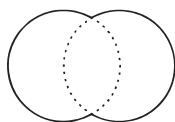


Bosnia and Herzegovina

Overview



Transparency:

27 /100

(Open Budget Index score)



Public Participation:

7 /100



Budget Oversight:

52 /100

About the survey

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

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

The survey helps local civil society assess and confer with their government on the reporting and use of public funds. This 9th edition of the OBS covers 125 countries.

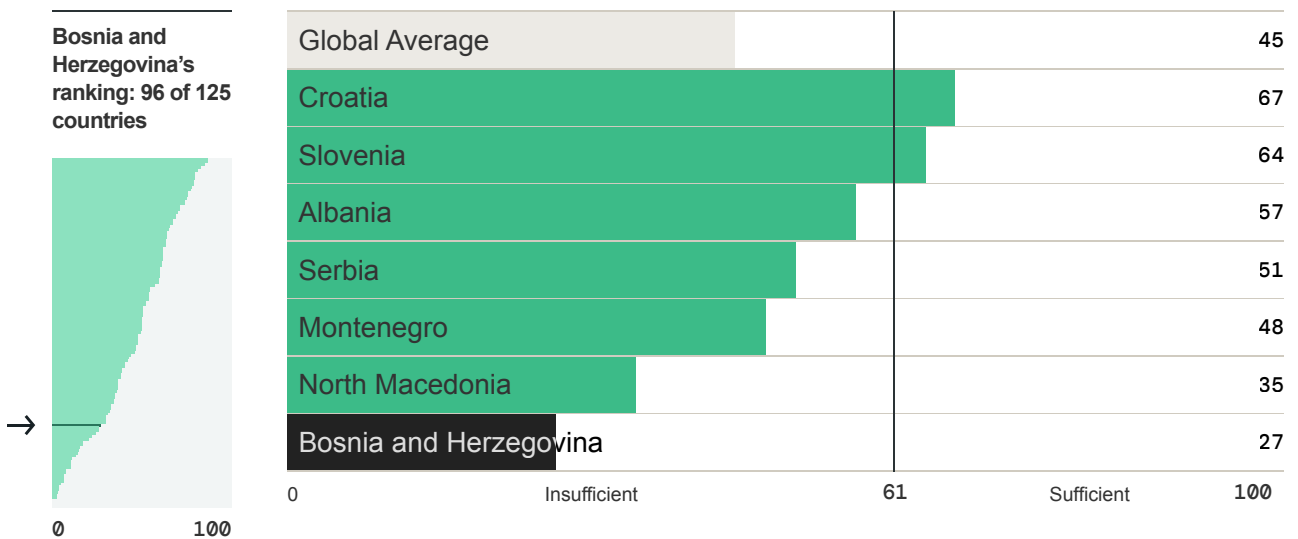
Visit www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey for more information, including the full OBS methodology, the 2023 Global Report, findings for all surveyed countries, and the Data Explorer.

Transparency

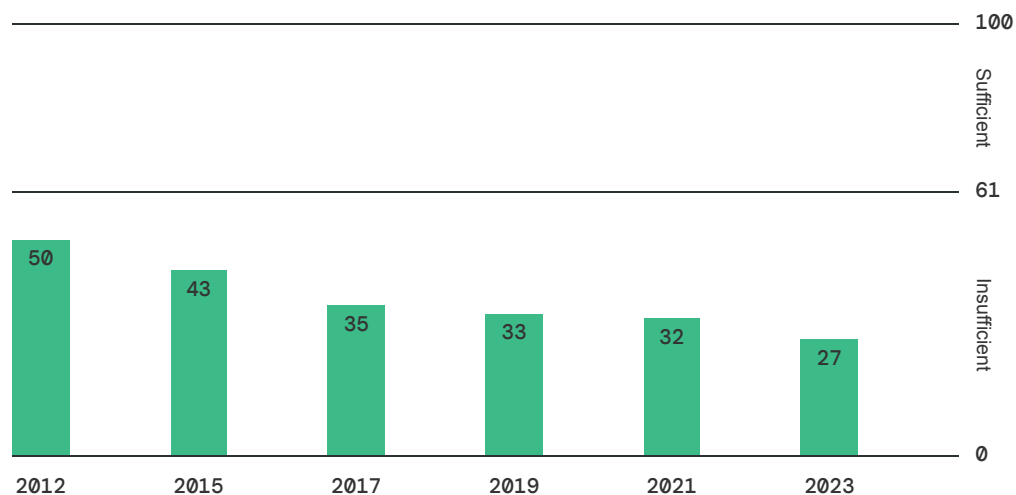
This part of the OBS measures public access to information on how the central government raises and spends public resources. It assesses the **online availability, timeliness, and comprehensiveness** of eight key budget documents using 109 equally weighted indicators and scores each country on a scale of 0 to 100. **A transparency score of 61 or above indicates a country is likely publishing enough material to support informed public debate on the budget.**

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a transparency score of **27** (out of 100).

Transparency in Bosnia and Herzegovina compared to others



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



Public availability of budget documents in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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

Document	2012	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Pre-Budget Statement	●	●	●	●	●	●
Executive's Budget Proposal	●	●	●	●	●	●
Enacted Budget	●	●	●	●	●	●
Citizens Budget	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	●	●
In-Year Reports	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mid-Year Review	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Year-End Report	●	●	●	●	●	●
Audit Report	●	●	●	●	●	●

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

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

Key budget document	Document purpose and contents	Fiscal year assessed	Document content score
Pre-Budget Statement	Discloses the broad parameters of fiscal policies in advance of the Executive's Budget Proposal; outlines the government's economic forecast, anticipated revenue, expenditures, and debt.	2023	Internal Use
Executive's Budget Proposal	Submitted by the executive to the legislature for approval; details the sources of revenue, the allocations to ministries, proposed policy changes, and other information important for understanding the country's fiscal situation.	2022	28
Enacted Budget	The budget that has been approved by the legislature.	2022	50
Citizens Budget	A simpler and less technical version of the government's Executive's Budget Proposal or the Enacted Budget, designed to convey key information to the public.	2022	Published Late
In-Year Reports	Include information on actual revenues collected, actual expenditures made, and debt incurred at different intervals; issued quarterly or monthly.	2021-22	Published Late
Mid-Year Review	A comprehensive update on the implementation of the budget as of the middle of the fiscal year; includes a review of economic assumptions and an updated forecast of budget outcomes.	2022	Not Produced
Year-End Report	Describes the situation of the government's accounts at the end of the fiscal year and, ideally, an evaluation of the progress made toward achieving the budget's policy goals.	2021	51
Audit Report	Issued by the supreme audit institution, this document examines the soundness and completeness of the government's year-end accounts.	2021	78

Bosnia and Herzegovina's transparency score of **27** in the OBS 2023 is near its score in 2021.

What changed in OBS 2023?

Bosnia and Herzegovina has decreased the availability of budget information by:

- Producing the Pre-Budget Statement for internal use only.

Recommendations

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

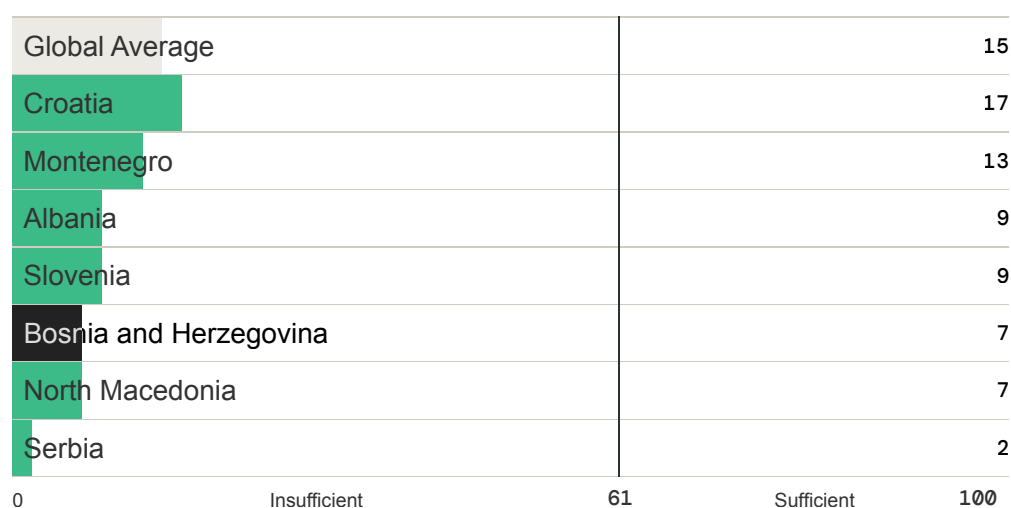
- Produce and publish the Pre-Budget Statement at least one month before the Executive's Budget Proposal is submitted to the legislature for consideration. This document must include the macroeconomic forecasts upon which the budget will be based; major revenue and expenditure policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget; and multi-year revenue and expenditure projections.
- Produce and publish the Mid-Year Review online in a timely manner. This report should provide updated estimates of expenditure, revenue, and debt, reflecting the impact of actual experience to date and revised projections for the full fiscal year.
- Include in the Executive's Budget Proposal data detailing the government's financial position, a functional classification compliant with international standards, and alternative displays of expenditures to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens. To further enhance its comprehensiveness, include multi-year expenditure forecasts (at least two years beyond the budget year) across all three budget categories, as well as multi-year revenue projections categorized by sources and specific categories. Additionally, include details for the composition of total debt outstanding at the end of the budget year.
- Include in the Year-End Report comparisons between borrowing estimates and actual outcomes, comparisons between planned nonfinancial outcomes and actual outcomes and comparisons between the original macroeconomic forecast and actual outcomes.
- Improve the comprehensiveness of the Enacted Budget by presenting expenditure estimates for individual programs and estimates related to government borrowing and debt.
- Publish the Citizens Budget and In-Year Reports online in a timely manner.

Public Participation

The OBS assesses the formal opportunities offered to the public for meaningful participation in the different stages of the budget process. It examines the practices of the central government's executive, the legislature, and the supreme audit institution (SAI) using 18 equally weighted indicators, aligned with the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency's [Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policies](#) , and scores each country on a scale from 0 to 100.

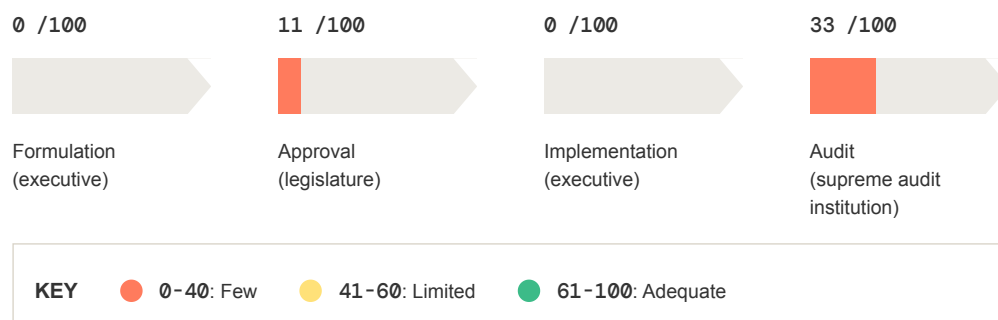
Bosnia and Herzegovina has a public participation score of 7 (out of 100).

Public participation in Bosnia and Herzegovina compared to others



For more information, see [here](#) for innovative public participation practices around the world.

Extent of opportunities for public participation in the budget process



Recommendations

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

- Pilot mechanisms to engage the public during budget formulation and to monitor budget implementation. Ensure sufficient transparency by providing clear information on engagement timelines, formats, feedback channels, and the impact of public involvement on decision-making.
- Actively engage with vulnerable and underrepresented communities, directly or through civil society organizations representing them.

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

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

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

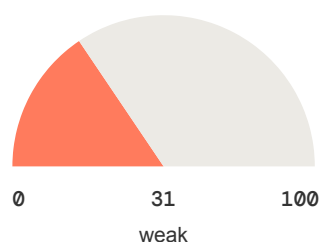
- Establish formal mechanisms for the public to contribute to relevant audit investigations.

Budget Oversight

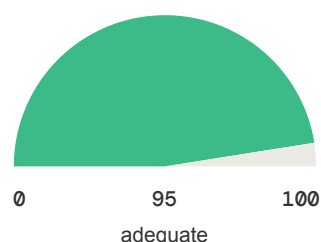
The OBS examines the role that legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAIs) play in the budget process and the extent to which they provide oversight; each country is scored on a scale from 0 to 100 based on 18 equally weighted indicators. In addition, the survey collects supplementary information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

The legislature and supreme audit institution in Bosnia and Herzegovina, together, provide limited oversight during the budget process, with a composite oversight score of **52** (out of 100). Taken individually, the extent of each institution's oversight is shown below:

Legislative oversight



Audit oversight



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

Recommendations

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

- The Executive's Budget Proposal should be submitted to legislators at least two months before the start of the budget year. The timely submission of the budget proposal to the legislature should also contribute to restoring the practice of approving the proposal before the start of the budget year (i.e., no later than December 31 of the prior year), as per Article 10 of the "Law on Financing of the Institutions of BiH" (Official Gazette of BiH No. 61/04, 49/09, 42/12, 87/12, 32/13).

- Legislative committees should examine the Executive's Budget Proposal and publish reports with their analysis online.
- The legislature should approve the Executive's Budget Proposal before the start of the budget year.
- A legislative committee should examine in-year budget implementation and publish reports with their findings online.
- In practice, ensure the legislature is consulted before the executive shifts funds specified in the Enacted Budget between administrative units or spends any unanticipated revenue during the budget year.

The emerging practice of establishing independent fiscal institutions

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

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

Methodology

- Only documents published and events, activities, or developments that took place through 31 December 2022 were assessed in the OBS 2023.
- The survey is based on a questionnaire completed in each country by an independent budget expert:
Aleksandra Banović
Fondacija "Centar za zastupanje građanskih interesa" - Fondacija CPI
(Public Interest Advocacy Center)
Put života br. 12; 71 000 Sarajevo; Bosnia and Herzegovina
aleksandra.banovic@cpi.ba; info@cpi.ba
- To further strengthen the research, each country's draft questionnaire is also reviewed by an anonymous independent expert, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina by a representative of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury.