

ECA PEMPAL Budget Community of Practice (BCOP) 2023 Plenary Meeting TRENDS IN PUBLIC SPENDING EFFECTIVENESS AND OPENNESS

March 22-24, 2023, Ljubljana, Slovenia

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON PEMPAL AND BCOP:

Public Expenditure Management Peer Assisted Learning (PEMPAL) is a peer-learning platform that facilitates knowledge exchange among public finance practitioners from the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region. The platform allows members to develop solutions to common public financial management (PFM) problems in the areas of budget, treasury, and internal audit. The network is organized around three thematic communities of practice: Budget Community of Practice (BCOP), Treasury Community of Practice (TCOP), and Internal Audit Community of Practice (IACOP). The main overall objective of BCOP is to strengthen budget methodology, planning, and transparency in member countries. BCOP members represent 21 ECA countries. Members are typically mid- to high-level officials in budget planning or budget methodology/policy units in the budget departments/sectors in Ministries of Finance. BCOP strategic priorities are: i) sharpening tools for effective fiscal management, ii) strengthening fiscal transparency and accountability, and iii) expanding internationally available fiscal data on PEMPAL countries.

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

The general objective of the BCOP 2023 Annual Plenary Meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Slovenia, is to provide the opportunity for BCOP member countries to examine and discuss members' priority budgeting topics in public spending effectiveness and openness and to plan BCOP's future activities.

Specific objectives are:

- i. to examine current experiences and advice (including international development organizations' work and country cases) in the areas of:
 - health sector budgeting
 - program and performance budgeting
 - budget openness
 - climate change responsive budgeting
- ii. to share developments from BCOP's working groups
- iii. to collect member countries' feedback on their priority budgeting topics, as inputs into the planning of BCOP's FY24 activities

MEETING MATERIALS:

- **PEMPAL BCOP Factsheet** and **BCOP knowledge resources** (knowledge products, meeting presentations, translated reports, etc.) are available at the [PEMPAL event website](#).
- **Presentations from this meeting** will be available at the [PEMPAL event website](#).

AGENDA

Arrivals - Tuesday, March 21

Arrivals

18.00-19.00

Preparatory Meeting of the Plenary Meeting Resource Team

19.00-21.00

Dinner in the hotel

Day One – Wednesday, March 22

Moderators: *Aynura Bakaybaeva*, Lead Economist in the State Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan and BCOP Chair, and *Iryna Shcherbyna*, World Bank Senior Public Sector Specialist and Coordinator of BCOP Resource Team

Time	Activity
8.30-9.00	<i>Registration</i>
9.00-9.40 Welcome and opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Saša Jazbec</i>, State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Slovenia • <i>Jehan Arulpragasam</i>, Country Manager, World Bank • <i>Aynura Bakaybaeva</i>, Lead Economist in the State Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan and BCOP Chair • Brief introductions of all participants
9.40-11.00 SESSION 1: Program and performance budgeting	<p>Presentation 1: Slovenian Budget System and Performance Budgeting, <i>Katja Lautar</i>, Director-General, Economic and Fiscal Policy Directorate and <i>Miranda Groff Ferjančič</i>, Deputy Director-General, Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Slovenia</p> <p>Presentation 2: Program Budgeting in Bulgaria: Legal Basis, Methodology, and Recent Developments, <i>Emil Nurgaliev</i>, State Expert in the Budget Policy Division of the Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance of Bulgaria, and BCOP Deputy Chair</p>
11.00-11:30	<i>Group Family Photo and Coffee and Networking Break</i>
11.30-13:00 SESSION 1 continued	SESSION PANEL Q&A Brief reflections by the assigned lead discussants (<i>BCOP members from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova</i>), followed by the open discussion
13.00-14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
14.30-16.30 SESSION 2: Group discussions on program and performance budgeting <i>Coffee served at 15.00</i>	<p>Presentation 3: Overview of Recent Work of BCOP's Program and Performance Budgeting Working Group, <i>Naida Čaršimamović Vukotić</i>, BCOP Resource Team Member, World Bank</p> <p>GROUP DISCUSSIONS to gather proposals for the next topics in program and performance budgeting to be examined by BCOP (parallel group discussions)</p> <p><i>Participants will break into language-based groups. Proposals from each participating country are to be presented in group discussions. A scribe and presenter should be appointed at the beginning of the discussions.</i></p> <p>At 16.00, all participants will convene back together, and group presenters will present the outcomes of their group discussions.</p>
16:30-17:00	<p>Closing of the first day: Conclusions and recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Aynura Bakaybaeva</i>, Lead Economist in State Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan and BCOP Chair • <i>Iryna Shcherbyna</i>, World Bank Senior Public Sector Specialist and Coordinator of BCOP Resource Team
19.00-21.00	<i>Dinner in the hotel</i>

Day Two, Thursday, March 23

Moderators: *Emil Nurgaliev*, State Expert in the Budget Policy Division of the Budget Directorate, Ministry of Finance of Bulgaria, and BCOP Deputy Chair and *Iryna Shcherbyna*, World Bank Senior Public Sector Specialist and Coordinator of BCOP Resource Team

Time	Activity
09.00-10.30 SESSION 3: Budget openness	Presentation 4: <u>Current Global Best Practices in Budget Openness</u> , <i>Andrés Ponce</i> , Program Officer, Training, Technical Assistance & Networking, International Budget Partnership (IBP) Presentation 5: <u>Public Participation and the Use of Digital Tools in the Budget Cycle</u> , <i>Juan Pablo Guerrero</i> , Director of the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT)
10:30-11.00	<i>Coffee and Networking Break</i>
11.00-12:30 SESSION 3 continued	SESSION PANEL Q&A Brief reflections by the assigned lead discussants (<i>BCOP members from Uzbekistan and Croatia</i>), followed by the open discussion
12.30-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00-16.00 SESSION 4: Group discussions on budget openness <i>Coffee served at 14.30</i>	Presentation 6: <u>Overview of Recent Work of BCOP's Literacy and Transparency Working Group</u> , <i>Iryna Shcherbyna</i> , World Bank Senior Public Sector Specialist and Coordinator of BCOP Resource Team GROUP DISCUSSIONS to gather proposals for the next topics in budget openness to be examined by BCOP (parallel group discussions) <i>Participants will break into language-based groups. Proposals from each participating country are to be presented in group discussions. A scribe and presenter should be appointed at the beginning of the discussions.</i> At 16.30, all participants will convene back together, and group presenters will present the outcomes of their group discussions.
16:00-16:30	Closing of the second day: Conclusions and recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Aynura Bakaybaeva</i>, Lead Economist in State Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan and BCOP Chair • <i>Iryna Shcherbyna</i>, World Bank Senior Public Sector Specialist and Coordinator of BCOP Resource Team
18.00-21.00	<i>City walk and reception hosted by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Slovenia</i>
21.00-22.00	<i>Dinner in the hotel</i>

Day Three – Friday, March 24

Moderators: *Aynura Bakaybaeva*, Lead Economist in State Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan and BCOP Chair and *Naida Čaršimamović Vukotić*, BCOP Resource Team Member, World Bank

09.00-10.30 SESSION 5: Climate Change Aspects of PFM	Presentation 7: <u>Climate Responsive PEFA Framework</u> , <i>Srinivas Gurazada</i> , Head of the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) Secretariat Presentation 8: <u>Experience of PEMNA Countries in Budgeting for Climate Change</u> , <i>Quyen Hoang Vu</i> , World Bank Senior Governance Specialist and Public Expenditure Management Network in Asia (PEMNA) Team Leader SESSION PANEL Q&A
10:30-11.00	<i>Coffee and Networking Break</i>
11.00-12.30 SESSION 6:	Presentation 9: <u>Experience in Health Sector Spending Reviews in the OECD Countries</u> , <i>Alfrun Tryggvadottir</i> , Senior Policy Analyst in the Public Management and Budgeting Division, OECD

Budget efficiency in health sector	Presentation 10: Public Expenditure Reviews in Health Sector in ECA Region, <i>Driss M. Zine-Eddine El-Idrissi</i>, Lead Health Economist, World Bank SESSION PANEL Q&A
12.30-13.00 Conclusions and BCOP info	Concluding remarks for the event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting summary – <i>Richard Allen</i>, BCOP Strategic Adviser • <i>Aynura Bakaybaeva</i>, Lead Economist in the State Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance of Uzbekistan and BCOP Chair
13.00-14.30	<i>Lunch</i>

14.30-16.00 **BCOP Executive Committee meeting**

Departures on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Dinner served at 19.00-21.00 on Day 3 for those departing on Saturday.

Simultaneous interpretation in English / Russian / Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian will be provided during the event.