

# Audit of the new ICT and digitalisation steering Federal Chancellery, Digital Transformation and ICT Steering Sector

## Key facts

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At the beginning of 2021, the Federal Council created a new centre of competence for digitalisation matters in the Federal Chancellery: the Digital Transformation and ICT Steering Sector (DTI; ICT stands for information and communication technology). At the same time, it dissolved the Federal IT Steering Unit (FITSU). This realigns the digital transformation of the Federal Administration to achieve the economic and efficient use of ICT through the better integration of business processes and the increased use of existing data.

The Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) examined whether all of the FITSU's mandates and pending items are continuing to be processed, whether they have been prioritised appropriately and whether mandates have been written off or transferred to a better suited organisational unit. In addition, the SFAO reviewed the implementation of recommendations from previous audits that were addressed to the FITSU.<sup>1</sup>

The pending issues were all transferred to successor organisations and are continuing to be processed there. At the DTI, the mandates must subsequently be prioritised or additional funds must be requested. The implementation of the recommendations is on track.

### **All tasks and pending items have been transferred from the FITSU to successor organisations**

For the handover to the successor organisation DTI, the FITSU drew up a list of mandates and pending items on 26 June 2020. This list comprised sixteen Federal Council affairs, three parliamentary initiatives and fourteen SFAO recommendations.

Of the sixteen Federal Council affairs, five have since been completed (e.g. partial strategy and market model for the ICT websites standard service), nine are still in progress and regular reports are submitted to the clients (e.g. specifications, steering and operational model for a data centre network, strategy and concept for the expansion of the Confederation's joint master data management system). Two mandates are recurring annual or semi-annual tasks (strategic ICT controlling, overall assessment of ICT resources).

All affairs were transferred to the successor organisation – DTI or National Cybersecurity Centre – and are continuing to be processed there.

### **DTI tasks and mandates to be reprioritised**

At the beginning of 2021, the DTI Sector compiled an overview of its tasks and priorities in a portfolio and presented it to the interested parties (departments, Federal Digital Trans-

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<sup>1</sup> These are the following audit reports, available on the SFAO website ([www.sfao.admin.ch](http://www.sfao.admin.ch)): "Audit of the development and operation of the public key infrastructure" (audit mandate 19465), "Audit of the management and operation of the "identity and access management" standard service"(audit mandate 18502), "Audit of the key ICT project Workplace systems 2020" (audit mandate 18257), "Audit of the key ICT project Fiscal IT" (audit mandate 16153), "ICT-PP audit: Audit of the DC DDPS/Confederation 2020 project" (audit mandate 16654), " Horizontal audit of federal IT security" (audit mandate 16255).

formation and ICT Steering Council, General Secretaries Conference). The result of this intensive and time-consuming consultation process was that significantly more affairs are to be dealt with as a matter of priority than was originally proposed (eleven instead of five projects).

The SFAO concluded that, in view of the DTI's ambitious goals, an even stronger focus on priority tasks and mandates was necessary. It recommended that the Federal Chancellery reprioritise the DTI Sector's existing tasks and mandates and narrow their focus even further or, alternatively, request an increase in resources.

### **The SFAO's recommendations to the FITSU have been implemented, with one exception**

The recommendations the SFAO made to the FITSU between 2016 and 2019 have been implemented by those responsible, with one exception, and are thus fulfilled. Recommendation 18502.001 addressed the identity and access management standard service. A standard service is intended to provide uniform, central solutions for all stakeholders in order to exploit synergies and thus save resources. It is expected that this recommendation, which is still pending, will not be fully completed until the end of 2023, instead of the end of 2021.

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