



SIGMA News

June 2014

New SIGMA website launched



On 26 May 2014 a renewed version of www.sigmaweb.org was launched. Through a modern approach to graphics and layout, revised contents and more interactive functionalities, the website has been developed to offer an enhanced, user-friendly experience.

Please take a look and share the link on institutional web pages and social media! We will appreciate receiving your feedback via the [dedicated online form](#).

Focus on Croatia, Azerbaijan and Serbia



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1 July 2014 will mark one year since **Croatia** became the 28th Member State of the European Union. From 2001, SIGMA has helped the Croatian Government align its legal framework and procedures with international standards, and strengthen its capacities in the areas of civil service and public administration organisation and functioning, public finance and audit, as well as public procurement. This enabled the country to prepare for membership and progressively take responsibility for EU funds management. More recent work has focused on the use of Regulatory Impact Assessment and the improvement of the quality of legislative drafting. SIGMA's collaboration with the Croatian authorities ends as of September 2014.

[Read more.](#)



In 2013, SIGMA assisted the Civil Service Commission under the President of the Republic of **Azerbaijan**, and an intergovernmental working group, in developing the Civil Service Reform Strategy 2015-2020. This work contributes to the State Programmes to implement the Development Concept "Azerbaijan 2020: the Vision of the Future". At present, SIGMA is reviewing the draft Code of Civil Service against the European principles of public administration and good practice of civil service legislation in EU Member States.

[Read more.](#)



In **Serbia**, SIGMA has supported the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government to draft the Law on General Administrative Procedures. We also have provided assistance to the Ministry in preparing the Action Plan for implementing the Public Administration Reform Strategy adopted in January 2014. The focus has been on sequencing of tasks, monitoring arrangements, indicators and costs. Furthermore, SIGMA has been working with the Public Procurement Office and the Republic Commission for Protection of Bidders' Rights in promoting the EU Public Procurement Law and sound practices through workshops on the new directives, as well as on European Court of Justice public procurement cases.

[Read more.](#)

28th Brief on audit of public procurement



The most recent SIGMA publication covers audit of public procurement, including all the main procurement phases, from the definition of needs to the assignment and management of the contract. It provides guidance and advice on the documents to be scrutinised in order to find evidence, as well as practical tools like case studies and checklists. Our series of briefs aims to support specialists and non-specialists with information on relevant public procurement issues. The full collection is available for download at our website.

[Read more.](#)

Multi-country events



The first regional conference for central public procurement authorities in **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova** and **Ukraine** organised by SIGMA took place at OECD headquarters in Paris on 24-25 April 2014. The event gathered international experts and country representatives around a series of sessions, whose aim was to help align national policies with international good practice by discussing developments, sharing experience and networking. The EU package of three new public procurement directives, adopted early 2014, was also presented.

[Read more.](#)

For more information on SIGMA, see our brochure in [English](#) and [French](#).

The brochure is also available in [Arabic](#) and [Russian](#).

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