



## Regional Conference on Public Participation in the Budget Process

Ljubljana, Slovenia, May 11, 2017

### Background

Public participation (PP) refers to the variety of ways in which the general public, including civil society organizations and other non-state actors, are invited or given space to interact directly with public authorities by means of face-to-face communication, deliberation or decision-making, or by written forms of communication using electronic or paper media.<sup>1</sup>

It is now acknowledged that public participation is an essential element of open government, strong governance and a crucial element of a fiscal accountability ecosystem. In fact, the world has witnessed an increase in awareness, prioritization, and utilization of public participation over the last twenty-five years, accepting that the public, including both private citizens and civil society organizations, are important agents of good governance and sustainable development alongside the state and market.

There is evidence that public participation in fiscal policy can strengthen the efficiency, equity, effectiveness, predictability, legitimacy and sustainability of fiscal management, and thereby improve fiscal performance and enhance the likelihood of positive economic, social and environmental outcomes.

Direct public participation in government fiscal policy and budget making has been established as a civil right in the High Level Principles of Fiscal Transparency, Participation and Accountability, promulgated by the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency (GIFT). Principle 10 establishes: 'Citizens and non-state actors should have the right and effective opportunities to participate directly in public debate and discussion over the design and implementation of fiscal policies

The [GIFT High Level Principles were endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012](#) (UNGA Resolution 67/218), which encouraged member states to "intensify efforts to enhance transparency, participation and accountability in fiscal policies, including through the consideration of the principles set out by GIFT;" and encouraged discussions, cooperation and information sharing between all stakeholders to assist Member States to build capacity and exchange experiences.

With the endorsement of GIFT High Level Principles, it was apparent that regarding Principle 10, there was a lack of guidance on how public entities should engage directly with the public in managing public resources. To help fill that gap, in 2012 GIFT embarked on a substantial multi-year work program to generate greater knowledge about country practices and recent innovations in citizen engagement. This work program provided a rich source of information on current practices and recent innovations in public participation in a diverse range of countries around the world, which was drawn on in developing, debating, and progressively refining the GIFT participation principles.

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<sup>1</sup> *The GIFT Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policy*, Preamble

After launching the [Principles of Public Participation in Fiscal Policy](#), GIFT developed the [Guide on Public Participation in Fiscal Policy Principles and Mechanisms](#) to provide guidance about how to integrate public participation into fiscal policy and the associated benefits. With practical examples of mechanisms, the Guide illustrates how the GIFT principles on public participation in fiscal policy can be put into practice.

## Regional Conference Objectives

**What** will be discussed?

Citizens participation in the budget cycle is still weak or non-existent. People's interest for the budgets is therefore extremely low! This is not only a problem of Slovenia, but also in many countries in the region. However, certain communities are addressing the issues of indifference from the public by engaging citizens in the budget process. One basic idea of citizen participation in the design and implementation phases of the budget is through seeking citizen's input on investment projects. The procedures can be carried out by calling citizens to suggest different projects in a first place, and then by identifying which projects are seen by the citizens as highest priority in the second phase. This process can bring a "win-win" situation for both citizens and for the elected representatives. Direct access to the preferences of residents is valuable information for elected representatives, who approve and implement the budgets in subsequent phases of the budget process.

**Who** do we want to involve?

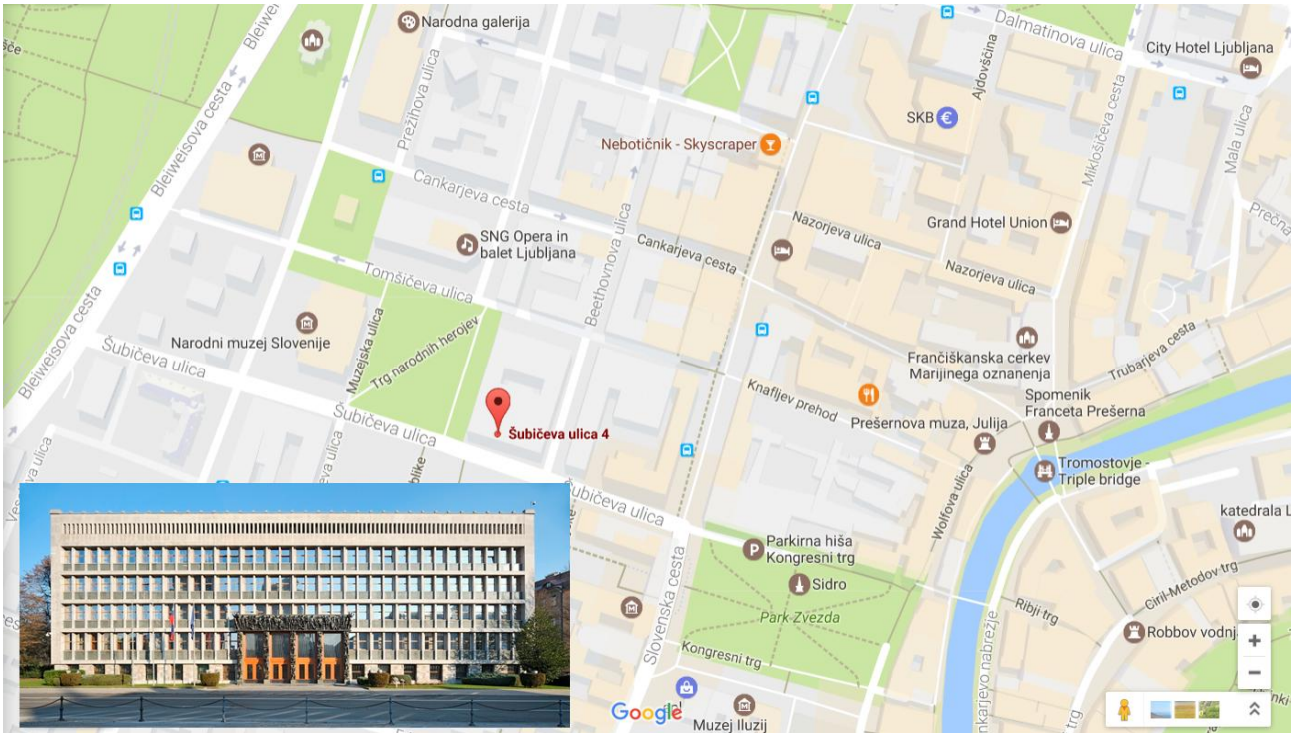
We invite representatives of national organizations of Local Communities, representatives of the Ministries of Finance, representatives from Universities, NGOs and colleagues from the Supreme Audit Institutions of the region (Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czechia, Montenegro, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Serbia)

**Why?** What are the purpose and objectives of the conference?

The purpose of the conference is to discuss public participation as a relatively new and exciting trend in the development of budgetary processes in the region and globally. Objectives of the conference are to raise the level of awareness of the opportunities offered by the participatory preparation of budgets and to encourage its use of it in the region. The expected outcome is to increase the impact of the public in the design and implementation of fiscal policy, mainly in the domains of the annual budget cycle (from fiscal strategy and the preparation of the annual budget proposal by the executive, through presentation of the budget and its adoption by the legislature, to budget implementation, in-year reporting on and amendment of the budget, and end-of-year reporting, auditing and review); new policy initiatives, plans, or reviews on revenues, expenditures, financing, assets and liabilities; the design, production and delivery of public goods and services; and the planning, appraisal, and implementation of public investment projects (from national and sector planning through project preparation, appraisal and selection, to project implementation, audit and review). This, in turn, is expected to have a positive effect on raising public interest in Budget (state finance) issues.

Meeting venue:

National Council, Parliament Building of the Republic of Slovenia, Šubičeva ulica 4, Ljubljana, Slovenia



Program:

May 11 2017		
Time	Session	Presenter
8:30	Registration & coffee	
9:00	Welcome and Introduction to the Conference	Jorg K. Petrovič, MBA, First deputy president, The Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia Juan Pablo Guerrero, GIFT Network Director
9:10	Opening of the Conference	Mitja Bervar, President of the National Council
9:15	<i>Framing the conversation.</i> Public participation around the world: principles, mechanisms and a stock take on the current discussion	Juan Pablo Guerrero, GIFT Network Director
	<i>International experiences – beyond region</i>	Jorg K. Petrovič, Moderator
10:00	Brazil – The public participation success story Q&A	Giovanni Allegretti, Centre for Social Studies of the Coimbra University, Portugal
10:45	Coffee break	
11:15	South Africa – Public participation experience Q&A	Jay Kruuse, Public Service Accountability Monitor, Grahamstown, South Africa
12:00	Kenya - What to Do When You and Your Citizens Have Different Priorities Q&A	John Maritim, Director of Economic Planning, Elgeyo Marakwet County, Kenya
13:00	Lunch	
	<i>Regional experiences, learning from initiatives at the local level in the region</i>	Anja Linder, GIFT, Learning Team, Moderator
14:00	City of Pazin – Public participation experience Q&A	MSc. Maja Stranić Grah, Head of the Department of Economy, Finance and Budget, City of Pazin, Croatia
14:30	Local Community of Ajdovščina – Public participation experience Q&A	Tadej Beočanin, Mayor of Ajdovščina, Slovenia
15:00	Local Community of Ankaran – Public participation experience Q&A	Mojca Primožič Kužner, Ankaran, Slovenia
15:30	Coffee break	
16:00	Break out session Discussing the challenges and opportunities in public participation in fiscal policy Report back	Anja Linder, Juan Pablo Guerrero, facilitators
	<i>Improving fiscal transparency and participation, lessons from measurement</i>	Juan Pablo Guerrero, Moderator
16:30	Open budget survey – Results of a study by <i>International Budget Partnership: ways to measure public participation</i>	Dr. Katarina Ott, Public Finance Institute, Croatia
17:00	Historic review of Open budget survey findings and recommendations for Slovenia	Prof. Dr. Mitja Čok, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana

17:30	Break out session: commitments, challenges and next steps in the region Report back	Facilitation: To be determinend, GIFT team.
17:55	Conclusions and closing of the Conference	Jorg K. Petrovič, MBA, First deputy president, Court of Audit, Slovenia
18:00	End of day	

### List of Lecturers and bios:

Giovanni Allegretti, Centre for Social Studies of the Coimbra University, Portugal



Giovanni (Aldo Luigi) Allegretti is an architect, planner and senior researcher at the Centre for Social Studies of the Coimbra University, Portugal. Here he is among the directors of the Ph.D "Democracy in the XXI century" and he coordinates the "PEOPLES' Observatory: Participation, Innovation and Local Powers". He is a member of the Working Group "DECIDe" at CES, being part of the coordination board. Since 2001, he has been assistant professor in Town Management at the University of Florence, where he got his Ph.D in

Town, Territorial and Environmental Planning. He studied in Brazil, Danmark and Japan with scholarships of the Ministry of Foreign affairs. He studied in Brazil, Danmark & Japan. Expert of the European Commission for the URBACT Programme, he deals with Participatory Budgets and Interactive Planning since 1998. On this subject he wrote several books. As a consultant and trainer about participatory processes, he was invited to hold professional courses by several Local Authorities (in country such Italy, France, Spain, Greece, Sweden, Portugal, Senegal Reunion Island), Universities (Harvard Design School in United States, King Saud University in Saudi Arabia, International Islamic University in Malaysia, Institute of European Studies in Vietnam) and NGO (TI in Morocco and Indonesia, TNI in India), and International Institutions (in Canada's 2006 UN/World Urban Forum, in Kenya's 2006 Africities Forum and in two continental courses on Participatory Budgeting organised by the World Bank in South Africa and Senegal).

Juan Pablo Guerrero - Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency



Juan Pablo Guerrero is the Network Director of the Global Initiative on Fiscal Transparency (GIFT), a multi-stakeholder action network to advance fiscal transparency, public participation and accountability in countries around the world. He was a founding Information Commissioner of the Federal Institute for Access to Information & Data Protection in Mexico (2002-2009), where he subsequently was the Secretary General (2013-14). Between 2009 and 2013, he was the manager of the Mentoring Governments for Transparency



Program at the International Budget Partnership (2009-13). Before 2003, he was a university professor at the CIDE (Center for Research & Teaching in Economics) in Mexico (1994-2003) specialized in public administration reform for accountability, anticorruption and budget transparency. He started his career as news reporter and correspondent in Washington & Paris, where he studied master and PhD programs in public policy.

Jay Kruise, Public Service Accountability Monitor, Grahamstown, South Africa



Jay Kruise studied law at Rhodes University before being admitted as an attorney in 2003. He initially worked in private practice before joining PSAM in 2005 where he evaluated a joint anti-corruption initiative and a commission of inquiry into public sector maladministration. He headed-up PSAM's research and monitoring activities since January 2007. In April 2013 he was appointed as PSAM Director. He is particularly interested in socio-economic rights, public interest litigation, and accountability issues.

John Maritim, Director of Economic Planning, Elgeyo Marakwet County, Kenya



John Maritim has served for more than a decade in the public sector as an Economist. He is currently the Director of Economic Planning, Elgeyo Marakwet County, Kenya responsible for leading, coordinating and facilitating economic planning, policy formulation and budget preparation processes. His passion to integrate citizen inputs and incorporate best practices from other development actors for appropriate governance was borne out of his

desire to institute acceptable, open, participatory, inclusive and sustainable culture in the development process. John holds a Masters degree in Development Economics from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Tokyo, Japan and a Bachelors degree in Economics from Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya.

Maja Stranić Grah, Head of the Department of Economy, Finance and Budget, City of Pazin, Croatia



After finishing her postgraduate study of Company Finance at the Faculty of Economics in Zagreb in 2011 she started working in the City of Pazin as Head of the Department of Economy, Finance and Budget, where she works since then. In addition to regular activities of the department, she was the project manager of ARCHEO.S IPA CBC Adriatic project, which was focused on valorisation of cultural heritage and the development of long-term strategy for development of cultural and historical sites. She also participated



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in the IPARD project for Improvement and development of rural infrastructure, investment in the construction of the sewer system for the City of Pazin. She coordinated and actively participated in the development of the Strategy of development of City of Pazin for the period 2015-2020. Before her work for at the City of Pazin she took part in the project Watch out budget! with NGO GONG as a lead partner, with aim to view and adopt a participatory budgeting and inclusion of citizens in decision-making process. After the implementation of participatory budgeting in 2014 she is still working on improving and implementing participatory budgeting in the City of Pazin on many levels.

Tadej Beočanin, Mayor of Ajdovščina, Slovenia



Tadej Beočanin was elected Mayor of the Municipality of Ajdovščina at the age of 32. He convinced the voters with his development-oriented programme and modern approach campaign. He is leading the Municipality with youthful and sometimes burning enthusiasm, but with careful consideration and drawing on his rich experiences, gathered through his active engagement in non-governmental organizations. He is the author of numerous articles on

citizen participation in the policy-making and the decision-making processes. As Mayor he realized the idea of direct democracy with the introduction of participatory budgeting and the My Initiative (Moja pobuda) project is the first successfully implemented participatory budgeting project in Slovenia.

Mojca Primožič Kužner, Ankaran, Slovenia

Mojca Primožič Kužner is a lawyer (attorney) whom working area are primarily public law, administrative law, public finance law and local self-government law. She worked as a legal counsel at Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy (2008-2011), where she provided expert (legal) assistance to municipalities in the field of the organization, functioning, financing of municipalities. She also cooperated in preparing national regulations in the field of EU Cohesion Policy. Between 2011 to 2014 she worked as a lawyer (attorney) in Law firm Mužina, Žvipelj in partnerji, d.o.o. where she provided legal advice to the clients, representation before courts, state bodies and in front of other authorities. Her filed of work were primarily public law, administrative law, local self-government, public procurement law, public-private partnership. In December 2014, she started working as an independent lawyer (attorney) specialized in public law, mainly advising municipal bodies in securing legality of their work in the field of system regulations on local self-government. Mojca cooperates with the municipality of Ankaran since its foundation. She provides expert legal assistance in all the proceedings around organization, functioning and financing of municipality of Ankaran.



This conference is being organized in the framework of the  and in cooperation with

Katarina Ott - Institute of Public Finance, Zagreb, Croatia



Dr. Katarina Ott, director of the Institute of Public Finance, Zagreb (<http://www.ijf.hr/eng/home-page/>), professor at the Faculty of Mathematics and Faculty of Political Sciences, Zagreb University. Main area of interest – public sector economics (the relationship between government and the economy, the underground economy, the budget, public sector reform, local finances and in particular public sector transparency, government

accountability and citizens' participation both at national and sub-national levels). An active participant in Global Movement for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation; Open Government Partnership, and Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency.

Prof. Dr. Mitja Čok



Mitja Čok is a professor at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana. He covers courses from public finance at undergraduate and graduate levels. His primary research is devoted to microsimulation and he is a (co)author of several microsimulation models for tax-benefit and pension systems. At Faculty of Economics, he is a member of the Governance Board, a head of the master program Money and Finance and coordinator for the double degree

program with BI Oslo and University of Siena. He is participating in Open budget Survey for Slovenia since 2008.

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Juan Pablo Guerrero Network Director Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency <a href="mailto:guerrero@fiscaltransparency.net">guerrero@fiscaltransparency.net</a> T: +1 202 325 8866	Jorg Kristijan Petrovič First Deputy President and Member of the Senate The Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia <a href="mailto:jorg.petrovic@rs-rs.si">jorg.petrovic@rs-rs.si</a> T. +386 1 4785851 M. +386 41 333807



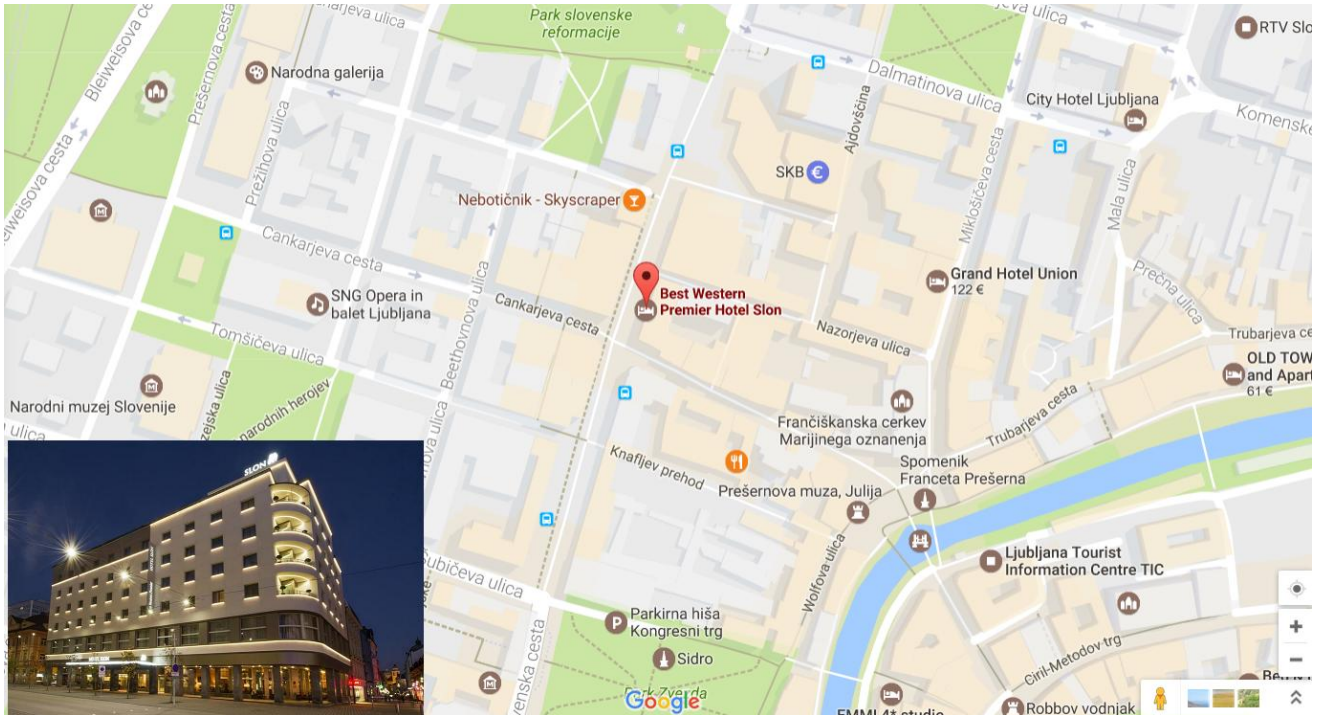
Hotel venue:

Hotel Slon, Slovenska cesta 34, Ljubljana, Slovenia;

[sales@hotelslon.com](mailto:sales@hotelslon.com)

+386 1 4701100

**Due date for room reservation is April 20th 2017 !**



## Registration

Dear participants!

**Due date for registration is Friday, May 5th 2017!** If you want to register as a participant please send the following data (fill the missing data and copy to the mail you are sending) to:

[sloaud@rs-rs.si](mailto:sloaud@rs-rs.si) & [albertina@fiscaltransparency.net](mailto:albertina@fiscaltransparency.net)

Name and Family name:

Institution:

Institution address (street, town, country):

Email:

Telephone:

## Security note:

For entering the Parliament building you must be

REGISTERED

and you will have to show a

valid ID.