**GIFT GENERAL STEWARDS MEETING**

**Portugal**

***Background and agenda for the GIFT network meeting***

*October 16th, 2018, 1:30pm - 6pm*

**Public participation as a central topic in Portugal**

The 2018 GIFT General Stewards Meeting will take place in Cascais, a Portuguese municipality that was recognized by GIFT in 2017 for its outstanding experience on [participatory](http://guide.fiscaltransparency.net/) budgets, and is kindly opening its doors to host the GIFT stewards meeting. The occasion will include a field visit to learn more about the participatory budget experience in Portugal at the National level (a participatory budget is a process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a budget, enabling taxpayers to work with governments to make the budget decisions that affect their lives). A significant part of the agenda will be therefore devoted to citizens engagement in the budget process, with experiences shared from the local and national levels.

We will also devote special attention to the IBP proposal to pilot public participation mechanisms in some of the GIFT steward countries. This initiative was discussed in Brasilia in June (fiscal transparency portals workshop), where some stewards expressed interest in continuing the conversation about joining IBP and GIFT in the pilots. In few words, the proposal is to deepen our work of enhancing public participation in fiscal policies. The plan focuses on supporting the efforts of select governments to pilot practical and meaningful mechanisms through which they can engage their citizens on fiscal policies. Led by IBP, the GIFT network would seek to support pilot projects in 4-5 countries on public participation mechanisms, document the pilots, and adapt resources from the pilots to develop additional resources to help others replicate these experiences. We will continue this conversation in Cascais.

**Dialogue with a budget officials network: getting to know PEMPAL**

As you know, the October GIFT meeting will be organized in coordination with the PEMPAL (World Bank Public Expenditure Management Peer-Assisted Learning) network, a multilateral effort to develop capacity and share reform experiences among countries in Central Asia and Central and Eastern Europe, a group of finance representatives with whom GIFT has been working closely for the past 2.5 years. This will give the PEMPAL and GIFT networks the opportunity to learn from each other and to strengthen the cooperation, as countries are making efforts in promoting public participation in the budget process. In this context, we will ask some of you to briefly share your experience on transparency and citizens engagement, and to speak about your peer learning experience in the GIFT network.

PEMPAL is particularly interested in the discussion about:

1. The dialogue, learning and collaborative technical assistance in GIFT;
2. The impact of digitalization, IT and open data and public participation;
3. GIFT’s experience on how to motivate budget information users at national level.

For the first topic, budget officials and civil society representatives from Croatia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Nigeria and Argentina, will be invited to briefly share their experience. For the digitalization session, speakers from budget offices and civil society organizations from Mexico, Ukraine and Chile will be asked to present. The third subject will be addressed by speakers from budget offices and CSO from Uruguay, Indonesia, Brazil, South Africa. You can refer to the agenda of the meeting shared with PEMPAL to identify the time and format of these presentations.

**Making the GIFT network stronger**

The GIFT’s General Stewards Meeting provides a forum for GIFT stakeholders to define and advance the objectives of the initiative and to exchange their experiences in promoting fiscal transparency and participation. It is the occasion for government agencies, civil society organizations, international financial institutions, specialized institutions and experts, that are GIFT stewards and partners, to share actions and plans to increase fiscal transparency and participation in their area of responsibility in their countries. In Portugal, Stewards will be invited to share transparency & participation commitments before their peers, but also to express the specific engagement that they are willing to assume for a more cohesive, responsive and effective network. Indeed, we are planning to have a more documented process about our members efforts and achievements on fiscal transparency and public participation.

Stewards comprise the action network and establish GIFT’s value proposition, core strategies, and main areas of action. They ensure that GIFT represents an effective and efficient multi-stakeholder action network and help the network to cover as many stakeholders as possible within the fiscal and budget community and continuously work to improve the credibility and impact of GIFT streams of work. In Cascais, stewards will have occasion to discuss proposed changes to the GIFT Operating Rules that seek to adapt to the network´s growth and evolution, but also to improve the quality of our work.

**Preliminary Program – GIFT General Stewards Meeting**

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| ***October 16, 2017 / 1:30pm - 6pm*** | | |
| **TIME** | **SESSION** | **PRESENTER(S)** |
| 12:30pm | Lunch |  |
| 1:30pm | **Welcome** | - **Juan Pablo Guerrero**, GIFT Network Director |
| 1:35 | **Fiscal transparency & participation in GIFT Stewards: How are we doing?** | **- Murray Petrie,** Lead Technical Advisor |
| 1. **Stewards and partners commitments** | | |
| 1:45pm | 1. *Around the table*   Every participant around the table will present their fiscal transparency and participation commitments (5-minute presentation) | Moderated by:  **- Juan Pablo Guerrero**  - **All participants (list attached)** |
| 2:45pm | 1. *Discussion, questions and answers* | - GIFT Coordination Team |
| **II. GIFT Network updates and Operating Procedures** | | |
| 3:45 | 1. *An overview of GIFT’s activities, work plan, and proposed changed to the GIFT Operating Procedures* | - **Juan P. Guerrero**, GIFT |
| 4:00pm | 1. *Discussion, questions and answers* | - All participants |
| **III. Public Participation pilots in GIFT countries- IBP and GIFT proposal** | | |
| 4:30pm | 1. Proposal to deepen our work of enhancing public participation in fiscal policies | - **Jason Lakin, Suad Hasan,** IBP |
| 5pm | 1. *Discussion* | - **All participants** |
| 5:30pm | **Co** *Conclusions and next steps* | - **Juan P. Guerrero** |
| 6pm | **End of meeting – Dinner at 7:30 pm offered by Cascais Municipality** | |

**VENUE:** Carcavelos Campus of NOVA School of Business & Economics University, Rua da Holanda n. 1, 2775-405, Carcavelos, Portugal