

Citizen's Budget Project in Russia

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Purpose of the Citizens Budget

The overall objective is to present relevant budget and budget execution information to citizens in a fair, reliable and understandable format.

For the State

- Informing citizens about the decisions made
- Ensuring transparency and openness of the budgetary process
- Trust building in the population
- Engaging citizens in decision-making

For CSOs, public authorities, experts using budget data

- Access to budget information
- Ensuring more reliable benchmarking of budget data
- Market expansion and better quality of expert consultancy services

For the citizen

- Better informed about the budget priorities and key components
- Awareness about public social services
- Exercise of public control over budget expenditure
- Use of information for educational purposes
- Possibility to influence governance decisions

Major Expectations of Key Target Groups

Students, Pupils

- Use of information for educational purposes
- Materials for model lessons

Media, Journalists

- Information visualization tool for publications and materials

Business

- Business development forecast based on state development forecast

Active Population

- Interactive services allowing participation in the budgetary process and influencing the situation

Youth

- Higher level of budget knowledge

Social Groups

- Information about public social services available to the population

Foreign Citizens

- Foreign investment promoting information, comparison of living standards with the budgetary framework

Principles of Citizens Budgeting

- **Citizens Budget - a satellite of the budget act (law) and the budget execution report;**
- **a constantly developing tool;**
- **combination of diverse presentation forms (from posters to interactive information systems) and essential minimum requirements to the contents (for data comparability purposes);**
- **understandability for the largest possible audience given the possibility to focus on the needs of separate target groups.**

Citizens Budget Project Outcomes 2013

The budget message of the President of the Russian Federation about the budget policy for 2014-2016

"Starting with 2013 at all governance levels to regularly publish (post on the Internet) the Citizens Budget booklet. This will allow informing the population in an understandable format about the corresponding budgets, targets and outcomes related to public money use."

Month	Main Events
July	•Minister of Finance of the Russian Federation A.G. Siluanov approved the composition of the Citizens Budget Working Group.
August	•The Joint Order of MoF Russia, Ministry of Regional Development and Ministry of Economic Development dated 22 August 2013 No. 86н/357/468 approved Methodological Guidelines for Presentation of Budgets of the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation and Local Budgets and Budget Execution Reports in a Format Understandable for Citizens.
April-October	•Analysis of the Citizens Budget preparation and publication experience in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and municipalities conducted.
October	•The layout of the first Federal Citizens Budget in the Russian Federation published.
October-November	•The Working Group held: - 4 round tables on discussion of the draft Federal Citizens Budget; - A competition on best proposals for Citizens Budgeting.
November	•The draft Federal Citizens Budget approved at the meeting of the Government Committee for Coordination of the Open Government Activity.
December	•An updated version of the Citizens Budget to the Federal Law dated 2 December 2013 No.349-ФЗ on Federal Budget for 2014 and Plan for 2015 and 2016 published (recommendations of the State Duma and the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation received). •Report on the Citizens Budget Outcomes 2013 forwarded to the Government of the Russian Federation

Lessons Learned from the First Experience of Citizens Budget Presentation.

http://www.minfin.ru/common/upload/library/2013/12/main/Budzhets_dlya_grazhdan_k_349-FZ.pdf

Document	Download Statistics (as of 01.04.2014)
Citizens Budget to the Draft Federal Budget Law for 2014 and Plan for 2015 and 2016	5,171 times
Citizens Budget to the Federal Law dated 2 December 2013 No.349-ФЗ on the Federal Budget for 2014 and Plan for 2015 and 2016	7,248 times

Inadequate contents of the document
(already has over 200 slides)

Unadjusted to specific target audiences

Limited availability
(not all the channels are employed, posted only on the websites of Mof and the Open Government in .pdf)

Limited possibilities to use the budget information for analytical and other purposes

Low level of visualization and understandability of the presented information

Lack of feedback and opportunity to influence the budgetary process
(only contacts of the responsible officer given)

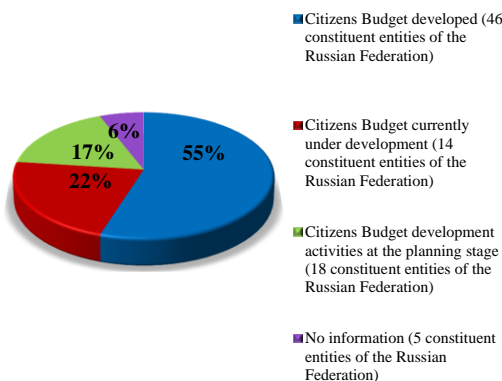
Main Areas of Activity on the Citizens Budget Project in 2014

1.	Implementation of modular approach to the Citizens Budget format, including with further development of recommendations for regional and local levels.
2.	Implementation of activities to maximize evaluation along the Citizens Budget criterion in the Open Budget Index.
3.	Development of Guidelines for Annual Preparation, Discussion and Publication of the Draft Federal Budget and Federal Budget Execution Report as Citizens Budgets.
4.	Improvement of visualization and expansion of information resource functionality for the Citizens Budget (interactive vocabulary, budget calculator, "budget simulator", budget calendar, etc.)
5.	Join work with expert and community-based organizations on identification of target groups, setting requirements for group-specific information
6.	Posting all the Citizens Budgets (federal, regional, local) on the Single Budget System Portal (www.budget.gov.ru).

Analysis of the Citizens Budget Preparation and Publication Experience in the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation

Methodological Guidelines (order dated 22 August 2013 No.86н/357/468) for Presentation of Budgets of the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation and Local Budgets and Budget Execution Reports in a Format Understandable for Citizens do not contain **strict regulation of the Citizens Budget format on the regional and local level.**

Data on developed Citizens Budgets in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation in 2013



- ✓ Overall, 78 constituent entities of the Russian Federation presented information on the activities related to preparation of the Citizens Budget to MoF Russia.
- ✓ A number of constituencies of the Russian Federation have a many-year experience of presenting information for citizens in a readily understandable format, including in Krasnodar Territory since 2005, in Krasnoyarsk Territory since 2008, in Altai Territory since 2010.
- ✓ Citizens budgets are presented as PPTs and booklets, as well as in the form of information resources (portals) or separate sections of those.
- ✓ Citizens Budgets are prepared and published at the municipal level (Citizens Budget booklets have been developed in 14 municipalities of Ryazan Province, materials for draft local budgets have been prepared in Krasnodar Territory and Nenets Autonomous Area).

Possible Areas of Cooperation between MoF Russia and Regional Financial Bodies and Expert Community on Improvement of Citizens Budgets

- Organizing exchange of best practices in preparing Citizens Budgets at the regional and local level
- Improving the practice of developing methodologies for open budget index (rating) of constituent entities of the Russian Federation and municipalities and their monitoring
- Creating a system of incentives for implementation of Citizens Budgets at the local level (introduction of indicators on availability and quality of Citizens Budgets in budget expenditure performance and regional finance management quality evaluation methodologies)
- Developing the practice of using per unit and per capita budget revenue and expenditure indicators compared to similar indicators in other constituent entities of the Russian Federation (municipalities)

Thank you for attention!