

ROLE OF CENTRE OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS IN PLANNING OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

*Meeting of Representatives of Centre of Government Institutions
from Western Balkan region*

5 - 6 March 2018, ReSPA, Danilovgrad (Montenegro)

Draft Agenda

Background

During June 2017, ReSPA has, in co-operation with RCC and OECD/SIGMA, reinitialised the co-operation among Centre of Government (CoG) institutions of the Western Balkans by organising a regional conference related to the functioning of the CoG. The CoG is defined through the key functions typically carried out by the Government Office/General Secretariat of the Government, the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the body responsible for legal conformity and the institutions responsible for coordination of the European integration process, when fulfilling the policy-planning, co-ordination and development functions.¹

Following the exchange of the views and ideas during this regional conference, it was agreed that all participants would fill in a simple questionnaire to identify topics that might be of the highest importance to representatives of the CoG for further regional capacity building events. Also, it asked to identify key challenges that are common to the staff members of the CoG institutions and the key achievements that could be used for sharing with other administrations in the region and potentially further developed and used at the regional level. The survey was carried out during June and July 2017.

The survey univocally proved the need for further engagement of ReSPA and possibly other relevant regional actors in supporting the CoG. The aim for further activities of ReSPA is not merely to support individual administrations in the area of CoG work, but rather to develop regional capacities of the CoG through boosting the regional co-operation and offering targeted support containing solutions applicable throughout the region.

It was identified that the most important topics for further consideration are the strategic planning systems and role of coordination of European integration process. This issue is apparently related to the successful conduction of the European integration process and a well-defined and established system of strategic planning represents a necessary framework for efficient performance at both administrative and political levels. Therefore, this meeting will be focussed on the role of CoG in the planning of government performance and particular attention will be paid on how to connect the European integration agenda, coordination systems and strategic planning.

¹ As defined in the Principles of Public Administration for EU accession countries, developed by SIGMA in co-operation with the European Commission there are nine critical functions, to be implemented by the CoG, that are necessary for a well-organised, consistent and competent policy-making system. These are: 1) co-ordination of preparation of the government sessions; 2) ensuring legal conformity; 3) co-ordination of preparation and approval of the government's strategic priorities and work programme; 4) co-ordination of the policy content of proposals for government decision making, including defining the policy preparation process and ensuring coherence with government priorities; 5) ensuring that policies are affordable and co-ordination of public sector resource planning; 6) co-ordination of the government's communication activities to ensure a coherent government message; 7) monitoring of the government's performance to ensure the government collectively performs effectively and keeps its promises to the public; 8) handling relations between the government and other parts of the state (president, parliament); 9) co-ordination of EI affairs. Cf. SIGMA (2014), [The Principles of Public Administration](#), OECD Publishing, Paris.

Purpose of the meeting

The one and half day meeting among representatives of the CoG institutions of the Western Balkans is a follow up activity to the Regional Conference held in June 2017. This meeting will bring together officials of the Centres of Government (CoG) institutions of the Western Balkans to share good practices and initiatives, as well as to discuss critical challenges and common ways of enhancement of planning of all aspects of government performance. The event is expected to result in thinking about possibilities for better linkage of Government priority planning, sectoral policy planning and European integration planning.

The event will also provide an opportunity to present the Western Balkan Recommendation for Improving Public Participation that is available here: <http://respaweb.eu/11/library#recommendation-on-public-participation-126> . In this regard, ReSPA and RCC representative will present the Methodology for Peer Reviews related to the implementation of the above-mentioned Recommendation.

Target audience

Participants to this meeting are representatives of the CoG institutions, particularly secretariats general of government, institutions responsible for the coordination of European integration process, ministries of finance and other relevant institutions in the Western Balkans. The Members of ReSPA are expected to appoint speakers who would present relevant experiences of their administration under referred topics.

DRAFT AGENDA

DAY I: Monday, 5 March 2018

8.45 – 9.00 Registration of Participants

9.00 – 10.30 Opening remarks / Keynote addresses

- **Ms Ratka Sekulović**, Director of ReSPA
- **Mr Peter Vagi**, Senior Advisor, OECD/ SIGMA
- Key challenges related to Strategic Planning in the Context of the Enlargement process: regional findings and some international outlook

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30: SESSION I

Linking Strategic Planning with European Integration Process

Moderator: Mr Martins Krievens, ReSPA Expert

- Presentation of the experience of **Albania** on Integrated Planning System – from theory to practice over the years – is integration possible?
- Presentation of the experience of **Montenegro** regarding plans for building up integration between sectoral planning and European Integration process – what dominates?

Discussion on similarities and differences in experiences from Western Balkan region with the stress on crucial challenges on inter-linking various processes into a joint calendar

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch break

13.30 – 14.30: SESSION II

Impact and Role of Government Programs in Strategic Planning and European Integration Process

Moderator: Mr Duško Glodić, Programme Manager (Legal), ReSPA

- Presentation of the experience from **Serbia** on managing the implementation of the Government programme – what are impacts on implementation rates?
- Presentation of the experience from **Bosnia and Herzegovina** regarding strategic planning and policy coordination

14.30 – 14.45 Coffee Break

14.45 – 15.45: SESSION II – continued

- Presentation of the experience from **Macedonia** on managing implementation of the Government programme and strategic and policy coordination
- Presentation of the experience from **Kosovo**² on managing implementation of the Government programme and strategic and policy coordination

18.00 – 20.00 Networking dinner

DAY II: Tuesday, 6 March 2018

8.45 – 9.00 Registration of Participants

9.00 – 10.30 SESSION III

Improving Public Participation

Moderator: Mr Dragan Djurić, ReSPA Programme Manager – Coordinator

- **Mr Radu Cotici**, Expert on Public Administration Reform and Anticorruption, RCC (tbc)
- Presentation of the Recommendation on Public Participation and Draft Methodology for peer-reviews
- Discussion on implementing the Western Balkans Recommendation on public participation in preparing legislation and strategic documents

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 SESSION IV

How to connect the planning and monitoring functions of the Centres of Governments and ensure comprehensive strategic and budgetary planning?

Moderators: Mr Martins Krievens and Mr Duško Glodić

- Discussion on ways how the Centre of Government Institutions can support implementation of Government policies through better analysis and mainstream of actions aimed at providing better public services
- Discussion on key challenges from experience of Western Balkans' administrations with integrating Government priorities into strategic planning, medium-term budgeting and European Integration processes

12.30 – 13.00 Closing Remarks and Evaluation

13.00 End of the Meeting / Lunch and Departure of participants

² This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Advisory opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence