

Expectations of the public encourage to increase effectiveness of public audit

“We need to find new points of contact among separate links of public finance control system, to enhance forms of parliamentary control, as well as to focus more on foreseeing perspectives and tendencies in our recommendations,” told the Auditor General Ms Rasa Budbergytė at the Conference dedicated to commemorate 90th anniversary of the National Audit Office of Lithuania.

Evaluating public audit impact on public management Ms Budbergytė stressed the lack of will and efforts implementing substantial recommendations issued by the NAOL. “Although statistically most of our recommendations are implemented, however, often fundamental recommendations which require the most efforts, and sometimes even political will remain only on paper. Hopefully, the new Seimas and Government will have more resolution for changes”, noted the Auditor General.

According to Ms Irena Degutienė, First Deputy Speaker of the Seimas, in order to realize the NAOL insights expressed in audit reports, it is necessary to enhance parliamentary control of implementation of public audit recommendations. “I truly believe that the current Seimas, and Committee on Audit to begin with, will strongly seek the implementation of the NAOL recommendations by the executive power,” stated Ms Degutienė.

The necessity to enhance parliamentary control was also emphasized by Ms Loreta Graužinienė, Chairman of the Committee on Audit. She noted that today a close partnership between the Government and the Seimas is still lacking in order to properly implement the NAOL recommendations.

Analysing perspectives of the EU budget European Commissioner Ms Dalia Grybauskaitė pointed out that only a transparent and open financial system is capable of ensuring the efficiency of the use of European Union funds. “Maximum efficiency of the use of European Union budget funds may be ensured only by higher transparency and openness to the public, as well as simpler rules to aid beneficiaries and wider and more active role of control institutions,” told Ms Grybauskaitė.

According to Mr Herbert Bösch, MEP, Chairman of the Budget Control Committee of the European Parliament, European Union needs decisive changes in accountability system. Mr Bösch also stressed that in order to receive the maximum benefit from the European Union funds and to use

them in accordance with EU rules and standards, a reform of European Court of Auditors is needed, followed by active actions of national Parliaments and Supreme Audit Institutions. “Until then the Member States' accountability to the European level is insufficient,” spoke Mr Bösch.

In his speech, Mr Vitor Caldeira, President of the European Court of Auditors noted that European Union shows an obvious progress in improving financial management. However, in order to increase transparency and accountability of the use of EU funds, an engagement of all bodies involved in management, supervision, and audit at all levels is needed.

International conference in the Seimas organized on initiative of the National Audit Office of Lithuania and the Seimas Committee on Audit on the occasion of the celebration of the National Audit Office of Lithuania's 90th anniversary.