Opinion on the Annual Accounts 2015 and the regularity of the transactions of the Ministry of Education and Research

Summary of audit results

What did we audit?

As from 2015, instead of drawing up a complete annual report, the Ministries and constitutional institutions (excl. the National Audit Office), and the Government Office prepare only the balance sheet, income statement, state budget implementation report and operational programme implementation report. In that context, the scope and approach of the audit conducted by the NAO have changed.

The State Budget Act requires the NAO to audit the accuracy of the state's annual accounts (previously the accuracy of annual accounts of all state accounting entities) and the regularity of transactions on an annual basis. The annual accounts of the state consolidate the financial statements - that recognise the effected economic transactions - of all state accounting entities, state-controlled companies, state-established foundations, and the state-owned commercial body.

The audit of the annual accounts and the regularity of transactions of the Ministry of Education and Research is part of the audit of the accuracy of the annual accounts and the regularity of transactions of the state. To provide an opinion on the accuracy of the annual accounts and the regularity of transactions of the state, the NAO conducted audit operations in the Ministry of Education and Research to determine:

- whether the economic transactions carried out in 2015 comply with the State Budget Acts, the State Assets Act, and the Public Procurement Act; and
- whether the financial statement items that are relevant for the annual accounts of the state - tangible fixed assets, granted support, labour costs, management costs, depreciation and revaluation of fixed assets, and transfers received - are accurately recognised in the financial statement of the Ministry.

What did we conclude as a result of the audit?

The NAO is of the opinion that, as at 31 December 2015, the items on the balance sheet and in the income statement of the Ministry of Education and Research that are relevant for the annual accounts of the state (see paragraph 2 of the report) have been recognised in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles, incl. the General Rules of State Accountancy and the Accounting Act have been respected.

In 2015, the Ministry's budgetary expenditure and investments amounted to a total of EUR 546 million and revenue amounted to EUR 111 million.

The NAO is of the opinion that the economic transactions of the Ministry of Education and Research have in all material respects been carried out in compliance with the State Budget Act, the 2015 State Budget Act and the 2015 State Budget Act Amendment Act.

It is the NAO's opinion that, in all material respects, the Ministry has collected revenue in compliance with the principles laid down by law.

The NAO is of the opinion that the Ministry has in all material respects complied with the principles of the State Assets Act as regards the acquisition, possession and disposal, incl. write-off, of state assets.

In the NAO's opinion, the agencies governed by the Ministry of Education and Research have neglected the principles of the Public Procurement Act.