



SIGMA News

December 2014

The Principles of Public Administration



A high-level conference held in Brussels on 12 November 2014 introduced the European Commission's reinforced approach to public administration reform in the Enlargement process and launched the [Principles of Public Administration](#), developed jointly by the EC and OECD/SIGMA. Ministers from Western Balkan countries and Turkey welcomed the new framework and discussed public administration reform practices in their countries and the main challenges they face. SIGMA, in co-operation with EU Delegations and national authorities, held bilateral meetings in all of the countries in November and December to introduce the Principles in more detail and to discuss the monitoring framework to be implemented in early 2015. The Principles define what good governance entails in practice and outline the main requirements to be followed by countries during the EU accession process. [Read more.](#)

Focus on Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon and Ukraine



In **Georgia**, SIGMA is continuing its assistance to the Administration of Government, working with the Policy Analysis, Strategic Planning and Co-ordination Department that was created following the comprehensive review of the centre of government carried out by SIGMA at the end of 2013. The focus of the current assistance is the preparation of the Public Administration Reform (PAR) Roadmap. This document will serve as a medium-term plan for continuing reform in the fields of policy making, civil service, public administration organisation and public service delivery, and will complement existing plans for reforms in the public finance management area. Next steps will include support in specifying the key reform objectives. [Read more.](#)



SIGMA continues to provide support in **Jordan** to the reform of financial control and audit, working with the Ministry of Finance and the Audit Bureau, with specific reference to the withdrawal of the Audit Bureau from the pre-audit process. On 4-5 November, in co-operation with the Audit Bureau, SIGMA held a workshop in Amman entitled "Public Finance Management and Audit in Jordan, a Programme for Reform", for senior officials in the Jordanian administration. The objective was to raise awareness of the reform process and the specific role of the Audit Bureau. On 6 November, in co-operation with the Ministry of Finance, SIGMA held a workshop entitled "Improving outputs of the internal audit units through self-assessment" for the heads of internal control units in selected institutions, to look at how the units could strengthen their performance by conducting self-assessment. [Read more.](#)

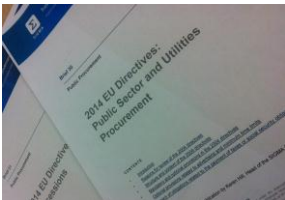


In **Lebanon**, SIGMA continues to work with the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR) on public procurement reform. The Lebanese Council of Ministers has submitted a new draft Public Procurement Law to the Lebanese Parliament. The reform of the procurement system is generally based on the Government's wish to introduce modern, sound and effective international good procurement practices and systems. The Lebanese reform initiative aims to decentralise the current public procurement system, which represents a fundamental shift of practices and procedures, and will generate questions in Parliament. To assist with providing guidance and analysis for the parliamentary debate, a roundtable discussion was arranged by OMSAR and SIGMA on 20 October 2014 in Beirut for key stakeholders. The event was co-chaired by Lebanon's Minister of State for Administrative Reform, Mr. Nabil de Freige. The event contributed to developing a good understanding of the rationale for decentralisation. [Read more.](#)



SIGMA continues to support **Ukraine** in several key areas. For example, SIGMA is assisting the Ministry of Justice and the Government Working Group in finalising the draft Law on Administrative Procedures. Both Ukraine and the EU consider the adoption of such a Law in line with European standards highly important, in particular within the framework of wider anti-corruption and public administration reforms. SIGMA's assistance also includes the drafting of a new Law on Civil Service in line with good European principles and practices, notably in the areas of recruitment, promotion, pay-setting and dismissal. SIGMA is monitoring implementation of the Public Finance Management Strategy and supporting the development of e-procurement, by reviewing draft laws and regulations and explaining EU policies and practices. E-procurement has the potential to reduce costs and increase transparency in public procurement, thereby helping to improve the use of public funds. [Read more.](#)

SIGMA publications



Following extensive negotiations over three years, the *Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)* published three new procurement directives at the end of March 2014 and in July, SIGMA issued two new **Procurement Briefs**: Brief 30, 2014 EU Directives: Public Sector and Utilities Procurement, setting out the major changes incorporated into the 2014 public sector and utilities directives, and Brief 31, 2014 EU Directives: Concessions, which gives an overview of the new legal framework for the award of concessions. Both briefs can be found on the SIGMA website. [Read more.](#)

Multi-country events



The regional conference "Civil Service Professionalisation in the European Eastern Neighbourhood" was held in Tbilisi on 4-5 November. The conference provided an opportunity for the central civil service co-ordination and management bodies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, together with scholars and experts from EU countries, and representatives from the respective EU Delegations, to discuss the main challenges of civil service reforms within the wider context of similar reforms in accession and pre-accession candidates of the EU, as well as in Member States. The recent [comparative civil service study](#) conducted by SIGMA and the interactive format of the conference allowed the participants to discuss the most important and relevant elements and to compare national and regional experiences when developing sustainable and tailor made policy options and practical solutions for the civil service in each country. [Read more.](#)



SIGMA will hold a regional conference for Supreme Audit Institutions of the European Neighbourhood South Region in Algiers on 16-17 December. The aims of the conference are to present current international standards, principles and good European practice with regard to ensuring and demonstrating the relevance of SAIs, identify regional and national challenges in the development of external audit systems, and provide a forum for external audit related information and experience sharing and peer-to-peer learning among the countries in the region. [Read more](#).



The OECD CleanGovBiz Initiative organises annually an **Integrity Week** to actively support governments and organisations to strengthen integrity, build trust, and fight corruption. The 2015 Integrity Week will take place at OECD Headquarters on 23-27 March, with a likely focus on investment. More information will soon be made available on the [OECD's website](#).

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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