

“Spending Reviews as a Tool to Strengthen Fiscal Governance”. A Conference organized by the World Bank in Vienna

On 3–4 April 2024 it was held in Vienna, the conference “Spending Reviews as a Tool to Strengthen Fiscal Governance”, organized by the World Bank with representatives from the Ministries of Finance and State Audit Offices of the Western Balkans. The event was organized within the framework of the project supporting the region in strengthening institutional frameworks for fiscal policy, with the support of the European Union Trust Fund for Strengthening Fiscal Governance in the Western Balkan countries.

The conference was opened by officials from the World Bank’s regional office, representatives of the European Commission and the OECD, who, among other things, shared their experiences in implementing this tool and its effectiveness in improving budget planning, accountability and transparency.

The conference continued with presentations by representatives of European Union countries, including Spain, Denmark, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Estonia, who shared knowledge on practical approaches to designing and implementing spending review processes. They emphasized the need for political leadership support and the participation of experts from professional organisations, civil society and academia in the spending review process; the periodic implementation of this process; and the importance of integrating it with the annual budgeting process, the medium-term budget plan and the performance evaluation of budget programs.



The second day continued with a panel of representatives from the Ministries of Finance of Kosovo, Montenegro and North Macedonia. North Macedonia, in particular, presented its regulatory framework, the challenges encountered in implementing spending reviews, and the involvement of experts from internal audit, the fiscal council and academia.

In conclusion, spending reviews promote transparency and accountability and enable governments to make more informed decisions regarding budget allocations, leading to improved public service delivery and better outcomes for citizens.

The ALSAI was represented at the conference by Ms. Valbona Gaxha, Adviser and Ms. Anila Alcani, Head of Unit.