

How can supreme audit institutions ensure they maintain their independence from public, media, and government pressures?

The Young EUROS AI Congress 2019 recognises the need to ensure that Supreme Audit Institution's operate in environment independent from government, media, or public pressures in order to provide unbiased and factual assessments on the use of public resources.

The members of this committee perceive the following challenges to supreme audit institutions to maintain and safeguard their independence from government, media, and public pressures.

Challenge One

Financial autonomy

How to have financial autonomy to assure the independence of the SAI when funding is provided by the Government or Parliament

Challenge Two

Independent scrutiny

Ensuring that the legal framework is designed in a way to effectively guarantee free criticism of other institutions (even political) without consequences, such as removal of the board.

Challenge Three

Influence

To avoid being overwhelmed by outside influence. To be an influencer rather than influenced.

To address these challenges today and in the future Supreme Audit Institutions need to take the following actions

Action One

Guaranteed minimum income

Propose a change of legislation in order to guarantee the at minimum the same percentage of state budget every year.

Try to obtain other sources of funding, for example, generate revenue through other work at an International level, when applicable.

Action Two

Affect change and establish stability

Where a problem or a hole in the legal framework is clearly present SAIs should not be afraid of highlighting it and making a case for change. Ensure a long-term vision, for instance by providing for long-term mandate of the head of the SAI.

Action Three

Transparency and communication

Emphasise to the public and media that we audit and publish reports according to our internal procedures, including by publishing what these procedures are in a public forum.
Focus on the quality of our reports and our channels of communication.
