



MINUTES OF BCOP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, June 1, 2021
Videoconference

Participated:

1. Marina Tikhonovich (Chair, Belarus)
2. Mladenka Karacic (Deputy Chair, Croatia)
3. Ruzanna Gabrelyan (Armenia)
4. Emil Nurgaliev (Bulgaria)
5. Ivan Rakovskiy (Russia)
6. Aynura Bakaybayeva (Uzbekistan)
7. Iryna Shcherbyna (BCOP Resource Team)
8. Naida Carsimamovic (BCOP Resource Team)

Observers:

9. Ksenia Malafeeva (Secretariat)

Minutes:

Welcome and overview of the Agenda

Ms. Marina Tikhonovich and Ms. Iryna Shcherbyna welcomed participants and gave an overview of the agenda for this meeting.

Update on BCOP FY21 budget execution and remaining FY21 activities

Ms. Ksenia Malafeeva reported on the BCOP budget execution of FY21. The total costs of thematic workshops (three virtual meetings) was 15,000 USD; cost of virtual plenary meeting is estimated at 10,000 USD; expenses associated with the developing knowledge products (including external experts, as well as translation, editing, and designing) are estimated at 67,000 USD; the costs of Executive Committee meetings (four virtual meetings) are estimated at 11,000 USD; while estimated cost of upcoming participation in OECD SBO CESEE meeting on June 24, 2021 are 4,000 USD (for simultaneous interpretation). Based on actual costs and current estimates, total BCOP budget execution for FY21 will be around 107,000 USD (the budgeted amount approved by the Steering Committee in March 2021).

Ms. Naida Carsimamovic reported on the status of the FY21 knowledge products and the activities for the remainder of FY21. Two knowledge products have been finalized and are being published (*Conducting Rapid Spending Reviews to Identify Measures for Budget Balancing* and *Mechanisms for the National Ministries of Finance of the PEMPAL Countries to Design Participatory Budgeting Initiatives at National Level and Facilitate Participatory Budgeting at Subnational Level*). For the third FY21 knowledge product on *Mechanisms for the National Ministries of Finance of the PEMPAL Countries to Introduce Youth Participatory Budgeting*, members' comments are incoming, after which the report will be finalized. The fourth KP whose development was initiated in FY21, *Trends in Spending Reviews in PEMPAL Countries Benchmarked to Trends in OECD Countries*, will be completed in the first half of FY22, when the OECD

Secretariat shared the full database for the OECD countries' survey results with the PPBWG. The last event in this fiscal year is OECD SBO CESEE, which will take place on June 24, 2021.

Planning BCOP FY22 Action Plan/Budget

Ms. Carsimamovic reminded that the Steering Committee instructed each COP to draft FY22 Action Plans, with the USD 200,000 COP budget allocation (and with no savings from previous years carried over to FY22) and with face-to-face events assuming to resume in the second half of FY22. Based on these parameters and the thematic discussions in the BCOP virtual meeting, the Resource Team drafted the proposed BCOP's FY22 Action Plan, which Ms. Carsimamovic presented to the Executive Committee after which an extensive discussion was held by the Executive Committee.

Ms. Carsimamovic also presented the results of the members' votes on the countries' thematic priorities for FY22, based on the survey conducted in later May 2021. The results were as follows:

1. **Priority topics within the Program and Performance Budgeting Working Group:**
 - a. A step-by-step analysis of a spending review approach in an advanced country based on one specific spending review example in a selected sector – 20 votes
 - b. Green/climate change budgeting – 3 votes
 - c. Mechanisms for increasing the demand and understanding of performance budgeting information by parliaments – 12 votes
 - d. Recommendations on the presentation of performance information by kind/level and by intended audience (i.e., in budget documentation, national strategic plans, strategic plans for individual sector, citizens budgets, etc.) – 13 votes
2. **Priority topics within the Budget Literacy and Transparency Working Group:**
 - a. Support measures for engaging vulnerable groups in participatory budgeting – 1 vote
 - b. Ways for Ministries of Finance to improve transparency and budget literacy/understanding within budget planning process – 22 votes
 - c. Creating digital platforms for citizens' participation in the budget process" – 10 votes
 - d. Modernizing public hearings for budgeting – 7 votes
 - e. Methodology for estimating social and economic impacts of participatory budgeting – 8 votes
3. **Priority topics outside of the individual BCOP working groups' topics:**
 - a. Medium-term budgeting for baseline versus new policy scenarios – 14 votes
 - b. Joint examination of the two BCOP's working groups on budgeting for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – 7 votes
 - c. Joint examination of the two BCOP's working groups on digitalization in budgeting – 9 votes
 - d. Joint examination of the two BCOP's working groups on budgeting for rural development – 2 votes
 - e. Measures that can be implemented by the Ministries of Finance to support the post-Covid recovery, including capital budgeting – 12 votes

The Executive Committee approved the FY22 Action Plan with the following main activities:

- BLTWG workshop, including a session on a new non-WG topic (September 2021)
- PPBWG workshop (October 2021)



- BCOP ExCom meeting (October 2021)
- Participation of PPBWG leadership and small delegation at the OECD Network on Performance and Results meeting (November 2021)
- BCOP ExCom meeting (February 2022)
- Annual Plenary meeting (March 2022)
- Participation at annual OECD SBO CESEE meeting (June 2022)
- Development of the knowledge products (Continuous)

Thematic focus, based on the above-mentioned results of the survey on member countries' thematic priorities, will be on the following three topics in FY22:

1. A step-by-step analysis of a spending review approach in an advanced country based on one specific spending review example in a selected sector (PPBWG topic)
2. Ways for Ministries of Finance to improve transparency and budget literacy/understanding within budget planning process (BLTWG topic)
3. Medium-term budgeting for baseline versus new policy scenarios (non-WG topic)

Conclusions:

- The Executive Committee took note on BCOP's FY21 budget execution.
- The Executive Committee approved BCOP Budget and Action Plan for FY22.

Other business: progress on the annual BCOP Chair elections and scheduling the next BCOP Executive Committee VC meeting

Ms. Malafeeva reported that the first round of BCOP Chair elections was completed on May 31 and announced that 4 candidates were nominated (Ms. Marina Tikhonovich, Ms. Aynura Bakaybayeva, Mr. Ivan Rakovskiy, and Ms. Mladenka Karacic), noting that in the second round of voting, the Executive Committee members will be voting for the two nominees who received the highest number of votes (Ms. Marina Tikhonovich and Ms. Aynura Bakaybayeva), as per PEMPAL Operational Guidelines.

Conclusions:

- The Secretariat will initiate the second round of the virtual elections of BCOP Chair.
- The next Executive Committee meeting will be planned for late October 2021, after the VC workshops of the two BCOP WGs that will be held prior to that in September and early/mid-October.