



SIGMA News

December 2017

An exceptional year for SIGMA

2017 has been a very significant year for SIGMA. As well as being the 25th anniversary of this successful partnership between the EU and the OECD, many important deliverables have been developed and are available on the [SIGMA website](#). These recent deliverables are excellent examples of SIGMA's contribution to public governance over the last 25 years.



“ I would like to thank the SIGMA team, our colleagues at the EC and the OECD and, in particular, our partners in the different regions for their support and their contributions, which have made our work possible. We have shared many achievements and I believe we will continue to do so in the future. ”

Karen Hill, Head of the SIGMA Programme.

Ministerial Conference: Good Public Governance – Delivering for Citizens and Businesses

SIGMA held a **high-level conference** on 13-14 December at the OECD in Paris, jointly hosted with the European Commission (EC), to support the greater emphasis placed by the European Union (EU) on the importance of public administration reform and public financial management for its 18 partners from the EU candidate countries and potential candidates, and Neighbourhood countries. Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD, and Jean-Eric Paquet, Deputy Secretary-General of the EC, gave the opening speeches and there were interventions from ministers from each of the regions, Katarína Matherňová, Deputy Director General, EC Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Marcos Bonturi, Director, OECD Public Governance Directorate, and Karen Hill, Head of the SIGMA Programme.



The conference reinforced the usefulness of the Principles of Public Administration for planning and delivering priority reforms, and the links between a professional public administration, effective financial management and economic development. Participants also discussed challenges for reforms and government priorities, based on the three pillars of public governance, economic development and rule of law, and how the three together make a difference to people's lives and the development of societies. [Read more.](#)

Launch of Monitoring Reports 2017



In December, SIGMA published **Monitoring Reports** reviewing progress against the Principles of Public Administration in the seven EU candidate countries and potential candidates. The Reports are the result of a comprehensive assessment undertaken by SIGMA in the key areas of public administration reform (PAR). They cover the period May 2015 to June 2017 and contain short- and medium-term recommendations to help the administration take concrete actions to address some of the most important challenges. The analytical findings and recommendations in the Reports are also designed to inform the policy dialogue and discussions between the EC and administrations about priority areas for reform and potential support. [Read more.](#)

Methodological Framework for the Principles of Public Administration



SIGMA has updated the **Methodological Framework for the Principles of Public Administration**. A result of almost two years of intense work, this new framework provides a more accurate and balanced measure of each Principle, to support a systematic and enhanced focus on implementation and outcomes. The methodology creates a strong evidence base by combining a range of analytical measures. The detailed criteria clearly show partners the steps to take to further develop and improve their public administration. National governments, think tanks, civil society organisations and donors will find this framework useful and inspirational, it is the first of its kind in providing holistic criteria for what good public administration looks like, in all horizontal areas of PAR. [Read more.](#)

Public administration in Ukraine: assessing the state of affairs, achievements and challenges



The Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the National Agency on Civil Service and SIGMA organised a high-level event in Kiev on 16 November to discuss progress in Ukraine in the field of PAR, as well as upcoming challenges. The event was also held to launch a baseline measurement assessment against the Principles of Public Administration, that will be conducted by SIGMA at the request of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers. A comprehensive assessment of the state of affairs will enable the design and prioritisation of reforms based on solid evidence and could contribute to a potential revision of the current PAR Strategy. The event was opened by Mr. Volodymyr Groysman, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, and Mr. Hugues Mingarelli, the EU Ambassador to Kiev. [Read more.](#)

Service delivery review in Jordan



At the invitation of the Government, SIGMA recently carried out a review of service delivery against the Principles of Public Administration in Jordan, the first of its kind in a Neighbourhood South country. SIGMA presented the results of the review, and the key suggestions for transforming public service delivery to meet citizens' expectations, in Amman in November. H.E. Mrs. Majd Shweikeh, Minister for ICT and Public Sector Development, and her teams welcomed the review's conclusions and recommendations in light of Digitalising Jordan 2020, which is currently being implemented. [Read more.](#)

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