
BILANCIO APERTO

(OPEN BUDGET)



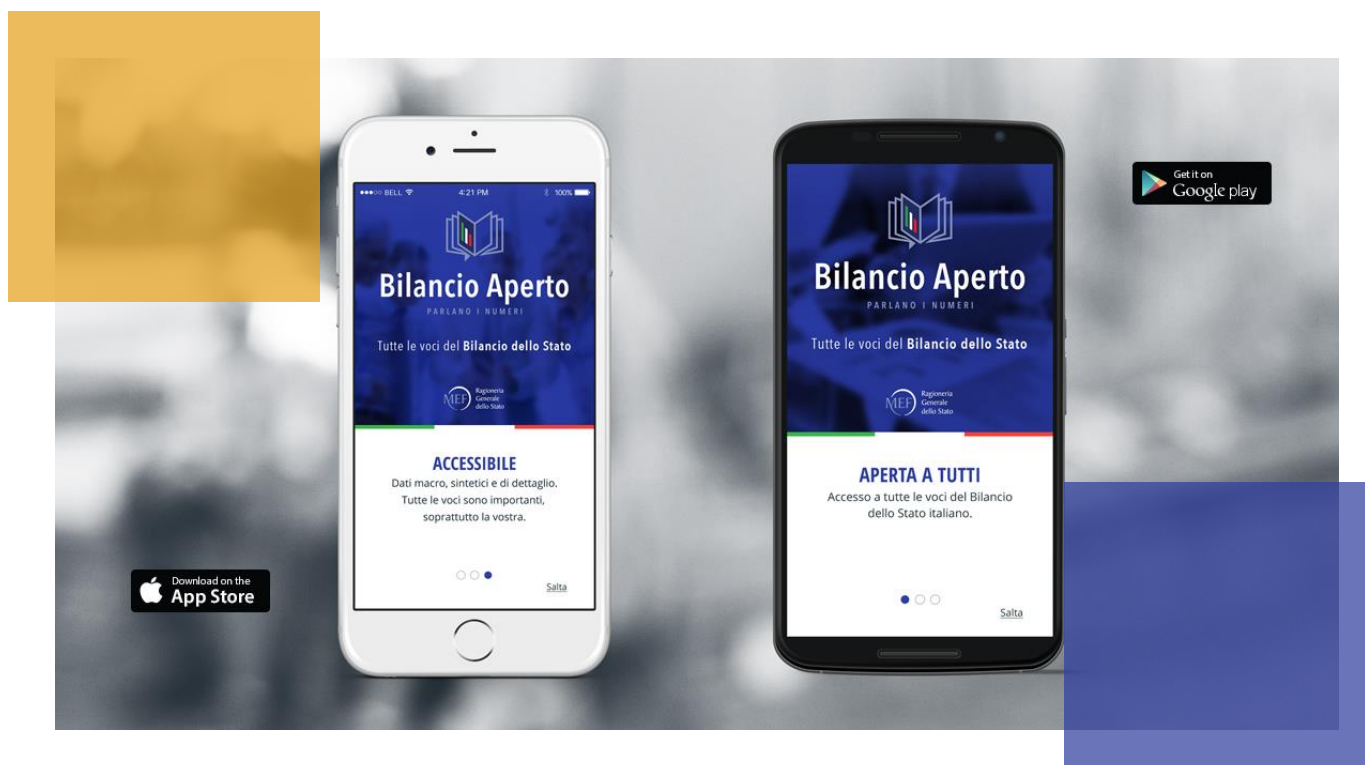
Bilancio Aperto (Open Budget) is an app that lets every citizen consult the **State Budget**. It is built on the principles of transparency and accessibility of data and information.

The app is edited by the State General Accounting Department. It is meant for “authorized personnel”, experts and parliamentarians, as well as for Citizens. Its aim is to take the user through the whole budget cycle as it evolves during the year.

Thanks to **Bilancio Aperto** everyone has access to every item of information at the same time. Indeed Citizens will have easily navigable and viewable access to the very same information guaranteed to Parliament, at the very moment it is approved by the Government and submitted to Parliament. Citizens will be able to consult the exact same data and documents laid before the eyes of parliamentarians. Utmost transparency is assured via access to content that is simultaneous, consistent and thorough. Viewing is further aided by a set of functions, typical of apps for mobile devices, which make the exploration of contents easy, if not enjoyable.

The app puts bonus information and documentation at the user’s disposal, covering a wide range of associated economic and financial topics. This is implemented via a purpose-specific section named “RGS informa”, which encourages the user to visit websites run by the State General Accounting Department to gain greater understanding.

HOW TO DOWNLOAD THE APP



Bilancio Aperto is available at no cost for smartphones, both at the Android Play Store and at the iOS App Store.

A version optimized for tablets is envisaged by the project roadmap.

Links to the Stores are available from MEF (the Ministry of Economics and Finance) at the following address:

<http://bilancioaperto.mef.gov.it/landing.html>

Play Store



Apple Store



CONTENT AND FEATURES

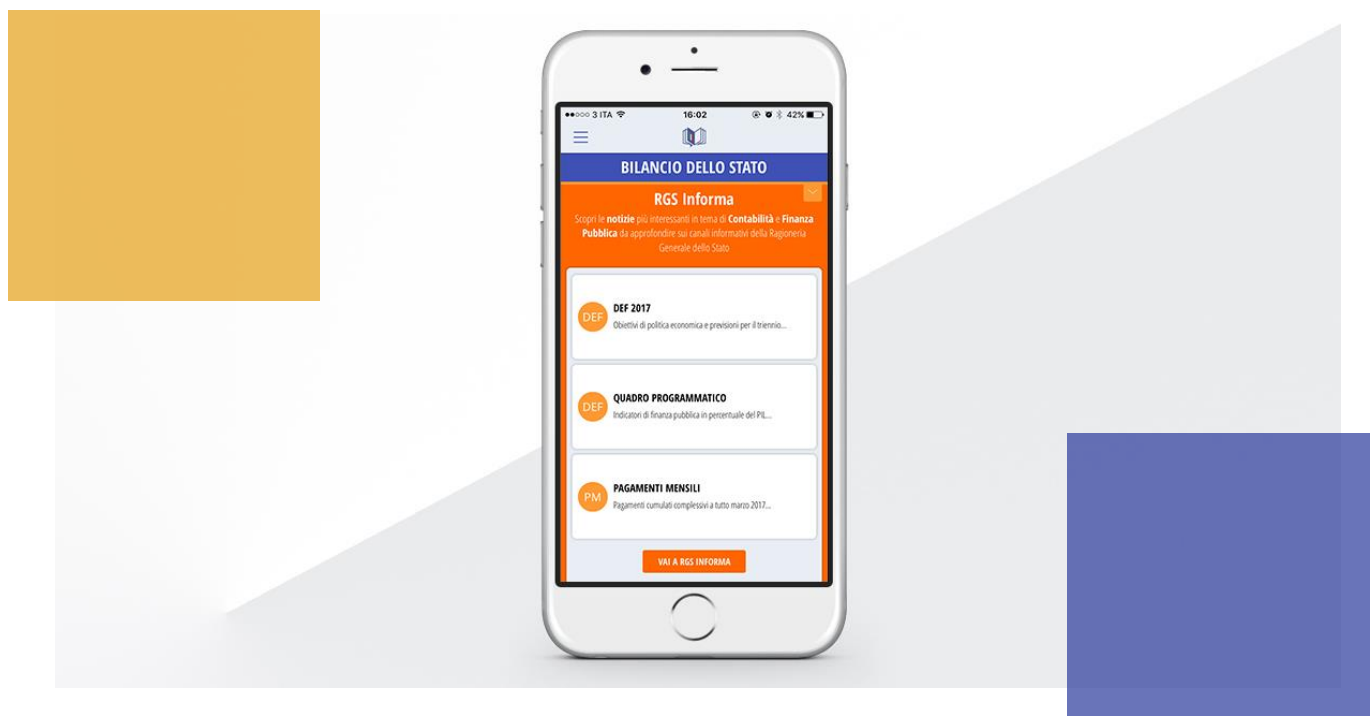


The State Budget

The State Budget represents the core set of information supplied by the app, which enables data and documentation viewing, downloads and sharing, as connected with the various phases of the budget lifecycle, fledged out little by little in the course of the year:

- *The Financial Budget.* It sets out the source and dimensions of Revenues and Expenditures for the year, and the end recipients of available resources. The Budget is shadowed throughout its formative process. It starts out with the State Budget Bill presented by the Government to Parliament. It continues with coverage of parliamentary debate, reflected in documents named Notes of variation and concluding with the adoption of the Budget Law.
- *Half-year Financial Budget Adjustment.* This measure updates forecasts of the Revenues and Expenditures contained in the Budget Law. The Budget Adjustment measure is shadowed as it evolves, from the presentation to the Parliament of the Draft Bill to the adoption of the Budget Adjustment Law.
- *The Final Statement of Account.* It displays accounting results for the preceding year relating to Revenues and Expenditures, and to State Assets and Liabilities.

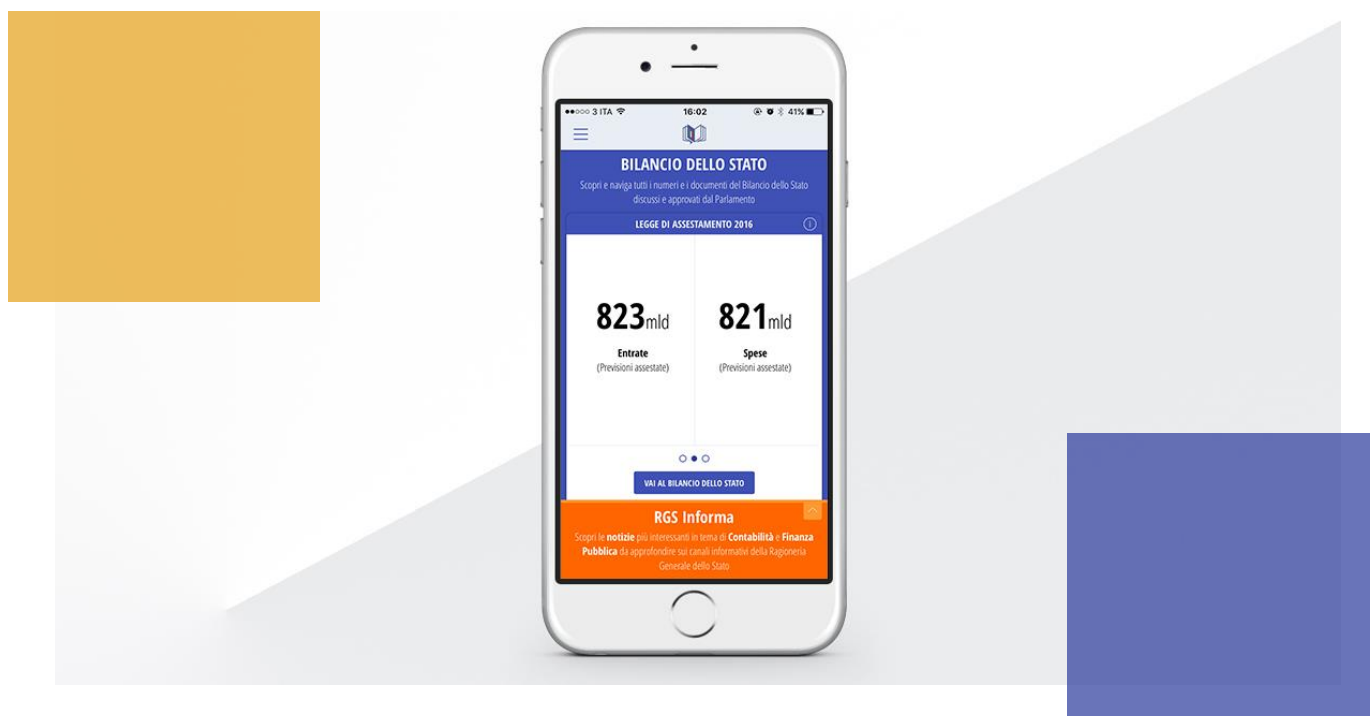
This area features its own special blue shading. Data and documents are supplied at the maximum level of detail, thus allowing the user to retrieve any and all information that may interest him from directly within the app.



“RGS Informa” section

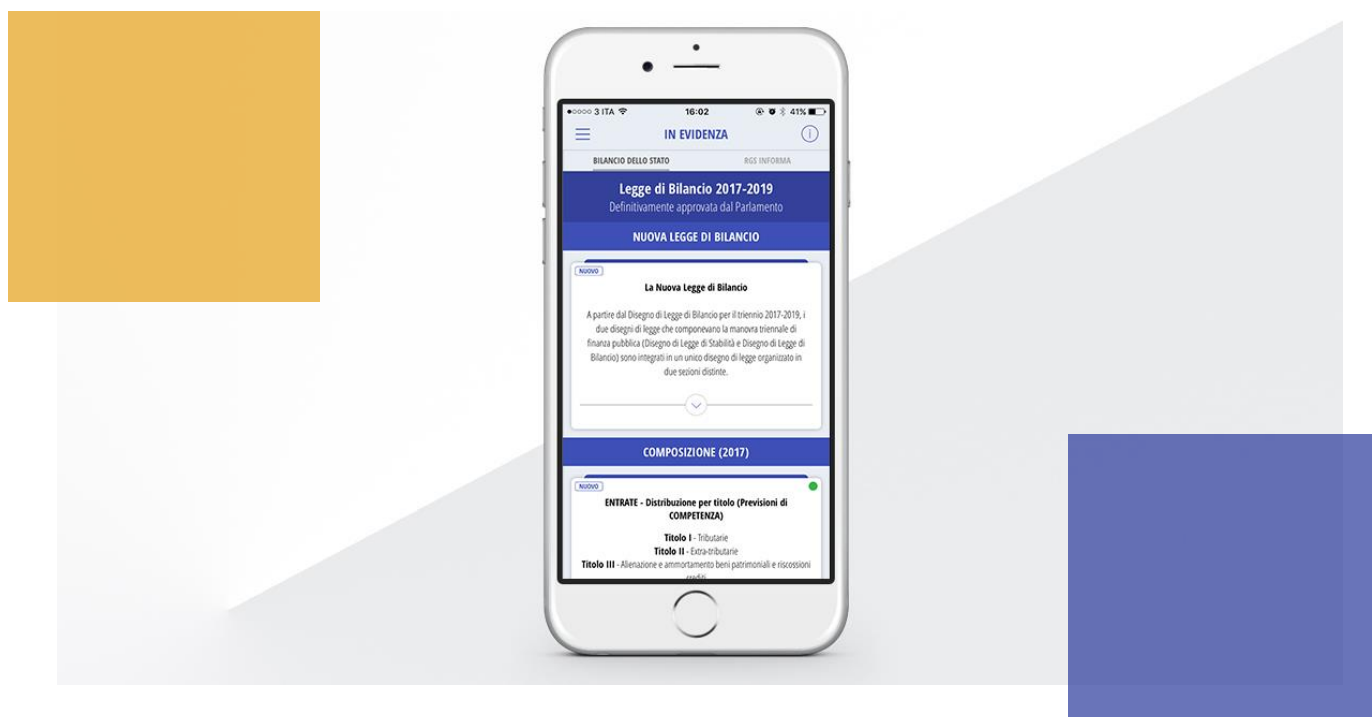
The “RGS Informa” section, which is orange shaded, provides periodically data and news on the major public finance topics, according to an editorial plan under progressive adoption and implementation (may 2017). The user is invited to consult the web sites managed by the State General Accounting Department in order to get more detailed information and data. Currently this section provides the following kinds of information:

- **Monthly State expenditures**
The app provides monthly aggregated statistics on the expenditures made by the Central Government (Ministries) and addresses the user to one of the official sites of the State General Accounting Department – that named “OpenBDAP” – where detailed data sets and reports are available
- **Economic and Financial Document (EFD)**
The document describes the financial and economic policies and objectives defined by the Government. The app provides graphical cards showing the main indicators, their trend and the foreseen distance to targets. The complete document is available on the official web site the State General Accounting Department.



Home Page

The Home Page is the gateway to the two main areas where information is published: *The State Budget* and *RGS Informa*. Straightaway the user is supplied with capsules on topics that can be delved into with a click, choosing either "In Evidenza" (at a glance) for headline news on all topics handled, or "Navigazione Dati e Testi"(navigating data and texts) for mining the State Budget.



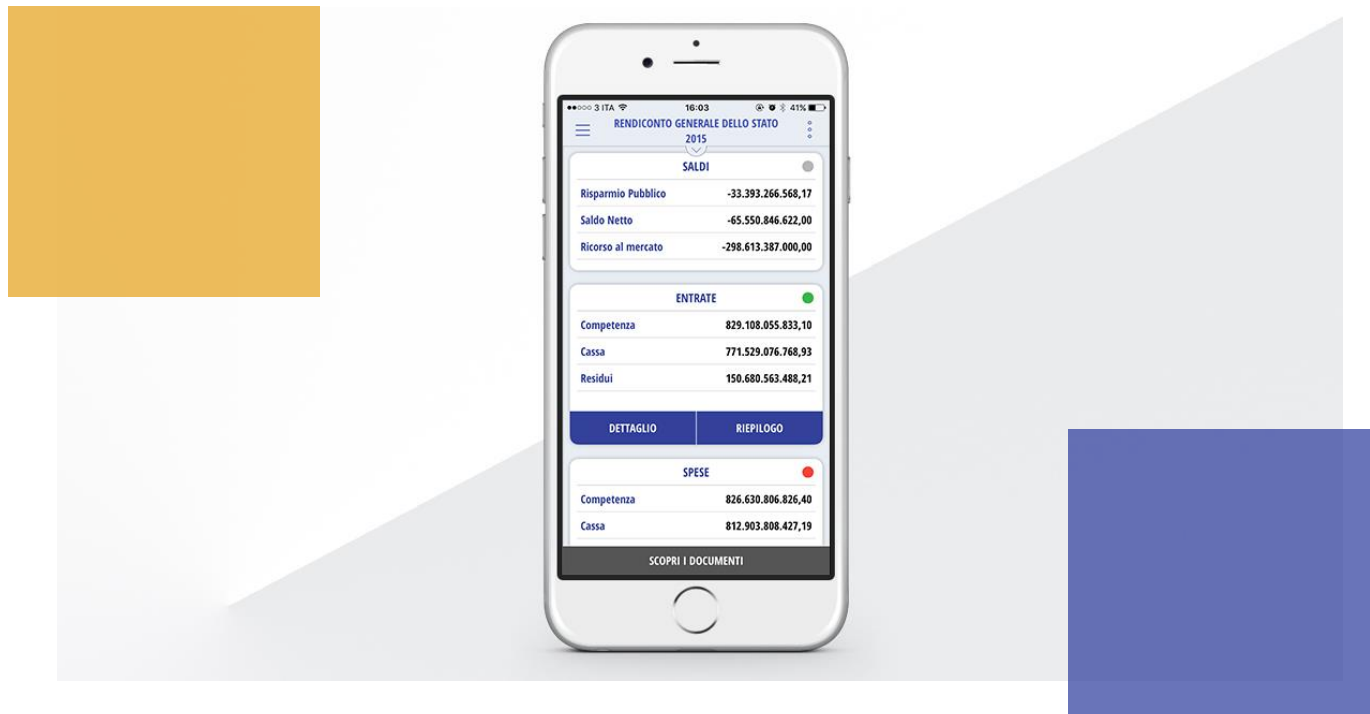
On Display

One-click information. The “In evidenza” section aims to provide a succinct information picture of all topics dealt with. Information is laid out on sets of graphical cards. Differentiated and frequently updated, they take the UX (user experience) beyond simple lookups and pageviews, into territory with communication value. This holds both for State Budget information and for news items published in the section “RGS Informa”:

- State Payments: we see the state of advancement of payments overlaying the certified forecast, broken down by Title
- Economic and financial document (EFD): the program overview comprised of financial indicators as a percentage of GDP
- State Budget: the information is presented for successive phases of the Budget life cycle, focusing on summary information related to Revenues, Expenditures and Balances.
- Gender Budget: published to raise awareness about the impact of public policies on gender inequalities; ensure a higher effectiveness of actions through a clear definition of gender-based goals, to be borne in mind at the time of implementation of such goals ; promote a higher transparency in the Public Administration via mechanisms aimed at tracking down potentially discriminatory practices.
- Environmental Report: these are data concerning primary expenditure incurred by the State for the protection of the environment from pollution and deterioration and for the conservation of natural resources
- Regionalized government expenditure: data about payments from the State Budget, about payments from some Funds created with national and Community funds and about expenditure incurred by Public Bodies, Administrations and other Bodies are presented.

The data processed concern the total payments made from the State Budget, Funds and Bodies for current and capital expenditure, broken down by Region.

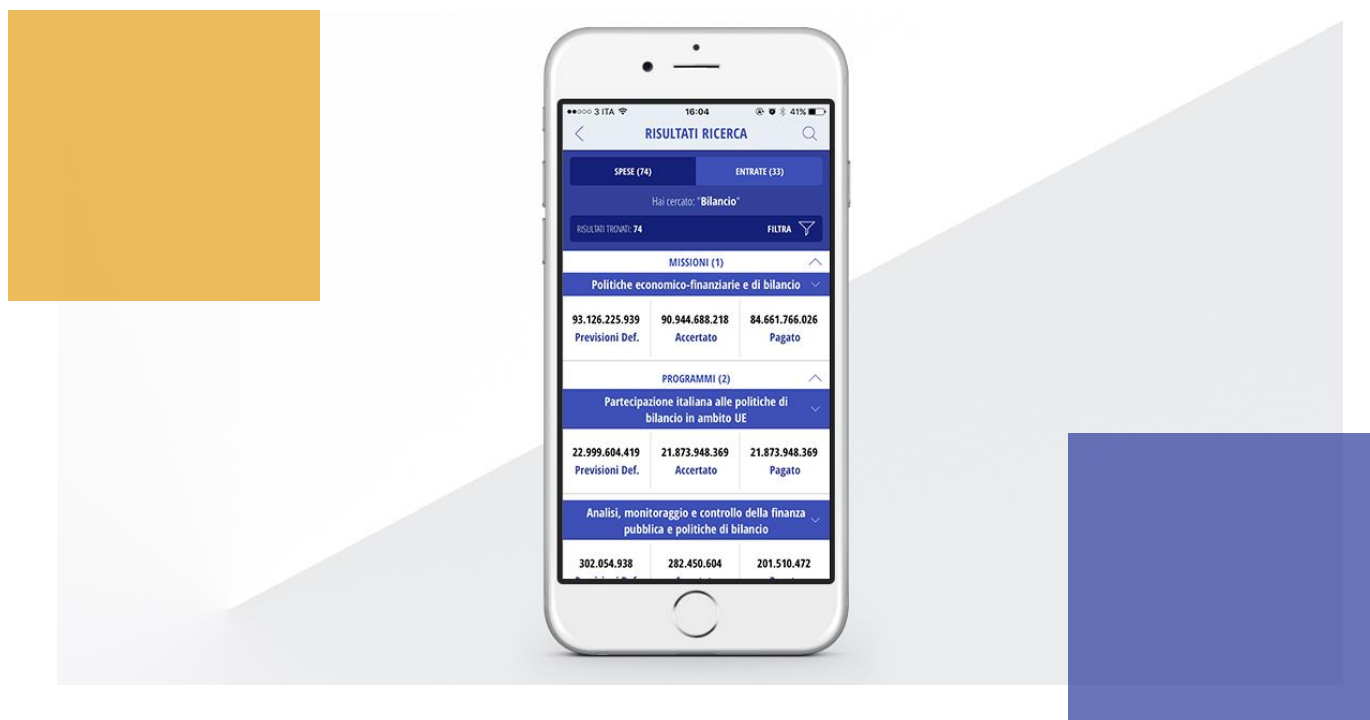
- Consolidated cash accounts: The Monthly Report on the Consolidated Cash Account of the State Sector and of the Central Administrations presents, by economic classification and on a monthly and cumulative basis, the main aggregates of revenue and payments that contribute to forming both the Consolidated Cash Account of the State Sector (with details of tax receipts), and the Consolidated Cash Account of the Central Administrations, with indications of the segments concerning the Local Administrations and the Social Security Bodies.



Navigating Data and Text

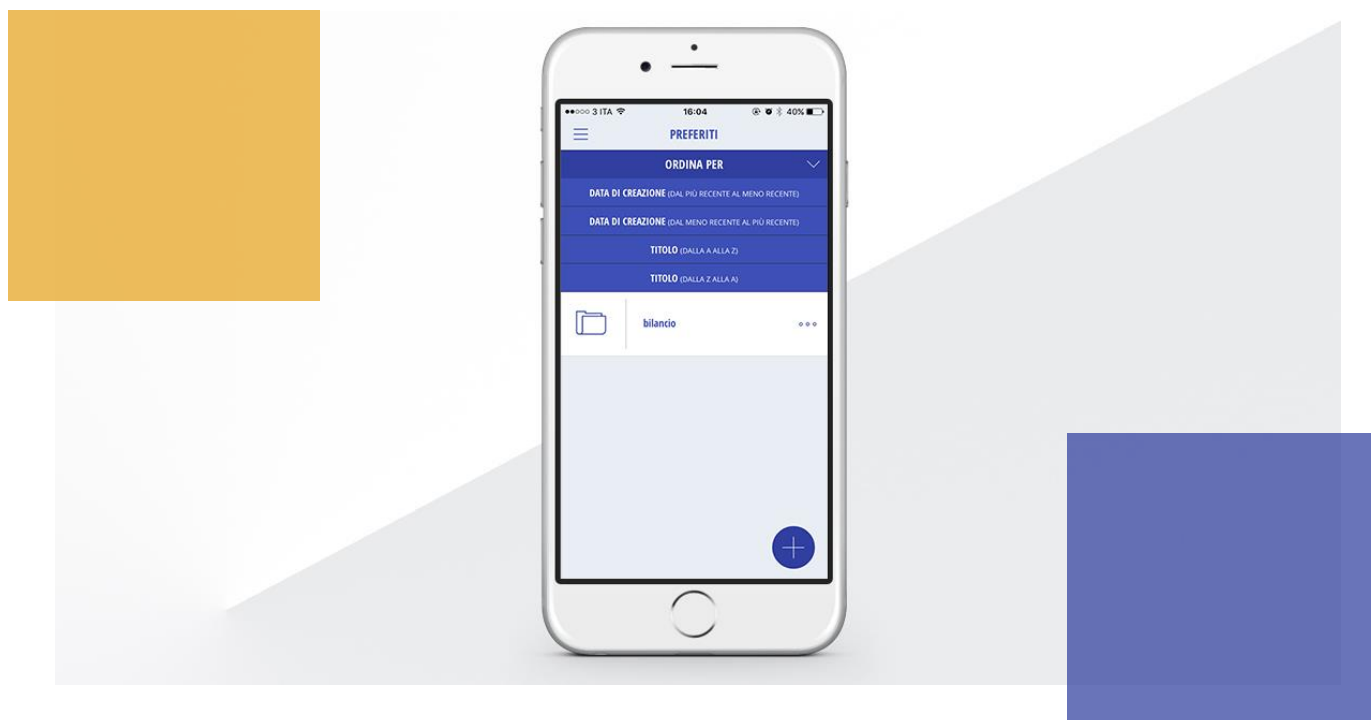
Transparency in Public Administration is an act of due diligence. Thus Navigation of data allows viewing of Revenues, Expenditures and Balances, arranged in “hierarchies” that yield more and more details as the user drills down into the data. The user is further guided along while he navigates, constantly made aware of where he is and what the data he is viewing means.

Official documents published at various moments in the Budget life cycle and submitted to the Parliament are published in this section.



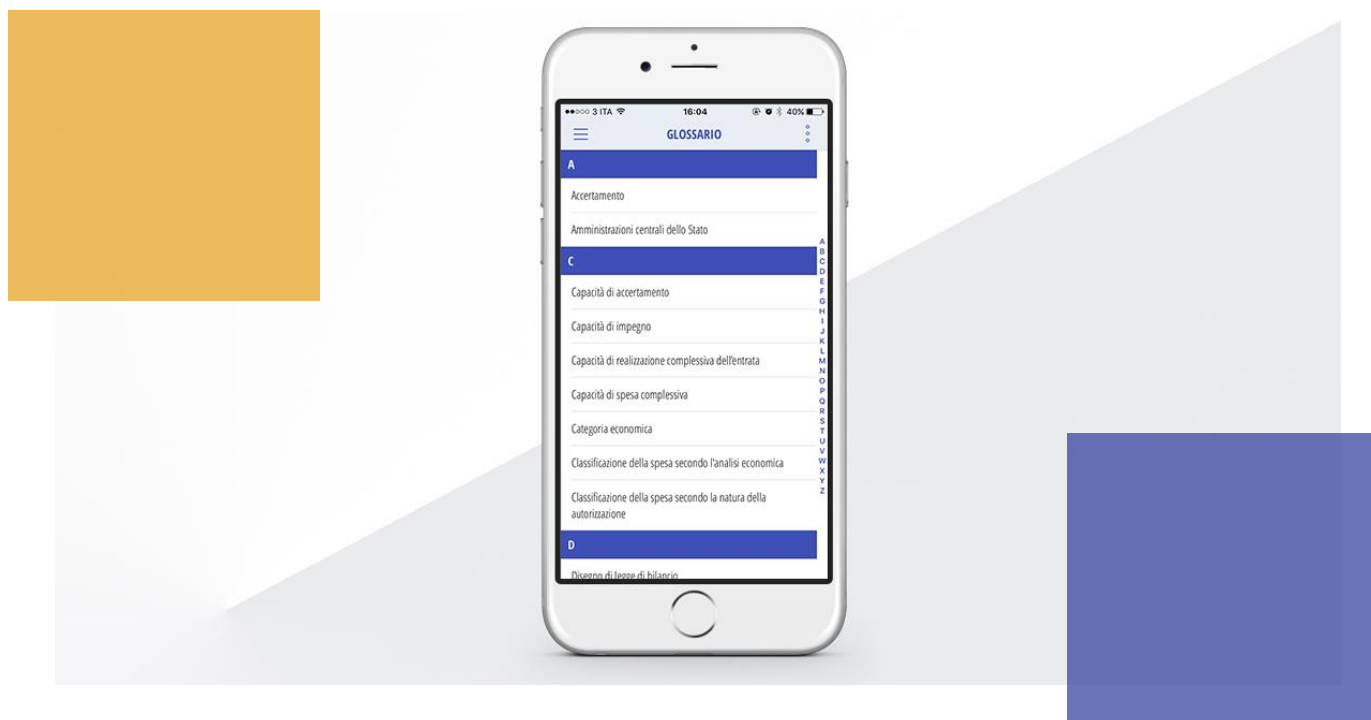
Search

Freedom of access to information. The search function gives the user free direct access to the information he needs via insertion of keywords. The search engine lists content returns so as to allow fruitful exploitation of information, simplifying retrieval of desired data even when the user is unfamiliar with the complex layout of Budget documents.



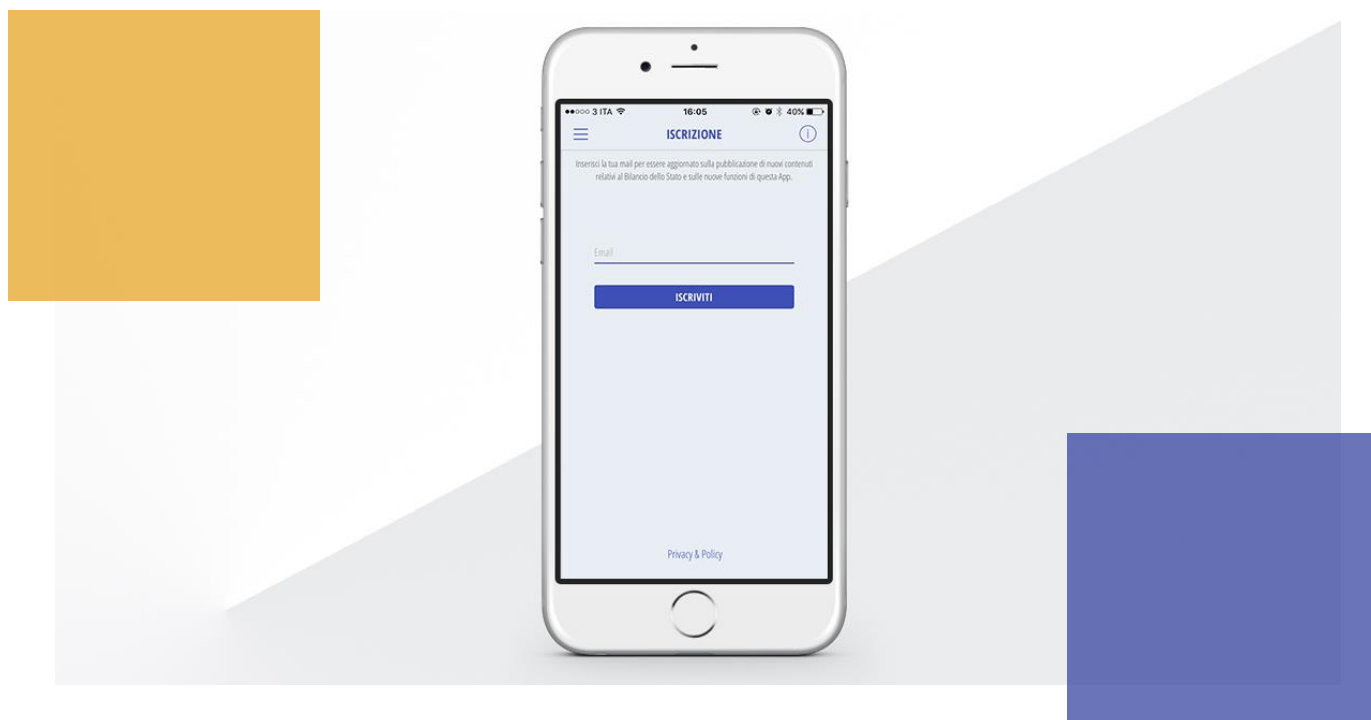
Favorites

My Budget. Thanks to the functionalities of "Favorites", users can create shortcuts for rapid access to sections of interest without necessarily having to remember where they were located in the hierarchical "tree" of contents. This speeds access to information deemed important. The user also has the option of organizing documents by category, so as to ease retrieval and recognize saved contents.



Glossary

State and Citizens speak the same language. The Glossary enables users, including non-experts, to understand every term used in the Budget documents simply, easily and quickly, either skimming through an alphabetized list of specialist financial expressions in the index area, or by in-line clicking on such words while reading textual content.



Registration

Keeping up-to-date. For thorough going use of the app, users may register – supplying one's email address will suffice – and thereby receive communications from the State General Accounting Department to stay up-to-date on the Budget. Periodic emails will invite the user to discover what's new in **Bilancio Aperto**, occasioned by the publication of new contents, functionalities or services.

Time series

Compare, analyze, assess. The user can compare Central Administration data sets, and thereby track the evolution of Revenues, Expenditures and Balances in successive years of operation. Time series data are provided according to the break down adopted within the state budget official documents.