



**Minutes of the B COP Executive Committee meeting
(Tirana, Albania, February 28, 2013)**

PRESENT:

1. Gelardina Prodan (Albania – Chair of BCoP ExCom)
2. Konstantin Krityan (Armenia – Deputy of BCoP ExCom)
3. Mladenka Karačić (Croatia – Member of BCoP ExCom)
4. Stevan Brkić (BiH – Member of BCoP ExCom)
5. Hakan Ay (Turkey – Member of BCoP ExCom)
6. Olga Tarasevich (Belarus – New Member of BCoP ExCom)
7. Maya Gusarova (World Bank – Resource team)
8. Naida Čaršimamović Vukotić (World Bank – Resource team)
9. Deanna Aubrey (World Bank – Resource team)
10. Beverly Trayner (Facilitator)
11. Knut Klepsvik (OECD)
12. Nataša Ristić, Dragica Todorović (Interpreters BOS)
13. Marina Aidova, Vladislav Kulminski (Interpreters RUS)
14. Tamara Maisuradze-Simic (CEF – PEM PAL Secretariat)
15. Bojana Crnadak (CEF – PEM PAL Secretariat)

AGENDA of the meeting:

1. Follow-up analysis/advice from Beverly Trayner, based on the Plenary meeting developments
2. New members of the ExCom
3. New approaches to improving BCoP membership
4. Distribution of roles within the ExCom
5. BCoP Action Plan and Budget – Next steps
6. Knowledge products
7. Study Tours
8. OECD survey
9. BCoP ExCom participation and presentations at the 2013 OECD meeting of the CESEE Senior Budget Officials

1. Follow-up analysis/advice from Beverly Trayner, based on the Plenary meeting developments

The executive committee meeting was opened by Beverly Trayner with the follow-up on the Plenary meeting. She praised the ExCom members for being committed, having high energy when addressing practices and possessing a brilliant potential to perform even better. She highlighted the strength of the resource team.



According to her, the main dilemma is how the value being created on the events can be monitored. It is crucial to see how the performance in the Ministries of the participating countries is evolving. Additionally, the awareness of the potential value created by the events must be more evident.

Ms Trayner distinguished two extreme models: the service model by the resource team and the model by the working groups that are much more driven by the community itself. A deeper explanation of these models will be provided later on in Ms Trayner's report.

The challenge has been identified in jumping between these models and it was suggested by Maya Gusarova that certain gradual steps must be identified to provide smooth transition between them.

Ms Trayner highlighted that there exist two potential results of having such a strong resource team: either it can make participants passive, or, on the contrary, super proactive.

2. New members of the Executive Committee

Two new members of BCoP ExCom have been nominated and confirmed by votes of the majority of participants. These are:

- Ms Volha (Olga) Tarasevich, Head of Budget Process Methodology Department, Ministry of Finance, Belarus
- Ms Elena Zyunina, Leading Consultant at Budget Policy and Methodology Department, Ministry of Finance, Russia

3. New approaches to improving BCoP membership

The members of ExCom discussed feedback from the participants on the agenda and format of the workshop, which has been undertaken by Executive Committee members Anna Belenchuk and Konstantin Krityan in the course of the event. It was suggested and agreed that in the future more time must be devoted to group discussions, which makes participants more active and successful at knowledge-sharing. It was proposed to shorten agenda per day with a new range from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and give more free time to participants (among others, go sightseeing, explore the hosting country, etc.), which will keep their minds refreshed and motivated to work hard during the meetings.

Overall, satisfaction was expressed regarding updated application form for BCoP events. This time more professional information was received from participants as well as short biographies of all speakers have been presented.

Afghanistan expressed an interest to become a member country of the Budget community. As a reply to this, the ExCom agreed that Afghanistan is welcome to participate in large events, however full country membership should be discussed again with the Steering Committee, as Afghanistan is not ECA region



country, and according to the new Operational Guidelines (under discussion by the Steering Committee) only ECA countries are eligible for membership.

4. Distribution of roles within the ExCom

This agenda item was not discussed and has been deferred pending the results of the report being prepared by Ms Trayner.

5. BCoP Action Plan and Budget – Next steps

Progress on the BCoP Action Plan and budget was discussed. The plan for 2014 will be further refined with the feedback gained from members during the last day of the Tirana meeting. An update on the progress of 2013 events was also discussed. Agenda item 7 provides more information on the upcoming study tours in April.

On Saturday 29th June 2013, BCoP is planning an ExCom meeting, which will follow on from the SBO/OECD meeting in Riga, Latvia. It is also planned to pilot expansion of the OECD Budgeting Surveys to PEM PAL countries which may lead to an additional peer review workshop held before the proposed SBO/OECD meeting. Currently the budget could accommodate only one representative from each country to attend such a peer review workshop, if all countries indicated an interest to participate. ExCom members again pointed to the fact that there is a budget limit, which must be offset against the requests.

6. Knowledge Products and 8. OECD Survey

Knut Klepsvik, Senior Policy Analyst from OECD, attended the ExCom meeting to discuss further plans to expand the OECD Budgeting surveys to PEMPAL member countries. These OECD surveys will provide a valuable knowledge product for BCoP members and will allow international benchmarking.

There was an inquiry about the necessity of an official invitation letter by PEM PAL Secretariat to Ministers (letter to be coordinated with the Resource team). It was agreed that the invitations will be sent to all Ministers of Finance by PEM PAL Secretariat (in consultation with OECD) to determine interest of countries to participate in the OECD surveys.

Discussions led to the conclusion that only the official letter should be sent to Ministers without attaching the OECD survey. The survey, however, will be translated by PEMPAL into the official network languages (English, Russian, and Bosnian). Only the OECD Budget Practices and Procedures survey will be sent to translation at this stage given the recent surveys on program budgeting already completed by BCoP.

The ExCom decided to incorporate a question on potential interest of PEMPAL member countries to participate in the OECD Budget Practices and Procedures survey in the post-Tirana event survey and



circulate it after the proposed letter to the Ministers. This would allow BCOP members to consult with the Minister and inform PEMPAL of the Minister's decision via the survey.

Under current indicative plans, the translated OECD survey will be sent to the countries in mid May 2013, with the final deadline for country responses end-July, and with the final data verification taking place during autumn 2013. Depending on the interest in participating in these surveys, the quality control process for countries submitting their responses in June will take place at a workshop of country representatives planned for June 26, 2013 in Latvia, which will be fully funded by the PEM PAL (the PEM PAL will fund the participation of one representative from each PEM PAL country taking part in the OECD survey). At this workshop, the preliminary survey results will be discussed in a peer review format in order to increase professional exchange between participants. The OECD and World Bank experts will also assist to verify/clarify data when needed.

The budget initially assigned to Working Group (Knowledge Products) will be re-allocated so that the costs of additional participants in Latvia (i.e. non-members of ExCom) can be covered to attend the peer review one-day workshop planned around June 26. The budget of the workshop will be discussed later, depending on the number of countries showing interest in participating in the OECD survey from the post-event survey.

BCoP is planning to hold a Video or Audio Conference meeting on May 15, 2013 (date and logistics TBD). The aim is to get prepared for SBO/OECD participation and plan the workshop based on the survey results.

The use of wiki for preparation for this event was discussed. Currently the administrators of the BCOP wiki are from IACOP and there is limited membership from BCOP. It was agreed that the wiki would be trialed by the Executive Committee and that Deanna Aubrey would gain administrator status to allow membership invites to be sent.

The committee also holistically agreed to create a locked Facebook PEM PAL group for BCoP ExCom members. Hakan Ay volunteered to arrange this.

7. Study tours

BCoP planned two Study Visits - to UK and Georgia. Both tours will take place in April 2013.

Ms Gusarova briefed the committee about the Agenda of the tour to UK as well as its scarce budget along with an expensive location, allowing very limited participation. Croatia expressed interest to participate, whilst Albania expressed a wish to send additional member. However, Secretariat was expecting final registrations yet to come, making it impossible for interested parties to send additional participants. Deanna suggested that in such cases with limited seats, priority to attend should not be granted to non-practitioners (like deputies or non-members) but rather to people involved directly in the topics to-be-addressed.



Regarding the study visit to Georgia, big interest had been revealed by member countries, which led to the idea to organize another event for other interested people (to be discussed later).

Since Turkey MoF expressed interest to send self-payers to UK study visit, and Ukraine MoF expressed a desire to send self-payers to Georgia study visit, bearing in mind budget limitations, the decision has been made to allow up to 2 self-payers to attend the tours. In future cases the number of self-payers along with the invited participants should not go beyond 15, as stated in the rules of operations.

9. BCoP ExCom participation and presentations at the 2013 OECD meeting of the CESEE Senior Budget Officials

The potential date of the SBO/OECD meeting is June 27-28, 2013, followed by an ExCom meeting on June 29, 2013. If the OECD peer review workshop is held, the likely date would be 26 June. Organizational/logistical issues as well as draft agenda of this meeting will be further discussed via video/audio conference. It was suggested that verbal presentations of countries should be given.

The proposed Cross CoP meeting of the three COP Executive Committees was suggested to be held right after the Latvia event to minimize travel and time spent out of the office . A Potential date is the beginning of July, 2013 and Ms Prodani will present this preference to the PEMPAL Steering Committee in its meeting being held in mid-March.