

Focus

SUPPLEMENT TO NUMBER TEN
September 1998

This supplement to
Focus,
*The Public Management
Gazette*

consists of two parts: the first part gives names of contact persons concerning news items in *Focus* Number Ten; the second provides information on recent PUMA publications.

If you want to know more about a news item in Focus, the Public Management Gazette, first, please check the detailed information reported in Focus On-Line, an electronic newsletter published monthly on PUMA's Web site: <http://www.oecd.org/puma/focus>. If the information given there is not sufficient, contact the persons listed below, who kindly reported the developments in their countries.

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Continuing the modernisation process

For further information, see:
<http://www.schlank.bmi.bund.de>

Checklist to improve the pay system

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Reviewing the structure of government

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Benchmarking project

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Government-wide performance plan

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A new internal audit strategy

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Strategic plan for electronic commerce

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Reviewing the role of the Budget Group

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Inspecting the public administration

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Innovation database

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new from OECD

THE CAPACITY FOR LONG-TERM DECISION MAKING IN SEVEN OECD COUNTRIES: THE CASE OF AGEING

Through a survey of seven OECD Member countries - Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Ireland, Japan and the United States - the paper identifies the many challenges facing governments when they deal with long-term issues, especially one of such a cross-cutting and complex nature as ageing. The difficulties which have to be solved include data collection, budget constraints, the co-ordination between a great number of central government agencies and local authorities to which public management reforms have given more power and autonomy, consensus-building and continued political support for policies involving short-term negative consequences for long-term benefits. The paper examines the institutions and practices that governments are presently using to design and implement coherent policies to respond to these challenges, and identifies actions which could facilitate the process.

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- Part 4 -- Policy Analysis and Decision Capacity
- Part 5 -- Conclusion

new from OECD

THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM: IMPACTS AND ACTIONS

"The Year 2000 Problem" -- the threat that computers and other electronic devices with embedded computer chips will shut down or malfunction at the turn of the century -- has been called one of the most complex management challenges in history. This report was developed in response to a request at the 1998 Council meeting at Ministerial level that the OECD "promote global awareness of the Year 2000 problem and its potential economic impact," and report to the Ottawa ministerial conference on electronic commerce in October 1998. The report includes a review of economy-wide and sectoral impacts and a chapter on governments' role and actions. It concludes that there is reason for concern in many countries, and lists ten areas where sustained government action is needed.

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- Part I -- Economy-wide Impacts of the Year 2000 Problem
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These documents are available on the PUMA Web site: <http://www.oecd.org/puma/online.htm>
If you wish to receive a paper copy free of charge, please send your request to:
PUMA Communications Group -- Fax +33-1.45.24.17.06 or E-mail: pum.contact@oecd.org

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM SIGMA

SIGMA --Support for Improvement in Governanace and Management in Central and Eastern Europe -- is a joint initiative of the OECD and the European Union, principally financed by the EU's Phare Programme. Established in 1992, SIGMA works within PUMA. SIGMA supports public administration reform efforts in thirteen countries in transition: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

SIGMA POLICY BRIEFS

- No. 1:** *Anatomy of the Expenditure Budget*
- No. 2:** *Civil Service Pension Schemes*
- No. 3:** *Public Procurement*

SIGMA PAPERS SERIES

- No. 1:** *Top Management Service in Central Government: Introducing a System for the Higher Civil Service in Central and Eastern European Countries*
- No. 2:** *Constitutions of Central & Eastern European Countries and the Baltic States*
- No. 3:** *Training Civil Servants for Internationalisation*
- No. 4:** *Management Control in Modern Government Administration: Some Comparative Practices*
- No. 5:** *Civil Service Legislation Contents Checklist*
- No. 6:** *Internationalisation of Policy-Making*
- No. 7:** *The Audit of Secret and Politically Sensitive Subjects: Comparative Audit Practices*
- No. 8:** *Budgeting and Policy-Making*
- No. 9:** *Effective Communications Between the Public Service and the Media*
- No. 10:** *Civil Service Pension Schemes*
- No. 11:** *Budgeting and Monitoring of Personnel Costs*
- No. 12:** *Country Profiles of Civil Service Training Systems*
- No. 13:** *Assessing the Impacts of Proposed Laws and Regulations*
- No. 14:** *Civil Service Legislation: Checklist on Secondary Legislation (and Other Regulatory Instruments)*
- No. 15:** *Checklist on Law Drafting and Regulatory Management in Central and Eastern Europe*
- No. 16:** *Public Service Training Systems in OECD Countries*
- No. 17:** *Administrative Procedures and the Supervision of Administration in Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia and Albania*
- No. 18:** *Law Drafting and Regulatory Management in Central and Eastern Europe*
- No. 19:** *Effects of European Union Accession: Part I Budgeting and Financial Control*
- No. 20:** *Effects of European Union Accession: Part II External Audit*
- No. 21:** *Promoting Performance and Professionalism in the Public Service*
- No. 22:** *Management Challenges at the Centre of Government: Coalition Situations and Government Transitions*
- No. 23:** *Preparing Public Administrations for the European Administrative Space*
- No. 24:** *Central Bank Audit Practices*
- No. 25:** *Public Opinion Surveys as Inputs to Administrative Reform (forthcoming)*

For free paper copies of the SIGMA publications listed above, please contact Susannah Mevel at SIGMA Information Services, OECD, 2, rue André-Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 6, France; tel. (33.1) 45 24 13 16; fax (33.1) 45 24 13 00; or e-mail: sigma.contact@oecd.org. Publications may also be downloaded or printed from the SIGMA web site at <http://www.oecd.org/puma/sigmaweb>.