

The 57th EUROSAI Governing Board meeting was held in Lisbon on 21-22 September 2022: Summary of Agreements

The 57th Governing Board (GB) meeting took place in Lisbon, on 21-22 September 2022, kindly hosted by the *Tribunal de Contas* of Portugal. The meeting, chaired by the SAI of the Czech Republic (EUROSAI Presidency), was also attended by the rest of members of the EUROSAI GB (SAIs of Israel, Poland, Spain, Latvia, Lithuania, Türkiye, and United Kingdom), as well as by several observers (SAIs of Portugal, Austria and Norway, together with IDI) and other guests (SAIs of Germany and Sweden as co-leaders of the Strategic Goals, and SAIs of Estonia, Ukraine and Brazil, as reporters on other items of the meeting's agenda).



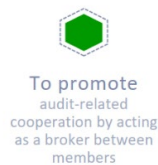
The **Summary of the main discussions and agreements (SoA)** of the 57th GB is the following:

- The agenda and the **minutes of the 55th and 56th GB meetings** were unanimously approved by the GB.
- The GB took note of the information provided by the Secretariat in its **EUROSAI Activity Report 2021-2022**, focusing on an outline of the activities carried out within EUROSAI since the GB ordinary meeting held in April 2021. Among them, the Secretary General of EUROSAI highlighted the 56th GB extraordinary meeting on 3rd March 2022, informed about the renewal of the Presidency of the Spanish Court of Audit according to the Spanish Constitution (the EUROSAI Secretary General) and subsequent renewal of the EUROSAI Secretariat's team. The report also included a sketch of the main EUROSAI financial issues, and briefly referred

to the activity of the different actors involved in the implementation of the Strategic Goals and Governance Portfolios, and nearest upcoming events.

- Decisions pertaining the overall implementation of the **Strategic Goals**:
The GB took note of the Consolidated progress report of the Strategic Goals presented by the EUROSAI Presidency as Chair of the Coordination Team (CT) and, with respect to each Strategic Goal, the following was decided:

- The GB took note of the projects to be carried forward by the **Strategic Goal 1 (Professional Cooperation)**, including the progress report of the Network for Ethics (N.ET) and the Activity report of the 5th Young EUROSAI (YES) Conference, recently held in Stockholm under the theme “Experimental culture”, with around 90 young auditors from all over Europe, sharing ideas, inspiration and experience. The SG1 report contained information on the initiatives for each of its **three main objectives**:



8 projects, including the projects under the Task Force on Municipality Audit, the Working Group on Environmental Audit or the Working Group on the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes;



5 projects, including two new ones - the Project Groups on “Auditing in the new normal” and on “Raising the Awareness on the Enterprise Risk Management”;



17 projects, including the projects of the Working Group on Information Technologies – The CUBE –, and new initiatives as the Project Group “Travelling Club of experts”, or the Network for Ethics.

- The GB took note of the initiatives planned by the **Strategic Goal 2 (Capacity Development)**, including the **ongoing projects** (Audit Methodology Meetings, Communication on INTOSAI Professional Pronouncements, EUROSAI Members’ capacity development needs analysis, Translation Professional Pronouncements to Russian – on hold –, Internship and Secondment Programme, EUROSAI Interaction with INTOSAI Committees and

2017–2021

- 6 projects completed

2022: 21 projects in OP

- 9 projects of WGs
- 7 ongoing projects
 - Workshop on IFPP: Prague May 2022
 - Russian projects on hold
- 5 new projects

EUROSAI Interaction with INTOSAI Bodies), and five **new Project Groups** (Data Envelopment Analysis, Digital University of INTOSAI, Collaboration with the UN in relation to SDG audits, Audit English, Evaluation tools and methods and Digital University of INTOSAI – on hold). A new **meeting** of the EUROSAI SG2 will be held the 20th of October 2022 in order to exchange ideas on existing and new projects and on capacity development needs.

- Decisions pertaining the overall implementation of the **Governance Portfolios**:



The GB took note of the Consolidated progress report of the Governance Portfolios presented by the EUROSAI Presidency as Chair of the Coordination Team (CT) and, with respect to each Governance Portfolio, the following was decided:

- **Overall Governance and Culture Portfolio:**

- With respect to the discussion paper presented by the SAI of Israel on the Project Group on Drafting the EUROSAI Strategic Plan (ESP) 2024-2030, the GB agreed to proceed with a survey among EUROSAI members. In addition, meetings will be held with the most relevant INTOSAI organisations to identify their expectations regarding the next ESP.
- On the proposal presented by the EUROSAI Presidency on the Procedure for addressing requests from media, the GB unanimously approved the text proposed by the EUROSAI Presidency as a "standard" response.
- Regarding the promotion of IDI’s SIRAM (SAI Independence Rapid Advocacy Mechanism) in EUROSAI, the GB took note of the information provided by the Czech Republic, who enhanced the need of a proactive approach in promoting SAI independence within EUROSAI.

- **Communication Portfolio:**

- The GB took note of the Progress Reports of the Communication Portfolio and of the Project Group on the “Relaunch of EUROSAI’s Website”. Being the procurement of the new EUROSAI website in the phase of reviewing the draft with the technical requirements. The possibility of including a semantic browser for the database is being studied, according to the proposal made by the Czech Republic.
- The GB agreed to continue working in order to adapt the best possible content on EUROSAI in the social networks that will be put into operation (starting with YouTube, and foreseeably, Facebook and LinkedIn).



○ **Emerging Issues and Forward Thinking Portfolio:**

- The GB took note of the Progress report presented by the SAI of the United Kingdom, holder of the Portfolio, including the information on the Project Groups on “Auditing the Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic”, and on “Preparing for Future Risks and Climate Crisis: Time for Audit to Take a Long-term View?” The first Project Group continues to have valuable issues to discuss, for example, in relation to vaccination; and the second Project Group is still very active and interesting topics and discussions continue to emerge. In relation to UK’s consultation on emerging issues, the responses received from numerous SAIs will be analysed and a summary of the main issues and suggestions on how to address them is being prepared. A symposium on one or two key issues will be hosted in London in early 2023.



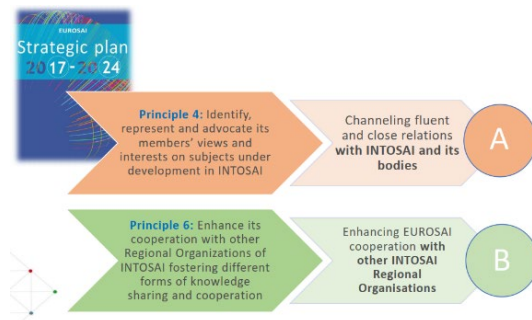
○ **Relations with non-SAI Stakeholders Portfolio:**

- The GB took note of the Progress report presented by the SAI of Latvia, holder of the Portfolio, including the information on the Project Groups on “Capacity building on non-SAI stakeholder engagement”, and on the “EUROSAI-European Confederation of Institutes of Internal Auditing (ECIIA)”. Both Project Groups have been very active in the period, since the approval of their respective Terms of Reference, in March 2022. *It is also worth mentioning the upcoming participation in the ECIIA Congress on 6 October where the results of the survey on cooperation with internal auditors will be presented together with ECIIA, as well as the participation of EUROSAI in the Renewable Energy Investment Conference: Accelerating the clean energy transitions through investments in renewable energy in October this year.*



○ **Relations with INTOSAI and its Regional Organisations Portfolio**

- The GB took note of the information provided by the EUROSAI Secretariat, holder of the Portfolio, in particular regarding the status of the **next ASOSAI-EUROSAI Joint Conference**, expected to be held in 2023 and whose host, an ASOSAI member institution, is yet to be determined; as well as the information on the next **EUROSAI-ARABOSAI Joint Conference**, whose discussion paper on the way forward after the cancellation of its celebration



in Ukraine was presented by the Secretariat, and regarding which the GB agreed that the Secretariat would make a call among EUROSAl members in seek of a new host. The central theme of the Conference, to be held in 2023, should preferably remain unchanged as planned "SAIs auditing the effectiveness of climate change policy".

- The GB took note of the information presented on the **Project Groups led by the SAI of Türkiye**, “Auditing in the new normal: connecting Technology to Audit Processes” and “Raising the Awareness of the SAIs on the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) of the auditees and using the ERM approach in developing risk-based annual audit plans” (both under SG1); and “Collaboration with national- level UN Agencies in the context of SAIs’ SDG related Audit Processes” (under SG2).



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- With respect to the **activities carried by the Coordination Team (CT)** during the reported period, the GB took note of the information presented by the EUROSAl Presidency in its capacity as Chair of the CT, with particular emphasis on the CT meetings and PGs’ set ups and closures, and on the information on the Financial Requests presented by the Secretariat.

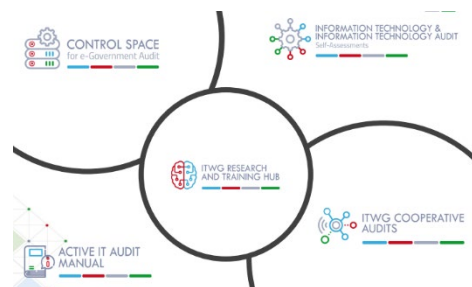
- In the closed session of the meeting, the Secretariat presented a discussion paper related to the possible approach to the 56th GB Resolution regarding SAI of the Russian Federation and SAI of Belarus. As main conclusion,



the GB agreed that the Statement was still valid, but that it was necessary to decide how to go forward among the different approaches. A proposal on the issue would be drafted by the GB and, if appropriate, submitted to the EUROSAl Congress for endorsement by a qualified majority.

- Regarding the **EUROSAl Working Groups and Task Force**, the GB took note of the information provided by each of them in their respective Progress reports.

- The SAI of Estonia, Chair of the EUROSAl Information Technologies Working Group (ITWG), presented the main activities carried out to reach its five primary objectives for 2021-2024, among others, the Active IT Audit Manual (AITAM), the Control Space of E-government (CUBE), the Moderated Self-assessments on IT maturity (ITSA/ITASA), the research and training hub, the

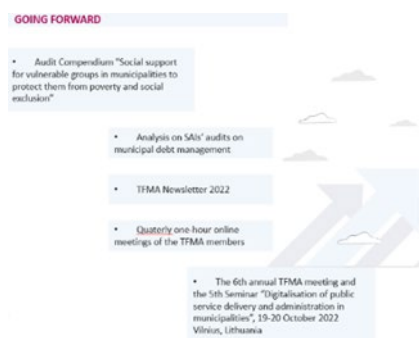


development of INTOSAI IT related standards, or the cooperative audits (including BIEP as a central gateway for exchanging ideas).

- A representative from the Supreme Audit Office of Poland (NIK), Chair of the EUROSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing (WGEA), gave an overview of the annual progress made by the WGEA, mentioning its Annual Meeting under the main topic “Green Transition”, and informing on the next Annual Meeting that will be held in Warsaw on 29-30 November 2022. Its Spring Session on “water supply and its quality in the aspect of climate change” was hosted online in May by SAI Poland. Other important activities have been the three ongoing cooperative audits, the cooperation within INTOSAI and with external stakeholders, through the invitation of experts from relevant institutions to EUROSAI WGEA events.



- The SAI of Ukraine, Chair of the EUROSAI Working Group on the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes (WGAFADC), explained the activities carried out highlighting the increase of disasters and accidents in the world (drought, large scale forest fires, hurricanes, floods). But being nowadays the war in Ukraine the most important issue, it was deemed necessary to properly assess the global impact of the Russian Federation’s attack on Ukraine, to analyse the damage caused by the war and to develop recommendations on the best ways to overcome this crisis by EUROSAI members’ governments.



- The main focus areas of the Task Force on Municipality Audit (TFMA) were underlined by the SAI of Lithuania, Chair of the TFMA, such as the Municipal Real Estate Management (including an Audit Compendium 2021 and an Annual Seminar); the monitoring of the implementation of recommendations given in audit reports on municipalities or the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at sub-national level. Several next steps have been planned for the following months (Audit Compendium “Social support for vulnerable groups in municipalities to protect them from poverty and social exclusion”; Newsletter 2022; online meetings and

5th Seminar “Digitalisation of public service delivery and administration in municipalities”, to be held on 19-20 October 2022 in Lithuania).

- In relation to **EUROSAI Financial Issues**, the GB took note of the information included in the EUROSAI Financial Report, the Auditor’s Report for the year 2021 (which showed an unmodified opinion of the financial statements) and the auditor’s management letter, presented by the EUROSAI Secretariat. Considering the suggestion of the external auditors of EUROSAI in the Management Letter to explore mechanisms to provide flexibility in the budget execution of grants and subsidies, the EUROSAI Secretariat contacted the members of the Project Group on Regulations and received different proposals which broadened the perspective in the initial analysis of the issue to prepare a document on different alternatives to simplify the process of granting subsidies that will be soon shared for discussion.



- In connection with the **INTOSAI Related Issues**, the GB took note of the information presented on the following issues:

- The key Issues from the INTOSAI Governing Board were presented by the SAIs of Portugal and Poland, noting that the next INTOSAI Governing Board Meeting would be held in November 2022 before the XXIV INTOSAI Congress. The main **decisions** will be related to possible **new structures** (Task Force on Health and Social Care Audit, Task Force under PFAC on updating the communication strategy and INTOSAI Brand, Forum of Jurisdictional SAIs and Approval of the creation of an INTOSAI-wide award for excellence in capacity building in honour of Kimi Makwetu); **membership issues** (SAI of Uzbekistan and SAI of the Northern Mariana Islands – to become INTOSAI’s full member and an affiliate member respectively); **approval of pronouncements** (Endorsement version of GUID 2900, Draft ISSAI 150 and related GUIDs 1950 & 1951, GUID 5330, and GUID 5320) and SAI Egypt as a **candidate for hosting** the INTOSAI Congress in 2025 – decision to be submitted to the XXIV INCOSAI.



- The GB took note of the report on INTOSAI submitted by the INTOSAI General Secretariat, a brief update of the activities carried out during the reporting period, and on the initiatives regarding INTOSAI’s advocacy and support of

Independence of SAIs and about the role of INTOSAI and SAIs in implementing the UN SDGs (Side Event at the UN HLPF 2022 among others). The report also referred to INTOSAI’s operations in time of pandemic and to the effects on INTOSAI caused by the attack on Ukraine, as well as to the upcoming events, mainly the XXIV INCOSAI.

- o Upon special invitation of the EUROSAI GB, as host of INTOSAI’s next Congress and incoming INTOSAI Chair, the SAI of Brazil had the chance to first hand report on the preparation of the XXIV INCOSAI, to be held on 7-11 September 2022 in Rio, presenting the main theme of the Congress: “the Global Voice”, and other important issues such as gender equality, communication, or independence.

- o Moreover, the GB agreed on the elaboration of videos in relation to EUROSAI’s activity (according to the indications to be provided by the Presidency to assure homogeneity) as the best approach with respect to the presence of EUROSAI at XXIV INCOSAI.



- o INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) presented their main focus areas in the reporting period, including new **initiatives launched or expanded** (LOTA, pICTure, Together, CRISP, MASTERY, ...); the reinforced focus on strengthening of the independence of SAIs; the triennial SAI Global Stocktaking Report or the undergoing mid-term evaluation and working on new Strategic Plan; and the **upcoming initiatives** as the ones to be launched during the INCOSAI 2022 (LOTA



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Pioneers, Equal Futures Audits -EFA- and Climate Change Adaptation Actions Audit -CCAAA-); SAI Young Leaders (third cohort from 2022-2023); learning festival (bringing together ISI SAI Young Leader’s alumni, INDI training specialists and eLearning specialist’ networks and PESA alumni across INTOSAI regions); and the development of a Play Book on SAI Audit Quality Management, in parallel of the drafting of the new ISSAI 140 – Audit Quality management by the INTOSAI forum of professional pronouncements. The GB took note of the information provided by IDI on the cooperation with EUROSAI.

- The GB took note as well of the information provided by the SAI of Israel on the preparation of the XII EUROSAI Congress, that will be held 27 to 29 of May 2024 in Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv, with the main theme “Sharing minds, greater SAIs”.

- The GB agreed that the **58th GB meeting** will take place in Vilnius (Lithuania), on 14-15 June 2023, and that the **4th GB meeting on the technical level** will be hosted by the SAI of Israel, on 27-28 March 2023.
- Finally, under any other business (AOB), the EUROSAI Secretariat informed the GB about the proposal received from the ARABOSAI Secretariat, to establish a closer framework for collaboration between the two Regional Organisations, beyond the regular joint conferences, and to jointly draft a “concept note” to be formally endorsed by both Regional Secretariats at the XXIV INCOSAI. The GB approved this proposal.

