



SIGMA News May 2022

## 30 years of the SIGMA Programme



On 25 May 2022, SIGMA celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the partnership between two international organisations that share the same core values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and free market economy, and agree on what good public governance entails in practice. <u>Watch the video</u>.

In 30 years of work on public administration reforms in partner countries, SIGMA has accompanied 11 countries on their path towards EU Accession. Some of them eventually became OECD Members (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) or entered into accession discussions (Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania). Currently, SIGMA is working with one OECD Member (Turkey) and with public administrations in regions where both OECD and the EU have a strong interest in preserving and strengthening stability, security and economic co-operation: the Western Balkans, the Eastern partnership and a part of the Middle East and North Africa region.

SIGMA provides assistance from a hands-on, practitioner perspective with a dedicated team of experts. We are grateful to our partners, as well as the EC and OECD, for their continued trust in the SIGMA model that is designed around long-term relationships, in recognition of the fact that public governance reforms take time and continuous efforts. They are essential for the structural change needed in countries in transition.

The world is changing, and governments are facing many challenges today, including climate change, the need for rapid and effective digital transformation, as well as threats to our fundamental values - security, freedom and democracy. SIGMA is ready and looking forward to playing its role in this context by supporting the OECD, the EU and its partner countries in further advancing public governance to prepare for these challenges and create a favourable environment for competitive businesses, prosperous and happy citizens.

## Principles of Public Administration Data Portal – new policy simulator



The Principles of Public Administration Data Portal was launched in February 2022 to provide access to data collected by SIGMA since 2017 in the Western Balkan region. A new component has now been added to the portal that allows national administrations and the European Commission to simulate what reforms are needed to improve the performance of public governance in the future.

The simulator shows where administrations perform below the regional average, have regressed since 2017, have data gaps or received 0 points, and allows the user to modify the latest SIGMA monitoring results to create a roadmap for improving specific areas of public administration.

Create your own roadmap here: Principles of Public Administration Data Portal

## **Continuing work with Ukraine**



The EU and OECD have both strongly condemned the Russian Federation's unprovoked, large-scale aggression against Ukraine and expressed solidarity with the people of Ukraine. SIGMA has been working on public administration reform in Ukraine since 2009 and has stepped up its support to the government in recent years, following our 2018 Baseline Measurement Report.

We have continued to work with our partners in Ukraine in the context of the current circumstances. In particular, we are assisting them with advice on adjusting the functioning of their public administration, as well as on preparations for recovery and reconstruction. Public administration will play a crucial role in transforming the country and in the process of EU Accession. At the request of the Ukrainian government, we have joined the working group on public administration created under the auspices of Ukraine's National Recovery Council. SIGMA's data and evidence, collected during co-operation on various reform projects, will be valuable in this respect.

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