



COMMITTEE OF
EUROPEAN
AUDITING
OVERSIGHT
BODIES

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CEAOB INSPECTION SUB-GROUP

Work Plan 2025 and Outlook 2026

1. Introduction

In order to further trust in informative, reliable, and independent audit reports, the CEAOB fosters the improvement of audit quality in Europe. To fulfil this mission, the Inspection sub-group supports the development of expertise in its members, and it fosters sharing of experience, expertise, and best practices in the area of inspections and has effective communication with the audit firms (through the coordination with the Colleges of Regulators) and other stakeholders (international standard setters, public authorities and the general public).

This work plan sets out the key priorities and activities for the period to the end of 2026. This is later than the period of 2025 stated in the CEAOB work programme to allow for a full cycle of meetings with the audit firms to be planned. Any activity of the sub-group beyond the period covered by the 2025 CEAOB Work Programme may be subject to revision after the adoption of the 2025 CEAOB Work Programme.

2. Objectives

Through its ongoing work, the sub-group contributes to meeting the following CEAOB's core strategies:

Harmonising regulatory approaches: Increase consistency among the members through sharing and discussing inspection findings from different analysis perspectives (standard setting, practices relating to audits of financial services entities, IT) development of the Common Audit Inspection Methodology (CAIM) and organisation of trainings, webinars and panel discussions for inspectors.

Sharing expertise and experience: Sharing inspection approaches, identifying training needs and solutions, coordinate interactions with third country audit regulators, organize dialogue with other CEAOB sub-groups, with other regulators (ESMA) and with the largest European networks of audit firms with the involvement of the Colleges.

Contributing to policy making via regular dialogue with international standard setters: Liaising with international standard setters in collaboration with the International Auditing Standards sub-group through the organisation of a joint meeting with IAASB and IESBA every year.

3. Longer term Outlook

Given that the primary focus of the sub-group is to improve audit quality, the sub-group's goal is to enhance the quality of audit services and to better communicate its assessment of audit quality through dialogue with the largest networks, but also by publishing infographics-based analyses of the CEAOB inspection database.

The sub-group will also prepare for strategic changes in the audit profession as regards the revision of the audit directive and regulation, the corporate sustainability reporting directive (CSRD) and the additional role auditors may have to play in relation to CSRD. In respect of these changes, the sub-group will assess the impact on auditors in terms of required knowledge and competency acquisition, training needs, audit services provision and design related assurance inspection procedures to perform this assessment.

4. Summary

The table below sets out the proposed timings of each activity between 2024 and 2026.

	Oct./Nov 2024 Crete	June 2025 Norway	Oct./Nov 2025 Spain	June 2026 Poland	Oct. 2026 Bulgaria
1. Harmonising regulatory approaches					
Sharing and discussing inspection findings through analysis of the Findings Database					
Sharing and discussing approaches to the inspection of sustainability assurance engagements					
Consistency of inspection methodology: CAIM development and update (CAIM TF)					
Update from Financial Services taskforce (FSTF)					
Update from IT taskforce (ITTF)					
2. Sharing expertise and experience					
Sharing of inspection approaches and challenges					
Building of a training plan for inspectors and coordination of the delivery of the agreed training plan (Training taskforce (TTF))					
Update on interactions with the PCAOB and other third countries audit regulators and coordinated quality assurance reviews between members					
Interaction with other CEAOB sub-groups / other regulators					
Dialogue with standards sub-group					
Dialogue with market monitoring sub-group					
Dialogue with enforcement sub-group					
Dialogue with ESMA					
Communication with audit firms					
Dialogue with Big-4 firms	PwC	Deloitte	EY	KPMG	PwC
Dialogue with the other firms		BDO		Mazars	
Follow up on new quality initiatives by the firms, development of new technologies and offshoring activities					
Assess the main firms/networks to monitor					
Coordination with Colleges					
Update from Colleges					
Other communication matters					
Update work plan					
Input into annual CEAOB report					
Consideration of publication of inspection results using data from the CEAOB inspection database					
3. Contributing to policy making via regular dialogue with international standard setters					
Joint meeting ISG-SSG with IAASB/ IESBA					