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Workshop: Strengthening budget literacy – learning lessons from the international experience

May 20, 2015, location: Warsaw, Poland

Overview of Activities of the New Working Group of the PEMPAL Budget Community of Practice (BCOP) on Development of Budget Literacy

Elena Zyunina,
Deputy Head of the System Analysis and Provision for Budget Openness Division in the Budget Policy Department, Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, Member of the Executive Committee of the PEMPAL Budget Community of Practice



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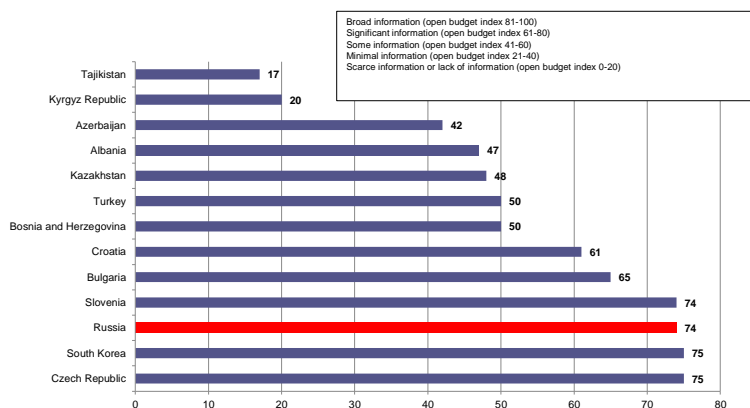
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Budget literacy of the population as a priority at the state level

- One of the objectives of the state is to educate a citizen as a responsible taxpayer
- Financial policy implemented by a modern state is aimed at ensuring openness and transparency of budgets for different categories of citizens
- Increasing activity of citizens at public hearings in the course of budgeting at the municipal and regional levels can enhance trust of the population to the process of public finance management
- Inclusion of educational programs in the sphere of budget literacy in the system of general education
- Provision of conditions for development of human capital in the sphere of public and personal finance

Enhancing the Budget Openness

Open Budget Index for 2012 for PEMPAL Countries



Goal and Objectives of Functioning of the Working Group

Goal: dissemination of the practice of enhancement of budget literacy of the population in PEMPAL member countries on the basis of analysis of the international experience related to similar projects

Objectives:



- Studying the best international experience in the field of enhancing budget literacy of the population (South Africa, UK, USA, Canada, France, Estonia, etc.)
- Exchange of experience between budget officials from countries that are members of the working group for the purpose of developing unified approaches to implementation of similar projects
- Creation of new knowledge products of the Budget Community of Practice on the basis of accumulated materials, for example, recommendations on implementation of similar projects for PEMPAL member countries

In parallel, at the beginning of 2015, the Project of the World Bank and the Ministry of Finance of Russia on development of the budget literacy was launched, it is expected to last until June 2017.

Results of this project could also be useful for PEMPAL member countries.

The goal and objectives of the Project of the World Bank and the Ministry of Finance of Russia “Enhancement of the Budget Literacy”

Goal: development of the concept, approaches and methodological support for educational programs on budget literacy for students aimed at creating basic conditions for civil engagement and involvement of the population in governing the state.

Objectives:

- Development and testing in pilot regions approaches that provide for delivering complex materials in a simple, interesting and persuasive form to be understood by young people in the conditions of general low fiscal literacy of the population of the country and low level of civil engagement in managing the budget process;
- Development of a modular program (that allows for absorption of the material at various levels of complexity), training and methodological materials in the field of budget literacy that include both knowledge on technical aspects of the budget and on tools and ways of implementing the function of public control over expenditures, ways of influencing managerial decisions;
- Elaboration of the efficient methodology for training the trainers on the subject of budget literacy taking into consideration the relatively low level of competencies in the field of fiscal literacy.



Lessons Drawn from International Experience in the Field of Enhancing the Budget Literacy: Development of an Educational Program on Enhancing the Budget Literacy in Russia

Round table on April 2-3, 2015, in the World Bank office, the city of Moscow

Participants of the Event:

- The World Bank and the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation
- The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation
- International experts from the following countries: South Africa, Brazil, Canada, USA, the Netherlands
- Russian experts
- Constituents of the Russian Federation (Krasnodar Territory, the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), the Altai Territory, the Perm Territory, Pskov Oblast, Sverdlovsk Oblast, Bashkortostan).

Main topics discussed at the round table :

- Educating young people of Russia in the field of public finance and the budget
- International experience in the field of enhancing the budget literacy
- Planning pilot testing of educational programs on enhancing the budget literacy in Russian regions
- Expected results of training in accordance with educational programs in the field of the budget literacy in Russia



Work Plan of the Budget Literacy Working Group for 2015 – beginning of 2016

Event	Time period
Arranging an electronic survey among PEMPAL member countries on the practice of enhancing budget literacy of the population	April 2015 (survey has been carried out)
Conducting the first meeting of the Working Group in the framework of the 11 th meeting of Senior Budget Officers from Central, Eastern and South-East Europe in the Republic of Poland	May 20, 2015
Review of international experience in the sphere of budget literacy (video conference, World Bank)	November 2015
Meeting in a small group format / study visit on issues related to budget literacy (location to be specified)	Beginning of December 2015
Meeting in a small group format on issues related to budget literacy (prior to the plenary meeting of BCOP, Republic of Belarus)	February / March 2016

Countries participating in the Working Group

- Albania
- Armenia
- Republic of Belarus
- Croatia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyz Republic
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Tajikistan
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan
- Kosovo
- Bosnia and Herzegovina

Thank you for attention!

Contacts of the Leadership Group:

Anna Belenchuk, Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation

anna.belenchuk@minfin.ru

Elena Zyunina, Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation

zyunina@minfin.ru

Resource Team:

Maya Gusarova, World Bank

mgusarova@worldbank.org

Deanna Aubrey, World Bank

deanna_aubrey@hotmail.com