Inter Pares Partnership with the National Assembly of Benin

Activity 2.2. Study Visit to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic: Strengthening Parliamentary Research Services

Proposed agenda

Agenda	
The address of where the meetings will be held **Parliamentary Institute** **Thunovská 12, Prague 1 (next to the British Embassy)**	
Day 1 **Monday, December 1**	**Research Services Organization and Governance**
The objective of this day's agenda is to identify if there are aspects related to the organization of research services that could be adapted to the context of the IPAB to enhance its services. The session will begin with a presentation by the National Assembly of Benin, discussing their challenges and development needs regarding how the IPAB is organized and managed. This will be followed by a moderated round table discussion to provide a comparative view of how services are organized, managed, staffed and funded by European partner parliaments, how they handle challenges, and what practices are most worth sharing or adapting with the National Assembly of Benin. Aiming for a mix of practice presentations and open discussions, the moderator will present a series of questions that would be answered by all colleagues, in order to provide a good overview of the practices. There will be three rounds of general questions and answers, followed by a 30-minute open discussion on the topic of the day. At the end of the round table, the moderator will highlight some key ideas from the discussion. **The morning session will cover four main topics:**	
• Research services status, mission and fundamental values,	
• How research services are funded and models for budget allocation and financial budget lines available for management for parliamentary research,	
• Recruitment and retention and professional development frameworks for continuous learning,	
• Processes for planning research services and products - annual planning and ad hoc responses to MP/committee requests	
The afternoon session will explore what elements from the morning presentation are most relevant to the ANB and IPAB and if any practices could be adapted or developed. First the ANB delegation will	

brainstorm among themselves about what ideas are most interesting, present to the group, and then lead a discussion about what might jointly be done.

Start time	End time	Topic	Presenter & Facilitator
9 :00	9 :30 (30 min)	Welcome, introduction and objectives	
9 :30	9 :50 (20 min)	Benin National Assembly - Challenges, desired outcomes and actions needed	ANB (CCJ)
9 :50	10 :00 (10 min)	Moderator Introduction	Parliamentary Institute, Chamber of Deputies, Czech Republic
10 :00	11 :30 (90 min)	Round table discussion of differences, Challenges, proposals	All
11 :30	11 :45 (15 min)	Break	Parliamentary Institute, Chamber of Deputies, Czech Republic
11 :45	12 :00 (15 min)	Recap and Readout of key ideas to pursue	
12 :00	13 :30 (90 min)	**LUNCH**	
13 :30	14 :15 (45 min)	Breakout session for NAB colleagues to confer among themselves, highlighting strengths and what could be useful practices to explore further or adapt, and for a potential joint deliverable	ANB
14 :15	14 :35 (20 min)	Beninois Plenary sharing/presentation	All
14 :35	15 :35 (60 min)	All Partners Discussion to identify priority actions	All
15 :35	15 :55 (20 min)	Break	
15 :55	15 :10 (15 min)	Read out of decisions from the day	ANB (CCJ)

Day 2 Tuesday, December 2	**Research Products, Work Processes, and Research Tools**

The objective of this day's agenda is to identify if there are aspects related to the research services work products, approaches and tools that could be adapted to the context of the IPAB to enhance its services. The session will begin with a presentation by the National Assembly of Benin, discussing their challenges and development needs regarding IPAB products, work processes and tools.

This will be followed by a moderated round table discussions to provide a comparative exchange and dialogue about European Member State partner parliament's products, processes and tools, how they handle challenges, and what practices are most worth sharing or adapting with the National

Assembly of Benin. Aiming for a mix of practice presentations and open discussions, the moderator will present a series of questions that would be answered by all colleagues, in order to provide a good overview of the practices. There will be three rounds of general questions and answers, followed by a 30-minute open discussion on the topic of the day.

At the end of the round table, the moderator will highlight some key ideas from the discussion.

This theme will explore the various research products, the internal production processes, IT tools available, such as databases for managing research products and workflows and improving research tools and quality control. A session will be dedicated to exploring cases and practices for digital infrastructure implementation. **The morning session will cover four main topics:**

- Research Products and Standardization: Explore templates and quality standards for policy briefs, research notes, and other parliamentary products.
- Research and Analytical Methodologies: Discuss evidence-based frameworks and structured approaches to policy analysis.
- Research Management Systems: selecting, implementing, and managing digital tools for research storage, retrieval, and collaboration.
- Case studies on digital infrastructure implementation, and AI use: how have partner parliaments implemented digitalization and AI use, challenges, benefits, protocols

The afternoon session will explore what elements from the morning presentation are most relevant to the ANB and IPAB and if any practices could be adapted or developed. First the ANB delegation will brainstorm among themselves about what ideas are most interesting, present to the group, and then lead a discussion about what might jointly be done.

Research Products, Work Processes, and Research Tools:

Start time	End time	Topic	Presenter & Facilitator
9 :15	9 :30 (15 min)	Welcome, introduction and objectives	TBD
9 :30	9 :50 (20 min)	Benin National Assembly - Challenges, desired outcomes and actions needed	ANB (IPAB)
9 :50	10 :00 (10 min)	Moderator Introduction	Research Service, Chamber of Deputies, Italy
10 :00	11 :30 (90 min)	Round table discussion of differences, Challenges, proposals	All
11 :30	11 :45 (15 min)	Break	
11 :45	12 :00 (15 min)	Recap and Readout of key ideas to pursue	Research Service, Chamber of Deputies, Italy
12 :00	13 :30 (90 min)	**LUNCH**	
13 :30	14 :30 (60 min)	Breakout session for NAB colleagues to confer among themselves, highlighting	ANB

		strengths and what could be useful practices to explore further or adapt, and for a potential joint deliverable	
14 :30	14 :50 (20 min)	Beninois Plenary sharing/presentation	ANB
14 :50	15 :50 (60 min)	All Partners Discussion to identify priority actions	All
15 :50	16 :10 (20 min)	Break	
16 :10	16 :25 (15 min)	Read out of decisions from the day	ANB (IPAB)

Day 3 Wednesday, December 3	**Internal Coordination and Collaboration**

The objective of this day's agenda is to explore how parliaments handle internal coordination and collaboration and then to identify if there are aspects related internal collaboration that could be adapted to the context of the IPAB to enhance its services. The session will begin with a presentation by the National Assembly of Benin, discussing their challenges and development needs regarding internal coordination and collaboration.
This will be followed by a moderated round table discussion to provide a comparative exchange and dialogue about European Member State partner parliament's internal coordination mechanisms, how they handle challenges, and what practices are worth sharing or adapting with the National Assembly of Benin. Aiming for a mix of practice presentations and open discussions, the moderator will present a series of questions that would be answered by all colleagues, in order to provide a good overview of the practices. There will be three rounds of general questions and answers, followed by a 30-minute open discussion on the topic of the day.

At the end of the round table, the moderator will highlight some key ideas from the discussion.

This theme examines the relationships and communication strategies between research services and other units within parliamentary support services, such as the legal service, committee secretariats, and the parliamentary library and archives. The goal is to identify best practices to enhance coordination and optimize parliamentarians' access to information.

The themes for discussion are:

- Integrating research services with other parliamentary departments (e.g., library, archives legal services) for a seamless user experience.
- Communication and public access to research products
- Committee support models and best practices for embedding research within legislative workflows.

The afternoon session will explore what elements from the morning presentation are most relevant to the ANB and IPAB and if any practices could be adapted or developed. First the ANB delegation will brainstorm among themselves about what ideas are most interesting, present to the group, and then lead a discussion about what might jointly be done.

Start time	End time	Topic	Presenter & Facilitator

9 :15	9 :30 (15 min)	Welcome, introduction and objectives	TBD
9 :30	9 :50 (20 min)	Benin National Assembly - Challenges, desired outcomes and actions needed	ANB (IPAB)
9 :50	10 :00 (10 min)	Moderator Introduction	Parliamentary Institute, National Council, Slovakia
10 :00	11 :30 (90 min)	Round table discussion of differences, Challenges, proposals	All
11 :30	11 :45 (15 min)	Break	
11 :45	12 :00 (15 min)	Recap and Readout of key ideas to pursue	Parliamentary Institute, National Council, Slovakia
12 :00	13 :30 (90 min)	**LUNCH**	Hosted by the Parliamentary Institute, Chamber of Deputies
13 :30	14 :30 (60 min)	Breakout session for NAB colleagues to confer among themselves, highlighting strengths and what could be useful practices to explore further or adapt, and for a potential joint deliverable	ANB
14 :30	14 :50 (20 min)	Beninois Plenary sharing/presentation	ANB
14 :50	15 :50 (60 min)	All Partners Discussion to identify priority actions	All
15 :50	16 :10 (20 min)	Break	ANB (IPAB)
16 :10	16 :25 (15 min)	Read out of decisions from the day	
16.25	**17.00**	**Guided visit of the Parliament**	Parliamentary Institute, Chamber of Deputies
Day 4 Thursday, December 4	**International and External Partnerships and Capacity Building**		

The objective of this day's agenda is to explore how parliaments handle cooperation with external partners, either international cooperation with other parliaments and parliamentary bodies, or collaboration with bodies and institutes external to parliament like ministries, think tanks, universities, civil society. It will explore how such collaboration can reinforce parliamentary research capacity.

The session will begin with a presentation by the National Assembly of Benin, discussing their challenges and development needs regarding international cooperation and coordination with other bodies. This will be followed by a moderated round table discussion to provide a comparative exchange and dialogue about European Member State partner parliament's international

collaboration mechanisms and channels, and if they have practices that would be worth sharing or adapting with the National Assembly of Benin. Aiming for a mix of practice presentations and open discussions, the moderator will present a series of questions that would be answered by all colleagues, in order to provide a good overview of the practices. There will be three rounds of general questions and answers, followed by a 30-minute open discussion on the topic of the day.

At the end of the round table, the moderator will highlight some key ideas from the discussion.

This theme explores the interactions and cooperation efforts between research services and external stakeholders, including other parliaments, ministries, think tanks, universities, and NGOs. This topic will address approaches and collaborative arrangements that can strengthen the expertise and diversity of parliament's research work, and how international cooperation can reinforce the work of Parliament.

The themes for discussion are:

- Participation in regional and international parliamentary research networks.
- Protocols for accessing government information and building relationships with executive agencies.
- Engagement with civil society while maintaining research objectivity and non-partisanship.
- Establishing and maintaining partnerships with academic and research institutions. Knowledge exchange mechanisms and collaborative research initiatives.

The afternoon session will explore what elements from the morning presentation are most relevant to the ANB and IPAB and if any practices could be adapted or developed. First the ANB delegation will brainstorm among themselves about what ideas are most interesting, present to the group, and then lead a discussion about what might jointly be done.

Start time	End time	Topic	Presenter & Facilitator
9 :15	9 :30 (15 min)	Welcome, introduction and objectives	**TBD**
9 :30	9 :50 (20 min)	Benin National Assembly - Challenges and opportunities for international and external cooperation	ANB (SCIP)
9 :50	10 :00 (10 min)	Moderator Introduction	Research Service Bundestag, Germany
10 :00	11 :30 (90 min)	Round table discussion of differences, Challenges, proposals	All
11 :30	11 :45 (15 min)	Break	
11 :45	12 :00 (15 min)	Recap and Readout of key ideas to pursue	Research Service, Bundestag, Germany
12 :00	13 :30 (90 min)	**LUNCH**	
Discussion and Atelier			
13 :30	14 :30 (60 min)	Breakout session for NAB colleagues to confer among themselves, highlighting strengths and what could be useful practices	ANB

		to explore further or adapt, and for a potential joint deliverable	
14 :30	14 :50 (20 min)	Beninois Plenary sharing/presentation	ANB
14 :50	15 :50 (60 min)	All Partners Discussion to identify priority actions	All
15 :50	16 :10 (20 min)	Break	
16 :10	16 :25 (15 min)	Read out of decisions from the day	ANB (SCIP)
Day 5 Thursday, December 4	**Joint Planning, Road mapping and planning for a co-designed deliverable**		
The objective of this day's agenda is twofold: a) to explore together a plan of initiatives that aim to enhance the planning and execution of research activities in each of the four themes from the previous days, and b) to subsequently identify a written document, guide, or tool that the Inter Pares partners can jointly co-design in 2026 that would support IPAB's work.			
Start time	**End time**	**Topic**	**Presenter & Facilitator**
9 :00	9 :15 (15 min)	Welcome, introduction and objectives	TBD
9 :15	10 :00 (45 min)	Benin National Assembly - Break out session to identify priorities from the 4 days of discussion for a roadmap (a list of practices they would like to explore) and identifying a joint deliverable that could be developed in 2026	ANB
Road Mapping an Outline			
10 :00	11 :00 (60 min)	Joint work on preparing an outline of proposals the ANB would like to make, possibly for inclusion in IPAB annual work plan	All
11 :00	11 :20 (20 min)	Benin National Assembly presents ideas for a joint deliverable	ANB (IPAB or CCJ)
11 :20	12 :05 (45 min)	Discussion to identify a joint deliverable to be developed in 2026	All
12 :05	12 :25 (20 min)	Plan for the deliverable and next steps	All
12 :25	12 :45 (20 min)	Closing words	All

12 :45	14 :15 (90 min)	**Lunch**	

Participants:

National Assembly of Benin

- **Mr. DJIMA Fataou** – Director of the Parliamentary Institute of Benin
- **Mr. DONKPEGAN Christe-Fourier** – Head of the Legal Unit of the President of the National Assembly of Benin
- **Mr KPEGOUTON Antonin** – Head of the Department of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, INTER PARES Focal Point in Benin (IPAB)
- **Mr. OROBIYI Cyprien** – Head of the Development Policy Research Unit at the Parliamentary Institute of Benin (IPAB)
- **Ms YETONGNON Dèkpètin Imelda Katia** – Head of the Sustainable Development Research Unit at the Parliamentary Institute of Benin (IPAB)
- **Mr. TAKIN Véril Siegfried Dagbémabou** – Head of the Communication, Digital and Digitalization Research Unit at the Parliamentary Institute of Benin (IPAB)
- **Mr. FASSINOU Camille** – Head of the Legal Affairs and Regulation Unit in the Legal Unit of the President of the National Assembly of Benin

Bundestag, Germany

- **Ms GOTTESBÜREN Anna**, Research Officer in the Constitutional Law and Public Administration Section (WD 3)

Chamber of Deputies, Italy

- **Mr DE LUCA,** Federico, Head of the Culture Department, Research Service

National Council, Slovakia

- **Ms RANKOVOVA,** Kristina, Counsellor

Chamber of Deputies, Czech Republic,

- **Ms IBRAHIM Klara** Researcher/Adviser for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation, Parliamentary Institute
- **Mr KUTA Martin** Expert, Parliamentary Institute

Inter Pares

- **Mme. Andrea Wolfe,** Expert senior en partenariat et en suivi et évaluation
- **Mme. Sophie Garuli,** Agent de programme principal