

Terms of Reference for the EUROSAI Project Group on Benefits and Methodologies of Real Time Audit

1. General provisions

1.1 Name of the Project Group:

Project Group on Benefits and Methodologies of Real Time Audit

1.2 Background and objective of the Project Group/Network:

Background

The group's activity started with the idea that Real Time Audit has been developed at different times and is implemented in various ways in different Supreme Audit Institutions. Some SAIs do not carry out Real Time Audit at all – but a common ground can be identified in the different approaches.

A kick-off meeting of the PG took place in May 2023, where a common interest in implementing the concept of Real Time Audit led the participants to take stock of the situation regarding the use of Real Time Audit among European SAIs, by launching a survey.

The survey met with a good level of participation within the EUROSAI Community and what emerged is that in most cases SAIs have developed – or are developing - their own methodology, and that their approach refers to specific/narrow measures that are still ongoing. Indeed, this approach may be used to assess the impact of a measure in a short time to provide facts/opinions to stakeholders when the issue is still current or to monitor an ongoing specific plan/project to stimulate corrective measures by the auditee. This can prevent mismanagement of public resources and avoid wasting public money and time.

The results of the survey were discussed during the Project Group on the BMRTA meeting, held in Budapest on 4th and 5th of June 2024.

Objective

Overall objective

Promoting innovative approaches in audits by sharing knowledge and identifying best practices

Specific objective

- Elaborating a non-paper which identifies principles and characteristics of real-time.
- Continuing sharing experiences among the participants through BIEP Platform and meetings to define best practices.
- Elaborating a shared methodology with common indicators including RTA on Public key infrastructure (PKI).
- Evaluating the implementation of a parallel audit on topics of common interest.

1.3 Link with EUROSAI Strategic Plan

1.3.1. Strategic Goal / portfolio to which is linked:

This Project Group is directly related to the Strategic Goal of supporting and facilitating professional cooperation among SAIs by sharing new audit approaches promoting cooperative audits.

1.3.2. No duplication or overlaps with other activities of the EUROSAI Strategic Plan:

No duplication nor overlaps have been identified; however, a beneficial impact on Strategic Goal No. 2 in terms of professional capacity building and increasing skills and competences could be taken into account.

2. Structural provisions

2.1 Lead SAI(s):

SAI Italy

2.2 Contact person(s):

Mr. Mauro OREFICE (mauro.orefice@corteconti.it; 003906 38762845)

International Affairs Office Team (ufficio.relazioni.internazionali@corteconti.it; 003906 38762653)

2.3 Participants:

The project group is open to all EUROSAI members. Those SAIs that took part in the activity during the period 2023-2024 have been included by default among those interested in participating in the PG.

New interested SAIs should contact the International Affairs Office Team (ufficio.relazioni.internazionali@corteconti.it) if they wish to join or participate in further activities. Anyway, in compliance with the EUROSAI value of inclusiveness, the main results of the Project Group will be shared on Biep platform or optionally disseminated via e-mail to all EUROSAI Members.

3. Technical and procedural provisions

3.1 Intended Results:

- Elaborating an informal document which identifies common principles and characteristics of Real Time Audit.
- Developing a common Methodological Paper/Guide.

- Identifying a topic of common interest to develop a parallel audit and carry it out on a voluntary basis.

3.2 Benefits to EUROSAI Members:

- The possibility to share methodologies and best practices improving the existing Real Time Audits in each Supreme Audit Institution or supporting their establishment and to enhance knowledge-sharing in this field accordingly.
- The opportunity to develop a common methodology also with the aim of carrying out a parallel real time audit.
- The opportunity to explore new channels or regain the traditional ones for the mutual exchange of expertise, experience, and knowledge.

3.3 Duration & Key Milestones:

2024-2027

We would deem it appropriate to agree the timing and key milestones of the intended results (3.1) with the SAIs participating in the activities. The next meeting could be scheduled for the beginning of June, on that occasion, we would set the relevant deadline for the next steps. Unless further developments emerge, the PG should complete its activity by 2027, whether the Project Group continues to serve as a valuable function.

3.4 Working Methods:

e-mail, BIEP (or other) platform, meetings in person and/or videoconferences.

3.5 Necessary Resources:

The Corte dei conti will provide staff to coordinate and carry out the activities.

EUROSAI member SAIs will be asked to give/make their contribution in terms of participation and expertise.

EUROSAI financial contribution could be envisaged for seminars carried out on this issue as foreseen in the EUROSAI Financial Rules (EFR).

3.6 Reference documents and materials:

- EUROSAI Strategic Plan (ESP) 2024-2030
- General Procedures for the ESP 2017-2024

4. Accountability provisions

The Corte dei conti will report as defined in the General Procedures for the EUROSAI Strategic Plan (GP of ESP)