



MINUTES

PEM PAL B COP Executive Committee meeting April 20, 2012; from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CET; via video conferencing

1. Present

Members: Senka Šogorović (Croatia); Konstantin Krityan (Armenia); Gelardina Prodani (Albania); Edward Rizhkovsky (on behalf of the B COP Chair; Belarus)

Observers: Brian Finn (OECD/SIGMA); Elena Nikulina (WB TTL); Maya Gusarova (WB CO Moscow); Naida Čaršimamović Vukotić (Bosnia); Deanna Aubrey (PFM Advisor); Dragica Todorović (translator); Armenian translator (name NA); Senka Maver (PEM PAL Secretariat).

2. Approval of the B COP Action Plan

2.1. Background:

Members discussed the draft B COP Action Plan for the period from July 2012 until June 2014. It reflects countries' priorities discussed during the recent B COP meeting in Bohinj, Slovenia (March 27-29). The cost of the planned activities is estimated at USD 905 K. This is in line with the PEM PAL Steering Committee guidelines, which limit the COPs annual budgets at USD 450 K (+/- 15%), and budgets for plenary meetings at USD 180 K (+/- 20%).

2.2. Discussion:

B COP members exchanged information and made several suggestions. January to March is the most suitable period for holding B COP plenary meetings. Application procedure for the Study visits should be communicated to the PEM PAL community¹. Views differed on holding a B COP meeting in France; one was that it could be too expensive, another that meeting many practitioners in person is worth the effort and cost. Croatia would be happy to host study visits at the end of 2012. IT solutions is a priority topic for many countries (in particular in the SEE), therefore a sub-working group meeting should be organized asap (early fall 2012). Armenia offered to share a document on medium-term framework with the peers but the document would need to be translated. Belarus and Armenia suggested that Medium-term fiscal framework (linked to program budgeting) is considered as topic for the plenary meeting, or even cross-COP meeting, because it is interlinked with internal audit, treasury and budget issues.

2.3. Conclusion:

Timing/venues will be firmed up when funding becomes available, and topics will still be discussed. The tentative 2012 – 2014 B COP Action Plan and budget now looks as follows (amounts in 000 USD):

#	Topic / Format	000 USD	Timing
1.	Plenary meetings (3 in total, of which one is cross-COP):	540	
	(i) Performance information and budget decision-making, potential host: Montenegro (France)		Feb13
	(ii) 2014 topic to be decided; potential host: Albania		Early14
	(iii) Cross-COP, Review of PFM reform status; Medium-term fiscal		TBC

¹ The Secretariat will provide information about the procedure, which is defined by the Guidelines for study visits (<http://www.pempal.org/rules/>), in the upcoming Newsletter.

	planning/Medium term expenditure frameworks linked to the whole PFM system.		
2.	Sub-working group meetings (i) IT solutions for budget preparation reforms; potential host: Georgia or Croatia. (ii) Program budgeting at the local level; potential host: Poland (iii) Per unit financing in health and education; potential host TBC (Belarus)	180	Sep12 Jul13 2013
3.	Executive Committee meetings: quarterly meetings, of which two via VC and two face-to-face as part of annual OECD SBO meeting and annual B COP plenary meeting	90	
4.	Attendance at other COP events: five sponsored places a year per COP at average price USD 3.500.	35	
5.	Study visits: two in total, USD 30 K each	60	
6.	Total	905	

3. Preparation for back-to-back SBO/OECD meeting (June 28-29, 2012) and B COP Executive Committee meeting (June 30, 2012)

3.1. Background

The OECD is organizing its eight annual meeting of Senior Budget Officials (SBO) from Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries on June 28-29, 2012 in Tallinn, Estonia. The event agenda includes the following topics: Budgeting in times of fiscal crisis; Institutional budgetary frameworks; New OECD recommendations for use of PPP; Role of political commitment to fiscal discipline; Role of international organizations providing support to financial management in the region. It also includes a joint OECD/WHO session on financial sustainability of health systems.

A back-to-back meeting of the B COP Executive Committee has been planned and budgeted (USD 30 K) to be held on June 30 to discuss the following topics: Key recommendations for B COP in PEM PAL Evaluation, Roles and responsibilities of COP leadership groups, B COP Action Plan 2012 – 2014, Improvement initiatives (Virtual library, Success stories, Annual Report, Budget management guidelines), Reflections on OECD/SBO meeting.

3.2. Discussion and conclusions:

B COP Executive Committee members and their deputies will be invited to attend the SBO/OECD and B COP Executive Committee meeting in Tallinn, Estonia (June 28 – 30). The Secretariat will seek nominations.

4. Proposed attendance at the T COP meeting in Moscow, June 25 – 27, 2012

T COP will discuss “Strategies for treasury modernization” in Moscow/Vladimir on June 25-27, 2012. Up to five B COP members can also attend. The Secretariat will seek nominations from Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia, Croatia and Belarus.