



THE OECD REVIEW OF AIReF

Lisa von Trapp,
Sr. Policy Analyst, Budgeting and Public Expenditures,
Directorate for Public Governance, OECD

**10th Annual Meeting of OECD Network of Parliamentary
Budget Officials and Independent Fiscal Institutions**

Seoul, 4 July 2018



Why external evaluation?

- ✓ IFIs help hold governments accountable - have special duty to be accountable as well
- ✓ Risks to sustainability of new organisations

- **OECD PBO Network** finds good practices and sets standards for IFIs

OECD PBO
Network



- **Principles for IFIs** adopted by OECD member governments in 2014
- Includes principle that IFIs should undergo an **external evaluation**
- **Evaluation framework** developed to underpin this principle

Standards



- AIReF President committed to external evaluation mid-way through his first term

Application





Framework for Evaluation

Common Evaluation Framework

- **Context** –e.g. mandate, governance arrangements, institutional landscape, economic and political environment...
- **Inputs** – e.g. human and financial resources, access to information, independence...
- **Outputs** – e.g. core products, effectiveness of methodologies, benchmarked against peers as appropriate...
- **Impact** – e.g. uptake of work by stakeholders, effectiveness of communications...

Evaluation Options

- Benchmarking against OECD Principles and other international standards
- Cross-country benchmarking
- Peer review
- Technical assessment of methodologies
- Special issues



OECD Review of AIReF



Team

- OECD Secretariat (Budgeting and Public Expenditures Division)
- International peers from the Netherlands CPB, US CBO, local peer University of Vigo

Stakeholders consulted

- Public Administrations, Bank of Spain, Legislature, Court of Auditors, AIReF advisory board, academics, media....

Structure

Chpt. 1
Context

Chpt. 2
Inputs

Chpt. 3
Methodology
and Outputs

Chpt 4.
Subnational

Chpt. 5
Impact



Special chapter on subnational role



Madrid

Valencian Community

Galicia



Key findings - overview

In a short period of time AIReF has built

a reputation for independence and high quality analysis with Spanish stakeholders

a strong presence internationally among its peers

AIReF is viewed by stakeholders

as contributing to better fiscal management

as an “honest broker” in national/subnational fiscal coordination

AIReF’s work

is in line with good practice in terms of approach, rigour and transparency; compares well with peers

would benefit from more emphasis on the medium term and more numerical and graphical summaries



Key findings – three core challenges

AIReF fully meets 17 of 23 OECD Principles for IFIs and partially meets 6 remaining. Main issues linked to resources and access to information.

1. Access to information and timeliness

- recommend developing MoU with MINHAFP and/or relevant administrations, including arrangements for AIReF to have advance sight of data on a confidential basis

2. Resources and budgetary independence

- recommend a reassessment of whether resources are commensurate with mandate
- multiannual funding commitment covering period of the MTEF

3. Effectiveness of comply-or-explain principle

- recommend increased selectivity to emphasise and focus on most important messages in subsequent dialogue with administrations and public follow-up



Progress since the review and next steps

- Government has amended legislation to:
 - improve access to information
 - enhance AIReF's budgetary independence
 - reinforce use of comply-or-explain principle
- Increased resources
- AIReF undertook a comply-or-explain exercise against the review's 20 recommendations and made proposals for improvement
- Discussion at PBO Network



THANK YOU!

For more information, please contact Lisa von Trapp:
lisa.vontrapp@oecd.org