



## **Mission, Vision, Values & Strategic Objectives**

### **Mission**

The European Court of Auditors is the EU Institution established by the Treaty to carry out the audit of EU finances. As the **EU's external auditor** it contributes to **improving EU financial management** and acts as the **independent guardian of the financial interests of the citizens of the Union**.

The Court renders audit services through which it assesses the collection and spending of EU funds. It examines whether financial operations have been properly recorded and disclosed, legally and regularly executed and managed so as to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The Court communicates the results of its audits in clear, relevant and objective reports. It also provides its opinion on financial management issues.

The Court promotes accountability and transparency and assists the European Parliament and Council in overseeing the implementation of the EU budget, particularly during the discharge procedure. The Court is committed to being an efficient organisation at the forefront of developments in public audit and administration.

## Vision

- An institution recognised for its integrity and impartiality, for its professionalism, its efficiency and for the quality of its audits and opinions.
- A respected external auditor that exercises its independence in the interest of its stakeholders, whilst seeking to enhance its dialogue with its auditee as a way of bringing added value to EU financial management.
- A progressive and innovative organisation, playing an influential and constructive role within the functioning of the EU by providing critical insight into the management of EU funds – not only by reporting weaknesses and shortcomings but also in identifying examples of best-practice.
- An exemplary employer which recognises that its principal asset is the competence and motivation of its staff and management which it nurtures and develops through ongoing, professional training and through effective encouragement and appropriate incentives.
- A widely esteemed institution contributing to informed public debate on the management of EU funds.

## Values

*The European Court of Auditors is committed to:*

### ***Independence, Integrity and Impartiality***

- Safeguard and reinforce its independence and integrity in all matters that concern the Institution, its Members and staff
- Fulfil its mission impartially by choosing audit topics, performing audits, making recommendations and providing advice on financial management issues, taking into account the views of its stakeholders but without seeking instructions or succumbing to pressure from any outside source.

### ***Professionalism***

- Maintain an exemplary standard of professionalism in all aspects of its work.
- Actively involve itself in the further development of the public audit profession in the EU and worldwide.

### ***Adding value***

- Produce relevant, timely and clear, high-quality audit reports, based on sound criteria and robust evidence, which address the concerns of stakeholders and which are viewed by users as important and authoritative documents.
- Express opinions and provide recommendations that contribute to effective improvement in the management of the EU budget.
- Communicate openly and persuasively with the outside world on its role, methods and results, contributing to enhanced accountability in the management of EU funds.

### ***Excellence and efficiency***

- Value individuals, develop talent and reward performance
- Respect diversity and promote team spirit and trust through effective communication and efficient and proactive administration.
- Maximise efficiency in all aspects of its work.

## Strategic objectives

### **Mission summary:**

The European Court of Auditors is the EU Institution established by the Treaty to carry out the audit of EU finances. As the EU's external auditor it contributes to improving EU financial management and acts as the independent guardian of the financial interests of the citizens of the Union.

### **Professional**

- Apply a regular review process to identify ways to strengthen the robustness of the methodology applied in the Court's audits.
- Implement an appropriate audit strategy to maximise the overall impact from its audits and increase efficiency by making best use of resources.
- Actively keep abreast with, and contribute to, the development of public audit practice to ensure the highest quality audits.
- Encourage a common interpretation and application of public auditing standards and audit criteria throughout the EU, with respect to EU funds.
- Develop further the collaboration with the EU SAIs.
- Support the development and application of an effective 'Community Internal Control Framework' covering all areas of EU expenditure.

### **Output**

- Enhance the impact of the Court's financial and performance audits by selecting topics which are relevant and by improving the timeliness, clarity and readability of reports.
- Increase the number and improve the quality of performance audits.
- Expand and broaden opportunities for the active communication of the findings and recommendations in the Court's reports and opinions to increase their impact.

### **Stakeholders**

- Develop further the constructive dialogue with the principal auditee (Commission) to gain greater insight into the management of EU finances and foster a better understanding of the audit process and, through an improved clearance procedure for audit findings, a wider acceptance of the audit results.
- Improve the dialogue with the Discharge Authorities in support of their budget oversight function.
- Develop additional contacts with Parliament and Council in order that the Court may become more influential in promoting positive change to improve the management of EU finances.
- Develop further the ability to communicate effectively with EU citizens, in support of the Court's mission and as a way of promoting the Court's values.

### **Learning & growth**

- Implement mechanisms to ensure an effective follow-up to the peer-review exercise, building upon existing strengths to develop further the organisation, methods, processes and output of the institution and to maximise efficiency..
- Implement effective and dynamic HR policies so as to be in a stronger position to retain, attract, develop and motivate high-quality staff.
- Ensure a close link between the Court's audit and human resources strategies.
- Give priority to the Court's core tasks when allocating human resources.
- Facilitate high-quality professional training to ensure that staff are knowledgeable and motivated, that the Court's methods are understood and properly applied, and that relevant developments in the audit field are exploited.
- Upgrade infrastructure in an adequate and timely manner, in support of the Court's mission.
- Actively implement appropriate IT policies to support effective implementation of audit and administrative tasks and to allow the Court to identify and exploit the full potential of developments in technology.