

**PEMPAL Budget Community of Practice (BCOP)  
Budget Literacy and Transparency Working Group (BLTWG)  
Videoconference (VC) Meeting**

**WAYS FOR MINISTRIES OF FINANCE TO IMPROVE TRANSPARENCY AND BUDGET  
LITERACY/UNDERSTANDING WITHIN THE BUDGET PLANNING PROCESS**

October 13, 2021

13.00 Moscow / 12.00 CEST / 06.00 Washington

**General Information**

PEMPAL facilitates the exchange of professional experience among public finance management (PFM) practitioners across governments of 23 countries in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region ([www.pempal.org](http://www.pempal.org)). The network aims to contribute to strengthening PFM practices in the member countries through developing and disseminating information on good PFM practices and their application.

The Budget Community of Practice (BCOP) is one of three Communities of Practice of PEMPAL, which aims to enhance budget policy, methodology, and transparency. BCOP activities are driven by member-led action plans that address key budgeting reform priorities of Ministries of Finance of 21 member countries (Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan) and include sharing and creation of knowledge through face-to-face and virtual meetings, study visits, and development of knowledge products.

BCOP's Budget Literacy and Transparency Working Group (BLTWG) focuses on ways to improve budget literacy, openness, and access to citizens, as well as public participation in the budget process. According to the current BCOP's Action Plan, the community examines ways for Ministries of Finance to improve transparency and budget literacy/understanding within the budget planning process and a knowledge product will be developed in result.

This video conference is aimed at considering modern approaches to the presentation and dissemination of budget information within, with specific focus on demand side presented by media and proactive citizens.

**OBJECTIVES AND PARTICIPANTS**

The key objectives of this BLTWG VC are:

- i. Look into the ways to increase transparency and improve budget literacy from the demand side of the journalistic community.
- ii. Learn the experience of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the popularization of budget data and participatory budgeting.

- iii. Get acquainted with the experience of presenting open budget data by the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine from the point of view of using the capabilities of modern information technologies.
- iv. Discuss the content and framework of the upcoming knowledge product.

### **Agenda**

Moderator: *Iryna Shcherbyna, World Bank Senior Public Sector Specialist, Coordinator of BCOP Resource Team*

Time	Activities
15-30 minutes before meeting	<b>Registration and testing of IT online platform KUDO</b>
13.00-13.15 (Moscow) 12.00-12.15 (CEST) 6.00-6.15 (Washington)  15 minutes	<b>Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of the Workshop Objectives</b>  <i>Marina Tikhonovich, Deputy Head of Department, General Department of Budget Policy, The Ministry of Finance of Belarus, the leader of the Budget Literacy and Transparency Working Group (BLTWG)</i>
13.15-13.50 (Moscow) 12.15-12.50 (CEST) 6.15-6.50 (Washington)  25 minutes  10 minutes	<b><u>Increasing Budget Openness in the Republic of UZBEKISTAN</u></b>  <i>Sherzod Muhamedov, Director of State Budget Department, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan</i>  <i>Questions and Answers</i>
13.50-14.25 (Moscow) 12.50-13.25 (CEST) 6.50-7.25 (Washington) 25 minutes  10 minutes	<b><u>IT technologies for budget data transparency in UKRAINE</u></b>  <i>Oleksandr Hrubiiian, Deputy Finance Minister for Digital Transformation, Ministry of Finance of Ukraine</i>  <i>Questions and Answers</i>
14.25-14.30 (Moscow) 13.25-13.30 (CEST) 7.25-7.30 (Washington)  5 minutes	<b><u>Break</u></b>
14.30-15.10 (Moscow) 13.30-14.10 (CEST) 7.30-8.10 (Washington) 30 minutes	<b><u>Ways to increase transparency and improve budget literacy as seen by the journalistic community. Experience of South Africa.</u></b> <i>Greg Rosenberg, Managing Director, USA, Director, South Africa, Clarity Global Strategic Communications.</i>

<p><i>10 minutes</i></p>	<p><i>Questions and Answers</i></p>
<p>15.10-16.30 (Moscow) 14.10-15.30 (CEST) 8.10-9.30 (Washington)</p>	<p><b>ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION</b> on how the budget planning stage could be more interesting / inspiring for the public. Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to increase budget transparency for citizens during budget planning?</li> <li>• What are potential ways and benefits of getting feedback from citizens in budget planning?</li> <li>• What are the expectations and desired results for the planned knowledge product?</li> </ul>
<p>16.30-16.45 (Moscow) 15.30-15.45 (CEST) 9.30-9.45(Washington) <i>15 minutes</i></p>	<p><b>CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS</b></p> <p><i>Marina Tikhonovich, Deputy Head of Department, General Department of Budget Policy, The Ministry of Finance of Belarus, Leader of the Budget Literacy and Transparency Working Group (BLTWG)</i></p> <p><i>Iryna Shcherbyna, World Bank Senior Public Sector Specialist and Coordinator of BCOP Resource Team</i></p>