

SMART INTERACTIVE TALK

THEMATIC MEETING FOR IACOP MEMBERS AND  
CHU REPRESENTATIVES ONLY

**ENHANCING COOPERATION BETWEEN CENTRAL  
HARMONIZATION UNIT (CHU) AND IIA FOR EFFECTIVE  
GLOBAL INTERNAL AUDIT STANDARDS (GIAS)  
IMPLEMENTATION: INSIGHTS AND PRACTICES FOR  
GIAS TRANSLATION**

May 19, 2025

SMART INTERACTIVE TALK (SIT)  
THEMATIC MEETING FOR IACOP MEMBERS AND CHU  
REPRESENTATIVES ONLY

**ENHANCING COOPERATION BETWEEN  
CENTRAL HARMONIZATION UNIT (CHU)  
AND IIA FOR EFFECTIVE GLOBAL INTERNAL  
AUDIT STANDARDS (GIAS)  
IMPLEMENTATION: INSIGHTS AND  
PRACTICES FOR GIAS TRANSLATION**

May 19, 2025, at 14:00 (Vienna time)

## **CONTEXT**

Implementing the new GIAS is essential for ensuring that internal audit functions in the public sector remain effective and aligned with the latest global good practices. With the rapidly evolving public sector environment, which includes increasing complexity, emerging risks, and stricter regulatory requirements, internal auditors must adapt to maintain their critical role in governance, risk management, and control processes. The IIA has prescribed a concrete timeline for these updates, requiring organizations, including those in the public sector, to begin transitioning to the new Standards starting January 9, 2025. This timeline provides a clear pathway for organizations to align their audit practices with the new framework, which addresses contemporary challenges such as terminology integration, legal updates, and stakeholder engagement.

Effective implementation of the GIAS requires strong cooperation between CHUs and the local Institutes of Internal Auditors (the IIAs). While CHUs shape public sector internal audit reforms, the IIAs bring expertise and access to global guidance. Their collaboration is especially important for the accurate translation and practical adaptation of GIAS to national contexts.

Within PEMPAL, some countries have local IIAs and can benefit from joint efforts with CHUs. Others lack a local IIA and face added challenges, including translation and alignment. Each country develops its own approach. This SIT provides a space to share those experiences.

The SIT will feature insights from the IIA on the formal translation process, presentation of findings from the IACOP survey on CHU – the IIA cooperation, and country experiences highlighting both challenges and good practices. Participants will be invited to actively engage in discussion, share perspectives, raise questions, and explore ways to enhance impact. The SIT will also consider how PEMPAL IACOP can support the alignment process in a structured and effective manner.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

- **Joining the SIT.** The SIT will be hosted on the Webex platform, which enables simultaneous interpretation into PEMPAL languages.
- **Please connect at 13:45 to test your connection.**

## AGENDA | MAY 19, 2025 AT 14:00 (VIENNA TIME)

### Welcome remarks and introduction

---

Presentation on the objectives of the SIT and the agenda.

**14:00** **Mr. Arman Vatyán** | PEMPAL Program Leader, The World Bank  
**Ms. Albana Gjinopulli** | IACOP Executive Committee Chair; Director of Directorate of Harmonization of Internal Audit, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania

### Session 1. Insight on the IIA formal GIAS translation process

---

**14:05** **Ms. Katleen Seeuws** | Vice President, Standards & Guidance  
The Institute of Internal Auditors, Global Headquarters

### Session 2. Understanding CHU Perspectives: IACOP Survey Findings on GIAS Translation Challenges

---

**14:20** **Tomáš Vyhnánek** | IACOP Executive Committee Member; Deputy Director, Central Harmonization Unit, Head of Spending Review Unit, Ministry of Finance, the Czech Republic

### Session 3. From Translation to Implementation: Advancing CHU – the IIA Partnership in Armenia

---

**14:40** **Mr. Ara Chalabyan** | President, IIA Armenia  
**Mr. Makich Kcheyan** | Head of CHU, Ministry of Finance, Armenia

### Session 4. Sharing countries experiences: CHU – the IIA cooperation and GIAS Translation Barriers

---

**14:50** **Mr. Mite Mitevski** | IACOP Executive Committee Member and CHU Challenges Working Group leader; Head of Department for Central Harmonization of the Internal Financial Control System in the Public Sector, Ministry of Finance, North Macedonia  
**Ms. Albana Gjinopulli** | IACOP Executive Committee Chair; Director of Directorate of Harmonization of Internal Audit, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania  
**Tomáš Vyhnánek** | IACOP Executive Committee Member; Deputy Director, Central Harmonization Unit, Head of Spending Review Unit, Ministry of Finance, Czech Republic

**15:00** Discussion

---

**Closing remarks**

---

**15:20**

**Mr. Arman Vatyán** | PEMPAL Program Leader, The World Bank

**Ms. Albana Gjinopulli** | IACOP Executive Committee Chair; Director of Directorate of Harmonization of Internal Audit, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania

**15:30** End of SIT

---

## BIOS OF THE SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

(in order of appearance)

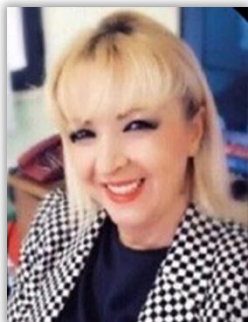


### **ARMAN VATYAN**

Lead Financial Management Specialist at The World Bank and PEMPAL Program Leader

---

Arman Vatyan, a UK and Canadian chartered accountant, is PEMPAL Program Leader. He has more than 20 years of experience in leading critical financial management initiatives and reforms, including in public sector and corporate accounting and financial reporting, public internal and external audit, financial management information system and public internal control in 25 countries in the Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, and East Asia Pacific regions. He also leads the PULSAR program of 13 countries and other regional PFM programs. Prior joining the World Bank he worked at a Big Four firm providing information risk audit, corporate governance, strategic planning, management information system, restructuring, acquisition, and privatization advice to governments and large public interest entities. He has around 20 years teaching experience at ACCA courses and as visiting lecturer at universities and for regional and MBA programs.



### **ALBANA GJINOPULLI**

IACOP Executive Committee chair; Director, Internal Audit Central Harmonization Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Albania

---

Albana Gjinopulli is the Director of Audit Strategy and Methodology, specializing in professional development and public auditors' certification, with 17 years of expertise in internal and external auditing. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance and a Master's in Public Administration. Since 2005, Albana has been a "Certified Internal Auditor in the Public Sector" in Albania. In 2008, she became a Certified Public Accountant with an internationally recognized certificate and diploma issued by CIPFA. Throughout her career, Albana has worked with various public institutions, including the Ministry of Finance, the Supreme Audit Institution of Albania, and the Audit Authority of EU Funds. She is skilled in internal auditing, enterprise risk management, quality assurance and control, strategic thinking, and audit management. Albana is dedicated to the continuous learning and professional development of public auditors. She is chair of the PEMPAL IACOP Executive Committee.



### **KATLEEN SEEUWS**

Vice President Standards & Guidance at IIA Global, CIA, CGAP, CRMA, CFE

---

Kat Seeuws is Vice President Standards & Guidance at the IIA. She previously was the CEO of the IIA Belgium and President serving two board terms. She held several positions in the field of internal control and internal audit, mainly in the public sector. She is a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and holds several other certificates (CRMA, CGAP, CFE, RFA, CICS and an Accreditation in Quality Assessment). Katleen started her career as a tax inspector in the Federal Tax Administration. After more than 10 years of experience in tax and inspection, she joined the Federal Service of Budget and Management Control as a senior advisor to the policy makers and public managers. She has been in charge of supporting and facilitating the development of internal control in the federal public sector. In this function, she has also piloted a project on developing the modern structure of audit for the Belgian federal public departments. In 2018 she joined the European Commission to work as national expert in DG Budget. She there supported the Public Internal Control (PIC) Network of the European Commission, a group of internal control policy makers from all European Union member states. She then also worked as a consultant for Grant Thornton where she performed different assignments in audit, quality assessment and consultancy, in particular for public sector clients. Besides that is she has been involved in several international collaboration and support projects in the field of public administration reform steered by the European Commission, OECD and the World Bank.



### **TOMÁŠ VYHNÁNEK**

Deputy Director, Central Harmonization Unit, Head of Spending Review Unit, Ministry of Finance, Czech Republic

---

Tomas is an expert in Analysis, Controlling and Audit of public finances. He has held various managerial positions in Deloitte Advisory and CSOB with focus on public administration. He also worked as the Director of Analytical departments of the Ministry of Health. Since 2014 he has worked for the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic on different positions within Central Harmonization Unit. In the years 2015-2020 he was deputy minister for control and audit.



### **ARA CHALABYAN**

President, IIA Armenia

---

Ara Chalabyan is a senior professional with over 20 years of experience in internal auditing, corporate finance, and operations across sectors including central banking, financial services, mining, education, and NGOs. He is currently President of the Armenian Institute of Internal Auditors, a short-term consultant with the IMF, an independent Board Member at Ararat Bank OJSC, and hosts a podcast on YouTube. Previously, he served as Chief Audit Executive at the Central Bank of Armenia for a decade before leading the transformation of support functions into a unified Corporate Services and Development Directorate with over 200 staff, covering HR, Finance, IT, Security, Procurement, and more. Mr. Chalabyan also teaches at the American University of Armenia and has been recognized for teaching, exams, and publications. He holds degrees from Fletcher School (Tufts), AUA, and Yerevan State University, and certifications from ACCA, IIA, and ISACA (ACCA, CIA, CRMA, CRISC).



### **MAKICH KHCHEYAN**

PEMPAL IACOP Executive Committee Member; Head of CHU, Ministry of Finance, Armenia

---

Makich Khcheyan is an economist with over 18 years of professional experience. This includes over nine years developing public internal financial control methodologies for areas such as public finance management and internal audit. He has considerable knowledge and implementation experience of PFM reforms as a government official in the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia. Makich has experience of cooperation with international organizations (for example, The World Bank Group and others). From 2019 to 2021 he was internal audit manager for BDO Armenia and conducted internal audit engagements including the Ministry of Finance, State Property Management Committee, and several big and small municipalities.



### **MITE MITEVSKI**

PEMPAL IACOP Executive Committee Member and CHU Challenges Working Group leader; Head of Department for Central Harmonization of the Internal Financial Control System in the Public Sector, Ministry of Finance, North Macedonia

---

Mite Mitevski has considerable experience and active involvement in coordinating the establishment and development of public internal financial control in the Ministry of Finance of North Macedonia. In addition to his professional engagement, he is also actively working on this topic from a scientific and research perspective and, as a doctor of science in the field, he has published several papers in international journals. He has shared his expertise in the field of Public Internal Financial Control and Chapter 32 - Financial Control, and thus the European integration processes, in many presentations at seminars, conferences, and trainings in his country and abroad. He is an active member of IIA Global - North Macedonia and is a PEMPAL IACOP Executive Committee Member and CHU Challenges Working Group leader.

