

Introduction

Working Group on public policy and program

Videoconference, 8-9 July 2021

Introduction

Mister First President,
Dear colleagues,

I would like to share the best wishes expressed by Mr. Moscovici and to thank you all for being today with us in this videoconference organized for our 2021 annual meeting of the WGEPPP.

Videoconference meetings have been the common practice used by INTOSAI working groups since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Until recently, we were hoping to host this year meeting in person but the health and travel conditions are still challenging now, so this format remains the easiest solution for the time being. We are grateful to see so many colleagues attending from all over the world to this meeting despite time difference inconvenience.

Since we last met in person in Vilnius in 2019, this chair has not stopped its work in promoting evaluation of public policy and programs in the world of SAIs. So first, let me welcome two newcomers to our WGEPPP, our colleagues from **SAI Bulgaria** who joined the WG earlier this year and our colleagues from **SAI Spain** who joined as observers of the working group. We are delighted to

welcome new partners in sharing and promoting EPP objectives and methodology. The other participating SAIs today are from Algeria, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, India, Italy, Korea, Lithuania, Morocco, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Switzerland and the United States.

I also welcome the participation and input of representatives of the OECD, always very active in our field, and of some French Institutions with a stake in EPP.

Last year, our WGEPPP held its first dematerialized event. Thus, on May 12 2020, we uploaded on our website several documents related to our 2020 agenda focusing on 3 main topics:

1. The use of evaluation in the audit of SDGs' implementation;
2. Methodological approach: the follow-up, impact and mediatization of recommendations after evaluation;
3. Case studies about Environmental issues.

Those documents have been uploaded on time on our website and members have reacted by sending their own comments and talking on the subjects on the agenda. We thank more particularly the colleagues from SAI Peru, Algeria, Italy, Philippines and Saudi Arabia who were active in these exchanges.

The chair of WGEPPP also answered favorably in 2019, in 2020 and 2021 to several enquiries from colleagues of SAIs around the world to promote and present the EPPP methodology and practices:

- June 2019: presentation of the GUID 9020 to Europeans colleagues from ECA;

- September 2019: presentation of the GUID 9020 to OECD evaluation team and OECD members states representatives as part of a survey on the use of Evaluation in the OECD countries;
- February 2020: Presentation of the EPP methodology and French experience to Spanish colleagues as part of a conference on the use of evaluation in Spain;
- July 2020 : soon after his appointment as First President of the Court, Mr. Moscovici's strategic message to enhance the importance of evaluation was put online on the WG website;
- July 2020: SAI Morocco organized a French-Speaking African SAIs' Webinar on the Evaluation of public policies; it invited SAI France, as chair of the WGEPPP, to present the GUID 9020 and the French evaluation experience to auditors from French-speaking African SAIs.
- November 2020: Speech of the WGEPPP Chair, First President Pierre Moscovici to the national meetings of Brazilian States supreme audit institutions on the topic of EPP methodology, French experience and WGEPPP activities;
- October-December 2020 : explanations about EPP shared with the National Audit Office of the UK during their peer review of the Cour des comptes of France;
- May 2021: Publication of an article from the WGEPPP Chair, First President Pierre Moscovici to the Spanish Review of External control on the topic of EPP methodology, French experience and WGEPPP activities;
- During this period, several initiatives taken by the Chair to introduce EPP concepts and practices within several standards and guidelines prepared by some INTOSAI subsidiary bodies. For instance, the Performance audit

handbook prepared by IDI and to be published this month will include numerous references to EPP;

- The Chair also extended support in peer-to-peer cooperation to introduce or develop evaluation practices with SAI Algeria, SAI Senegal (up to 2022) and SAI Madagascar (up to 2023).

We reported all this activity to the KSC chair in our yearly dashboard in August 2020 and a summary was given to the INTOSAI Governing Board held in November 2020.

Coming now to our 2021 Agenda, this year seminar is the last milestone in our roadmap and is devoted to several main themes:

- The use of evaluation in the audit of the Covid-19 pandemic's management and consequences. As Nicolas Brunner will explain, this topic is mainly for the future, as evaluation is supposed to assess the impact of a mid or long-term policy, whereas public actions to fight against COVID crisis, protect people and boost the economy have just started last year. But sure it is an area where impacts on the citizens definitely need to be measured through evaluative methodology;
- The relations between SAIs and other national evaluating institutions (legislative and executive powers, national agencies, academia...); it seemed important to show that SAIs are not isolated in the Evaluation world and that, in each of their country, their contribution has to be inscribed in a broader landscape including various actors with different duties and approaches;
- Methodological approach: citizens' input in EPP; the growing importance of this theme appears for several years now; inclusiveness is one of the requirements which enables SAIs to be more relevant and effective; and citizens association in the evaluation process is even more crucial because they are the final targets of the evaluation goals to measure the impact of public policies on them;

- Sharing experience on relevant case studies : as every year, we will bring concrete examples of 2 evaluations recently carried out in France and in Algeria.

Consequently, several presentations will be given at this year seminar with focus on:

- A comparative study of OECD countries' evaluations of their policies to respond to the Covid-19 crisis from the OECD;
- EPPP, a useful tool to monitor the Covid-19 pandemic management from SAI France;
- COVID Pandemic 19: Possible Evaluation Topics and Criteria for a SAI from SAI Switzerland
- The use of evaluation in the audit of the Covid-19 pandemic's management and consequences in Italy from SAI Italy
- How does the French Cour des comptes rely on citizens for its EPPs?
- A roundtable on the Relation between SAIs and EPP national agencies, a French experience will be held thanks to the support of French colleagues from other evaluating institutions.
- The relations between the Moroccan Cour des comptes and other national evaluating institutions
- The relations between SAIs and other national evaluating institutions in Hungary
- *The evaluation of the attractiveness of disadvantaged urban areas from SAI France*
- The evaluation of the road safety policies from SAI France
- Evaluation of the National Perinatal Plan: Preliminary Findings and Recommendations from SAI Algeria.

Our Swiss colleagues will finally end this meeting by giving you an insight on the 2022 WGEPPP meeting they will be hosting in Bern and present you the topics of the event.

At last, this meeting will also allow us to address our 2022-2025 work plan and depending on the needs identified during our discussions, it will be our duty to choose the theme for the coming meetings.

We will have to define the next theme of our exchanges for the further working plan after next INCOSAI in Brazil next year, start our new work plan and report on that to the KSC steering committee.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

Thank you for your attention and I wish you a fruitful and productive 2021 WGEPP webinar.