



Institute of  
Public Finance



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## CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS

### PUBLIC SECTOR ECONOMICS 2021

# DOES FISCAL OPENNESS PAY OFF? THE POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF TRANSPARENCY, PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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22 OCTOBER 2021 || ZAGREB, CROATIA ||

or virtually, depending on the epidemiological situation

#### SUBJECT AND RATIONALE

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The Institute of Public Finance (IPF) and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), supported by the International Budget Partnership (IBP), Washington and the Croatian Science Foundation (CSF) are organizing the research and policy conference **Does fiscal openness pay off? The political and socio-economic effects of transparency, participation and accountability.**

Building on the PSE 2018 conference **Fiscal Openness: Transparency, Participation and Accountability in Fiscal Policies** and the IPF's Croatian Science Foundation-funded projects on local government budget transparency (OLBI) and its impacts (IMPACTBT), the main focus of this year's PSE conference will be on the political and socio-economic effects of transparency, participation and accountability.

Transparent management of public finances is a key element of good governance, even more so during the Covid-19 pandemic, when governments around the world face decreasing revenue and increasing expenditure. Extraordinary circumstances in which decisions are often made overnight cannot be an excuse for lack of transparency. Such decisions may affect the effectiveness of public spending and public services provision, fairness in the distribution of public funds and political dynamics, not to mention the wellbeing of citizens, especially of vulnerable and excluded groups.

The underlying assumption in the literature is that transparency fosters accountability. But through which channels this happens and how fiscal and budget transparency improve the quality of governance are still poorly understood. The literature has developed a long list of arguments in favour of transparency and public participation in the budgetary process, but these arguments are rarely backed up by rigorous evidence.

The conference aims to bring together leading researchers in the field and provide a state-of-the-art stocktake of theoretical, empirical, and policy insights on the effects of fiscal transparency, participation and accountability on macro-fiscal, resource allocation, service delivery, governance, and development outcomes.

#### CONFERENCE OUTLINE

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Keynote speeches on the current state of and trends in fiscal openness and sessions on various fiscal openness topics like:

- fiscal and budget transparency
- participatory budgeting and budget literacy
- government accountability in fiscal and budget processes
- national and subnational approaches

- measurement
- benefits, costs and risk of fiscal openness
- role of international organizations and movements
- role of technology
- best practices and how to transfer them
- relevance of the country-specific circumstances for fiscal openness
- fiscal openness and human development
- green and gender budgeting and fiscal openness

#### **SUBMISSIONS**

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Abstracts (200–500 words) for original, previously unpublished papers or preferably finished papers (in English), including title, keywords, names and affiliations of authors and the corresponding author's email should be submitted to [PSE2021@ijf.hr](mailto:PSE2021@ijf.hr).

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

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Submission of abstracts or papers by **May 31, 2021 (EXTENDED)**

Authors of accepted submissions will be notified by **June 30, 2021 (EXTENDED)**

Final papers to be submitted by **October 15, 2021**

#### **THERE IS NO CONFERENCE FEE**

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There is no conference fee. The organisers are not in a position to cover the costs of travel and accommodation in Zagreb for participants. For more information about the logistics, please visit the conference website at [pse-conference.ijf.hr](http://pse-conference.ijf.hr).

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

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James Alt, *Harvard University, United States*

María-Dolores Guillamón, *University of Murcia, Spain*

Paulo Jorge Reis Mourão, *University of Minho, Portugal*

#### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

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Francisco José Bastida Albaladejo, *Prince Sultan University, Saudi Arabia*

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Branko Stanić, *Institute of Public Finance, Croatia*

Joachim Wehner, *London School of Economics and Political Science, England*

#### **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE from the Institute of Public Finance**

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Vjekoslav Bratić, Mihaela Bronić, Martina Fabris, Marija Opačak,

Katarina Ott, Branko Stanić, Edita Vlahović Žuvela

#### **PUBLICATION**

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Conference participants are encouraged to submit their papers to *Public Sector Economics*, an academic journal indexed in Scopus, DOAJ, EconLit and RePEc, etc. Published quarterly, Public Sector Economics uses a double-blind peer review process, drawing referees from a worldwide pool of experts (see [the list](#)) and follows the highest ethical standards (see [Ethical Guidelines](#)). The journal ensures a quick turnaround time from submission to review and acceptance to publication of accepted papers. To facilitate these processes, we kindly request the authors to follow the [formatting instructions](#).

#### **DONORS/SPONSORS**

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European Commission Representation in the Republic of Croatia.