Spring Session on Environmental Governance

Wednesday, 25 April

All day  Arrival of participants

19:00  Welcome Reception in Clarion Hotel
       Hosted by the National Audit Office of Finland

Thursday, 26 April

09:00-09:10  Opening remarks by Ms Tytti Yli-Viikari, Auditor General of Finland

09:10-10:30  Good Governance and Environmental Governance

    Discussion in tables: What is good governance?
    Speaker: Vivi Niemenmaa, European Court of Auditors
    Governance concept, development of environmental governance and a toolkit of
    essential concepts

10:30-11:00  Break & Group Photo

11:00-13:00  Sustainable Development – a Crucial Element of Environmental Governance

    Speaker: Annika Lindblom, Secretary-General of Finnish National Commission on
    Sustainable Development and Counselor at Ministry of the Environment of Finland
    The Finnish government’s approach to sustainable development and SDGs. Focus on
    the long history, high-level but inclusive Commission of SD, and voluntary SD
    commitments.

    Speaker: Sami Pirkkala, Counsellor and Senior Specialist on Sustainable Development
    at Prime Minister’s Office. Chair of National Sustainable Development Monitoring
    Network
    Focus on recent national work on Agenda2030 monitoring and follow-up. State of play
    on the preparations of an independent evaluation of the 2030 Agenda implementation
    in Finland.
Group discussion:

- How is sustainable development included in the governance system in your country?
- How to mainstream sustainable development to all government sectors?

SAI experience: examples of SDG audits, good practice cases of environmental governance

**Sustainability overviews:** the UK NAO’s experience of auditing government departments’ environmental governance — Katy Losse, SAI UK

*The Accounting chamber experience in carrying out audits in the field of Sustainable Development goals* — Anna Kozlova, SAI Ukraine

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 SAI experience: examples of SDG audits, good practice cases of environmental governance (contd.)

*The Dutch government’s preparations aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals* — Sadaf Qutbyar, SAI Netherlands

*OLACEFS’ Coordinated Audit on SDG Target 2.4 – Sustainable Food Production* — Dashiell Costa, SAI Brazil

**Considering Public Interest in Environmental Matters**

*Involving the public in an environmental decision-making process – does it result in a more environmentally-beneficial outcome?*

**Introduction to Aarhus convention** — Ms Airi Andresson, SAI Estonia

15:30-16:00 Break

16:00-17:00 Strategic Environmental Assessment

**Speaker:** Heikki Kalle, Board member, Hendrikson & Ko

**SAI experience:** Auditing governance tools in environmental audits (SEA, EIA, permits, sanctions)

*Integrating environmental issues (Natura 2000) into different sectoral policies* – Lejla Marinko, SAI Slovenia

*Development of houses and hotels in an environmentally sensitive area* — Sotiris Christofi, SAI Cyprus
Friday, 27 April

09:00-10:30   **Participatory Audit**

  **SAI experience:** including citizens in audits

  *Participatory auditing and stakeholder involvement* – Eva-Maria Asari, auditor, SAI Estonia

  **Group discussion:** How could SAIs include stakeholders/citizens to audits or identifying audit topics?

10:30-11:00   Break

11:00-13:00   **Planning a Participatory Audit**

  **Group exercise:** Involving a participatory approach in audit planning

  **SAI experience:** addressing environmental governance issues in audits

  *Granting of permits and collection of fees from operators whose installations affect the environment* - Rosica Shalevikj Hrisovska, SAI of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

  **Environmental Compliance Assurance**

  **Speaker:** Robert Konrad, Head of Unit, European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment

  *Activities of the European Commission on environmental governance; problems with environmental enforcement and compliance on European level.*

12:50         Conclusions

13:00-14:00   Lunch

14:00         End of the meeting

Departure of participants