



REPARIS for SMEs Newsletter December 2024

Welcome to the REPARIS for SMEs December 2024 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. This issue summarizes recent achievements, activities, and publications since last edition in July 2024.

As the holiday season approaches, we want to extend our heartfelt wishes to you and your loved ones. May this festive season bring you joy, peace, and cherished moments with family and friends. As we step into the new year, we wish you prosperity, success, and good health. May 2025 be a year of new opportunities, growth, and achievements. Together, let us strive to create a more livable planet, fostering sustainability and positive change for future generations.

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!



Events

Third Regional Audit Quality Assurance Forum: Improving Audit Quality through Cooperation, October 22-23, 2024, Bucharest, Romania



The third Forum of Public Oversight Bodies convened its members on October 22-23, 2024, in Bucharest Romania. The POB Forum was organized jointly under the Enhancing Accounting, Auditing, and Sustainability Reporting (<u>EAASURE</u>) Program.

You can learn more about this event and download available presentations on the event page on CFRR website.

Strengthening Corporate Governance: Sustainability Reporting and the Increasing Role of Audit Committees, September 27, 2024, Banja Luka and October 02, 2024 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Two conferences "Strengthening Corporate Governance: Sustainability Reporting and the Increasing Role of Audit Committees" were organized in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The first conference took place on September 27, 2024 in Banja Luka in cooperation with the Association of Accountants and Auditors of Republika Srpska. The second conference was organized on October 02, 2024 in Sarajevo in cooperation with the Union of Accountants, Auditors and Financial Workers of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (UAAFWFBH) and the Chamber of Auditors of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The events were part of a <u>series of knowledge exchange events organized by the CFRR across the region</u>, to help boost Western Balkan countries' knowledge and capacity of new sustainability reporting and corporate governance requirements.

You can learn more about this event and download available presentations on the event page on CFRR website.

Strengthening Public Oversight in Bosnia and Herzegovina, October 1, 2024, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Key stakeholders involved in public oversight from Bosnia and Herzegovina convened in Sarajevo on October 1, 2024, to discuss ways to strengthen audit public oversight at both the country and entity levels to ensure better alignment with the European Union *acquis*.

You can learn more about this event and download available presentations on the event page on CFRR website.

<u>Challenges and Achievements of Public Oversight in Improving Audit Quality and Financial Reporting, November 19, 2024, Tirana, Albania</u>



REPARIS for SMES contributed to a conference "Challenges and Achievements of Public Oversight in Improving Audit Quality and Financial Reporting" organized by the Public Oversight Board of Albania on November 19, 2024, in Tirana, Albania as part of the Strengthening Quality of Auditing and Reporting Project (SQARP), funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.

You can learn more about this event and download available presentations on the event page on CFRR website.

Financial Management Train the Trainers Workshop, December 9-13, 2024, Vienna, Austria



The Sustainable Education component of the REPARIS for SMEs program, which aims to train the accounting profession to support small and medium-sized enterprises, continued its implementation this year by preparing and delivering a five-day training of trainers' workshop during the week of December 9th, 2024. The training was delivered with the assistance of professionals from PwC, who developed the training materials under the guidance of the World Bank Team. During the workshop, 25 trainers underwent training with six modules designed to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to transfer the knowledge acquired to Small and Medium-Sized Accounting Practices in the Western Balkans.

You can learn more about this event and download available presentations on the event page on CFRR website.

Upcoming Events

- March 17, 2025, Accounting and Auditing Reform Momentum Forum in Vienna, Austria. Participation is by invitation only.
- March 18, 2025, Ministerial Conference "Financial and Sustainability Reporting Reforms: Navigating Green and Digital Agendas" in Vienna, Austria. Participation is by invitation only.
- March 19, 2025, Sustainability Reporting Workshop in Vienna, Austria. Participation is by invitation only.
- March 19, 2025, Workshop "Climate Change Action by State-Owned Enterprises" in Vienna, Austria. Participation is by invitation only.

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Let us know what you think

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

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