



SIGMA News

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SIGMA Paper No. 59: Guidelines for assessing the quality of internal control systems



Public sector organisations across the world are increasingly using advanced management concepts. One such concept, internal control, is a set of management arrangements designed to achieve an organisation's objectives on time, to appropriate performance standards, within budget, efficiently, effectively and in compliance with the law. SIGMA Paper No. 59 explains how to develop internal control in public sector organisations and assess the quality of existing systems. Written as a guide for public sector managers and ministries of finance in EU candidate countries and potential candidates, it could also be used by other administrations interested in assessing or improving their management and control systems. [Read more.](#)

Launch of Monitoring Reports 2019



SIGMA has conducted partial monitoring assessments against the Principles of Public Administration in six of the EU candidate countries and potential candidates to review progress in public administration reform. The reports focus on specific themes where changes are expected and are designed to provide analysis and detailed recommendations to inform future reform activities. [Read more.](#)

Baseline Measurement Report Armenia 2019



SIGMA prepared this report to analyse the key horizontal areas of public administration in Armenia against the Principles of Public Administration for ENP Countries: strategic framework of public administration reform; policy development and co-ordination; public service and human resource management; accountability; service delivery; and public financial management, including public procurement and external audit. This Baseline Measurement Report may help the Armenian Government to establish priorities and plan sequenced reforms to further strengthen democratic institutions and increase the effectiveness of the administration. [Read more.](#)

Roundtable on reporting practices to increase the impact of Supreme Audit Institutions



SIGMA organised a roundtable for the Network of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries and European Court of Auditors in Paris on 20-21 March 2019. The event examined the challenges for SAIs in creating impact and change through their reporting and engagement with external stakeholders. Participants discussed initiatives and experiences in EU member countries and the region. The roundtable concluded that delivering the 'right report' to generate impact brings together all aspects of an SAI's activity from strategy through to report publication and follow up, and that delivering reports to the right audience at the right time requires equal care and attention. It was agreed that further work on issues identified would be incorporated within the activities already set out in the Network's ongoing programme. [Read more.](#)

World Bank: 1st Regional Governance Conference for Europe and Central Asia



SIGMA joined the World Bank and other partners in organising the 1st Regional Governance Conference for Europe and Central Asia countries, held on 11-12 June in Ankara. The conference brought together over 500 delegates from government, international development partners, academics, private sector, and civil society groups taking stock of reforms to improve governance and discussing the ways to inspire next generation governance practices in the region. [Read more.](#)

Kosovo* state reforms



SIGMA convened Ministers and Secretary Generals from five ministries, the Office of the Prime Minister, three Members of Parliament, the European Commission's Head of Kosovo* and North Macedonia and representatives from the EU Office in Pristina to take next steps for the implementation of the Government Action Plan for Rationalisation of Agencies. The meeting, which took place on 19 June in Paris, followed two years of work supporting the Law on Organisation and Functioning of State Administration and Independent Agencies and preparing analytical recommendations for a more rational organisation of state administration, with better lines of accountability between ministries and agencies and less bodies subordinated to the Assembly. The first round of the reform is due to be finalised in the coming months. [Read more.](#)

Service delivery review in Morocco



At the request of the Moroccan authorities and the European Commission, SIGMA carried out a review of service delivery against the Principles of Public Administration in Morocco, the second 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, at a high-level joint EU-OECD conference held in Rabat on 19 June, with the presence of M. Maciej Popowski, Deputy Director General DG NEAR and M. Marcos Bonturi, Director of Public Governance Directorate, OECD. H.E. Mr Mohamed Benabdelkader, Minister for Administration Reform and Civil Service, and his teams welcomed the review's conclusions and recommendations. [Read more.](#)

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* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99 and the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on Kosovo's declaration of independence.