



SIGMA News

December 2015

Launch of the baseline measurement reports



SIGMA has published **baseline measurement reports** for seven Enlargement countries, that analyse where the countries stand against the [Principles of Public Administration](#). The reports set baseline values for more than 150 indicators for each country and provide a detailed picture of the state of play of public administration reform in the Enlargement countries. In addition to the legislative framework, the reports examine how the public administration functions in practice, how the reforms are implemented and the outcomes which have been produced. Country analysis is complemented by detailed and sequenced reform recommendations in all areas of the Principles of Public Administration. This baseline measurement forms the basis for ongoing country monitoring to assess progress over time.

The [full country reports](#) are available on the SIGMA website.

High level conference on Public Administration Reform Challenges



One year on from the launch of the Principles of Public Administration, SIGMA held a high-level conference entitled **Public Administration Reform Challenges in Western Balkan Countries** on 4 December 2015 at the OECD in Paris. The conference focused on the reform efforts of the countries based on SIGMA's 2015 baseline measurement reports, addressed the common reform challenges and introduced country responses to these challenges. The event was attended by ministers responsible for public administration, ministers of finance and senior officials from Western Balkan countries and Turkey. There were interventions from Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary General of the OECD, ministers from the region, Simon Mordue, Director for Strategy and Turkey at the EC, Rolf Alter, Director of the OECD's Territorial Development and Governance Directorate, and Karen Hill, Head of the SIGMA Programme. The main focus was on thematic discussions on priority reforms, such as fiscal consolidation, the re-organisation of public administration and the professionalisation of the senior civil service. [Read more.](#)

Focus on strategic framework of public administration reform



Supporting countries in developing well-prioritised and implementable **public administration reform** (PAR) agendas has been a priority for SIGMA in 2015. We assist countries in setting reform priorities through an inclusive process, setting objectives and targets and choosing the appropriate indicators for measuring progress, developing sequenced and implementable action plans and costing the reforms. SIGMA has worked together with Serbia, Albania, Kosovo*, Ukraine and Georgia in developing PAR and public financial management reform strategies, action plans and roadmaps. Work on Montenegro's new public administration strategies is on-going. SIGMA also works with Albania, Kosovo and Georgia on developing the monitoring of reform implementation and strengthening reform co-ordination and management. Through close involvement in designing reform agendas, SIGMA is well-positioned to advise both countries and the EC in setting PAR sector budget support priorities. [Read more.](#)

SIGMA publications



The SIGMA **Public Procurement Training Manual**, which incorporates the EU legal framework, has been updated to reflect the provisions of the 2014 EU Directives and has been published on the SIGMA website. The Training Manual is a tool to increase knowledge and capacity, both of the central procurement institutions and contracting authorities, and while written specifically for IPA countries, would also benefit institutions delivering training on public procurement in other countries. [Read more.](#)

Multi-country events



The **Public Procurement ENI South Regional Conference**, jointly organised by the Office of the Minister of State for Administration Reform (OMSAR) and SIGMA, was held at the Grand Serail, in Beirut, Lebanon, on 2-3 June. It brought together key public procurement policy makers from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia. It provided an opportunity to share experiences and to discuss approaches to public procurement reform with a particular focus on international good practices, to contribute to ongoing and future public procurement reforms in the region. The EU package of three new public procurement directives adopted early in 2014 was also presented. Participants from the different countries presented their own public procurement strategies and recent developments and highlighted challenges faced in their procurement reforms. The conference was characterised by very engaged participation from all delegates and lively discussions in an open, friendly and professional atmosphere. [Read more.](#)

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* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.