

Minutes of the PEMPAL TCOP Leadership Group meeting, October 27th, 2011.

TCOP Leadership Group held a video conference meeting on October 27th, 2011.

The meeting was attended by: Elena Gulevich (Ministry of Finance, Belarus), David Tsekvava (Ministry of Finance, Georgia), Nino Tchelishvili (Ministry of Finance, Georgia) Zaifun Yernazarova (Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan), Angela Voronin (Ministry of Finance, Moldova), Elena Laburtseva (Federal Treasury, Russia), Rustam Boboev (Ministry of Finance, Tajikistan), Natalia Sushko (State Treasury, Ukraine), Elena Nikulina (WB TTL), Ion Chicu (TCOP resource person).

Objectives of the meeting:

1. Discussions on TCOP activities for January-June 2012
2. TCOP Activity Plan for 2012-2014

1. TCOP activities for January-June 2012

The discussions on this issue have been preceded by **Angela Voronin's** brief information related to the decisions taken by PEMPAL Steering Committee during its last meeting on September, 2011. Also, the audience was informed about the discussions and most significant decisions approved during TCOP workshop in Astana. According to PEMPAL Steering Committee decisions based on the existing budget limitations for the first half of 2012, TCOP will have the possibility to conduct during this period only one event with the large participation of community's members.

Taking into account this information, as well as the confirmation of the willingness and availability of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia to host a TCOP workshop in the first quarter of 2012, TCOP leaders decided to held next community's workshop in Tbilisi, and have discussed the following issues regarding this event organization:

➤ Workshop dates

The representatives of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia proposed to make some changes in the existing TCOP Activity Plan for 2010-2012¹, and to hold the workshop during the second part of February. Tbilisi event hosts proposal is based, inter alia, on the probable possibility for them to co finance some workshop activities.

¹ This workshop is scheduled in the Plan for March 2012

TCOP Leadership Group has accepted to hold the workshop in Tbilisi on **February 27-29, 2012**.

➤ *Workshop themes*

During discussions all meeting participants have expressed their views regarding workshop topics. The representatives of Georgia **Nino Tchelishvili** and **David Tsekvava** have proposed to discuss during the workshop the following areas:

- Revenue management and tax refund mechanisms;
- Experiences in PFM projects implementation;
- Use of treasury systems for the implementation of donor funded projects.
- Live demonstration of Georgian treasury information system;
- Demonstration of different modules of the financial management system of Georgia, including the Treasury General Ledger and Unified CoA;

These proposals have been supported, as a whole, by all meeting participants. There were suggestions (**Angela Voronin, Natalia Sushko**) for combining the discussions on revenue management with the topic of use of treasury systems for donor funded projects implementation. In the context of the latter topic, some meeting participants proposed to address, also, the issues related to reporting.

Natalia Sushko has stressed her desire to learn the experience of **Georgia** in the area of using information technologies in treasury operations, especially, the issue of interaction between General Ledger and Budget Classification. The representative of **Ukraine** has expressed the availability to demonstrate during the workshop, her country's experience in the area of use of treasury systems for the implementation of donor funded projects.

Elena Gulevich has confirmed her high interest for the proposed demonstration of treasury information system of Georgia, especially in the area of electronic documents circulation. She also expressed her interest for visiting Tbilisi territorial treasury, in order to learn more about its activity².

Rustam Boboev has proposed to not go deeply into specific technical issues related to use of information systems, but to focus primarily on the issues related to the system functionalities.

Elena Nikulina has proposed to allocate some time in the workshop agenda for discussing issues regarding the organization of TCOP future activity, including the work of community's Leadership Group, principles of this group activities coordination, etc.

➤ *Format*

Existing TCOP Activity Plan for 2010-2012 provides a small group format, with a limited number of participants, for the workshop on the topic of PFM projects implementation and use of treasury systems for donor funded projects implementation.

Taking into account the videoconference participant's additional proposals for the themes of Tbilisi workshop, the representatives of **Georgia** suggested extending the format of the event, inviting a bigger number of TCOP members. There were different opinions expressed by meeting participants regarding this particular proposal. **Elena Gulevich** and **Natalia Sushko** have fully supported their Georgian colleagues' proposal, while **Rustam Boboev** and **Angela**

² A such visit can be organized through bilateral meetings, which are usually practiced during TCOP events

Voronin opted for a limited format for Tbilisi workshop. **Zaifun Yernazarova** has mentioned the necessity of correlating the format of the workshop with its final agreed agendas.

Finally, TCOP leaders accepted **Elena Nikulina's** suggestion to invite to the workshop only the representatives of community's member countries represented in TCOP Leadership Group³ At the same time, taking into account that during the workshop the treasury information system of Georgia will be demonstrated, community's members⁴, attendees of Astana TCOP workshop, which have expressed their interest to learn more about Georgian experience in this area, might be invited in Tbilisi, as well.

Elena Nikulina has informed the videoconference participants, that representatives of the **Federal Treasury of Russian Federation** have confirmed the earlier launched proposal to host a TCOP plenary meeting in Moscow, in July 2012⁵. TCOP leaders agreed to discuss the issues related to this workshop organization, during their meeting in Tbilisi in February, 2012.

II. TCOP Activity Plan for 2012-2014

The videoconference participants have supported, as a whole, the developed by community's resource team draft TCOP Activity Plan July 2012 – June 2014, including its provisions on the thematic, format, number and calendar of the proposed TCOP activities for this period.

At the same time, some meeting participants have proposed to consider for the future some factors, which might positively impact the effectiveness of TCOP activities. **Rustam Boboev** has stressed the necessity to invite to the community's events the experts, having a large experience in working with treasuries and ministries of finance in different countries. He also mentioned the necessity of maintaining a stable structure of community's leadership group, in order to ensure a good coordination of TCOP further activities.

All meeting participants supported the idea of conducting joint thematic workshops with the participation of other PEMPAL COPs members.

Elena Nikulina has proposed to ensure in the future the possibility for inviting at TCOP events a bigger number of countries participants, not only the treasury staff, but also, the specialists from other ministries of finance divisions⁶, depending on the topics.

³ Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tadjikistan and Ukraine. This proposal is based, among others, on the necessity to discuss in Tbilisi the issues related to TCOP further activity

⁴ The list of these TCOP members will be clarified soon

⁵ TCOP Activity Plan for 2010-2012 envisages organisation of such workshop in the Russian Federation on the topic – "Midterm Strategies for treasuries development in PEMPAL member countries "

⁶ For example, IT departments specialists, accounting methodology department specialists, etc.

TCOP Leadership Group approved the proposed draft Activity Plan for July 2012-June 2014. The resource team will amend it with the suggested proposals made during the videoconference and will submit the document to the PEMPAL Steering Committee, by November 11th, 2011.

Main conclusions of the TCOP Leadership Group meeting:

- TCOP Leadership Group accepted the proposal of Georgia's representatives for carrying out the next community's workshop in Tbilisi, Georgia. This three days event will be held on February 27-29th, 2012.
- The topic of the workshop will include issues related to the management of PFM projects and use of treasury systems in donor funded projects implementation. Videoconference attendees supported, also, the workshop hosts proposals on the agenda of the event, including live demonstration of the treasury information system of Georgia.
- Tbilisi workshop participants will discuss, also, the issues related to the future TCOP activity, including Leadership Group activities organization and coordination.
- TCOP Leadership Group will discuss in Tbilisi the preparatory activities for the next community's plenary meeting planed for July 2012, in the Russian Federation.
- Only TCOP members from the countries represented in the community's Leadership Group will be invited to attend Tbilisi meeting. Also, some TCOP members which expressed during Astana workshop their interest to learn more about Georgian treasury information system, might be invited to the workshop.
- A number of suggestions to the discussed draft TCOP Activity Plan for July2012-June 2014 have been expressed during the videoconference. This plan will be accordingly completed and submitted for approval to the PEMPAL Steering Committee.
- Ion Chicu will prepare and circulate the minutes of the leadership group meeting, by November 10th, 2011.