



SIGMA

Strengthening Governance Systems in Neighbouring Countries



EuropeAid



**EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**

What is SIGMA?

SIGMA - Support for Improvement in Governance and Management - is a **joint initiative of the OECD and the EU**, principally financed by the EU. SIGMA supports countries in building governance and administrative systems.

Set up in 1992 to support central and eastern European countries, SIGMA currently works with three EU candidate countries and five potential candidates. **SIGMA assistance was extended to European Neighbourhood Partners in June 2008.**

The public governance institutions targeted by SIGMA are the central ministries and agencies responsible for horizontal management systems of government – civil service, administrative law, expenditure management, financial control, external audit, public procurement, policy and regulatory capacities, and property rights' management.

The beneficiaries of SIGMA are public sector high-level decision-makers and civil servants.

The demand for activities is framed within the ENP Action Plans, National Indicative Programmes, and with Russia, Common Space Road Maps. SIGMA operations are managed by a National Contact Point (NCP) within the Programme Administration Office (PAO) which acts also as NCP for Twinning and TAIEX projects.

Tasks and Work Areas

SIGMA aims to:

- Provide short to medium-term (from 1 day to 12 months) support to improve governance and management on the basis of requests from the beneficiary countries;
- Assist national reform teams by providing expertise from peer practitioners including SIGMA staff and senior civil servants contracted on a short-term basis from Member State administrations;
- Assess reform progress and identify priorities on the basis of the EU acquis, and assist decision-makers and administrations in institutional strengthening;
- Facilitate assistance from the EU and other donors by helping to design projects and implement action plans.

SIGMA provides assistance in the following areas:

- civil service
- administrative law
- public integrity
- public expenditure management
- public internal financial control
- external audit
- public procurement/concessions
- policy-making and co-ordination
- regulatory management
- administrative environment of business



Support Mechanisms and Results

SIGMA uses a variety of support mechanisms:

- advice on reforms, design and implementation of strategies and strategic development plans;
- analysis and assessment of legal frameworks, methodologies, systems and institutions;
- peer reviews and assistance;
- drafting of studies, handbooks and other reference material;
- methodological, technical and strategic input to optimise other Commission assistance;
- training;
- support to networks of policy-makers and practitioners.

SIGMA activities are expected to contribute to:

- Establishment of an effective legal framework for professional, efficient and reliable public governance;
- Effective consultation and co-operation between public governance institutions and business associations, social partners, NGOs and sub-national levels of government;
- Improved ability of public governance institutions to ensure effective services to companies and citizens in response to their needs;
- Implementation of effective mechanisms for public governance and accountability to lead reforms;
- Establishment of effective systems for the development and co-ordination of public (including regulatory) policy;
- Improved ability of public governance institutions to set up and participate in public-private partnerships;
- Establishment of effective systems for resource allocation, public procurement, internal control, and external audit.

SIGMA is a Division of the OECD's Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development and is able to draw on the Directorate's expertise and on its networks of public management experts and decision-makers in OECD member countries.

SIGMA is mostly financed by the European Commission through a centralised budget. The programme is managed by EuropeAid Directorate A: Europe, Southern Mediterranean, Middle-East and Neighbourhood Policy - Unit A6 Multi Countries Programmes - in coordination with EU Delegations.



For more information

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/overview/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

<http://www.sigmaweb.org>

EU Delegations

The SIGMA NCP within the Programme Administration Office

