



12 September 2016

Update to EPSAS Working Group members and observers

Dear Members of the EPSAS Working Group,

We would like to inform you on some recent developments and forthcoming meetings.

- As you know, the second meeting of the Working Group on EPSAS took place on 7-8 July 2016, hosted by the CNoCP (*Conseil de normalisation des comptes publics*), in Paris. All working documents and presentations are available on our circabc site:
<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/8b9f731d-4826-4708-9069-5f65a9edc9bf>
- An EPSAS seminar was organised on 14 July 2016 for the Members of the Sub-Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Financial Committee (EFC-SCS). This seminar was an information session, following-up the EPSAS seminar for the EFC-SCS organised in early 2015. For more information please see the separate email that was sent to the Working Group delegates and observers on the 25 July 2016.
- Following the Call for Tenders launched in 2015, an interim technical report was received on 10 May 2016. Apart from the three issue papers that were presented at the above mentioned Working Group meeting, the first drafts of two additional papers on heritage assets and employee benefits (pensions) are under review and work is underway on three additional papers - social benefits, infrastructure assets and segment reporting. Two further issues papers will be confirmed shortly. Work is also progressing on the second task of the contract, namely collecting additional and updated information related to the potential impacts of implementing accruals accounting in the public sector.
- A further Call for Tenders was launched on 19 April 2016, for support for the development of harmonised European public sector accounting standards and analysis to support the implementation of EPSAS. The tender procedure is ongoing.
- Following the Progress Report presented by the Cell on Principles related to EPSAS Standards to the EPSAS Working Group in July, the next meeting of the Cell is taking place in Luxembourg on 30 September 2016. The Cell has compiled an overview table comparing the approaches taken to accounting principles in place in the different Cell member countries with the IPSAS qualitative characteristics. This overview table should serve as the starting point for the discussion.

- The Cell on Principles underlying EPSAS Governance presented its Interim Report to the Working Group in July. The next meeting of the Cell will be held in Luxembourg on 6 October 2016 with the aim of preparing the final draft of the Report taking into account the comments received. The final draft is planned to be presented at the next Working Group meeting.
- The draft Final Report of the Cell on First Time Implementation was presented to the Working Group meeting on 7-8 July 2016, for discussion. As planned, the Cell will continue its work with the glossary of terms but also consider the comments received from the WG participants in order to finalise the guidance. The next meeting of the Cell will take place in Luxembourg on 5 October 2016.
- Task Force EPSAS strongly supports academic work being carried out or planned with regard to accruals-based public sector accounting in the EU. In this regard two general notes of support were made available on our website:

Academic modules on accrual-based public sector accounting in the EU, 29 March 2016
<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/36eace28-238b-44c9-b6e2-ed7c867ab495>

Academic research on accruals-based public sector accounting in the EU, 25 April 2016
<https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/ec3ee112-d35a-4f31-9f1e-66feb6eb8c20>
- At the request of the German Bundesrechnungshof, we are enclosing for your information a copy of a Resolution of the Presidents of the German Courts of Audit, which was provided to President Juncker, alongside the Commission reply on behalf of the President. We are making available the original Resolution in German, together with a translation into English provided by the Bundesrechnungshof. Equally, we are providing a translation of the Commission reply into English.
- As of 1 September 2016 two new colleagues have joined TF EPSAS: Ms Livia Straková, from the Slovak public sector, and Mr Peeter Leetmaa, from Eurostat's GFS Directorate. We are pleased to welcome both new colleagues.
- The third meeting of the Working Group on EPSAS has been scheduled for 22-23 November 2016, hosted by the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Italy, in Rome. Formal confirmation and invitations will follow in due course.