

International Budget Partnership
OPEN BUDGET QUESTIONNAIRE
Serbia, September 2009

International Budget Partnership
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Section One: The Availability of Budget Documents

Table 1. Budget Year of Documents Used in Completing the Questionnaire

Budget Documents Used in Completing the Questionnaire	
	Budget Year Used
Pre-Budget Statement	2010
Budget Summary	Not available.
Executive's Budget Proposal	2009
Supporting Budget Documents	2009
Citizens Budget	Not available
Enacted Budget	2009
In-Year Reports	2009
Mid-Year Report	Not available
Year-End Report	2008
Audit Report	Not available

Table 2. Key Budget Documents Used: Full Titles and Internet Links

Budget Document	Full Title, Date, and Internet Link
Pre-Budget Statement	<p>Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf</p> <p>Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf</p>
Budget Summary	Not Produced.
Executive’s Budget Proposal	<p>Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008</p> <p>The Government adopted its Budget proposal in the 38th session in year 2008, held on December 6th 2008. After the usual technical approval by government’s legislative secretariat, the document was delivered to the Parliament and published on the Government and Parliament websites on December 8th 2008.</p> <p>Government made a presentation of the budget to the press – conference held on December 6th 2008 (there is also video clip presenting the Minister of Finance speaking and answering questions about the budget in 40 minutes). http://www.media.srbija.sr.gov.yu/medsrp/video/vlada_press061208.ram</p>

<p>Budget Document One in Support of the Executive's Budget Proposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Образложење - Финансијски план Министарства трговине и услуга - Финансијски план Министарства здравља - Финансијски план Министарства просвете - Финансијски план Министарства за државну управу и локалну самоуправу - Финансијски план Министарства вера <p>http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget Financial plan of Ministry of Trade and Services, Financial plan of Ministry of Health, Financial plan of Ministry of Education, Financial plan of Ministry of State Administration, Financial Plan of Ministry of Religion, December 8th 2008</p>
<p>Budget Document Two in Support of the Executive's Budget Proposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Финансијски план Републичког фонда за пензијско и инвалидско осигурање - Финансијски план Републичког завода за здравствено осигурање - Финансијски план Националне службе за запошљавање - Финансијски план Националне службе за запошљавање - ТАБЕЛА <p>http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Financial plans of Pension fund, Health insurance institution and National employment service for 2009, December 8th 2008</p>
<p>Budget Document Three in Support of the Executive's Budget Proposal</p>	
<p>Citizens Budget</p>	<p>Not produced.</p>
<p>Enacted Budget</p>	<p>Закон о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 29. децембар 2008, http://www.parlament.gov.rs/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=516&t=Z</p> <p>Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009 The Parliament adopted it on December 29th. The President signed the act the next day, and the Official gazette published it on December 30th (OG of RS, no. 120 in 2009).</p>

In-Year Reports	<p>Билтен јавних финансија: http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/ Последњи објављени број до 15. септембра 2009 (број за јул 2009): http://www.mfin.gov.rs/src/3354/ Bulletin of Public Finances: http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/ The latest issue before September 15th, 2009 in English version (for June 2009): http://www.mfin.gov.rs/eng/3325/ In Serbian, the latest issue is for July 2009.</p>
Mid-Year Review	Not produced
Year-End Report	<p>Предлог закона о завршном рачуну буџета Републике Србије за 2008, 6. јул 2008; Draft law on final account of budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2008, July 6th 2008: http://www.parlament.gov.rs/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=1082&t=P</p>
Audit Report	<p>Not Produced. The SAI only recently recruited its staff and is working on preparation of the audit report for the 2008 budget's final account.</p> <p>On 27 November 2009, the Supreme Audit Institution published and submitted the auditor's report, related to audit of the state budget for 2008, to the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia.</p>
Other Documents	<p>Закон о буџетском систему Budget system law (in Serbian only), July 2009 version: http://www.parlament.gov.rs/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=666&t=Z 2002 version: http://www.parlament.gov.rs/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=25&t=Z</p>
Relevant Ministries & Departments	<p>National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia: www.parlament.gov.rs Ministry of Finance, Republic of Serbia: www.mfin.gov.rs</p>

Table 3. Distribution of Documents Related to the Executive's Budget Proposal

DISTRIBUTION OF BUDGET DOCUMENTS						
	Pre-budget	Executive's Budget Proposal				Citizens budget
		Main document	Budget summary*	Supporting Document 1	Supporting Document 2	
A. Not produced, even for internal purposes			Yes			Yes
B. Produced for internal purposes, but not available to the public						
C. Produced and available to the public, but only on request						
D. Produced and distributed to the public (for example, in libraries, posted on the Internet.)	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	
<i>For budget reports that are produced and distributed to the public, what steps does the executive take to distribute these reports and to promote interest in them?</i>						
	Pre-budget	Executive's Budget Proposal				Citizens budget
		Main document	Budget summary*	Supporting Document 1	Supporting Document 2	
1. The release date is known at least one month in advance	No	No	NA	No	No	NA
2. Advance notification of release is sent to users, media	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	NA
3. Released to public same day as official release to media	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	NA
4. Available on the Internet free of charge	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	NA
5. Free print copies available, limited distribution	No	No	NA	No	No	NA
6. Free print copies available, mass distribution	No	No	NA	No	No	NA
7. Readily available outside capital and/or big cities [†]	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	NA
8. Written in more than one language	Yes	No	NA	No	No	NA
9. News conference is held to discuss release	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	NA

*A budget summary should be a stand-alone document, which could include a budget speech or a separately published executive summary.

[†]Mark "Yes" if access by mail order or by Internet, if Internet service is readily available outside the capital and/or big cities.

Table 4. Distribution of the Enacted Budget and Other Reports

DISTRIBUTION OF ENACTED BUDGET AND OTHER REPORTS					
	Enacted budget	In-year reports	Mid-year review	Year-end report	Audit report
A. Not produced, even for internal purposes			Yes		Yes
B. Produced for internal purposes, but not available to the public					
C. Produced and available to the public, but only on request					
D. Produced and distributed to the public (for example, in libraries, posted on the Internet.)	Yes	Yes		Yes	
<i>For budget reports that are produced and distributed to the public, what steps does the executive take to distribute these reports and to promote interest in them?</i>					
	Enacted budget	In-year reports	Mid-year review	Year-end report	Audit report
1. The release date is known at least one month in advance	No	Yes	NA	No	NA
2. Advance notification of release sent to users, media	No	No	NA	Yes	NA
3. Released to public same day as official release to media	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	NA
4. Available on the Internet free of charge	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	NA
5. Free print copies available, limited distribution	No	Yes	NA	No	NA
6. Free print copies available, mass distribution	No	No	NA	No	NA
7. Readily available outside capital/big cities ⁺	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	NA
8. Written in more than one language	No	Yes	NA	No	NA
9. News conference is held to discuss release	Yes	No	NA	No	NA

⁺Mark "Yes" if access is available by mail order or by Internet, if Internet service is readily available outside the capital and/or big cities.

Section Two: The Executive's Budget Proposal

Notes on abbreviations:

BY = budget year (year for which the budget proposals are being made)

BY+1 = one year beyond the budget year

BY-1 = one year before the budget year

Note 1: The Open Budget Survey research process was carried out over a 12-month period and the final version of the Open Budget Questionnaires reflect decisions made after multiple rounds of discussions between Survey researchers, peer reviewers, and the International Budget Partnership (IBP) (in several countries these decisions also considered comments received from governments). When peer reviewers or governments agreed with the answers provided by researchers, they often provided no comment. Thus for many questions, the section in the questionnaire that should contain peer reviewer comments is left blank. However, if the government did not provide any comments to a question (because it did not dispute the answer), the section within the questionnaire that is meant to reflect government comments specifies the answer that the government agreed with (by default).

Since the IBP continued its discussions with the researchers even after receiving peer reviewer and government comments, for some questions these discussions resulted in a mutual decision to change the answers, even if the peer reviewers and governments agreed with the original answer provided by the researcher. Such changes may have happened as a result of:

1. A more consistent application of the Survey methodology;
2. New information identified by the researcher or by IBP that had a bearing on the answer for a particular question; or
3. Decisions made to ensure cross-country comparability of answers.

For more information on these changes for any question please write to info@internationalbudget.org.

The Executive's Budget Proposal	
Estimates for the Budget Year and Beyond	
<p>1. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All expenditures are classified by administrative unit. Expenditures are classified by administrative unit, but some small units are not shown separately. Expenditures are classified by administrative unit, but a significant number of units are not shown separately. No expenditures classified by administrative unit are presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	a

2. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by functional classification?

- a. All expenditures are classified by functional classification, and the categorization is compatible with international standards.
- b. All expenditures are classified by functional classification, but the categorization is not compatible with international standards.
- c. Some, but not all, expenditures are classified by function.
- d. No expenditures classified by function are presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008:

http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008

Comment:

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: According to the Rulebook on Standard Classification Framework and Chart of Accounts (available on the internet site of the Treasury: http://www.trezor.sr.gov.yu/uploads/news/3_36_kontni-plan.pdf), classification of public expenditures should be in line with the GFS classification published by the UN). However, it is likely that in practice classification of public expenditures is not fully compatible with international standards.

Government Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "a."

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire "b." I chose my answer because the classification is not fully in line with international standards.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" as originally suggested by the researcher.

b

3. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by economic classification?

- a. All expenditures are classified by economic classification, and the categorization is compatible with international standards.
- b. All expenditures are classified by economic classification, but the categorization is not compatible with international standards.
- c. Some, but not all, expenditures are classified by economic classification.
- d. No expenditures classified by economic classification are presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008:

http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008

Comment:

Most of the classification is compatible with international standards, but not all.

b

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: According to the Rulebook on Standard Classification Framework and Chart of Accounts (available on internet site of the Treasury: http://www.trezor.sr.gov.yu/uploads/news/3_36_kontni-plan.pdf), classification of public expenditures should be in line with the GFS classification published by the UN). However, it is likely that in practice classification of public expenditures is not fully compatible with international standards.

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "b." I chose my answer because the classification is not fully in line with international standards.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" as originally suggested by the researcher.

<p>4. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the budget year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program-level data are presented for all expenditures. b. Program-level data are presented for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures. c. Program-level data are presented, but for less than two-thirds of expenditures. d. No program-level data are presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Data is presented at the program level only for some budget users (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry for Religious Affairs, Ministry of Education). Their draft financial plans are presented as supporting documents with Government's draft budget. The overall amount of funds envisaged for these ministries and presented as program budget is almost 50 percent of overall budget of the country.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	C
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5. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, are estimates of the aggregate level of expenditure presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year)?

- a. Yes, multi-year estimates of aggregate expenditure are presented.
- b. No, multi-year estimates of aggregate expenditure are not presented.
- c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

The document presents an estimation of the consolidated aggregate expenditures of the public sector (including also regional and local authorities and social security funds) - see table 15 of Memorandum and Graph 19, by economic classification (table 19 and graph 22), by functional classification (table 20 and graph 23), estimations for next three years by economic classification (table 23 and graph 26) and by functional classification (table 24 and graph 27).

More information available at:

Министарство финансија: „Билтен јавних финансија“

Ministry of Finance: "Bulletin of public finances"

<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/>

<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/>

Researcher Response to this Question was "a"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: This Memorandum refers to the next year and two years following that year (e.g. The Law on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2010 is prepared based on the Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with projections for 2011 and 2012).

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire "a."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "a" as originally suggested by the researcher.

a

6. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, is more detail than just the aggregate level presented for expenditure estimates that cover a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?
- Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented for all individual programs, and for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative).
 - Yes, multi-year estimates are presented for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative), but only for some individual programs.
 - Yes, multi-year estimates are presented, but only for a portion of one or more of the expenditure classifications (such as some functions, or some administrative units) and/or for only some individual programs.
 - No, multi-year estimates are presented for aggregate expenditure only, or they are not presented at all.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf
 Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

b

Comment:

Multi-year estimates are presented for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative), but for the aggregate expenditure, not for individual programs. The budget is not organized/expressed at the level of programs in general. There is information about future expenditures arranged by economic classification (table 23 and graph 26) and by functional classification (table 24 and graph 27).
 The tables referenced in the comments above contain consolidated expenditure figures for all administrative units (institutions). However, the level of envisaged expenditures in these tables is presented in comparison with envisaged GDP, not in monetary amounts. These amounts might be indirectly calculated using other information presented.
 For year 2010, there is also an interesting presentation in table no. 27 of new policies cost (in nominal RSD amounts, presented for each administrative unit (ministries and other bodies). There is also information about envisaged mid-term reforms in various sectors (e.g. on pages 73-84), but without information about financial implications.

Useful information may also be found at:
 Министарство финансија: „Билтен јавних финансија“
 Ministry of Finance: “Bulletin of public finances”

<p>http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/ http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "b"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> Projections of the amounts of expenditures are presented (both economic and functional classification), but only at the aggregate level as a percentage of GDP (e.g. it is disclosed that in 2012, subsidies will amount to 2.2% of GDP, but there is no information on the structure of subsidies per beneficiaries).</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response:</u> I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire as "b."</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "b" as initially suggested by the researcher.</p>	
<p>7. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify the different sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the budget year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All sources of tax revenue are identified individually. Sources of tax revenue amounting to at least two-thirds of, but not all, tax revenues are identified individually. Sources of tax revenue amounting to less than two-thirds of all tax revenues are identified individually. No sources of tax revenue are identified individually. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The memorandum presents (in table 13 and graph 14) estimation for various tax revenues (for more than 90 percent of tax revenues) identified by type in comparison with the GDP level (i.e. as percentage of it). More information available at: Министарство финансија: „Билтен јавних финансија“ Ministry of Finance: "Bulletin of public finances"</p>	b

<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/>
<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/>

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: Approximately 96% of total tax revenues disclosed in the Memorandum for 2010, 2011 and 2012 are presented in detail (by sources of tax revenues). In Explanatory notes related to the draft budget for 2010, the total amount of tax revenues is presented in detail by source of tax revenue.

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question. Main sources of tax revenues are also presented in Law on budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "b."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" as initially suggested by the researcher.

8. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify the different sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of goods and services) for the budget year?
- All sources of non-tax revenue are identified individually.
 - Sources of non-tax revenue amounting to at least two-thirds of, but not all, non-tax revenues are identified individually.
 - Sources of non-tax revenues amounting to less than two-thirds of all non-tax revenue are identified individually.
 - No sources of non-tax revenues are identified individually.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

More information available at:

Министарство финансија: „Билтен јавних финансија“
Ministry of Finance: “Bulletin of public finances”
<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/>
<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/>

Comment:

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

b

9. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, are estimates of the aggregate level of revenue presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year)?

- a. Yes, multi-year estimates of aggregate revenue are presented.
- b. No, multi-year estimates of aggregate revenue are not presented.
- c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

The document presents estimation of consolidated income of all government levels for the next three years compared against the estimated GDP, and not money amounts (table 22 and graph 25 of Memorandum). There are also data for the same incomes, as in the annual budget, including several types of tax and non-tax incomes. However, the conclusion about the money involved might be driven using other data from the same document.

More details, including revenues collected on a monthly basis are available in the MF bulletin.

Министарство финансија: „Билтен јавних финансија,” бројеви 17-32
Ministry of Finance: “Bulletin of public finances,” issues 17-32

<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/html/modules.php?op=modload&name=Subjects&file=index&req=listpages&subid=78>

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

a

10. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, is more detail than just the aggregate level presented for revenue estimates that cover a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?

- a. Yes, multi-year revenue estimates are presented for individual sources of revenue, and by revenue classification (such as tax and non-tax).
- b. Yes, multi-year estimates are presented by revenue classification (such as tax and non-tax), but only for some individual sources of revenue.
- c. Yes, multi-year estimates are presented, but only for some individual sources of revenue.
- d. No, multi-year estimates are presented for aggregate revenue only, or they are not presented at all.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:

http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:

<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

The document presents an estimation of the consolidated income of all government levels for the next two years compared against estimated GDP, and not money amounts (table 22 of Memorandum). There is also data for the same incomes, as in the annual budget, including several types of tax and non-tax incomes. However, the conclusion about the money involved might be driven using other data from the same document.

More details, including revenues collected on a monthly basis are available in the MF bulletin.

Министарство финансија: „Билтен јавних финансија“

Ministry of Finance: "Bulletin of public finances"

<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/>

<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/>

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

a

<p>11. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present data on the total government debt outstanding for the budget year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the data reflect the outstanding debt both at the start of the budget year and at the end of the budget year (and thereby reflect the net borrowing requirement of the budget). Yes, the data reflect the outstanding debt at the end of the budget year. Yes, the data reflect the outstanding debt at the start of the budget year. No, data on the outstanding debt are not presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The draft law presents data about the debt at the end of the previous budget year and information about loans that will be approved during the budget year in separate tables (in Article 3).</p> <p>More information about debt is available at:</p> <p>Министарство финансија: "Билтен јавних финансија" Ministry of Finance: "Bulletin of public finances" http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/ http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>12. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present interest payments on the debt for the budget year?</p> <p>a. Yes, interest payments on the debt are presented. b. No, interest payments on the debt are not presented. c. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008 http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget, December 2008</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>a</p>
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13. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the composition of government debt (such as interest rates on the debt, maturity profile of the debt, currency denomination of the debt, or whether it is domestic and external debt) for the budget year?

- a. Yes, extensive information related to the composition of government debt is presented.
- b. Yes, key additional information is presented, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some additional information is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, additional information related to the composition of government debt is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008:
http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008

Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008:
http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget, December 2008

Comment:

There is plenty of information (structure of government debt per loaners, amount of debt, amount of debt and interest to be paid in the current budget year and the budget years to come, interest rates, date of the first and last payment of debt, etc.- see for example tables within the section "G" of Article 3 of draft budget).

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

a

<p>14. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, an extensive discussion of the macroeconomic forecast is presented, and key assumptions (such as inflation, real GDP growth, unemployment rate, and interest rates) are stated explicitly. Yes, the macroeconomic forecast is discussed and most of the key assumptions are stated explicitly, but some details are excluded. Yes, there is some discussion of the macroeconomic forecast (and/or the presentation of key assumptions), but it lacks important details. No, information related to the macroeconomic forecast is not presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> <u>Comment:</u> Some information of that kind, such as information about state debt and interest rates, is also available in the Budget draft and explanatory note. More information available at: Министарство финансија: „Билтен јавних финансија“ Ministry of Finance: "Bulletin of public finances" http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/ http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "a"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> Macroeconomic forecasts are presented in Explanatory notes to the draft Law on the Budget as well.</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response:</u> I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "a."</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "a" as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>a</p>
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15. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions (i.e., sensitivity analysis) on the budget (including expenditures, revenues, and debt)?
- Yes, extensive information on the impact of macroeconomic assumptions on the budget is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
 - Yes, information is presented, highlighting the impact of the major macroeconomic assumptions, but some details are excluded.
 - Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
 - No, information on the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions on the budget is not presented.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008:
http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget- December 2008

Comment:

Although there is respectable amount of information available about all the key macroeconomic assumptions (figures and narrative description), this information is not sufficiently linked with information about the envisaged budget's income and expenditures. For example, compare information on pages 51 and 52 of the budget Memorandum (projections of tax income) with information published on pages 17 - 30 (macroeconomic trends). It is worth noting that, due to the economic crises and its effects, these links are clearer now than in budget documents produced in previous years.

More information available at:

Министарство финансија: „Билтен јавних финансија“

Ministry of Finance: "Bulletin of public finances"

<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/> ; <http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/>

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

C

16. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how policy proposals in the budget, as distinct from existing policies, affect expenditures?

- a. Yes, extensive information on the impact of policy proposals on expenditures is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the impact of key policy proposals on expenditures, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, information on the impact of policy proposals on expenditures is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008:
http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget, December 2008

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

There is information about new policies in the budget but it is hard to identify whether all new policies are mentioned there. Information about changes of policies aimed to provide cuts in the budget (due to economic crises) are presented in the clearest way (see for example information about temporary freezing of jubilee awards for civil servants on page 147 of the Explanatory note). Some new programs are also explained in the draft budget explanatory note (like new subvention programs on pages 243 - 246). However, the main problem remains that in the explanation of expenditures, there is no clear division between the costs of new policies and other expenditures in certain fields of administration.

There is also an interesting new approach in budget preparation. Budget beneficiaries were asked to declare the costs of their new policies in the 2010 - 2012 period, and these were published in table 27 of the budget memorandum. These costs are not approved yet. "Considering the fact that the fiscal framework in the next period is significantly narrow, only a small number of proposals can be included in the 2010 budget, even for the next two years. Budget beneficiaries must prioritize their proposals ..." Page 59 of the budget Memorandum.

b

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: A more appropriate response to this question may be "c." The noted omissions appear important enough to warrant a lower score.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "b." I chose my answer because it seems that the impact of key policy proposals is presented (if all new policies as such are presented in budget documents). However, as Peer reviewer One rightfully noted, there are also very good reasons to choose the answer "c" as well. Indeed, the most proper answer would be somewhere in between "b" and "c," and the final decision between the two of them might reflect comparative practice (i.e. scores in other countries).

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" as originally suggested by the researcher, to maintain consistency across countries.

17. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how policy proposals in the budget, as distinct from existing policies, affect revenues?

- a. Yes, extensive information on the impact of policy proposals on revenues is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the impact of key policy proposals on revenues, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, information on the impact of policy proposals on revenues is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008:
http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget, December 2008

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010
годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010
with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

A brief explanation of budget incomes (pages 124 - 127 of the Explanatory note) contains key information about changes of policy (increases of certain income types). There are figures presented for expected income by category and short explanations on how the calculation is made and whether some changes in comparison with previous year are related to the envisaged change of the tax rate or other factors (e.g. decrease of import).

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

a

Estimates for Years Prior to the Budget Year	
<p>18. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All expenditures are classified by administrative unit for BY-1. Expenditures are classified by administrative unit for BY-1, but some small units are not shown separately. Expenditures are classified by administrative unit for BY-1, but a significant number of units are not shown separately. No expenditures classified by administrative unit are presented for BY-1. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget, December 2008</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Such information is presented in table no. 11 on page 131 of the draft budget's Explanatory note, together with the envisaged budget for the budget year.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	a

19. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) that are classified by functional classification?
- All expenditures are classified by functional classification for BY-1, and the categorization is compatible with international standards.
 - All expenditures are classified by functional classification for BY-1, but the categorization is not compatible with international standards.
 - Some, but not all, expenditures are classified by function for BY-1.
 - No expenditures classified by function are presented for BY-1.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

The main categories are fully compatible with international standards.

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: See comments to the question no. 2.

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "b."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" as originally suggested by the researcher.

b

20. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) that are classified by economic classification?
- All expenditures are classified by economic classification for BY-1, and the categorization is compatible with international standards.
 - All expenditures are classified by economic classification for BY-1, but the categorization is not compatible with international standards.
 - Some, but not all, expenditures are classified by economic classification for BY-1.
 - No expenditures classified by economic classification are presented for BY-1.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008:
http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget
December 2008

Comment:

Most of the categories are compatible with international standards.

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: See comments to the question no. 2.

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "b."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" as originally suggested by the researcher.

b

<p>21. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program-level expenditure data are presented for all expenditures for BY-1. b. Program-level expenditure data are presented for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures for BY-1. c. Program-level expenditure data are presented, but for less than two-thirds of expenditures for BY-1. d. No program-level expenditure data are presented for BY-1. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Although Serbia had program budgets in BY-1 for 5 ministries, expenditures at the program level are not presented in documents published along with the government's budget.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>22. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, how many months of actual data are reflected in the expenditure estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect six or more months of actual expenditure. All BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original enacted levels, but reflect less than six months of actual expenditure. Some BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect actual expenditure. The BY-1 estimates have not been updated from the original enacted levels, or no BY-1 estimates are presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf</p> <p>Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Estimates are given as a proportion of the country's GDP, by functional and economic classification, for the whole BY-1.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>a</p>
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23. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, are estimates of the aggregate level of expenditure presented for years that precede the budget year by more than one year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

- a. Yes, such prior-year estimates of aggregate expenditure are presented.
- b. No, such prior-year estimates of aggregate expenditure are not presented.
- c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

Such data could be found in the Budget Memorandum, as a comparison of expenditures with GDP, e.g. table no. 14. More information is available in the Public finances bulletin ("in year - reports").

Researcher Response to this Question was "a"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: Detailed information on BY-2 and prior years' expenditures (in Serbian dinars) are presented in the Public Finance Bulletin (published by the Ministry of Finance on a monthly basis). Note that this bulletin is classified as In-year report (not as supporting budget documentation).

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "a."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "a" as initially suggested by the researcher.

a

24. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, is more detail than just the aggregate level presented for expenditure estimates that cover years preceding the budget year by more than one year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?
- Yes, such prior-year expenditure estimates are presented for all individual programs, and for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative).
 - Yes, such prior-year estimates are presented for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative), but only for some individual programs.
 - Yes, such prior-year estimates are presented, but only for a portion of one or more of the expenditure classifications (such as some functions, or some administrative units) and/or for only some individual programs.
 - No, such prior-year estimates are presented for aggregate expenditure only, or they are not presented at all.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Comment:

It is possible to obtain such information in the Public finance bulletin ("in - year reports").

Researcher Response to this Question was "d"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: A more appropriate response to this question may be "c." Consolidated expenditure as a percentage of GDP is disaggregated in some additional detail in the budget memorandum: e.g. Table 14 (noted in the previous question) and Table 15.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: Detailed information on BY-2 and prior years' expenditures (in Serbian dinars) are presented in the Public Finance Bulletin (published by the Ministry of Finance on a monthly basis). Note that this bulletin is classified as In-year report (not as supporting budget documentation).

Government Comment: An appropriate response to this question is "d."

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should be changed as suggested by Peer Reviewer One to "c." I chose my answer because of the facts presented by Peer Reviewer One. Indeed, my previous thinking was that classification in tables 14 and 15 of the pre-budget statement could hardly be considered as something more detailed than just aggregate information (e.g. there are only 10 basic categories of functional classification in table 15). However, as more information is available than just the overall value of expenditures, "c" might be considered an appropriate answer.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" as suggested by the Peer Reviewer One.

C

25. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all expenditures reflect actual outcomes?

- a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).
- b. Three years prior to the budget year (BY-3).
- c. Before BY-3.
- d. No actual data for all expenditures are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

The draft budget Explanatory note contains data on BY - 1 expenditures which are based on approved, not realized budget.

The Budget memorandum contains information on actual expenditures in BY-2. Actually, this presentation (table 14 and table 15), shows the percentage of GDP allocated for certain types of expenditure. The topic of observation was not only the national budget but consolidated expenditures of the general government sector.

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

a

26. Are the expenditure estimates for the years prior to the budget year adjusted, as needed, to be comparable with the budget-year estimates in terms of classification and presentation?

- a. Yes, prior-year data are always adjusted to be comparable to the budget year data.
- b. Yes, in most cases, prior-year data are adjusted to be comparable.
- c. Yes, in some cases, prior-year data are adjusted to be comparable, but significant deviations between prior-year and budget-year classifications exist.
- d. No, prior-year data are not adjusted to be comparable, or no prior-year estimates are presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009: ,
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

Estimations are presented by functional and economic classification, as a percentage of the GDP for the given year. The same approach is used both for previous years and for the budget year (compare tables 14 and 15 with tables 23 and 24 of the budget Memorandum).

b

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: A more appropriate response to this question may be "a." This reviewer has not come across any instances in which the data did not appear comparable in terms of classification and presentation. The problem is rather the level of aggregation, which does not lend itself to identifying anything but the most general sort of performance trends over time.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "b." I chose my answer because it is possible to make comparisons of expenditures in terms of percentage of GDP for a certain year, but the value of GDP itself is a changeable category over the years. That makes comparisons harder.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" as initially suggested by the researcher, to maintain consistency across countries.

27. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify the different sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

- a. All tax revenues are identified individually for BY-1.
- b. Tax revenues amounting to at least two-thirds of, but not all, tax revenue for BY-1 are identified individually.
- c. Tax revenues amounting to less than two-thirds of all tax revenues for BY-1 are identified individually.
- d. No tax revenues are identified individually for BY-1.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008:
http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget
December 2008

Comment:

The memorandum presents data as a percentage of the GDP, and the Explanatory note as an amount in local currency. Data for almost all the tax revenues are presented individually (e.g. only 0, 6 percent of GDP is classified as "other tax revenues," while all tax revenues are 34,1 percent of GDP - see table no. 18 of the Budget memorandum).

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

b

<p>28. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify the different sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of goods and services) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All non-tax revenues are identified individually for BY-1. Non-tax revenues amounting to at least two-thirds of, but not all, non-tax revenue for BY-1 are identified individually. Non-tax revenues amounting to less than two-thirds of all non-tax revenues for BY-1 are identified individually. No non-tax revenues are identified individually for BY-1. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget December 2008</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Major non-tax revenues (app. 80 percent) are identified in Article 1 of the draft Budget, including the amount to be collected within each of those categories. There is further a narrative description on pages 126 and 127 of the Explanatory note, without disaggregated figures, except for income that budget will earn from the surplus of public enterprises.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	b
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<p>29. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, how many months of actual data are reflected in the revenues estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original estimates to reflect six or more months of actual revenue collections. All BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original estimates, but reflect less than six months of actual revenue collections. Some BY-1 estimates have not been updated from the original estimates to reflect actual revenue collections. The BY-1 estimates have not been updated from the original estimates or no BY-1 estimates are presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget, December 2008</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The information is based on an 11-month period - see table no. 8 on page 125 of the Explanatory note.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	a
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30. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, are estimates of the aggregate level of revenues presented for years that precede the budget year by more than one year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?

- a. Yes, such prior-year estimates of aggregate revenue are presented.
- b. No, such prior-year estimates of aggregate revenue are not presented.
- c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

Amounts are presented for consolidated public incomes (all government levels), both as a monetary amount and as percentage of the GDP - see table no. 15 of the budget Memorandum.

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

a

<p>31. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, is more detail than just the aggregate level presented for revenue estimates that cover years preceding the budget year by more than one year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, such prior-year revenue estimates are presented for individual sources of revenue, and by revenue classification (such as tax and non-tax). Yes, such prior-year estimates are presented by revenue classification (such as tax and non-tax), but only for some individual sources of revenue. Yes, such prior-year estimates are presented, but only for some individual sources of revenue. No, such prior-year estimates are presented for aggregate revenue only, or they are not presented at all. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf</p> <p>Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Information is given for consolidated state incomes (including all levels of the government). Detailed information (type of income as a percentage of GDP) is available, and one may calculate exact figures using the information in table 13. There are also graphs 14 - 17 for the most important data. This information is only available for BY-2.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>32. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all revenues reflect actual outcomes?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2). Three years prior to the budget year (BY-3). Before BY-3. No actual data for all revenues are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf</p> <p>Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Information presented in table 13 and graphs 14 - 17 of the Budget memorandum reflect actual outcome for BY-2.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	a
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33. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the government debt for the year preceding the budget year?

- a. Yes, extensive information is presented on the level and composition of government debt for the year preceding the budget year.
- b. Yes, information on the level of debt is presented, but some important details about the composition of the debt are excluded.
- c. Yes, but only information on the level of debt is presented.
- d. No, information related to the government debt for BY-1 is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008:

http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008

Comment:

On page 7 and the following pages of the draft budget, there is a detailed presentation of government debt, accurate at October 31st of BY-1 (budget is drafted and presented on December 8th of that year).

a

Researcher Response to this Question was "a"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: Details on government debt (amount, structure and explanation of movement) are also presented in the Memorandum on the budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010, with projections for 2011 and 2012.

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "a."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "a" as initially suggested by the researcher.

34. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes?

- a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).
- b. Three years prior to the budget year (BY-3).
- c. Before BY-3.
- d. No actual data for government debt are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008:

http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008

Comment:

On the page 7 and following pages of draft budget, there is a detailed presentation of government debts, accurate at October 31st of BY-1 (budget is drafted and presented on December 8th that year).

a

Researcher Response to this Question was "a"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: I believe that a more appropriate response is "b," since the Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010, with projections for 2011 and 2012 contains details on the amount and the structure of government debt in 2007 and 2008.

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "a." I chose my answer because the information presented in the draft budget is more accurate than information pointed to by Peer Reviewer Two.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "a" as originally suggested by the researcher.

Comprehensiveness	
<p>35. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on extra-budgetary funds?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on extra-budgetary funds is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key extra-budgetary funds, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on extra-budgetary funds is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008 Within the zip package: Financial plans of Pension fund, National employment service and Health fund.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is both numeric and narrative information about the budgets of the mandatory social security organizations.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	a

36. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on intergovernmental transfers?

- a. Yes, extensive information on intergovernmental transfers is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key intergovernmental transfers, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, information on intergovernmental transfers is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008:
http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget
December 2008

Comment:

Numeric information is available on page 128 and narrative information on pages 137 - 141 of the budget Explanatory note.

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

a

37. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on transfers to public corporations?

- a. Yes, extensive information on transfers to public corporations is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key transfers to public corporations, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, information on transfers to public corporations is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008
http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget, December 2008

Comment:

There is information about the major transfers to public corporations and about the overall amount of such transfers, but not about the recipients of all such transfers (e.g. only subventions to "Serbian railroads" are named in elaboration on page 147).

Researcher Response to this Question was "c"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "b." Only two Public Enterprises got such transfer in the 2009 Budget (Railways of Serbia and Mining company "Resavica." The amounts of transfers are presented and explained within the ministry who paid those transfers (Ministry of Infrastructure and Ministry of Energy and Mining).

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" as originally suggested by the researcher.

C

<p>38. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on quasi-fiscal activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on quasi-fiscal activities is presented, including both a narrative discussion and, where possible, quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key quasi-fiscal activities, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on quasi-fiscal activities is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is no clear presentation of the price of quasi-fiscal activities of the state in budget documents (for example about subsidies through a below-market price of electricity).</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>39. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on financial assets held by the government?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive information on financial assets is presented, including a listing of the assets, a discussion of their purpose, and an estimate of their market value. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key information, but some details are excluded. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. No, information on financial assets is not presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf</p> <p>Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> On pages 10 and 11 and table 4 of the Memorandum on budget, there is information about the level and increase of the foreign currency reserve, but without further details.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>40. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on non-financial assets held by the government?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive information on non-financial assets is presented, including a listing of the assets, and (where possible) an estimate of their market value. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key information, but some details are excluded. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. No, information on non-financial assets is not presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	d
<p>41. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on expenditure arrears?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive information on expenditure arrears is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key expenditure arrears, but some details are excluded. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. No, information on expenditure arrears is not presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget, December 2008</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is some information in the Explanatory note about such arrears. For example, on page 143, there is information about the fact that part of the funds envisaged for the Ministry for National Investment Plan had to be paid on the basis of the previous year's commitments. However, information is not detailed.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	C

<p>42. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on contingent liabilities (such as government loan guarantees)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive information on contingent liabilities is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key contingent liabilities, but some details are excluded. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. No, information on contingent liabilities is not presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008</p> <p>Образложење предлога Закона о буџету за 2009, децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Explanatory notes for the draft 2009 budget, December 2008</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>43. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on future liabilities, such as civil service pensions?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive information on future liabilities is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key future liabilities, but some details are excluded. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. No, information on future liabilities is not presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf</p> <p>Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is only indirect information about such liabilities.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>44. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation provide details on the sources of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All sources of donor assistance are identified individually. b. At least two-thirds of, but not all, sources of donor assistance, are identified individually. c. Less than two-thirds of sources of donor assistance are identified individually. d. No sources of donor assistance are identified individually. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The budget law contains some indications that donations are received, but without identification of donor, amount or purpose.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>d</p>
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45. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on tax expenditures?

- a. Yes, extensive information on tax expenditures is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key tax expenditures, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, information on tax expenditures is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

Such information could be found in table no 16, explaining both revenues and expenditures coming as a consequence of changes in tax policy during the previous period. There is no indication that tax reductions are planned for the next period and consequently no information about tax expenditures, envisaged as an outcome of such changes in tax policy.

C

Researcher Response to this Question was "c"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: If the executive's budget and supporting budget documentation for 2009 are taken into account, then "c" is the appropriate answer. However, in the Law on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2010 the information on key tax expenditures is presented. Therefore, with regards to the Law on the Budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2010, a more appropriate response would be "b."

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "c." I chose my answer because the arguments presented by Peer Reviewer Two are referring to documents not covered by this question.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" as initially suggested by the researcher.

46. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify all earmarked revenues?
- All earmarked revenues are identified individually.
 - At least two-thirds of, but not all, earmarked revenues are identified individually.
 - Less than two-thirds of earmarked revenues are identified individually.
 - No earmarked revenues are identified individually.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008:
http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008.

Comment:

There is information about earmarked revenues, for example on page 184, related to the state income collected from "game of chance" organizations and distributed to sport and humanitarian societies. There is also the list of regulation providing the possibility for some administrative units to obtain earmarked revenues. Funds collected in that way are also identified within the budget tables. Narrative explanations are not always presented.

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "c" or maybe even "d." There is insufficient information to determine the actual extent of earmarked revenues, but there is reason to suspect the proportion may be greater than it seems. The actual amounts of identified earmarked revenue (games of chance) are not stated. Further, donor-financed projects, which appear to be entirely off budget, are likely to be in fact earmarked.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: An appropriate response to this question is "b."

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should be changed as suggested by Peer Reviewer One, to "c." I chose my answer because of the following reasons: there is no clear information about which revenues are earmarked, and revenues known as earmarked (such are "game of chance" income) are identified. The sum of all such incomes is not presented, but the amount distributed through various "budget funds" is (chapters 19.2 to 19.4 of the tabular review of budget expenditures). However, if donor projects are considered as earmarked revenues as Peer Reviewer One suggests (most of them are envisaged for specific purposes), due to lack of clarity about such revenue in the budget tables and explanatory note (e.g. figures presented as "budget beneficiary own income," without identification of the donor) the proper answer could be "c."

C

<p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer “c,” as suggested by the Peer Reviewer One.</p>	
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47. What percentage of expenditure in the budget year is dedicated to spending on secret items relating to, for instance, national security and military intelligence?
- One percent or less of expenditure is dedicated to secret items.
 - Three percent or less, but more than one percent, of expenditure is dedicated to secret items.
 - Eight percent or less, but more than three percent, of expenditure is dedicated to secret items.
 - More than eight percent of expenditure is dedicated to secret items, or the percentage is not available to the public.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008:
http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008

Comment:

There is no division in the budget or in any other document about secret and non-secret items. In practice, some portion of publicly known expenditures will be spent on confidential procurements and for confidential operation, but they are classified together with "normal" expenditures in budget appropriations (e.g. "procurement of machines and equipment"). However, the amount of such expenditures is unlikely to be high, and most probably is less than 1 percent of the overall budget.

d

Researcher Response to this Question was "d"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: I agree with the above stated comment. Therefore, it appears that "a" would be a more appropriate answer.

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "d." I chose my answer because of previous experience in treatment of this issue within the IBP questionnaire. To a certain extent, it is also possible to obtain information about the amount of secret procurements in previous years by sending information requests, and according to these data (collected by Transparency Serbia in previous years), the amount of secret procurements is less than 1% of the overall budget (expenditures of secret services are higher but not all secret). However, as information on the amount of secret procurements is not presented in budget documents, the answer remains "d."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.

The Budget Narrative & Performance Monitoring	
<p>48. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation explain how the proposed budget is linked to government's stated policy goals, by administrative unit (or functional category), for the budget year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals, by administrative unit (or functional category) is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the link between major policy goals and the budget, but some details are excluded. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. No, information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals is not presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf</p> <p>Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> In some areas, the explanations are more detailed, in particular for the 5 ministries preparing program budgets. However, for most other areas, even when policy goals are stated, no clear link is made with expenditures. The exceptions are the 5 ministries, preparing program budgets and spending less than 25% of the overall national budget.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	C

<p>49. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation explain how the proposed budget is linked to government’s stated policy goals for a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive information on the link between the budget and the government’s stated policy goals over a multi-year period is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the major policy goals, but some details are excluded. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. No, information on the link between the budget and the government’s stated policy goals over a multi-year period is not presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf</p> <p>Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> This document presents links between the budget and the established policy goals, but not in an equally detailed manner (for example, although the fight against corruption is one of the priorities, it is poorly discussed in the Memorandum). For the 5 ministries preparing program budgets (covering less than 25% of the overall budget), there is much more information of this kind.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	C
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<p>50. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present non-financial data, such as the number of beneficiaries, for expenditure programs?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Non-financial data are presented for all programs. Non-financial data are presented for programs representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures. Non-financial data are presented for programs representing less than two-thirds of expenditure. No non-financial data are presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The budget documents present the number of civil servants in each budget-funded institution, but not the number of beneficiaries of budget programs. For the 5 government ministries, numeric information is clearly presented, covering less than 25% of the overall budget.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was “c”</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> More suitable answer to this question could be “b.” In the Explanatory Note for the 2009 Budget Law some non - financial data are presented (e.g. number of beneficiaries of maternity leave benefit, number of beneficiaries of different kind of social assistance in Kosovo and Metohija).</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer “c” as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>C</p>
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51. Are the non-financial data presented useful for assessing how an expenditure program is performing?
- a. The non-financial data are very useful for assessing program performance.
 - b. The non-financial data are mostly useful for assessing program performance.
 - c. The non-financial data are somewhat useful for assessing program performance.
 - d. No non-financial data are provided or they are not useful for assessing program performance.
 - e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008:
http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip
Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008. The package also contains program budgets for 5 ministries.

Comment:

Non - financial data are useful to assess program performance, but are presented only for 5 ministries, covering less than 25% of the national budget.

b

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "c." The extent of the information is too limited to be very useful in making such assessments.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "b." I chose my answer because the non-financial data presented in the "program budgets" for 5 ministries are mostly useful (but mostly not "very useful") to assess program performance, which fits with definition of answer "b."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" as originally suggested by the researcher.

<p>52. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation contain performance indicators for expenditure programs?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Performance indicators are presented for all programs. Performance indicators are presented for programs representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures. Performance indicators are presented for programs representing less than two-thirds of expenditures. No performance indicators are presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008. The package also contains program budgets for 5 ministries.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The amount used by 5 ministries is less than 25% of the national budget.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>53. Are the performance indicators sufficiently well designed, such that one can assess whether there has been progress toward meeting policy goals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All performance indicators are well designed. b. Most performance indicators are well designed. c. Some performance indicators are well designed, but most are not. d. No programs have performance indicators, or they are not well designed. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008. The package also contains program budgets for 5 ministries.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Most of the indicators are well - designed but the performance of only a small portion of administrative units could be followed in this way.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>54. Are performance indicators used in conjunction with performance targets presented in the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All performance indicators are used in conjunction with performance targets. b. Most performance indicators are used in conjunction with performance targets. c. Some performance indicators are used in conjunction with performance targets, but most are not. d. No performance indicators are used in conjunction with performance targets. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008. The package also contains program budgets for 5 ministries.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> All performance indicators are linked with performance targets, but such a link is not always easily understandable. Furthermore, only a small portion of administrative units are covered by program budgeting.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	C
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55. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on policies (both proposals and existing commitments) in at least the budget year that are intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations?

- a. Yes, extensive information on policies intended to alleviate poverty is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the impact of key policies intended to alleviate poverty, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, information on policies intended to alleviate poverty is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:

<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

Unlike previous years, when extensive information about the Poverty reduction strategy and its implementation were presented, now the issue is not elaborated upon. However, there is indirect information of that kind, for example in figures showing the amount of benefits paid to vulnerable groups of citizens (table on page 128 of the draft budget's Explanatory note.

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

C

<p>Additional Key Information for Budget Analysis & Monitoring</p>	
<p><i>Please note that the questions in this section ask about information that is generally available to the public. The information need not be included in the executive's budget proposal or supporting documents, but may be found in other documents issued by the executive.</i></p>	
<p>56. Does the executive make available to the public a description of the tax rate or fee schedule for all revenue sources, including commercial projects involving the private sector?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on tax rates, fees, royalties and other revenues sources is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the rates and fees for major revenue sources, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> www.mfin.gov.rs</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The information on tax rates and other major revenue sources is easily accessible by the public. Information about the structure of non-tax revenues is available on request, but not regularly published.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>b</p>

<p>57. Does the executive make available to the public an analysis of the distribution of the tax burden?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, a detailed analysis of the distribution of the tax burden is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an analysis is presented, highlighting key aspects of the distribution, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some analysis is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No analysis on the distribution of the tax burden is presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> It is worth mentioning that the Executive sometimes presents data in relation to new tax legislation in the explanatory note on taxation laws, or in government representatives' speeches. However, such behavior is not the rule.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "d"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> The information on distribution of tax burden is not publicly available.</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response:</u> I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "d." I chose my answer because it reflects the fact that such information is not presented regularly.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "d" as initially suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>d</p>
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58. Does the executive make available to the public an explanation of the conditions associated with assistance from international financial institutions (IFI)?

- a. Yes, extensive information on conditions associated with IFI assistance is presented, including a narrative discussion and any quantitative targets related to both macro-economic conditionality and project-specific conditionality.
- b. Yes, information is presented, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, information on conditions associated with IFI assistance is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Закон о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, децембар 2008:

http://www.parlament.sr.gov.yu/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=516&t=Z

Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 2008

Comment:

Information on the level of direct financial support of IFIs is presented in the annual budget, including information about the amount of loans, interest rates and maturity.

There are also other sources of information about conditions, presented either by IFIs themselves or by the members of the executive occasionally. However, none of the budget documents contain information about the general conditions of IFI assistance to the government (i.e. not related to concrete loan).

b

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: I believe that more appropriate answer would be "a." Although there is no extensive information on conditions associated with assistance from IFIs disclosed in budget documentation, each time the assistance is granted, relevant information on conditions are made publicly available (through press conference, press release, internet, etc.).

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "b." I chose my answer because information about conditions is often presented, but there is not a practice to publish all documents related to such assistance in every single case. It is probable that most of information is available, but some important details are certainly missing.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" as initially suggested by the researcher.

59. Does the executive make available to the public an explanation of the conditions associated with assistance from donor countries?

- a. Yes, extensive information on conditions associated with donor country assistance is presented, including a narrative discussion and any quantitative targets related to both macro-economic conditionality and project-specific conditionality.
- b. Yes, information is presented, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, information on conditions associated with donor country assistance is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

Information about donors and amounts of donations (and also sometimes the purpose of donations) might be found in the budget law and the Memorandum on the budget, or in other information produced by the government. However, there is not much information about the conditions associated with such assistance.

C

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "c." A lower score should be considered. There is some detail provided on loans, but not extensive information on conditions. There is also very little information on donations, especially smaller project donations. Proper reporting will be essential with EU funds, esp. structural funds - at the moment, the reporting levels are insufficient.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: An appropriate response to this question is "b."

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should be changed as suggested by Peer Reviewer One to "c."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" as suggested by Peer Reviewer One.

<p>60. Does the executive make available to the public a summary that describes the budget and its proposals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, it provides a summary that is very informative. b. Yes, it provides a summary that is somewhat informative. c. Yes, but the summary is not very informative. d. No, it does not provide a summary. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Unlike in previous years, the Ministry did not prepare a budget summary along with its draft.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	d
<p>61. Does the executive publish a “citizens budget” or some non-technical presentation intended for a wide audience that describes the budget and its proposals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, it publishes a citizens budget that is very informative. b. Yes, it publishes a citizens budget that is somewhat informative. c. Yes, but the citizens budget is not very informative. d. No, it does not publish a citizens budget. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was “d”</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> I agree. However, after the government adopts the draft Budget Law, the minister of finance holds a press conference, where the details of the budget are explained.</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer “d” as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	d

<p>62. Does the executive make available to the public non-technical definitions of terms used in the budget and other budget-related documents (for instance, in a glossary)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, thorough definitions of budget terms are provided. b. Yes, definitions are provided, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some definitions are provided, but it lacks important details. d. No, definitions are not provided. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget system law and secondary legislation of Budget system law.</p> <p>Предлог Закона о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, 8. децембар 2008: http://www.srbija.gov.rs/extfile/sr/99742/pz_budzet2009_0038_cyr.zip Draft Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 8th 2008</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Such definitions might be found in the Budget system law and the secondary legislation. There are definitions of basic terms used in the draft budget, in its Explanatory note, which is a huge improvement in comparison to previous years.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>63. Do citizens have the right <i>in law</i> to access government information, including budget information?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the right has been codified into law, and citizens are generally able in practice to obtain government information, including budget information. Yes, the right has been codified into law, but it is sometimes not possible for citizens in practice to obtain government information, including budget information. Yes, the right has been codified into law, but it is frequently or always impossible in practice to obtain access to government information, including budget information. No, the right to access government information has not been codified into law, or this right does not include access to budget information. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Закон о слободном приступу информацијама од јавног значаја СГ РС 120 из 2004 (Law on free access to information of public interest, OG 120 from 2004).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The law and practice of the Information Commissioner provide no limits to obtaining budget information. However, in some instances requestors face obstacles in obtaining them (e.g. in obtaining a copy of some privatization contracts, contracts with service providers of governmental institutions, etc.)</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>b</p>
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<p>64. Are citizens able in practice to obtain financial information on expenditures for individual programs in a format that is more highly disaggregated than that which appears in the executive’s budget proposal if they request it (for example, from a ministry or agency)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. In practice, highly disaggregated information is available to the public for all programs except those considered related to national security or military intelligence. b. In practice, highly disaggregated information is available to the public for programs representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures. c. In practice, highly disaggregated information is available to the public for programs representing less than two-thirds of expenditures. d. In practice, no highly disaggregated expenditure information is available. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Закон о слободном приступу информацијама од јавног значаја СГ РС 120 из 2004 (Law on free access to information of public interest, OG 120 from 2004).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> It is theoretically possible to obtain all such data using the Free access to information law, but in practice some institutions are not always ready to provide information in a lawful manner.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>b</p>
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<p>65. Are citizens able in practice to obtain non-financial information related to expenditures (for example, number of beneficiaries, number of persons employed by the program, etc.) for individual programs in a format that is more highly disaggregated than that which appears in the executive’s budget proposal if they request it from a ministry or agency?</p> <p>a. In practice, highly disaggregated non-financial information is available to the public for all programs except those considered related to national security or military intelligence.</p> <p>b. In practice, highly disaggregated non-financial information is available to the public for programs representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures.</p> <p>c. In practice, highly disaggregated non-financial information is available to the public for programs representing less than two-thirds of expenditures.</p> <p>d. In practice, no highly disaggregated non-financial expenditure information is available.</p> <p>e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Закон о слободном приступу информацијама од јавног значаја СГ РС 120 из 2004 (Law on free access to information of public interest, OG 120 from 2004).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> It is theoretically possible to obtain all such data using the Free access to information law, but in practice some institutions are not always ready to provide information in a lawful manner.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	b
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Section Three: The Budget Process

The Budget Process	
Executive's Formulation of the Budget	
<p>66. How far in advance of the release of the budget is the day of its release known?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The release date is set in permanent law. The executive announces the release date at least two months in advance. The executive announces the release date less than two months but more than two weeks in advance. The executive announces the release date two weeks or less before the release, or makes no announcement. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Закон о буџетском систему (Budget system law), OG RS no. 54/2009, www.parlament.sr.gov.yu, Article 31.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Legal deadlines are not always respected in practice.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	a

<p>67. Does the executive release to the public its timetable for preparation of the executive’s budget proposal (that is, a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the ministry of finance or what ever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget’s formulation)?</p> <p>a. Yes, a detailed timetable is released to the public. b. Yes, a timetable is released, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, a timetable is released, but it lacks important details. d. No, a timetable is not issued to the public. e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Закон о буџетском систему (Budget system law), OG RS no. 54/2009, www.parlament.gov.rs, Article 31.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Dates are not actually released to the public, but they are set in permanent law (Budget system law), which is available to the public (posted on the Internet and published in the Official Gazette).</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>68. Does the executive adhere to its timetable for the preparation and release of the budget?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The executive adheres to the dates in its timetable. The executive adheres to most of the key dates in its timetable. The executive has difficulty adhering to most of the dates in its timetable. The executive does not adhere to the dates in its timetable, or it does not release to the public its timetable. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Закон о буџетском систему (Budget system law), OG RS no. 54/2009, www.parlament.sr.gov.yu, Article 31.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Most instances where deadlines were not respected are linked to the final phase - the adoption of the draft by the Government. During 2008 and 2009, the Ministry of Finance sent instructions to the budget beneficiaries and prolonged the legal deadline for sending the financial plan proposals.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	C
<p>69. Does the executive hold consultations with members of the legislature as part of its process of determining budget priorities?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the executive holds extensive consultations with a wide range of legislators. Yes, the executive holds consultations with a range of legislators, but some key members are excluded. Yes, the executive holds very limited consultations, involving only a few members of the legislature. No, the executive does not typically consult with members of the legislature as part of the budget preparation process. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	d

<p>70. Does the executive hold consultations with the public as part of its process of determining budget priorities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the executive holds extensive consultations with a wide range of constituencies. b. Yes, the executive holds consultations with a range of constituencies, but some key constituencies are excluded. c. Yes, the executive holds very limited consultations, involving only a few constituencies. d. No, the executive does not typically consult with the public as part of the budget preparation process. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "d"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> A more appropriate answer to this question would be "c." Namely, the Law on Budget System stipulates that the government should organize public debate on financing priorities for the next year and two following years (by the 10th of April of BY-1 year). Although the government has not organized formal debates, various constituencies are enabled to share their opinion regarding this issue with the government.</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response:</u> I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "d." I chose my answer because the provision quoted by Peer Reviewer Two was not effective in observed period. It is a new provision in the Budget system law, in force since July 25th 2009, and never applied in practice. It is true that anyone may comment on the Budget Memorandum, but there is no duty for the government to answer these comments in any way.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>71. When does the executive release a pre-budget statement to the public?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The executive releases a pre-budget statement at least four months in advance of the start of the budget year. The executive releases a pre-budget statement at least two months (but less than four months) in advance of the start of the budget year. The executive releases a pre-budget statement, but it is released less than two months before the start of the budget year. The executive does not release a pre-budget statement. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Закон о буџетском систему (Budget system law), OG RS no. 54/2009, www.parlament.sr.gov.yu, Article 31.</p> <p>Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf</p> <p>Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is improvement in comparison to previous rounds in the practice of publishing the budget Memorandum.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	a
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<p>72. Does the pre-budget statement describe the government's macroeconomic and fiscal framework?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, an extensive explanation of the government's fiscal and macroeconomic policy is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key aspects of the fiscal and macroeconomic framework, but some details are excluded. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. No, an explanation is not presented, or the executive does not release to the public a pre-budget statement. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf</p> <p>Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009: http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>a</p>
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73. Does the pre-budget statement describe the government's policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

- a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the government's budget policies and priorities is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key aspects of the government's budget policies and priorities, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, an explanation is not presented, or the executive does not release to the public a pre-budget statement.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Меморандум о буџету и економској и фискалној политици за 2010 годину са пројекцијама за 2011 и 2012, 5. јун 2009:
http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20%20o%20budzetu%20i%20ekonomskoj%20i%20fiskalnoj%20politici%20za%202010.%20godinu%20sa%20projekcijama%20za%202011.%20i%202012.%20godinu_jun_2009.pdf

Memorandum on budget and economic and fiscal policy for the year 2010 with the projections for 2011 and 2012, June 5th 2009:
<http://www.mfin.gov.rs/download/pdf/dokumenti/Memorandum%20on%20the%20budget%20for%20the%20year%202010.pdf>

Comment:

The description of the Government's policies is presented. However, the budget consequences of some government policies and priorities are not elaborated upon in the Memorandum.

Researcher Response to this Question was "c"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "b."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" as originally suggested by the researcher.

C

Legislative Approval of the Budget	
<p>74. How far in advance of the start of the budget year does the legislature receive the budget?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The legislature receives the budget at least three months before the start of the budget year. The legislature receives the budget at least six weeks, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year. The legislature receives the budget less than six weeks before the start of the budget year. The legislature does not receive the budget before the start of the budget year. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Закон о буџетском систему (Budget system law), OG RS no. 54/2009, www.parlament.sr.gov.yu, Article 31.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> According to the Budget system law, the legislature receives the draft two months before the start of the budget year. However, the draft examined in this research was submitted less than one month before the beginning of the budget year.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	C

<p>75. Does a legislative committee (or committees) hold public hearings on the macroeconomic and fiscal framework presented in the budget in which testimony from the executive branch and the public is heard?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, public hearings are held on the macroeconomic and fiscal framework in which testimony is heard from the executive branch and a wide range of constituencies. b. Yes, hearings are held in which testimony is heard from the executive branch and some constituencies. c. Yes, hearings are held in which testimony from the executive branch is heard, but no testimony from the public is heard. d. No, public hearings are not held on the macroeconomic and fiscal framework in which testimony from the executive branch and the public is heard. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Finance Committee discusses the draft budget, including its macroeconomic and fiscal framework. The Executive's representatives may be invited to the sessions.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>76. Do legislative committees hold public hearings on the individual budgets of central government administrative units (that is, ministries, departments, and agencies) in which testimony from the executive branch is heard?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive public hearings are held on the budgets of administrative units in which testimony from the executive branch is heard. b. Yes, hearings are held, covering key administrative units, in which testimony from the executive branch is heard. c. Yes, a limited number of hearings are held in which testimony from the executive branch is heard. d. No, public hearings are not held on the budgets of administrative units in which testimony from the executive branch is heard. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "d"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> A more appropriate response to this question would be "c." Draft Budget is sent to all comities and the hearings are organized. For example there is a comity for agriculture and they organize a hearing, representative from Ministry of Agriculture is invited and they discuss about the Ministry of Agriculture.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>77. Does a legislative committee (or committees) hold public hearings on the individual budgets of central government administrative units (that is, ministries, departments, and agencies) in which testimony from the public is heard?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive public hearings are held on the budgets of administrative units in which testimony from the public is heard. b. Yes, hearings are held, covering key administrative units, in which testimony from the public is heard. c. Yes, a limited number of hearings are held in which testimony from the public is heard. d. No, public hearings are not held on the budgets of administrative units in which testimony from the public is heard. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "d"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> A more appropriate response to this question would be "c." Draft Budget is sent to all comities and the hearings are organized. For example there is a comity for agriculture and they organize a hearing, representative from Ministry of Agriculture is invited and they discuss about the Ministry of Agriculture. This is appropriate response to this question. There is a possibility to invite representatives of interested parties such as representatives of agriculture producers, Chamber of Commerce, representatives of Unions and other interested parties.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>78. Do the legislative committees that hold public hearings release reports to the public on these hearings?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the committees release very informative reports, which include all written testimony presented at the hearings. b. Yes, the committees release reports, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, the committees release reports, but they are not very informative. d. No, the committees do not release reports or do not hold public hearings. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> www.parlament.sr.gov.yu</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Very short reports from all the Finance Committee sessions are prepared and made available for the public, usually mentioning only the topic of the discussions and/or the result of voting (without minutes from the discussion). This makes such reports less than “not very informative” and closer to “no report at all.”</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>79. Is the legislature (or the appropriate legislative committee or members of the legislature) given full information for the budget year on the spending of all secret items relating to, for instance, national security and military intelligence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the appropriate legislative committee or members of the legislature is provided extensive information on all spending on secret items, which includes detailed, line item descriptions of all expenditures. b. No, the legislature is provided information on spending on secret items, but some details are excluded, or some categories are presented in an aggregated manner, or the legislature is provided no information on secret items. c. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Secret items are not explicitly mentioned in the budget as such, so discussion on the budget is not an occasion to discuss them. However, the Parliament and the Parliamentary committee for security issues have a certain control over the security services of the Executive and may ask for information about procurements made under a non-public procedure. Whether they do so is not known.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>b</p>
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<p>80. Does the legislature have authority <i>in law</i> to amend the budget presented by the executive?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the legislature has unlimited authority <i>in law</i> to amend the budget. Yes, the legislature has authority <i>in law</i> to amend the budget, with some limitations. Yes, the legislature has authority <i>in law</i> to amend the budget, but its authority is very limited. No, the legislature does not have any authority <i>in law</i> to amend the budget. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Устав Републике Србије (Constitution of the Republic of Serbia)</p> <p>Закон о буџетском систему (Budget system law): www.parlament.sr.gov.yu</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Parliament has the authority to amend any governmental draft. However, amendments made in the Parliament are limited because each amendment proposing an increase or a decrease of a certain expenditure or revenue must also contain information on what other expenditures or revenues will be affected by such a change in one way or another. The rationale of such a limitation is to keep the budget balanced if amendments are adopted.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>b</p>
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<p>81. What is the most detail provided in the appropriation (expenditure budget) approved by the legislature?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The approved budget includes program-level detail. The approved budget includes departmental totals and some additional details (for instance, sub-department totals or major programs). The approved budget includes only departmental totals. The approved budget includes less information than departmental totals or the approved budget is not released to the public. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Закон о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, децембар 2008: http://www.parlament.gov.rs/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=516&t=Z Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 2008</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Only part of the budget (less than 25%) includes program - level details.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	b
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Executive's Implementation of the Budget	
<p>82. How often does the executive release to the public in-year reports on actual expenditure (organized by administrative unit, economic classification and/or function)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In-year reports on actual expenditure are released at least every month. In-year reports on actual expenditure are released at least every quarter. In-year reports on actual expenditure are released at least semi-annually. In-year reports on actual expenditure are not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Билтен јавних финансија (месечне публикације): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/ Bulletin of Public Finances (monthly publications): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Bulletin is published on a monthly basis and posted on the Internet. However, before September 21st 2009, only 6 issues were realized in 2009.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "b"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> The proposed score is correct, technically, but the Public Finance Bulletin really is published pretty much monthly: bi-monthly bulletins are clearly the exception rather than the rule.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> A more appropriate response would be "a." Namely, the Ministry of Finance usually issues the Public Finance Bulletin on a monthly basis. In 2010 Public Finance Bulletins are late, but the Ministry of Finance publishes the aggregated data on expenditures (economic classification) each month on its website (http://mfin.gov.rs/src/14/). This breakdown is usually posted to the web page in the first week of the month and relates to the expenditures incurred from January until the previous month.</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> A more appropriate response to this question would be "a." Beside The Public Finance Bulletin, there is a section on the Ministry of Finance website called "Macroeconomic Data." This section includes a table of budget expenditures, by economic classification. The table is published monthly, within 5 days after the end of the month to which data relate.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response:</u> I suggest the answer should be changed as suggested by Peer Reviewer Two, to "a." I chose my answer because the Public Finance Bulletin is regularly published on a monthly basis. The situation in the observed period was exceptional.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "a" as suggested by Peer Reviewer Two and the Government.</p>	a

<p>83. What share of expenditure is covered by in-year reports on actual expenditure (organized by administrative unit, economic classification and/or function)?</p> <p>a. Yes, in-year reports cover all expenditures. b. Yes, in-year reports cover at least two-thirds, but not all, of expenditures. c. Yes, in-year reports cover less than two-thirds of expenditures. d. No in-year reports are released to the public. e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Билтен јавних финансија (месечне публикације): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/ Bulletin of Public Finances (monthly publications): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Expenditures are organized by economic classification. It is not clear whether budget organizations' own revenues and grant-funded expenditures are captured in in-year reports.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	b
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<p>84. What is the most detail provided in the in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by <i>administrative unit</i>?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by administrative unit contain program-level detail. The in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by administrative unit contain departmental totals and some additional details (for instance, sub-department totals or major programs). The in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by administrative unit contain only departmental totals. The in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by administrative unit are not released to the public, not produced, or contain less information than departmental totals. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Билтен јавних финансија (месечне публикације): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/ Bulletin of Public Finances (monthly publications): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> In-year reports on expenditures are based on economic classification, not administrative units. Administrative units do have the legal duty, according to the Law on free access to information and the Commissioner's Rulebook, to prepare and post on the internet an Informative directory and to make data on current expenditure accurate on a monthly basis. However, only a small portion of administrative units fully respect that duty.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>85. Do the in-year reports released to the public compare actual year-to-date expenditure with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, comparisons are made for all expenditures. Yes, comparisons are made for at least two-thirds, but not all, of expenditures. Yes, but comparisons are made for less than two-thirds of expenditures. No, comparisons are not made, or no in-year reports are released to the public. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Билтен јавних финансија (месечне публикације): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/ Bulletin of Public Finances (monthly publications): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Instead of comparisons, reports are providing an overview of expenditures (budget execution, economic classification) on a monthly basis, for the most recent period and several years in the past. So, on the basis of data presented in such way, anyone can easily make comparisons over time, e.g. calculate percentage of increase or decrease.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>a</p>
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86. How often does the executive release to the public in-year reports on actual revenue collections by source of revenue?
- a. In-year reports on actual revenue collections by source of revenue are released at least every month.
 - b. In-year reports on actual revenue collections are released at least every quarter.
 - c. In-year reports on actual revenue collections are released at least semi-annually.
 - d. In-year reports on actual revenue collections by source of revenue are not released.
 - e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation and/or comment:

Билтен јавних финансија (месечне публикације):

<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/>

Bulletin of Public Finances (monthly publications):

<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/>

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: A more appropriate response would be "a." Namely, the Ministry of Finance usually issues the Public Finance Bulletin on a monthly basis. In 2010 Public Finance Bulletins are late, but the Ministry of Finance publishes the aggregated data on actual revenue collections (by source of revenue) each month on its internet site (<http://mfin.gov.rs/src/14/>). This breakdown is usually posted to the web page in the first week of the month and relates to the revenues collected from January until the previous month.

Government Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "a." Beside The Public Finance Bulletin, there is a section on Ministry of Finance Web Page called "Macroeconomic Data." This section includes table of budget revenues and expenditures, by economic classification. The table is published monthly, within 5 days after the end of month to which data relate.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should be changed as suggested by Peer Reviewer Two to "a." I chose my answer because MF Bulletins are regularly published on a monthly basis. The situation in the observed period was an exception.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "a" as suggested by Peer Reviewer Two and the Government.

a

<p>87. What share of revenue is covered by the in-year reports on actual revenue collections?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In-year reports cover the actual revenue collections of all sources of revenue. b. In-year reports cover the actual revenue collections of at least two-thirds of, but not all, sources of revenue. c. In-year reports cover actual revenue collections of less than two-thirds of revenue sources. d. In-year reports on actual revenue collections are not released to the public. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Билтен јавних финансија (месечне публикације): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/ Bulletin of Public Finances (monthly publications): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Some revenues, including budget organization's own revenues and some grants, are only captured in annual accounts.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	b
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<p>88. Do the in-year reports released to the public compare actual year-to-date revenue collections with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, comparisons are made for all revenue sources. Yes, comparisons are made for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue sources. Yes, but comparisons are made for less than two-thirds of revenue sources. No, comparisons are not made, or no in-year reports are released to the public. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Билтен јавних финансија (месечне публикације): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/ Bulletin of Public Finances (monthly publications): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> A small portion of revenue sources is not listed individually.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	b
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<p>89. Does the executive release to the public in-year reports on actual borrowing?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, in-year reports on actual borrowing are released at least every month. b. Yes, in-year reports on actual borrowing are released at least every quarter. c. Yes, in-year reports on actual borrowing are released at least semi-annually. d. No, in-year reports on actual borrowing are not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Билтен јавних финансија (месечне публикације): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/ Bulletin of Public Finances (monthly publications): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	b
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<p>90. Do in-year reports released to the public on actual borrowing present information related to the composition of government debt (such as interest rates on the debt, maturity profile of the debt, and currency denomination of the debt) for the budget year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive information related to the composition of government debt is presented. Yes, key additional information is presented, but some details are excluded. Yes, some additional information is presented, but it lacks important details. No, additional information related to the composition of government debt is not presented, or such in-year reports on borrowing are not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Билтен јавних финансија (месечне публикације): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/ Bulletin of Public Finances (monthly publications): http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Bulletin presents the name of the borrower, the amount of debt, the contracting date and the actual amount of debt at the moment of publishing in EUR and USD.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>b</p>
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91. For in-year reports on actual expenditure released to the public by the executive, how much time typically elapses between the end of the reporting period and when the report is released (e.g., are quarterly reports released less than 4 weeks after the end of the quarter)?
- Reports are released 1 month or less after the end of the period.
 - Reports are released 2 months or less (but more than 1 month) after the end of the period.
 - Reports are released more than 2 months after the end of the period.
 - In-year reports are not released.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Билтен јавних финансија (месечне публикације):
<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/src/83/>
 Bulletin of Public Finances (monthly publications):
<http://www.mfin.sr.gov.yu/eng/83/>

Comment:

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: A more appropriate response to this question may be "c." It does not appear that the final in-year report considered within the present framework of BY 2009 (Dec. 2008) was issued within two months of the end of the year, but this is difficult to determine with certainty. The document creation date is 27.3.2009, but if other evidence was available, it would help decide the appropriate response.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "a."

Government Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "a." Beside The Public Finance Bulletin, there is a section on Ministry of Finance Web Page called "Macroeconomic Data." This section includes table of budget revenues and expenditures, by economic classification. The table is published monthly, within 5 days after the end of month to which data relate.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "b." I chose my answer because information presented in MF bulletins is usually two months old. See for example, bulletin for April 2009, created on June 30th.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" as originally suggested by the researcher.

b

<p>92. Does the executive release to the public a mid-year review of the budget that discusses the changes in economic outlook since the budget was enacted?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the mid-year review includes an extensive discussion of the economy that includes a revised forecast for the full fiscal year and its effects on the budget. b. Yes, the mid-year review includes a discussion of the economy, but it lacks some details. c. Yes, the mid-year review includes a discussion of the economy, but it lacks important details. d. No, the mid-year review does not include a discussion of the economy, or the executive does not release a mid-year review of the budget. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "d"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> I agree. However, according to the Law on Budget System, mid-year reports should be presented.</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response:</u> I chose my answer because the concept of mid-year reports is novel in the Budget system law, in force since late July 2009.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>93. Does the executive release to the public a mid-year review of the budget that includes updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated expenditure estimates for the full fiscal year, providing extensive information on why estimates have changed from the original enacted levels. b. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated estimates of expenditure, but some details on why estimates have changed are not provided. c. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated estimates of expenditure, but important details on why estimates have changed are not provided. d. No, the mid-year review does not include updated expenditure estimates for the budget year, or the executive does not release a mid-year review of the budget. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	d
<p>94. What is the most detail provided in the mid-year review for expenditures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The mid-year review includes program-level detail for expenditures. b. The mid-year review includes departmental totals (or functional totals) and some additional details (for instance, sub-department totals or major programs). c. The mid-year review includes only departmental totals (or functional totals). d. The mid-year review includes less information than departmental totals (or functional totals) for expenditures, or the executive does not release a mid-year review of the budget. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	d

<p>95. Does the executive release to the public a mid-year review of the budget that includes updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated revenue estimates for the full fiscal year, providing extensive information on why estimates have changed from the original enacted levels. b. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated estimates of revenue, but some details on why estimates have changed are not provided. c. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated estimates of revenue, but important details on why estimates have changed are not provided. d. No, the mid-year review does not include updated revenue estimates for the budget year, or the executive does not release a mid-year review of the budget. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>96. Does the executive seek input from the legislature when the executive shifts funds between administrative units (except when the amounts are below a certain <i>minimal</i> level specified in law or regulation)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the executive seeks approval from the legislature before shifting funds between administrative units. Yes, the executive gives prior notification to the legislature before shifting funds, giving the legislature an opportunity to block or modify the proposed adjustment. Yes, the executive seeks legislative approval, but only after the shift of funds has been implemented. No, the executive shifts funds between administrative units without seeking input from the legislature, or the amount allowed under the law or by regulation is significantly large enough to undermine public scrutiny and accountability (please describe arrangements below). Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Закон о буџетском систему (Budget system law), OG RS no. 54/2009, www.parlament.sr.gov.yu</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Executive may not shift funds before the approval of the Parliament.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	a
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<p>97. During the past year, have there been credible reported instances in which the procurement of goods and services has not followed an open and competitive process in practice?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There were no credible reported instances of procurement failing to follow an open and competitive process in practice during the past year. The procurement of goods and services frequently followed an open and competitive process in practice, but there were some reported instances of irregularities. The procurement of goods and service followed an open and competitive process in many instances, but there were significant reported examples of irregularities. No, the procurement process was not open and competitive in practice. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Управа за јавне набавке - Извештај о додељеним уговорима у јавним набавкама у 2008 (Public procurement directorate / Report on contracts awarded during 2008): http://www.ujn.gov.rs/Attachments/Izvestaj_o_dodeljenim_ugovorima_o_javnim_nabavkama.zip</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>b</p>
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<p>98. When does the legislature typically approve supplemental budgets?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Supplemental budgets are approved before the funds are expended, or the executive rarely proposes a supplemental budget (please specify). b. Supplemental budgets are approved after the funds are expended, or the executive implements supplemental budgets without ever receiving approval from the legislature (please specify). c. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Supplemental budgets are almost the rule (they occur every year). Every change in the budget law must be approved in advance by the Parliament, and this happens during the budget year. There is also a practice to approve ex post, through supplemental budget, some expenditure made by the Government, but on the basis of general authorization of the Parliament. For example, Parliament approves only the amount of funds to be spent through the National investment plan. Government makes decision later about projects to be financed. Supplemental budget contains more detailed information, including funds for all approved projects and administrative units using such funds.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>a</p>
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99. In most years, how large are supplemental budget requests relative to the size of the original budget?

- a. Supplemental budgets are generally equal to 2 percent or less of the original budget.
- b. Supplemental budgets are generally equal to more than 2 percent, but less than 5 percent, of the original budget.
- c. Supplemental budget are generally equal to more than 5 percent, but less than 10 percent, of the original budget.
- d. Supplemental budget are generally equal to 10 percent or more of the original budget, or insufficient information is available to the public regarding the amount of supplemental budgets.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Закон о буџету Републике Србије за 2009, децембар 2008,
http://www.parlament.sr.gov.yu/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=516&t=Z

Law on the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2009, December 2008

Comment:

The level of the supplemental budget depends mostly on how well the inflation rate is estimated in the basic budget (in Serbia the inflation rate in recent years was often above 10 percent).

C

Researcher Response to this Question was "c"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "b." Total expenditure and net lending in 2009. Original Budget amounted 748,7 bln of RSD. Total expenditure and net lending in 2009 Supplementary Budget amounted 719,9 Bln of RSD. The difference between Original and Supplementary Budget was -3,8%. Total expenditure and net lending in 2009 Supplementary Budget were 3,8 % lower than in Original Budget for 2009.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" as originally suggested by the researcher.

100. When does the legislature approve the expenditure of contingency funds or other funds for which no specific purpose was identified in the budget?

- a. Expenditures are approved before the funds are expended, or contingency funds or other funds with no specific purposes are not included in the budget.
- b. Expenditures are approved after the funds are expended, but before the end of the fiscal year.
- c. Expenditures are approved after the end of the fiscal year, for example in the next budget.
- d. Such expenditure takes place without legislative approval.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Закон о буџетском систему (Budget system law), Министарство финансија (Ministry of Finance) www.mfin.sr.gov.yu

Comment:

There are two types of contingency funds, one that is aimed to cover expenditures in cases of various extraordinary situations (like earthquakes) and another one aimed at covering the unpredicted expenditures of budget users or expenditures of budget users established during the budget year. After the level of such funds is approved by the Parliament, the Executive may use them discretionarily.

In the case that a supplemental budget is proposed, the Parliament approves the Executive's use of contingency funds ex-post (before the end of the fiscal year). As supplemental budgets are almost the rule, it seems that answer "b" is most appropriate.

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This is appropriate response to this question.

b

Executive's Year-end Report and the Supreme Audit Institution	
<p>101. How long after the end of the budget year does the executive release to the public a year-end report that discusses the budget's actual outcome for the year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The report is released six months or less after the end of the fiscal year. b. The report is released 12 months or less (but more than six months) after the end of the fiscal year. c. The report is released more than 12 months after the end of the fiscal year. d. The executive does not release a year-end report. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Закон о буџетском систему (Budget system law), OG RS no. 54/2009, www.parlament.sr.gov.yu, Article 78.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The legal deadline is 7.5 months and Government usually respects it.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	b

<p>102. In the year-end report have the data on the actual outcomes been audited?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, all data on actual outcomes have been audited. b. At least two-thirds, but not all, of the data on actual outcomes have been audited. c. Less than two-thirds of the data on actual outcomes have been audited. d. None of the data on actual outcomes has been audited, or a year-end report is not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Although there is a legal duty to audit data, the Supreme Audit Institution presented its first audit report (for year 2008) in November 2009. Because of that, this audit report is not considered in this research.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "d"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> The first audit report ever was published at the end of November 2009 and refers to the 2008 budget.</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>103. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for expenditures?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог закона о завршном рачуну буџета Републике Србије за 2008 Draft Final Account of the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2008: http://www.parlament.sr.gov.yu/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=966&t=P</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> All figures are presented, but explanation of variance is poor.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "c"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> The actual outcome of expenditures is within the enacted level or less and there is no explanation for such outcome.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "c" as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	C
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<p>104. What level of detail is the focus of the explanation of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for expenditures presented in the year-end report?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The explanation of the differences between the enacted expenditure levels and the actual outcome focuses on the program level. The explanation focuses on departmental totals (or functional totals) or some lower level of detail (but not the program level in all cases). The explanation focuses on a higher level of aggregation than departmental totals (or functional totals). No explanation of the differences is provided, or such a report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог закона о завршном рачуну буџета Републике Србије за 2008 Draft Final Account of the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2008: http://www.parlament.sr.gov.yu/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=966&t=P</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was “b”</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> A more appropriate response to this question would be “e.” There is no legal obligation for submitting an explanation for such differences.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer “b” as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>b</p>
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<p>105. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for revenues?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог закона о завршном рачуну буџета Републике Србије за 2008 Draft Final Account of the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2008: http://www.parlament.sr.gov.yu/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=966&t=P</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The figures are presented, but the explanation is rather poor.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>106. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог закона о завршном рачуну буџета Републике Србије за 2008 Draft Final Account of the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2008: http://www.parlament.sr.gov.yu/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=966&t=P</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was “d”</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> A more appropriate response to this question would be “c.”</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer “d” as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>107. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the original estimates of non-financial data and the actual outcome?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог закона о завршном рачуну буџета Републике Србије за 2008 Draft Final Account of the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2008: http://www.parlament.sr.gov.yu/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=966&t=P</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was “d”</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> A more appropriate response to this question would be “e.” There is no legal obligation for the report that explains the difference between the original estimates of non-financial data and the actual outcome.</p> <p><u>BP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer “d” as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>d</p>
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108. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the original performance indicators and the actual outcome?

- a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Предлог закона о завршном рачуну буџета Републике Србије за 2008
Draft Final Account of the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2008:
http://www.parlament.sr.gov.yu/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=966&t=P

Comment:

Researcher Response to this Question was "d"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "e." There is no legal obligation for the report that explains the difference between the original performance indicators and the actual outcome.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.

d

<p>109. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the enacted level of funds intended to benefit directly the country's most impoverished populations and the actual outcome?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог закона о завршном рачуну буџета Републике Србије за 2008 Draft Final Account of the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2008: http://www.parlament.sr.gov.yu/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=966&t=P</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	d
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<p>110. Does the year-end report present the actual outcome for extra-budgetary funds?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive information on the actual outcome for extra-budgetary funds is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key issues, but some details are excluded. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. No, information is not presented on extra-budgetary funds, or such a report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Предлог закона о завршном рачуну буџета Републике Србије за 2008 Draft Final Account of the budget of the Republic of Serbia for 2008: http://www.parlament.sr.gov.yu/content/cir/akta/akta_detalji.asp?Id=966&t=P</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Only numeric values are presented on the actual outcome for extra-budgetary funds, disaggregated at the administrative-unit level.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	C
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The Independence and Performance of the Supreme Audit Institution	
<p>111. How long after the end of the fiscal year are the final annual expenditures of national departments audited and (except for secret programs) released to the public?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Final audited accounts are released to the public six months or less after the end of the fiscal year. b. Final audited accounts are released 12 months or less (but more than six months) after the end of the fiscal year. c. Final audit accounts are released more than 12 months, but within 24 months of the end of the fiscal year. d. Final audited accounts are not completed within 24 months after the end of the fiscal year or they are not released to the public. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Supreme Audit Institution presented its first audit report (for year 2008) in November 2009. Because of that, this audit report is not considered in this research.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "d"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> The first audit report ever was published at the end of November 2009 and refers to the 2008 budget.</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	d

<p>112. Two years after the completion of a fiscal year, what percentage of annual expenditures has been audited and (except for secret programs) the report(s) released to the public?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All expenditures have been audited and the reports released to the public. b. Expenditures representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditure have been audited. c. Expenditure representing less than two-thirds of expenditure have been audited. d. No expenditures have been audited, the reports have not been released to the public, or was released more than 24 months after the end of the fiscal year. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Supreme Audit Institution presented its first audit report (for year 2008) in November 2009. Because of that, this audit report is not considered in this research.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "d"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> The first audit report ever was published at the end of November 2009 and refers to the 2008 budget. The Supreme Audit Institution will now audit the 2009 budget. Therefore, a different answer will be possible in the next round of OBI.</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>113. Does the annual audit report(s) that is released to the public include an executive summary?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The annual audit report(s) includes one or more executive summaries summarizing the report's content. No, the audit report(s) does not include an executive summary, or such reports are not released to the public, or was released more than 24 months after the end of the fiscal year. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Supreme Audit Institution presented its first audit report (for year 2008) in November 2009. Because of that, this audit report is not considered in this research.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	b
<p>114. Must a branch of government other than the executive (such as the legislature or the judiciary) give final consent before the head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) can be removed from office?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before they are removed. No, the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Law on Supreme Audit Institution, OG RS no. 101/2005, Article 23</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The initiative to remove the head of the SAI may come from the SAI Council or 20 MPs. It must be further discussed by the parliamentary committee. On proposal of that committee, the parliament may vote for a removal decision with an absolute majority of MPs.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	a

<p>115. Does the Supreme Audit Institution release to the public audits of extra-budgetary funds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Yes, the SAI releases to the public audits of all extra-budgetary funds.b. Yes, the SAI releases audits representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, extra-budgetary funds.c. Yes, the SAI releases audits representing less than two-thirds of all extra-budgetary funds.d. No, the SAI does not release to the public audits of extra-budgetary funds, or it does not audit such funds, or such a report was released more than 24 months after the end of the fiscal year.e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Supreme Audit Institution presented its first audit report (for year 2008) in November 2009. Because of that, this audit report is not considered in this research.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>116. Beyond the established year-end attestation audits, does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) have <i>the discretion in law</i> to undertake those audits it may wish to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The SAI has full discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake. b. The SAI has significant discretion, but faces some limitations. c. The SAI has some discretion, but faces considerable limitations. d. The SAI has no discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Law on Supreme Audit Institution, OG RS no. 101/2005, Article 35</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The SAI has discretion in law to undertake any audit, but has to include in its annual plan some legally pre-defined activities. As the amount of such pre-defined jobs is high, the SAI may face lack of capacity to perform non-planned audits.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>117. Who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The budget of the SAI is determined by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. b. The budget of the SAI is determined by the executive, and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. c. The budget of the SAI is determined by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. d. The budget of the SAI is determined by the executive, but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The amount of funds envisaged for the SAI in the draft budget for year 2009 was 193 million RSD (more than 2 million EUR). Although such budget is not high, it is enough for the current number of employees. The main problem for the SAI is lack of appropriate premises to work in.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>118. Does the Supreme Audit Institution employ designated staff for undertaking audits of the central government agencies pertaining to the security sector (military, police, intelligence services)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The SAI employs designated staff, and the staffing levels are broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. b. The SAI employs designated staff, but the staffing levels are a cause of some constraints to the SAI in fulfilling its mandate. c. The SAI employs designated staff, but the staffing levels pose a significant constraint on the SAI in fulfilling its mandate. d. The SAI does not employ designated staff for auditing of the security sector, or does not undertake audits of the security sector. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The SAI may perform audits even in the security sector, but it has not until now.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>119. Does the Supreme Audit Institution maintain formal mechanisms of communication with the public to receive complaints and suggestions to assist it in determining its audit program (that is, to identify the agencies, programs, or projects it will audit)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the SAI maintains mechanisms of communication with the public, and received more than 100 communications from the public during the past year. b. Yes, the SAI maintains mechanisms of communication with the public, and received less than 100 but more than ten communications from the public during the past year. c. Yes, the SAI maintains mechanisms of communication with the public but it receives very little (less than ten) or no information from the public on potential subjects for audit. d. No, the SAI does not maintain any formal mechanisms of communication with the public. e. Not applicable. <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Members of the public are free to submit such proposals, but there is no information published about the number of such initiatives.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	d
<p>120. Does a committee of the legislature view and scrutinize the audit reports?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, all audit reports are scrutinized. b. Yes, most audit reports are scrutinized. c. Yes, some audit reports are scrutinized. d. No, audit reports are not scrutinized. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is such a committee described in the law, but there was no audit report until now.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	d

<p>121. Does the executive make available to the public a report on what steps it has taken to address audit recommendations or findings that indicate a need for remedial action?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the executive reports publicly on what steps it has taken to address audit findings. b. Yes, the executive reports publicly on most audit findings. c. Yes, the executive reports publicly on some audit findings. d. No, the executive does not report on steps it has taken to address audit findings. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	d
<p>122. Does either the Supreme Audit Institution or the legislature release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, a comprehensive report is released regularly that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations. b. Yes, a report is released, covering key audit recommendations, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, a report is released, but it lacks important details. d. No, a report is not produced or it is prepared for internal purposes only (please specify). e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> No such report until now.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	d

<p>123. Are audit reports of the annual accounts of the security sector (military, police, intelligence services) and other secret programs provided to the legislature (or relevant committee)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, legislators are provided with detailed audit reports related to the security sector and other secret programs. b. Yes, legislators are provided audit reports on secret items, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, legislators are provided audit reports on secret items, but they lack important details. d. No, legislators are not provided audit reports on secret items, or secret programs are not audited (please specify). e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> No such reports.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> This is appropriate response to this question.</p>	<p>d</p>
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