



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

Preliminary Agenda

**E-Gov to Open Government in Western Balkan
Countries Comparative Study and ReSPA PoW
2016 - 2017**

Public Private Partnership and eGovernment Expert
Working Groups

22nd October 2015, Danilovgrad, Montenegro



“From E- to Open Government” - Background

During 2013 ReSPA, together with its eGovernment network members and respective regional and international experts, produced a Comparative study “ReSPA Regional Comparative eGovernment Study”¹ on a regional level devoted to eGovernment in the Western Balkan region. The idea evolved directly from the need to support the current process and trends in Europe to learn about eGovernment, especially about its potentials, weaknesses/bottlenecks and future development in the region.

In the autumn of 2015, a group of international and Western Balkan national eGovernment experts prepared a follow-up comparative ReSPA eGovernment analysis report “From E- to Open Government”. The comparative analysis is partly a practical follow-up with an update on status and progress of the previous 2013 Comparative Study, and partly a survey of the situation in terms of cases and challenges the Western Balkan ReSPA countries are faced with: public-private and public-civil partnerships, cloud computing, open government and open data, ethics and integrity issues, amongst others.

Since 2013 it has been recognised that eGovernment – the digitalisation of government – is not a single isolated area. At the present time, governments are continuously working towards digitizing and reforming their processes as a means to better serve the public. eGovernment is transcending all areas of government. As such, the ReSPA eGovernment Expert working group is increasingly joining and co-operating with other ReSPA thematic groups. In 2014 a joint study was conducted with the Ethics & Integrity Expert Working Group on the “Abuse of Information Technology (IT) for Corruption”², and in 2015 study visits took place with the General Administrative Procedure Act (GAPA) Expert Working Group to Vienna to investigate Austria’s implementation of One-Stop-Shop concept, and to Helsinki to look at whole-of-government and open government concepts in Finland. The present meeting in Danilovgrad is just one additional step, presenting the work of the eGovernment Expert Working Group and aligning it with the work of the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) Expert Working Group.

The report “From E- to Open Government” has been produced after conducting rigorous survey mapping of both the status and progress made since 2012, with the new additional themes included. The relevant global and European open government context and good practices relevant for the Western Balkans are analysed, and the comparative analysis of survey results is conducted within the following areas:

¹ <http://respaweb.eu/download/doc/Regional+comparative+eGov+study+-+web.pdf/dfab3d5a78e0d10e9a6a80827e36a277.pdf>

² <http://respaweb.eu/download/doc/Abuse+of+Information+Technology+%28IT%29+for+Corruption.pdf/d867df158b864e8c843c15e5eece5016.pdf>

- eGovernment and Open government policies, including legal and institutional frameworks (status and progress since 2012)
- Interoperability and base registries (status and progress since 2012)
- e-Government user interface (status and progress since 2012)
- User empowerment and centrality (status and progress since 2012)
- Transparency and participation (status and progress since 2012)
- Open government data (OGD), standardization, open data, protection of personal and sensitive data (status and progress since 2012)
- Cloud computing: status
- PPPs and PPCs: status
- Ethics and integrity issues

The report includes an open Government synthesis, open government policy and recommendations.

To further align the analysis in the study with ReSPA ongoing activities and priorities in the Region, the baseline analysis “From E- to Open Government” also takes into account and explores **how eGovernment and open government could help implementing the so called “SIGMA recommendations”**. These recommendations are based on the report “The principles of public administration”³, prepared through a joint initiative between the OECD/SIGMA and the EU in November 2014, and it sets out principles that cover key horizontal layers of the governance systems that determine the overall performance of the public administration:

- Strategic Framework of Public Administration Reform
- Policy Development and Co-ordination
- Public Service and Human Resource Management
- Accountability
- Service Delivery
- Public Financial Management

Public administration reform is a pillar of the EU enlargement process, together with the rule of law and economic governance. All three pillars are closely linked, cross-cutting issues of fundamental importance for success in political and economic reforms and building a basis for implementing EU rules and standards. A well-functioning public administration is necessary for democratic governance. It also directly impacts upon governments’ ability to provide public services and to foster competitiveness and growth. Public administration reform should lead to enhanced transparency, accountability and effectiveness and should ensure a greater focus on the needs of citizens and business. “From E- to Open Government” survey specifically looks at how eGovernment and Open government may contribute to realising these principles.

³ <http://www.sigmaweb.org/publications/Principles-Public-Administration-Overview-Nov2014.pdf>

The report also includes country reports from each of the six ReSPA countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia) and Kosovo* outlining summary descriptions, explanations and recommendations for the future activities, both short and medium term.

Meeting objectives

The meeting on 22 October 2015 will present not just the results from the “From E- to Open Government” report, but also how the findings in the study regarding ReSPA country alignment to EU PAR principles can be realised, and how open government can support this process. The meeting will also facilitate brainstorming on possible ReSPA activities that can support this process.

Thursday, 22nd October 2015

- 9.00 - 9.15 Introductory words - *Goran Pastrovic, ReSPA Programme Manager*
- 9.15 - 10.15 **I) Review of ReSPA Programme of work for 2016 – 2017**
- Brainstorming on interventions and activities for the next ReSPA programming period based on the eGovernment comparative study and SIGMA recommendations
- Moderator: Goran Pastrovic, ReSPA Programme Manager
- Discussion*
- 10.15 - 11.15 **II) Future cooperation and joint activities of PPP and eGovernment Expert Working Groups -**
- Moderators: Goran Pastrovic and Nand Shani, ReSPA Programme Managers;
Dalia Dubovska, PPP *Expert* and Jeremy Millard eGovernment *Expert*
- 11.15 - 11.30 **Coffee break**
- 11.30 - 12.30 **III) Presentation – E to Open Government study**
- Presentation of the findings
- Presenters: Jeremy Millard and Louise Thomassen, Lead Experts*
- 12.30 - 13.30 Lunch break**
- 13.30 **IV) Presentation – Study findings and recommendations in regard to EU PAR principles**
- Presentation of the findings of the study and recommendations in regard to country alignment to EU PAR principles and how eGovernment and Open Government can support related processes
- Presenters: Jeremy Millard and Louise Thomassen, Lead Experts*
- 14:00 - 14:15 *Discussion*
- 15.00 *Discussion and wrap – up of the meeting*
- 16.00 End of the meeting