

ICAEW



ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION STRATEGIC FORUM

IN COOPERATION WITH THE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS OF BULGARIA

Sheraton Sofia Hotel Balkan, Sofia
16–17 APRIL 2013

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The Accountancy Profession Strategic Forum (APSF) encourages proactive strategic planning and innovation among professional accountancy bodies so that they continue to be relevant and contribute to market needs and the public interest. ICAEW is organising the 2013 Forum meeting in cooperation with the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Bulgaria, in line with the partnership approach underpinning the APSF.

The APSF encourages national professional bodies to share experience, recognising that the development of national capacity remains critical because many of the activities of the profession are country-specific. The APSF also seeks to promote informed and structured dialogue with regulators, the World Bank and other international organisations to help identify and achieve common objectives.

CHALLENGES FOR PROFESSIONAL BODIES

Professional accountancy bodies are a key feature of national jurisdictions, and can show considerable differences in structure, remit and resources. However, professional bodies across much of Europe currently face significant challenges which could undermine their future relevance and ability to respond to market needs and meet public interest requirements.

STRATEGIES, INVESTMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE ARE ESSENTIAL

Professional bodies sit between oversight and regulatory authorities, on the one hand, and practitioners and firms on the other. Their continued existence is sometimes taken for granted, as are the functions they undertake. However, the continued contribution of professional bodies in a fast-moving economic, technological and regulatory environment cannot simply be assumed.

Forward-looking strategies for the future responsibilities and roles of professional bodies, and the investment and infrastructure to fulfil them, are essential. The APSF is designed to help professional bodies develop and implement said strategies.

APSF

The APSF was conceived by ICAEW following discussions with professional bodies in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. These discussions identified many common challenges and, above all, a common interest in sharing experience and developing strategic thinking.

The APSF is based on a partnership approach, with an annual meeting organised by ICAEW with a host professional body. The APSF pursues an open and constructive discussion and the format is designed specifically to encourage active engagement by all participants. A meeting summary is published and circulated to attendees and other interested parties.



An outline agenda for the April 2013 APSF meeting (APSF 2013) is set out below. In keeping with the spirit of the Forum, suggestions from participants are welcome. Please send areas of particular interest to: strategicforum@icaew.com. A final agenda will be published in February 2013.

OUTLINE AGENDA

Tuesday 16 April

On the first day professional accountancy organisations and invited representatives of international federations and groupings of firms will exchange views on topics such as:

- sustainable funding models and effective governance;
- strategic planning and member engagement;
- infrastructure, market profile and new services;
- expectations of international associations and middle market networks;
- education needs and recruitment into the profession;
- regulatory responsibilities and the public interest; and
- interaction with oversight authorities, regulators and stakeholders.

All APSF participants are invited to the forum dinner on Tuesday evening.

Wednesday 17 April

The second half day will see the professional bodies joined by the World Bank, the European Commission, Bulgarian regulators and, in the latter part of the meeting, media. The agenda will address several questions such as:

- What vision do regulators and the World Bank have for the future role and relevance of professional bodies?
- How can professional bodies and regulators and the World Bank work best together to reach common goals?
- What is the state of play on the EU reform agenda for accounting and auditing?

APSF 2013 will build on the 2012 roundtable discussion in Sinaia, hosted by CECCAR on 'the role and structure of professional bodies: current and future challenges.'



ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION STRATEGIC FORUM BOOKING FORM

APSF 2013

16–17 April 2013

Sheraton Sofia Hotel Balkan

5 Sveta Nedelya Square, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

BOOKING/CONTACT DETAILS Please print in block capitals

Name (title/first name/surname)	
Job title	Professional Accountancy Organisation
Telephone	
Email	
Address	
Postcode/zipcode	Country

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Name (title/first name/surname)	
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ACCOMMODATION *

Please reserve rooms for the night of 15 April rooms for the night of 16 April

Please send your completed form by email to strategicforum@icaew.com by 11 January 2013

*As joint organisers of APSF 2013 in Sofia, ICAEW and ICPAB will be pleased to cover hotel accommodation at the Sheraton Sofia Hotel Balkan for the nights of 15 and 16 April for two participants.