Enabling Fiscal Programming of Structural Reforms

September 15–17, 2015

Learning Initiative Report

September 23, 2015
This learning initiative was delivered by the Center of Excellence in Finance as part of the Strategic Planning and Budgeting (SPB) project, funded by the European Union.

This learning initiative was part of the final events of the 2.5-year SPB project. The seminar’s primary objective was to better understand objectives and features of structural reforms and their costing, to identify the challenges and bottlenecks in fiscal policy coordination among ministries, and to share experiences with colleagues in other South East European countries on how these challenges are being addressed.

Participants gained knowledge in:

- **Understanding** the importance of good macro-fiscal frameworks, and the role of structural reforms, especially in the context of EU accession
- **Describing** the implementation challenges and the factors that are necessary to make fiscal planning work in practice
- **Identifying** operations and methodology needed to assess the fiscal impact of structural reforms
- **Contributing** to assuring realistic and consistent information on structural reforms and their costs in national macro-fiscal frameworks, and in Economic Reform Programmes

**Faculty (in order of appearance):**

- MOJMIR MRAK, Professor of International Finance, University of Ljubljana, and CEF Associate Fellow
- DUNCAN LAST, Public Financial Management Advisor for South East Europe, IMF
- NINA VUJOŠEVIĆ, Adviser to the Prime Minister of Montenegro and docent at University of Donja Gorica in Montenegro
- NORA KOKAJ, Macroeconomist, Ministry of Finance, Kosovo
- QEMAJL MARMULLAKAJ, Director of Strategic Planning Office, Office of the Prime Minister, Kosovo
- JANEZ ŠUŠTERŠIČ, Partner and consultant at Re-forma, d.o.o., and Senior Economist on the EU-project “Support to Ministry of Finance” in Kosovo
- DRITAN FINO, Advisor to Cabinet of Minister, Ministry of Finance, Albania
- CRISTOPHER TOWE, Deputy Director of Fiscal Affairs Department at IMF
- BERNARD BRUNED, Head of Thematic Support, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, DG NEAR, European Commission

**Participants:**

There were 29 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.
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Evaluation:

Overall satisfaction with the course

No. of all responses (incl. experts from SPB beneficiaries): Average mark: **4.53**
No. of all responses (incl. experts from SPB beneficiaries): Average mark: **4.56**

**Selected Participants’ Comments:**

- I will use the knowledge gained in my future work, especially in the process of preparing the ERP, and in integrating the fiscal strategy.
- I plan to explain this knowledge to my colleagues and share the materials.
- In my daily work, I do budget management and budget planning. The information I gained will be applicable at my work.
- I’m very happy. I learned from the presentation and other participants.
- I have to mention CEF’s renovated lobby in the best possible context. In my opinion, useful information for participants was shared there.
- Very good lecturers!
- As always, CEF is doing the best in organization of events. The center is more and more creative.