



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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20 November 2023

**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE
COMMITTEE OF SENIOR BUDGET OFFICIALS**

18th Annual Meeting of OECD Central, Eastern, and South Eastern European Senior Budget Officials Network

Agenda

5-6 December 2023
Zagreb, Croatia

The meeting is kindly hosted by the Ministry of Finance of Croatia and is chaired by Mr Allard Postma, Head of Budget Policy, Ministry of Finance, the Netherlands.

The OECD gratefully acknowledges the support of the Netherlands, and the Public Expenditure Management Peer Assisted Learning (PEMPAL) network for this meeting.

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18th Annual Meeting of Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Senior Budget Officials

Hosted by the Ministry of Finance, Croatia

*National and University Library in Zagreb
Hrvatske bratske zajednice 4
Zagreb, Croatia*

Tuesday, 5 December 2023

09:00 - 09:30 **Registration at National and University Library**

09:30 - 10:10 **Opening**

- Opening remarks by Chair
- Welcome address by Marko Primorac, Minister of Finance, Croatia
- Welcome remarks from OECD Secretariat
- Family photo

10:10 – 12:30 **Roundtable on Recent Budget Developments in the Region**

A coffee break will be called during this session

This Session provides Delegates with a succinct overview of recent developments in budgeting and public expenditure in the region, as well as setting the scene for discussions in the meeting.

The Chair will ask each country to give a brief (5-7 minutes) update on recent developments and public financial management reform initiative in their country. Given constraints on time, Delegates may wish to provide written statements to supplement their presentations.

12:30 - 13:30 **Luncheon**

13:30 -14:30 **Presentation by Croatia on PFM reforms**

Croatia as the 20th member of the Eurozone from 2023. As a member of EU since 2013 and candidate member of the OECD, the country faces various challenges

and opportunities in which Ministry of Finance has an important role in coordinating Public Finance System. Croatia will present its experience and overview of Croatian Public Finance System with emphasis on future activities in Croatia (Accounting system and methodology, Digitalisation of accounting system, new Public Investment framework etc.).

Following the presentation from Croatia, the floor will be opened for questions among all Delegates.

14:30 - 14:45 **Coffee Break**

14:45 – 16:00 **Spending Reviews**

Many OECD countries use using spending reviews as a strategic budgeting tool. They have become a core instrument for expenditure prioritisation and reallocation and a permanent feature of the budget process in many countries. Approaches differ across countries but there are common features to successful spending reviews where valuable lessons can be drawn for applying best practice.

Following a lead presentation from the Secretariat, there will be a presentation from Croatia on its spending review experience following the new Budget Law of 2022 and the obligation to implement spending reviews on an annual basis.

Following both presentations, the floor will be opened for discussion among all Delegates, providing opportunities for countries to present their own experiences in spending reviews.

16:00 - 17:00 **Linking Strategic Planning to Performance Budgeting**

Programme and Performance Budgeting is intrinsically linked to strategic planning as its essence is to provide information on the objectives behind spending and on the results achieved. Budget programmes and performance indicators should be closely linked to the Government's objectives and high-level indicators identified in country-level strategic documents. Furthermore, the development of programme and performance budgeting is more than a budgeting reform; it potentially benefits overall public sector management at the level of the institutions. As such, it is a complex reform that extends beyond mere technical tasks.

Following a lead presentation from PEMPAL on this topic, the floor will be opened for discussion among all Delegates, providing opportunities for countries to present their own experiences in spending reviews.

17:30 **Cultural Event – guided tour** (*Zagreb City center*)

19:30 **Gala Dinner** (*Francuski paviljon, Savska cesta 25, Zagreb*)

Wednesday, 6 December 2023

09:30 - 10:45 **Independent Fiscal Institutions and sustainability of public finances**

War in Ukraine, energy and food crises and economic slowdown have led to challenges that need to be adequately addressed, and the influence on the public finances of every country is significant. At the same time, the OECD Principles for Independent Fiscal Institutions set out key institutional practices and arrangements that foster effective fiscal and budget oversight. This session will discuss how policy goals of ministers of finance and IFIs can overlap and how IFIs can ensure that ministries of finance are not the only institutions promoting fiscal prudence and better spending.

Following a lead presentation, the floor will be opened for comments and questions by Delegates.

10:45 - 11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:15 - 12:45 **Green Budgeting**

As a continuation of previous thematic session on climate changes, this session will discuss green budgeting and how countries are using available tools on achieving impact with public funds available to ensure reaching goals agreed within international agreements such as Paris climate agreement, UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 28) etc.

Following a lead presentation, the floor will be opened for comments and questions by Delegates.

12:45 - 13:15 **Report by the OECD Secretariat and Future Work Programme**

This Session updates Delegates on the OECD Secretariat's current and future work programme. It is also an opportunity for participants to identify emerging priority areas for future work, the nature of their interest in the subject and their willingness to participate in particular studies.

13:15 **Closing Remarks**

13:15 - 14:15 **Luncheon**

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The meeting will take place at National and University Library in Zagreb (Hrvatske bratske zajednice 4, Zagreb)

Entry passes can only be issued to registered Delegates and a passport or national identity card needs to be presented in order to receive an entry pass.