

New Independent fiscal institutions in the EU Member States in 2013

Questions marked with an asterisk * require an answer to be given.

1 Developments in 2013

1.1 Please choose from:

*

- The fiscal institution was created in 2013
- The fiscal institution was created before 2013 but never reported

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

2 General description of the fiscal institution

2.1 Please indicate the official name of the fiscal institution in the language of your country: * (maximum 100 characters)

2.2 Please indicate the official abbreviation of the name of the fiscal institution in the language of your country: *

(maximum 50 characters)

2.3 Please indicate the official name of the fiscal institution in English (if available): (maximum 100 characters)

2.4 Please indicate the official abbreviation of the name of the fiscal institution in English (if available):

(maximum 50 characters)

2.5 Please indicate the date when the legislation establishing the fiscal institution was approved (MM/YY):

*
(between 5 and 5 characters)

2.6 Please indicate the date when the fiscal institution started operating (MM/YY): * (between 5 and 5 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

2.7 Please provide a general description of the fiscal institution: * (maximum 4000 characters)

3 Independence of the fiscal institution

3.1 Please indicate which legal document(s) establishes the fiscal institution:

*

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> the constitution | <input type="radio"/> an organic law or other form of reinforced law | <input type="radio"/> an ordinary law |
| <input type="radio"/> a government decree | <input type="radio"/> a parliament decision | <input type="radio"/> other |

 other, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information (minimum 500 characters)

3.2 Please provide the title of the above legal document and, if relevant, its articles referring to the fiscal institution:

*
(maximum 500 characters)

3.3 Please specify on the status of the fiscal institution:

*

It is a stand-alone body (not functionally attached to another institution)

It is functionally attached to another body, please specify which body

Other

 Other, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information (minimum 500 characters)



3.4 If functionally attached, please describe what kind of support is provided by the host institution (for example in terms of IT systems, buildings, human resource management, communication services, budget integration etc.)

*

(maximum 750 characters)

3.5 Are the implementing provisions governing the organisation and functioning of the fiscal institution grounded in national law, regulation or binding administrative provisions?

*

Yes

No

Additional information: (maximum 500 characters)



3.6 Please provide the reference of these legal documents.

*

(maximum 200 characters)

3.7 Please indicate who prepares the annual work program of the fiscal institution: * (maximum 500 characters)

3.8 Has the fiscal institution the freedom to communicate publicly without any interference from other bodies? *

Yes, on fixed dates

Yes, at any time

No



No, please specify * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 500 characters)

3.9 Is the fiscal institution allowed to enter into contractual agreements with other entities/persons in order to draw additional/more specialised expertise (i.e. can it delegate some of its work)? *

Yes

No

 Yes, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

3.10 Does the fiscal institution have access to draft budgets and medium-term planning documents before they are publicly available? *

Yes

No

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

3.11 To what extent does the fiscal institution have access to non-public information allowing it to perform its tasks (multiple choice question)? *

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> it has full access to inside information in public administration, and public bodies have to respond to its requests | <input type="checkbox"/> it has a privileged but limited access (in scope or in time) to information in public administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> it has access to internal documents pertaining to the preparation of the annual budget | <input type="checkbox"/> it has access to internal budgetary information on the budget execution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> it has access to non-public datasets for in-depth budget analysis | <input type="checkbox"/> it has no privileged access to inside information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other | |

 Other, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

3.12 Please indicate the total amount of 2013 budget for the fiscal institution (in million EUR):

*

(maximum 500 characters)

3.13 Please describe the funding arrangements of the fiscal institution:

*

(maximum 500 characters)

3.14 Is this funding mechanism grounded in national law? (regulation, administrative rules, other legal documents)

*

Yes


No



Yes, please specify: *

(maximum 500 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

 3.15 Are there any other procedures ensuring that the fiscal institution enjoys a degree of stability in its funding over the medium-term? *

Yes

No

 Yes, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

 Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)


3.16 Does the fiscal institution have access to other sources of financing than the direct funding by the public sector?

*

Yes

No

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

 3.17 What was in 2013 the proportion of the functioning costs of the fiscal institution that was not covered by the public sector direct funding (in %)? * (at most 100)

%

 Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

3.18 Please specify the size of the governing/high-level board of the fiscal institution:

*

3.19 Please specify the composition of the governing/high-level board of the fiscal institution:

*

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

3.20 Please describe the nomination and appointment procedures of the governing/high-level board members of the fiscal institution:

*

3.21 Is the selection procedure of governing/high-level members of the fiscal institution enshrined in a legally binding document (e.g. in the document setting its statutory regime)?

*

Yes

No

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

3.22 What are the required conditions in terms of experience and competences of the potential governing/high-level members of the fiscal institution? *


3.23 Please specify the number of years of the terms of office of governing/high-level board members of the fiscal institution:

*
(at most 20)

3.23.1 Are the mandates of the governing/high-level board members renewable? *

Yes

No

 3.23.2 How many times can the mandates be renewed? *

Once

2 times

3 times

More than 3 times

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

3.24 Do the terms of office of the governing/high-level board members of the fiscal institution by default start and end simultaneously?

*

Yes

no

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

 3.25 If not, please describe the staggered terms: *

3.26 Are the governing/high-level members of the fiscal institution permitted to hold political posts during their terms of office?

*

Yes

no

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

3.26.1 Are the governing/high-level members of the fiscal institution permitted to hold public administration positions during their terms of office? *

Yes

No

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

3.27 Are there other constraints/limitations? *

Yes

No

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

 Other constraints, please, specify: *

3.28 Please specify how the governing/high level board of the fiscal institution adopts decisions and/or releases opinions:

*


by consensus

by qualified majority

by (simple) majority

other

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

 Please, specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

3.29 Is there a chairman/president of the fiscal institution?

*

Yes

No

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)



3.30 What are the powers of the chairman/president in relation to the governing/high-level board and the fiscal institution as a whole?

*

(maximum 750 characters)



Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

3.31 Apart from the governing board, please specify the approximate size of staff employed by the fiscal institution, in terms of full-time jobs, differentiating between e.g. economic researchers and administrative staff:

*

(maximum 500 characters)

3.32 Please describe the selection and appointment procedure of the staff of the fiscal institution:

*

(maximum 500 characters)

4 Activities of the fiscal institution


4.1 Please specify the fields of activity of the fiscal institution according to its mandate:

*

it is limited to fiscal policy

it also covers other areas of economic analysis

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

 4.2 Please specify the areas of economic analysis of the fiscal institution other than fiscal policy (multiple choice question): *

macroeconomics

industrial organisation/competition

international economics, trade

sectoral and/or regional economic activity


financial markets

environment and climate

labour economics incl. migration

other

 other, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

 Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

4.3 In the field of fiscal policy, please indicate the tasks fulfilled by the fiscal institution (multiple choice question):

*

Monitoring/assessment of compliance with numerical fiscal rules

Issuing normative statements/recommendations regarding fiscal policy

Other tasks

Production/endorsement/assessment of macroeconomic and/or budgetary forecasts

Long-term sustainability assessment

Provision of analysis on fiscal policy developments

Quantification of short-term and long-term budgetary effects of envisaged policy measures and reforms

 Provision of analysis on fiscal policy developments, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)



Provision of analysis on fiscal policy developments, please specify:

*

Yes

No



Long-term sustainability assessment, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)



Quantification of short-term and long-term budgetary effects of envisaged policy measures and reforms, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)



Other tasks, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)


4 Activities of the fiscal institution

4.1 Please specify the fields of activity of the fiscal institution according to its mandate:

*


- it is limited to fiscal policy it also covers other areas of economic analysis

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

 4.2 Please specify the areas of economic analysis of the fiscal institution other than fiscal policy (multiple choice question): *

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> macroeconomics | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial organisation/competition | <input type="checkbox"/> international economics, trade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sectoral and/or regional economic activity | <input type="checkbox"/> financial markets | <input type="checkbox"/> environment and climate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> labour economics incl. migration | <input type="checkbox"/> other | |

 other, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

 Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

4.3 In the field of fiscal policy, please indicate the tasks fulfilled by the fiscal institution (multiple choice question):

*

Monitoring/assessment of compliance with numerical fiscal rules

Issuing normative statements/recommendations regarding fiscal policy

Other tasks

Provision/endorsement/assessment of macroeconomic and/or budgetary forecasts

Long-term sustainability assessment

Provision of analysis on fiscal policy developments

Quantification of short-term and long-term budgetary effects of envisaged policy measures and reforms

 Provision of analysis on fiscal policy developments, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)



Long-term sustainability assessment, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)



Quantification of short-term and long-term budgetary effects of envisaged policy measures and reforms, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)



Other tasks, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)


Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

5 Fiscal institution monitoring compliance with numerical fiscal rules

5.1 Please indicate when the monitoring/assessment of compliance with numerical fiscal rules is carried out

(multiple choice question): *

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In the preparatory stage of the annual budget | <input type="checkbox"/> During the budget execution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once per year | <input type="checkbox"/> More than once per year, at a regular frequency in connection with key stages of the annual budget cycle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More than once per year, at any time | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

 If more than once per year, at a regular frequency in connection with key stages of the annual budget cycle, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

 Other, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

5.2 Is the assessment of compliance with fiscal rules publicly available?

*

Yes

No

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

5.3 Does the assessment of compliance include an opinion on whether applicable escape clauses should be triggered/extended/exited?

*

Yes

No

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

5.4 Please indicate whether the monitoring of assessment is conducted:

*

Only for selected national fiscal rules

For all national fiscal rules in place



Please specify which ones: * (maximum 200 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

5.5 Please describe the reaction of the government in relation to the assessment of compliance with national fiscal rules:

*

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> The government has to take corrective steps | <input type="radio"/> The government does not have to take corrective steps but it has to publicly explain why it does not take action | <input type="radio"/> The government does not have to react, but it usually does |
| <input type="radio"/> The government does not have to react, and it usually does not | <input type="radio"/> Other | |



Other, please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

5.6 Is this fiscal institution in charge of the monitoring of the structural budget balance rule as required by the Fiscal Compact?

*

Yes

In principle, yes, but the structural budget balance rule is not yet in force

No

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

5.7 Please indicate when the monitoring of compliance with the structural budget balance rule is carried out

(multiple choice question): *

In the preparatory stage of the annual budget

During the budget execution

Once per year

More than once per year, at a regular frequency in connection with key stages of the annual budget cycle

More than once per year, at any time

Other



If more than once per year, at a regular frequency in connection with key stages of the annual budget cycle,

please specify: * (maximum 500 characters)



Please, specify: * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

5.8 Please describe the reaction of the government in relation to the assessment of compliance with the structural budget balance rule:

*

The government has to take corrective steps

The government does not have to take corrective steps but it has to publicly explain why it does not take action

The government does not have to react, but it usually does

The government does not have to react, and it usually does not

Other




Please, specify * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

5.9 Please indicate whether the fiscal institution provides a public assessment in relation to the structural budget balance rule monitoring as to (multiple choice question): *

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The occurrence of circumstances warranting the activation of the correction mechanism | <input type="checkbox"/> Whether the correction is proceeding in accordance with national rules and plans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over the occurrence of circumstances for triggering, extending and exiting escape clauses | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

 Please, specify * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

6 Fiscal institutions producing/endorsing/assessing forecasts of macroeconomic and/or budgetary variables

6.1 Please indicate the type of forecasts produced/endorsed/assessed by the fiscal institution (multiple choice question): *

- Macroeconomic variables
- Budgetary variables

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

6.2 Does the fiscal institution prepare/endorse/assess macroeconomic or budgetary forecasts for the general government as a whole?

*

- Yes No

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

6.3 Apart from the general government sector, please specify the sub-sectors of general government for which forecasts are prepared/endorsed/assessed by the fiscal institution (multiple choice question):

*

- Central government
- Regional government
- Local government
- Social security
- Other



Please, specify * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)



6.4 In terms of macroeconomic forecasts, please specify: *

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> The fiscal institution produces the macroeconomic forecasts which are used for the national fiscal planning | <input type="radio"/> The fiscal institution produces macroeconomic forecasts, but these are not used for the national fiscal planning | <input type="radio"/> The fiscal institution does not produce macroeconomic forecasts but has to endorse those prepared by other institution(s) for them to be used for fiscal planning |
| <input type="radio"/> The fiscal institution provides an assessment of the macroeconomic forecasts prepared by other institution(s) | <input type="radio"/> The fiscal institution is consulted at the start or during the preparation of macroeconomic forecasts | <input type="radio"/> Other |



Please specify: *

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> The fiscal institution produces the forecasts in-house | <input type="radio"/> The fiscal institution sub-contracts the production of the forecasts to another entity but retains ultimate responsibility for their delivery |
|--|---|



Please, specify * (maximum 500 characters)



Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)



6.5 Please indicate the role of the forecasts of macroeconomic variables for the preparation of the annual budget: *

- there is a legal or constitutional obligation to use the fiscal institution's forecasts
- there is a political agreement that the fiscal institution's forecasts are generally used
- the government is free to use its own forecasts, but deviations from the fiscal institution's forecasts have to be justified publicly
- the government is free to use its own forecasts, without any obligation to provide justification for deviations from the fiscal institution's forecasts
- other



Please, specify * (maximum 500 characters)



Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)



6.6 In terms of budgetary forecasts, please specify which variables are prepared/endorsed/assessed by the fiscal institution (multiple choice question): *

- government expenditures based on policy measures announced in specific documents (e.g. budget law or specific economic policy decisions)
- government revenues
- government balance
- government debt
- other



Please, specify * (maximum 500 characters)



Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)



6.7 In terms of budgetary forecasts, please specify: *

The fiscal institution produces budgetary forecasts which are used for the national fiscal planning

The fiscal institution produces budgetary forecasts, but these are not used for the national fiscal planning

The fiscal institution does not produce budgetary forecasts but has to endorse those prepared by other institution(s) for them to be used for fiscal planning

The fiscal institution provides an assessment of the budgetary forecasts prepared by other institution(s)

The fiscal institution is consulted at the start or during the preparation of budgetary forecasts

Other



Please specify: *

The fiscal institution produces the forecasts in-house

The fiscal institution sub-contracts the production of the forecasts to another entity but retains ultimate responsibility for their delivery



Please, specify * (maximum 500 characters)



Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)



6.8 Please, indicate the role of the forecasts of budgetary variables for the preparation of the annual budget

*

- there is a legal or constitutional obligation to use the fiscal institution's forecasts
- there is a political agreement that the fiscal institution's forecasts are generally used
- the government is free to use its own forecasts, but deviations from the fiscal institution's forecasts have to be justified publicly
- the government is free to use its own forecasts, without any obligation to provide justification for deviations from the fiscal institution's forecasts
- other



Please, specify * (maximum 500 characters)



Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

6.9 Please describe the involvement of the fiscal institution in the initial preparation stage of the forecasts and also in the stage when forecasts are updated:

*

(maximum 500 characters)

6.10 Does the fiscal institution provide an ex-post evaluation of macroeconomic and/or budgetary forecasts?

*

Yes

No



Please, specify * (maximum 500 characters)

Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)



6.11 Does the fiscal institution provide macroeconomic and/or budgetary long-term projections?

*

Yes

No



6.12 What sorts of long-term projections are provided, how often and for what purposes? *

(maximum 500 characters)



6.13 Please specify the time horizon of the long-term projections (number of years):

*

(at most 50)



Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)



6.14 Please indicate whether the fiscal institution prepares medium-term projections to be used in the MTBF planning document: *

(maximum 500 characters)




6.15 Please specify whether the macroeconomic forecasts produced/endorsed by the fiscal institution are used in the MTBF planning document *

Yes

No



Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

 6.16 Please specify whether the budgetary forecasts produced/endorsed by the fiscal institution are used in the MTBF planning document *

Yes

No

 Additional information: (maximum 1000 characters)

7 Fiscal institutions issuing normative statements/recommendations

7.1 Please indicate the activities of the fiscal institution in the area of normative statements and issuing recommendations (multiple choice question): *

normative assessment of the draft government budget


recommendations on changes of fiscal policy measures specified in the draft government budget

normative assessment/monitoring in the implementation stage of the budget

recommendations on changes of fiscal policy measures in the implementation stage of the budget

normative assessment of economic programmes of political parties ahead of elections

other

 Please specify:

*
(maximum 200 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

7.2 Please specify the way in which the government interacts with the fiscal institution in the planning stage of the budgetary process:

*

- the government is obliged by law to consult the fiscal institution
- the government generally consults the fiscal institution, though not obliged by law
- the government does not consult the fiscal institution
- other



Please specify: *

(maximum 200 characters)


Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

7.3 Please specify the way in which the parliament interacts with the fiscal institution in the planning stage of the budgetary process:

*

- the fiscal institution has to be audited by the parliament (legal obligation)
- the fiscal institution is generally audited by the parliament, though there is no such legal obligation
- there is no formal consultation of the fiscal institution by the parliament
- other

 Please specify: * (maximum 200 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

7.4 Please specify if the fiscal institution provides normative assessment/recommendations of the draft government budget in terms of the following (multiple choice question):

*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> consistency with sustainable government finances | <input type="checkbox"/> compliance with the national fiscal rules |
| <input type="checkbox"/> adequacy in the prevailing cyclical conditions / appropriateness in terms of stabilisation | <input type="checkbox"/> quality of government finances, e.g. in terms of composition of revenue and expenditure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> compliance with the requirements of the SGP | <input type="checkbox"/> other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> compliance with the budgetary targets established in the MTBF/SCP framework | |



Please specify:

*

(maximum 200 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

7.5 How does the government react to the normative assessment/recommendations of the draft government budget provided by the fiscal institution? *

it is obliged by law to follow recommendations or explain why it does not follow

it is obliged by law to react to the normative assessment of the draft budget

though not obliged by law, the government typically reacts (follows recommendations or explains the deviations, discusses the assessment etc...)

it generally does not react

other



Please specify:

*

(maximum 200 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

7.6 Please specify if the fiscal institution provides normative assessment/monitoring at the implementation stage of the budget in terms of the following (multiple choice question): *

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> implementation of the budget law in general, including alert in case of substantial deviations from plans | <input type="checkbox"/> compliance with the budgetary targets established in the MTBF/SCP framework |
| <input type="checkbox"/> consistency with sustainable government finances | <input type="checkbox"/> compliance with the national fiscal rules |
| <input type="checkbox"/> adequacy in the prevailing cyclical conditions / appropriateness in terms of stabilisation | <input type="checkbox"/> quality of government finances, e.g. in terms of composition of revenue and expenditure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> compliance with the requirements of the SGP | <input type="checkbox"/> other |



Please specify:

*

(maximum 200 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

7.7 How does the government react to the normative assessment/monitoring provided by the fiscal institution at the implementation stage of the budget?

*

- it is obliged by law to react to the normative assessment
- though not obliged by law, the government typically reacts (follows recommendations or explains the deviations, discusses the assessment etc...)
- it generally does not react
- other

 Please specify: * (maximum 200 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

7.8 Please specify if the fiscal institution provides normative assessment/recommendations of the conduct of fiscal policy in a medium-term perspective in terms of the following (multiple choice question):

*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> stringency of implementation of budget plans without major deviations or supplementary budgets | <input type="checkbox"/> consistency with sustainable government finances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> adequacy in the prevailing cyclical conditions / appropriateness in terms of stabilisation | <input type="checkbox"/> compliance with the requirements of the SGP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> compliance with the budgetary targets established in the SCP framework | <input type="checkbox"/> compliance with the national fiscal rules |
| <input type="checkbox"/> quality of government finances, e.g. in terms of composition of revenue and expenditure | <input type="checkbox"/> other |



Please specify:



(maximum 200 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)

8 Compliance in 2013

8.1 Please indicate the type of outputs/assessments/recommendations produced in 2013 by the fiscal institution

(multiple choice question): *

- Assessment of compliance with fiscal rules
- Endorsement of macroeconomic and/or budgetary forecasts
- Assessment of macroeconomic and/or budgetary forecasts
- Production of macroeconomic and/or budgetary forecasts
- Other assessments/recommendations
- No assessment/recommendation produced



Assessment of compliance with fiscal rules, please specify: * (maximum 200 characters)



Please specify the concrete way in which the fiscal institution gave or not its endorsement of Macroeconomic and/or budgetary forecasts, : * (maximum 200 characters)



Assessment of macroeconomic and/or budgetary forecasts, please specify: (maximum 200 characters)



Production of macroeconomic and/or budgetary forecasts, please specify: (maximum 200 characters)



Other assessments/recommendations, please specify: * (maximum 200 characters)

Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



8.2 Was there any assessment/normative statement/recommendation produced by the fiscal institution in 2013 that the government did not comply with?

*

Yes

No



Additional information:

(maximum 500 characters)



8.3 Please specify the respective assessments/recommendations and the consequences of government's non-compliance: * (maximum 500 characters)

9 End of the questionnaire

9.1 Contact details of the respondents: Names, firstnames, positions, departments, institutions, addresses, emails, phone numbers

*

9.2 Remarks concerning the questionnaire: (maximum 2000 characters)