



IDI – EUROSAI PUBLIC DEBT AUDIT PROGRAMME

**A Report for Public Debt Committee Meeting, Buenos Aires, June
2006**

Introduction

The IDI has been cooperating with the INTOSAI Public Debt Committee since 2002 to deliver training and capacity building programmes in public debt audit in the INTOSAI regions. So far programmes have been delivered in the OLACEFS in Spanish, in the ASOSAI in English and very recently in the EUROSAI in Russian. Each of these programmes have been designed and delivered as per the regional requirements. This report outlines the details of the IDI- EUROSAI Public Debt Audit programme conducted in 2005-2006 and the future plans of the IDI in the area of public debt audit.

Public Debt Audit emerged as the top priority for the developing SAIs in EUROSAI in the IDI survey conducted in 2004. The IDI also received requests from the region to take up a programme in this area. Responding to this need the IDI undertook a public debt audit programme in Russian for the CIS countries and Mongolia. This was a cooperation project with the Public Debt Committee and EUROSAI.

Programme Description

The programme aimed at enhancing the public debt audit capacity in the SAIs of the CIS countries and Mongolia. The following activities were undertaken to achieve this objective

1. Translation of Material - Given the lack of adequate resource material in Russian, the first step for the IDI was to translate the ASOSAI courseware. All the INTOSAI guidance available in English has also been translated into Russian.
2. Planning Meeting – Ms Nadejda Sandolova, subject matter expert from Bulgaria and erstwhile member of the Public Debt Committee was invited to Oslo along with other subject matter experts and trainers from Russian Federation and Azerbaijan to determine the design of this programme. At the planning meeting held in August 2005 a detailed survey was prepared. This survey sought to ascertain the position of public debt and public debt audit in the target SAIs. Only those SAIs that had the mandate and the infrastructure for public debt audit were to be invited to the workshop. The other important decision taken was to invite audit teams, as against individual participants, from the participating SAIs. The group also determined focus areas for the public debt audit workshop and the instructor team for the design and delivery. Given the technical nature of the subject it was decided to have a joint instructor team of subject matter experts and IDI training specialists.

The survey questionnaire was sent out to eleven CIS countries and Mongolia. The IDI received responses from all the countries except Uzbekistan. All the responding countries indicated that they had the mandate and the infrastructure to conduct public debt audit. A few countries had separate public debt audit units.

3. Seminar on Public Debt Audit - A one-week seminar on public debt audit took place in Baku, Azerbaijan in February 2006. At the seminar, subject matter experts from Bulgaria, Russian Federation and UNCTAD exposed the training specialists in the instructor team to public debt audit issues. In turn training specialists conducted sessions on systematic approach to training for the subject matter experts who were to be a part of the instructor team.
4. Design Meeting – Immediately after the seminar the instructor team met for two weeks to design and develop course material for a 10-day workshop on Public Debt Audit. The meeting was also held at Baku, Azerbaijan. The instructor team consisted of seven members – training specialists from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and subject matter experts Nadejda Sandolova from Bulgaria and Andrei Krylov from UNCTAD. The team designed and developed course material for 5 modules – Public Debt definitions & concepts, public debt management system, audit of public debt at macro level, audit of instruments of debt and preparation of an audit plan. This was the first time in EUROSAI that a mixed instructor team was used to design and develop course material. The sessions were mainly based on the material of the INTOSAI Public Debt Committee.
5. Public Debt Audit Workshop - A ten-day Public Debt Audit workshop was held in Astana, Kazakhstan in May 2006. Eleven audit teams consisting of 28 participants attended the workshop. The teams came from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine. All the guidance documents of the Public Debt Committee that had been translated into Russian were distributed to the participants. The course material developed for the workshop was also distributed. As a pre workshop assignment the teams were asked to prepare an audit plan according to the INTOSAI format for a public debt audit that they planned to conduct as per their annual plan. At the workshop the mixed instructor team conducted participatory sessions using the courseware that they had developed. Subject matter experts from UNCTAD and Bulgaria reviewed and gave detailed feedback on the audit plans submitted by the audit teams. The teams then modified the plans as per the suggestions and they presented these at the workshop.
6. Post workshop support – The IDI will set up a subject matter expert panel to resolve any queries that the teams may have as they conduct audits as per their plans. Support will be provided mainly through the electronic medium of emails and IDI bulletin board.

Programme Results

The IDI- EUROSAI public debt audit programme has added to the public debt resource material in Russian, used regional resources to develop structured

courseware in Russian, trained 11 audit teams in auditing public debt as per the INTOSAI guidance and most importantly tried to ensure transfer to the workplace by getting audit plans prepared and reviewed and providing for post workshop support. The success of the programme finally depends on the extent to which the SAIs use the capacity that has been created and adopt international best practices in public debt auditing.

The IDI is thankful to the INTOSAI Public Debt Committee for the use of its resource material and provision of information regarding subject matter experts, to the EUROSAI for their monetary support and to all the SAIs who contributed to the programme by hosting the events and making training specialists available for the programme.

Future Plans

Building on the capacity created by the PDA programme in the EUROSAI, the IDI will take up a follow up project to enable some of the participating SAIs to align their practices with INTOSAI guidance. Those participating SAIs that conduct the audits as per the plans prepared in the PDA programme and indicate an interest in developing guidance material as per INTOSAI best practices will be invited to be members of a research team for developing such guidance material in Russian.

The IDI is already in the process of evaluating the results of the PDA champions programme in the OLACEFS. The report based on the feedback from the 12 participating SAIs is expected to be ready by September this year. Towards the end of 2006, the IDI will also conduct an evaluation of the PDA programme delivered in the EUROSAI. At the INCOSAI next year, the IDI will report on the results of all the PDA programmes that have been conducted by us in the INTOSAI regions.