



The South East Compact for Reform, Investment, Integrity and Growth Under the EU Stability Pact - Working Table II



**2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group Meeting of the**

**THE SOUTH EASTERN EUROPEAN**

**PARTNERSHIP ON ACCOUNTANCY DEVELOPMENT**

on

**“Professional Education, Training and Certification Programmes  
for Accountants and Auditors in South Eastern Europe”**

*- Draft -*

*Background Paper on Professional Education,  
Training and Certification Programmes  
for Accountants and Auditors in the Republika Srpska,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina*

**Prepared by the Association of Accountants and Auditors  
of the Republika Srpska**

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**Location:**

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## **Index for background paper on “Professional Education, Training and Certification Programmes for Accountants and Auditors in SEE”**

In accordance with Rules and Requirements for professional qualifications created by Education Committee of Association of Accountants and Auditors of Republika Srpska and based on Law on accounting there are following levels of professional qualifications:

- Accountant
- Independent accountants
- Chartered accountants
- Auditor
- Chartered Auditor

### **Requirements for admission in profession**

#### **1. Accountant**

Accountants are professional persons who possess professional knowledge and practical experience for independent records keeping and preparation of financial statements, and they also need to possess the actual license.

Professional title - accountant can obtain the person who meets following requirements:

1. candidate must have at least high school diploma
2. if candidate has diploma of economics high school he/she must also have at least three years of practical experience in accounting, and if candidate has other high school diploma in that case he/she must have at least eight years of practical experience in accounting
3. candidate must have passed all required examinations and also finale examination
4. candidate must accept all rights and commitments according to Code of Ethics for professional accountants
5. candidate must accept obligation of continuing professional education in order to innovate his/her professional knowledge, required by this title.

Candidate who aspires to become accountant should possess records keeping ability and ability for preparation of financial statement independently in enterprises with:

- small extend of activities
- simple accounting system
- simple organizational structure of accounting
- simple explanation of accounting politics

Curriculum for this professional title includes following subjects:

- Accounting
- Fiscal system
- Commercial law
- Information technology
- Control and auditing

## **2. Independent accountant**

Independent accountants are professional persons who possess appropriate level of technical knowledge and practical experience for independent records keeping, preparation of financial statement and internal control. This professional title can obtain person who meets following requirements:

1. candidate must have diploma of two years economics study after high school
2. candidate must have at least three years of practical experience in accounting
3. candidate must have passed final examination
4. he/she has to accept all commitments from Code of Ethics for professional accountants
5. he/she has to accept obligation of continuing professional education

After acquisition of this title independent accountants are qualified for records keeping and preparation of financial statements in middle size enterprises.

Curriculum for this professional title includes following subjects:

- Accounting and managerial accounting
- Basic auditing
- Financial management
- Fiscal system
- Information technology

## **3. Chartered accountant**

This professional title can obtain the person who meets following requirements:

1. candidate must have economics faculty diploma
2. candidate must have at least three years practical experience in accounting
3. must have passed all exams required by this title and final examination
4. candidate must accept all rights and commitments from Code of Ethics for Professional accounting experts
6. he/she has to accept obligation of continuing professional education

After acquisition of this title chartered accountant is qualified for records keeping and preparation of financial statements of large enterprises.

Curriculum for this professional title in accordance with Educational Programme includes following subjects:

- Financial accounting
- Managerial accounting
- Auditing
- Fiscal system
- Financial management and financial reporting
- Commercial law
- Operating information systems

#### **4. Auditor**

Auditor is professional person with university diploma, chartered accountant certificate and at least one year of work as Chartered Accountant. Auditor also must accept commitments stated in Code of Ethics for professional accountants and obligation of continuing professional education. For acquisition of this professional title candidate must have passed all exams stated in curriculum for this title and also final examination.

Curriculum includes following subjects:

- Modern accounting practice
- Modern auditing practice
- Financial management
- Taxation
- Auditing and financial reporting

#### **5. Chartered Auditor**

Chartered auditors are professional persons who possess university diploma, chartered accountant certificate, at least three years of work as a Chartered accountants or Auditors. Candidate for professional title Chartered Auditor also must accept commitments stated in Code of Ethics for professional accountants and obligation of continuing professional education. For acquisition of this professional title candidate must have passed all exams stated in curriculum for this title and also final examination.

Curriculum includes following subjects:

- Auditing and business politic
- Modern auditing practice
- Comparative tax systems
- Auditing and finance
- Financial management

Professional education concept is in accordance with standards and IFAC's International Educational Guideline. The candidates need to acquire:

- general education
- organizational and business knowledge
- information technology knowledge
- accounting and accounting-relating knowledge

Duration of professional education depends on professional title, and it is between six month and one year. Required hours of professional education are for:

- accountants 80 hours
- independent accountants 100 hours
- chartered accountants 120 hours
- auditor 140 hours
- chartered auditors 160 hours

Admission requirements to education and training, professional education and practical training are stated under points 1,2,3,4, and 5 in addition to requirement of membership in the Association of Accountants and Auditors of Republic of Srpska (AAA).

If candidates have passed all requisite examines in accordance with Educational Programme they can approach to final examination. The propose of final examination is demonstration of professional competence and requisite technical and practical knowledge and skills of candidates who aspire to become members of profession. There is periodic review process of professional education, practical training and final examination.

The Association of Accountants and Auditors of Republic of Srpska is only professional organization authorized by the law on accounting for standard setting and examination.

Professional education, professional training and final examination for acquisition of all professional titles are administrated by Educational Committee of Association of Accountants and Auditors of Republic of Srpska in accordance with Education Programme. Examination dates, examination centers and other administrative details are created by AAA.

AAA will issue certificates to candidates who have passed all exams and final examination. Persons with certificates can in 30 days after acquisition ask for license. Licenses should be renew every two years. Requirements for renewal of license are continuing professional education of professional accountants through seminars, courses, conferences and training organized by AAA, and respecting of Code of Ethics for professional accountants.

Costs of examinations and costs of issuing of licenses and certificates are covered by candidates.