

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

Dear Member,

We are slowly reaching the end of 2020, a year we will all remember as 'the beginning of the new normal'. We have learnt countless lessons about the importance of digitalisation since we began working from home, and even more this autumn when we started delivering our events in the cyberspace. With having seven digital technical events behind us and two more left to go before the holiday period begins, IOTA is also busy with preparing for the first quarter of 2021. Keep scrolling to learn more about the latest IOTA news!

IOTA News

IOTA Re-Confirmed as ISORA Chair for 2020/21

On 23rd November 2020, IOTA obtained an approval on the prolongation of the ISORA Chairmanship for one more year in the Annual Meeting of the ISORA Technical Working Group. IOTA will lead the ISORA Technical Working Group and the ISORA Executive Council until the end of October 2021. In general, the chair rotation period between ISORA partners (including CIAT, IOTA, IMF and OECD) lasts one year.



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Virtual Signing Ceremony of MoU on Cooperation between IOTA and IBFD

The International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD) and IOTA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation during a virtual signing ceremony on 5th November 2020. The MoU aims at strengthening the capacity of tax administrations to share technical knowledge in cross-border taxation issues and facilitating a dialogue between tax administrations and businesses.



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Delivery of E-Services to Taxpayers



The IOTA Webinar on 'Delivery of E-Services to Taxpayers Affected by Covid-19' was held on 28th October 2020, where presenters outlined how their Tax Administrations faced the challenges brought by the pandemic. Participants had the opportunity to learn about innovative responses and solutions in providing e-services throughout the pandemic in order to ensure business continuity and to provide support to the most affected taxpayers.

[Read more](#)

IOTA Communication Forum 2020

The 2nd IOTA Forum on Communication was held in the cyberspace on 5th and 6th November 2020. 75 participants from 32 countries participated in this year's event with the theme: "Communication of the Tax Administrations during and beyond Covid-19". The plenary sessions and group discussions focused on innovative communication strategies of tax administrations implemented during the Covid-19 crisis, as well as the changes and future implications of these.



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People Management During the Pandemic Crisis



The 2020 IOTA Human Resources Management Forum took place on 10th and 11th November, organised as a digital event containing Plenary Sessions and Group Discussions. The main objective of this event was to explore best practices and forward-looking solutions in staff involvement, engagement and motivation during remote working and share practical knowledge in leadership and management during distant working.

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Sixth Regional Meeting on BEPS for Eurasian Countries



The Sixth Regional Meeting on BEPS for Eurasian countries took place virtually on 17th-19th November 2020. It was hosted by the Ministry of Finance of Bulgaria, OECD and IOTA. Over 100 delegates from 28 countries, international and regional organisations, business and civil society participated in the event. The meeting provided updates on the work of the Inclusive Framework, especially in the area of addressing the challenges of the digitalisation of the economy and the four BEPS minimum standards.

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Activities

Please note: Registration for the below events is only possible for Principal Contact Persons of IOTA. If you would like to attend, kindly contact the PCP of your Tax Administration to invite you to the event you are interested in.



Forum on Implementation of Measures to Counter BEPS 8th-10th December 2020, Digital

Strategies and practical application of working methods and tools developed to effectively tackle BEPS

Topics:

- Country-by-Country (CbC) Reporting: reporting organisational structure for exchanging CbC information, data analysis and risk assessment
- Exchange of Tax Ruling Information: experiences and good examples of the outcome of spontaneous exchange of information, effects on businesses' behaviour
- Dispute Prevention and Resolution: country insights of MAPs, country experiences with bilateral Advanced Pricing Arrangement

[Find out more](#)



Webinar on Implementing Culture of Change in Tax Administrations 11th December 2020

Managing changes in the organisational culture caused by the COVID-19 crisis

Topics:

3 heads of HR of IOTA members will share their thoughts on:

- How implementing culture of change can determine success of an organisation in overcoming a crisis
- Practical aspects of developing and implementing culture of change during a pandemic and beyond

[Find out more](#)

Coming in 2021... Save the date!



Tax Morale: Cooperation and Trust between MNEs and Tax Authorities (joint OECD-IOTA virtual event) 20th January 2021, Digital

An event to facilitate a dialogue aimed at building tax morale through improving cooperation and mutual trust between MNEs and tax authorities.

Topics:

- How MNEs and Tax Authorities see each other?
- How do MNE's behave in IOTA member countries?
- Way forward: potential tools and/or approaches that may help to improve the MNE – tax authority relationship.

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW SOON!



Webinar: Application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Tax-Administration Processes (joint CIAT-IOTA event) 31st March 2021

Discussing the latest approaches of developing a flexible and agile technology environment that enables IT to accelerate performances, optimise the use of resources and processes and provide employees with the tools for more agile operations.

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW SOON!

Member News

Portugal's Participation in WCO's Operation "STOP"



In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, decreed on 11th March 2020 by the WHO, the World Customs Organisation (WCO) organised a worldwide emergency operation (Operation "STOP"), in which 99 of the 183 WCO member countries participated, as well as its Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILO) network, with the aim of concentrating and coordinating the efforts of the customs authorities of the different countries in the controls related to the public health problem caused by the pandemic.

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Control of Transboundary Movement of Waste



DEMETER VI, an initiative of PR China, had the participation of 73 customs administrations and the special collaboration and organisation of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and the operational support of the Regional Intelligence Liaison Offices (RILOs) for Asia/Pacific and Western Europe. The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) also supported the operation. Portugal also participated and at the national level, the operation took covered export and import, sea and air routes.

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Fully automatic VAT refund system in Georgia



In February 2019, the Revenue Service of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia have launched a new project, aimed to introduce automatic VAT refund system. Beginning with November 2020 the system turned fully automatic, where excess VAT amount is automatically credited on taxpayers' bank account without sending a payment request. This reform is expected to support business taking into account the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

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Would you like to see your IOTA Paper published? Do you have any relevant issues you wish to share? Apply NOW!

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Please note: Before submitting your paper, kindly contact the IOTA PCP of your Tax Administration for approval and include them in your correspondence with us as well. Thank you for your cooperation!

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Contact Us.

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