

PRAQ

The Annex to ISSAI 5600 named Peer Review Areas and Questions ('PRAQ') is a guide to the areas of an SAI's mandate, organisation and functioning which may be covered by a peer review. It also provides example questions for use in the peer review process. It is not mandatory to use this material for a peer review, but it is might be useful reference tool.

The guidance provided by the PRAQ is non-exhaustive and non-prescriptive. A peer review can cover areas not included in the PRAQ. The questions should be tailored to the SAI and/or to the specific objectives of the peer review. It may not be possible or necessary to use all the example questions. Additional questions may be required.

The PRAQ is based primarily on the principles and guidelines defined in the ISSAI framework. Additional reference material on SAI peer reviews is available on CBC website www.intosaicbc.org.

The online document library includes examples of peer reviews and other valuable insights into the peer review process.

The PRAQ focuses on seven main overall themes:

Independence

Mandate, strategy and types of activities

Management of resources

Communication and engagement with stakeholders

Ethics, transparency, accountability and good governance

Auditing standards, methodology and quality control

Audit approach

Sub-Committee for peer reviews members



Sub-Committee on peer reviews



Peer review

benefits all

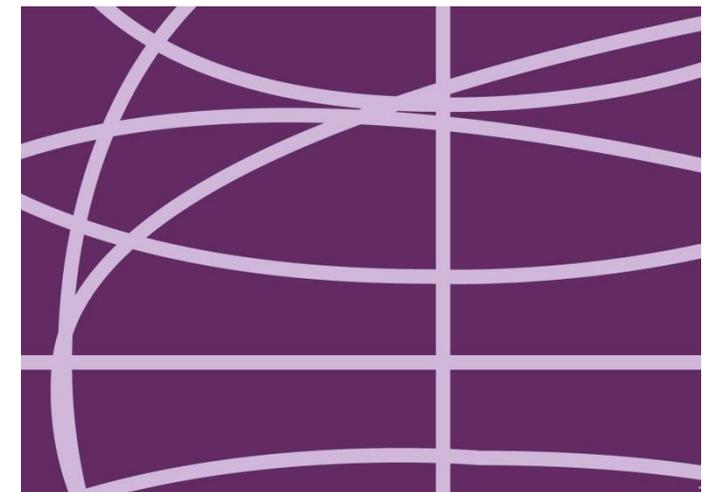


ISSAI 5600 revised



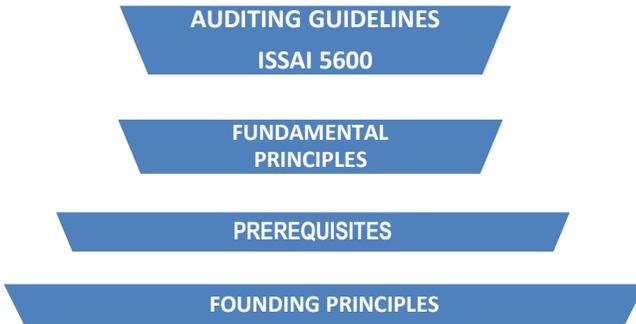
<http://intosaicbc.org>

Flyer made by SAI of Slovakia, Subcommittee Chair



ISSAI 5600

is part of the fourth level (Auditing Guidelines) of the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) Framework, where the Founding Principles constitute the first level, the Prerequisites for the Functioning of SAIs represent the second level and the Fundamental Auditing Principles (the INTOSAI Auditing Standards) make up the third level



This revised guide builds on the original ISSAI 5600, in particular the initial framework of principles and examples of good practices. The structure and content has, however, undergone significant change in order to reflect the feedback and suggestions received from INTOSAI members since its adoption in 2010.

New guidance on key aspects of the peer review process has also been included.

The Peer Review Checklist included as an appendix to the original ISSAI 5600 has been further developed and renamed “Peer Review Areas and Questions”

PRAQ.

The new appendix provides an updated list of possible areas to be considered for peer review and questions that might be asked.

The revised ISSAI 5600 structure

chapter	present ISSAI 5600	chapter	revised ISSAI 5600
preface	preface		X
1	Introduction	1	Introduction
2	Definition	2	Definition
3	Initial consideration	3	Strategic consideration
4	Peer review agreement (MoU)	4	Partners and resources
5	Preparation and conduct	5	Memorandum of Understanding
6	Follow-up and Evaluation	6	Planning
		7	Field work
		8	Reporting
		9	Implementation of results and follow-up
	glossary of terms		X
pages	46		Guide - 27 PRAQ - 27

Peer review according to ISSAI 5600

A peer review is not an audit but an assessment and advice provided voluntarily by peers. The decision to undergo a peer review, or to be involved in the peer review of another SAI, is always voluntary. The voluntary nature of a peer review is also reflected in all contacts and exchanges between the SAI and the peer review team. The reviewed SAI is not bound to the conclusions and recommendations of the peer review team, and can decide, as appropriate and necessary, on how to use the results of the assessment.

ISSAI 5600 suggests *ex ante* self-assessment

It is good practice for the SAI to precede the review with a self-assessment and initiate remedial actions before review takes place. A self-assessment can also be useful means to help the SAI determine the focus of proposed peer review. The peer review can then include an assessment of the adequacy of the corrective action being taken following the self-assessment.

There are different self-assessment tools available:

CBC Guide - Building Capacity in SAIs
developed by the former CBC Sub-Committee 1

SAI Performance Measurement Framework (PMF)
developed by INTOSAI Working Group on Value and Benefits of SAIs

IT Self-Assessment (ITSA)
developed by EUROSAI

IT Audit Self-Assessment (ITASA)
developed by EUROSAI

ISSAI Compliance Assessment Tool (iCAT)
developed by IDI

Capacity Building Needs Assessment
developed by IDI

Institutional Capacity Building Framework Survey
developed by AFROSAI-E

**Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI)
Capability model**
developed by PASAI