



INTERNATIONAL BUDGET PARTNERSHIP
Open Budgets. Transform Lives.

THE OPEN BUDGET SURVEY

Civil society collecting data on Budget
Transparency and Citizens Engagement

WHAT IS THE OPEN BUDGET SURVEY?

- Objective, independent, comparative and global survey that evaluates, in 133 questions, the following:
 1. **Public access to key national budget information (8 docs)**
 2. **Opportunities for public participation in budget processes**
 3. **Strength of formal oversight institutions (legislatures & Supreme Audit Institutions).**
- Based on international good practices (IMF, OECD, INTOSAI, IBP).
- Regular biennial publication: four rounds completed.
- In **ITALY** we partner with Sbilanciamoci!

HOW IS THE OPEN BUDGET SURVEY PRODUCED?



20
MONTHS
12,500
OBSERVATIONS



18
IBP STAFF
MEMBERS



100
RESEARCHERS



200
PEER REVIEWERS



33,000



HOURS

Since 2014 data is collected using an online platform, INDABA



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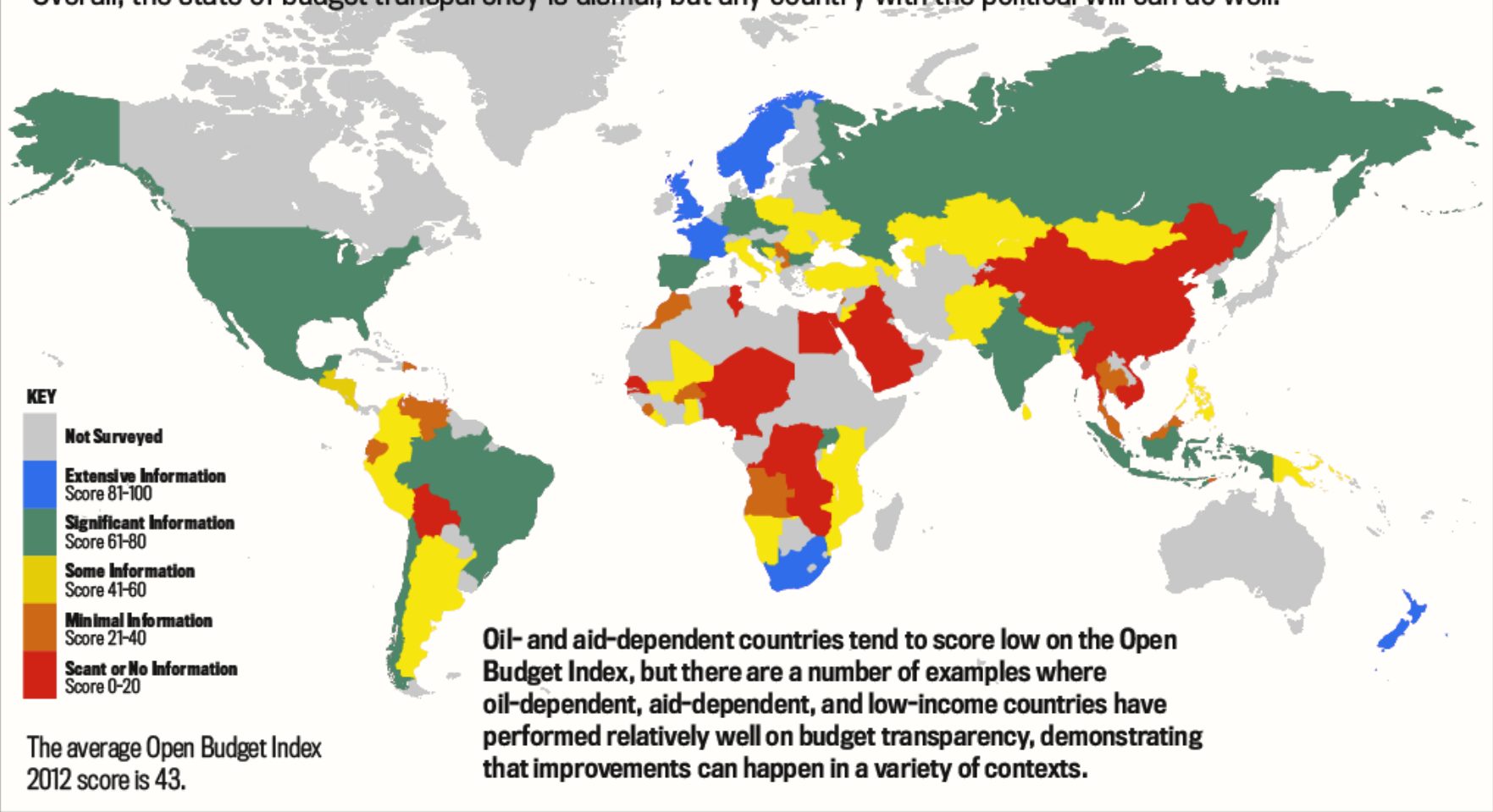
HOW ARE DATA COLLECTED AND QUALITY ASSURED?

1. A questionnaire is completed by independent CSO researchers, experts on the country's budget system and practices.
2. The IBP checks completed questionnaires for internal consistency and accuracy against publicly available data.
3. Peer review is provided by an independent, anonymous, expert reviewer in each country.
4. Governments are given the option to review their country's results.
5. The IBP referees differences in answers between researchers and reviewers.
6. All data and comments on the Survey are published online.



Open Budget Index 2012 (latest Survey results that have been published)

Overall, the state of budget transparency is dismal, but any country with the political will can do well.



RELEVANCE OF THE OPEN BUDGET SURVEY AND RELATIONSHIP WITH INSTITUTIONS

- Open Budget Survey results received increasing attention from various citizens, donors, governments.
- Governments feel the pressure from other stakeholders (example: donors), to improve transparency.
- They sometimes ask for advise: potentially problematic (key is to safeguard independence), but great opportunity for change.
- Bias can go either way (positive or negative). Key is ensure objectivity of the research.
- **Essentially, the OBS is a TOOL FOR DIALOGUE with institutions, to show gaps and encourage + change.**





THANK YOU!

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