



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

The First Meeting of the Heads of Central Harmonization Units

15-16 December 2016, ReSPA (Danilovgrad)



During its six years working history ReSPA has established number of working groups devoted to particular and specific topics within overall broad framework of Public Administration Reform (Ethics and Integrity, Human resources Management and Development, eGovernment, Public Private Partnership, Public Procurement, Administrative Law and Administrative Justice, etc).

ReSPA working groups have promoted exchange of regional and broader experiences, challenges and best practices in carrying out the necessary reforms in area of Public Administration.

European Commission (EC) provides directly managed funds for support of ReSPA activities (research, training and networking programmes) in line with the EU accession process. So far, two EC Grant Contracts (GCs) have been implemented by ReSPA, during the period 2010-2015. In July 2016 ReSPA received new EC grant which opened possibilities for implementation of new set of activities framed with Programme of Work 2016-2017. The new EC grant will support the main objective of ReSPA work in 2016-2017: Improving regional cooperation in the field of PAR and EU integration and strengthening administrative capacities in the beneficiaries. This objective will be achieved through the following three pillars of ReSPA Programme of Work for 2016-2017:

- (1) European Integration Pillar: Increased capacity of public administration in the ReSPA Members necessary for successful conducting of the European Integration process;
- (2) Public Administration Reform Pillar: Facilitated and enhanced cooperation and exchange of experience in Public Administration Reform and European Integration activities in ReSPA Members;
- (3) Governance for Growth Pillar: Ensured effective coordination of the implementation of the Governance for Growth pillar of the SEE 2020 Strategy.

At the beginning of the realization of the new EC grant, ReSPA envisages the need to expand its activity, between others, in area of Public Financial Management. The high importance of administrative capacities criteria within EU conditionality calls for strong commitment of ReSPA and its members to European Principles of Public Administration. Therefore, ReSPA in new Programme of Work 2016-2017 organizes its activities in the area of Public Administration Reform in accordance with the structure of these principles. These Principles of Public Administration have been developed by OECD/SIGMA define detailed requirements for a well-functioning public administration in six core areas: the strategic framework for public administration reform; policy development and co-ordination; public service and human resource management; accountability; service delivery; public financial management.



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Within the area of Public Financial Management SIGMA defined even 16 principles. Several of them are strongly connected with Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC). The EU concept of PIFC is included in the preparation of candidate and potential candidate countries under the Chapter 32 of the accession negotiation process. Regarding organizational structure, all governments of Western Balkan countries placed the central coordination structures for PIFC – Central Harmonization Units (CHUs) within the Ministries of Finance. The last EC Progress reports for 2015 show that the most of the countries are in this area at early stage of preparation for EU membership (Bosnia and Hercegovina and Kosovo*¹), or moderately prepared (Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Albania). Although all CHUs confront with similar or the same challenges, the heads of CHUs have no regular possibilities to cooperate with each other. With establishment of their particular network ReSPA aims to enhance their regional cooperation and through this new mechanism promote enhancement of reforms in area of PIFC in its Members and Kosovo.

Therefore ReSPA organizes the first meeting of Heads of CHUs and their collaborates with aim to establish ReSPA regional working group in area of PIFC and to develop plan of jointly agreed activities of this working group during 2017.

¹ * This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Advisory opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence



DRAFT PROGRAMME

Thursday, 15 December 2016

09.30	-	09.45	Registration
09.45	-	10.00	Welcome, ratio and objectives of the meeting - Adoption of the Agenda
10.00	-	10.30	Introduction of ReSPA PoW 2016-17 and activities in the area of Public Financial Management - Dragan Djuric, Programme Manager - Discussion
10.30	-	11.15	Establishment of new Working Group for Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC) - Introduction of the Terms of Reference of new Working Group - Dragan Djuric, Programme Manager - Discussion
11.15	-	11.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.45	-	13.00	Tour the table: Presentations of Heads of CHUs on the state of affairs in area of PIFC - Albania - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Kosovo
13.00	-	14.30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.30	-	15.15	Continuation of the presentation of Heads of CHUs - Macedonia - Montenegro - Serbia
15.15	-	15.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.45	-	16.30	How to define joint needs on regional level - Danijela Stepic, Had of CHU in Ministry of Finance in Government of Croatia - Discussion
			<i>End of first day</i>
18.30			<i>Social Dinner...</i>



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Friday, 16 December 2016

9.30	-	9.45	Introduction in the second day - Dragan Djuric, Programme Manager
9.45	-	10.30	Development the plan of joint activities in 2017 - Moderator: Danijela Stepic, Had of CHU in Ministry of Finance in Government of Croatia - Discussion
10.30	-	11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.00	-	12.30	Work in groups on the rekognised topics for future joint work
12.30	-	12.45	Presentation of results of work of working groups - Discussion
12.45	-	13.00	Conclusions
			<i>Lunch and departure of participants</i>



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