



Minutes of the B COP Executive Committee meeting in Paris, France; September 6, 2012

1. Present

Gelardina Prodani (Albania)
Konstantin Krityan (Armenia)
Mladenka Karačić (Croatia)
Stevan Brkić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Anna Belenchuk (Russia)
Maya Gusarova, Deanna Aubrey and Naida Čaršimamović Vukotić (World Bank – Resource Team)
Klas Klaas (OECD Sigma),
Jon Blondal, Knut Klepsvik (OECD Budget Division),
Dragica Todorović & Radmila Vujović (BOS interpreters); Elena Shuklina (RUS interpreter);
Bojana Crnadak (CEF - PEM PAL Secretariat).

Since by the time of the meeting the Chair has not been elected, the meeting was prepared and co-chaired by the World Bank Resource Team.

2. Election of new Chair

The beginning of the meeting was devoted to the elections of the new Chair and Deputy Chair of the BCOP. Ms. Gelardina Prodani was nominated for Chair position and Mr. Konstantin Krityan was nominated for Deputy Chair position.

PEMPAL Secretariat has organized the process of the elections. During the meeting five members of Executive Committee voted for nominated candidates. The results of elections were announced during the meeting - 5 votes for Gelardina Prodani as Chair and 5 votes for Mr. Konstantin Krityan as Deputy Chair.

3. February plenary meeting preparations

a. Location and timing of event

LOCATION

Based on discussion on last BCOP plenary meeting in Bohinj, Slovenia (March 2012) the possible venue of next plenary meeting could be in Montenegro. Secretariat will follow up with Montenegrin PEM PAL members to see if the offer of hosting is still available.

Gelardina Prodani suggested that it would be useful to have back-up location just in case if Montenegro could not host the meeting.

TIMING

Proposed timing of next BCOP plenary meeting is in February (preferably last week of February due to long holiday season in December and January). The member's availability on plenary meeting is following:

GELARDINA PRODANI	Anytime in February.
KONSTANTIN KRITYAN	Elections in Armenia in February, possible that he will not be able to attend. He will additionally inform by e-mail all members of Executive Committee and Secretariat.
MLADENKA KARAČIĆ	End of February.
STEVAN BRKIĆ	End of February or beginning of March.
ANNA BELENCHUK	End of February.

The Executive Committee has reached a decision to wait for respond of Konstantin Krityan on availability to participate at the meeting in last week of February.

b. Plans for developing agenda - listing of areas of interest

Naida Čaršimamović Vukotić presented prepared list of potential issues for next plenary meeting. The list was prepared based on conclusions of last meeting of Executive Committee in Tallinn, Estonia (June 2012). It was also suggested that it would be useful to receive the feedback from other members of BCOP about possible agenda.

The members discussed the format of the meeting and it was agreed that it is useful to have both presentations and working group discussions each day.

It was agreed that the World Bank Resource Team will draft the initial Agenda based on the list of potential issues and circulate to the members of Executive Committee for comments.

c. Showcasing of French approach

The participants discussed if French speaker, presented during the Cross COP meeting in Paris, should be invited to the workshop. Most of the participants found Frank Mordacq's presentation on Organic Budget Law and lessons from its implementation extremely useful and would be happy to invite him to BCOP plenary. The Resource Team will take it into account when drafting the Agenda for discussion.

d. Decision on community building activities (Beverly Trayner?)

During the meeting the role of external (outsourced) facilitator was discussed. The Resource Team expressed a position that the next plenary meeting could be prepared without outsourced facilitator and facilitation of the sessions can be undertaken whether by members of BCOP Executive Committee or by the Resource Team. However, Deanna Aubrey has shared an idea to consider a half day workshop for the Executive Committee with Beverly Trayner, Professional Facilitator on Communities of Practices, who advised and coached IACOP members on community development and operation . The timing of workshop would be a day before the beginning of plenary meeting.

The Secretariat raised the question of high cost of such a workshop, especially since Ms. Trayner is situated on west coast of USA and possibility of hiring the expert closer to region of PEM PAL network.

It was agreed to undertake simple value for money analysis of such a workshop, by requesting Ms. Trayner to send examples of the training sessions agendas on the one hand and on the other hand to undertake costs analysis. Secretariat will follow up and prepare the cost analysis of such workshop (fee + travel and accommodation costs).

e. Involvement of MoF Afghanistan

The Resource Team briefed the participants about the request from Afghanistan UNDP Office regarding participation of Afghanistan MoF budget staff in BCOP activities. Members agreed with participation of delegates from MoF Afghanistan in next plenary meeting. The cost of accommodation and travel should be covered by their institution and not PEM PAL.

Their participation on study tours is not desired due to limited number of space for each study tour.

The Resource Team would communicate the decision to Afghanistan UNDP Office.

f. Knowledge products

The discussion continued also in direction of format of next plenary meeting. Gelardina Prodani suggested that the agenda is divided in two parts - in morning plenary session with presentation of good practice and in afternoon the workshop with discussion sessions (group work). The rest of members agreed with this proposal.

4. Study tour on IT solutions in budget preparation

a. Croatia and Georgia systems

By the meeting the Secretariat has not received final information from Croatia and Georgia. Both countries have promised to provide this information by the end of summer season. Secretariat will follow up on the request for information.

Delegation of up to 10 representatives (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia) would like to attend the visit tour in Croatia or Georgia to examine IT solutions in budget preparation of respective country (possible timing in April). Each country can send 2 participants (in total 8 participants), the rest of place can be offered to the members of BCOP Executive Committee (up to 2).

b. Secretariat processes for study tours

Naida Čaršimamović Vukotić will together with representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Stevan Brkić, prepare the study visit, the Secretariat will offer logistical support. Documentation about the study tours can be found at PEM PAL web page (www.pempal.org/data/upload/files/2012/04/guidelines-for-the-pem-pal-study-visits-nov2011-eng.pdf).

c. Next steps

In following weeks Naida Čaršimamović Vukotić will follow up with potential hosts on the specifics of their IT solutions and will then inform the Executive Committee and study tour participants about the options. Secretariat will also research the prices of accommodation and flight tickets in respective countries.

5. Study tour on health and education financing

a. Timing

PEM PAL member countries Albania, Kosovo, Belarus, Turkey and Kyrgyz Republic expressed interest for study tour in area of health and education financing in England.

The leading member of resource team for this study tour is Maya Gusarova.

The Resource Team raised concerns to be able to cover both health and education under the same study visit as sectoral schemes are totally different. Klas Klaas pointed out that health financing in England is not the ideal case study. Therefore, it was agreed to focus on the UK education sector.

Secretariat will research the prices of accommodation and flight tickets in respective countries (possible timing of study tour is January or April).

6. OECD Budget Practices and Procedures Survey

The OECD Budget Division briefed the Executive Committee members on the ongoing work on various surveys in the area of budget management. The ongoing work includes four different surveys:

1. Performance Budgeting survey
2. Budgeting Practices and Procedures survey
3. Accounting, Reporting and Auditing survey
4. Fiscal Councils and the Role of the Legislature

The OECD conducts these surveys first among OECD member countries (which includes Turkey of PEMPAL member countries) and in some larger economic players that have partnership with the OECD (this includes Russian Federation, also one of the PEMPAL member countries).

OECD invites PEM PAL to discuss whether there is interest to organize part or all of the survey work through the PEM PAL network.

Klas Klaas agreed to prepare during the next weeks a more precise overview of the possibilities to conduct the OECD surveys in the countries that are the members of PEM PAL. This proposal would include a possible plan forward for a discussion and agreement within the BCOP Executive Committee.

7. BCOP membership analysis

Deanna Aubrey briefed the meeting that the World Bank Resource Team had started BCOP membership analysis. The analysis is based on list of participants of previous BCOP events (plus Cross COP mtg. study tours). Results will be known in following weeks and comments from executive Committee members will be useful

The Secretariat was requested to explore possibilities of data export from their data base to be able to cross-check participation of events by the same people.

8. Wiki web page

BCOP Wiki page has not been effectively used in past, the uploads of document were managed by former member Senka Šogorović from Croatia.

Deanna Aubrey suggested the use of Wiki page for discussion and preparation of next BCOP plenary meeting in February.

Secretariat suggested that someone from PEM PAL members or BCOP resource team should be delegated to manage BCOP Wiki page. Possible candidate for managing Wiki page is also Ion Chicu, TCOP Advisor.

9. Next meeting

The members agreed that monthly meeting are not necessary and further discussion about preparation of plenary meeting should continue through e-mail correspondence.

If necessary the audio/video conference should be organize through WB facilities, the date will be set up in the future based on the need

10. Other business

Secretariat will prepare the contact list of BCOP Executive Committee.