

The following summary provides a record of key decisions made by the Budget Literacy and Transparency Working Group (WG) in its videoconference meeting held on September 22, 2016. In this meeting the WG reviewed its draft knowledge product that it has been developing over the last year, which includes peer and international advice to break challenges in constructing Citizens Budgets.

1) The participants agreed to prepare a box for incorporation into the document outlining in more detail their country experience in developing Citizens Budgets.  At minimum Russia, Croatia and Kyrgyz Republic should prepare cases, but all countries are welcome to contribute if they would like to showcase practices, relevant to the challenges, they have already implemented. We are more interested to demonstrate in what has been implemented, rather than ideas and plans.

- Croatia and the Russian Federation will develop its box first to provide a guide for other countries.

- Naida (BCOP Resource Team) will assist Croatia on its input (which should also include the approach of using comparative ratings of regions as a tool for encouraging improved performance through benchmarking).

-Then these cases will be shared with other participants as examples they can use to prepare their boxes.

2) Armenia will share its approach to developing Citizens Budgets that it applied in the past.

3) All countries will provide any additional information on challenge 7, related to online consultation, disclosing budget data and other consultation approaches.  Use of TV as a tool for consultation and training will also be incorporated in the document as suggested by Uzbekistan.  Lack of personnel and related skills to undertake consultation will also be highlighted in the document (as suggested by Croatia and Belarus) either in challenge 7 or 8 or as a separate challenge.

4) Challenge 8 will be strengthened by mentioning the preparation of more detailed summaries of the budget for specific target groups such as specialists and investors whose capacity to understand budget information is higher (as suggested by Belarus). Consideration will also be given to including a suggested template for a brochure version of a Citizens Budgets, as suggested by Armenia, or attaching specific examples provided by PEMPAL countries.

5) All countries were also encouraged to provide any further changes to the document for inclusion in the next draft (which will be shared in the next BCOP annual plenary meeting next April and sent to international organizations for comment).