the IFI's total budget allocation over recent years, any press reports that discuss perceived funding shortfalls, assessments by international organizations, and/or information from interviews with staff of the IFI.

Answer:

d. No, there is no IFI.

Source:

There is neither a Parliamentary budget office nor a Fiscal council in Macedonia.

Comment:

In September 2022, the Parliament adopted the new Organic budget law (OG 203/22): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B8.pdf>.

Article 11 of this law regulates the creation of Fiscal Council in North Macedonia.

NOTE: This law will be in force on January 1st 2025.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: In September 2023, The Parliament established Fiscal Council in North Macedonia.

IBP Comment

The comment from the reviewer is well received. However, it is important to note that the methodology of the OBS requires tracking practices and information published until December 31, 2022. Until that date, there was no IFI in the country, and therefore, answer "d" should be maintained. The development mentioned by the reviewer will be assessed in the next round of research.

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:

N/A

Comment:

There is no IFI in North Macedonia.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: In September 2023, The Parliament established Fiscal Council in North Macedonia.

IBP Comment

There is no IFI in North Macedonia until the cut-off date of the research, 31 December 2022, and therefore the answer provided by the researcher must be maintained. For more details, please refer to the comment in question 103.

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:

N/A

Comment:

There is no IFI in North Macedonia.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: In September 2023, The Parliament established Fiscal Council in North Macedonia.

IBP Comment

There is no IFI in North Macedonia until the cut-off date of the research, 31 December 2022, and therefore the answer provided by the researcher must be maintained. For more details, please refer to the comment in question 103.

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:

N/A

Comment:

There is no IFI in North Macedonia.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer: e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Comments: In September 2023, The Parliament established Fiscal Council in North Macedonia.

IBP Comment

There is no IFI in North Macedonia until the cut-off date of the research, 31 December 2022, and therefore the answer provided by the researcher must be maintained. For more details, please refer to the comment in question 103.

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:

In North Macedonia neither the Parliament nor the Finance and budget committee discusses/debates the PBS.

Comment:

NA

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:

c. The legislature receives the Executive's Budget Proposal at least one month, but less than two months, before the start of the budget year.

Source:

Web page of the Parliament. EBP link: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nspx?param=9738fbbf-b734-4a8c-b2fa-0ba8f56fbacb>

Please, see: "Датум на прием: 04.11.2022". It says: "Date of receiving 4th of November 2022"

Comment:

In our CEA experience, the Parliament so far has had a good track record of publishing the documents on their website the same day they receive the documents.

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:

Web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-sednica.nsp?sessionId=4b8f0f74-ad34-4e2c-bc59-150d5d8b5ad8>

Comment:

Please, note: "Датум на седница: 23.12.2022" e.g., Date of the Parliamentary session was 23rd of December 2022.

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:

a. Yes, the legislature has unlimited authority in law to amend the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Source:

Article 180 from the "Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia" (<https://www.sobranie.mk/delovnik-na-sobranieto-na-republika-makedonija-precisten-tekst-sluzben-vesnik-na-republika-makedonija-broj-130-2010.nsp>)

Articles 29 and 30 from the Law on Budgets. (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia 4/2005; 4/2008;103/2008;156/2009, 95/2010 and 180/2011). Link: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/5.pdf>

Article 37 from the new OBL (This law will be on power on January 1st 2025): <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B8.pdf>.

Comment:

In Article 180 of these Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia it is stipulated that the MPs are engaged in scrutinizing the EBP prepared by the Government and that the Government later prepares new version of the EBP where the amendments (that the Government agreed upon) from the Parliament are integrated in this new version. This new version together with explanation is submitted by the Government to the Parliament again.

Article 29 of the Law on Budgets regulates details about the budget presentation and classification to be submitted from the Ministry of finance to the Government. Article 30 of the Law on Budgets regulates the date when the budget should be submitted to the Parliament (15 of November) and when the Parliament should adopt the budget (31st of December).

Article 37 from the new OBL (which will be in force on January 1st 2025) stipulates that: "The government submits the draft budget of the state, together with a draft law on implementation of the budget and accompanying documents to the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia no later than October 15 in the current year."

In the same Article 37 from the new OBL (This law will be on power on January 1st 2025): The Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia adopts the State Budget for the next year no later than December 25 of the current year.

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:

On the web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=9738fbbf-b734-4a8c-b2fa-0ba8f56fbacb>
Under the subheading "Документи," please click on: "Извештај - седница бр.52 на Комисија за финансирање и буџет одржана на 12.12.2022" (This is the report from the Budget and finance commission and it shows all the amendments that have been passed). There it is stated that the committee discussed upon 263 amendments in total. All of these amendments are listed with proper narrative. The legislator used its authority and some amendments out of 263 were adopted.

Comment:

In the report from the Budget and finance commission:

When it reads: "го усвои амандманот" it means that amendment is adopted.

When it reads: "не го усвои амандманот" it means that amendment is not adopted.

For example:

"The Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia led to the following amendments:

1. Amendment to the Balance of Income of the Central Budget by items, submitted by deputies Bojan Stojanoski, Dafina Stojanoska, Petar Risteski,

Rashela Mizrahi, Gordana Siljanovska Davkova and Velika Stojkova Serafimovska, under archive number 08-4555/106, which was joined by Member of Parliament Blagica Lasovska; The amendment was explained by MP Blagica Lasovska. The representative of the Government did not agree with this amendment, and the Commission did not adopt the amendment with 6 votes "for" and 8 votes "against".

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:

On the web page of the Parliament: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=9738fbbf-b734-4a8c-b2fa-0ba8f56fbacb>

after "Документи" please, click on: "Извештај - седница бр.52 на Комисија за финансирање и буџет одржана на 12.12.2022" (this is the report from the Budget and finance commission).

Comment:

In the report from the Budget and finance commission it is stated that the commission discussed upon 263 amendments in total. All of these amendments are listed with proper narrative.

The legislator used its authority and some amendments out of 263 were adopted.

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:

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

Source:

On the Macedonian Parliament official website: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=9738fbbf-b734-4a8c-b2fa-0ba8f56fbacb>

one can see that the 2023 EBP was discussed only at the Finance and Budget and Legal committee (see Извештај - седница бр.52 на Комисија за финансирање и буџет одржана на 12.12.2022 for the Budget and finance committee and see Извештај - седница бр.157 на Законодавно-правна комисија одржана на 12.12.2022 for the legal committee).

Comment:

This is a practice in decades in North Macedonia. Sector committees in the Parliament never discuss the EBP.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested 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.

Comments: This were practise before 10 years when all sector committees discusses the EBP. This is my personnel experiences.

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Researcher Response

We stay at our answer. The OBS have a strict methodology and it is not interested what experience the reviewer have had 10 years ago.

IBP Comment

The comments are well received. Since no evidence has been presented to support a different answer, response "d" is maintained.

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:

NA

Comment:

It have never happened in North Macedonia for the Parliament to discuss IYR

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Comments: Only amendment are submitted for change on Enacted Budget/Ребаланс на буџет

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:

a. The executive is required by law or regulation to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and it does so in practice.

Source:

In accordance with Article 33 of the old Budget law (<https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/5.pdf>), it is explicitly stated that each ministry can reallocate funds among its own budget programs up to 5 million denars. Any reallocation over 5 mil. must be approved by the Government. For reallocations between administrative users, approval from the legislators is mandatory.

Under Section VII3 and Article 47 of the new Organic Budget Law (which will be in force on January 1st 2025), there will be a certain erosion of the strength of the legislature, because it is only stated that :

(1) Budgetary appropriations cannot be reallocated except under conditions and in a manner provided by this law, the Law on the execution of the budget of the North Macedonia and with the Decision on execution of the municipality's budget.

(2) With the exception of paragraph (1) of this article, redistribution of budget funds between the Revenue and Expenditure Review, the Financial Review assets and liabilities and the Borrowing and Debt Repayment Review.

Comment:

According to the Budget Law Article 33 however, each ministry can reallocate funds among its own budget programs up to 5 million denars.

The reallocation over 5 mil. must be approved by the Government. For reallocation between administrative users, approval from the Legislature is mandatory.

The new Organic Budget Law (this law will be on power on January 1st 2025) erodes the strength of the legislators because does not impose to the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to shifting funds between administrative units, and allows in practice the executive to shift funds between administrative units in North Macedonia before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

116. Does the executive seek approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue (that is, amounts higher than originally anticipated) that may become available during the budget execution period, and is it legally required to do so?

GUIDELINES:

Question 116 examines whether the executive receives approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenue, and whether it is legally required to do so. Good practice requires the legislature to approve changes in revenue or expenditure relative to the Enacted Budget. For example, if additional revenue is collected unexpectedly during the year, which often happens in oil/mineral-dependent countries, and it was not accounted for in the Enacted Budget, there should be a procedure in place to ensure that the legislature approves any proposed use of these "new" funds. If such requirements are not in place, the executive might deliberately underestimate revenue in the budget proposal it submits to the legislature, in order to have additional resources to spend at the executive's discretion, with no legislative control.

To answer "a," the executive is required by law or regulation to obtain prior legislative approval before spending any funds resulting from higher-than-expected

revenues, and it does so in practice. Answer "b" applies if the executive obtains legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but is not legally required to do so. Answer "c" applies if the executive is legally required to receive legislative approval before spending excess revenue, but does not do so in practice. Answer "d" applies if prior legislative approval is not legally required for the executive to spend excess revenue and the executive does not obtain legislative approval in practice. A "d" response applies if the legislature only approves the additional spending after it has already occurred.

Typically, legislative approval of additional spending beyond what was reflected in the Enacted Budget would occur with the adoption of a supplemental budget. But other formal procedures for getting approval from the legislature in advance of it adopting the supplemental budget may exist. If that is the case, then please provide information about that approval process.

Answer:

d. There is no law or regulation requiring the executive to obtain approval from the legislature prior to spending excess revenues, and in practice the executive spends these funds before obtaining approval from the legislature.

Source:

Budget law: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/5.pdf>

Article 36 from the Law on Budgets regulates that in the case when revenues are significantly higher than the projected, a supplementary budget must be submitted for approval to the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia.

The new Organic Budget Law that will be in force starting January 1st 2025) will bring about some changes: Articles 48 and 49 will allow the government to spend excess revenue without obtaining legislative approval. See: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B8.pdf>

Comment:

In practice, however, the executive spends these funds before obtaining approval from the legislature. Namely, according to Article 36, paragraph 2 of the current budget law, the Minister of finance and the Mayor may use excess revenues for paying additional payments of the current debts and their interest payments. Note though that this spending is earmarked by law to paying debt and interest. Thus, the reason why we selected "d" is that, no matter what the law prescribes, the executive uses the excess revenue however it wants (so without passing through a legislator approval) as it have certain window of flexibility.

The new OBL, which will be in force starting January 1st, 2025, is just a continuation of the practice from the old Budget law (Article 36), where The Ministry of Finance (with the new OBL: "the Government"), with the concurrence of the Council the municipality may make supplementary payments of the principal and the amount of the debt.

The main point with the new OBL is that the Executive will be able to use excess revenue into the budget without obtaining approval from the legislature.

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:

Article 36 of the current Budget law (<https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/5.pdf>) stipulates that:

- (3) If, during the execution of the budget, the Ministry of Finance, i.e. the Mayor of the municipality, estimates that more significant reallocation of appropriations are necessary or that the realization of the revenues and other inflows deviates from the plan considerably, it proposes amendments and modifications to the budget to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia i.e. the Council of the municipality.
- (4) The Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, i.e. the Council of the municipality shall adopt the amendments and modifications to the budget on the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia i.e. the Mayor not later than November 15 in the current year.
- (5) During the procedure for adoption of the modifications and amendments to the budget, the Ministry of Finance shall timely stop the execution of different appropriations of the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia that are subject to proposed modifications and amendments referred to in paragraph (3) of this article.

In the new Organic Budget Law (which will be in force starting January 1st 2025), this matter will be regulated by articles 60 and 61:

<https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD-%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%91%D1%83%D1%9F%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B8.pdf>.

Comment:

Article 36 of the current Budget law stipulates that:

- (3) If, during the execution of the budget, the Ministry of Finance, i.e. the Mayor of the municipality estimates that more significant reallocation of appropriations are necessary or that the realization of the revenues and other inflows deviates from the plan considerably, it proposes amendments and modifications to the budget to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia i.e. the Council of the municipality.
- (4) The Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, i.e. the Council of the municipality shall adopt the amendments and modifications to the budget on the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia i.e. the Mayor not later than November 15 in the current year.
- (5) During the procedure for adoption of the modifications and amendments to the budget, the Ministry of Finance shall timely stop the execution of different appropriations of the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia that are subject to proposed modifications and amendments referred to in paragraph (3) of this article.

In practice, if the Ministry of Finance or the Mayor estimate lower level of revenue collection, mostly due to collection capacities, they may propose cuts on the expenditure side which should be approved by the Government and the legislators as a supplementary budget.

Article 60 of the new OBL (in force starting January 1st 2025):

- (1) If, during the year, the realization of the income deviates 10% from the plan, or if expenditures increase as a result of new obligations in the budget, changes in economic trends, change in political priorities, the Government of the North Macedonia, at the proposal of the Ministry of Finance, can stop it with a Decision to limit the execution of expenses and other outflows for a period of up to 45 days.
- (5) Regarding the Decision from paragraph (1) of this article, the Government of North Macedonia must notify the Parliament *after* its enactment.

The point here is that the Government of North Macedonia, at the proposal of the MoF, will be able to adopt a Decision without asking Parliament for approval and only will *notify* Parliament.

This is also a certain erosion of the regulation as per the old Budget law (<https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/5.pdf>).

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:

d. No, a committee did not examine the Audit Report on the annual budget.

Source:

Budget law: <https://finance.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/5.pdf>

Article 52:

(1) The Ministry of Finance shall submit the annual report of the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia not later than May 31. A report from an authorized state auditor of the base budget shall be submitted with the annual report together with the comments from the Ministry of Finance as well as the annual reports of the municipal budgets.
(2) After the approval of the final account by the Government it shall be submitted to the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia for discussion and adoption until June 30th at the latest.

Comment:

Unfortunately, it never happened in the Macedonian Parliament so far.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested 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.

Comments: Comment: The Budget and Finance Committee of the Assembly of North Macedonia examines the annual report of the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia together with the audit report on the Budget and publishes an official report with conclusions and recommendations, that is publicly available on the web page of the Assembly (www.sobranie.mk), such as the Report from the 44-th session of the Budget and Finance Committee, on the following link: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-materijal.nsp?param=8128fcc3-cff8-478e-b8a8-d3b17389023c>

Researcher Response

We stay at our answer. The link provided by the Government is an information that the Assembly passed the Final account. There is no information that a Committee of the legislature examine the Audit Report on the annual budget produced by the Supreme Audit Institution which is unfortunate.

IBP Comment

The comments are well received. On this occasion, as the researcher indicates in the comment, the link presented suggests the Assembly passing the Final account and does not make reference to a Committee of the legislature examining the Audit Report. The conditions for a "c" response are not met and therefore, answer "d" is maintained.

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:

Law on state audit: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2020-01/Zakon_drzavna_revizija_precisten_tekst_2020.pdf

Comment:

Article 4 states that the mandate of the Comptroller lasts 9 years, and that s/he is appointed by Parliament.

North Macedonia got a new General Comptroller in 2019. Mr. Maksim Acevski was unanimously elected by Parliament as the new Auditor General: <https://dzt.mk/en/191219-maksim-acevski-unanimously-elected-new-auditor-general>

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:

Law on state audit: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2020-01/Zakon_drzavna_revizija_precisten_tekst_2020.pdf

Comment:

Articles 4, 5 and 6 regulate the appointment, qualifications and mandate of the general comptroller.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

121. Who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)?

GUIDELINES:

Question 121 asks who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI). To ensure objective audits of government budgets, another important component of the SAI's independence from the executive is the extent to which the SAI's budget is determined by a body other than the executive, and whether the SAI has adequate resources to fulfill its mandate.

Answer "a" applies if the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate, AND either the SAI determines its own budget and then submits it to the executive (which accepts it with little or no change) or directly to the legislature, or the budget of the SAI is determined directly by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body). Answer "b" applies if the SAI's budget is determined by the executive (absent a recommendation from the SAI), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "c" applies if the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body) determines the SAI's budget, but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Answer "d" applies if the executive determines the SAI's budget, and the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. Please provide evidence in support of the assessment that the funding level is or is not broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Answer:

a. The SAI determines its own budget (i.e., submits it to the executive, which accepts it with little or no change, or directly to the legislature), or the budget of the SAI is determined by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate.

Source:

Law on state audit: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2020-01/Zakon_drzavna_revizija_precisten_tekst_2020.pdf

Comment:

Article 12 of the Law on State Audit states that the funds for the operation of the SAI are determined by the Assembly of Republic of Macedonia on previous proposal of the SAI; the budget of the SAI is prepared within established annual limits determined in accordance with the fiscal strategy, and it is an integral part of the Budget of Republic of Macedonia.

The budget of SAI is voted by Parliament in a separate budget discussion/session, to stress the importance of the SAI. Please, check the web page of the Parliament at: <https://www.sobranie.mk/detali-na-sednica.nsp?sessionId=4b8f0f74-ad34-4e2c-bc59-150d5d8b5ad8>

Here, on the link: "Гласање: Предлог гласање по раздел 02002 Државен завод за ревизија," you can click and see the separate voting of the budget for the SAI.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

122. Does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) have the discretion in law to undertake those audits it may wish to?

GUIDELINES:

Question 122 explores the scope of the investigative powers of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) as prescribed in law.

Question 97 asks which of the three types of audits – financial, compliance, and performance – the SAI conducts. This question asks if the SAI is constrained by law (rather than by a lack of capacity or an inadequate budget) from undertaking any form of audit or investigating irregularities in any program or activity.

There are numerous examples of limitations. For instance, some SAIs are not permitted by their legal mandate to audit joint ventures or other public-private arrangements. Others are only allowed to undertake financial audits, precluded from conducting performance or value-for-money audits. The SAIs in some countries do not have the legal mandate to review arrangements involving oil or stabilization funds, or other types of special or extra-budgetary funds. The SAI may also not have the ability to audit commercial projects involving the public and private sector.

To answer “a,” the SAI must have full discretion in law to decide which audits to undertake. Answer “b” applies if some limitations exist, but the SAI enjoys significant discretion to undertake those audits it wishes to. Answer “c” applies if the SAI has some discretion, but significant legal limitations exist. Answer “d” applies if the SAI has no power at all to choose which audits to undertake

Consulting the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/LimaDeclaration.pdf>) may be useful in answering this question as its provisions serve to define the appropriate scope of a SAI’s legal mandate and jurisdiction.

Answer:

a. The SAI has full discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake.

Source:

Law on state audit: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2020-01/Zakon_drzavna_revizija_precisten_tekst_2020.pdf

Comment:

Article 9 of the Law on state audit

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

123. Are the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) reviewed by an independent agency?

GUIDELINES:

Question 123 assesses whether and to what extent the audit processes of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) are subject to review by an independent agency. The latter could be a peer SAI, an international organization, an academic institution with relevant expertise, or an independent domestic agency with quality assurance functions in the area of financial reporting.

To answer “a,” an independent agency must conduct and publish a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis. Answer “b” applies if a review was carried out within the past five years, and published, but it is not conducted annually, but. Choose answer “c” if the SAI has an internal unit that reviews the audit processes of the SAI on a regular basis, but an independent agency does not conduct such a review. Answer “d” applies if the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.

If the answer is either “a” or “b,” please specify the name of the independent agency and when last it conducted such a review, and provide a copy of the published report. If the answer is “c,” please specify the name of the unit within the SAI that is tasked with conducting such reviews.

Answer:

d. No, the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI.

Source:

Years ago, they have had a peer review from the German SAI.

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, an independent agency conducts and publishes a review of the audit processes of the SAI on an annual basis.

Comments: Source: Article 38 of the State Audit Law says that: (1) Audit on the operation of the State Audit Office shall be conducted by an audit company holding permit to conduct audit in accordance with the Law on Audit. (2) The selection of an audit company shall be made by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia based on previously conducted procedure in line with the Law on Public Procurement. (3) The State Audit Office shall cover the fee for the conducted audit. (4) The audit company shall have access to the complete accounting records of the State Audit Office. (5) The audit report shall be submitted to the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia and to the State Audit Office no later than 30 June of the current year. (6) The Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia shall review the report of the audit conducted by the audit company along with the report referred to in Article 33 paragraph (1) of this Law. Comment: Report from the independent auditor prepared according the Article 38 of the State Audit Law is published together with the SAO Annual Report, thus is submitted to the Assembly of North Macedonia and is publicly available on SAO website (such as the Annual Report on Performed Audits and Operation of the SAO for 2022 on the following link:

https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/dzt_godisen_izvestaj_2022_en.pdf) Based on international standards and SAO Audit Quality Control

Guidelines, detailed procedures are set down to be followed in all audit phases to ensure high quality of audit. Based on the Guidelines, quality assurance function is being implemented as "cold" reviews on the audits performed by independent (from the audits) reviewers selected according to criteria for the Annual Plan on Audit Quality Assurance and resulting by issuing reports with findings and recommendations for maintain high quality of audits. SAO within its organization has established separate internal audit unit, that performs internal audits according to laws and international standards and issuing internal audit reports with findings and recommendations (see the SAO Organisation Act on the following link:

https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2021_01/2_Pravilnik_za_vnatresna_organizacija_vo_DZR_2021.pdf) SAO has adopted the Quality Policy (see the link: <https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-05/politika-kvalitet-dzt.pdf>) and is applying Quality Management System in accordance with MKS EN ISO 9001:2015. Therefore, is subject to regular recertification checks by accredited certification body for extension of validity of the certificate. SAO started activities for implementation of ISO 37001 Anti-bribery management systems and ISO/IEC 27001 Information security management systems. The certification for these standards will be carried out when appropriate conditions are created in the country, i.e. when there is an accredited body to perform the certification (see pg. 35 of the Annual Report on Performed Audits and Operation of the SAO for 2022 on the following link: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/dzt_godisen_izvestaj_2022_en.pdf)

Researcher Response

We stay at our answer: "No, the audit processes of the SAI are reviewed neither by an independent agency nor by a unit within the SAI."

IBP Comment

The comment from the reviewer is well received. However, it is important to mention that only documents published before December 31, 2022, can be assessed by the research. Furthermore, it has not been possible to find a publication of the review of the audit process of the SAO. Moreover, it has not been possible to find evidence of a unit within SAO conducting a review of the audit process on a regular basis. In that sense, this question is not asking about quality control guidelines but instead, evidence of external or internal revision of the audit process. Since evidence of such activities is not available, answer "d" must be maintained.

124. In the past 12 months, how frequently did the head or a senior staff member of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) take part and testify in hearings of a committee of the legislature?

GUIDELINES:

Question 124 concerns the interaction between two important oversight actors and assesses how frequently the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) made high-level inputs to the work of legislative committees. Many SAIs interact with the legislature in some form, but the nature and intensity of the interaction varies. This question probes this aspect by asking, with reference to the past 12 months, how frequently the head or a senior staff member of the SAI took part and testified in hearings of a committee of the legislature. The intent is to assess the extent to which the SAI representative in question was not only present at a meeting of a legislative committee, but was an active participant (as opposed to a passive observer, serving only as a resource when called upon). You can refer to official records of legislative committees, websites and annual reports of the SAI, press releases and media coverage, for example. Choose answer "a" if this occurred five times or more; "b" for three times or more, but less than five times; "c" for once or twice, and "d" for never.

Answer:

d. Never.

Source:

Nothing on the website of the Parliament nor on the website of the SAI.

Comment:

It never happened, so far, in North Macedonia.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Frequently (i.e., five times or more).

Comments: Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7YbGJpzhoc> https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2023-07/dzt_godisen_izvestaj_2022_en.pdf
<https://dzt.mk/mk/230718-prodlabochuvane-na-sorabotkata-so-vri-na-republika-kosovo>
<https://www.facebook.com/DrzavenZavodzaRevizija/posts/pfbid025ig9cbJT3GxmqnYcuekA9GojkWK8f7y7akLa5dvG8vSM4b94YL5Qhfd14fJ2Krcrl>
<https://dzt.mk/mk/230404-zajaknuvane-na-parlamentarniot-fiskalen-nadzor> <https://dzt.mk/mk/220617-glavnite-drzhavni-revizori-na-sredba-so-pretседателот-na-sobranieto> Comment: On March 14, 2023, the Auditor General Mr. Maksim Acevski, at the 79th plenary session in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, presented the Annual Report on the Performed Audits and Operation of SAO for 2021, that was adopted on this session and conclusions were adopted by the Assembly. On 17 July 2023, the Heads of the State Audit Office of Republic of Macedonia and the National Audit Office of Republic of Kosovo had a working meeting with the President of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, at which they discussed further enhancement of cooperation in line with the signed Memorandum of Cooperation between the SAO and the Assembly. Representatives from the State Audit Office shared their own knowledge and information within the workshop "Building capacities of the parliamentary service for the analysis and review of the reports of the State Audit Office", that was held on 5 July 2023 and supported by the National Democratic Institute (NDI). The workshop provided in-depth knowledge for the representatives from the Parliamentary Institute, Parliamentary Budget Office, Internal Audit Department and t Committee on Financing and Budget on the planning, content and structure of the SAO audit reports in order to enhance the importance of the MPs and their role in addressing the systemic weaknesses to ensure proper functioning of the institutions and the prevention of corruption. In June 2022, in Ohrid, Auditors General of the State Audit Office of Republic of North Macedonia and the State Audit Office of Republic of Croatia held a meeting with the President of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia. The meeting was organized in support of the activities for strengthening cooperation between SAO and the Assembly. At the meeting, the President of the Assembly and the Heads of both SAs discussed how to improve mutual cooperation following positive practice of EU member states. In April 2022, the Auditor General of the State Audit Office of Republic of North Macedonia together with the President and Deputy President of the Bulgarian National Audit Office met with the President of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia. They discussed the cooperation of the Assembly and SAO, once again supporting the important role of SAO as an institution that audits all key institutions. The main reason for this meeting was the successful cooperation of the SAs of Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Bulgaria and Republic of Croatia as partners in the EU financed twinning project "Improving External Audit and Parliamentary Oversight", which resulted in drafting new State Audit Law.

IBP Comment

The comment from the reviewer is well received. However, this question asks specifically about the SAI testifying in a committee of the legislature. The sources provided by the reviewer do not comply with this condition. Additionally, some of the sources took place beyond the cut-off date of the survey, which is December 31 2022, and therefore, cannot be considered in this round of the research. Since no other evidence is presented to support a different answer, option "d" must be maintained.

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:

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

Source:

There are no formal requirements and also no practices of sustainable mechanisms for exchanging views on the preparation of the budget with the government officials in North Macedonia.

Comment:

There are no proper deliberative mechanism that involves the public in the FORMULATION of the annual budget. Further, there are no formal requirements and also no practices of sustainable mechanisms for exchanging views on the PREPARATION of the budget with the government officials in North Macedonia. Public is only informed about the final EBP final product.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

c. Yes, the executive uses participation mechanisms during the budget formulation phase, but either these mechanisms capture only some ad-hoc views, or the executive invites specific individuals or groups for budget discussions (participation is not, in practice, open to everyone).

Comments: The Minister of Finance, during the preparation of the Proposal-Budget of the Republic of North Macedonia, organize consultations with the business community and chambers of commerce, as well as presents it to the general public, in the direction of good management of public finances.

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. However, no evidence has been presented to support the implementation of such consultations or hearings. It is important to note, that this question asks specifically about mechanisms where the public can provide input during the formulation of the annual budget. Since no additional documentation has been added to support the implementation of any kind of mechanism, answer "d" is maintained.

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:

NA

Comment:

NA

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:

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

Source:

NA

Comment:

Unfortunately, no such mechanisms and practice in North Macedonia, yet.

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:

NA

Comment:

Unfortunately, no such mechanisms are used in North Macedonia, yet.

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:

NA

Comment:

NA

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:

NA

Comment:

NA

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 any explicit limitations on the engagement. An example of a constraint could be that any policy changes must not cost (or forgo revenue) more than a specific amount or have no net fiscal cost.

Intended outcomes refers to what the executive hopes to achieve as a result of the engagement. Examples of intended outcomes could be revising a policy to better reflect citizen or service-user views or to improve the way in which a particular program is administered.

Process refers to the methods by which the public engagement will take place and the discrete steps in the process. For example, the process may simply be a one-off Internet-based consultation, with a summary published of public inputs and the official response. The process may involve simultaneous or overlapping steps, and may be conducted in one round or in two or more rounds of engagement.

Timeline refers to the specific dates on which the discrete steps in the process will take place, or during which they will be completed, and clear start and end dates for the overall engagement.

Answer "d" applies if the executive does not use public participation mechanisms during the budget implementation or formulation stage.

Answer:

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

Source:

NA

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

NA

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

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:

NA

Comment:

NA

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:

NA

Comment:

NA

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:

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

Source:

NA

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested 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).

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. This question asks about participation mechanisms implemented by line ministries either during budget formulation or implementation. However, it has not been possible to find evidence supporting the implementation of such activities up until the cut-off date of the survey (December 31, 2022). Therefore, answer "d" must be maintained.

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 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.

Please consider participation mechanisms that the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) has put in place and is using to allow the public to participate in their deliberations on the annual budget. This includes deliberations during the pre-budget phase (i.e., when the executive is still in the process of formulating the draft budget) and the budget discussions after the budget has been tabled to parliament and before it is approved. In the comment box, please specify during which stage of the budget cycle the legislature has put in place a public participation mechanism.

Mechanisms through which members of the public reach out to individual Members of Parliament as opposed to the legislature (both in its whole institution or its relevant budget/public accounts/finance committees) or unofficial hearings organized by a subset of committee members should not be considered in answering this question.

If there is more than one mechanism, please select a mechanism that best shows/reflects the legislature's efforts to incorporate citizens into the formulation of the annual budget. The participation mechanisms can involve a range of different issues, such as revenues, policy selection, and macro-fiscal planning (please note that the issue of coverage is covered in a subsequent question).

To answer "a," the legislature must hold public hearings where citizens are allowed to testify. This answer applies only if the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can testify (for example, participation takes place on a first-come-first-served basis).

Answer "b" should be selected if the following applies:

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs; but*

- *There are other means used by the legislature to receive and collect views from citizens and CSOs on the budget, and the legislature does not exercise discretion in determining which citizens and/or CSOs can provide input. The researcher must provide evidence to support the presence of those alternative processes through which the legislature seeks inputs from citizens. For example, there should be a public record indicating that views from citizens and the public were sought.*

Answer "c" should be selected if the following applies:

- *The legislature holds public hearings on the budget;*
- *Testimony is not allowed from members of the public or CSOs;*
- *No other means are used by the legislature to receive and collect views/input from citizens and CSOs on the budget, but*
- *The legislature invites a few individuals/groups to provide input (through public hearings or elsewhere)*
- *The legislature has a provision (via standing orders or in law) through which the public can submit their inputs, and members of the public or CSOs actively use it to submit opinions on the budget.*

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget

Answer:

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

Source:

NA

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

137. During the legislative deliberations on the annual budget (pre-budget or approval stages), which of the following key topics does the legislature's (or relevant legislative budget committee) engagement with citizens cover?

For the purpose of this question, key topics are considered to be:

1. Macroeconomic issues
2. Revenue forecasts, policies, and administration
3. Social spending policies
4. Deficit and debt levels
5. Public investment projects
6. Public services

GUIDELINES:

This question reflects the GIFT principles of "Transparency" and "Timeliness". Please consider the range of mechanisms currently used by the legislature to promote public participation during legislative deliberations on the annual budget.

Please note that while the public engagement can/may cover other topics, for the purpose of answering this question, "key topics" are considered to be only the ones listed above. If the legislature's engagement with the public covers topics other than the six listed above, please specify these topics in the comments.

Note also that this question assesses only the coverage of public engagement (i.e., "what issues is the public invited to engage on?") and issues related to the depth of engagement or selectivity of engaged are not dealt with by this question.

If written materials about the public engagement, such as an invitation, do not specify the coverage of the public engagement, but the researcher has personally participated in the engagement, s/he may respond to this question based on firsthand experience of the coverage of the public engagement.

Answer "d" applies if the requirements for a "c" response or above are not met or if the legislature does not use public participation mechanisms during its deliberations on the annual budget.

Answer:

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

Source:

NA

Comment:

NA

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:

NA

Comment:

NA

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:

NA

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer**Opinion:** Agree**Government Reviewer****Opinion:** Agree

Comments: Source: <https://play.mrt.com.mk/live/44> Comment: • The sessions of the Budget and Finance Committee and the plenary sessions of the Assembly of Republic of North Macedonia are broadcast on the national TV channel of the Assembly, thus providing the general public with insights on discussions and conclusions on the Annual Report on Performed Audits and Operation of the SAO and other SAO Audit Reports.

Researcher Response

We stay to our answer. The public cannot provide input to the legislator and/or the executive via TV. The TV broadcast is a passive instrument for informing (and rather spreading propaganda) where the public is not an active subject.

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. This question asks specifically about the legislature holding public hearings and/or using other participation mechanisms through which the public can provide input during its public deliberations on the Audit Report. The source provided by the reviewer does not show evidence of such a hearing nor provide evidence that such a hearing is open to the public. Therefore, the conditions for a "c" response are not met, and answer "d" must be maintained.

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:

SAI link: https://dzt.mk/mk/contact/barane_za_revizija

Comment:

For the first time in North Macedonia, in 2020 the SAI introduced a formal tool through which the public can suggest future audits in their audit program.

Any interested party can declare their name and phone (not mandatory) and suggested a topic with an explanation (mandatory). They can even browse/attach document as annex to their request for audit.

Further, since 2020, the SAI maintains a public poll to assess their work. It is accessible also in English: <https://dzt.mk/en/public-poll>

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:

Link to the 2023 Annual program of the SAI: https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-12/GP_2023_so_prilozi.pdf

Comment:

In the 2023 Annual program, there is only information about the formal tool for the public to request audit (p.3), but no information/feedback on how the citizens' inputs have been used to prepare the program.

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, the SAI provides a written record which includes both the list of the inputs received and a detailed report of how the inputs were used to determine its audit program.

Comments: Comment: In the 2023 Annual program, there is information about the formal tool for the public to request audit (p.3), and information/feedback on how the citizens' inputs have been used to prepare the program presented under the title 3.4. Openness of the SAO for proposals for audits during preparation of the Annual Program (p.15-17).

Researcher Response

We agree to move to 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.

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. The 2023 Annual Program of the SAI, was published on December 28, 2022, within the cut-off time of the research, and as it has been mentioned, it includes on pages 15 to 17 a summary of how the inputs from citizens have been used or accepted to be included in the audit program. With this evidence, it is possible to pass from answer "d" to "c".

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:

NA

Comment:

NA

Peer Reviewer

Opinion: Agree

Government Reviewer

Opinion: Disagree

Suggested Answer:

a. Yes, SAI maintains formal mechanisms through which the public can contribute to audit investigations.

Comments: Source: https://dzt.mk/mk/contact/barane_za_revizija Comment: On SAO website (see link: https://dzt.mk/mk/contact/barane_za_revizija) the tool for request for audit is constantly available, through which the public could contribute in any stage of the audits. SAO has positive examples where requests received during planned or ongoing audits were taken into consideration.

IBP Comment

The comment from the government reviewer is well received. However, this question asks specifically about mechanisms where the public can contribute to ongoing audit investigations. In that sense, the portal does not indicate that the purpose of such mean is precisely to participate in ongoing activities. Moreover, the 2021 Annual Report on Performed Audits and Operation of the State Audit Office, published in 2022 within the cut-off date of the research, does not include an indication of inputs from the public in those ongoing investigations. Therefore, answer "b" is maintained. <https://dzt.mk/sites/default/files/2022-07/DZR%20godisen%20ANG%20za%20web.pdf>