Accrual Accounting
June 27 – June 28, 2013

Workshop Report

June 28, 2013
This workshop explored mainly the tensions between statistical and financial reporting; whether, even if accounting standards can be harmonized for both statistical and financial reporting purposes, accrual based accounting information can be effectively used for managerial and public accountability purposes, given that budgets are prepared on a cash basis or whether a more appropriate course is to revert to a mixture of cash and accrual reporting in order to secure appropriate comparisons of current expenditure with budget forecasts and also to provide information about assets and liabilities;

Topics covered:

- The Commission/Eurostat report and its findings;
- Understanding the different purposes of statistical and financial reporting;
- Is harmonization practical and if it is, does this inevitably mean that budgets will have to follow or can budgets be maintained on a cash basis with the financial reporting process for national (as compared with international) public accountability purposes needing to become more sophisticated?
- How can or ought the process resulting from harmonization to be monitored to ensure that manipulation for either statistical or financial reporting purposes is not manipulated? Can the accountant learn from the statistician? Does this change the role of the external auditor?
- How acceptable will it be for a pan European organization to specify the detail of accounting policies and will such detailed specification be required to secure harmonization?

Lecturers:

- Noel Hepworth, Independent Public Policy Professional, United Kingdom
- Zdenka Vidovič, KPMG, Slovenia
- Andrej Flajs, Statistical Office, Slovenia
- Anabela Nabais Rodrigues, EUROSTAT
- Graham Lock, EUROSTAT
- Katarina Kaszasova, Ministry of Finance, Slovakia

Participants:

There were 23 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Latvia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Turkey.
Evaluation:

Overall satisfaction with the course

- 5 - very satisfied
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 - not satisfied

No. of responses: 22, Average mark: 4.18

The lecturers were knowledgeable.

- 5 - very much
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 - not at all

No. of responses: 22, Average mark: 4.23

Selected Participants' Comments:
- I got more than I expected - thank you for an excellent event.
- This course was very important for me and my job.
- Very experienced lecturers with deep knowledge.