DIGITALIZATION OF BUDGET FUNCTION:

GENERAL POTENTIAL AND WORK ON IT IMPORVEMENTS IN THE FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (FBIH)

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PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- I. General potential of the digitalization of the budget function
- II. Current work on improving IT systems for budget planning in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH) – to enable the implementation of a new program and performance budgeting design (PPB)
- III. Planned path for further IT improvements in the FBiH establishing a direct link with strategic planning processes
- IV. Key challenges

DIGITALIZATION FROM THE BUDGETING PERSPECTIVE

Digitalization is already transforming the public sector; understanding (the basic and potential advanced) impacts on the budget function is important for planning staff, data, tool and process capacities:

- 1. integrating financial and non-financial data enhancing PPB, establishing a link with data on performance indicators with regard to service users/citizens (and even establishing a direct link with statistical/admin data)
- 2. Improving interinstitutional cooperation integrated platforms between the MF and line ministries/agencies
- 3. enhancing budget transparency advanced interactive platforms
- 4. automation of routine tasks of budget analyst, giving way to a shift in focus toward more strategic tasks faster preparation of budget documentation, with potential Al use for expenditure ceilings
- 5. advanced analytics and simulations for budgeting big data and advanced analytics for expenditure forecasts and scenarios
- **6. dynamic budget adjustments throughout the year –** plan adjustment according to economic circumstances/crises and the use of predictive analytics for trends requiring current budget adjustments to, for example, minimize future deficits.

CURRENT WORK ON IT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FBIH (I)

WHY DID WE INITIATE THE IT IMPORVEMENTS?

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, PPB was not part of official budget documentation and was essentially not used.

The new PPB system (largely based on knowledge acquired through the PEMPAL BCOP) was designed to address the following weakneasses:

- I. non-standardised budget program scope and an excessively fragmented program budgeting structure
- 2. significant differences between the users
- 3. insufficient qualify of indicators
- 4. overly detailed forms
- 5. insufficient link with strategic planning
- 6. inadequate and out-of-date IT system.



THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO CREATE A SIMPLE PPB DESIGN WHICH WOULD BE:

i) FLEXIBLE – in terms of the nature of competence of each institution
2. LINKED WITH STRATEGIC PLANNING IN A DIRECT AND TARGETED MANNER
3. ABLETO BE IMPLEMENTED – including the IT part and the budget execution and audit system
4. USED IN PRACTICE to inform DECISION-MAKING.



NEW IT SYSTEM: uses cloud-based technology and establishes a link between budget planning and execution using the same technologies.



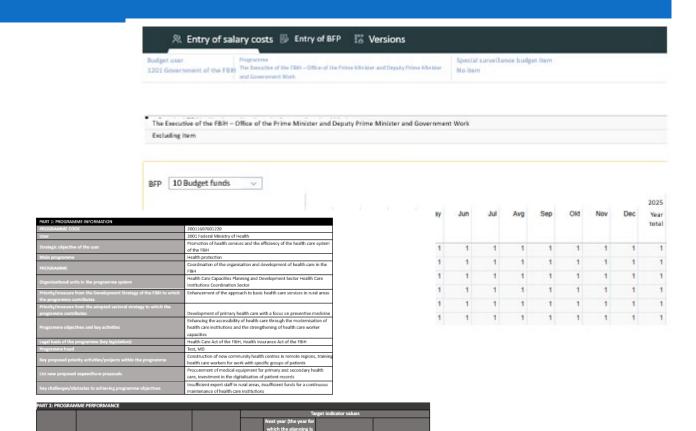
CURRENT WORK ON IT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FBIH (2)

Advantages of data entry into PROBIS:

- standardised and structured data entry
- employment dynamics and salary costs planning module
- direct integration with Excel
- validation of data in terms of set limits in real time
- fewer errors and better control over versions of budget documents
- faster data processing and reduced administrative burden.

Better cooperation with line institutions:

- centralised interaction platform
- data can be simultaneously entered and viewed
- transparency and monitoring changes in real time
- faster validation of budget requests and fewer delays.



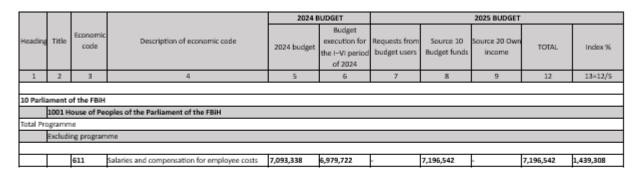
CURRENT WORK ON IT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE FBIH (3)

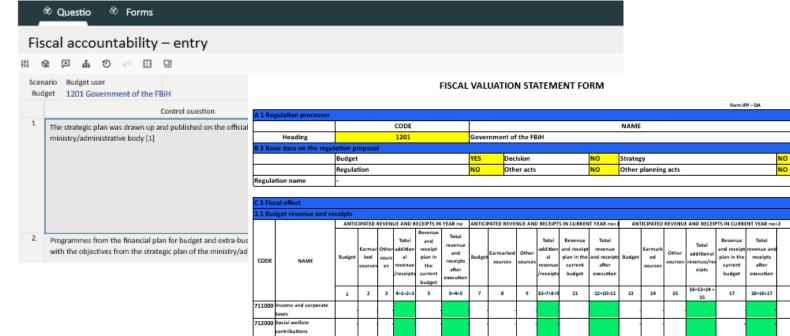
Creating reports and data analyses:

- automated reporting
- option of creating custom reports according to user needs
- enhanced fiscal indicators analysis.

Digitalisation of mandatory forms:

- compliance with regulations through digital forms
- streamlined filling out and submission process
- better data control and corrections
- reduced paperwork and administrative errors.

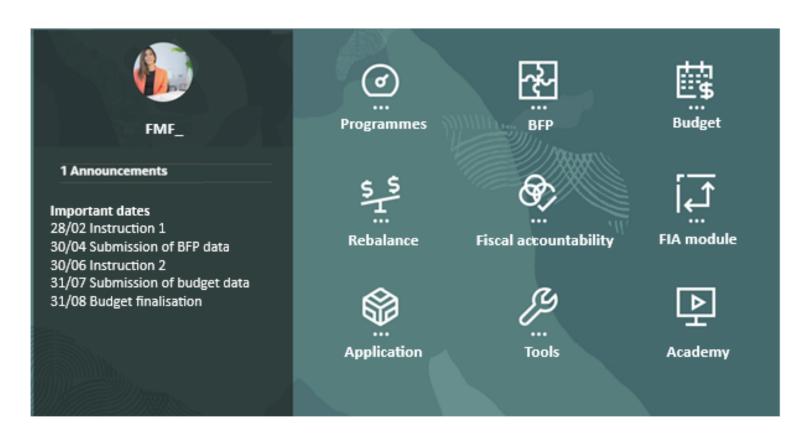




PLANNED PATH FOR FURTHER IT IMPROVEMENTS

Path going forward – integration with strategic planning

- establishing a direct link between IT system for PPB and the system for strategic planning (strategies, measures, indicators)
- the application is integrated with ERP to monitor budget execution
- continuous optimization of the budget process with the support of advanced analytics.



KEY CHALLENGES

- I. Insufficient capacities of budget planning staff need for both basic and continuous training.
- 2. Particularly insufficient IT staff capacities in the public sector, resulting in a dependence on the external experts and systems which are expensive and complicated with regard to future system adjustments.
- 3. Strong cyber-security measures are required.
- 4. Processes for collecting and using administrative data on activities/performance indicators are not well linked in terms of content/essence, IT, and procedures major efforts need to be invested to create the conditions for the introduction of big data and advanced/predictive analytics.
- 5. Overall, there is a reluctance when it comes to the use of Al and advanced analyses (fear of erroneous results) in such sensitive and important tasks.
- 6. It is unrealistic to expect openness to the consideration of introducing "dynamic budget plan adjustments" in the current phase.

Detailed advice from international organisations and examples of advanced good practice from other countries will be of major importance in the upcoming years - we hope to receive them through PEMPAL.

THANKYOU!