

INTOSAI Working Group on IT Audit

PROJECT PROPOSAL

1. Working title

Standard for State Information Systems Audit

2. Developing standard objective (purpose)

The document “The Standard for State Information Systems Audit” (hereinafter – the draft Standard) is developed in accordance with the WGITA work plan in the framework of the project 3 “The Development of Standard for State Information Systems and Projects Audit”.

At the 25th meeting of the INTOSAI Working group SAI of India on behalf of the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation presented a draft document on the issues of information technologies audit.

In the debates, the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA), SAI of Georgia, SAI of Kuwait, SAI of Pakistan and SAI Brazil gave their suggestions and comments according to which the draft document was finalized.

The need for development of “The Standard for State Information Systems Audit” is attributable to the automation of the public authority’s functions through the creation and implementation of state information systems and the transfer of public services into electronic form. In this regard the question of verification and assessment of the effectiveness of public expenditure on the establishment, operation and development of state information systems occurs.

Only in the Russian Federation, the public expenditure on IT facilities in 2017 constituted approximately 1.6 billion US dollars data for the beginning of 2017, rate of March 2017).

3. Tasks within the Standard (scope - content)

The tasks of “The Standard for State Information Systems Audit” is the establishment of methods (means), procedures for the implementation of the SAIs State Information Systems audit (SISA), including the audit on any matter for the

proper use of public finances, also when conducting other inspections, where a particular stage or set of stages of the life cycle is validated as part of the auditees activities.

The life cycle taken as the basis for the development of the draft Standard consists of five stages:

- Reasoning for the SIS establishment
- Preparation and organization of SIS creating process
- SIS development and implementation
- SIS operation
- The completion of SIS operation

These five stages describe the process of SIS creation and operation in a very detailed and clear manner.

The stages of SIS life cycle may vary in different countries. In addition, they can be not regulated by legislation, as, for example, in the Russian Federation.

Thus, the choice of those or other stages of SIS life cycle depends on national legislation and is defined for each state independently.

A draft Standard has the following structure, consisting of four sections:

1. General provisions, which reflect the main terms;
2. Content of public information systems audit, which reveals such notions as subject, object, objectives and results of state information systems audit;
3. Stages of SISA;
4. The results of SISA, including recommendations for the reporting the results of SISA, as well as monitoring the recommendations implementation.

4. Developing standard within the ISSAI framework

“The Standard for State Information Systems Audit” is developed in accordance with the WGITA work plan in the framework of project 3 “Development of standards for state information systems and project audit”.

“The Standard for State Information Systems Audit” complements the approved

ISSAI 5300 standard “Guidelines on Information Technology Audits” in the part of the state information systems audit.

While developing “The Standard for State Information Systems Audit” the following documents have been used:

- Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts adopted in 1977 at the IX Congress of INTOSAI;
- ISSAI 100 –Fundamental Principles of Public-Sector Auditing;
- ISSAI 5300 – Guidelines on Information Technology Audits;
- ISSAI 5310 – Guidelines on Information System’s Security Audit.

5. Guidance from other internationally recognized, regional or national standard setters

SAI of the Russian Federation carried out tremendous work on the SISA issues and observance of the Russian Federation legislation while planning, creation and use of information and communication technologies in activities of the public authorities.

This resulted in developing and approving in 2016 of the standard for state audit No. 305 called “The Standard for Federal Information Systems and projects Audit” for the usage within SAI of the Russian Federation.

The approaches indicated in the Standard No. 305 and the results of testing were implemented in the development of “The Standard for State Information Systems Audit”.

6. ISSAI category

Taking into account the principles for classification of INTOSAI’s professional standards and considering the document as one of the external audit tools it is considered to qualify the developing standard as an ISSAI.

It is assumed that “The Standard for State Information Systems Audit” will complete the 5300 – 5399 ISSAI group.

7. Target group

The target group of the Standard includes Heads and Audit Directors of SAIs, External Governmental Auditors, Internal Auditors.

The Standard can be used for audits on any matter for the proper use of public finances, also when conducting other inspections, where a particular stage or set of stages of the life cycle is validated as part of the auditees activities.

8. Categories of auditing in the Standard

Public information systems audit covers three main types of public sector auditing: Financial audit (verification of financial documents); Performance audit (assessment and analysis of public finance expenditure effectiveness, aimed at creation, development and operation of state information systems, achievement of tasks and objectives from the implementation of the state information system, expressed in the established indicators) and compliance audit (compliance of activities of a public authority for the creation, development and operation of state information systems with the functions and powers of public authority, established by the national legislation).

9. Author – committee

In accordance with the Due Process for INTOSAI Professional Standards the responsible subcommittee has to agree upon all developing documents with the steering committee. The responsible subcommittee in this case is the Working Group on IT Audit. According to the INTOSAI organizational structure the Knowledge Sharing Committee is the steering committee for the Working Group on IT Audit.

10. The supposed timeline of the future standard development

- Project Proposal – by May 2017;
- Exposure Draft – by December 2018;
- Endorsement version – by June 2018;
- Final INTOSAI Gov (5300 - 5399) – by October 2019.