



SIGMA News

July 2013

Croatia Joins the European Union



Croatia became the European Union's 28th member on 1 July 2013. SIGMA started working with Croatia in 2001 and since then has provided assistance in a large number of key areas for accession such as administrative justice, internal audit, public-private partnerships and legislative drafting. SIGMA will continue to work with Croatia on post-accession matters until 2015.

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

Focus on Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo* and Montenegro



SIGMA is currently supporting **Georgia** in the areas of civil service and policy making by reviewing and helping to improve (1) a set of eight laws and regulations, including the Constitution, the Law on Civil Service and the Law on Conflict of Interest, and (2) the capacities of the Chancellery of the Government, in light of constitutional reforms which redistribute powers between the President, the Parliament and the Government.

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



In **Jordan**, SIGMA has been working with the Audit Bureau and the Ministry of Finance since 2010 on a comprehensive reform of the system for the financial control of public funds. SIGMA first supported the Audit Bureau on developing a Strategic Development Plan that includes the withdrawal from the pre-audit function that it currently undertakes. SIGMA also advised the Ministry of Finance on strengthening the internal control and internal audit systems to eliminate the need for the fulfillment of this pre-audit function. SIGMA is now helping the Audit Bureau implement the Strategic Development Plan and supporting the Ministry of Finance in setting-up the internal control system within all budget users.

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



SIGMA is conducting a comprehensive review of policy making and coordination in **Kosovo*** and **Montenegro**. The analysis of these two countries' existing policy-making capacities and needs focuses on (1) horizontal planning and coordination at the centre of government, (2) policy capacities in ministries, and (3) the role of the Parliament, and in particular on the capacities for European integration policy. The work is based on a new analytical framework and methodology that SIGMA will also use for its work on policy making with all EU candidates and potential candidates.

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



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Managing Government Debt



The management of operational risk is at the heart of efficient government, but countries often fail to apply good or even routine operational risk management practices and have difficulty in understanding how to put the processes in place. Through an analysis of Turkey's Undersecretariat of Treasury, SIGMA Paper 50 presents an overview of key operational risks in government debt management and offers recommendations on how to develop a framework for managing them. It also provides lessons learnt that can be applied in debt management units and related treasury functions across a wide range of countries.

>> [Read the paper](#)

Implementing Financial Management and Control



The 3rd regional conference on Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC) for EU candidates and potential candidates took place in Ankara on 4-6 June and provided participants with the opportunity to discuss good practices for the implementation of the financial management and control (FMC) pillar of PIFC. The discussions also enabled participants to identify the impediments that are making FMC the least developed of the three PIFC pillars, and to share and compare national experiences and discuss current issues informally.

>> [More on this event](#)

Procurement in Utilities and Defence



The 6th regional conference on public procurement for EU candidates and potential candidates was held in Danilovgrad on 20-21 June and brought together over 45 senior officials to discuss public procurement reform, with a focus this year on procurement by utilities and in the area of defence. Participants were also able to share recent experiences in their national procurement system.

>> [More on this conference](#)

For an overview of the SIGMA Programme, see our flyer in [English](#) and [French](#)

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