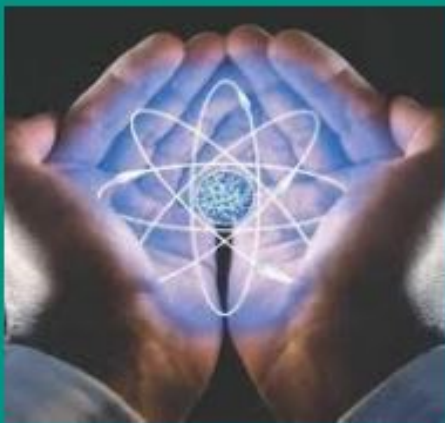


## Table Of Content

<b>Journal Cover</b>	2
<b>Author[s] Statement</b>	3
<b>Editorial Team</b>	4
<b>Article information</b>	5
Check this article update (crossmark)	5
Check this article impact	5
Cite this article	5
<b>Title page</b>	6
Article Title	6
Author information	6
Abstract	6
<b>Article content</b>	8

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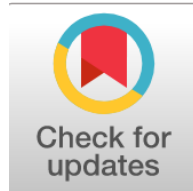
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## Beyond Budgeting for Adaptive Financial Management in Uzbekistan's Banking Sector

### *Melampaui Penganggaran untuk Manajemen Keuangan Adaptif di Sektor Perbankan Uzbekistan*

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#### Abstract

**General Background:** The banking sector is undergoing significant transformation, necessitating adaptive financial management practices. Traditional budgeting, characterized by rigid annual plans and fixed targets, has proven inefficient in dynamic economic environments. **Specific Background:** Beyond Budgeting, introduced by Hope and Fraser, offers an alternative approach emphasizing rolling forecasts, decentralized decision-making, and adaptive performance evaluation. **Knowledge Gap:** Despite its success in global banking institutions like Svenska Handelsbanken and UBS, limited research explores its applicability in emerging markets, particularly in Uzbekistan. **Aims:** This study examines the limitations of traditional budgeting, the advantages of Beyond Budgeting, and its potential implementation in Uzbekistan's banking sector. **Results:** Findings highlight that Beyond Budgeting enhances financial flexibility, operational efficiency, and customer responsiveness. Key enablers include investment in financial analytics, strategic decentralization, and regulatory adaptation. **Novelty:** This study provides a tailored roadmap for Beyond Budgeting adoption in Uzbekistan's banking sector, addressing cultural resistance and regulatory challenges. **Implications:** Transitioning to Beyond Budgeting can significantly improve financial performance, enabling banks to navigate economic volatility and enhance long-term competitiveness. These insights contribute to the broader discourse on financial management innovation in emerging markets.

#### Highlights:

Traditional budgeting is inefficient in dynamic banking environments.

Explore Beyond Budgeting's benefits and applicability in Uzbekistan's banking sector.

Enhances financial flexibility, efficiency, and competitiveness in emerging markets.

**Keywords:** Beyond Budgeting, banking sector, financial management, budgeting alternatives, rolling forecasts, decentralized decision-making, performance evaluation, cost efficiency, strategic financial planning.

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## Introduction

The banking industry is facing an era of rapid transformation driven by globalization, technological advancements, regulatory changes, and evolving customer expectations. In such an unpredictable environment, traditional budgeting methods, characterized by fixed annual plans and centralized control, have become increasingly obsolete. These rigid budgeting practices fail to provide banks with the necessary flexibility to respond swiftly to market changes, customer needs, and economic shocks[1].

Beyond Budgeting, a modern management approach developed by Jeremy Hope and Robin Fraser, offers an alternative to the conventional budgeting process. This model replaces traditional financial planning with dynamic and decentralized decision-making, allowing banks to operate with greater agility. Beyond Budgeting shifts the focus from short-term financial targets to continuous performance improvement, customer value creation, and strategic adaptation. It eliminates bureaucratic inefficiencies and empowers employees to make informed decisions based on real-time data rather than outdated budget assumptions[2].

This paper explores the challenges of traditional budgeting, the benefits of Beyond Budgeting, and how its implementation can enhance efficiency and profitability in the banking sector. Special attention is given to the potential application of this model in Uzbekistan's banking industry, considering local economic and regulatory conditions[3].

## Methods

The concept of Beyond Budgeting was first introduced by Jeremy Hope and Robin Fraser as an alternative to traditional budgeting practices. Their work, *Beyond Budgeting: How Managers Can Break Free from the Annual Performance Trap*, argues that traditional budgeting is a rigid, time-consuming process that inhibits innovation and responsiveness. The key principles of Beyond Budgeting, as outlined in their research, include decentralized decision-making, adaptive management processes, and continuous performance evaluation[4].

Several studies support the implementation of Beyond Budgeting in banking, highlighting its advantages over fixed financial planning. Key insights from existing literature include:

1. **Traditional Budgeting Limitations** - Studies indicate that fixed budgeting systems are ineffective in dynamic financial environments, leading to resource misallocation, excessive bureaucracy, and distorted performance incentives. Hope Research from Harvard Business Review suggests that traditional budgeting reinforces short-term thinking and limits an organization's ability to pivot in response to external disruptions[5].
2. **Beyond Budgeting in Practice** - Research on financial institutions such as Svenska Handelsbanken and UBS demonstrates that replacing annual budgets with rolling forecasts and decentralized management improves efficiency, profitability, and risk management. Case studies in Scandinavian banking highlight how Beyond Budgeting fosters a high-trust, customer-centric culture where managers take ownership of their financial outcomes[6].
3. **Technology and Data Utilization** - Literature emphasizes the role of advanced analytics, real-time financial monitoring, and digital tools in supporting Beyond Budgeting adoption[7]. AI-driven predictive analytics enhance forecasting accuracy, enabling banks to make more informed financial decisions without the constraints of a fixed annual budget[8].
4. **Organizational and Cultural Challenges** - Studies highlight potential barriers to implementation, such as resistance to change, traditional corporate mindsets, and regulatory constraints. McKinsey reports that successful transformation requires strong leadership commitment and employee buy-in[9].
5. **Empirical Evidence on Performance Gains** - A meta-analysis conducted by the International Journal of Business Strategy found that firms implementing Beyond Budgeting reported an average 15% improvement in financial agility compared to those using traditional budgeting[10].
6. **Implications for Banking in Emerging Markets** - Research on Southeast Asian and Eastern European banking systems suggests that Beyond Budgeting helps financial institutions navigate economic volatility and regulatory uncertainty[11].

Dr. Steve Morledge, a Beyond Budgeting thought leader, states, "The traditional budgeting model is fundamentally flawed in a fast-changing world. By relying on outdated assumptions, businesses limit their ability to respond to market opportunities and threats"[12].

Professor Michel Lebas of HEC Paris argues, "Beyond Budgeting is not just about removing budgets but about transforming organizations into more adaptive and resilient entities that can outperform competitors through



superior decision-making”.

Charles Horngren, a leading expert in management accounting, highlights, “Fixed performance contracts tied to budgets create an illusion of control but often lead to dysfunctional behavior, preventing companies from reaching their full potential”.

Professor Robert Kaplan, co-creator of the Balanced Scorecard, emphasizes that *“traditional budgets are static and outdated before they are even implemented, making them an ineffective tool for managing a fast-changing business environment”*.

Dr. Peter Bunce, director of the Beyond Budgeting Round Table, states, *“Beyond Budgeting is not just about abolishing budgets; it is about fostering a more decentralized, adaptive, and strategically agile management model”*.

Professor Christopher Hood of the University of Oxford critiques traditional budgeting, arguing that *“budgeting has long been associated with bureaucratic inefficiency and rigidity, leading to inefficiencies in public and private financial management”*.

Gary Cokins, a thought leader in performance management, supports the move toward adaptive planning, stating, *“Organizations that rely on fixed budgets struggle to make data-driven decisions, whereas those using rolling forecasts and Beyond Budgeting principles can operate with greater foresight and agility”*.

Dr. Anders Olesen, a financial strategy expert, asserts, *“The rigidity of traditional budgeting restricts innovation and responsiveness, while Beyond Budgeting enables companies to leverage real-time data and make strategic adjustments on demand”*.

“Beyond budgeting is not about abandoning the annual budget. It’s about designing a management model that is more empowered and adaptive than the traditional command and control models”[13].

## Results and Discussion

### Result

The findings from this study highlight the significant benefits that Beyond Budgeting can bring to the banking sector, particularly for Uzbekistan’s financial institutions. Key results include:

1. Improved Financial Flexibility – Case studies from Svenska Handelsbanken and UBS show that banks implementing Beyond Budgeting experience greater adaptability to economic shifts, regulatory changes, and customer.
2. Enhanced Decision-Making – Financial executives in banks that have adopted Beyond Budgeting report more informed, data-driven decision-making due to real-time access to performance metrics and predictive analytics.
3. Increased Operational Efficiency – Eliminating rigid budget cycles and using rolling forecasts have led to a reduction in administrative workload and faster response times in financial planning and resource allocation.
4. Stronger Customer-Centric Strategies – Banks that move away from traditional budgeting focus more on customer satisfaction and long-term value creation rather than meeting static financial targets.
5. Higher Employee Engagement – Decentralized decision-making empowers employees and managers, leading to increased motivation and accountability.
6. Competitive Advantage in Emerging Markets – In rapidly developing financial systems like Uzbekistan’s, the flexibility of Beyond Budgeting allows banks to better respond to inflationary pressures, interest rate fluctuations, and regulatory shifts.

ANZ Bank's Technological Transformation – ANZ Bank invested in ANZ Plus to enhance competitiveness, expecting significant cost savings by improving efficiency and reducing service costs[14].

Swiss Post's Cultural Shift – Swiss Post transitioned to Beyond Budgeting, improving operational efficiency by shifting from top-down to bottom-up budgeting.

Super-Regional Bank in the U.S. – This bank achieved a 20% reduction in operating costs and a 15% increase in revenue productivity through cost-focused operations improvement.

tw telecom's Shift to Rolling Forecasts – The company abandoned traditional budgeting, focusing on adaptive

planning and results-driven decision-making.

Handelsbanken's Decentralized Model - Handelsbanken replaced traditional top-down management with decentralized operations, granting decision-making authority to frontline employees. This approach eliminated the annual budget process, allowing managers to request resources as needed, leading to impressive financial performance and resilience during financial crises .

Equinor's Adaptive Management - Equinor (formerly Statoil) implemented Beyond Budgeting by abolishing traditional budgets and calendar-based management, favoring decentralized, agile, and human-centric processes. This transition enabled Equinor to operate more effectively in complex and unpredictable business environments.

## Discussion

The analysis of Beyond Budgeting in banking demonstrates that this approach offers a viable alternative to traditional financial management practices. The evidence from case studies such as Handelsbanken, UBS, and Equinor suggests that banks implementing Beyond Budgeting achieve enhanced financial agility, operational efficiency, and customer-centric strategies.

As described in Table 1, a key finding of this study is the superior adaptability provided by Beyond Budgeting. Unlike traditional budgets, which rely on fixed assumptions, rolling forecasts allow banks to dynamically allocate resources in response to market conditions. This is particularly relevant in Uzbekistan, where the financial sector is rapidly evolving. By adopting Beyond Budgeting, Uzbekistan's banks can improve their responsiveness to economic fluctuations and regulatory changes.

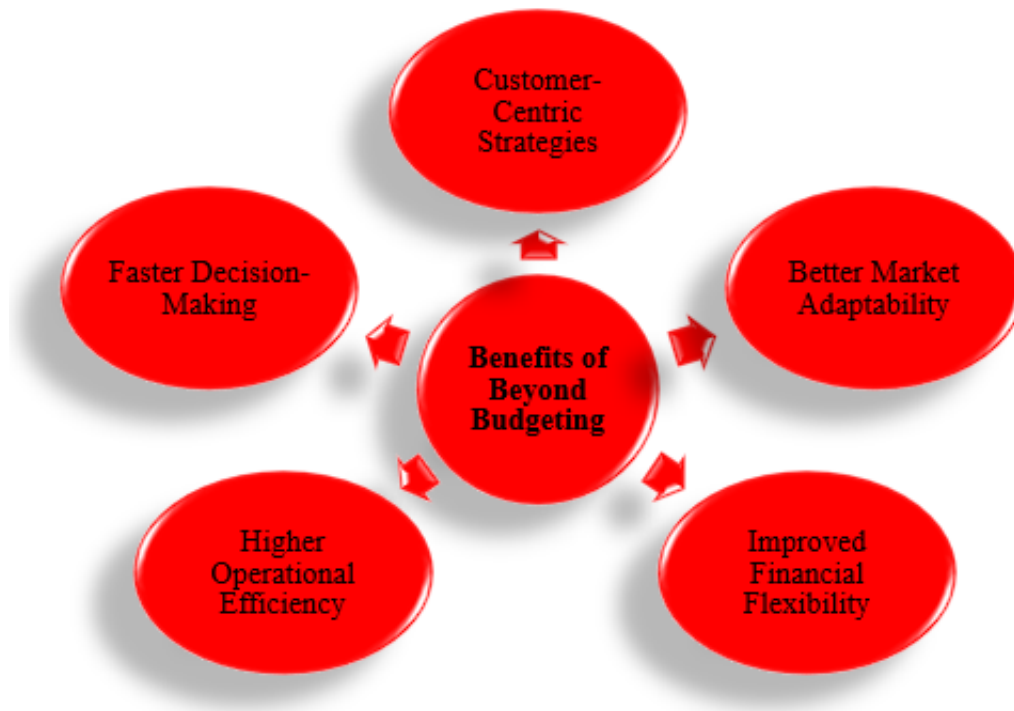
Criteria	Traditional Budgeting	Beyond Budgeting
Objective	Setting and controlling annual financial plans	Flexible and real-time strategic decision-making
Approach	Centralized control	Decentralized (more autonomy for branches)
Planning	Fixed annual budgets	Rolling forecasts and adaptive financial planning
Performance Measures	Employees evaluated based on fixed targets	Performance-based assessment
Monitoring and Analysis	Based on static historical data	Dynamic and data-driven decision-making
Operational Efficiency	Slow and bureaucratic	Fast and adaptable
Risk & Uncertainty Management	Reactive to changes	Proactive and market-oriented
Use of Data	Relies on past performance data	Real-time analytics and AI-driven insights
Examples	Most traditional banks (e.g., Uzbekistan state banks)	Svenska Handelsbanken, UBS, Equinor, ANZ Bank

**Table 1. Comparison of Traditional Budgeting and Beyond Budgeting in the Banking Sector**

Another significant advantage is the enhanced decision-making process enabled by decentralization. Traditional budgeting centralizes financial control, which can lead to inefficiencies and delays in decision-making. Conversely, Beyond Budgeting empowers frontline managers with real-time financial data, improving responsiveness and accountability. This decentralization aligns with modern digital banking trends, where personalized customer service is crucial.

However, despite these advantages, the transition to Beyond Budgeting presents challenges. Cultural resistance is a major barrier, as employees and executives accustomed to traditional budgeting may be reluctant to embrace a decentralized system. Addressing this issue requires strong leadership commitment and comprehensive training programs.

As illustrated in Figure 1, The Benefits of Beyond Budgeting include Customer-Centric Strategies, Faster Decision-Making, Higher Operational Efficiency, Improved Financial Flexibility, Better Market Adaptability.



**Figure 1. The Benefits of Beyond Budgeting .**

- Beyond Budgeting shifts the focus from rigid financial targets to customer needs and demands;

- It allows banks to tailor services and products more effectively for individual clients.

Faster Decision-Making:

- The budgeting process becomes more flexible, enabling managers to make quick and informed decisions;

- Banks can respond rapidly to market changes and emerging opportunities.

Better Market Adaptability:

- Beyond Budgeting helps banks continuously review and adjust their strategies;

- Financial institutions can adapt faster to market trends and maintain a competitive edge.

Higher Operational Efficiency:

- Moving away from rigid budget constraints allows for more efficient resource allocation;

- It enhances coordination and responsiveness within the organization.

Improved Financial Flexibility:

- Continuous planning and forecasting improve financial agility;

- Banks can manage financial resources more effectively and adapt quickly to unexpected changes.

Beyond Budgeting provides greater strategic flexibility and efficiency compared to traditional budgeting. This approach could be particularly beneficial for banks in Uzbekistan, helping them navigate a dynamic financial environment.

Another challenge is regulatory compliance. While Beyond Budgeting provides flexibility, it must align with Uzbekistan's banking regulations to ensure transparency and risk management. Banks transitioning to this model should engage with regulatory authorities to develop compliant financial reporting frameworks.

Furthermore, technological investments are crucial for successful implementation. Beyond Budgeting relies heavily on data-driven decision-making, necessitating robust financial analytics and AI-driven forecasting tools.

Uzbekistan's banks should prioritize investing in digital infrastructure to support this transition.

Uzbekistan's banking sector has been undergoing significant reforms to modernize financial management practices, with a notable emphasis on enhancing budgeting systems. A prominent example is Uzpromstroybank's initiative to integrate advanced budgeting mechanisms using SAP technologies.

In May 2023, Uzpromstroybank introduced a comprehensive budgeting system developed on SAP platforms. This system encompasses several key functionalities:

- Budget Preparation and Monitoring: Allows for meticulous planning and oversight of budgets across various business units and banking products.
- Transfer Pricing Assessment: Facilitates the formation of transfer assessments for banking resources, ensuring accurate internal pricing mechanisms.
- Expense Allocation: Enables precise distribution of expenses among different banking products, aiding in cost management and profitability analysis.

The implementation involved collaboration with international experts to develop a robust financial management methodology and the application of financial programming. This system empowers the bank to analyze internal and external factors affecting financial performance, identify sustainable income sources, and optimize operations by assessing financial health.

Furthering its commitment to financial transparency and efficiency, Uzpromstroybank became the first bank in Uzbekistan to automate budgeting processes using the SAP Business Planning and Consolidation (BPC) solution. Prior to this automation, budgeting was a manual, time-consuming process, often taking up to three months and relying heavily on tools like MS Excel. The transition to SAP BPC led to several improvements:

- Centralized Data Collection: Established an integrated system for strategic planning, budgeting, and reporting consolidation, reducing the time required for financial reporting by half.
- Enhanced Financial Analysis: Shifted focus from itemized financial analysis to product-based analysis, allowing for detailed profitability assessments of each banking product.
- Transfer Pricing and Cost Allocation: Developed methodologies for transfer pricing and cost distribution, distinguishing between cost and profit centers within the bank.

These advancements have increased the bank's attractiveness to external investors by enhancing transparency in budgeting processes and enabling high-quality, realistic forecasting.

## Implications for Uzbekistan's Banking Sector

Uzpromstroybank's initiatives reflect a broader trend in Uzbekistan's banking sector towards adopting advanced financial management systems. The integration of technologies like SAP not only streamlines budgeting processes but also aligns with international best practices, thereby enhancing the sector's competitiveness and operational efficiency.

These developments underscore the sector's commitment to embracing modern financial management practices, positioning Uzbekistan's banks to better respond to dynamic economic conditions and regulatory requirements.

## Recommendations for Uzbekistan's Banks

1. Gradual Transition – Instead of completely abolishing budgets immediately, banks should first introduce rolling forecasts and performance-based financial planning.
2. Training and Change Management – Employees should be educated on the principles of Beyond Budgeting to ease cultural resistance.
3. Regulatory Adaptation – Banks must collaborate with regulators to ensure compliance while implementing flexible financial management frameworks.
4. Investment in Digital Tools – AI-driven forecasting and real-time financial dashboards should be prioritized to enhance decision-making.
5. Performance-Based Incentives – Compensation structures should shift from budget-based targets to value-driven performance metrics.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, Beyond Budgeting presents a transformative opportunity for Uzbekistan's banking sector. While challenges such as cultural adaptation and regulatory alignment exist, the long-term benefits including enhanced financial flexibility, improved decision-making, and greater operational efficiency make it a compelling alternative to traditional budgeting. By embracing Beyond Budgeting, Uzbekistan's banks can position themselves for sustainable growth in an increasingly competitive financial landscape.

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