

Assignment for course participants

Fiscal decentralisation realities in participant's countries

General information

Selection of assignments:

- Each course participant chooses one of the four assignments.
- Participants from the same country should not choose the same assignment.
- Please choose assignment 3 and 4 only if you are from or work in a country where decentralisation reform has recently taken place or currently is under way.

Purposes of the assignments:

- Participants contribute actively to the discussions in the course.
- The course responds to realities in the participant's countries.
- Findings from participant's countries can be compared.

Considerations for good presentations:

- Presentation time for each participant: ca. 10 min.
- PowerPoint: font size not smaller than 18; only clear and short statements, no long sentences on slides.
- Charts must be easily readable. Avoid overload!
- Split long tables in meaningful parts and put these on several slides.
- Present detailed information that cannot be put on slides on a hard copy you distribute.

Submission deadline for presentations: 12. Nov. 2018 to stefan.pfaeffli@hslu.ch.

Assignment 1: Allocation of functions (tasks) and expenditure to the different state levels

Please provide information on the following issues:

- 1) Which are the different levels of government in your country?
- 2) Which are the main functions (tasks) of each state level?
- 3) Are there functions where different state levels are responsible? How are such co-assignments organised?
- 4) Has the allocation of specific functions to the different state levels been changed recently? If yes, how?
- 5) How much money is spent by general government (all state levels consolidated) and at each state level? Please present this information as follows.

Public expenditure in the year 20XX in				
	<i>In local currency</i>	<i>In USD</i>	<i>Share of total public expenditure</i>	<i>Share of Gross Domestic Product</i>
Entire state system ¹			100%	
Central state ²				
Subnational level 1 ³				
Subnational level 2 ³				
Subnational level 3 ³				
Subnational level 4 ³				
¹ Please explain also whether expenditure of big public institutions, such as railways, hospitals, universities, postal service, etc. is included in the figure or not.				
² Please consider that deconcentrated ministries working at sub-national level belong to the central state. Could you say more about the existence of such deconcentrated units in your country?				
³ Use as much sub-national levels as needed.				

Possible source of information: OECD/UCLG. (2016). Subnational governments around the world: Structure and Finance. Annex 4. Online: <http://www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/Annexes.pdf>. Consider also the country profiles from the same source: <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/sngs-around-the-world.htm>

- 6) Problems encountered with the current allocation of functions?

Assignment 2: Finances of sub-national governments – main sources of income and their share

Please provide information on the following issues:

- 1) Which are the different levels of government in your country?
- 2) How much income is available for general government and at each state level?
- 3) Which are the main sources of income and their share at each state level?
Please present this information as follows.

Public income in the year 20XX in				
	In local currency	In USD	Share of total public income	Share of Gross Domestic Product
Entire state system ¹			100%	
Central state				
Subnational level 1 ²				
Subnational level 2 ²				
Subnational level 3 ²				
Subnational level 4 ²				
Biggest five income sources at each state level				
Central State	Income source		In local currency	In percentage of total income
Subnational level 1²	Income source		In local currency	In percentage of total income
Subnational level 2²	Income source		In local currency	In percentage of total income
Subnational level 3²	Income source		In local currency	In percentage of total income
Subnational level 4²	Income source		In local currency	In percentage of total income
¹ Please explain also whether income of big public institutions, such as railways, hospitals, universities, postal service, etc. is included in the figure or not.				
² Use as much sub-national levels as needed.				

Possible source of information for question 3: OECD/UCLG. (2016). Subnational governments around the world: Structure and Finance. Annex 4. Online: <http://www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/Annexes.pdf>.

Consider also the country profiles from the same source: <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/sngs-around-the-world.htm>

- 4) Do sub-national governments have the right to make decisions on taxes, such as setting the tax rate, modify the tax base, etc.? Can you specify this and give examples?
- 5) Has the allocation of specific income sources to the different state levels been changed recently? If yes, how?
- 6) Problems encountered with the current allocation of revenue sources?

Assignment 3: Political economy of fiscal decentralisation reform

Please provide information on the following issues:

- 1) What was the key motivation for the decentralization reform, i.e., a rapid response to a political or economic crisis versus a more gradual element of broader public sector/governance reform?

- 2) What are the main objectives and features of the decentralisation reform you are referring to? To what extent are the actual objectives (which are often political) consistent with the official objectives (which are often developmental)?

- 3) Who are/were the main stakeholders in this decentralisation reform? What role and interest and how much power do/did they have? And how are/were they included in the reform process?

Stakeholder Analysis					
Main reform stakeholders	Interest and concerns with respect to the reform	How does/did the project impact the stakeholder	Role of the stakeholder in the reform	Power to influence reform	How does/did reform project engage stakeholders

You could make one slide for each stakeholder.

- 4) Lessons learned?

Assignment 4: Strategy and organisation of decentralisation reform

Please provide information on the following issues:

- 1) What are/were the main objectives and features of the decentralisation reform you are referring to?
- 2) What are/were the main elements of the decentralisation strategy and the purpose of each?
- 3) Who prepared and who approved the decentralisation strategy? Which actor(s) are responsible for implementation of the strategy and how is leadership/coordination exercised?
- 4) Who is/was involved at which level and what is/was the role of each body of the project organization?
- 5) How would you describe the information strategy during the reform? Who, when and how is/was informed?
- 6) Lessons learned?