Audit of the former key ICT project ASALneu and the new IT strategy for unemployment insurance
Report addressed to the Supervisory Commission for the Unemployment Insurance Fund

Key facts

In 2013, the company CSC Switzerland (CSC) was asked to overhaul the technologically outdated system for the payment of unemployment benefits (ASAL) in a technical 1:1 migration. In 2015, the key ICT project for overhauling this payment system, ASALneu, was at a crossroads.[1] At the end of June 2015, the Supervisory Commission for the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) discontinued the ASALneu project. The Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) audited the former key ICT project and found that the discontinuation had been performed in a structured and understandable manner. They consider the envisaged new orientation to be expedient.

From the perspective of the compensation office for unemployment insurance, the discontinuation resulted in damages amounting to CHF 350,000, as part of the services rendered should be reused. If the outcomes are not reused, the damages with a financial impact will be higher. Details of this were dealt with in the project conclusion report. The ASALneu project work inventoried up to now was written off in full at the end of 2015. Current ASAL operations will continue to be ensured by CSC in a new maintenance agreement.

New target architecture should be developed in parallel to ASAL replacement

ASAL should be replaced with a new project, ASALfutur, and the deliverables that have already been produced should be reused, where possible. A general target architecture[2] should also be developed for the future integrated application environment as part of a reorientation of the compensation office's IT department.

The SFAO also audited the new "IT strategy for unemployment insurance" and found that it had a promising basis for this new direction. The strategy was adopted by the Supervisory Commission for the UIF on 15 June 2016. The SFAO recommends that the compensation office formulate a business architecture[3] with the aim of streamlining the requirements and processes prior to ASALfutur implementation and developing the target architecture.

Original text in German

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[1] "Audit of the key ICT project ASALneu" (audit mandate 15399) is available on the SFAO website.

[2] Future architecture for the entire ALV system

[3] The business architecture considers the company's business processes and objects.