

Minutes of the PEMPAL TCOP Leadership Group meeting, June 2nd, 2011.

TCOP Leadership Group held a video conference meeting on June 22th, 2011.

The meeting was attended by: Vugar Abdulayev (Ministry of Finance, Azerbaijan), David Tsekvava (Ministry of Finance, Georgia), Zaifun Yernazarova (Ministry of Finance, Kazakhstan), Lulzim Ismajly (Ministry of Finance, Kosovo), Arijeta Neziraj (Ministry of Finance, Kosovo), Angela Voronin (Ministry of Finance, Moldova), Denis Bakeev (Ministry of Finance, Moldova), Rustam Boboev (Ministry of Finance, Tajikistan), Natalia Sushko (State Treasury, Ukraine), Liudmila Voroshkevici (State Treasury, Ukraine), Elena Nikulina (WB TTL), Ion Chicu (TCoP resource person), Senca Maver (CEF, Slovenia), Tina Zagar (CEF, Slovenia).

Objectives of the meeting:

1. Discussions on the preparatory activities related to Astana TCoP workshop, devoted to use of information systems in treasury operations.
2. Participation of TCoP representatives to the PEMPAL Cross CoPs leadership meeting in Bern, Switzerland, (July, 6-8th, 2011.)

1. Preparation of TCOP workshop in Astana

As TCoP Leadership Group decided in April 2011 in Ljubljana, a full workshop devoted to the topic “Information security policies and related legal framework. Identification & evaluation of Risks and defining control activities related to Treasury systems (FMIS)”, will be organized in September, 2011, in Astana, Kazakhstan. During the videoconference, TCoP leaders have set the final dates of the event and decided that a three days workshop will be organized in September 27-29th, 2011.

The topic proposed for the workshop is quite complex, and TCoP Leadership Group had to decide on the approach for organizing the discussions: (i) to discuss more issues on a less detailed level, or (ii) to have more detailed discussions around a smaller number of issues, related to the main topic of the workshop. All videoconference participants opted for the second approach, proposing to have more detailed discussions on the questions of high professional interest for them.

Also, TCoP leaders agreed that Astana workshop must not focus the discussions only to the IT matters, but should go beyond that, extending discussions on the other questions of high interest for treasury specialists.

Participants to the videoconference have proposed a number of specific issues to be discussed during Astana workshop:

- Current control activities and evaluation of risks related to treasury systems (**Zaifun Ernazarova, Angela Voronin, Lulzim Ismajly, Natalia Sushko**);
- Integration of the finance management information systems (FMIS) with external systems, and, also, with the specific information modules, including those which support accounting and reporting, asset accounting, salaries, etc. (**Vugar Abdulayev, Rustam Boboev, Angela Voronin, Natalia Sushko**);
- Information security issues in treasury systems (**Rustam Boboev**);
- FMIS users administrations (**Angela Voronin**);
- Converting existing treasury information systems on WEB interfaces (**Lulzim Ismajly**);
- Training of specialists in the area of IPSAS implementation (**Natalia Sushko**);
- Security information solutions for ensuring the control in treasury systems and preventing financial crimes (**Vugar Abdulayev**);
- Information solutions for supporting public sector accounting reforms (the majority of participants).

Considering the workshop timeframe limitations, the meeting participants agreed to select the following two main topics for Astana:

1. Integration of the finance management information systems (FMIS) with external systems, and, also, with the specific information modules

A special member survey will be performed in order to find out the most successful cases of integration of the treasury information systems with external information modules. The video conference participants agreed to jointly develop this questionnaire. Their proposals related to survey content will be provided by **August 1st, 2011**

Georgia and Kosovo representatives expressed the readiness to present at the workshop the experience of their countries in the area of treasury integration of information systems with concrete external information modules.

Within the framework of this topic will be addressed, also, the issues related to information solutions for supporting public sector accounting reforms.

The discussions on this topic will also cover the information security issues related to treasury operations.

2. Risk assessment and current control activities within treasury systems

The meeting participants expressed their interest to discuss during the workshop, the issues related to the use of information systems for ensuring the current control in treasury activities, and for the evaluation of risks related to treasury systems.

Specific questions to be discussed on this topic will be defined in the process of further preparation of Astana workshop. This thematic block can be enclosed in the scope of member survey, which will be performed in the process of workshop preparation.

During Astana workshop, TCoP members will have the opportunity to visit the MoF Training Center and to study the experience of Kazakhstan in training the specialists for public finance sector.

Participating countries will have the possibility to have thematic bilateral meetings during their visit in Astana. In order to identify the concrete topics for bilateral discussions, and to ensure enough time for their preparation, the videoconference attendees agreed to provide their proposals by **August 1st, 2011**.

Based on the decisions taken at the videoconference of TCoP Leadership Group, the Astana workshop Concept will be developed by **June, 25th, 2011**.

Additional discussions for Astana workshop preparation, will be held during the TCoP Leadership Group meeting in Bern, Switzerland.

II. Participation of TCoP representatives to the PEMPAL Cross CoPs leadership meeting in Bern, Switzerland

During the videoconference TCoP leaders discussed the draft Concept and preliminary Agenda of PEMPAL Cross CoPs leadership meeting. Meeting attendees expressed their interest for the suggested issues for discussions during Bern event, and accepted the proposed draft concept and agenda.

TCoP leaders defined, also, the list of specific questions which will be discussed in Bern within the treasury group. Astana workshop preparation and the launching of Tbilisi workshop (scheduled for mid November, 2011) preparatory activities will be discussed during the separate TCoP leadership meetings.

Considering the time limitations of the Cross meeting agenda, and TCoP need to have more discussions on community's specific questions, videoconference participants agreed on the necessity to allocate additional time for discussions in Bern within treasury leadership group. In this regard, an additional meeting of TCoP leaders will be organized on **Tuesday (July 5th)** afternoon.

Main conclusions of the TCOP Leadership Group meeting:

- TCoP workshop devoted to discussions on use of information systems in treasury operations will be hold in September 27-29th, 2011, un Astana, Kazakhstan;
- TCoP leaders proposed a large number of issues to be discussed during Astana workshop, but considering the event timeframe limitations, two main topics for discussions have been selected: (i)Integration of the finance management information systems (FMIS) with external systems, and, also, with the specific information modules, (ii) Current control activities and evaluation of risks related to treasury systems;
- A special thematic survey will be performed before Astana workshop, in order to assess the existing situation in the area of using information systems in member countries treasuries;
- TCoP successful experience of presenting relevant country cases will be continued at the Astana workshop;
- Based on the decisions taken at this meeting, the Astana workshop Concept will be developed by June, 25th, 2011;
- Additional preparatory discussions for the workshop in Astana will be held during the TCoP Leadership Group meeting in Bern;
- TCoP leadership group members examined and accepted the draft Concept and Agenda of the Cross PEMPAL CoPs Leadership meeting in Bern;
- Videoconference participants agreed on the list of questions to be discussed during the Cross PEMPAL CoPs meeting in Bern, including those related to the organization of TCoP workshop in Tbilisi, scheduled for November, 2011;
- Ion Chicu will prepare and circulate the minutes of the leadership group meeting, by June 15th.