

**VII EUROSAI CONGRESS**  
**(Cracow, Poland, 2-5 June 2008)**

**EUROSAI TRAINING STRATEGY 2008-2011**  
**RESOLUTION**

**BACKGROUND**

The EUROSAI Training Committee (ETC) was set up at the XXII Governing Board meeting in 2000, receiving the mandate of providing support in training matters. The initial tasks commended to the ETC were related to the promotion of training events, dealing with training websites in the scope of EUROSAI, and boosting cooperation with the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI).

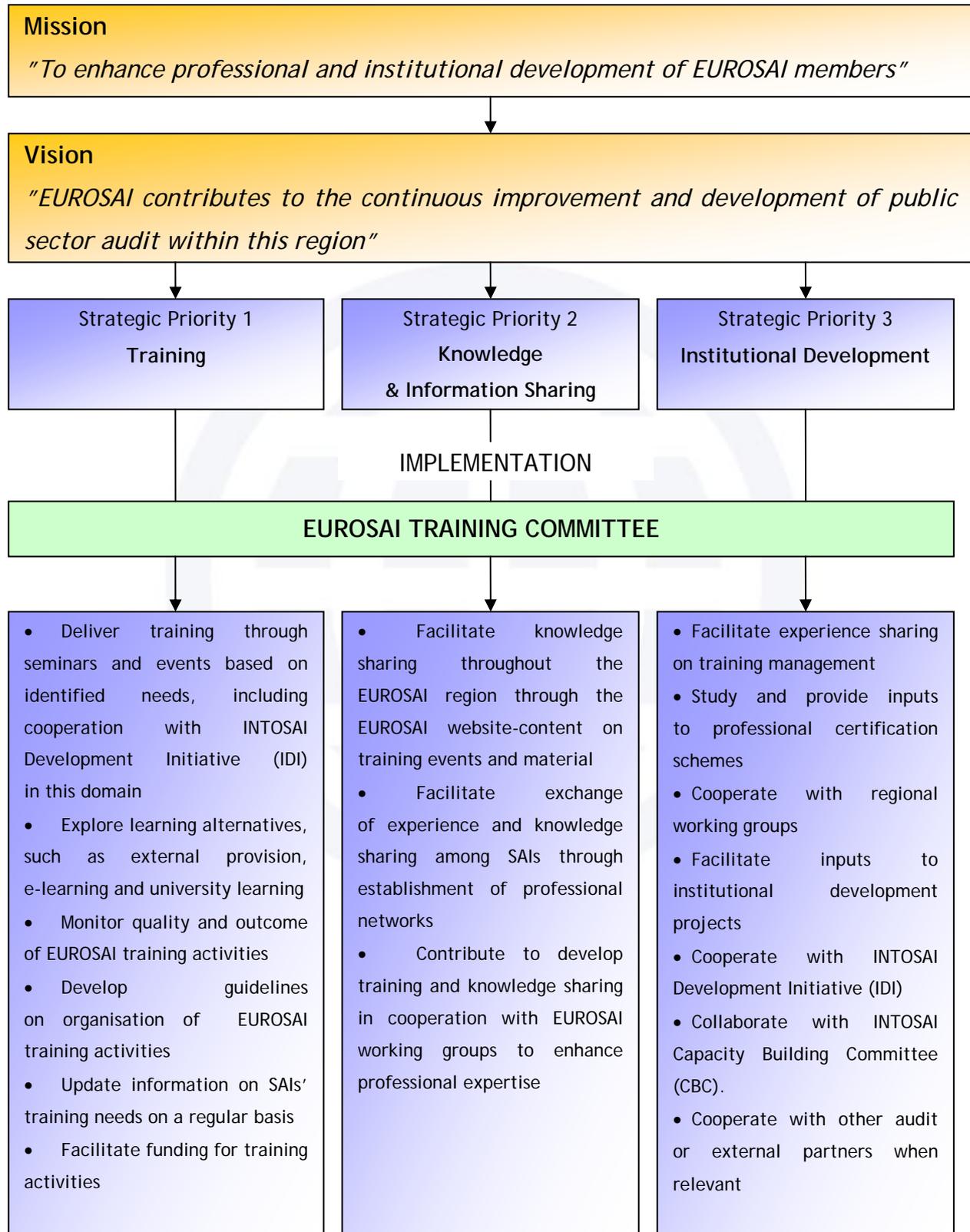
The VI EUROSAI Congress (Bonn, 2005) approved a Training Strategy of the Organisation for the period 2005-2008 based on the following strategic goals: delivering training through seminars and events, enhancing professional exchange within SAIs and facilitating information sharing. The ETC was requested, under the authority and the directions of the Governing Board, to perform it. An evaluation of its performance has been incorporated to the ETC Activity Report.

The mentioned Training Strategy served well for meeting the needs of EUROSAI members in the past period. However, the realm of public sector audit across the EUROSAI region changes rapidly, and the strategy needs to take these changes into account.

Therefore, in order to ensure that the performance of the strategy effectively targets the needs of SAIs in a responsive, relevant, cohesive and focussed way, and that training is well managed and operated in an effective and efficient way in EUROSAI, the Training Strategy has been reviewed for the period 2008-2011.

The EUROSAI Training Strategy 2008-2011 has the purpose of supporting and strengthening SAIs in the performance of their role and create value for all EUROSAI members through delivery of training and knowledge sharing. It aims at increasing effectiveness by focusing on key priorities concerning training and capacity demands of the diverse groups of SAIs within the Region.

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## INTRODUCTION

The European Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (EUROSAI) is one of seven Regional Groups of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). It was established in 1990 and is one of the most diverse of the INTOSAI regions. It is composed of 48 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) and operates in five official languages. The region is home to the full range of SAI models: Auditor General, Court and College, and comprises both EU and non-EU member states as well as accession countries to the EU. The EUROSAI represents SAIs that are at very different stages in development.

SAIs throughout the EUROSAI region play a vital role in holding government to account every day. It is the aim of EUROSAI through its Training Strategy 2008-2011 to support and strengthen SAIs in the performance of this role and to create value for all EUROSAI members.

EUROSAI, when established, was modelled on the INTOSAI structure of the time. Meanwhile, INTOSAI has adopted its first ever strategic plan (2005-2010) which presents its mission, vision and core values and which embraces three mission related goals in the areas of professional standards, capacity building and knowledge sharing. The implementation of the INTOSAI Strategic Plan since 2005 means that INTOSAI now has in place structures for enhancing the professional development of the SAI community. The EUROSAI Training Strategy aims at supplying a similar strategic direction and structure to the performance of EUROSAI training activities, in order to enhance their impact.

**EUROSAI Training Committee (ETC)**, established in 2000 by the EUROSAI Governing Board as its operational arm, is responsible for implementing the Training Strategy under the direction of the Governing Board.

The mission of EUROSAI concerning training is:

*“To enhance professional and institutional development of EUROSAI members”.*

The mission defines the core purpose of EUROSAI training activities. It also reflects the developmental presumption of EUROSAI that professional capacity of the individual on one hand and institutional development of the SAI on the other, are interdependent. These two levels should therefore be targeted simultaneously by EUROSAI training activities. EUROSAI devotes particular attention to those SAIs most in need of capacity building.

The vision of EUROSAI regarding training is that:

*“EUROSAI contributes to the continuous improvement and development of public sector audit within this region”.*

The vision expresses the aim of EUROSAI related to training. Respecting and appreciating the diversity of the region, its underlying presumption is that there is always room for development and improvement. By facilitating exchange of experience and possibilities to learn from each other as well as external experts, EUROSAI will contribute to the continuous improvement and development of public sector audit performed in the region.

On the basis of its mission and the vision, three Strategic Priorities for 2008-2011 has been identified:

**Strategic Priority 1:**

**To provide training to SAI staff so that they are able to develop and maintain the skills and experience necessary for the discharge of their functions**

The primary focus of the ETC is to provide and coordinate training activities for EUROSAI members. Training will often focus on the individual and therefore be closely connected to the mission of enhancing professional development. However, targeting different levels of staff, including management, training of individuals contribute to institutional development endeavours. In this field, special attention will be devoted to those SAIs with most need for capacity building. The ETC's efforts in this area are continuously supported by IDI, a major training operator, which cooperates with the ETC on a regular basis.

In order to be effective, training should be targeted, based on identified needs, both concerning learning methods and subject area. Furthermore, it is important that training is based on clear and shared learning objectives and that quality is monitored closely. Monitoring outcome is a very complex undertaking. Learning from the experiences of others, the ETC should play a role in developing this aspect of monitoring, which, together with an ongoing update of information on the SAI's training needs will allow ETC to facilitate the organisation of all training events.

With new technologies and new theories of learning methods emerging continuously, another objective is to explore new ways of providing training and obtain more efficient learning through, for example, external provision of teaching and possibilities of e-learning, as well as closer relations with universities.

**Strategic Priority 2:**

**To encourage the sharing of knowledge and experience so that SAIs in the region are able to access best practice in the field of public sector audit**

As EUROSAI is such a diverse region, it is also likely that subgroups of SAIs within EUROSAI share common grounds on specific areas. In order to target these subgroups effectively, it is necessary to identify the subgroups and provide the basis for knowledge sharing and establishment of professional networks. Possible activities could be establishing working groups or coordinate expert meetings beyond the traditional training events.

A central element in the implementation of this priority is the EUROSAI website. Concerning training and knowledge sharing, the website is the accessible platform for sharing information on upcoming and past events, as well as training materials. The website should also be a central tool in making the Training Strategy more visible to the EUROSAI members.

**Strategic Priority 3:**

**To contribute to institutional development to build strong, independent and multidisciplinary SAIs**

EUROSAI is committed to facilitate input to institutional development projects in individual SAIs and on the broader EUROSAI scale. Establishment of expert data bases, facilitating experience sharing on training management or technical assistance are examples of possible efforts to be implemented. Furthermore, the provision of inputs to professional certification schemes are important contributions to the institutional development projects of individual SAIs.

Although all SAIs are eligible as target groups for institutional development of different types, the Training Strategy devotes particular attention to the SAIs most in need of capacity building. Therefore cooperation with IDI and CBC is central. EUROSAI will cooperate closely with IDI, CBC and the wider INTOSAI family in order to support the provision of capacity building in the region. The cooperation may involve coordinated activities, but also exchange of training materials and financial support.

Cooperation with external partners on provision of training and expert knowledge on specific subjects has been extremely fruitful in the past and should remain one of the top issues in the future.

## *Resolution*

Considering the ETC Activity Report 2005-2008, the evaluation of the performance of the EUROSAI Training Strategy 2005-2008 done by the ETC, and the proposal of Training Strategy 2008-2011,

The Governing Board proposes to the Congress:

- Adopting the ETC Activity Report and thanking the ETC for the work in the performance of the EUROSAI Training Strategy 2005-2008.
- Approving the Training Strategy 2008-2011 proposed.
- Asking the Governing Board, with the support of the ETC, to perform the Training Strategy 2008-2011 and reporting on it to the VIII Congress.
- Requesting the ETC to report regularly to the Governing Board about its activities.