

# Building Trust – the Role of SAI in Ensuring the Reliability of Fiscal Data

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Court of Auditors of Portugal

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## Portuguese Case

- I. Who does what?
- I. Reporting fiscal data
  - Domestic public accounting and national accounts
  - Transparency of fiscal data: Data sources, data reconciliation and reporting
- II. Monitoring the quality of fiscal data (public accounting)
  - Court main activities (Opinion on the General State Account)
  - The process of reforming the Portuguese public finances and challenges for data quality and comparability

# Portugal – Who does what?



## Government

- Macroeconomic estimates, Budget preparation, account reports



## Public Finance Council

- Opinion on compliance with fiscal rules and sustainability



## European Union

- European semester



## Parliament

- Budget approval



## Statistical institutions

- Statistical reports



## Court of Auditors

- Audits State Accounts

# Domestic public accounting

Macroeconomic and  
Budget estimates - annual

Budget outturn report  
(central, local and social  
security) - monthly

Central State and Social  
Security account –  
quarterly and annual

Institutional  
cooperation  
agreement



Reconciliation table – methodology  
of transition between cash and  
national accounts

# National accounting

Excessive deficit procedure  
(EDP) - March, September

Government Finance  
Statistics (GFS) – quarterly  
and annual data

Contingent liabilities –  
annual data

# Monitoring the quality of Fiscal data (public accounting)

## Planning

- Insufficient data accordance and insufficient data disclosure
- Evidence of failure on budget estimates

## Revenue/ Expenditure

- Incomplete coverage of entities
- Same wording different meanings
- Incorrect transactions classification

## Assets

- Omission of information on General State Account
- Information systems need further development

## Liabilities

- Undervaluation
- Information systems need further development

# Monitoring the quality of Fiscal data (public accounting)

The process of reforming the Portuguese public finances and challenges for data quality and comparability

## Objectives

- Transparency of public finances
- Public management Accountability
- Reliability and scope of public finance indicators
- Accrual accounting as a basis for statistics

## Projects under implementation

- State Accounting Entity
- Central Accounting and Reporting System
- Consolidation Process
- Treasury reform

## Main outputs

- Individual budget and financial statements
- Consolidated budget and financial statements
- New General State Account

Certify the  
General  
State  
Account

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION