



# SIGMA

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Creating Change Together

## SIGMA News

December 2013

### Minister of Public Administration of Albania visits SIGMA



Albania's Minister of Innovation and Public Administration, Dr Milena Harito, visited SIGMA on 6 November 2013 to discuss Albania's public administration reform priorities and SIGMA support on their implementation in 2014. Also discussed were Albania's achievements in the European integration process, SIGMA's assessment of Albania's key challenges, and the current assistance SIGMA is providing in the areas of civil service legislation and internal audit and to the EU-Albania Public Administration Reform Special Group, set up to provide a framework for a more structured dialogue on public administration. [More information on SIGMA's current work with Albania.](#)

### 2013 Assessments and Country Priorities



Every year SIGMA assesses the progress made by EU candidate countries and potential candidates in implementing public administration reforms. The [2013 assessments](#) have now been published and should be read together with SIGMA's proposals for country priorities for future public administration reforms. These assessments have fed into the EC's 2013 Progress Reports, in which the Commission presented its own assessment of the achievements of each candidate country and potential candidate over the last year.

### Focus on Egypt, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Moldova



SIGMA has been working with **Egypt's** Central Agency for Organization and Administration (CAOA) since 2008 and is currently providing assistance in two areas. SIGMA and the CAO are working on harmonising, standardising and simplifying administrative procedures in order to improve decision making processes and compliance with the applicable legislation, with the aim of improving the quality of administrative services. SIGMA is also providing support to the CAO through coaching on monitoring and evaluation methodologies and practices, in order to develop the capacities of its staff to monitor and evaluate donor funded technical assistance projects. [More information on SIGMA's current work with Egypt.](#)



SIGMA is helping **the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** modernise its legal framework for public employment by providing support on the preparation of a Law on Public Employees and a new Law on Administrative Servants. The new legislation will provide common principles for all public employees and detailed arrangements for administrative servants, and will help to redesign the public service's institutional infrastructure. In parallel, SIGMA is providing continued support on the preparation of the new Law on General Administrative Procedures. Following earlier assistance on the preparation of a policy paper adopted by the Government at the beginning of 2013 and the organisation of a public consultation, SIGMA is now providing support on the drafting of the Law itself. [More information on SIGMA's current work with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.](#)



In **Moldova**, SIGMA is helping the Financial Inspection Service of the Ministry of Finance to develop a Strategic Development Plan for the financial inspection function, the strategic orientation of which is closely related to the development of public internal financial control. This work is based on a gap-analysis that SIGMA conducted in 2011/2012, which helped to identify priority areas for improvement. [More information on SIGMA's current work with Moldova.](#)

## New Public Procurement Briefs



SIGMA has added five new briefs to its collection of public procurement policy briefs. The topics covered are: common errors in public procurement, automatic exclusion lists, the monitoring of public procurement, central public procurement functions and procurement review bodies. These briefs aim to provide specialists and non-specialists alike with information on key public procurement issues. [View the collection.](#)

## Multi-Country Events



SIGMA recently organised two multi-country events. On 2-3 December 2013, SIGMA's eleven European Neighbourhood partner countries met in Paris for their 4th annual Networking Seminar, organised with the EC's DG Development and Cooperation. The theme of this year's event was 'Trust in Government'. [The presentations can be viewed here.](#)

On 18-19 November 2013, SIGMA and the European Court of Auditors organised a conference on improving the working relations between Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) and parliaments. This event was organised with the Network of SAIs of EU candidate countries and potential candidates which SIGMA has been supporting since 1998. [The presentations can be viewed here.](#)



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The flyer is now also available in [Arabic](#) and [Russian](#)

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Best wishes for a happy new year from all of us at SIGMA!

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