



Urban Research Institute

The Open Budget Index 2008 and 2009

Context

International Budget Partnership collaborates with civil society around the world to use budget analysis and advocacy as a tool to enhance governance and reduce poverty. URI has been selected twice as the Albanian partner, in Open Budget Index 2008 and 2009 as one of civil society partners from around 85 countries under study.

The Goal

The aim of the project "The Open Budget Index" is to evaluate the quantity and type of information available to the public in a country's budget documents for Albania.

The main activities:

- Official newspaper, internet (web site of Ministry of Finance, Supreme Audit Committee and other related institutions, libraries etc.
- Face-to-face interview with a government official from Ministry of Finance or other knowledgeable party as to provide a reference to a budget document, a law, or other public document that are related to the answers given. The main idea at the end of the whole work conducted by URI was to provide a clear picture of what occurs in the practice regarding the timeliness and content of the documents to the public and not what are the requirements by law.



Benefits

Benefits from this project are reflected into efforts to increase transparency and accountability so that the trust of citizens in their government is enhanced and further collaboration between two parties is encouraged. At each stage of the budget process, the information made publicly available determines the ability of civil society (as well as the media, legislatures, and supreme audit institutions) to influence, monitor, and assess the effectiveness of government policies. The final step of the project carried out by URI was the dissemination and advocacy action plan for the final results of OBI index 2009 for Albania through workshops with actors of interest and civil societies and through publication on communication areas.

Country summary and the Open Budget Questionnaire for Albania for year 2008 are found at www.openbudgetindex.org/countryDATA/.

MAIN FACTS

PARTNERS:

- ✓ International Budget Partnership

DURATION:

2007 – 2008 & 2008 – 2009

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About URI

Since 1999 the Urban Research Institute (URI) has been delivering big results for development projects and programmers carried out throughout Albania. Our core business focuses on community development, local government strengthening, environmental protection, decentralization, and public services. We conduct studies, lobby the government, train local government units, increase public access to information, and connect development partners. URI has worked with donors such as USAID, Swiss Cooperation, the Netherlands Embassy, UNDP, World Bank, EU, SIDA, Open Society/Soros Foundation, etc.

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