

CROATIA

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Mechanisms in Fiscal Matters

Croatia scored 53 out of 100 on the Open Budget Index, a comparative measure of central government budget transparency.



Croatia has adopted a number of transparency laws and institutions after its accession to the European Union in 2010, but many of these measures lack government support. Despite this, some initiatives have enjoyed some limited success in increasing transparency.



CIVIL SOCIETY PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES



Annual budget cycle: Executive budget preparation. design, production, and delivery of public goods and services.





Create the Economic and Social Council (ESC) to constitute a forum for social dialogue for the protection and promotion of economic and social rights.

MECHANISM Created the ESC in 2000 to

identify areas where action is needed for the **protection** and promotion of economic

and social rights. Tripartite cooperation:

representatives of **Government, employers'** associations, and trade

ESC is composed of

equal number of representatives. Citizens are not included at this stage.

union associations, with

 The ESC has a rotating **President and two RESULTS**

Vice-Presidents appointed by members for one year.

 Meetings to discuss draft laws, regulations and programs take place before budget formulation,

when the ESC evaluates and gives opinions on fiscal and economic matters.

 The ESC monitors the situation in specific policy areas and gives its opinion on regulations in

the field of labor, economy and social security.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON BUDGET BILLS, FUND OPERATION PLANS, AND SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

While the government is obliged to present the budget to the

ESC and discuss with social partners, this is only formally

fulfilled, since the discussion takes place after final budget

draft is adopted by government.



Annual budget cycle:



OBJECTIVE



 Discuss motions and initiatives for the enactment of laws and regulations.

submitted to parliament by the citizenry.

Hold hearings on petitions and proposals

MECHANISM

 The Finance and Central **Budget Committee is**

engaged in all phases of the budgetary process, discussing motions, initiatives and reports and monitoring the work of the Government.

MPs with voting rights and up to 6 external members without voting rights.

The Committee consists of

Parliament.

 Committees hold public hearings on issues presented in the budget, in which testimony from the public is heard from the

the first reading in

committees' reports is published on the

Data regarding the

• The Committee receives **budget materials before RESULTS**

Since 2003, citizens can contact a parliamentary information officer in every budget phase.

Proposals of external can state their opinion, but cannot vote or veto. It is questionable how much the public is able to participate in the discussion through the

Committees may invite public officials, scholars and professionals to meetings to obtain opinions.

submitted by citizens to the Parliament.

Sessions of Parliament and the Committee are open to the public, but some not in their entirety.



SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTION









OBJECTIVE

Audit and review.



MECHANISM The Supreme Audit Institution (SAI)

• It conducts compliance, financial and performance audits and makes

have no significant effect on government policies.

Annual budget cycle: Executive budget preparation, auditing and review; new policy initiatives on revenues, **Developing cooperation between the Government**

expenditures, financing, and liabilities. **OBJECTIVE**

and CSOs in the implementation of the National

Strategy for Creating an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development (National Strategy). **MECHANISM**

was created in 2008 as an advisory body for cooperation between the **Government and CSOs in** the implementation of the **National Strategy, the** objective of which is to

Society Development (CCSD)

The Council for Civil

strengthen the legal, financial and institutional system of support to CSOs. The council: a) constantly

monitors public policies affecting civil society development, b) expresses **RESULTS**

opinions to the **Government on draft** legislation and, c) contributes to setting

priorities for the use of EU funds. • It has 27 members: 12 from

government, 12 from NGOs, and 3 from CSOs and trade unions. It sends yearly reports to

the Government and can establish permanent and temporary working groups.

According to the Review of Implementation of the Operational Plan of the National Strategy for Creating an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development for 2006-11, out of

103 measures designed to be implemented, **37** were successfully, 56 partially implemented, 10 measures' implementation had not started.

A National Strategy for 2012-2016 was adopted but not assessed as of yet.

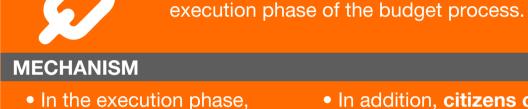
Engage with the public during the

CSO PARTICIPATION IN THE BUDGET EXECUTION



Annual budget cycle: Budget implementation.

OBJECTIVE



Ministry of Finance can be based on citizens' petition. • Citizens can suggest to the Ministry of Finance which

budget supervision by the

institutions should be

• In addition, citizens can use a service through which they can search payments made to suppliers from the state budget.

 Citizens can also use **budget guides** to provide access to more user-friendly budget data.

RESULTS

supervised.

There is no publicly available information that the budget supervision was actually conducted by the Ministry of Finance due to citizens' petitions.



LEGISLATURE



EXPERT AND CIVIL SOCIETY PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATIONS



OBJECTIVE Take into consideration the public's opinion on macro-economic forecasts, budgetary



Annual budget cycle:

priorities, and controversial projects.

 The Fiscal Policy independent body in Parliament, participates in all phases of the budgetary

process with the main task of evaluating the implementation of fiscal rules (Fiscal Responsibility Act).

 FPC consists of a chairperson and 6 members from various institutions (Supreme Audit

Institution, Institute of Economics, Institute of Public Finance, Croatian National **RESULTS**

Parliament. • FPC hosts public hearings in which expert witnesses

Bank, faculties of economics

and law) appointed by the

are invited to participate. At FPC meetings, specific, detailed information about

certain types of revenues and

expenditures is given. On each bill that relates to the work of the FPC, members can give their suggestions, adopted in the final version.

RESULTS

No formal feedback is

provided to the public

about how their input

was used to decide

the audit program.



them available to the public.

External members complain that their views, although submitted to the Government and publicly available online,

documents.





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