

Citizen's Participation as a Development Resource

New Horizons for Public Participation in Budgets in Russia & Globally

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Why it is important for citizens to participate in fiscal policies?

- Budget decisions have a significant **impact** in their **lives**
- PP can improve **fiscal responsibility** of **authorities**
- Citizens can play a **watchdog role** in budget process, **preventing misuse** of public funds
- Participation is key for **Sustainable Development Goals: 1-poverty, 5-gender** equality, **10-reduce inequality, 16-peace, justice & inclusive institutions**
- Government data at reach: **big data, open data & information technologies**

PP in FT International Codes & Standards: a new element of PFM

- 2012: **GIFT** High-Level Principles on FTAP & UN General Assembly acknowledgement
- 2012: **IBP-OBS** leads the way, with section on PP
- 2014: **IMF** revision of Fiscal Transparency Code
- 2015: **OECD** Principles on Budgetary Governance
- 2015: Tax Adm Diagnostic Assessment Tool-**TADAT**
- 2015: Open Contracting Partnership- **OCP**
- 2016: Revised **PEFA** Indicator Program
- 2016: Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative- **EITI**
- 2017: New PP section in **OBS-IBP**
- 2017: **OECD** Budget Transparency Toolkit
- 2017: **PEMPAL** network engages systematically on topic
- 2018: **IMF** Fiscal Transparency Handbook

P₃ R₁ I₁ N₁ C₃ I₁ P₃ L₁ E₁ S₁

of Public Participation in Fiscal Policy

01

Accessibility

06

**Depth /
Relevance**

02

Openness

07

Proportionality

03

Inclusiveness

08

Sustainability

04

**Respect for self-
expression**

09

Complementarity

05

Timeliness

10

Reciprocity



PRINCIPLES
of Public Participation in Fiscal Policy

Core considerations

1. **Publish** information accessibly
2. Clarity on the **rules of engagement** in order to ensure clear expectations
3. Reach out to those usually quiet (**INCLUSION**)
4. **Add value & relevance** to the process: inform well, on time, get feedback, try to institutionalize, ensure a fair engagement
5. Seek that public participation **complement** what government institutions do

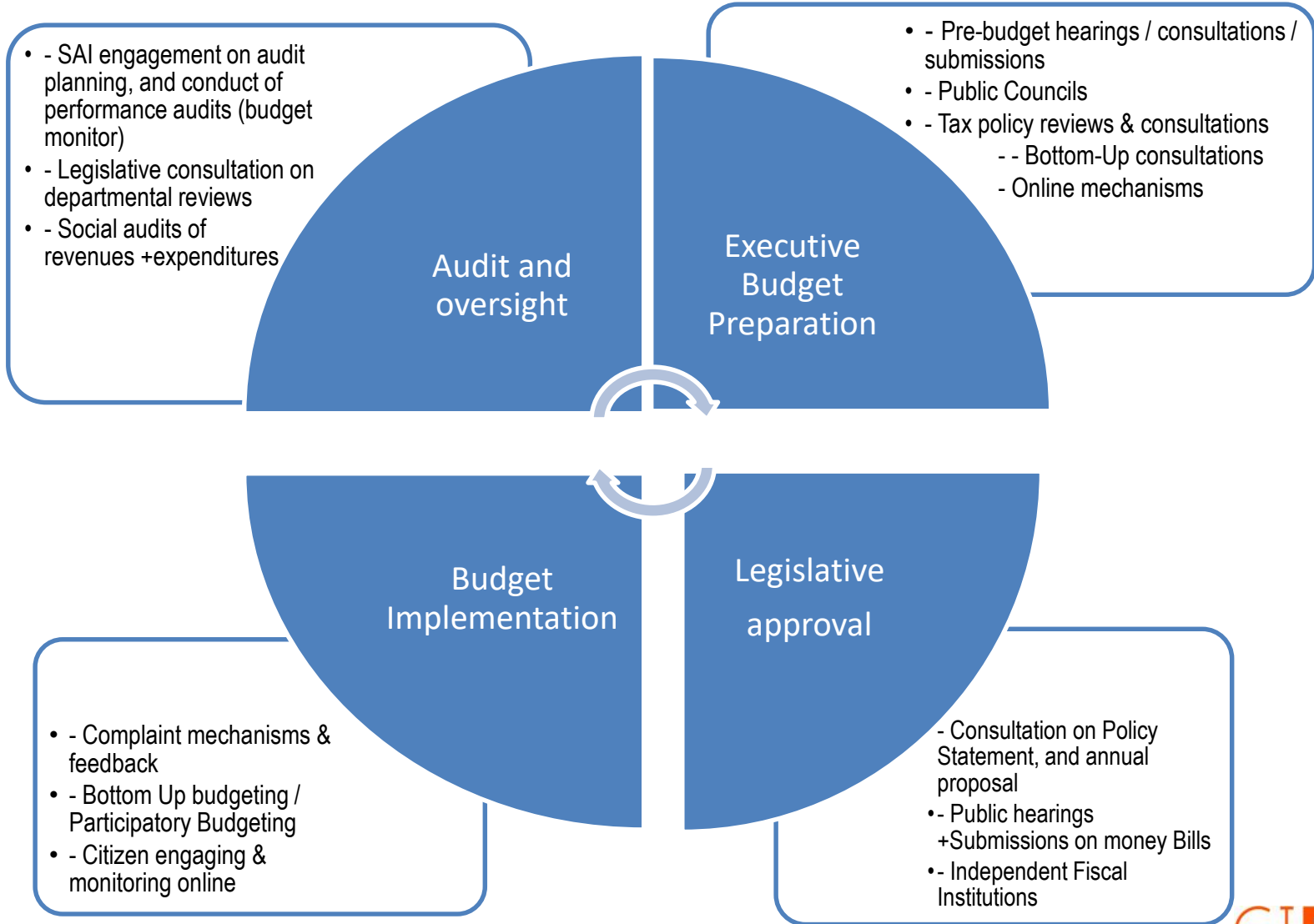
Guide on Principles and Mechanisms of **Public Participation** in **Fiscal Policy**

guide.fiscaltransparency.net



GIFT

PP mechanisms across the budget cycle



Takeaways: conditions for this to work

Basic necessary elements for PP mechanisms to work & last :

1. Strong government support : advocacy champions + capacity building = vital to good performance
2. Direct relationship between resources available for allocation through PP and its impact
3. The presence of a strong, organized civil society is critical

Bottom line

Nothing can take the place of **citizen's ownership** of the right to know and to participate.

The **role of the taxpayers & civil society is irreplaceable** to ensure the **sustainability of fiscal transparency**. PP means that fiscal information is used, and therefore **meaningful** and **impactful**.

Access to information & public participation: What difference does it make?

- Better **resource allocation & provision** of some public services (monitoring + feedback)
- Improved response to the **preferences of beneficiaries** of services & constituencies
- Opportunity for **marginalized groups** to exert some influence in decisions that affect them
- **Greater impact** of actions that affect communities in social policies: health sector, community level public works, education, etc.
- **Increases trust and citizen compliance (rules & taxes)**

THANK YOU!

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