

Minutes of the PEMPAL TCOP Executive Committee meeting, August 28th, 2013.

TCOP Executive Committee held a videoconference meeting on August 28th, 2013.

The meeting was attended by: Mimoza Peco (Ministry of Finance, Albania), Vugar Abdullayev (Ministry of Finance, Azerbaijan), Nino Tchelishvili, Ketevan Chemia (Ministry of Finance, Georgia), Zaifun Yernazarova (Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan), Angela Voronin (Ministry of Finance, Moldova), Alexander Demidov, Renolid Rubinov, Yulia Strogonova (Federal Treasury, Russian Federation), Rustam Boboev (Ministry of Finance, Tajikistan), Natalia Sushko (State Treasury of Ukraine), Elena Nikulina (PEMPAL TTL, WB), Ion Chicu (TCOP Advisor, WB), Michael Parry (PFM Expert, WB), Bojana Crnadak (PEMPAL Secretariat).

Agenda items discussed:

I. TCOP plans for the next 6 months:

- 1. Study visit to London (including presentation by Michael Parry)*
- 2. Thematic meeting in Skopje*
- 3. Study visit to Ankara*
- 4. Launch videoconference for IT thematic group*
- 5. Thematic videoconference devoted to Russian Federation experience in treasury bodies' performance evaluation*
- 6. Other activities*

II. Request of Hungarian Treasury to join PEMPAL TCOP

I. TCOP plans for the next 6 months:

- 1. Study visit to London (including presentation by Michael Parry)*

The TCOP resource team has updated the meeting participants with the status of preparation of the Executive Committee members' study visit to London, scheduled for September 22-25th, 2013. The event agenda is at the final stage of coordination with all involved hosting parts (Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT), International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), IPSAS Board (IPSASB) and Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)). During the study visit the TCOP Executive Committee will hold its next regular meeting.

Summary information related to the study visit hosting organizations has been prepared and presented by TCOP resource team to the meeting participants. This information is intended to raise the study visit participants' awareness regarding the above mentioned organizations' roles, functions and scope of their activity.

The main part of the study visit agenda will be devoted to presentations and relevant discussions about the UK Public Finance System. Michael Parry has prepared and delivered to the videoconference participants an overview presentation related to the UK PFM system. The meeting participants have received introductory information, which will contribute to a better understanding of the more detailed information expected to be presented in London on this topic.

2. Thematic meeting in Skopje

The TCOP resource team has informed the meeting participants about the status of the Skopje thematic meeting preparation. The event is scheduled for September 27-28th, 2013, and will be devoted to the launch (within TCOP) of three thematic groups on the following topics:

1. Accounting Standards
2. Accounting of public assets
3. Consolidation of financial reporting

Representatives of 17 countries¹ have been invited to attend the event.

The meeting participants have discussed the Concept of the Skopje meeting and made some suggestions to the event draft agenda. Taking into account that representatives of the Ministry of Finance of Estonia are not available to attend the event in Macedonia and won't present their country's experience in reforming public sector accounting domain, it was decided to include in the agenda several presentations prepared by TCOP Executive Committee members.

Natalia Sushko will present in Skopje the results of the activity of thematic group on budget classification and chart of accounts integration. This presentation will help the event participants to understand better the work of thematic groups, the expected results and eventual benefits for the countries represented in the groups. Also, **Mark Silins** will deliver brief information on the results of this group activity.

Members of the TCOP Executive Committee, which will participate to the study visit to London, will prepare and present in Skopje information about the main conclusions and results of the visit. **Angela Voronin** will lead the process of this presentation development.

Zaifun Yernazarova has proposed to make a presentation devoted to the experience of Kazakhstan on the public assets accounting topic. The meeting participants accepted this proposal.

Also, the meeting agenda will envisage a presentation devoted to the above mentioned topics, prepared by PFM international experts working with TCOP (**Michael Parry and Mark Silins**).

¹ Countries, which expressed their interest to join the thematic groups during the survey performed in Kiev

The meeting participants have agreed to establish September 13th as deadline for delivering the drafts of the above mentioned presentations (except the presentation on the London study visit results).

Following the plenary sessions planned for the first day of the Skopje meeting, all participants will be divided in 3 groups. Each country represented in a group will present brief information², highlighting the main problems faced in specific thematic area. Based on this information, each group will develop its own activity plan, which will be presented during the Skopje event closing session, planned for September 28th afternoon.

3. Study visit to Ankara

Rustam Boboev has informed the meeting participants about the request of the Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan to organize a study visit (type A) to the Ministry of Finance of Turkey. Representatives of Tajikistan are interested to learn about Turkey experience in reforming PFM system. Tajikistan is implementing now various PFM reforms, including the new finance management information system launching. Tajikistan intends to delegate 15 representatives for this study visit, including 5 specialists financed by the Ministry of Finance of this country. The preliminary agreed number of participants is 20-25 TCOP members.

The draft Concept and agenda have been jointly developed with the hosting part. It is expected, that the delegation will be divided in two groups, one of which will focus its activities on Turkey IT experience, while the second one will study this country's experience in PFM reforms.

The TCOP Executive Committee have accepted Tajikistan's request to organize the study visit to Turkey (Ankara) and this event will be included in the TCOP Activity Plan. The event is scheduled for November 19-21st, 2013. Many videoconference participants have expressed their countries' interest to delegate representatives to attend the study visit to Ankara. It was agreed, that written requests to attend the event will be submitted by **September 6th, 2013³**.

4. Launch videoconference for IT thematic group

Taking into account the TCOP members' interest for creating a thematic working group devoted to the topic of Use of information technologies in treasury operations, such group will be launched within TCOP during the fall 2013. **Nazim Gasimzade**, representative of the Ministry of Finance of Azerbaijan and one of the most active TCOP members, has accepted to play the leading role in this group activity.

The first event organized for this group will be the thematic videoconference on the topic

² Considering the structure recommended by TCOP resource team

³ The following countries sent written requests by this date: Albania, Georgia, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Belarus.

”Internal and external control of information systems used in the treasury”. Nazim Gasimzade will make a presentation devoted to this topic. Also, organizational issues are expected to be discussed during that videoconference. **October 9th, 2013** was preliminary agreed as the date of conducting the first thematic videoconference of IT group.

Representatives of IT departments from the ministries of finance of all TCOP member-countries will be invited to participate to the videoconference. If the number of registered participants exceeds 10, they will be divided in two groups⁴.

5. Thematic videoconference devoted to Russian Federation experience in treasury bodies’ performance evaluation

The TCOP Activity Plan for 2013-2014 envisages a thematic videoconference devoted to the experience of Russian Federation in treasury bodies’ performance evaluation. **Alexander Demidov** has kindly agreed to prepare a relevant information on this topic and to present it during the videoconference. The videoconference will be held on November 14th, 2013.

Representatives of treasuries from all TCOP member countries will be invited to participate in the videoconference. If the number of registered participants exceeds 10, they will be divided in two groups⁶.

6. Other activities

The meeting participants discussed the issues related to the preparation of the TCOP plenary workshop, scheduled for February 2014. The workshop will be devoted to public sector accounting topic. Some videoconference participants have stated that the earlier agreed dates (week of February 10-14th) of performing the workshop coincide with the period of annual meetings within their ministries, and proposed to revise those dates.

Taking into account these circumstances, as well as the necessity of identifying the event location (hosting country), the TCOP Executive Committee members have agreed to continue the discussions on the February 2014 event organization after the Skopje thematic meeting, in late September 2013.

Nino Tchelishvili has reiterated the invitation of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia to hold the event in this country. TCOP Executive Committee thanked Nino for this proposal, which will be discussed along with other relevant proposals after the Skopje event.

⁴ In order to avoid any eventual technical issues related to big number of connection points, two separate videoconference might be organized

⁵ The final confirmation of the date is expected by September 13th

⁶ In order to avoid any eventual technical issues related to big number of connection points, two separate videoconference might be organized

II. Request of Hungarian Treasury to join PEMPAL TCOP

Angela Voronin has informed the meeting participants about the letter submitted by the management of the State Treasury of Hungary to TCOP Executive Committee, proposing to establish thematic cooperation and requesting TCOP membership.

The members of TCOP Executive Committee have expressed their satisfaction with the proposal of establishing thematic cooperation with the State Treasury of Hungary. At the same time, the issues related to PEMPAL membership are under PEMPAL Steering Committee competence, and this request will be readdressed accordingly. Angela Voronin will inform the PEMPAL Steering Committee about the request received from Hungary and will inform TCOP Executive Committee and the State Treasury of Hungary about PEMPAL SC decision.

Main conclusions of the TCOP Leadership Group meeting:

- The final version of the agenda for TCOP representatives study visit to the UK Treasury will be provided after its coordination with all hosting parts;
- Members of the TCOP Executive Committee, who will participate to the study visit to London, will prepare and present in Skopje information about the main conclusions and results of the visit. **Angela Voronin** will lead the process of this presentation development.
- The agenda of the thematic meeting in Skopje will be revised based on TCOP Executive members proposals made during the videoconference;
- It is expected that following the discussions in Skopje, three small thematic groups devoted to public sector accounting and reporting issues will be created within the TCOP;
- The TCOP Executive Committee has accepted Tajikistan's request for organizing a study visit to the Ministry of Finance of Turkey, on November 19-21st, 2013;
- Many videoconference participants have expressed their countries' interest to delegate representatives to attend the study visit to Ankara. It was agreed, that written requests to attend the event will be submitted by **September 6th, 2013**.
- A thematic working group devoted to the topic of Use of information technologies in treasury operations will be launched within TCOP during the fall 2013. **Nazim Gasimzade** has accepted to play the leading role in this group activity;
- The first event of this group will be the thematic videoconference on the topic

”Internal and external control of information systems used in the treasury”. Also, organizational issues are expected to be discussed during that videoconference. **October 9th, 2013** was preliminary agreed as the date of conducting the first thematic videoconference of IT group.

- On November 14th, 2013, a thematic videoconference devoted to the experience of Russian Federation in treasury bodies’ performance evaluation will be organized. **Alexander Demidov** will prepare a presentation for this videoconference;
- Issues related to the date and location of the TCOP plenary workshop on public sector accounting and reporting topic will be discussed after the Skopje meeting;
- Angela Voronin will inform the PEMPAL Steering Committee about the request received from Hungary and will inform TCOP Executive Committee and the State Treasury of Hungary regarding PEMPAL SC decision
- Ion Chicu will prepare and circulate the draft Minutes of the meeting.