# 1 SPECIAL EDITION > 2015

LEARNING AT THE CEF

STARRING:

PARTICIPANTS TO CEF EVENTS AND CEF LEARNING FACILITATORS
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LEARNING AT THE CEF

Center of Excellence in Finance
Marcel is in his office, searching on the web.

PFM Reform

PFM: Public Financial Management Reform - medium-term budgeting

His colleague comes in.

How are you? What are you up to?
The Prime Minister asked our ministry to draft the PFM strategy. The Minister of Finance just called me to say I'm responsible for the medium-term budget framework reform plan.

You know what... what if you search for the Center of Excellence in Finance, CEF, and see what they offer. I was there last year for training and thought they were excellent.
CEF

Center of Excellence in Finance - CEF; knowledge hub in PFM

INTERESTING! LET'S SEE...
THEY OFFER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.
WOW, THERE WILL BE A WORKSHOP ON MEDIUM-TERM BUDGETING NEXT MONTH.
PERFECT TIMING FOR ME. I WANT TO ATTEND!
ONE MONTH LATER, MARCEL STEPS IN THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN FINANCE; THE ENVIRONMENT IS "OUT OF THE BOX"

HE IS ASTONISHED AND ASKS HIMSELF

HMM... AM I AT THE RIGHT PLACE?
He sees a picture of a sign with crossed tie. He hesitantly takes off his tie.

The workshop starts; the facilitator welcomes them; there is a regional expert present; Marcel still feels a little bit unsure.
THE FACILITATOR PRESENTS TOPICS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**Topics:**

Now, please stand up! You will meet your colleagues. This is an ice-breaking exercise called Bingo.
PEOPLE PLAY BINGO

MARCEL THINKS

I LIKE THIS!
IT SEEMS PROMISING!
The workshop continues.

In our country, the finance ministry sets the sector budget ceilings at the start of the process. The ceilings are not binding. On the other hand...

I like the way he explains things. His examples are really good.

So, enough of theory, let's negotiate next year's budget.

Please divide into four groups, you will be assigned different roles.
A discussion within one group

WE NEED TO APPOINT THE MINISTER.

MARCEL, WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE MINISTER?

After one hour they are filling out the table and negotiating enthusiastically. Marcel thinks...

This exercise is like having real budget negotiations, but now I actually understand the different roles and processes!
Coffee Break Starts

WHERE IS ANITA FROM MONTENEGRO? WHEN WE NEGOTIATED SHE MENTIONED THE BUDGET INSTRUCTIONS FOR LINE MINISTRIES.

Center of Excellence in Finance

Hi, ANITA.
Hi.

I was wondering if you could share the budget instructions for line ministries with me?

Sure, I will send them to you.

Great, thank you.
Presentations

We will now listen to the country presentations on the annual budget and its linkages with the medium-term fiscal strategy.

Marcel presents his country case

[Graph showing data]
MARCEL LISTENS TO THE PRESENTATIONS OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND SAYS TO HIMSELF...

I'LL MAKE SURE MY TEAM UNDERSTANDS THIS CONCEPT AND STARTS TO USE THIS.

MARCEL TYPES THE IDEA ON HIS SMART PHONE TO SHARE IT VIA TWITTER

The CEF workshop on medium-term budgeting was amazing!
http://www.cef-see.org
A year ago I attended the CEF workshop, where I learned about good practice in drafting a medium-term budget framework. Based on my recommendations, the finance directors from the finance ministry and line ministries now meet regularly to discuss planning and monitoring of the budget process. It has really upped our game.

To be continued
About CEF

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to support capacity development for finance officials in South East Europe through learning.

OUR WORK

We work with our constituency to support their public financial management, tax policy and administration, and central banking reform efforts. We do this through innovative, participatory, and practical learning solutions. The CEF serves as a knowledge hub for the region: we combine topical expertise and in-depth knowledge of countries in the region with a good comprehension of how reforms take place. We know how to nourish and expedite learning among individuals and institutions.

OUR HISTORY

We were established in 2001 under the Stability Pact for South East Europe by the Slovenian Government at the initiative of the Slovenian Ministry of Finance and in close cooperation with other ministries of finance of former Yugoslav countries and Albania. In 2014 the CEF became an international organization after 13 very successful years as a regional institution. The change of status facilitates the hiring of international staff and enhances cooperation with our partner institutions.

OUR CONSTITUENCY

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey.