

## OPEN BUDGET SURVEY

• Open Budget Survey

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# Open Budget Survey

[View 2021 Global Report](#)

## 2021 Results 2023 Next Steps

*Andrés Ponce Morales, Senior Program Officer, Training, Technical Assistance and Networking*

**IBP works to  
make public  
finance systems  
open &  
accountable by:**



Incubating and strengthening budget-focused civil society institutions around the world.



Collaborating with civil society partners and other accountability actors within countries to achieve measurable improvements in public spending, tax, and service delivery.



Producing research and analysis on country budget systems, processes, and policies.



Engaging international and country stakeholders to promote improved budget systems, practices, policies, and outcomes.

# The Open Budget Survey (OBS)



- World's only comparable and independent measure of budget transparency, participation, and oversight
- Covers 120 countries in the latest published edition (the 8<sup>th</sup>, released in April 2022)
- Powerful tool that can be used to inform budget analysis and advocacy
- Documents and benchmarks the state of open budgeting worldwide by looking at three pillars:
  1. **transparency** of how public resources are raised and spent,
  2. opportunities for **participation** in budget policy decisions, and
  3. **oversight** by independent legislatures and audit institutions.

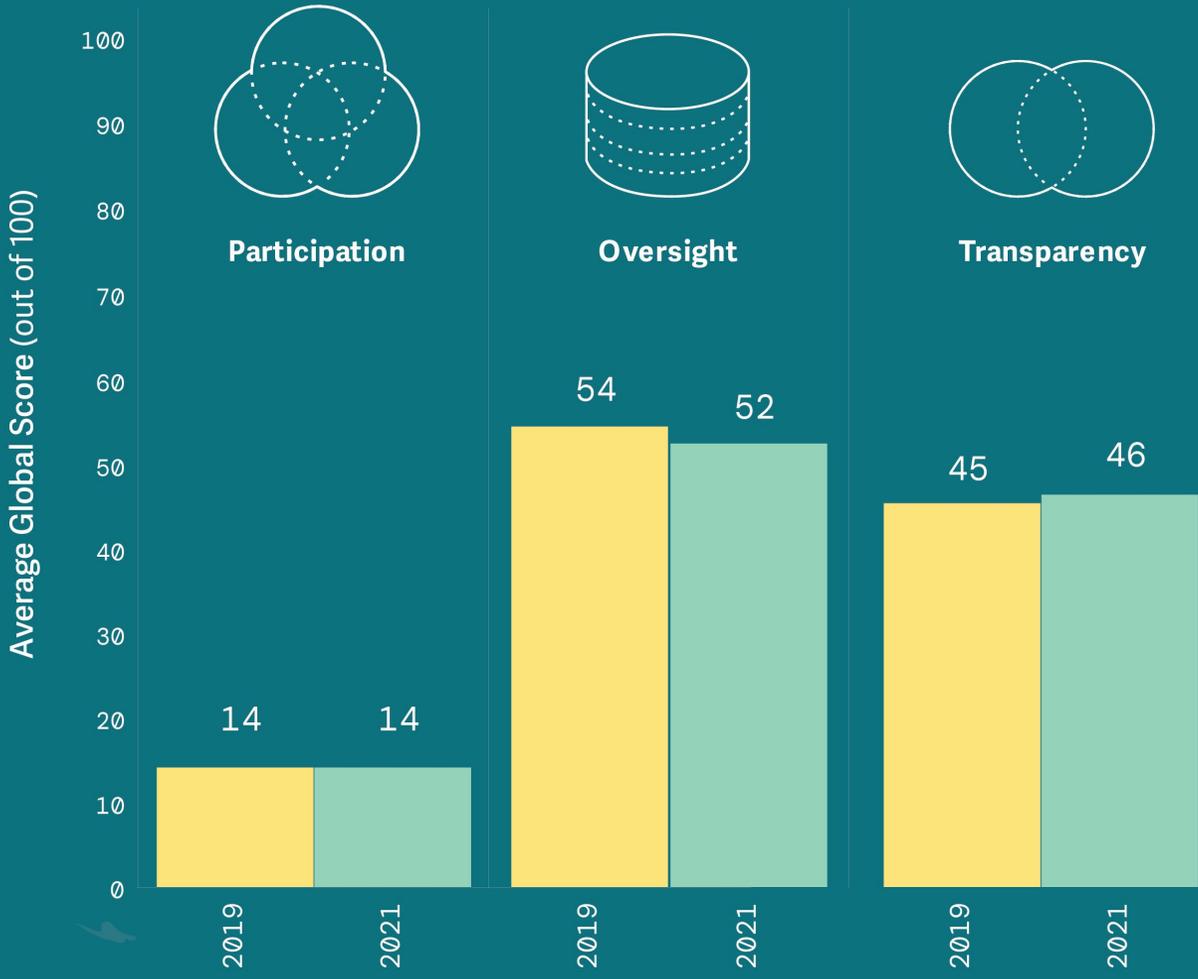
# The Open Budget Survey Methodology – A refresher

- Evidence-based
- Rigorous and objective – consistency checks applied across all countries
- Research usually conducted by local civil society researchers
- Questionnaires are peer reviewed by anonymous independent experts
- Governments are invited to comment on the draft results
- Cutoff date for all countries included in the OBS 2021 was December 31, 2020
- 145 scored questions → 109 on public availability and comprehensiveness of budget information, 18 on public participation in the budget process, and 18 on the role of the legislature and the supreme audit institution.
- 83 unscored questions complete the research by providing background information on key budget documents and explore different characteristics of a country's public finance management.

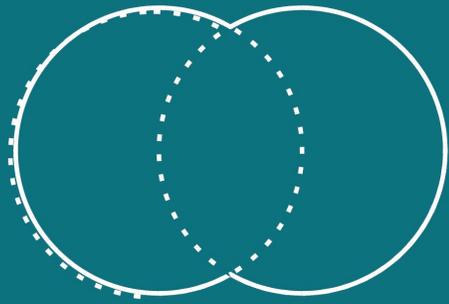
# Investing in open budgets is a winning proposition

## OPEN BUDGET SURVEY 2021

Changes in transparency, public participation, and oversight from OBS 2019 to OBS 2021



OPEN BUDGET SURVEY 2021

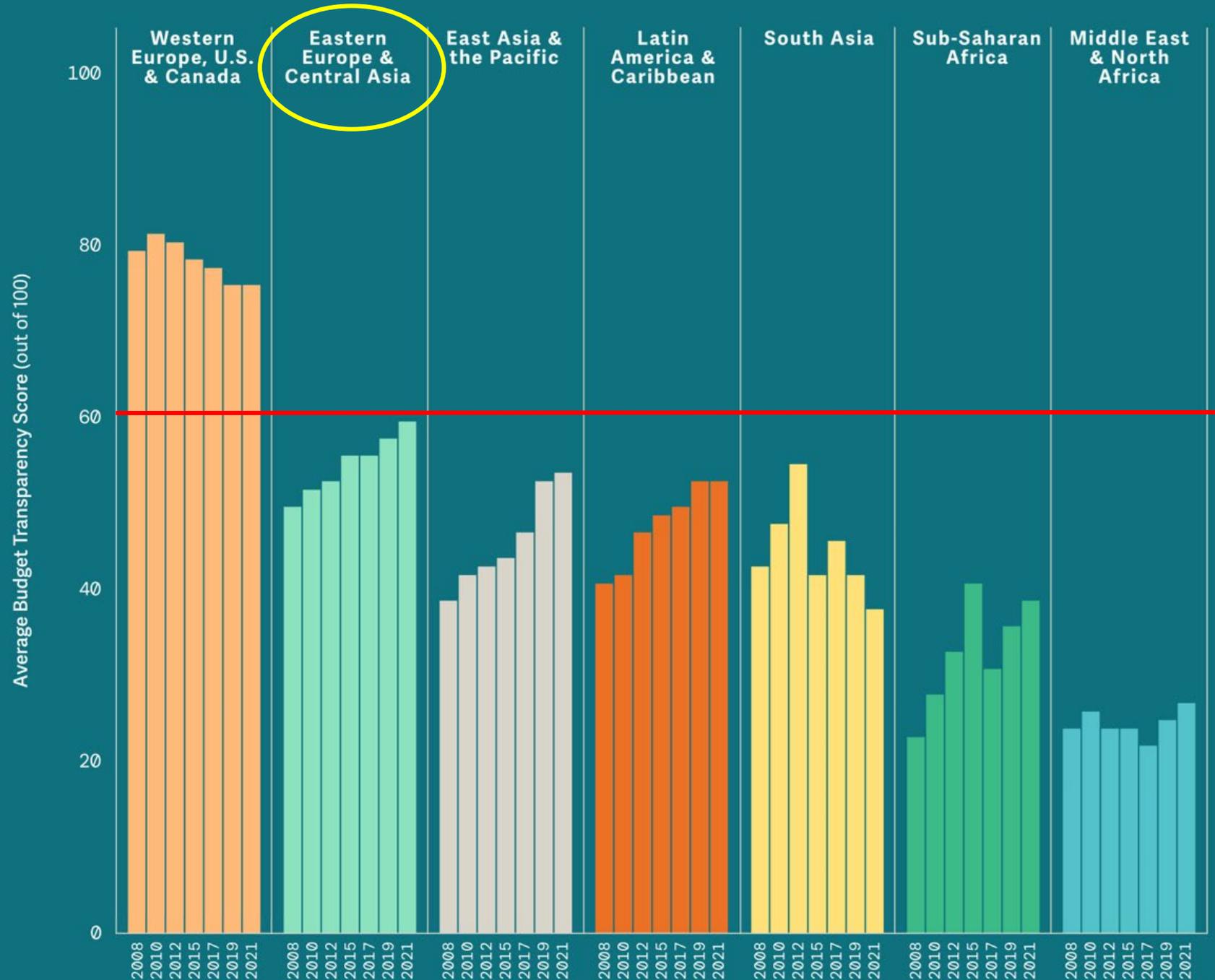


Transparency

Since 2008, transparency scores  
have increased more than

20% 

Eastern Europe and Central Asia has made consistent gains since 2008.



# PEMPAL members evaluated in the OBS 2021

1. Albania
2. Azerbaijan
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Bulgaria
5. Croatia
6. Georgia
7. Kazakhstan
8. Kyrgyz Republic
9. Moldova
10. North Macedonia
11. Romania
12. Russia
13. Serbia
14. Tajikistan
15. Turkey
16. Ukraine

**Plus:** Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia

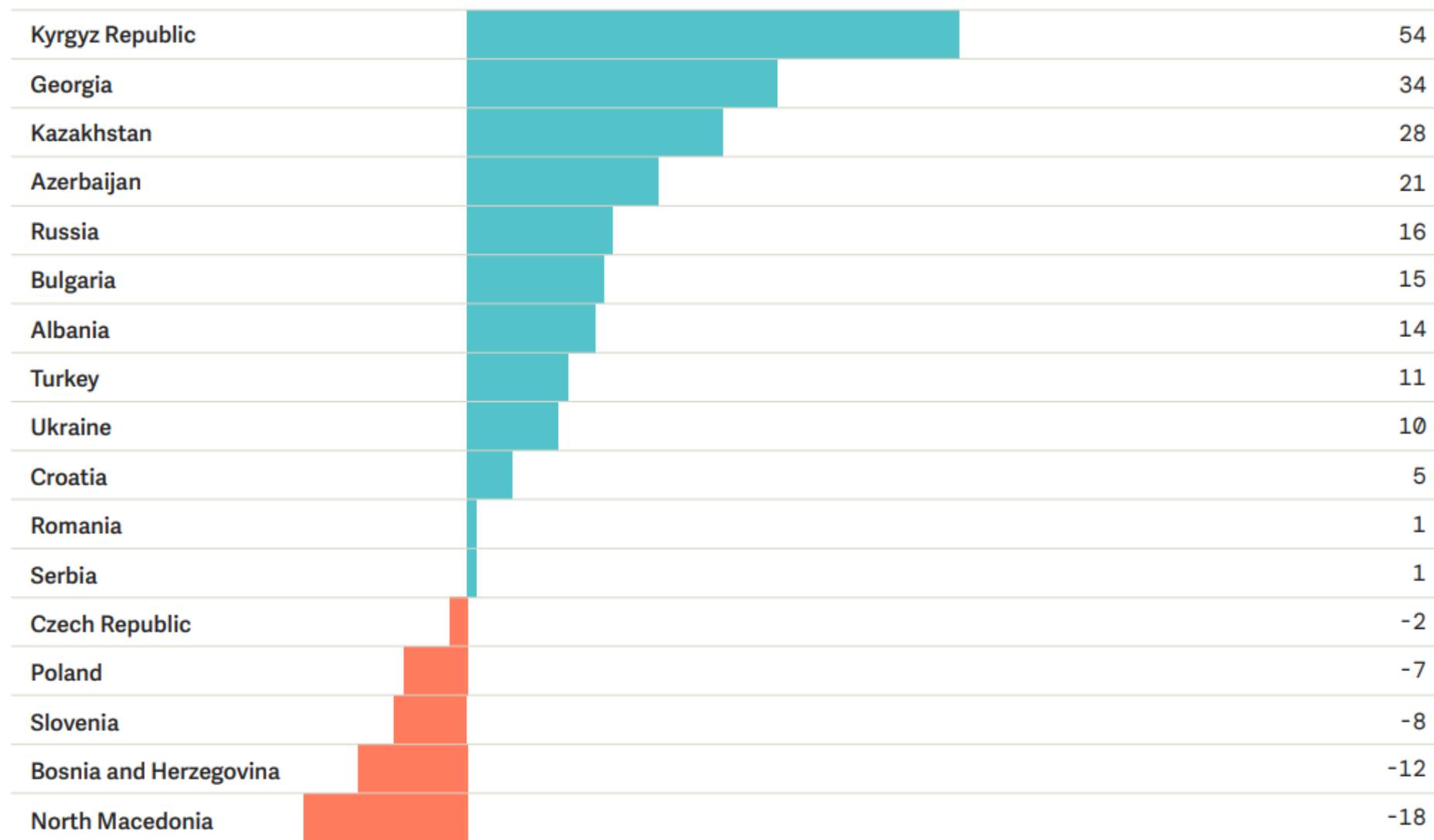
**Minus:** Belarus, Kosovo\*, Montenegro\*\*, Uzbekistan

\*Included in the 2023 OBS as a pilot

\*\*Included in the 2023 OBS

Most countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia have substantially improved their scores since 2008

### The evolution of transparency across the years (2008-2021)



2021 scores and ranking for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, across the three pillars of the OBS.

	Transparency	Participation	Oversight
Georgia	87	44	74
Russia*	73	28	78
Bulgaria	71	26	61
Slovenia	66	11	83
Moldova	65	11	63
Slovakia	65	22	56
Ukraine	65	39	82
Croatia	64	17	65
Kazakhstan	63	9	61
Romania	63	7	43
Kyrgyz Republic	62	26	61
Armenia	61	6	50
Czech Republic	60	15	83
Poland	60	22	82
Azerbaijan	57	9	63
Turkey	55	0	61
Albania	52	6	67
Serbia	46	2	54
Hungary	44	0	57
North Macedonia	36	6	54
Bosnia and Herzegovina	32	9	57
Tajikistan	16	0	43
<b>Regional average</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>63</b>

**Public  
participation  
is rare.**

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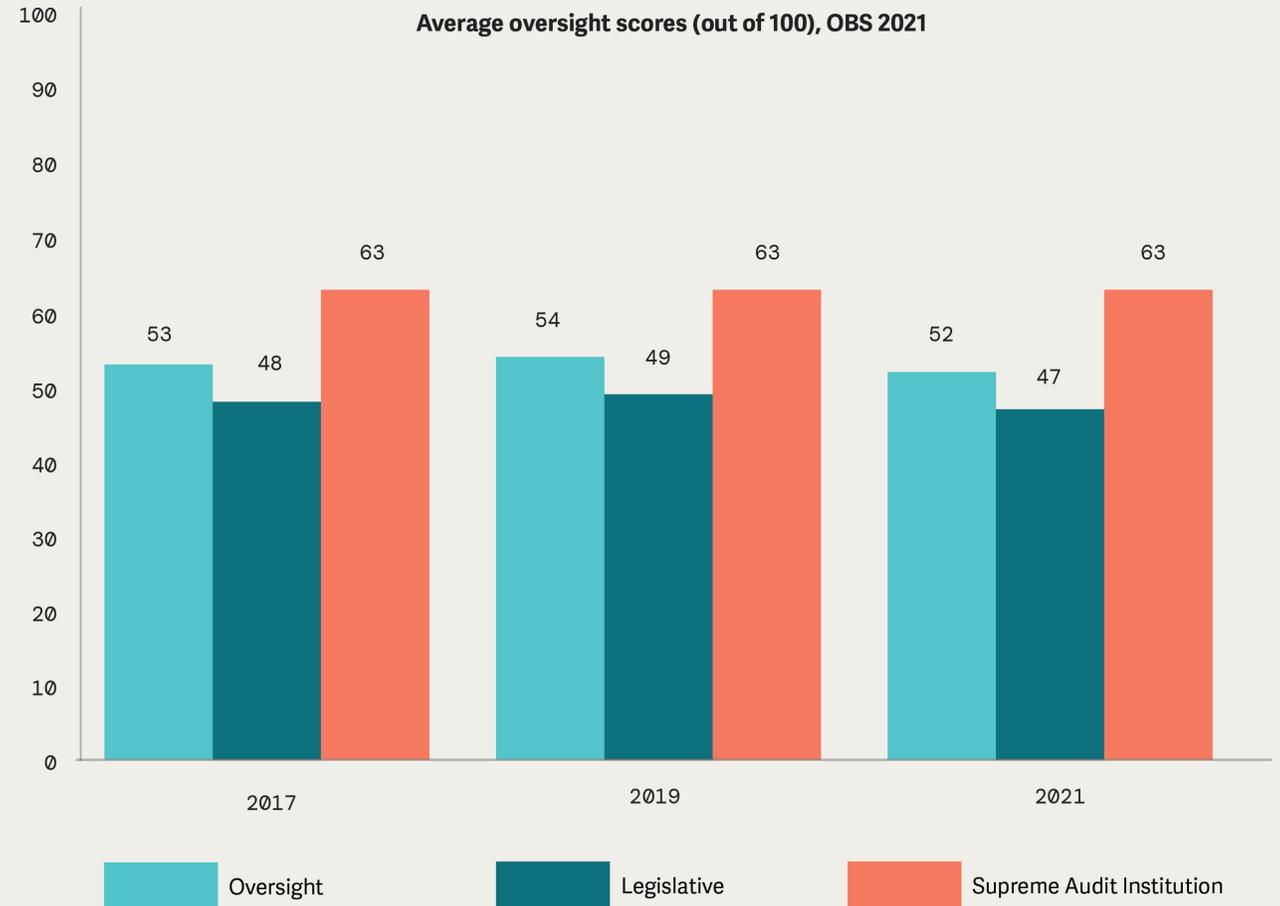


## Many governments are introducing innovative approaches to participation:

- Centralized portals for service delivery complaints (**Indonesia**)
- New public outreach strategies (**Argentina** and **Moldova**)
- Increased representation from marginalized communities in budget consultations (**South Korea**)

**OPEN BUDGET SURVEY 2021**

# Average oversight scores, OBS 2017-2021



*\*Compares the 115 countries that were evaluated in the 2017, 2019, and 2021 Open Budget Surveys.*

# What's behind the numbers?

**Question 8:** Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present expenditure estimates for a multi-year period (at least two-years beyond the budget year) by program?

- A:** Yes, multi-year estimates for programs accounting for all expenditures are presented.
- B:** Yes, multi-year estimates for programs accounting for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures are presented.
- C:** Yes, multi-year estimates for programs accounting for less than two-thirds of expenditures are presented.
- D:** No, multi-year estimates for programs are not presented.
- E:** Not applicable/other.

**Question 36:** Does the Executive's Budget Proposal or any supporting budget documentation present alternative displays of expenditures (such as by gender, by age, by income, or by region) to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens, for at least the budget year?

- A:** Yes, at least three alternative displays of expenditures are presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.
- B:** Yes, two alternative displays of expenditures are presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.
- C:** Yes, one alternative display of expenditures is presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.
- D:** No, alternative displays of expenditures are not presented to illustrate the financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens.
- E:** Not applicable/other.

**REGIONAL REPORTS**

## Four paths to transparency in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

The Eastern Europe & Central Asia region is 1 point away from reaching the threshold of sufficient budget transparency and joining the "61+ club". This report breaks down the levers and incentives that have driven progress and explains the constraints and varied political commitments to further progress on more transformational budget openness measures.



REGIONAL REPORT  
**Afrique francophone**

REGIONAL REPORT  
**América Latina y el Caribe**

REGIONAL REPORT  
**Centroamérica**

REGIONAL REPORT  
**Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

Country	Pre-Budget Statement	Executive's Budget Proposal	Enacted Budget	Citizens Budget	In-Year Reports	Mid-Year Review	Year-End Report	Audit Report
Afghanistan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Albania	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Algeria	⊘	●	●	●	⊘	●	⊘	●
Angola	⊘	●	●	●	●	⊘	●	●
Argentina	●	●	●	●	●	⊘	●	●
Armenia	●	●	●	●	●	⊘	●	●
Australia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Azerbaijan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bangladesh	●	●	●	●	●	⊘	●	⊘



# Going forward: Regional Recommendations

1. A few last steps to reach and pass the threshold of 61/100. For example:
  - **Executive's Budget Proposal comprehensiveness** (avg score is 55/100)
  - **Year-End Report comprehensiveness** (avg score is 56/100)
  - **Mid-Year Review publication** (not published in 9 countries; not produced in 6)
2. Strengthen public participation, continuing to use and refine technologies, online tools and innovative practices. Institutionalize it, where possible.
3. Strengthen peer learning and share practices through active engagement in regional bodies such as PEMPAL.

A [regional report](#) provides specific ideas for clusters of countries in ECA, interesting background info, and "whys" for each country.

# OBS 2023: Next steps and Key Milestones

- **February – April 2023** → Researchers fill out their country questionnaire
- **March – June 2023** → IBP staff analyze and discuss with the researcher to ensure that answers are supported by evidence.
- **June – October 2023** → Peer and government review
- **July 2023** → Government reviewer workshops and engagement with governments who will review the questionnaires.
- **August – October 2023** → IBP integrate the reviewers' comments and finalize the questionnaires with the researchers
- **November 2023 – January 2024** → Questionnaires are quantified and used to construct country, regional and global aggregate performance measures.
- **January – March 2024** → IBP staff and researchers refine recommendations on actions that the government, legislature, and supreme audit institution can take to improve budget openness and accountability.
- **May 2024** → Global launch event and related media and advocacy, alongside national engagements.
- **May – July 2024** → IBP and partners advocate for reforms in line with the recommendations from the OBS. Key stakeholders are brought together through global, regional, and national level convenings. Media is engaged to increase the visibility of the results and drive action.

# “What questions do you have?”

## Thank you

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