

"Your fresh perspectives will shape the future of public audit"

EUROSAI President and SAI Israel, Mr. Matanyahu Englman, Opening Remarks for YES Young EUROSAI 2024 Conference (24-28.6.2024)

Distinguished participants and, most importantly, the future of public audit - the young minds gathered here today,

Welcome to the 6th edition of the Young EUROSAI Conference, aptly titled "YES to AI!"

It is with immense pleasure that I, as President of EUROSAI, greet you all in this vibrant atmosphere of Warsaw, Poland.

The world we live in is constantly evolving, and the role of Supreme Audit Institutions needs to evolve alongside it.

At the heart of our mission lies the profound importance of social audit - a pillar upon which the integrity and trustworthiness of our supreme audit institutions stand. Social audit promotes accountability, illuminating the pathways towards fairness, equity, and the efficient utilization of public resources. It is incumbent upon us, as auditors, to uphold the principles of social audit with unwavering dedication, ensuring that the voices of the people we serve are heard and their interests safeguarded.

This includes a strong focus on government services for vulnerable populations. We must ensure that these critical programs are reaching those who need them most, delivered with efficiency and compassion

As we delve into this year's theme, "YES to AI," we confront a landscape transformed by the burgeoning capabilities of artificial intelligence. The integration of AI into auditing practices heralds a new era of efficiency, precision, and insight. Yet, amidst the promise of technological advancement, we must remain vigilant guardians of ethical principles and accountability.

Our exploration of AI must be guided by a steadfast commitment to transparency, fairness, and the public good. This includes auditing AI risks in government activity, not just the use of AI tools themselves. We must be confident that these powerful algorithms are unbiased, secure, and ultimately working for the betterment of society.

This is where the energy and fresh perspectives of young auditors become invaluable. The future of public audit lies not just in upholding best practices, but in innovating and embracing new technologies like AI.

Let me take a moment to commend a shining example of this innovative spirit - Eylat Reichman from the Israeli State Comptroller's Office, who is with us here today. On her own initiative, Eylat developed an ingenious Excel-based system for selecting local authorities for audit. This system streamlines the process by combining vast amounts of data and parameters, saving time and resources while ensuring a rationalized approach. Eylat's initiative embodies the very essence of what we want to achieve here.

This conference is a platform for you, the young generation of auditors, to share ideas, explore AI's potential in auditing, and most importantly, to challenge the status quo.

Don't be afraid to ask questions, propose solutions, and push the boundaries. Your fresh perspectives and innovative approaches are what will shape the future of public audit.

We, the more seasoned auditors, are here to learn from you, to support your initiatives, and to empower you to make a real difference.

This week, let's engage in thought-provoking discussions, delve deep into the world of AI, and explore its possibilities for enhancing public accountability.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Polish hosts, the Polish Supreme Audit Office led by Mr. Marian Banaś, for their warm hospitality and impeccable organization of this conference.

Let Warsaw be the launchpad for your ideas, your collaborations, and your contributions to a more transparent and responsible future.