

Society of Certified Accountants and Auditors of Kosovo

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Brief background/overview

- Brief introduction of SCAAK
- History of SCAAK in Public Sector
- Why public-private sector approach important
- The detailed programme for Public Sector
- What we did
- What we learned
- Benefits and lessons learned



Brief background/overview

- SCAAK established 2001, aimed to implement and promote global standards and best practices for the new profession: with its mission to serve the public interest
- Associate member IFAC - 2003
- Twinning agreement with Royal NIVRA - 2007
- Full member of FCM - 2006
- Full member of IFAC - 2009
- Full member of EFAA - 2016



History of SCAAK in Public Sector

- Many developing economies -and transitional - new PAOs have high % of members employed in public sector
- What SCAAK inherited – no experience of PFM in former Yugoslavia
- Supreme Audit Institution in Kosovo a significant public sector employer
- Our vision to build a PAO that meets the needs of both private and public sector



The “How”

- New country - weak PFM capacity
- New SAI - need for actual and perceived quality and independence
- Partnered with OAG and MoF to build qualifications
- Support from Sweden, CIPFA UK, all donor
- Strong vision and leadership of SCAAK, OAG and MoF
- Building on our success in private sector



The “What”

- SCAAK program adapted and flexibility added to meet specific needs of public sector professionals
- Certification outside an institution
- Locally managed – by PAO
- Quality
- Learn from each other
- Shifting Public to Private certification and vice versa
- A transparent contractual relation
- Transitional solution and requirements
- Flexibility in implementation



Implementation and Partnerships of Public Sector Certifications

2003

Agreement signed Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and SCAAK

2003 - 2006

World Bank Project for Capacity Building in Public Sector Accounting (CBIPA) in Kosovo - Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF)

2006

SCAAK – appointed as a leading training institution by Minister of Economy and Finance

2008

CEF-SCAAK agreement signed- 77 public sector financial officers

- CEF-Development of training materials, training of trainers, examination
- SCAAK-Development of local training modules, providing local trainers, organizing the examination process

Implementation and Partnerships of Public Sector Certifications

2009

MoU signed with MoF

“SCAAK as the sole authorized and exclusive institution to train, organize exams, update the materials and to certify candidates for a qualification in the Kosovo public sector accounting”



Implementation and Partnerships of Public Sector Certifications

2009 - 2011

- SCAAK provided Training to 425 financial officers
- 280 successful candidates were certified

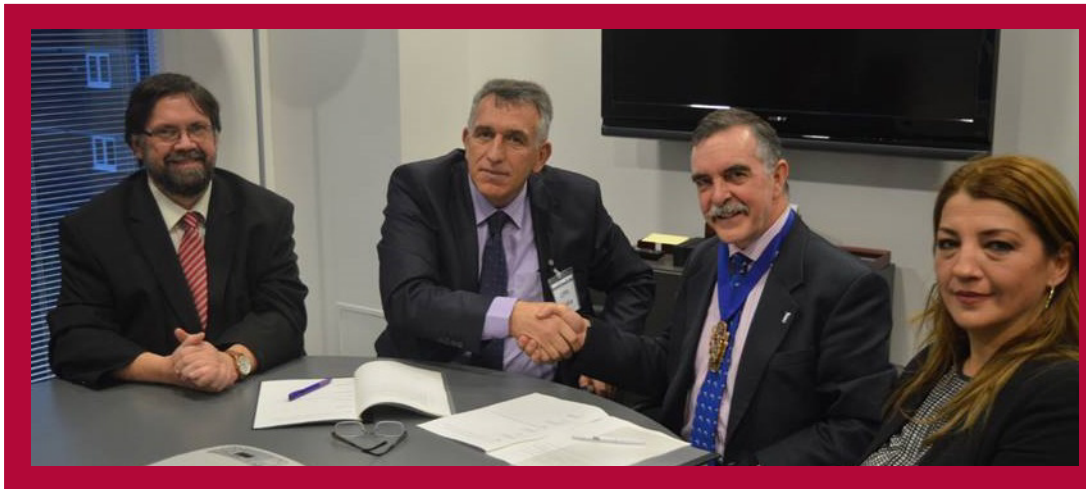


Joint SCAAK-CIPFA PFM Program

2015

MoU signed with CIPFA

- The aim of MOU - Agree a roadmap for achieving a long-term mutually beneficial partnership with regards to PFM training, advisory and related services in Kosovo.
- Capacity building of local trainers- 15 trainers part of CIPFA Training of Trainers program



Joint SCAAK-CIPFA PFM Program

- Gain an internationally recognized certification, an accredited certificate in Kosovo and a certificate issued by CIPFA.
- Dual membership in both professional associations SCAAK and CIPFA
- Up to date - 37 members SCAAK-CIPFA



Implementation and Partnerships of Public Sector certifications

- Long term cooperation with National Audit Office (NAO / SAI)



Implementation and Partnerships of Public Sector Certifications

- SCAAK-SAI-MOU signed in 2013
- Preparation Phase 2014-2015
- Launched in 2015

ISSAI

..... stands for

**International Standards of
Supreme Audit Institutions**

IPSAS

..... stands for

**International Public Sector
Accounting Standard**



Implementation and Partnerships of Public Sector certifications

- First 100 certified public sector auditors in 2016



Implementation and Partnerships of Public Sector certifications

- MoU with Albanian Supreme Audit Institution (ALSAI)-signed in 2013



Program for Supreme Audit Institution in Kosovo-Syllabus Content

Table 1: SAI Certification Scheme

Public Sector Audit Assistant (PSAA)	Public Sector Auditor (PSA)	Certified Public Sector Auditor (CPSA)
<p>M1. Financial Reporting</p> <p>M2. Planning and Budgeting</p> <p>M3. National Laws</p>	<p>M4. Procedures and Techniques for Public Sector Management</p> <p>M5. Governance, Risk and Control</p> <p>M6. Audit Methodology I</p>	<p>M7. Audit Methodology II</p> <p>M8. Managing Finances</p>



Program for Supreme Audit Institution- Certification requirements (PER)

- Level 1 (Public Sector Audit Assistant)-have at least 1 year of practical experience and at least 3 audit engagements **as a team member**
- Level 2 (Public Sector Auditor)-have at least 2 years of practical experience and at least 6 audit engagements **as a team member**
- Level 3 (Certified Public Sector Auditor)-have at least 3 years of practical experience and at least 3 audit engagements as **a team leader**



Program for Supreme Audit Institution- CPD Requirements

- All members of SCAAK shall meet the minimal criteria for CPD in order to preserve their personal and professional competences.
- In this regard, the PS/CA title holders should:

At least complete 40 hours of CPD over the year out of which 22 hours must be verifiable CPD.



Table 2: Private Sector Certification Scheme

Certified Accounting Technician	Certified Accountant	Certified Auditor
P1/Financial Accounting 1	P5/Financial Reporting	P9/Advanced Financial Reporting
P2/Cost & Management Accounting	P6/Audit	P10/Advanced Auditing and Assurance
P3/Accounting in Business	P7/Financial Management	P11/Business Analysis
P4/Kosovo Law and Tax	P8/Performance Management	P12/Professional Practice



Program for Supreme Audit Institution- Transfer between private and public sector scheme

**Table 3: Transfer from SCAAK Private Sector
to Public Sector Certification Scheme**

Transfer from Private Sector to Public Sector Scheme		
From Certified Auditor to PS/CA	From Certified Accountant to PS/CA	From Accountant Technician to PS/CA
M2. Planning and budgeting; M3. National laws (legal module); M4. Procedures and techniques of public financial management in Kosovo; M5. Governance, Risk and & Control	M2. Planning and budgeting; M3. National laws (legal module); M4. Procedures and techniques of public financial management in Kosovo; M5. Governance, Risk & Control M6. Audit methodology I	M2. Planning and budgeting; M3. National laws (legal module); M4. Procedures and techniques of Kosovo financial management information system; M5. Governance, Risk & Control; M6. Audit methodology; M7. Audit methodology II M8. Financial Management



Program for Supreme Audit Institution- Transfer between private and public sector scheme

**Table 4: Transfer from SCAAK Public Sector to
Private Sector Certification Scheme**

Case 1	Case 2	Case 3
From Public Sector Certified Auditor to CA	From Public Sector Auditor to CA	Public Sector Audit Assistant to CA
P4. Laws and taxes in Kosovo P5. Financial Reporting P8. Performance Management P9. Advanced Financial Reporting P11. Business Analyses	P4. Laws and taxes in Kosovo P5. Financial Reporting P8 Performance Management P9. Advanced financial reporting P10. Advance Audit and Assurance P11. Business Analysis	P4. Laws and taxes in Kosovo P5. Financial Reporting P6. Auditing P7. Financial Management P8. Performance Management P9. Advanced financial reporting P10. Advance Audit and Assurance P11. Business Analysis



Program for Supreme Audit Institution- Transfer between private and public sector scheme

Table 5: Recognition of individual courses

Public Sector Modules	Private Sector Modules
M1. Financial Reporting	P1. Financial Accounting
M5. Governance, Risk & Control	P12. Professional practice
M6. Audit methodology I	P6. Auditing
M7. Audit methodology II	P10. Advance Audit and Assurance
M8. Financial Management	P7. Financial Management



Programme for Supreme Audit Institution- Membership and representation to SCAAK governing bodies

- NAO pays an institutional membership.
- The NAO members shall attend the SCAAK Assembly meetings. One member appointed by NAO might have the right to vote.
- The Auditor General has appointed one person as a representative in SCAAK Council.
- NAO members are represented through the following SCAAK committees, Education, Professional Standards, Disciplinary (as an observer), and Quality Control (as an observer).



SCAAK-CIPFA PFM Program-Syllabus content

Table 6: PFM certification scheme

Accounting Technician	Certified Auditor in Public Sector
P1/Financial Accounting	S1/Financial Management and Budgeting
P2/Management Accounting	S2/Financial Reporting in Public Sector
P3/Accountant in Business	S3/Public Finance and Information System
P4/Laws and Taxes in Kosovo (national laws)	S4/Strategic Planning and Policy Development S5/Governance, Risk and Control S6/Audit Methodology



SCAAK-CIPFA PFM Program- Certification Criteria

- Passing the required exams
- 3 years of relevant practical experience in public sector areas as below:
 - **Key Areas** - Financial and performance reporting
 - **Optional Areas** - Leadership and Strategic Management; Financial, Strategic and Operational Management; Governance, Ethics and Professional Behavior; Partnerships and Stakeholder Relations; Project Management and Risk; Procurement and contracts management
 - Achieving competencies in each area is reported in SCAAK PER forms



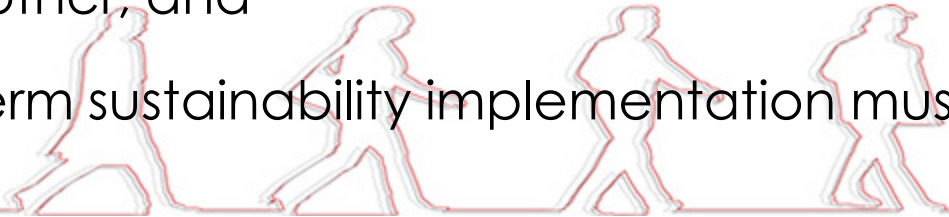
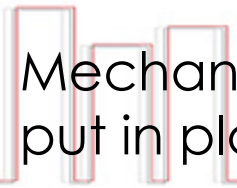
Benefits

- SCAAK program adapted and flexibility added to meet specific needs of public sector professionals
- Designing career pathways to provide mobility and progression
- Increase membership base and attract new students
- Certifications outside an institution reducing the risks
- Adhere to the principle of economy of scale, scarce resources should be used wisely
- Mobilising available local resources
- Public Sector members included within governance of SCAAK



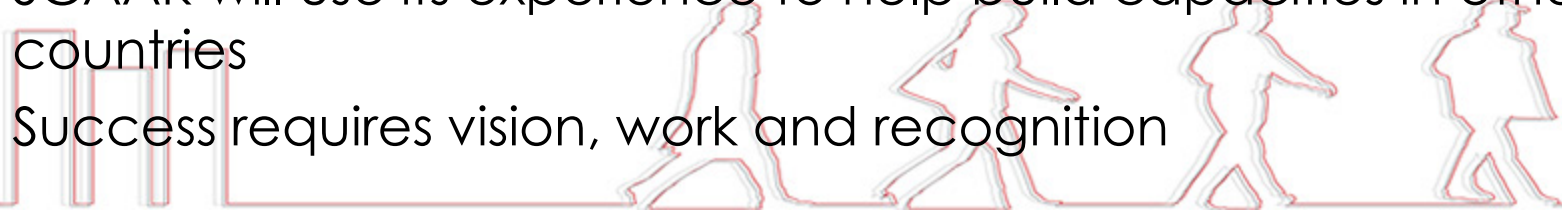
Challenges

- A sustainable solution financed by the budget should be assured;
- A business relation between provider and “consumer” should be based on a transparent contractual relation;
- The program should be locally managed, but the quality should be assured from international associations;
- Members should learn from each other over public and private sector boundaries;
- Shifting between sectors must be allowed and regulated;
- Transitional solutions and requirements are needed when shifting from one system to another; and
- Mechanisms for long term sustainability implementation must be put in place.



Looking Forward

- Implementation of Kosovo Public Finance Management Reform Strategy (PFMRS) 2016-2020
- Improvements in PFM are considered by the European Commission as eligibility criteria and as an objective for budgetary support
- Donor help is essential- In September 2017 SCAAK organised a Donor Coordination Meeting
- Sustainable and credible certification on PFM
- PAOs must adapt and continue to innovate, and partnerships are essential
- Example of the importance of the PAO meeting the needs of its members, in all sectors of the economy
- SCAAK will use its experience to help build capacities in other countries
- Success requires vision, work and recognition



Thank You!

