



**EUROSAI**

Task Force on Audit & Ethics



## **MANDATE from the EUROSAI Governing Board**

**To promote the relevance of ethical conduct and integrity**

- In SAIs**
- In public organisations**



- Promote comparative studies
- Support the design of guidelines and other tools
- Share the results with the wider SAI community



- The following SAIs participate now in the TFA&E

<b>Portugal</b>	
<b>Croatia</b>	former yugoslav republic of <b>Macedonia</b>
<b>Cyprus</b>	<b>Malta</b>
<b>European Court of auditors</b>	the <b>Netherlands</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>Romania</b>
<b>hungary</b>	<b>Serbia</b>
<b>Iceland</b>	<b>Slovenia</b>
<b>Italy</b>	<b>Spain</b>



## Working Plan 2012-2014

Goals	Objectives	Activities/ Projects
<b>1. Contribute to raise public confidence in SAs by supporting the implementation of ISSAI 30 (Code of Ethics)</b>	<b>1.1. Identify SAs' ethical framework and practices</b>	1.1.1. Collect, organise and analyse information from SAs of EUROSAI and other regions about ethical issues
	<b>1.2. Raise awareness on ethical issues through training</b>	1.2.1. Identify good practices in training
		1.2.2. Define model courses on ethics
		1.2.3. Make proposals on how to deliver ethics related training to the EUROSAI members
	<b>1.3. Share results</b>	1.3.1. Organise and include information in the EUROSAI Task Force Webpage
		1.3.2. Organise a seminar to share experiences and information (Jan 2014)



## Working Plan 2012-2014

Goals	Objectives	Activities/ Projects
<b>2. Promote ethical conduct in public organisations through the SAIs' activities</b>	<b>2.1. Identify SAIs' auditing practices</b>	2.1.1. Identify and analyse existing experiences in auditing ethics related issues, namely audit reports, guidance and methodologies
	<b>2.2. Share experiences and results</b>	2.2.1. Organise and include information in the EUROSAI Task Force Webpage
		2.2.2. Organise a seminar to discuss possible SAIs' activities in this field and to share experiences and information (Sept 2013)



During the period May 2013-May 2013 the TFA&E:

- Designed and implemented a webpage
- Prepared and launched a survey on *Audit&Ethics*
- Analysed the replies to the survey and approved a general report on its results
- Prepared a paper “*Supporting SAIs to enhance their ethical infrastructure- Part 1- A general overview of SAIs ethical strategies and practices*”



## The webpage

[www.eurosai-tfae.tcontas.pt](http://www.eurosai-tfae.tcontas.pt)

- **Objectives, Members, Contacts**
- **Activities** (working plan, cooperation, reports, survey)
- **Meetings and events** (agenda, participants, minutes, documents)
- **Documents** (ethics within SAIs, auditing ethics in public organisations)
- **Photos**
- **Links**
  
- **Members' section**





## ***The survey *Audit&Ethics****

- **Covered both** ethics within SAIs **and** auditing ethics in public organisations
- **32 replies from EUROSAI members (64%), 65 documents collected**
- **A general report on its results available in the EUROSAI and the TFA&E webpage**



## ***The survey *Audit&Ethics*: some results***

- **Codes of conduct are well spread in european SAIs and tend to be detailed**
- **An increasing number of SAIs have Ethics Committees, but their roles vary a lot**
- **Conflicts of interests are the main concern of SAIs**
- **Ethical concerns are included in recruitment practices, performance appraisal and training**
- **Written rotation policies are adopted by 41% of replying SAIs**
- **Few SAIs use internal and/or external specific evaluations of their ethical systems**



## **The survey *Audit&Ethics: some results***

- **SAs usually cooperate with other institutions that assess ethics related issues**
- **A significant majority of SAs consider that they have the power to audit ethics related issues, even though their legal mandate does not specify that approach**
- **Some SAs do assess ethics related issues while dealing with financial, compliance and/or performance audits, but very few indicate that they perform ethics' specific audits**
- **Transparency of decision making, procurement processes, prevention of fraud and corruption, raising accountability and changing management practices concern SAs in this area**
- **A majority of SAs declared their interest in sharing information on this subject and the usefulness of EUROSAI to provide specific guidance on the assessment of ethics related issues**



## **The paper**

*Supporting SAIs to enhance their ethical infrastructure- Part 1- A general overview of SAIs ethical strategies and practices*

- **1st of a series of ethics related papers organised around themes (ethics' guidance, ethics' management, ethics' control)**
- **Reflects on the survey results against the ISSAI requirements and the necessary components of an ethical infrastructure**
- **Identifies some good practices**



**Activities for the next period:**

- Deliver more papers on ethics related issues
- Develop model courses on ethics
- Include documents and information in the TF webpage
- Seminar, in Luxembourg (ECA), on 17th-18th September about *auditing ethics*
- Seminar, in Lisbon (TCP), on January 2014, about *ethics within SAs*



## **The seminar on *Auditing ethics***

- **Luxembourg, 17-18 September 2013**
- **Objectives and content:**
  - Raise awareness and explore possibilities of auditing ethics-related issues
  - Address practical matters concerning such audits (methodology, criteria, tools and good practice)
  - Share results of the survey
  - Share SAIs experiences
- **Target group:** audit managers, audit leaders and auditors (likely to be) involved in the auditing of ethics.
- **Possible external participations:** keynote speaker, member of the European Parliament
- **Contact:** Elisabeth Franco, ECA



## Cooperation

- **Contacts with ASOSAI, OLACEFS (CEPAT) and AFROSAI-e**
- **Articulation with GT2 and INTOSAI PSC**
- **Possible contacts with EIPA and OECD**

