



SIGMA News

February 2013

Minister of Public Administration of Kosovo* Visits SIGMA



Mr Mahir Yağcılar, Minister of Public Administration of Kosovo, visited the OECD and SIGMA on 18 January 2013 to discuss his country's public administration reform priorities and how SIGMA will support their implementation during 2013, "the year of implementation of reforms" according to the Minister. Kosovo's achievements in the European integration process, SIGMA's assessment of Kosovo's key challenges and its current assistance to the country in various areas such as administrative procedures, public procurement and policy making were also reviewed.

>> [More on SIGMA's work with Kosovo](#)

Project Implementation Progress



In Armenia, following assistance provided on the preparation of a new Public Procurement Law, SIGMA is now supporting its implementation in a number of areas (contract award criteria, tender evaluation processes, etc.) working with the newly established Procurement Review Body and other institutions.

>> [More on this project and other work with Armenia](#)



SIGMA has been working with Bosnia and Herzegovina's four main administrative levels (State, Federation, Republika Srpska, Brčko District) on designing new civil service management tools. The project has brought together officials from all four levels to discuss different policy options and identify common areas for development.

>> [More on this project and other work with Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)



In Morocco, the *Direction Générale de la Fonction Publique* and SIGMA are currently working on the preparation of a Civil Service Statute and a Public Service Charter as part of a wide-ranging reform of the civil service aiming to better align it with the 2011 Constitution.

>> [More on this project and other work with Morocco](#)

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Rethinking Europe's Rule of Law Agenda



How do EU Member States and candidate countries define and implement what is referred to as the “Rule of Law”? This is one of the questions that SIGMA’s latest **Paper** discusses. It identifies the existence of a fundamental dilemma between the need for more ambition in promoting the “Rule of Law” and the need for more restraint in the claims made on behalf of “Rule of Law” assessment and assistance. The Paper proposes a new approach to address this dilemma and suggests practical steps that may help to navigate the problem and implement this new approach.

Public Procurement in the European Union



The 3rd edition of SIGMA’s CD-ROM on public procurement in the EU provides comprehensive and up-to-date information on legislation and the practice of public procurement in the EU. It collects all the available relevant legislation, official interpretative documents and judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union. A complimentary copy can be requested by writing to sigmaweb@oecd.org.

Ethics Training for Public Officials



A new **study** presents the findings of a project on ethics training for public officials. It analyses existing approaches in Eastern European, Central Asian and selected OECD countries and offers recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of ethics training. The recommendations are illustrated with cases studies from Austria, Estonia, Turkey and the USA. The report also contains a checklist that countries can use to develop or improve their own ethics programmes. This project was implemented by SIGMA and the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in co-operation with the OECD Public Sector Integrity Network.

Multi-Country Events



SIGMA recently organised two multi-country events with EU Neighbourhood countries. On 26-27 November 2012, all its partners met for the 3rd annual Networking Seminar. The theme of the event was improving the quality of public services. The meeting conclusions and other materials can be [read here](#).

On 4-5 December 2012, SIGMA organised the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Charter for Enterprise workshop for Neighbourhood South countries. This year’s event focused on Better Regulation and Regulatory Impact Assessment. The conclusions and presentations can be [read here](#).

For an overview of the SIGMA Programme, see our [new flyer](#)

To subscribe to this newsletter and/or provide feedback, please write to sigmaweb@oecd.org

www.sigmaweb.org