



MINUTES

PEM PAL B COP Executive Committee Meeting November 22, 2011 through Adobe/Internet

- 1. Present:** Alena Slizhevskaya (Belarus), Anna Belenchuck (Russia), Maya Gusarova (The World Bank), Deanna Aubrey (PEM PAL Community Facilitator, CF), Marina Aidova (Translator), Bojana Crnadak and Senka Maver (PEM PAL Secretariat).

Excused in advance: Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Program budgeting event preparation

- (i) *B COP survey:* Twelve countries responded to the survey distributed to B COP members to identify specific areas of interest. CF will draft preliminary agenda for the next B COP event, and will contact speakers after agenda has been approved. It will include several country cases (Kazakhstan, Russia, Bosnia, Armenia, France, UK, Germany, US, Poland). Following the recommendations of the facilitator, it will also allow time for networking and teambuilding sessions. Preference for speakers was discussed. GIZ study on OECD experience and Program budgeting Manual by Mark Robinson (commissioned by CLEAR initiative) will provide background information for discussions.
- (ii) *Venue of the next B COP program budgeting meeting:* The Secretariat prepared a cost comparison table including Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Uzbekistan and Slovenia. Uzbekistan and Slovenia were short-listed. Pros and cons will be compared taking into account progress with program budgeting reform (WB will check the status in Uzbekistan), logistics (visa, travel), interest of local authorities to provide support, contribution of the event to reform efforts, visibility for PEM PAL. The Secretariat will prepare a comparison table for the vote through e-m. UNDP office in Uzbekistan would be interested in doing it as a joint event; interest of the Uzbekistan authorities will be explored.
- (iii) *Timing of the next B COP program budgeting meeting:* March 28 – 30, 2012, or March 27 – 29, 2012, depending on connections, hotel availability, etc. The Secretariat will check this, and notify the B COP Executive Committee.

3. B COP Action Plan 2012-2014

- (i) CF developed the B COP Action plan for 2012-2014, based on survey. The draft Action plan has been included into the draft PEM PAL Strategy for 2012-2017. The Action plan provides for 3 plenary meetings in the period from July 2012 – June 2014, on (i) government budget reporting, (ii) medium term expenditure frameworks, and (iii) review of WB PFM study and strategic planning for BCOP and PEM PAL. It also provides for eight sub-group meetings on (i) program budgeting,

(ii) budget analysis, and (iii) budget preparation and planning manual template, in addition to 15 Executive Committee meetings.

Discussion. The B COP Action plan will help B COP grow and develop further. The idea about the sub-groups was seen optimistic: how will they work? The sub-group concept comes from the Mokoro evaluation. Idea behind is to form clusters of countries based on their interests, and driven by their members, to avoid having only plenary meetings. Topics were identified through the survey and people will vote on them. The Action plan template will then be refined at the next meeting in March.

4. Update on development of PEM PAL initiatives

(i) Virtual Library: Platform is in the testing phase, and will be launched soon.

(ii) PEM PAL Strategy 2012-2017: PEM PAL Steering Committee will consider its second (mid-November) draft at the November 30 meeting.

(iii) PEM PAL evaluation: PEM PAL Steering Committee will consider the early-November version on November 30.

5. Next meeting: no more meetings in 2011, all correspondence through e-mails.