



Informal Consultation for Europe and Central Asia Budapest, 18-19 May 2015

Status of Decentralized Offices

1. This short note provides an update of the recent developments in the decentralized office network in Europe and Central Asia on the basis of the decisions at the 29th ERC 2014.
2. In Europe, the FAO Representation in **Moldova**, under multiple accreditation, is now fully operational. The new Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) is on post since November 2014 and is supported by local personnel provided by the host country.
3. Following the decision at the 29th ERC, the opening of an FAO Representation in **Albania** proceeded. The Host Country Agreement with Albania was signed in December 2014. The National Correspondent Scheme has been discontinued and the position of Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) has been established. The selection procedures were completed in March 2015. The selected candidate will assume functions tentatively in June. Support personnel and adequate office space will be provided by the host country in accordance with Host Country Agreement's provisions. The Deputy Regional Representative REU has been appointed as non-resident FAO Representative. The formal opening of the office is expected in the second half of 2015.
4. In Central Asia, while the establishment of a fully-fledged office in **Uzbekistan** is planned for the 2016-17 biennium, the position of Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) was established and filled in December 2014. In accordance with the signed Host Country Agreement, office space and equipment – as well as a financial contribution – have been made available by the Host Country. Action has already been taken to recruit support personnel and to make the office fully operational. The SEC Subregional Coordinator has been appointed as non-resident FAO Representative.
5. In **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan** the positions of FAO Representative have been filled and the offices are now operating with full authority. In both cases, the new Host Country Agreements are pending finalization.
6. Negotiations with the national authorities for the upgrade of the current FAO Representation (multiple accreditation) to a Partnership and Liaison Office in **Azerbaijan** have reached the final stages and the Agreement is expected to be signed soon. In anticipation of the approval of the new agreement, an FAO Representative has already been appointed by the Director General (March 2015).

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7. In line with the Decision at the 28th ERC 2012, the post of International Programme Officer was established to facilitate resource mobilization and the post was filled in December 2014 to contribute to resource mobilization in support to FAO programme in the countries and in the sub-region.
 8. The establishment of the Liaison Office in **Russia** is underway, after signature of the agreement in February 2015. Several internal procedural clearances have been already obtained and the opening of the new Office is expected to take place before the end-2015. In the meantime, a Director *ad interim* was nominated by the Director-General in early May 2015.
 9. Negotiations for the establishment of an FAO Partnership and Liaison Office in **Kazakhstan** and the approval of the related Partnership Programme are progressing well and the Agreement is expected to signed soon.
 10. **Ukraine** has requested the establishment of a National Correspondent position.
 11. In line with the FAO's corporate approach, the functioning of country offices in the region relies on several sources of funding: Regular Programme, counterpart contributions from the Host Countries, direct contributions from field projects for services provided, as well as income generated by the offices themselves as reimbursement for the provision of administrative and operational services (AOS) as well as of technical support services (TSS).
 12. Empowerment of the Country Offices continues with the extended use of GRMS, ad-hoc delegation of authority for procurement, Letters of Agreement and Non Staff Human Resources to the Assistant FAO Representatives (Programme) in countries under multiple accreditation. In Georgia, on a pilot basis, REU has also delegated the Budget Holder responsibility for national projects to the local FAO office.