



REPARIS
FOR SMEs

REPARIS for SMEs Newsletter December 2023



Welcome to the REPARIS for SMEs December 2023 Newsletter, which highlights key activities of the Road to Europe Program of Accounting Reform and Institutional Strengthening for Small and Medium Enterprises (REPARIS for SMEs), implemented by the World Bank's Centre for Financial Reporting Reform – CFRR.

During this festive season, we would like to express our gratitude for your dedication and contributions to the improving and strengthening of corporate financial and sustainability reporting. Wishing you a happy holiday season, a merry Christmas filled with happiness, and quality time with loved ones. As we step into the New Year, we hope it brings you renewed energy and inspiration to excel in both your personal and professional endeavors.

Regional Events

[Second Regional Audit Quality Assurance Forum “Practical examples of public oversight and quality control of audit”, November 7-8, 2023, Skopje, North Macedonia](#)



The second Audit Quality Assurance Forum convened on November 7-8 in Skopje, North Macedonia, bringing together 51 representatives from competent authorities in the field of audit public oversight across Western Balkan countries. Ministries of finance and professional accounting associations, which play a crucial role in this domain, were also present. This event named “Practical examples of public oversight and quality control of audit” delivered targeted training to board members, key executive staff of competent authorities, and audit quality inspectors. The focus was on enhancing their understanding of governance, principles, and practical implementation of public oversight and quality assurance systems. In addition, participants gained insights into the role and responsibilities

of audit committees in relation to financial and sustainability reporting, aligning with EU provisions.

You can learn more about this event and download available presentations on the [event page on CFRR website](#).

[Sustainability Reporting and IFRS for SMEs, December 6-8, 2023, Vienna, Austria](#)



The Sustainability Reporting and IFRS for SMEs ToT workshop delivered on December 6-9, 2023 in Vienna, brought together 26 participants from the accounting profession of the Western Balkans to learn and discuss about sustainability reporting in the European Union, including the transposition of the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the 12 European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), and the related Assurance Standard in the works. Participants were

informed by representatives of the EU Commission, EFRAG, the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, and Accountancy Europe on sustainability reporting requirements in the EU and their transposition in national legislation.

On the IFRS for SMEs standard, the objective of the training was to prepare trainers to provide advanced training in their own countries using training case-studies made available to them in local language. The training shall be reported to the CFRR and the evaluation of those will be used as indicators of success of the REPARIS for SMEs program component on sustainability education.

You can learn more about this event and download available presentations on the [event page on CFRR website](#).

A&A ROSC – Accounting and Auditing Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes

An assessment of the accounting auditing regulatory framework and practices in Montenegro, using the Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes diagnostic tool, started during the fall 2023. A team of experts visited Podgorica in October 2023 as part of a due diligence mission and is currently finalizing the draft report. The team will also perform ROSC A&A assessment for North Macedonia in the first part of the year 2024.

The ROSC is part of the monitoring and evaluation measures under the REPARIS for SMEs program. The REPARIS for SMEs team is assessing the state of play of the corporate financial reporting infrastructure and the gaps with EU *acquis Communautaire* in the Western Balkans jurisdictions.



First introduced in the late 1990's in the wake of international financial crisis, Reports on the Observance of Standards and Codes (ROSC) were developed as a joint initiative by World Bank and International Monetary Fund to inform policy discussions with member countries with the objective of strengthening the international financial architecture in crisis prevention, mitigation, and resolution. The ROSC initiative was part of a system to measure 12 standards important for financial stability and performed by the IMF and the World Bank.

A revised version of this diagnostic tool contains objective indicators that helps measure the maturity of the accounting and auditing architecture and the quality of application of the accounting and auditing standards. Previous A&A ROSC reports prepared by the CFRR can be found on the [CFRR website](#).

[8th Executive IFRS Workshop for Supervisors: Climate Sustainability and IFRS Update, November 9-10, 2023, Vienna, Austria](#)



8th Executive IFRS Workshop for Supervisors “Climate Sustainability and IFRS Update” was held in Vienna, Austria on November 09-10, 2023. This workshop aimed at updating Regulators from partner countries of the efforts from the international community, including the International Sustainability Standard Board, and the International Accounting Standards Board, to address climate change and financial stability risks as well as improving financial reporting for the insurance sector. The Workshop also showcased the Austrian Experience towards greening finance and sustainability reporting. The workshop brought together 30 participants with additional 23 attending online to learn and discuss about sustainability factors reporting and monitoring, including climate and environment

risk monitoring. In addition, the workshop included a session on IFRS 17—Insurance Contracts to discuss together with insurance supervisors about the challenges of its implementation in the Western Balkan region.

You can learn more about this event and download available presentations on the [event page on CFRR website](#).

[Good Practices in Audit Oversight and Enforcement: Insights from the Polish Agency for Audit Oversight](#)
[October 3-4, 2023, Warsaw, Poland](#)



The knowledge sharing event on "Good Practices in Audit Oversight and Enforcement: Insights from the Polish Agency for Audit Oversight" took place on October 3-4, 2023 in Warsaw, Poland and was delivered in collaboration with the Polish Agency for Audit Oversight (PANA) to 34 representatives of the competent authorities, responsible for public oversight and quality assurance systems in their countries. The participants learned from the experience of Poland on implementation of public oversight and quality assurance systems in line with EU provisions.

PANA is a separate and independent legal entity established on January 1, 2020 that replaced its predecessor Audit Oversight Commission as part of remodeling of public oversight system in Poland. It is equipped with new supervisory, investigative and sanctioning mandates and tools with respect to services covered by the professional practice standards, provided by all statutory auditors and all audit firms to both Public Interest Entities (PIE) and non-PIE entities. In addition to PANA's presentations, the Ministry of Finance of Poland provided insights into the Auditing and Accounting Regulatory Framework, and Polish Chamber of Statutory Auditors presented its role in regulation of the audit profession. Participants learned also about the Polish agenda regarding the transposition and implementation of new sustainability reporting, as well as the assurance of sustainability reporting.

You can learn more about this event and download available presentations on the [event page on CFRR website](#).

In-Country Events

[Strengthening Corporate Governance in North Macedonia: Sustainability Reporting and the Increasing Role of Audit Committees, November 9, 2023, Skopje, North Macedonia](#)



A National Conference "Strengthening Corporate Governance in North Macedonia: Sustainability Reporting and the Increasing Role of Audit Committees" was held in Skopje, North Macedonia on November 09, 2023. The conference was organized in collaboration with the Institute of Certified Auditors of the Republic of North Macedonia and aimed to inform participants about the European Union (EU) Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the European Sustainability Reporting Standards. During the conference, the urgent need to accelerate the adoption of legal provisions requiring large companies in North Macedonia to prepare non-financial statement was emphasized. Additionally, the conference highlighted the crucial role of the audit committee in ensuring reliable

reporting, as well as the assurance provided by auditors in both financial and sustainability reporting. Panel discussions were conducted by local experts representing various perspectives, including the Ministry of Finance, Public Oversight Board, the audit profession, large companies, and academia, all of whom shared insights on sustainability reporting and the role of audit committees. You can learn more about this Conference on the [event page on CFRR website](#).

[Strengthening Corporate Financial Reporting in Kosovo and Introducing Sustainability Reporting Requirements, July 4, 2023, Pristina, Kosovo](#)



On July 4th, 2023, key stakeholders from Kosovo convened in Pristina to address the pressing need for enhancing the alignment with the EU *acquis* in the field of accounting and auditing, as well as fortifying the efficiency of the public oversight system within Kosovo. Notably, significant achievements have been made in the domain of corporate financial reporting, exemplified by the enactment of the Law on Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting, as well as the establishment of the Audit Oversight Board. However, there is still room for improvement in terms of approximation to the EU *acquis*, including enforcement issues and the REPARIS for SMEs will support this reform agenda. Furthermore, during the period of January to June 2024, the Public Oversight Board of Kosovo will receive technical assistance, enabling the initiation of quality assurance inspections for audits conducted on large and public interest entities. You can learn more about this workshop on the [event page on CFRR website](#).

Upcoming Events

- **A series of webinars, aimed at strengthening the public oversight and quality assurance system**, will be held between January and June 2024 in cooperation with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.
- **A series of webinars, aimed at discussing the challenges of the implementation of IFRS 17 – Insurance contracts** in the Western Balkans region will be delivered from mid-December 2023 to May 2024.
- **A national conference focusing on strengthening corporate governance, with a particular emphasis on state-owned enterprises and the increasing role of sustainability reporting**, is scheduled to be held in Montenegro in May 2024.
- **A regional event focusing on topical themes related to accounting, financial and sustainability reporting, and audit** will be organized in May 2024. Participation in the event is by invitation only.

REPARIS for SMEs Sponsors



Let us know what you think

We hope you find this issue of the newsletter interesting and useful. Please let us (cfr@worldbank.org) know if you have any comments or suggestions for topics that could be featured in future editions. Please visit the [REPARIS for SMEs webpage](#) for more information, publications, presentations, learning materials, and videos from past events organized under the program.

[Unsubscribe from this list](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Subscribe to this list](#)