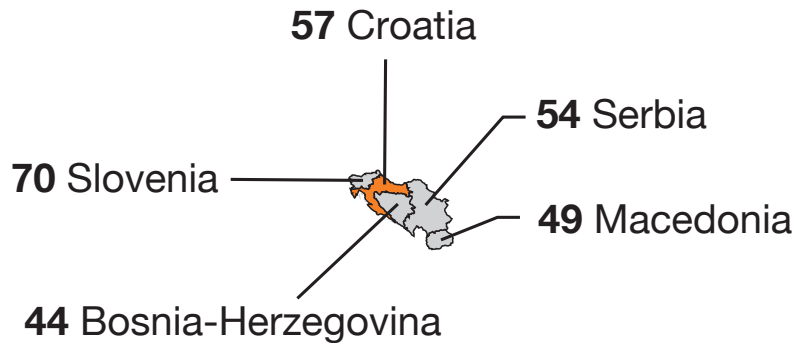
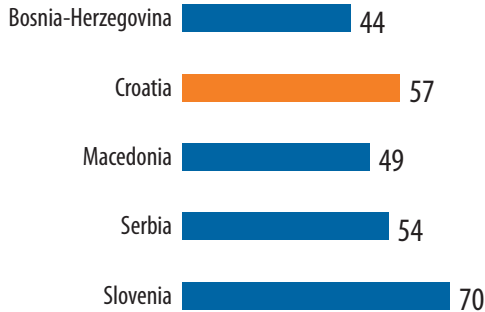


Overall score: 57 (Out of 100) Provides some information to the public in its budget documents during the year.

How Does Croatia Compare to Its Neighbors?



Key Findings

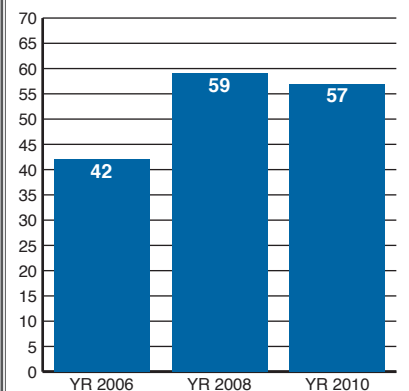
The scores for 92 questions from the Open Budget Survey (see text box) are used to compile objective scores and rankings of the relative transparency of each country's budget process. These scores constitute the Open Budget Index (OBI).

Croatia's OBI 2010 score is 57 out of 100, which is second-highest among the five countries surveyed in the Balkan region. It is, however, significantly less than that of Slovenia (whose score is 70).

Croatia's score shows that the government provides the public with only some information on the central government's budget and financial activities during the course of the budget year. This makes it challenging for citizens to hold the government accountable for its management of the public's money.

Croatia's score declined slightly from 59 to 57 from 2008 to 2010 because it provides less comprehensive information in its Executive's Budget Proposal.

OBI Scores Over Three Surveys



Adequacy & Availability of Eight Key Budget Documents

Document	Level of Information Grade*	Publication Status
Pre-Budget Statement	A	Published
Executive's Budget Proposal	C	Published
Enacted Budget	A	Published
Citizens Budget	E	Not Produced
In-Year Reports	A	Published
Mid-Year Review	E	Not Produced
Year-End Report	C	Published
Audit Report	B	Published

* Grades for the comprehensiveness and accessibility of the information provided in each document are calculated from the average scores received on a subset of questions from the Open Budget Survey. An average score between 0-20 (scant information) is graded as E; 21-40 (minimal) is graded as D; 41-60 (some) is graded as C; 61-80 (significant) is graded as B; and 81-100 (extensive) is graded as A.

An **Executive's Budget Proposal** is the government's most important policy instrument. It presents the ways the government plans to raise revenues and where these funds are allocated, thus transforming policy goals into action. In Croatia, the Prijedlog Državnog proračuna Republike Hrvatske (budget proposal) is insufficiently comprehensive. Major gaps in information in the budget proposal are found in the following areas:

- Information on the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions on the budget is not presented.
- Information on outputs and outcomes is inadequate.
- Information is lacking on certain fiscal activities that can have a major impact on the government's ability to meet its fiscal and policy goals, including information on financial and other assets held by the government and information on tax expenditures. In addition, the budget has insufficient information on transfers to public corporations, quasi-fiscal activities, expenditure arrears, and contingent and future liabilities. Without this information, the public does not know the government's complete fiscal position.

A **Pre-Budget Statement** sets forth the broad parameters that will define the government's forthcoming budget. Croatia publishes a comprehensive Pre-Budget Statement.

An **Enacted Budget** becomes a country's law and provides the baseline information for all budget analyses conducted during the budget year. In general terms, the Enacted Budget should provide data the public can use to assess the government's stated policy priorities and hold it to account. Croatia publishes a comprehensive Enacted Budget.

A **Citizens Budget** is a nontechnical presentation of a government's budget that is intended to enable the public — including those who are not familiar with public finance — to understand a government's plans. Croatia does not produce a Citizens Budget.

In-Year Reports provide a snapshot of the budget's effects during the budget year. They allow for comparisons with the Enacted Budget figures and thus facilitate adjustments. Croatia publishes comprehensive In-Year Reports.

OPEN BUDGET SURVEY 2010

Croatia

The International Budget Partnership's Open Budget Survey assesses the availability in each country assessed of eight key budget documents, as well as the comprehensiveness of the data contained in these documents. The Survey also examines the extent of effective oversight provided by legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAI), as well as the opportunities available to the public to participate in national budget decision-making processes.

Research to complete this country's Open Budget Survey was undertaken by:

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A **Mid-Year Review** provides a comprehensive overview of the budget's effects at the midpoint of a budget year and discusses any changes in economic assumptions that affect approved budget policies. Information in this report allows the government, legislature, and the public to identify whether or not adjustments related to revenues, expenditures, or borrowing should be made for the remainder of the budget year. Croatia does not produce a Mid-Year Review.

A **Year-End Report** compares the actual budget execution to the Enacted Budget. The Year-End Report can inform policymakers on tax policies, debt requirements, and major expenditure priorities, thus facilitating modifications for upcoming budget years. Croatia publishes a Year-End Report, but it is insufficiently comprehensive. It does not, for example, include explanations for the difference between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome.

An **Audit Report** is an evaluation of the government's accounts by the country's supreme audit institution (SAI). It reports whether the government has raised revenues and spent national revenue in line with the authorized budget, whether the government's bookkeeping is balanced and accurate, and whether there were problems in the management of public funds. Croatia publishes a fairly comprehensive Audit Report.

Public Participation and Institutions of Accountability

Beyond improving the availability and comprehensiveness of key budget documents, there are other ways in which Croatia's budget process could be made more open. These include ensuring the existence of a strong legislature that provides effective budget oversight, as well as providing greater opportunities for the public to participate in the budget process.

Are oversight bodies effective in their budget role?

Oversight Institution	Strength**
Legislature	Moderate
SAI	Strong

** Legislature and SAI strengths are calculated from the average scores received for a subset of questions from the Open Budget Survey. An average score between 0-33 is graded as weak, 34-66 as moderate, and 67-100 as strong.

According to the Open Budget Survey, budget oversight provided by Croatia's legislature is inadequate because it does not:

1. have sufficient time to discuss and approve a budget; and
2. hold public hearings on budget discussions at which the public can testify.

Recommendations

Croatia should:

- improve the comprehensiveness of the Executive's Budget Proposal;
- produce an publish a Citizens Budget and a Mid-Year Review;
- provide opportunities for the public to testify at legislative hearings on the budget; and
- increase the time the legislature has to discuss and approve the budget.