

## Concept note

### PEMPAL TCOP thematic group meeting on Use of Information Technologies in Treasury Operations

**Location:** Minsk, Belarus

**Dates:** October 15-17, 2014

#### **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.

One of the themes of priority interest for the members of PEMPAL Treasury COP (TCOP) is use of information technologies for treasury operations. 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 for supporting different aspects of PFM reforms, as well as their integration with other information systems used by public authorities are therefore topics that appear regularly in the agendas of TCOP events.

Over the recent years, TCOP had several plenary meetings devoted to these topics. Plenary workshops held in Chisinau (2010) and Astana (2011) offered to TCOP members good opportunities to improve their knowledge and share experience in various aspects of applying IT for public finance management. Besides the events exclusively devoted to this topic, agendas of several other TCOP meetings covered IT issues. During the meetings held in 2012 in Tbilisi, Moscow and Baku live demonstrations of operations of financial management information systems of the hosting countries took place.

Use of information technologies in treasury operations continues to be a topic of high interest for TCOP members. Since 2013 a new approach in addressing this topic was applied within TCOP by establishing a dedicated thematic group, enabling deeper and more regular discussions on specific issues related to use of information technologies in treasury operations for the interested members. The group comprising 11 TCOP countries held its first event (videoconference) in October 2013, when the group's

Action Plan has been developed. During the November 2013 study visit to Ankara, Turkey, the group members had the opportunity to get familiar with the PFM information system used in this country. On July 2014 a videoconference devoted to experience of Russian Federation in implementing the treasury modernization project was organized. Experience of implementation of FMIS projects is one of priority topics for discussion with the thematic group. A face-to-face meeting of the group devoted to this topic was included in the Action Plan and will be held on October 15-17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Minsk, Belarus. The Ministry of Finance of Belarus is planning to launch a project on the treasury information system modernization in the nearest future and has a strong interest to learn from the peers that have relevant experience.

## **Objectives**

The main objective of the Minsk meeting of the TCOP thematic group on use of information technologies in treasury operations is to offer an opportunity to its members to deepen their knowledge on selected aspects of FMIS projects implementation. The participants will have an opportunity to learn from the presentations delivered by international experts, as well as from country cases presented by the members during the meeting.

## **Contents**

The agenda of the meeting will be structured around selected issues of interest for the thematic group members identified through several rounds of discussions within the group (see annex 1 for the list of issues for discussion proposed by the members).

Following the tradition of TCOP meetings and based on agreements reached with the hosts of the event, the meeting will start with an overview of the PFM system of Belarus, followed by an overview of the existing financial management information system currently used by the MoF and the plans for its modernization. Belarus system was developed ‘in house’ more than 10 years ago and its functionality supports primarily budget execution through the treasury system. The software platform on which the system was developed is outdated. The Ministry is interested to expand the system functionality beyond the treasury functions and move to a modern software platform. Conceptual vision for the new system has been recently developed and will be presented at the meeting. The first day of the meeting will finish with a group discussion session on the hosting country experience and plans.

Most of the second day will be devoted to presentations by experts and members on selected implementation issues. Cem Dener, the lead FMIS specialist from the World Bank will provide an overview of the World Bank experience in supporting FMIS projects around the globe and lessons learnt. Representatives of the Russian

Federation and Azerbaijan will be invited to share their countries' experience in modernizing the treasury information systems.

The agenda of day 2 also envisages group discussions on the issues covered by the presenters.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the event will start with the reports on the group discussions held the day before. Afterwards, the group will discuss opportunities for collaboration with the global FMIS CoP led by Cem Dener and supported by the World Bank and how this could help to implement the group activity plan.

Permanent members of the group from 11 member countries will be invited to the meeting in Minsk. The total number of participants expected is around 35, including experts and around 10 representatives of the hosting country. The format of the meeting will be very informal and aimed at stimulating debate and encouraging participation by country representatives. The working languages for the event will be Russian and English, using simultaneous interpretation.

The event preparation and implementation will be facilitated by the World Bank resource team working with the TCOP, including Elena Nikulina, Team Leader for the PEMPAL program, Ion Chicu, PEMPAL Operations Adviser, and Yelena Slizhevskaya, the World Bank consultant.

## PRELIMINARY AGENDA OF THE MINSK MEETING

### **October 15, 2014<sup>1</sup>**

Day 1, morning

#### Session 1.

Introductions, welcome, etc.

#### Session 2.

Presentations by the hosting country:

- Belarus budget system: budget planning and execution,
- existing treasury information system,
- the Concept of the new FMIS

Day 1, afternoon

#### Session 3.

Presentation by the hosting country continued:

- Developing the information-analytical system of the Ministry of Finance,
- processes of development and maintenance of information systems of the Ministry of Finance,
- live demonstration of the payment processing within the treasury system of Belarus

#### Session 4

Round table discussions on the hosting country experience

### **October 16, 2014**

Day 2, morning

#### Session 5

FMIS implementation experience: global prospective. Presentation of Cem Dener, the World Bank

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<sup>1</sup> The agenda for day 1 is drafted based on the hosts' suggestions.

Session 6.

Experience in implementing treasury modernization projects: Country cases

Day 2, afternoon

Session 7

Experience in implementing treasury modernization projects: Country cases  
(continued)

Session 8

Small group discussion session on FMIS projects implementation experience

**October 17, 2014**

Day 3, morning

Session 9.

Reports on the group discussions

Session 10

Presentation on global FMIS CoP experience – Cem Dener, The World Bank

Day 3, afternoon

Session 11

Discussion on future work plans

Meeting closure

## Annex 1

### Suggestions for topics to be discussed in Minsk

1	Overview of the best practices in implementing (PFM)information systems in PEMPAL countries and other economically developed countries
2	Web-systems security issues
3	IT-Audit implementation
4	Implementation and maintaining of the system of network security
5	Organization of system of backup and restoration of databases
6	Will it be possible to visit the Central Operational Department?
7	Implementation and management of Data Warehouse.
8	Document Management System
9	CRM (Customer relationship management) module/system implementation for Treasury System.
10	Mechanisms of IT Audit.
11	The best strategies/practices regarding to the integrated financial systems maintenance/support and their developments in conditions of new functional requirements changes
12	Web Portal option for accessing the treasury system for budgetary institutions. Ways of implantations.
13	Budget revenue module (income from services by the budgetary institutions, other non-tax revenues and their distribution between budgets
14	Accounting modules
15	Methodologies used for development management (Agile, Scrum, Waterfall) and why are they used?
16	Method used for communication with the stakeholders by IT managers. For Example : Process of receiving new requirement, handling the requirement, starting the work on the requirement...
17	Which tools are used for managing development process (TFS, JIRA,JAZZ HUBB...) and why did they choose these tools?
18	Types of tests executed before the system launch (Stress Testing, Regress Testing, Acceptance testing) Which tools are used to perform the tests? Who performs the testing? How is testing planned? How is the results of the tests handled?

19	Which functions will be covered by new treasury system
20	Final stage of the system implementation : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- training of users;</li> <li>- launching stages;</li> <li>- system supporting plan</li> </ul>
21	Role and functions of Treasury system in the Electronic government system
22	Electronic document flow in Treasury and in the budgetary institutions
23	Electronic budget: planning, execution, reporting
24	Budget for citizens
25	Service of off-budget institutions
26	Quality Assurance principles
27	The principles of calculating TCIP&TCOP (Total cost of implementation & Total cost of ownership)
28	Organization of technical maintenance after the project implementation
29	How to build the Change Request Management after the project implementation