

Concept note
for the study visit of the TCOP representatives
to the Ministry of Finance of Turkey

Location: Ankara, Turkey

Dates: November 19–21, 2013

Background

The main objective of PEMPAL program is to strengthen professional skills of public finance specialists in the member countries and support them in implementing various aspects of reforms of their national PFM systems. The main tools used by the program to achieve this objective are exchange of experiences and knowledge transfer among the practitioners.

PEMPAL Treasury Community of Practice (TCOP) has identified several themes of priority interest for its members. One of the themes of high interest for TCOP members is the use of information technologies in the treasury systems. Most TCOP countries are in the process of development of their treasury information systems and many of them are either considering or already moving towards expanding their functionality and creating integrated financial management information systems. Implementation of modern information systems within the treasuries of member countries, contribution and use of such systems in promoting different reforms in the area of public finance management, as well as their integration with other information systems used by public authorities, are therefore topics of priority attention and interest in TCOP activities.

One of the formats of activities used within TCOP for sharing successful experiences of particular countries in specific areas is study visits of interested members to those countries. The Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan proposed to organize a study visit to the Ministry of Finance of Turkey, in order to get familiar with this country's experience in reforming various dimensions of public finance management, with the main focus on Turkey experience in using information technologies in PFM.

The TCOP Executive Committee has included the study visit to the Ministry of Finance of Turkey in the TCOP Activity Plan for 2013-2015, with the planned dates of November 19-21st, 2013. Besides the Tajik delegation, representatives from 6 other TCOP member countries (Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Moldova) will join the study visit.

Objectives

The main objective of the visit is to introduce to TCOP representatives the fundamentals of PFM system of Turkey, and to offer them an opportunity to get familiar with the information system used by the Government agencies of Turkey for public finance management (GBS.NET). It is expected that participants from Tajikistan and other attending countries will receive comprehensive information related to the budgetary process of Turkey, as well as to the use of GBS.NET at various stages of this process.

Content

The above objectives were formulated taking into account the specific request of the country that initiated the study visit (Tajikistan), as well as the expected profile of the participants. The group is expected to combine PFM specialists (predominantly from Tajikistan) and IT specialists (from all the participating countries). To respond to professional interests of the specialists involved, it is planned to split the participants in two groups: one of the groups will focus its activities predominantly on familiarization with functional aspects of PFM system, while the second one will study in depth the hosts' experience in using information technologies for PFM. The agenda of the study visit will combine plenary sessions attended by both groups, with parallel sessions on the topics of priority interest for each of the groups.

The event agenda envisages a number of meetings with representatives of the Treasury and various departments of the Ministry of Finance of Turkey. The study visit participants will be informed about the country administrative structure, budget planning and execution processes, public sector accounting, reporting, auditing practices, etc.

Particular attention will be paid to the process of automation of PFM activities, and following aspects will be addressed during the visit:

- a) Existing IT systems applied in PFM process;
- b) Existing technological solutions for ensuring the functioning of IT systems in Turkey;
- c) Familiarization with additional functionalities of IT system SGB.NET and identification of additional modules for their gradual implementation in Tajikistan;
- d) Technical characteristics of IT system SGB.NET with regard to security of information and working capacity within the Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan;
- e) IT systems integration and data exchanging procedures

The group focused on IT topic will devote the first half of the 3rd day to discussions on the creation within the TCOP of the thematic group devoted to the topic of the use of information technologies in treasury operations.

It is expected that the number of participants to the study visit will not exceed 30 persons, including about 15 specialists from the Treasury IT departments from several TCOP countries, and 15 representatives of various departments of the Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan. The working languages for the event will be English and Russian, using simultaneous or parallel interpretation. The draft agenda of this three day study visit is presented below.

Preliminary agenda:

<u>The Group on PFM general issues</u>	<u>The Group on IT issues</u>
19.11.2013 – morning sessions	
<u>Greeting of the participants of study tour (joint session)</u>	
General administrative structure. Public Financial Management process cycle at a glance (covering budget preparation & execution)	General review of SGB.NET platforms and modules. Optimization of Web applications.

Strategic planning	Functional structure of SGB.NET IT system
19.11.2013 - afternoon sessions	
Visit to the Ministry of Development: The 10 th five-years Development Plan (emphasizing program budgeting) and Investment Budgeting	Technical infrastructure of SGB.NET Discussions on Web applications optimization, use of digital signature and security
20.11.2013 - morning sessions	
Proposal on program budgeting module (joint session)	
SGB.net modules (strategic planning, budget preparation, budget execution, performance management, personnel management, asset management, budget coding structure, UCoA structure, integration with other systems, etc.) – PART 1 (joint session)	
20.11.2013 - afternoon sessions	
SGB.net modules (strategic planning, budget preparation, budget execution, performance management, personnel management, asset management, budget coding structure, UCoA structure, integration with other systems, etc.) – PART 2 (joint session)	
Visit to Parliament (parliament operations), approval cycle	Implementation of the system on resolving problems and incidents
21.11.2013-morning sessions	
Final accounts and accountability reporting	Planning of IT thematic group activities
21.11.2013-afternoon session	
Questions & Answers, closing (joint session)	