

**Progress Report of the EUROSAI Task Force
on the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes
(for the period of March 2011 - March 2012)**

The EUROSAI Task Force on the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes chaired by the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine, has carried out considerable work since its establishment. Complete report on the results achieved by the Task Force for the period 2008-2011 was presented at the VIII Congress of EUROSAI.

Having assessed the work of the Task Force as successful and useful, the Congress adopted a resolution on extension of the Task Force mandate up to 2014, and authorized it to submit to the EUROSAI Governing Board a new Work Plan for 2012 - 2014.

During the reporting period the Coordinated Parallel Audit on Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution was completed and the report on its findings was signed and presented at the meeting of the EUROSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing.

Also in 2011 the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine provided monitoring of the implementation by Ukraine of the recommendations of the parallel audit of management of public funds and other sources of funding, aimed at regulation, protection, research and reproduction of aquatic biological resources and environmental safety in the Azov-Black Sea fishing basin conducted by the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation and the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine.

This monitoring indicated that the central executive authorities of Ukraine, responsible for governmental policy implementation, which were audited, during the 2011 were taking measures to improve the regulatory and legal framework of their activities. At the same time, risks of lack of coordination in the field of environmental security of the Azov-Black Sea basin remain. However, the proposals for improving the efficiency of management of public funds are still timely.

As a part of the Strategic Goal 2 of the Task Force Work Plan, the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine has developed a second draft of the Good Practice Recommendations for the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes.

The goal of this document is to assist SAIs in improving the quality of audits in the field of prevention and consequences elimination of disasters and catastrophes through selection, compilation and dissemination of best practice of audits in this area.

The Recommendations are based on the results of surveys conducted among the member-SAIs of the Task Force with the purpose to gather information about natural and man-caused catastrophes in Europe, audits conducted in this area and information on methodological groundwork of European auditors and experience of audits in the field of prevention and consequences elimination of disasters and catastrophes, reports presenting results of such audits were included into the relevant database of

natural and man-caused catastrophes in Europe placed on the web site of the Task Force. Currently, the database contains 43 audit report on the subject.

In addition, the materials and presentations presented at the Task Force meetings were gathered and analyzed; documents developed by the UN, international and national organizations that provide insight into the nature of catastrophes and mechanisms of their control were studied. Beside this, the recommendation materials developed by the INTOSAI working groups on environmental audit and accountability for and audit of Disaster-related aid, were studied.

The second draft Good Practice Recommendations for the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes takes note of strict and useful suggestions that clarify the document text provided by the Task Force member-SAIs. In general, 82 proposals and recommendations were provided to and subsequently included into the second draft Recommendations. The resulting proposals and recommendations as a whole confirm the correctness of the chosen document concept and indicate the usefulness and interest of our Task Force member-SAIs in further improvement and implementation.

On March 21-23, 2012, the IV meeting of the EUROSAI Task Force on the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes took place in Wroclaw (Republic of Poland).

During the meeting participants shared their national experiences in the field of funds allocated to prevention and consequences elimination of disasters and catastrophes specially highlighting the criteria for evaluating the efficiency of public funds management within the audit framework and learned the experience of Poland on prevention of floods in river basins.

The Accounting Chamber of Ukraine as the Chair of the EUROSAI Task Force presented performance report covering period after the III meeting (22-23 March 2011, Moscow, the Russian Federation).

During the meeting, the Work Plan of the EUROSAI Task Force on the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes for 2012-2014 was adopted. Work Plan determines the strategic objectives and activities of the Task Force for the period between the VIII and IX EUROSAI Congresses.

Plan stipulates themes of international coordinated and parallel audits most significant for the Task Force members such as audit of the funds allocated to prevention and consequences elimination of disasters and catastrophes; audit of the execution the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River; audit of creation of safe conditions for navigation in the basin of the Black and Azov Seas; audit of funds allocated for the prevention and extinguishing of natural fires; audit of activities for implementation of the policies in the sphere of protection and safety in the coal mining industry; monitoring of implementation of the recommendations of the International Coordinated Audit of the Chernobyl Shelter Fund and other international audits under umbrella of the EUROSAI Task Force.

During the next year it is planned to finalize the draft recommendations of the Good Practice Recommendations for the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and

Catastrophes to be approved at the next EUROSAI Congress. Also, according to the Work Plan, it is planned to continue updating the database of audits of natural and man-caused catastrophes conducted in Europe as well as further elaboration of Glossary of terms on auditing in the area of prevention and consequences elimination of disasters and catastrophes.

Within the framework of the EUROSAI Task Force's activity it is planned to set up ongoing experience exchange among interested SAIs through subject oriented training activities and update of the EUROSAI Task Force supported by the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine.

It is planned to inform on performance results through printed and online tools of the INTOSAI and EUROSAI and submit progress report to the EUROSAI Governing Board. In addition, the new Work Plan of the Task Force provides for collaboration with the newly formed EUROSAI Task Force 3 «Sharing knowledge", which should consolidate the efforts in sharing experiences, knowledge and information among the EUROSAI members.

As a part of the meeting, a working meeting of the participants of international coordinated parallel audit of (control) of public funds allocated to prevention and consequences elimination of disasters and catastrophes was held which resulted in finalizing and signing Common position on cooperation for the coordinated parallel audit of (control) of public funds allocated to prevention and consequences elimination of disasters and catastrophes.

At the IV meeting it was decided to prepare a questionnaire by the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine regarding opportunities for further improvement of the database of audits of natural and man caused catastrophes in Europe, attracting more attention of the EUROSAI members to this and other products of the Task Force, possible forms of cooperation with the EUROSAI and INTOSAI Working Groups. The questionnaire to be sent to all participants of the Task Force.

Also in April 2012 the Questionnaire on national audits of funds allocated to disasters and catastrophes conducted was sent to the EUROSAI-member SAIs. The Questionnaire results to be used for update of the TF database.