

Report on measures taken in light of the observations accompanying the decision of the European Parliament of 26 March 2019 on the discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the EMCDDA for the financial year 2017 (2018/2181(DEC))

Observation of the Discharge Authority	Response and measures taken by the Agency	Status/ Reference ¹
1. Staff policy		
<p><i>(Observation No 8 of EP discharge decision)</i></p> <p><i>Welcomes the suggestion of the Court to publish vacancy notices also on the website of the European Personnel Selection Office in order to increase publicity; notes that, according to the Centre’s reply, it is committed to assessing the cost-benefit of this action and in addition plans to publish all future vacancies in the inter-agency job board developed by the EU Agencies Network;</i></p>	<p>The EMCDDA had duly taken the necessary follow up measures. In particular, it has carried out the referred assessment. On this basis, and pursuant to EPSO’s decision to simplify the conditions required for the publication at stake (and therefore substantially reduce the relevant costs), the EMCDDA has decided to systematically publish its future vacancy/selection notices on EPSO’s website, this adding to the publication on the EMCDDA website and on the inter-agency job board developed by the EU Agencies’ Network;</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
2. Procurement		
<p><i>(Observation No 10 of EP discharge decision)</i></p> <p><i>Notes that, according to the Court’s report, by the end of 2017 the Centre was not yet using any of the tools launched by the Commission aimed at introducing a single solution for the electronic exchange of information with third parties participating in public procurement procedures (e-procurement); notes that, according to the Centre’s reply, the Centre has set up the tools required for “e-invoicing” and has planned the preparatory operations required to be able to use “e-tendering” and “e-submission” from October 2018 as required by the</i></p>	<p>The EMCDDA had duly taken the necessary follow up measures, via the entering into operation/use of the ‘e-tendering’ and ‘e-submission’ modules as from October 2018, as required by the EU legal framework governing ‘e-procurement’ and the timetable for its rollout. This completed the measures already taken to set up and use the ICT tool for ‘e-invoicing’.</p>	<p>Implemented</p>

¹ ongoing, implemented, partially implemented, not implemented and any other necessary information

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<i>relevant legal framework; calls on the Centre to report to the discharge authority on the progress made;</i>		
3. Prevention and management of conflicts of interest, and transparency		
<p><i>(Observation No 11 of EP discharge decision)</i></p> <p><i>Notes that, according to the Court's report, there is a need to strengthen the accounting officer's independence by making him directly responsible to the Centre's Director and management board; notes that, according to the Centre's reply, in its view the current organisational setting has not affected the independence of the accounting officers; notes furthermore that the Centre is however ready to follow up on the recommendation of the Court;</i></p>	<p>The EMCDDA had duly taken the necessary follow up measures, by establishing that the EMCDDA accounting officers directly report, in administrative terms, to the EMCDDA Director, who becomes their direct hierarchical superior and reporting officer, without prejudice to their functional independence, reporting and accountability to the EMCDDA Management Board, in accordance with the applicable financial rules.</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
4. Internal controls		
<p><i>(Observation No 12 of EP discharge decision)</i></p> <p><i>Notes that the Commission's Internal Audit Service (IAS) outlined the importance of undertaking an analysis of the needs of data collection, validation and quality assurance processes and to review its data quality management framework and its alignment with the Centre's Strategy 2025; observes that the Centre adopted an action plan to address these recommendations in December 2017; calls on the Centre to report to the discharge authority on the developments made in this regard;</i></p>	<p>All substantial measures foreseen in the Action Plan regarding the two recommendations emerging from the 2017 IAS audit on 'Management of Data Collection, Validation and Quality Assurance in the EMCDDA' have been implemented, and communicated to IAS for formal closure.</p>	<p>Implemented</p>
<p><i>(Observation No 13 of EP discharge decision)</i></p> <p><i>Notes with regret that one of the recommendations, graded as 'important', included in the 2013 IAS audit on "Budget and Monitoring" is still not fully implemented; notes with concern that, according to the Court's report,</i></p>	<p>The last recommendation from the IAS's 2013 audit on 'Budget and Monitoring' was fully implemented in 2018 and communicated to IAS for formal closure (this recommendation concerned the need for continuous, coherent and reliable information on the achievement of planned results at the EMCDDA, with a view to rendering the activity-based budgeting system fully effective as a management</p>	<p>Implemented</p>

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<p><i>several recommendations included in the 2015 IAS audit on IT project management are only partly implemented and still ongoing; calls on the Centre to report to the discharge authority on the implementation of these recommendations;</i></p>	<p>tool) All recommendations from IAS's 2015 audit on 'IT Project Management in the EMCDDA' have been implemented and communicated to IAS. for formal closure. Five of these recommendations were already formally closed (recommendations concerning the sound alignment between business needs and the IT long-term strategy and tools, the adoption of an IT project methodology and the automation of project management processes) and two are in the process of formal closure (recommendations concerning the definition and adoption of requirements management process and of a systems development methodology)</p>	