

INTOSAI



**R
H**



**Rechnungshof
Österreich**

Unabhängig und objektiv für Sie.

Peer Reviews Conference, Bratislava 22nd June
2018

Peer Review Project on Independence – Peer Reviews and Action Plan

Austrian Court of Audit: Hannes Loimer

Presentation Overview

Project
Background

Project
Organisation

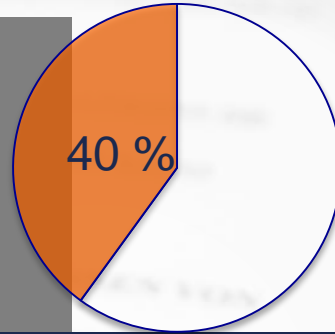
Results

Summary:
“Good
Practices
in a Peer
Review”..?

Project Background

IDI Global Survey

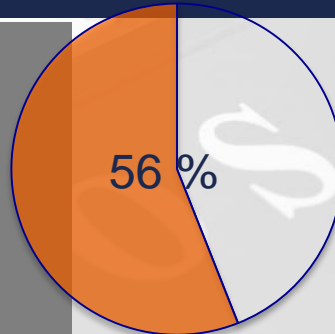
2014



40 % of INTOSAI Member SAIs → Cases of Restricted Independence

IDI Global Survey

2017



56 % of INTOSAI Member SAIs → Cases of Restricted Independence

Open Budget Index (OBI, 2006):
59 countries: ... in 29 funding was not sufficient, in 16 SAIs Executive could remove the head without consulting Legislature, in 21 SAI-budget was determined by the Executive...

IDI Global SAI Stocktaking Report (2014):
legal frameworks deviated significantly from the principles of the Mexico Declaration, significant number of SAIs, faced interference or legal limitations, over 40% reported cases of interference from the Executive in the budget process...

Project Background

Assessment
of Compliance with
ISSAI 10 and
Concrete
Recommendations

Target Groups

- Reviewed SAIs
- INTOSAI
- National
Parliaments
- Civil Society

8 core principles on SAI independence:

- existence of an effective legal framework
- independence of SAI heads and members
- broad legislative mandate and full discretion in the discharge of SAI functions
- unrestricted access to information
- right and obligation to report on audit results
- freedom to decide the content and timing of audit reports
- existence of a follow-up mechanism
- financial/ managerial/ administrative autonomy and appropriate **resources**

Project Organisation

INTOSAI General
Secretariat

Austrian
Development
Agency

7 INTOSAI Regions

14 Partner SAIs

Evaluation Team: SAI Slovakia & SAI Norway

Project Organisation

- 7 Peer Review Teams
- 1 Single Peer Review Concept
- 7 Country-specific Reports

2	SAI Austria	SAI Ethiopia
1	SAI Ghana	

2	SAI Austria	SAI Tunisia
1	SAI Egypt	

2	SAI Austria	SAI Bhutan
1	SAI Japan	

2	SAI Austria	SAI Trinidad & Tobago
1	SAI Bahamas	

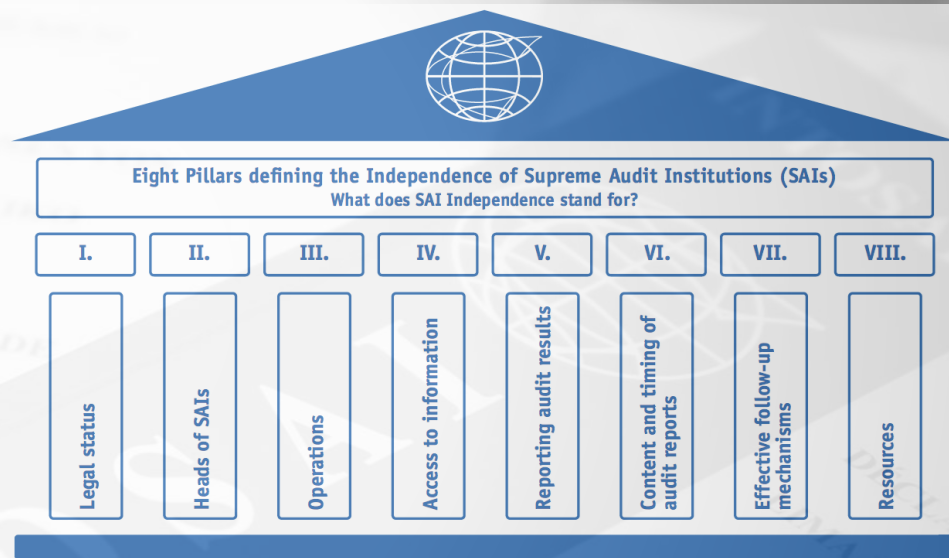
2	SAI Austria	SAI Albania
1	SAI Moldova	

2	SAI Austria	SAI Ecuador
1	SAI Brazil	

2	SAI Austria	SAI Vanuatu
---	-------------	-------------

Results – 7 Peer Review Reports

- 7 Peer Review Teams
- 1 Single Peer Review Concept
- 7 Country-specific Reports



Mexico Declaration: ISSAI 10

Results – Cross-cutting Report

Areas

- Independence of the Head of SAI
- Discretion in the Framework of the SAI's Mandate
- Access to Information
- Financial and Administrative Independence

Results – Lessons Learnt Report

1

Prearrangements

2

On-site Reviews

3

Production of Reports

4

Statements by Reviewed SAIs

5

Post-processing and Conclusion

Results – Action Plan

Main Areas in Need of Action

- Cooperation with legislature
- Monitor Independence Status
- Reporting & Coverage
- Procedures
- Funding

Results

WITH FUNDING FROM
 **AUSTRIAN
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION**

 **INTOSAI**
INTEGRITAS MUTUA OMNIBUS PROSPERITAS

Final Report
Peer Review
on the Independence of the Office of the
Federal Auditor General of Ethiopia

 **Der
Rechnungshof**
Unabhängig. Objektiv. Wirksam.

WITH FUNDING FROM
 **AUSTRIAN
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION**

 **INTOSAI**
INTEGRITAS MUTUA OMNIBUS PROSPERITAS

Cross-cutting Report
Peer Reviews on Independence

Rapport transversal
Évaluations par les pairs
liées à l'indépendance

Querschnittsbericht
Peer Reviews zur Unabhängigkeit

Informe Transversal
Revisiones entre Pares
sobre Independencia

تقرير متعدد الجوانب
مراجعة نظراء الإنتوساي بشأن الاستقلالية

 **Der
Rechnungshof**
Independent. Objective. Effective.

WITH FUNDING FROM
 **AUSTRIAN
DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION**

 **INTOSAI**
INTEGRITAS MUTUA OMNIBUS PROSPERITAS

Lessons Learnt
Peer Reviews on Independence

Enseignements tirés
Évaluations par les pairs
liées à l'indépendance

Lessons Learnt
Peer Reviews zur Unabhängigkeit

Lecciones Aprendidas
Revisiones entre Pares sobre Independencia

الدروس المكتسبة
مراجعات النظراء حول الاستقلالية

 **Der
Rechnungshof**
Independent. Objective. Effective.

Results

Project Overview

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Start → Planning → Implementing → Evaluating → Finalization

Results

- July 2015: Workshop 1 (IDI Global Stocktaking Report, ISSAI 5600, Peer Review Examples..)
- October 2015: Workshop 2 (Introduction of Peer Review Team Partners, Peer Review Concept & Questionnaire, Organizational Issues..)
- September/October 2015: Memorandum of Understanding with reviewed SAIs
- November/December 2015: Standardized Questionnaire, Travel Preparations
- January/April: 2016: On Site Reviews- seven teams – five to ten working days
- June 2016: Draft Report and Submission to reviewed SAIs
- July / August 2016: Statement and Comments from reviewed SAIs
- September / October 2016: Final Peer Review Reports
- November 2016: Translations Peer Review Reports
- December 2016: Lessons Learnt Report and Cross-Cutting Report
- 2017: On Site Presentations as requested (Albania, Bhutan, Tunisia), Action Plan Draft
- December 2017: 40th anniversary of the Lima Declaration/Peru – Adoption of Action Plan

Summary – “Good Practices in a Peer Review”..?

Time & Organization

Information & Reporting

Team

Summary – “Good Practices in a Peer Review”..?

Time & Organization

- secure a (time) commitment from team members to carry out his or her work on the project
- plan appropriate time budget ahead
- respect the annual working schedules of reviewed SAIs and to make sure that persons serving as the contact/source at the reviewed SAI of information are present during project schedule
- early travel planning saves costs or avoids booked out hotels
- clear responsibilities and streamlined and appropriate allocation of tasks within the teams may minimize the number of meetings
- ensure a common terminology with a comprehensive audit concept

Summary – “Good Practices in a Peer Review”..?

Information & Reporting

- decide on frame & format: final presentation after on-site visit, a presentation and later in the process and reporting, SAI Statement
- allow sufficient time on site also for external sources of information
- questionnaires should include a sensible combination of close-ended (yes/no) and open-ended questions; allow sufficient time for questionnaires to be answered – procedures or hierarchy might be different
- plan for a working language all; all involved reviewers and reviewed should have a sufficient command of the working knowledge; reporting language may be different; allow sufficient time for translations
- structuring work and report according to ISSAs will make results better comparable

Summary – “Good Practices in a Peer Review”..?

Team

- volunteers and /or internal application procedures for a project finds motivated peers
- co-peers from the regions facilitate/enrich cooperation and increase the willingness of the SAI to accept suggestions
- team building is beneficial

INTOSAI



**R
H**

**Rechnungshof
Österreich**

Unabhängig und objektiv für Sie.

ISSAI 10 – The Mexico Declaration on SAI
Independence

ISSAI 11 – Guidelines and Good Practices Related to
SAI Independence <http://www.intosai.org/>

<http://www.issai.org/>

Contact: intosai@rechnungshof.gv.at

Hannes Loimer – Austrian Court of Audit -
loimer@rechnungshof.gv.at

Thank You !