**Changes in the Open Budget Questionnaire 2012: content and layout**

**CONTENT:**

The Questionnaire

It is divided into five sections, and not three as the previous version of the Questionnaire. Of these:

* Sections 1 and 2 have almost not changed.
  + Section 1 (Tables 1-4) assesses the availability of the eight key budget documents
  + Section 2 (Questions 1-55) assesses the comprehensiveness of the Executive’s Budget Proposal. We have excluded a few questions [see below a summary of the changes].
* Section 3 (Questions 56-96) still looks at the Budget Process (formulation, approval, execution and audit phases): these questions assess the comprehensiveness of Pre-Budget Statement, Enacted Budget, In-Year Reports, Mid-Year Review, Year-End Report, and Audit Report.
* The questions on the Legislative Strength (previously in Section 3) have been moved to a new independent section, Section 4 (Questions 97-108), so that now the “Legislative Strength” forms a section on its own. A few questions have also been added, specifically on: the presence of a research body that the legislative can refer to, on budget matters; the existence of a legislative pre-budget debate; the procedures for shifting funds, not only between administrative units but also between individual line items; and the procedures in place for when additional revenue are raised during the budget year.
* Another new section was created, Section 5 (Questions 109-125) on Public Engagement in the Budget Process. We have moved here some questions previously in different parts of the questionnaire (those on legislative public hearings, for example), and we have added a substantial number of questions, so that there is a total of 12 indicators on public engagement. The additional questions assess the presence of legal requirements, mechanisms and feedback procedures for public engagement in three institutions (Executive, Parliament and Supreme Audit Institution).

Section 5 also includes four questions on the Citizens Budget, which is an increase from the single question we had on this document in previous versions on the Open Budget Questionnaire.

The Open Budget Index

The calculation of the Open Budget Index is not taking into account 95 questions rather than 92. This increase is due to the increase in the number of questions on the Citizens Budget (from 1 to 4). The IBP is in the process of recalculating (where possible) the scores of the 2006, 2008 and 2010 indices, in order to maintain the comparability.

**LAYOUT**

Rather than a Word file, the Questionnaire is now a PDF document with assigned spaces for the different stakeholders’ comments (main researcher, peer reviewers one and two, government and the IBP). Respondents can write only in the assigned spaces, thus reducing the risks of inadvertedly modifying the wording of the questions and option answers, as well as the formatting of the document.

Both at the beginning of each section and before each question a short explanation has been included, to facilitate the understanding of questions and answer options, without necessarily having to refer to the *Guide to the Open Budget Questionnaire 2012*.

The numbering of the questions has changed, due to the creation of the new sections, the reshuffling of the existing questions, the exclusion of some, and the inclusion of fourteen additional questions. Therefore the question numbers in the *2010 Open Budget Questionnaire* are not the same as those in the *2012 Open Budget Questionnaire*. See the list of questions with the new numbering, and its correspondent number in 2010 at the end of this Note.

Summary of the question changes:

* Twelve questions were excluded from the Survey: 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 64, 65, 70, 79, 97, and 99. [Note that these are the question numbers of the *2010 Open Budget Questionnaire*]
* Two questions were modified: 61, 119 [Note that these are the question numbers of the *2010 Open Budget Questionnaire*]
* Fourteen questions are new: 97-98, 103-104, 110-112, 114-118, and 124-125. [Note that these are the question numbers of the *2012 Open Budget Questionnaire*]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2010** | **2012** |  | 42 | 42 |  | 108 | 84 |  | **56** | **excluded** |
| 1 | 1 |  | 43 | 43 |  | 109 | 85 |  | **57** | **excluded** |
| 2 | 2 |  | 44 | 44 |  | 110 | 86 |  | **58** | **excluded** |
| 3 | 3 |  | 45 | 45 |  | 111 | 87 |  | **59** | **excluded** |
| 4 | 4 |  | 46 | 46 |  | 112 | 88 |  | **60** | **excluded** |
| 5 | 5 |  | 47 | 47 |  | 113 | 89 |  | **63** | **excluded** |
| 6 | 6 |  | 48 | 48 |  | 114 | 90 |  | **64** | **excluded** |
| 7 | 7 |  | 49 | 49 |  | 115 | 91 |  | **65** | **excluded** |
| 8 | 8 |  | 50 | 50 |  | 116 | 92 |  | **70** | **excluded** |
| 9 | 9 |  | 51 | 51 |  | 117 | 93 |  | **79** | **excluded** |
| 10 | 10 |  | 52 | 52 |  | 118 | 94 |  | **97** | **excluded** |
| 11 | 11 |  | 53 | 53 |  | 121 | 95 |  | **99** | **excluded** |
| 12 | 12 |  | 54 | 54 |  | 123 | 96 |  |  |  |
| 13 | 13 |  | 55 | 55 |  | new | 97 |  |  |  |
| 14 | 14 |  | 66 | 56 |  | new | 98 |  |  |  |
| 15 | 15 |  | 67 | 57 |  | 74 | 99 |  |  |  |
| 16 | 16 |  | 68 | 58 |  | 80 | 100 |  |  |  |
| 17 | 17 |  | 69 | 59 |  | 81 | 101 |  |  |  |
| 18 | 18 |  | 71 | 60 |  | 96 | 102 |  |  |  |
| 19 | 19 |  | 72 | 61 |  | new | 103 |  |  |  |
| 20 | 20 |  | 73 | 62 |  | new | 104 |  |  |  |
| 21 | 21 |  | 82 | 63 |  | 98 | 105 |  |  |  |
| 22 | 22 |  | 83 | 64 |  | 100 | 106 |  |  |  |
| 23 | 23 |  | 84 | 65 |  | 120 | 107 |  |  |  |
| 24 | 24 |  | 85 | 66 |  | 122 | 108 |  |  |  |
| 25 | 25 |  | 86 | 67 |  | 61 | 109 m |  |  |  |
| 26 | 26 |  | 87 | 68 |  | new | 110 |  |  |  |
| 27 | 27 |  | 88 | 69 |  | new | 111 |  |  |  |
| 28 | 28 |  | 89 | 70 |  | new | 112 |  |  |  |
| 29 | 29 |  | 90 | 71 |  | 62 | 113 |  |  |  |
| 30 | 30 |  | 91 | 72 |  | new | 114 |  |  |  |
| 31 | 31 |  | 92 | 73 |  | new | 115 |  |  |  |
| 32 | 32 |  | 93 | 74 |  | new | 116 |  |  |  |
| 33 | 33 |  | 94 | 75 |  | new | 117 |  |  |  |
| 34 | 34 |  | 95 | 76 |  | new | 118 |  |  |  |
| 35 | 35 |  | 101 | 77 |  | 75 | 119 |  |  |  |
| 36 | 36 |  | 102 | 78 |  | 76 | 120 |  |  |  |
| 37 | 37 |  | 103 | 79 |  | 77 | 121 |  |  |  |
| 38 | 38 |  | 104 | 80 |  | 78 | 122 |  |  |  |
| 39 | 39 |  | 105 | 81 |  | 119 | 123 m |  |  |  |
| 40 | 40 |  | 106 | 82 |  | new | 124 |  |  |  |
| 41 | 41 |  | 107 | 83 |  | new | 125 |  |  |  |