2015 Calendar

Learning and Regional Cooperation in South East Europe
CEF, our members and other countries where we are present

MEMBERS:
- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Kosovo*
- Macedonia

OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE THE CEF IS PRESENT:
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Georgia
- Hungary
- Kazakhstan

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- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Georgia
- Hungary
- Kazakhstan

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
Learning and Regional Cooperation in South East Europe

We support capacity development in public financial management and central banking topics for individuals and institutions. We do this by designing high-quality, practical, and learning-centered specialization programs and training events; by promoting networks of professionals; and by stimulating regional cooperation. We partner with multilateral and bilateral agencies, knowledge institutions, and peer organizations, and we tap the expertise of a broad range of individual experts.

Some of our partners in implementing the program:

- Bank of Slovenia
- Central European Initiative (CEI)
- Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)
- De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB)
- European Court of Auditors
- European Union (EU)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Joint Vienna Institute (JVI)
- Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- Ministry of Finance, Slovenia
- Ministry of Finance, Sweden
- Ministry of Finance, the Netherlands
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia
- National Bank of Belgium
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA)
- Tax and Customs Administration, the Netherlands
- The World Bank
- University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Economics, Slovenia
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

We...

- respect and align with local needs and priorities.
- always strive to deliver high-quality programs.
- develop and nurture regional cooperation.
- work closely with partners.
- are always transparent and accountable.
- focus on ensuring that the results of our work are sustainable.
Our highly focused programs provide guidance for current and future tasks in reforming public finances and strengthening central banking. They add value through high-quality learning events based on a thorough understanding of learning needs across South East Europe (SEE). Once we have identified the needs, we ensure that they are reflected in the design and content of courses, and that lectures and discussions are fully participatory and experience-based. This practical orientation enables engaging officials in cooperative learning by working in teams on problems and projects and thus enhancing the value of practitioner-to-practitioner interaction.

*This learning activity is delivered as part of the EU-funded Strategic Planning and Budgeting project. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen beneficiary countries’ capacities to design and implement medium-term macro-fiscal policies. Complete information on the project can be found at the website: www.cef-see.org/bcpdi/spb.

Please consult our website (www.cef-see.org) for the most up-to-date calendar and list of offerings.
BUDGET PREPARATION AND EXECUTION

The CEF helps member countries improve the quality of fiscal management and strengthen oversight of the design and implementation of fiscal policy through building public financial management capacity with a focus on budget formulation and execution processes. The fiscal management requirements for EU membership are also fully integrated into our program.

Strategic Planning and Budgeting

Through March 2015 our Strategic Planning and Budgeting (SPB) project is providing a series of learning opportunities on policy design, coordination of macroeconomic and fiscal frameworks, and integration between budgeting and the fiscal impact of structural reforms. It aims to stimulate governance for growth of SEE countries by strengthening their capacity to design and implement medium-term macro fiscal policies, and thus to achieve the goals of the South East Europe 2020 strategy. For more information, visit www.cef-see.org/bcpdi/spb

Our workshops and seminars in FEBRUARY

- E-learning Course on Budget Execution* 5 weeks
- Compliance Risk Management Strategies and VAT Fraud 3 days
- Strengthening Capacities of Supreme Audit Institutions 3 days
- Retail Payments 3 days

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This project is funded by the European Union.

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Learning and Regional Cooperation in South East Europe
TREASURY, ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

High-quality financial reporting is crucial to effective financial management in the public sector. Our learning activities in this area support improvements in the public sector accounting systems and standards in SEE. In 2015 topics related to cost accounting and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) will remain in focus.

The main developments and innovations in cash and debt management are the focus of the treasury learning program. Debt and cash management operations have assumed greater importance as significant repricing of risk and a high level of demand for international capital place increasing pressures on debt managers to fund ongoing government operations.

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The Public Accountants Certification Training (PACT) is a program that supports improvements in public sector accounting systems and standards. It has established regional training and certification, helping a new generation of public finance staff to contribute to better transparency and accountability, thus aiding the development of good governance. The program emphasizes the importance of establishing and observing international public sector accounting standards and helps countries raise the status of their accounting profession in line with the EU member states.

The PACT has been designed by CIPFA in line with the international accounting standards and best practices, and is offered to countries across the region in partnership with the CEF. The training curriculum consists of three integrated modules at the certificate level and four integrated modules at the diploma level. Each level can be completed within a year. For more information about the program, please visit: www-see.org/pact

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Our learning program on internal and external accountability mechanisms offers a variety of learning events that reflect the needs and current challenges in internal and external audit profession. The overall aim of the program is to facilitate exchange of knowledge among practitioners that are involved in internal and external accountability mechanisms and to support the introduction of good international practice in the region.

In 2015 the program will focus on strengthening auditors’ knowledge and skills in performance, financial and information technology audit. The program will also examine institutional challenges of Supreme Audit Institutions in SEE. By addressing statistical sampling it will review techniques that are crucial for delivery of audit evidence. Proper understanding of risk management concept, phases and underlying principles will also be discussed.

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The Training of Internal Auditors in the Public Sector (TIAPS) is a program that strengthens professional qualifications in internal audit processes. It helps individuals apply international standards and improve accountability within reformed public finance systems.

The training curriculum devotes special attention to requirements introduced by EU accession processes. The curriculum consists of four integrated modules at the certificate level and three integrated modules at the diploma level. Each level can be completed within a year. The program offers internationally recognized, professional qualification provided jointly by the CEF and CIPFA. For more information about the program, please visit: www.cef-see.org/tiaps

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The overarching theme of the CEF taxation learning program in 2015 will continue to revolve around modern, risk-based approaches to tax compliance, combining traditional learning methods with the participatory approach to learning. The emphasis here is on strengthening beneficiary institutions’ capacity in implementing the EU’s recommendations under which the revenue authorities can deliver tax compliance risk management. The latter reflects the emerging need identified by SEE tax agencies to increase tax compliance, achieve administrative efficiencies, and reduce revenue risks and compliance costs for taxpayers.
Central banks with their monetary and regulatory tools are vital for ensuring stability and development of national economies. Recent economic developments have additionally reshaped their position and highlighted the importance of their supervisory role.

In their efforts to ensure macroeconomic stability together with safeguarding the stability of the financial sector, the CEF assists central banks to strengthen capacities by enhancing individual and institutional knowledge and skills through learning activities. We strive to present good international standards in central banking and to enable their easier application at the national level.
Leading reforms incorporates many risks. Alongside good technical proposals many other factors have proven to be of critical importance. The significance of soft skills is increasing to a major extent in achieving reform success in public financial management and central banking. It is said to have a transformative effect on reform processes. Our selection of courses on these topics aims to strengthen institutional capacities in soft skills of project and change management, leadership, communication, and coordination which will allow technical experts to perform at their best.

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PARTNERING CREATES SYNERGIES FOR TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

A mutually reinforcing partnership ensures strong links between learning at CEF workshops and technical assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Two advisors from the IMF’s Fiscal Affairs Department use the CEF as the hub for missions across SEE that help pinpoint needs for learning and knowledge sharing among practitioners. The CEF designs workshops to address these needs, many of which are delivered by the IMF’s advisors.

Our learning events are highly participatory, with an evaluation process that ensures we capture input to inform and strengthen future activities. This kind of learning deepens the benefits of technical assistance while helping the IMF advisors prioritize areas that need further work. These unique synergies have contributed to a steady rise in our member countries’ demand for help with capacity development.

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Learning and Regional Cooperation in South East Europe
Since 2008, the CEF has served as the Secretariat of the Public Expenditure Management Peer-Assisted Learning (PEMPAL) network, which supports reforms in public expenditure and financial management in 22 countries in Europe and Central Asia. It aims to benchmark the public financial management systems of participating countries against one another and pursue opportunities for peer learning. PEMPAL is an example of successful donor coordination. The World Bank, the Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, and others provide valuable support for a successful running of PEMPAL activities.

We perform many tasks that contribute to successful network management, serve as an information hub for network activities, and provide logistical support for the organization of events. We also provide quarterly and annual performance reports and handle the network’s communications and web presence. For more details about PEMPAL, please visit: www.pempal.org

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Learning and Regional Cooperation in South East Europe
Along with the City of Vienna, the CEF is a coordinator of institutional capacity and cooperation, one of the priority areas of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission and endorsed by the European Council. The strategy aims to boost development by seeking synergy and coordination among policies and initiatives across the Danube region.

The CEF is tasked with stepping up institutional capacity and cooperation. Our focus is on challenges of institutional capacity and the public service, better coordination of funding, and collaboration among cities and citizens in the region. For more details about the EUSDR, please visit: www.cef-see.org/eusdr

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Application procedures for CEF workshops and seminars:

1 >> PUBLIC SECTOR OFFICIALS & CENTRAL BANK EMPLOYEES

2 >> APPLICATION FORM
Send it at least one month before the start of the course

3 >> COURSE DELIVERY AT THE CEF
NO FEE
LEARNING IN ENGLISH
TRAVELING & ACCOMMODATION covered by your institution or other sponsor
LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS provided by the CEF

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