

CLOSURE NOTE

Dear beneficiaries and partners,

All projects start, are implemented and come to an end.

The Project to Strengthen Functional and Technical Capacities of Supreme Audit Institutions, National Parliaments and Civil Society for the control of Public Finances in the PALOP and Timor-Leste, the Pro PALOP-TL SAI, is now closed, and so much has been accomplished, that it is difficult to refer to all the progress achieved in a closure note. The final report will speak for itself. However, it is worth mentioning overall our satisfaction about what we accomplished together “in” and “with” the Pro PALOP-TL SAI!

The Pro PALOP-TL SAI supported its beneficiaries establishing effectively a community of practice – involving Supreme Audit Institutions, Ministries of Finance, Parliaments and Civil Society Organizations – for public finance oversight and budget transparency in PALOP and Timor-Leste. This community of practice was developed by involving people, structures, methodologies, know-how, knowledge and institutions from across all project’s beneficiary countries (together with Brazil and Portugal). A groundbreaking accomplishment, since such a community is now anchored on new levels of systematization, as well as in dynamic human exchanges, at personal and professional levels.

The Pro PALOP-TL SAI successfully identified and addressed challenges in the beneficiary countries. The project enabled the capacity-building of beneficiary institutions, the reach of consensus on new and innovative ways to overcome remaining defies, the effective and sustainable development skills, know-how and knowledge to consolidate the path to success. Thus, the project had a real impact on people’s lives, the capacity-building of institutions, and the overall framework of public finance management and budget oversight of the beneficiary countries.

The Pro PALOP-TL SAI “sow and reap the fruits of its beneficiaries’ efforts” throughout four years of project implementation. This was possible by involving the beneficiary countries in the design and implementation of actions in the field, agreeing upon interventions according to their priorities and needs, and never giving up the role of advising and guiding towards response via best practices and alternative ways of doing the same old business. A remarkable deed, since “reap what you sow” is a desired parable to project sustainability, especially, and using project management jargon, when referring to efficient exit strategies.

The Pro PALOP-TL SAI supported supreme audit institutions, governments, parliaments and civil society organizations from PALOP and Timor-Leste moving from a peripheric to a more central position internationally in the promotion and strengthening of external audit of public finance. This has been a pioneering initiative in all aspects: multilateral and bilateral initiatives openly inspired by the good practices of the project are multiplying across the globe.

The Pro PALOP-TL SAI outputs have contributed for change and transformation at the level of its intended outcome, the context of economic governance in PALOP and Timor-Leste. This contribution is evident today, even though the project implementation has just ended. This is an achievement, since the potential impact of projects at outcome level is very hard to verify during a project’s lifecycle.

For all the above reasons, we would like to thank all our beneficiaries and partners, a group of extraordinary people and professionals of excellency, whose contribution has allowed us to make the difference and attain so much in these years.

The field of public financial management and budgetary oversight has increasingly asserted itself as truly relevant for development cooperation and the national efforts to achieve the SDGs. We are sure that, from now on, initiatives with a holistic and comprehensive approach, based on South-South and triangular cooperation, will be scaled up throughout the world to strengthen and promote oversight and social monitoring of public finances.

The Pro PALOP-TL SAI was a pioneer initiative in this field, which makes us very proud, and we are profoundly grateful to all the partners who made it possible.

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