

KEY QUESTIONS

the big six

6



What are important milestones in Spain's annual budget process?

ODA levels and main funding lines are typically decided upon between March and July

This is how the budgetary cycle typically works, along with the usual timeframe, but recent political instability has led to frequent delays in budget approval.

- Government suggests overall ODA volume:** In March, the government sets guidelines for overall spending per ministry, including overall ODA volume, as well as funding lines for Spain's Development Promotion Fund (FONPRODE) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). Key stakeholders in this period include the Prime Minister's Office, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAEUEC) and the Ministry of Finance and Public Function (MINHAFP).
- Ministries develop their budget requests:** Between May and June, each ministry, including MAEUEC and MINHAFP, develop their budget requests in accordance with overall spending levels set in the government's guidelines to each ministry. Around June or July, ministries present their requests to MINHAFP.
- Government decides on ministerial spending caps:** Once budget requests are sent to the MINHAFP, negotiations start between the ministries. In July, the government decides on caps for ministerial budgets and the government's overall spending ceiling is presented, including the ODA volume. Key decision-makers regarding ODA levels are the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister, and the Foreign Minister.
- Negotiations take place among ministries:** From August to September, the MAEUEC continues to negotiate with the Ministry of Finance for specific funding items, e.g., the share of loans or grants in the FONPRODE budget. Both ministries are key stakeholders during this period.
- Parliament discusses, amends, and votes on budget bill:** From October to November, Parliament discusses and amends the ministries' draft budgets. The Development Committee provides recommendations on budget amendments, and the Budget Committee makes the final decision. Members of Parliament may present amendments to the overall budget and to specific ODA budget lines in this period. The lack of a clear majority in Parliament since 2016 reinforces the influence of individual members regarding budget allocations, including for ODA.

Further allocations are decided upon during the implementation phase of the annual budget. The MAEUEC decides on spending to partner countries and other multilateral organizations during the course of the entire year. Allocations from the FONPRODE are made by the 'FONPRODE Executive Board'. The Board (which includes representatives from MAEUEC, the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness, MINHAFP, and other ministries) usually meets three to four times per year. Its funding proposals need to be approved by the Prime Minister's cabinet weekly meeting (Consejo de Ministros).

