

**Status Outline**  
**of EU SAI Contact Committee**  
**Working Group Activities**

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2010

<b>Working and Expert Groups</b>
<b>Working Group on Structural Funds IV</b>
<b>Working Group on National SAI Reports on EU Financial Management</b>
<b>Working Group on Activities on Value Added Tax</b>
<b>Working Group on Common Auditing Standards</b>
<b>Joint Working Group on Audit Activities (JWGAA)</b>
<b>Updating Group on Public Procurement</b>

Name of WG	Working Group on Structural Funds IV
<b>Purpose/Mandate</b>	In 2008, the Contact Committee tasked the Working Group on Structural Funds to continue its reviews of Structural Funds issues and specifically to carry out an audit on “ <i>costs of controls (this might include the use of technical assistance for the controls of Structural Funds)</i> ”. The Contact Committee welcomed the Working Group’s intention to submit the report on this audit to the Contact Committee in 2010 (or by 2011, depending on the start of the field work). The Working Group agreed that the audit is to be terminated in 2010.
<b>Status/Outcome/ Results in 2010</b>	The Working Group adopted a <b>common audit plan</b> and an <b>audit schedule</b> . The <b>field work</b> for the parallel audit <b>started in June 2009</b> and will <b>last until September 2010</b> .
<b>Links to relevant working group reports/ documents</b>	<a href="http://www.contactcommittee.eu">http://www.contactcommittee.eu</a>
<b>Activities this year (meetings etc.)</b>	1 and 2 February 2010, Ljubljana: Plenary meeting of the Working Group and meeting of the Core Group, discussion of first audit results and of necessary changes in the audit plan and the audit schedule; decision to prolong the audit and to include optionally the controls carried out in the year 2010. Since February 2010: The fieldwork for the parallel audit in the member states is continued (audit of years 2007-2009, optional of the year 2010). Until end of September 2010: Continuation of fieldwork in member states, End of December 2010: Submission of country reports to the Core Group
<b>Working group members and observers</b>	<u>Members:</u> SAIs of Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany (Chair), Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Slovenia, Slovak Republic and Spain. <u>Observers:</u> SAIs of Finland, Latvia, Malta, Poland and the ECA. <u>Core Group:</u> SAIs of Germany, Netherlands, Republic of Slovenia.
<b>Name of contact person/chair of working group</b>	<u>Chair: Rolf-Dietrich Kammer, Member of the Bundesrechnungshof.</u> <u>Contact Person: Markus Bangert, Auditor at the Bundesrechnungshof (Markus.Bangert@brh.bund.de)</u>
<b>Activity Plan for 2011</b>	Until mid of March 2011: Compiling of draft composite report, April 2011: Plenary meeting of the Working Group; discussion on draft composite report, planning of 2012/2013 topic, May 2011: Presentation of final report to the Liaison Officers Autumn 2011: Presentation to the Contact Committee.

<b>Name of WG</b>	<b>Working Group on National SAI Reports on EU Financial Management</b>
<b>Purpose/Mandate</b>	<p>The Working Group aims to shift its focus from promoting the development of overall EU reports in general to the exchange of information on EU financial management and discussing what can be done in and with (overall) EU reports in order to enhance the development of common elements in these reports (thereby enabling country comparisons). This represents the current reality and reflects the changed interests and priorities of the Working Group participants.</p> <p>As a result of this, the Working Group proposes to the Contact Committee to convert the Working Group into a network that uses the website as its main platform for information exchange. An important reason for proposing this change stems from the increasing emphasis on “exchange of information” that underlies the activities of the group.</p>
<b>Status/Outcome/ Results in 2010</b>	<p>The progress that SAIs have been making in developing reports overall reports on EU financial management has continued in 2010. Twelve SAIs have by now produced an (annual) overall EU report.</p> <p>The Working Group once again paid much attention to the exchange of information on EU financial management at its annual meeting in Stockholm (27-28 May 2010). New developments taking place were discussed and presentations were given by several participating SAIs on their EU audit activities.</p>
<b>Activities this year (meetings etc.)</b>	Meeting in Stockholm on 27-28 May 2010
<b>Working group members and observers</b>	The activities of the Working Group are open to all EU SAIs. At the Working Group meeting in Stockholm the following 20 SAIs participated: Netherlands (chair), Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey and the European Court of Auditors.
<b>Name of contact person/chair of working group</b>	<p>Contact person for the Working Group is Jan van den Bos – Netherlands Court of Audit (jmm.vandenbos@rekenkamer.nl)</p> <p>Chair of the Working Group is Piet Rozendal – Netherlands Court of Audit</p>

<p><b>Activity Plan for 2011</b></p>	<p>In 2011 the Working Group intends to convert itself into a network promoting the exchange of information on EU financial management and discussing what can be done in and with (overall) EU reports in order to enhance development of common elements in these reports (thereby enabling country comparisons). The website will be redesigned in order to function as main vehicle for the exchange of information on EU financial management.</p> <p>The network will also encourage and support SAIs that wish to undertake common activities that lead to comparable results that each SAI participating may use in its own EU report.</p> <p>A general meeting may be held to exchange information on EU financial management and to allow for presentation of groups of SAIS working on common activities and discussion of initiatives and the progress made by such groups.</p>																																																																																															
<p><b>Overview of EU audit activities of Member State SAIs in 2009 and 2010</b></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="459 907 651 1189"></th> <th data-bbox="651 907 826 1189">National SAI overall report on EU financial management</th> <th data-bbox="826 907 954 1189">Separate EU section in Annual Report of SAI</th> <th data-bbox="954 907 1102 1189">Number and type of EU audits by SAI</th> <th data-bbox="1102 907 1238 1189">Type of EU audit reports by SAI</th> <th data-bbox="1238 907 1407 1189">Number of parallel/co-ordinated audits</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="6" data-bbox="459 1189 1407 1234"><i>Member States</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1234 651 1312">Austria</td> <td data-bbox="651 1234 826 1312">P(05/2009)</td> <td data-bbox="826 1234 954 1312">X</td> <td data-bbox="954 1234 1102 1312">3C, 2C+P, P, 1O</td> <td data-bbox="1102 1234 1238 1312">SR, GR</td> <td data-bbox="1238 1234 1407 1312">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1312 651 1357">Belgium</td> <td data-bbox="651 1312 826 1357">-</td> <td data-bbox="826 1312 954 1357">-</td> <td data-bbox="954 1312 1102 1357">1O, 2 P</td> <td data-bbox="1102 1312 1238 1357">SR</td> <td data-bbox="1238 1312 1407 1357">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="459 1357 651 1473">Bulgaria</td> <td data-bbox="651 1357 826 1473">-</td> <td data-bbox="826 1357 954 1473">X</td> <td data-bbox="954 1357 1102 1473">41P? 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12F+27P+2 other	SR	1	Cyprus	A(12/2009)	X	6F, 5C, 3P, 2O	GR	-	Czech Republic	A(05/2010)	X	11 C/F	SR/GR	1	Denmark*	A(11/2009)	X	12 F, 2P, 2 Overall	SR/Auditee	1	Estonia	-	-	4P	SR	-	Finland	-	X	3P, 3F	SR	-	France	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	Germany	P(01/2009)	-	72**	SR/Auditee	2	Greece	-	X	8F	GR	-	Hungary	A (10/2010)	X	2F, 3 P	SR/GR	2	Ireland	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM
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	Italy	A(12/2009)	-	1 C+O, 6 C+P	SR	-
	Latvia	O (10/2010)	-	2C+P	SR	1
	Lithuania	P(01/2010)	-	1C+P	SR	1
	Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-
	Malta**	-	X	1 F, 2 P	SR/GR	-
	Netherlands	A(02/2010)	-	2F, 1C, 1C+P, 1C+O+P, 2 Overall	SR	1
	Poland***	-	-	17F+C+P	SR/GR	5
	Portugal	-	X	7C+P, 3P	SR/GR	1
	Romania****	-	Yes	12F, 3C, 4 O	GR/AUDIT EE	-
	Slovak Republic	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM
	Slovenia	O((07/2010)	X	3P, 2O+P, 1C+P	SR	3
	Spain	-	-	9 C+O+P <sup>1</sup>	SR/GR	-
	Sweden	-	X	1P	SR/GR	-
	United Kingdom	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM
<b><i>Candidate countries</i></b>						
	Croatia	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM
	FYR of Macedonia	-	-	2P	GR	2P
	Turkey	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM
<p>* Note that the number of activities is the sum of 2 full years of audits (2009 and 2010).</p> <p>** All audits with an EU angle, so not strictly EU related.</p> <p>*** May be subject to change by the end of the year.</p> <p>**** All audits are performed in terms of fulfilling the tasks set out in European regulations for the audit authority: compliance audit, financial audit means system audit + audit of operations.</p> <p><sup>1</sup> Audits of the Spanish Court of Audit in 2009 and 2010 that deal, jointly, with the management of national and EU funds by national authorities</p>						
<b><i>Legend</i></b>						

Symbol	Explanation
Column 1	
A	Overall EU report published annually
O	Overall EU report published once
P	Overall EU report published periodically
F	(Intends to) study feasibility of overall report in near future
Column 3	
F	Financial audit (combination with other types of audit is possible)
C	Compliance audit (combination with other types of audit is possible)
O	Operational audit (combination with other types of audit is possible)
P	Performance audit (combination with other types of audit is possible)
Overall	Overall EU report type of audit (combination with other types of audit is possible)
Other	Other type of audit (combination with other types of audit is possible)
Column 4	
SR	Results published in separate report
GR	Results integrated in more general report
Auditee	Results only made available to auditee
General	
X	Yes
-	No/not applicable

Name of WG	<b>Working Group on Activities on Value Added Tax</b>
<b>Purpose/Mandate</b>	<p>Forum for the exchange of experiences about functioning of the VAT system in the EU with special interest in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring Developments in the area of VAT</li> <li>• Administrative cooperation among member states</li> <li>• Measuring VAT loss due to fraud and assessing effectiveness of anti fraud policies</li> <li>• Tackling intra-community VAT Fraud</li> <li>• Promoting cooperation on VAT audit</li> </ul>
<b>Status/Outcome/ Results in 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Group 1 Report on VAT GAP indicators</li> <li>• Core Group 2 Report on the evolution of an Anti VAT Fraud Strategy at EU level and risk management in the field of registration of new traders for VAT purposes</li> </ul>
<b>Links to relevant working group reports/ documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Group 1 Reports on measuring VAT GAP</li> <li>• Core Group 2 Reports on the current state of play on the preparation of an Anti VAT Fraud Strategy at EU level</li> </ul>
<b>Activities this year (meetings etc.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Group 1: network consultation on draft report on VAT GAP indicators by chairman (SAI IT)</li> <li>• Core Group 2: Meetings in Bonn in January 2010 and Budapest in June, chaired by the SAI DE</li> <li>• Steering Committee meeting in September 2010 in Luxembourg</li> </ul>
<b>Working group members and observers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom</li> <li>• Observers: Greece, European Court of Auditors</li> </ul>
<b>Name of contact person/chair of working group</b>	<p>Chairmanship of Working Group is on a rotational basis. With effect from October 2010, after the Contact Committee Meeting, the Chair of the Working Group will be the SAI of Hungary, taking over from the European Court of Auditors.</p> <p>Ms. Mária Vörös - State Audit Office of Hungary – Chair of Working Group (to be confirmed).</p>
<b>Activity Plan for 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To continue its work on identifying appropriate indicators to monitor trends in VAT gap/evasion/fraud and reviewing and</li> </ul>



assessing methodologies and requirements to measure results of policies aimed at fighting against VAT fraud

- To discuss the estimates and the underlying revised methodology and assumptions made by Reckon in its final report
- To continue to observe the evolution of an EU anti-fraud strategy and, where possible, to submit its own proposals on how to improve the fight against VAT Fraud
- To identify other areas and players working in the field of VAT as well as other initiatives by the Commission (such as risk management) in order to establish a comprehensive picture in the European Union
- To suggest that SAIs plan parallel audits to evaluate methodologies adopted by Member States to estimate the hidden economy and tax evasion/fraud
- To make the Core Group Reports available on the restricted CIRCA site and, where appropriate, communicate them to the relevant national administrations
- To present the findings at the next VAT Working Group meeting in 2011

Name of WG	<p align="center"><b>Contact Committee Working Group on</b></p> <p align="center"><b>"Common Auditing Standards and Comparable Audit Criteria</b></p> <p align="center"><b>based on internationally recognized auditing standards, tailored to</b></p> <p align="center"><b>the EU area"</b></p>
Purpose/Mandate	<p>The Working Group's objective is to provide EU SAIs with information and illustrative examples on the application of international auditing standards related to the EU specificities allowing them to further develop concrete co-operation in the field of EU funds auditing.</p>
Status/Outcome/Results in 2010	<p>The Working Group is delivering its final results to the Contact Committee meeting at its meeting of 18-19 October 2010. Together with a final report and a draft resolution, three documents, each sharing a common preamble, are presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Information on SAI practices in auditing EU funds/policies within the framework of INTOSAI Standards – regarding SAIs mandates and audit activities in the EU field - the results of a Mapping Exercise;</li> <li>b) Information on SAIs practices in Auditing EU funds/policies within the framework of INTOSAI Standards - regarding Compliance Audit;</li> <li>c) Information on SAIs practices in Auditing EU funds/policies within the framework of INTOSAI Standards - regarding Performance Audit.</li> </ul>
Links to relevant working group reports/ documents	<p>Working Group on National Reports in the field of EU (presided by the Dutch SAI).</p> <p>Working Group on the Audit of Structural Funds (presided by the German SAI)</p> <p>ISSAIs and ISAs</p>
Activities this year (meetings etc.)	<p>In 2010, the Contact Committee Working Group has held one meeting on 3-4 May 2010, hosted by the ECA.</p>
Working group members and observers	<p>SAIs from Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom and the ECA.</p>
Name of contact person/chair of working group	<p>Name of contact person: Christophe Perron (<a href="mailto:Christophe.Perron@eca.europa.eu">Christophe.Perron@eca.europa.eu</a>)</p> <p>Chair of Working Group: Mr. Ioannis SARMAS, Member ECA.</p>

<b>Activity Plan for 2011</b>	The draft resolution to be examined by the Contact Committee on 18-19 October provides for the dissolution of the Working Group, which has delivered its final products.
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<b>Name of WG</b>	<b>Joint Working Group on Audit Activities (JWGAA)</b>
<b>Purpose/Mandate</b>	<p>Originally a Candidate Countries Working Group set up to promote and facilitate small-scale, practical, hands-on co-operation between Candidate Country and EU Member State SAIs the (renamed) Joint Working Group on Audit Activities (JWGAA) was established in 2002.</p> <p>The 2004 Contact Committee confirmed the JWGAA as a key element of the post -May 2004 EU enlargement framework with a mandate to contribute to maintaining the working links and co-operation between the SAIs of the Contact Committee and the Presidents' Network (Candidate and potential-Candidate countries).</p> <p>The JWGAA Chair provides the Contact Committee with an annual report on the level and nature of all small scale audit activities.</p>
<b>Status/Outcome/ Results in 2010</b>	<p><b>Follow-up Workshop on audit and evaluation of the Public Internal Financial Control (PIFC) Systems:</b> hosted by the SAI of Bosnia and Herzegovina in February 2010. The objective was to promote development of PIFC systems and to build on the technical discussions held at the first workshop (Ankara, 2008). The workshop in particular aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and practical experiences of current audit practices from audit planning to audit reporting on internal control systems in the participant SAIs. The workshop was held with technical, logistical and financial assistance by Sigma together with support from the ECA.</p> <p><b>Annual Activity Report for the Contact Committee:</b> Monitoring bi-/multilateral audit activities (ongoing) and compiling the annual report for presentation in Luxembourg.</p>
<b>Links to relevant working group reports/ documents</b>	<a href="http://www.contactcommittee.eu">http://www.contactcommittee.eu</a>
<b>Activities this year (meetings etc.)</b>	<p>Brainstorming meeting of Presidents' Network Liaison Officers concerning the future development of the Network (January 2010; Paris): attended by the JWGAA chair.</p> <p>Meeting of the Liaison Officers (April 2010, Prague): attended by the JWGAA Chair</p> <p>Preparatory meeting of President Network's Liaison Officer Troika concerning the preparation of the Meeting of Presidents' Network HoSAIs (October 2010, Paris): attended by JWGAA Chair</p> <p>Other activities were largely carried out by e-mail.</p>
<b>Working group members and observers</b>	<p><b>Full JWGAA</b> All SAIs from the Contact Committee and the Presidents' Network plus Sigma</p> <p><b>Core Group</b> SAIs of United Kingdom (stepping down Chair), the Czech Republic and</p>

	Romania (new co-Chairs), France, Hungary, and the European Court of Auditors <i>plus</i> Sigma
<b>Name of contact person/chair of working group*</b>	<p><b>Mr Dragos Budulac, SAI of Romania</b> (co-chair)  Email: dragos.budulac@rcc.ro; Tel: +40213078716; Fax: +40213078875</p> <p><b>Mr Radek Majer, SAI of the Czech Republic</b> (co-chair)  Email: radek.majer@nku.cz; Tel: +420233045176; Fax: +420233044176</p>
<b>Activity Plan for 2011</b>	<p>Maintain contacts with and support to the Network by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inputting to Presidents' Network Liaison Officers' meetings;</li> <li>• contributing to further development of the Network Activity Plan;</li> <li>• assisting with the design of activities and ensuring proper account is taken of the important lessons-to-be-learned from previous activities;</li> <li>• facilitating CC support to specific Network meetings, projects or initiatives (for example Meeting of the Presidents' Network (March 2011, Ankara, Turkey)</li> <li>• Report to the 2011 Contact Committee (to be held in Luxembourg)</li> </ul>

Name of WG	Updating Group on Public Procurement
<b>Purpose/Mandate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To update the text of the <i>Guide on EU procurement rules</i> taking into regard the new thresholds, new legislation and recent jurisprudence;</li> <li>- To update the jurisprudence by the Court of Justice, whereby the judgments rendered in the period 2007-2009 will be inserted in the annexe of the Guide;</li> <li>- To interlink the documents formerly produced by updating cross-references between them;</li> <li>- To hold a seminar, targeted to public procurement auditors, with the goal of disseminating and testing the documents already produced;</li> <li>- To replicate this seminar, under request of interested national SAIs to bring to their auditors the available tools and experience;</li> <li>- To prepare an attractive and easy-to-use booklet with the documents to be delivered through SAIs and seminars;</li> <li>- To describe attributes of the database on public procurement and cooperate with the website administrator concerning its launching.</li> </ul>
<b>Status/Outcome/Results in 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The text of the <i>Guide on EU procurement rules</i> has been updated, taking into regard the new thresholds, new legislation and recent jurisprudence;</li> <li>- The jurisprudence by the Court of Justice has been updated, whereby the judgments rendered in the period 2007-2009 were inserted in the annexe of the Guide;</li> <li>- A seminar will be held in Lisbon on 14 and 15 October 2010, targeted to public procurement auditors, with the goal of disseminating and testing the documents already produced;</li> <li>- It has been agreed to replicate this seminar, under request of interested national SAIs to bring to their auditors the available tools and experience;</li> <li>- An attractive and easy-to-use booklet with the documents to be delivered through SAIs and seminars will be produced and will be available at the moment of the seminar in Lisbon on 14 and 15 October 2010.</li> </ul>
<b>Links to relevant working group reports/ documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- none</li> </ul>
<b>Activities this year (meetings etc.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The three task groups have held meetings in 2010. The Portuguese SAI has prepared the seminar to be held in October 2010.</li> </ul>
<b>Working group members and observers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SAIs of Portugal, Slovenia, Belgium, Germany, Cyprus, Czech Republic</li> </ul>

<b>Name of contact person/chair of working group</b>	– Belgian and Slovenian SAI act as co-Chair of the UGPP
<b>Activity Plan for 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– To finalise the updating activities of the updating group</li> <li>– To replicate the seminar, under request of interested national SAIs to bring to their auditors the available tools and experience</li> <li>– To continue the collaboration with the website administrator regarding the new structure of the database on public procurement</li> </ul>