



# SIGMA News

October 2014

### Minister of State for Administration Reform of Lebanon visits SIGMA



**Lebanon's** Minister of State for Administrative Reform, Mr Nabil de Freige, visited OECD on 29-30 September to attend the International Forum on Open Government organised by the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate. He also met with the Head of SIGMA and the SIGMA Lebanon country team to discuss Lebanon's public administration reform priorities and SIGMA's current and potential future support. In particular, the current assistance that SIGMA is providing in the areas of public procurement and a review of the strategic orientation of the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform were discussed.

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### Focus on Albania, Jordan and Tunisia



Photo: F. Crippa

In **Albania**, SIGMA is working with the State Minister for Innovation and Public Administration and the Department for Public Administration on a draft Public Administration Reform Strategy which reflects both the current situation and the challenges ahead. We are also assisting the Council of Ministers' Department of Development Programming, Finance and Foreign Aid to review and align the new National Strategy for Development and Innovation with the key government priorities and the sectoral approach of the EU. This is expected to result in a better use of European financial assistance and in more smartly focused strategic activities to help achieve EU integration and stimulate sustainable economic growth. Read more.

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In **Jordan**, SIGMA continues to work with the Ministry of Finance and the Audit Bureau towards realising a more modern system for the control of public funds within all budget users. This will enable the withdrawal of the latter from its current pre-audit function. SIGMA supports the involvement of other key institutions such as the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Parliament which play an important role in this project. We are also providing assistance to the Office of the Ombudsman.

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In previous years, public employment has increased significantly in **Tunisia**, eroding fiscal balance and affecting the country's growth capacity. Consequently measures are needed to control staff numbers and stabilise budgetary costs. SIGMA is helping stakeholders to address these issues through a strategic approach to the design, agreement and implementation of both short-term and structural public administration reforms. This will underpin the development of sustainable public services, which are able to serve citizens and support the economy.

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## SIGMA publications



SIGMA's latest reviews focus on the policy making arrangements and capacities of **Kosovo\*** and **Montenegro** in light of upcoming European integration challenges. They examine how policy making is undertaken in these countries, looking at both Government and Parliament, highlight areas of good practice and include recommendations for further improvement and development.

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Photo: Gwenael Piaser

SIGMA has issued a detailed review of 2006-2014 public procurement-related judgements of the EU Court of Justice. The publication provides a comprehensive analysis of public procurement topics interpreted by the Court, as well as the full texts of the most relevant cases. 'Selected Judgements of the Court of Justice of the European Union on Public Procurement' is now available in Albanian, Bosnian, Macedonian, Serbian and Turkish.

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## Multi-country events



A regional conference on public procurement took place in Vlora, Albania, on 9-10 September 2014 and saw the participation of experts from the European Commission, Member States, and delegates from EU candidate countries and potential candidates. The focus was on the new EU legislative and policy framework and the event provided an opportunity for central public procurement authorities and review bodies to network and share information. Participants were invited to present their plans for transposing the new EU Directives into national legislation and to illustrate recent developments in the public procurement systems of their countries.

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