

## Collaborating to Build More Equitable and Inclusive Societies: Civil Society Budget Work in Europe

April 5-6, 2018 | Amsterdam  
Meeting Session Overview

### The Role of European Civil Society in Public Budgets

Over the past 20 years, there has been a dramatic growth in the role and capacity of civil society to provide oversight and influence over the collection and expenditure of public funds through government budgets and broader fiscal processes. This panel looked broadly at how civil society participates in and influences budget priorities.

#### Moderator:

- Jean Ross, consultant to the International Budget Partnership

#### Panelists:

- Paul Maassen, Open Government Partnership
- Elisabeth Klatzer, Femmes Fiscal (Austria)
- Marjan Nikolov, Center for Economic Analysis (Macedonia)
- Rodrigo Blanco Quesada, Ganemos Cordoba (Spain)

#### Discussion questions:

- What challenges and opportunities does the current social, political, and economic context pose for civil society organizations that seek to influence domestic policy priorities? How does this vary across Europe?
- What are your long-term goals and how does budget work help you achieve them?
- How is your national context similar to/different than that of the panelists? What does this imply?
- How does a focus on budgets strengthen your organization's advocacy work and that of your civil society partners?
- Are there areas where collaboration across countries would strengthen your work or issues that are best addressed through coordination at the EU or other for a

## Budget Priorities and Citizen Advocacy

This panel discussed how civil society engages with governments to influence spending fiscal policy priorities, with a focus on the use of research and policy advocacy to inform budget debates and shape the context of public dialogue.

### Moderator:

- Michael Lipsky, International Budget Partnership

### Panelists:

- Katarina Ott, Institute for Public Finance (Croatia)
- Sean Healey, Social Justice Ireland
- Chye-Ching Huang, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (U.S.)

### Discussion questions:

- What is your organization's overall strategy/vision? How do you use budget analysis and advocacy to achieve that goal?
- What contextual factors shape your choice of strategies and tactics?
- What are the greatest challenges you face? Are there particular opportunities?
- Are there specific capacity or organizational gaps that limit your impact?

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## Citizen Participation and Budget Accountability

This panel explored how citizens mobilize to influence public decision-making around budgets, how they monitor public spending, and how they engage to hold governments accountable.

### Moderator:

- Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, Hertie School of Governance (Germany)

### Panelists:

- Duccio Zola, Sbilanciamoci (Italy)
- Jo Bothmer, Netherlands Anti-Poverty Network
- Giovanni Allegretti, Centre for Social Studies, Coimbra University (Portugal)

**Discussion questions:**

- What strategies and messages has your organization used to engage a broader public around budgets? What are the issues that have mobilized people?
  - How has this engagement been sustained? Or has it?
  - What issues are important, but challenging, to engage the public?
  - How does the context in your country encourage/discourage public engagement?
  - How does public engagement promote greater impact?
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## Moving Forward and Next Steps

**Moderator:**

- Aideen Gilmore, International Budget Partnership

**Discussion questions:**

- What did you hear at this meeting that has been of particular interest?
- Is there anything that you've learned that you'd like to take forward collaboratively? Within your own organization?
- Are there common themes where coordinated work across Europe could strengthen country-based work? What might this look like? Is there any role for collaborative advocacy? Are there areas where joint research/action might be useful?
- What might be the role or value of increased networking/collaboration across Europe? What might be the challenges? How would this benefit your work at domestic level?
- Are there any next steps that we should take forward together? Who would need to do what for these to happen?

## Meeting Participants

**Giovanni Allegretti** is an architect, planner, and senior researcher at the [Centre of Social Studies](#) at Coimbra University; is a visiting fellow at the Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg; and is a member of the Institute for Democracy and Democratization of Communication at the University of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Giovanni has worked on Participatory Budgeting and Planning (topics on which he has published more than 100 articles and book chapters) for the World Bank, the Council of Europe, United Cities and Local Governments, and the Swedish Association of Local Authorities.

**Rodrigo Blanca** is a researcher and is the Coordinator of Education for Sustainable Development Programs at International Cooperation Area, University of Cordoba and is currently an activist, political adviser, and coordinator of [Ganemos Córdoba](#) Political Representatives Group at the Cordoba City Council in Spain.

**Jo Bothmer** is the co-founder of several self-organizations of the unemployed, poor, and excluded. He is affiliated with the [European Anti-Poverty Network](#), the largest European network of national, regional, and local networks; NGOs; and grassroots groups active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion, and its Netherlands member, [European Anti-Poverty Network Netherlands](#). Jo is involved in starting and implementing client participation processes in the Netherlands and in the dissemination of a local poverty policy that has been adopted by all of the municipalities in the Netherlands.

**Romana Brait** works as an economist in the Department for Economics and Statistics within the [Austrian Chamber of Labour](#). Her research focuses on budgetary issues, economics of welfare states, feminist economics, and the limitations of capitalist production.

**Olga Budnyk** is the executive director of the NGO [Center for Political Studies and Analysis](#) (Eidos) in the Ukraine. Eidos is a leader in the use of open data to track public expenditures, works to build the institutional capacity of governments at the national and local levels to implement reforms, and actively educates activists, civil servants, and policymakers to strengthen public discourse and promote local democracy.

**Gabriella Civico** works closely with the European Volunteer Centre (CEV), a European network of over 60 organizations dedicated to volunteers and volunteering at the European, national, and regional levels, working together to promote and support volunteering through advocacy, knowledge sharing and capacity building, and training. CEV is a member of [Civil Society Europe](#), the coordinating body for European Civil Society Networks. Gabriella is a member of the organization's steering committee, providing strategic leadership and expertise, particularly in the field of active citizen participation.

**Daniel Dietrich** works as Senior Program Manager on open contracting at the [Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries](#) Open Society, Transparency, and Accountability program. Over the last decade, Daniel has worked extensively with civil society organizations to empower people and communities making smart and static use of data for evidence-based advocacy. Daniel has authored several studies on open government, open data, and civic tech and has co-organized major international conferences on related topics. He is a member of the advisory board of Open Knowledge International and a co-founder and member of the board of the German Chapter. He is co-founder and a member of the steering committee of the International Civic Tech Network Code for All, as well as a steering committee member of the Open Data Working Group of the Open Government Partnership and steward of the International Open Data Charter.

**Ruud Fiere** is an independent project developer of social initiatives and is currently a developer at the [Center for Budget Monitoring and Civic Participation](#) in Amsterdam where civic initiatives and organizations gain insight and knowledge on public-policy making and government expenditures.

**Ernesto Ganuza** is a scientist at the [Spanish Research Council](#) and has worked extensively on participatory budgeting, advising different municipalities in Spain and Latin America on its implementation. He recently published a book about it: *Popular Democracy: The Paradox of Participation* (Stanford University Press, 2017 with Gianpaolo Baiocchi). His current interest lies in the difficulties of democratization in contemporary political spaces.

**Aideen Gilmore** joined the [International Budget Partnership](#) in February 2016 and is based in Washington, D.C. As Senior Program Officer, Aideen contributes to the Training, Technical Assistance & Networking team’s efforts to build CSO capacity to perform analysis of and advocacy on public finance and fiscal justice issues.

**Miguel Gorospe** has been a member of the board of Spanish Alliance Against Poverty since 2005. Between 2009 and 2012, he collaborated in mobilization with Amnesty International and he is currently the coordinator of the [Spanish Tax Justice Platform](#).

**Jesse Griffiths** is the director of [Eurodad](#), a network of 46 civil society organizations from 19 European countries, which works for transformative yet specific changes to global and European policies, institutions, rules, and structures to ensure a democratically controlled, environmentally sustainable financial and economic system that works to eradicate poverty and ensure human rights for all.

**Dr. Seán Healy** is an Irishman and CEO of the think-tank and justice advocacy organization [Social Justice Ireland](#). For more than 25 years, he has been active on issues of socio-economic policy and with his co-director Brigid Reynolds, he has written or edited more than 40 books on public policy. Their most recent book is *Social Justice Matters*, published April 2018. The most recent book they have edited, *Basic Income: Radical Utopia or Practical Solution?* was published in November 2016.

**Susan Himmelweit** was the founding Chair of the [UK Women's Budget Group](#), a think tank that analyses the gender impact of government policy and remains an active member and coordinator of its Policy Advisory Group. She has been on various advisory bodies, including for the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission as a member of its expert groups on “Working Better,” “Making Fair Financial Decisions” and “Cumulative Equality Impact Assessment.” Her latest book is *Economics and Austerity in Europe: Gendered Impacts and Sustainable Alternatives* co-edited with Hannah Bargawi and Giovanni Cozzi and published by Routledge (2016). She is also author of a chapter in the recently published *Gender Budgeting in Europe, Developments and Challenges* (eds. Angela O'Hagan and Elisabeth Klatzer), Palgrave 2018.



**Chye-Ching Huang** is Deputy Director of Federal Tax Policy with the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)' Federal Fiscal Policy Team, where she focuses on the fiscal and economic effects of federal tax policy in the U.S. She first joined the Center in 2008 as a Fulbright Sir Wallace Rowling Memorial Fellow. Chye-Ching previously worked on economic policy issues at the New Zealand Institute, and has also practiced as a tax solicitor.

**Zoran Ivancic** is founder and is the Chair of the [Public Interest Advocacy Center](#) (Fondacija CPI) in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Herzegovina. Zoran is a member of several formal and ad hoc coalitions in Bosnia and the SEE region on a wide range of topics including: energy, environment, constitutional reform, EU accession, equality, whistleblower protection, and government openness and accountability.

**Elisabeth Klatzer** is an economist and is active as a researcher, activist, and consultant with many years of experience in budget and economic policy, feminist economics, and gender budgeting. She is a co-founder of the European Gender Budgeting Network and [Femmes Fiscales](#), a civil society network in Austria that is committed to gender budgeting and tax policy.

**Warren Krafchik** is the Executive Director of the [International Budget Partnership](#) (IBP), where for 17 years he has led IBP's work to support and collaborate with civil society organizations in Africa, Latin America, and Asia to ensure governments are held accountable as stewards of public resources. IBP works with independent organizations in over 100 countries by providing financial assistance, training, and technical support and designing collaborative research and networking programs. In addition to directing IBP, Krafchik is also a founder and steering committee member of the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency, and he was a founding co-chair of the Open Government Partnership.

**Michael Lipsky** recently retired as a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Demos, a public policy and advocacy organization based in New York. Before joining Demos in 2003, he served for twelve years as a Senior Program Officer at the Ford Foundation, making grants in the area of government transparency and accountability. At Ford he helped initiate the State Priorities Partnership, now a network of 43 state-based organizations committed to increasing transparency and accountability in fiscal policy in the American states. He also helped start and is now the chair of the board of the [International Budget Partnership](#), an organization dedicated to deepening democracy around the world through citizen action on nations' budget and revenue data.

**Donal Mac Fhearraigh** is a program officer at the [Open Society Initiative for Europe](#), where he leads the portfolio on countering state and regulatory capture and is also involved in developing grant making strategies on community organizing.

**Paul Maassen** started working with the [Open Government Partnership](#) (OGP) in June 2012. He is the Chief Country Support, overseeing all support to in-country stakeholders, most notably governments and civil society. Previously, he was OGP's Director for Civil Society Engagement, a program that has its origins in the team of independent civil society coordinators that merged with the Support Unit in 2014. The team aims to broaden and deepen civil society engagement in OGP. In practice this means making sure that civil society across the globe understands the basics and potential of OGP and is supported in using it to realize the reforms for which they are advocating.

**Alina Mungiu-Pippidi** chairs the [European Research Centre for Anti-corruption and State-Building](#) (ERCAS) at Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. She is the principal investigator of a 2015 EU Dutch Presidency report on [trust and public integrity in EU-28](#) and the designer of the [public integrity index](#). She consults for the World Bank and various EU institutions. Her corruption theory was published in [various journal articles](#), most notably as 'Becoming Denmark: How Societies Build Control of Corruption' (Social Research, 2014) and 'Corruption: Good Governance Needed to Power Innovation' (Nature, 2015) and at greater length in a 2015 Cambridge University Press book [A Quest for Good Governance](#). For many years she has been the leader of the civil society anticorruption coalitions in Romania and her good governance collective action designs were replicated in the Balkans, Ukraine, and Latin America.

**Scherie Nicol** is a Policy Analyst at the [Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development of the OECD](#). In this role, she recently co-authored various reports at the OECD themed in budgeting and fiscal oversight, such as “OECD Review of Budget Oversight by Parliament: Ireland,” “Gender Budgeting in OECD Countries” (2017) and “OECD Review of the Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility” (2017).

**Marjan Nikolov** is President and a co-founder of the independent think tank [Center for Economic Analyses](#) (CEA) in Skopje, an economic research center with a vision of the Republic of Macedonia as a new European emerging economy integrated with regional and global markets. CEA’s mission is to continuously research economic development and public policies and to offer recommendations, suggestions and measures to the governmental and non-governmental institutions. Dr. Nikolov is a CEPS and OSIFE Engage fellow for developing policy briefs for the Fiscal Council in Macedonia and has been engaged in the IBP's Open Budget Survey since 2008.

**Andrej Nosko** manages the Governance and Policy Debates Unit at the [Open Society Initiative for Europe](#). Nosko supervises teams that focus on four areas: governance and countering state and regulatory capture in European Union countries; developing policy debates and supporting research to bring underrepresented or marginalized voices to current policy discussions regarding the future of European democracy; working with law enforcement groups to increase public trust in the police by having police forces that reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and that use coercive force and policing practices in an effective and limited manner; and reclaiming local public spheres in Central Europe to increase the ability of civil society organizations to strengthen, revive, and increase constituencies that support open society values.

**Katarina Ott** is the director of the [Institute of Public Finance](#), a public research institute that engages in applied and theoretical research in the field of public sector economics, including tax, pensions, health and educational systems social security systems, public administration, and state-owned enterprises.

**Jean Ross** is the Principal of Jean Ross Policy | Strategy, a New York-based consulting firm that develops effective policy campaigns and builds strong organizations to lead them. Her work spans state, national, and global policy issues with a focus on fiscal and economic policy issues and her clients include private foundations and leading international and U.S. nonprofit organizations.

**Marko Sošić** is an associate at Montenegro's [Institut Alternativa](#), an independent non-partisan research center that focuses on the analysis of public policy in five main program strands: public administration, accountable public finance, parliamentary programs, security and defense, and social policy.

**Sander van der Waal** is the Head of Network and Partnerships at [Open Knowledge International](#) (OKI), where he focuses on strengthening connections between the projects at OKI and the wider Open Knowledge Network. His specific focus is on initiatives in the Fiscal Transparency space, in particular [OpenSpending](#) and [Open Data for Tax Justice](#).

**Duccio Zola** (Ph.D., "Sapienza" University of Rome) is the coordinator of training and research activities of [Sbilanciamoci!](#), a civic coalition engaged in public spending analysis, sustainable development, and well-being assessment which brings together 48 Italian not-profit, pacifist, human rights, environmental, student, fair trade, ethical finance organizations. He has carried out research in national and European projects and has written on democracy, social movements, well-being, and civic participation.