

Minutes of the Leadership meeting

June 14, 2010

Bled, Slovenia

Present: Elena Nikulina (WB TTL), Ion Chicu (T CoP, Ministry of Finance Moldova), Lulzim Ismajli (T CoP, Ministry of Finance and Economy Kosovo), Nargiz Djumaeva (T CoP, Ministry of Finance Kyrgyz Republic), Anila Cili (T CoP, Ministry of Finance Albania), Albana Gjinopulli (IA CoP, Ministry of Finance Albania), Tatia Eliadze (IA CoP, Ministry of Finance Georgia), CEF team (Mira Dobovišek, Senka Maver, Bojana Crnadak, Tina Žagar, Nataša Zmrzljak)

Objectives of the meeting:

- Preparation for the SC meeting;
- Joint COP discussion to prepare for the Plenary meeting.

Two of three Leadership Groups were represented, namely Treasury (T CoP) and Internal Audit (IA CoP).

1. PEMPAL development planning for 2010-2012

Elena Nikulina briefly presented the main elements of the FY11-12 program document, which -- supported by the financial plan with available budget for the next 24 months – provides for strategic planning of the activities, taking into account the recommendations of the 2009 Mokoro Evaluation Report. PEMPAL was successful in obtaining additional resources. The budget, increased by almost three times, is sufficient to strengthen and expand the program. To this end, the types of activities supported by the program are proposed to be expanded to include the following:

- **Knowledge management (including Virtual Library);**
- **Study visits (cross-country exchange);**
- **External experts (fee for service).**

Discussion:

Virtual Library

Virtual Library (proposed by the T COP) would consist of basic legislation and strategies in each country, and would be used as a reference by the other countries (available in three languages). Each country should appoint a contact person in charge of the updates. Managing the database would not be easy in light of the need for constant updating, selectivity and prioritization, as well as risks of misinterpretations. Good practices in developed countries could also be presented. Assistance of an expert would be needed. CEF will also appoint one person to coordinate the activities.

Study visits (SV)

SV proved to be efficient, and should be re-established. It is crucial to have guidance and rules prepared in advance for each SV, in order to keep the budget in check. CEF can help in identifying best practices and host countries for SV. Each SV should be well prepared (questions in advance), and should include cross-sectoral topics (e.g. Treasury, PFM). Study visits should be financed from a separate pool (individual budget line), and not from the COP budgets. Requests for SV, to be submitted to the Steering Committee, should include translation costs.

External experts

So far, experts' help was provided free of charge through donors (WB, InWent, SIGMA) and IMF (Brian Olden). With the budget increase, it would be possible to hire technical experts (against payment) from the additional budget line.

SIGMA offered to work more for PEM PAL (free of charge) on specific topics.

2. COP Suggestions for PEMPAL plenary planned for January 2011 (topics, format)

2.1. Topics

IA CoP proposed the following topics: Managerial accountability, IA legal set-up, Quality assurance of IA, CHU organization, and Relation between external and internal audit.

CEF proposed to organize a high level event/conference on Managerial Accountability to make sure the message is received by targeted audience.

T COP proposed the following topics: Financial management and control, Strategy of PFM, Links between accounting information and budget implementation, Project management.

One of recommended cross cutting topics is "New Concepts of Financial Management and Control".

2.2. Format of the meeting

Option 1:

Day 1 – 2: Plenary session on *one* topic; COPs hold separate discussions on this topic (how it affects their area, and challenges with implementation); COPs reconvene in a Plenary session to report back on their conclusions, and wrap up the discussion.

Day 2 – 3: Three topics, one by each COP.

Option 2:

Day 1 – 2: Plenary on *three* topics; COPs discuss these three topics: COPs reconvene in a Plenary session to wrap up the discussion.

Day 2 – 3: Discussions within each COP.

2.3. Guiding principles for the preparation of the meeting:

- Interactive Plenary session;
- Invite external experts to explain main concepts at the Plenary session;
- COPs meeting open to interested audience;
- Organizational committee to be established (WB, COP and CEF).

2.4. Potential locations:

- Bled, Slovenia
- Dubrovnik, Croatia
- Istanbul, Turkey (WB staff proposal in regard to availability of facilities, logistical arrangements and visa options)

3. Sharing of COP experiences in developing and implementing COP activities (special request to IA COP to present the wiki page)

Albana Gjinopulli showed how IA CoP uses WIKISPACES tool. The other two COPs might consider using it as well.