SURVEY ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS

Horcsin Attila
Auditor counsellor
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Outline

1. Independence of SAIs project (INTOSAI 2001)
   Target and methodology
   Main message

2. Survey on Independence of SAIs (EUROSAI 2013)
   Background
   What is the questionnaire based on
   Schedule
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Independence of SAIs project (2001)

**Target:** Supreme Audit Institutions except those of the EUROSAI region
Addressed 137 SAIs
(reached 126 SAIs /113 responded)

**Methodology:** questionnaire and consultations with experts of selected SAIs

**Main message:**

”It can be concluded that a considerable number of the SAIs surveyed are not really in a position to fulfil their mandates in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts.”
Background

- EUROSAI Strategic Plan 2011-2017
- 4 Strategic Goals – 4 Goal Teams
- Goal Team 1 – Capacity building
- Subgroup of GT1 focuses on Independence
- The responsible SAI is Hungary
- Highlighted tasks in the Operational plan:
  Survey on Questionnaire Workshop in Budapest

Goal Team 1 Capacity building:

- SG 1 - Availability of data
- SG 2 - Identification of needs and innovations
- SG 3 - Strategic support
- SG 4 – Independence of SAIs
Questionnaire based on

- Final task force report on "Independence of SAI project" – INTOSAI (2001)
- Resolution A/66/209 – "Promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions"
  UN General Assembly - 22 December, 2011
- Experiences of SAO on independence
- Proposals from Goal Team 1 members
Schedule

- 15 February 2013: questionnaire sent to 50 EUROSAI members
- 31 July 2013: deadline for submitting: 34 questionnaires returned
- 31 October 2013: analysing the answers
- 2 December 2013: information booklet
- 2014: Workshop on independence – publication of booklet
Main results of the survey

1. Organisational independence

- mandate derived from (constitution, organisational law)
- autonomous organisation
- independence during the audit activity
- accountable/ subordinated to which organisation
- independence from any other organisation
- structure (single head, or collegial body)
- mandate to set up the organisational structure
2. Personal / administrative independence

Absolute conflict of interest
- who can be appointed (such as member of government,...)
- possibility of positions beside SAI
- possibility of another employment beside SAI
- possibility of familial relationship

Relative conflict of interest
- possibility of participating audits of specific organisations
Nomination, election, appointment, removal of Heads of SAI
Legal mandate of Heads of SAI
Main results of the Survey

3. Statutory independence

*Mandate on audits*
- constitution, organisational act
- audit plan
- audit approach, and methods
- selection of auditees

*Report on audits*
- right to contest (dispute) of the content, findings of reports
- deciding on contents of reports
- report to which organisation
- publicity of reports

*Auditing of accounts and/or performance of SAIs*
Main results of the Survey

4. Financial independence
   
   Independent chapter
   Planning of the budget
   Implementation of the budget

5. Questions relating to EUROSAI Strategic plan

Main conclusion:

"SAIs of the EUROSAI community are in a position to fulfil their mandates in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Lima and Mexico Declaration and UN General Assembly Resolution according to their answer given in 2013."
Thank you for your attention!

Further information: international@asz.hu