External Hiring of Expert Knowledge

Lessons learned with the NCA’s EU ETS audit
Topics

• Why we decided to hire
• How we selected our expert
• Terms of reference
• How it worked out
Complex and technical issues
Why we decided to hire

- to assure the quality of the audit
- to perform the audit more efficient

We did NOT outsource part of the audit:

- we needed technical support throughout the audit
- difficult to set apart such a part
How we found our expert

• The right profile:
  – knowledgeable, able to communicate with auditors
  – awareness of institutional framework of a Supreme Audit Institution
  – independent

• We were very lucky to find such a person!
Terms of reference

- Our expert had three tasks:
  - “one-man helpdesk” for our audit team
  - participant in our team workshops
  - reviewer of our draft reports
- Our expert was NOT a team member
- Some contract details:
  - invoices with hours worked, specified maximum in the contract for the entire audit
  - All information shared is to be treated confidentially
How it worked out

- Fine! Both in terms of process and product:
  - we got a better understanding of the matter at hand;
  - we asked better questions;
  - our findings were formulated more pointedly
- As a bonus: continuous up-to-date information during the project on climate and energy policy
To conclude

- You might try this yourself
- Warning: this is only a one case story
- Good agreements are of the essence
- Besides the contract, you need trust and understanding
- Again: we were lucky! So how to improve our chances?