



NEWSLETTER



Dear ladies and gentlemen,
colleagues and friends,

We are happy to share the December 2017 issue of the EPAC/EACN Newsletter with you, containing the latest news from the EPAC/EACN networks and information on the events that took place over the last couple of months.

As always, we would appreciate your input regarding future or past events, conferences, seminars, training courses, studies, project findings, etc. that we could include in the next newsletter.

We wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas time and all the best for 2018!

Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat

EPAC/EACN EVENTS AND LATEST NEWS

1) 17TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The 17th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly was held in Lisbon on 15-17 November 2017. Almost 160 delegates representing more than 30 member states had fruitful discussions on latest developments, elected two new Vice-Presidents, and adopted the 2017 Lisbon Declaration.

The conference was opened by Mr Eduardo Cabrita, Portugal's Minister of the Interior, Mr Andreas Wieselthaler, President of the EPAC/EACN Networks and Director of the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK), and Ms Margarida Blasco, Head of the Portuguese Inspectorate General of Home Affairs (IGAI). The Portuguese IGAI generously hosted this year's conference, providing a stimulating environment for the delegates. A full report and all documents are available on the [EPE platform](#).

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Homepage: www.epac-eacn.org

1.1) EPAC/EACN WORKING GROUPS: RESULTS AND OUTLOOK

After fruitful plenary sessions and constructive discussions, the results of the EPAC/EACN Working Groups (WG) were presented on the last day of the conference. In particular, the WG on Risk Analysis and Risk Management, headed by Ms Martina Koger, Head of the Department of Prevention, Education and International Cooperation, Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK), Austria, was both opened and concluded in 2017 and issued the “Integrity Risk Management Guideline for ACAs and POBs”. Furthermore, the interim outcome of the WG on Big Data, headed by Ms Rūta Kaziliūnaitė, EPAC/EACN Deputy Vice President and Deputy Head of the Administration Department of the Special Investigation Service (STT), Lithuania, was presented to the audience. This WG has been active in 2017 and will convene again in Bucharest in 2018. Ms Dominique Devos-Cavier, General Controller of the General Inspectorate of the French National Police (IGPN), headed the EPAC/EACN POB Working Group, which was created in 2016 and continued their work in 2017. She presented the final version of the “Handbook for evaluating the effectiveness/efficiency of police oversight bodies” which was prepared by this WG.

In the framework of the conference, it was also decided to create two new WGs. While one consisting solely of EACN members will focus on the topic of EU integrity and how to promote it, the other EPAC/EACN WG will be called „How can POB organisations monitor the authorities of police forces in their planning and control of persons in relation to public events“. The members of the WG on Big Data will also continue their work on this challenging topic so that there will be 3 active WGs in 2018.

1.2) ELECTION OF NEW VICE-PRESIDENTS, ADOPTION OF NEW LOGO AND ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBERS

At the General Assembly, the delegates expressed their sincere thanks for the work of Ms Anca Jurma (ACA) and Ms Dominique Devos (POB) whose mandates as Vice-Presidents of the respective networks expired. Newly elected Vice-Presidents Mati Ombler, Head of the Estonian Corruption Crimes Bureau, for the ACA strand, and Jack Vissers, Belgian Standing Police Monitoring Committee, for the POB strand, will now support the respective strands with their experience.

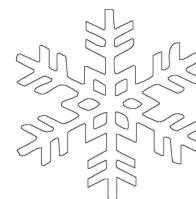
The General Assembly also agreed to a newly designed EPAC/EACN Logo, accepted the Agence française anticorruption (AFA) and the Haute Autorité pour la transparence de la vie publique (HATVP) as full members, and finally adopted the Lisbon Declaration. Please find the wording of the Lisbon Declaration [here](#) and the complete programme of the conference [here](#) or access the [EPAC/EACN website](#) for further information.



1.3) SAVE THE DATE —

18TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

We are happy to announce that the date and location of the 18th Annual Conference and General Assembly has just been decided. The conference will take place at the [Seehotel Rust](#) in Rust, Austria from 22 to 24 October 2018. Further information and details regarding the conference and registration process will follow in due time but we already look forward to welcoming you in Austria next year.



2) INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY:

SURVEY SHOWS THAT CORRUPTION REMAINS A CONCERN FOR EU CITIZENS AND COMPANIES

Ahead of the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos said: "Corruption is an affront to the very foundations of our political, economic and social values and to the well-being of our societies. It is no surprise that corruption continues to be a major concern for a large number of citizens and businesses across the EU. Corruption is unacceptable. It harms the EU as a whole by choking off investment, undermining trust in governments and enabling organised crime. If we want to boost business confidence, improve the investment climate, spend public money more efficiently and increase our economic, social and territorial cohesion, we must step up efforts to fight corruption more effectively. We need to fight it together and we will continue to engage with all Member States to prevent and eradicate corruption and protect our citizens."

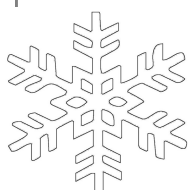
On 9 December 2017, the European Commission released two new Eurobarometer surveys looking at citizens' and businesses' attitudes to and experiences of corruption. The results show that, whilst corruption is generally considered less widespread than in previous surveys, 68% (-8%) of Europeans still believe that corruption is widespread in their country and 37% (-8%) of companies cite corruption as a problem for doing business.

Since 2015, the Commission has presented several measures to step up the fight against corruption, including new rules to protect the EU's financial interests against fraud and corruption by strengthening administrative and criminal procedures, and establishing a European Public Prosecutor's Office. New legislation has been initiated to ensure the mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders,

criminalise money laundering, extend cash controls and strengthen legislation on anti-money laundering.

Summaries as well as full reports of the surveys on public attitudes to corruption and businesses' attitudes to corruption are available online.

From: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/international-anti-corruption-day-surveys-shows-corruption-remains-concern-eu-citizens-and_en



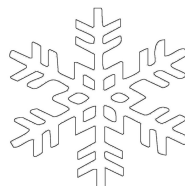
3) OPENING OF THE TRAVELLING EXHIBITION “MANY FACES OF CORRUPTION”

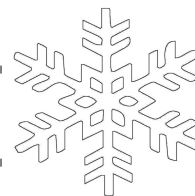
On 12 December 2017, Central Criminal Police and Tartu Art School opened a travelling exhibition with the title „Many faces of corruption“ to celebrate the International Anti-Corruption Day. The Bureau of Corruption Crimes of Central Criminal Police started a project in spring in cooperation with students to find the faces that characterise corruption and open up youth vision of dishonesty. The goal was to take the mask off corruption.

Mati Omblar, the head of the Bureau of Corruption Crimes of the Central Criminal Police and new Vice-President of the networks EPAC/EACN, said that corruption undermines peoples' sense of security and the safety of the state. „Everyone should understand the value of honest behaviour. Dishonest activities won't go unnoticed and it is very important to condemn them.“

According to Omblar, it is the mission of the leaders of different organisations to reduce corruption. „Being a good example is not only about achieving results, but also extends to how these results are reached and by which principles. Thanks to the students of Tartu Art School we have given a face to the corruption. We hope that the visuals created will help people understand the essence of corruption better and avoid taking a wrong path,“ said Omblar.

Kadi Kreis, the Director of Tartu Art School said that campaign against corruption was a good challenge. „Visualising a complex phenomenon was not easy. We wanted to make sure that when the visitors take a look at the pictures, they clearly understand that it depicts corruption,“ said Kreis. The vision of the designers was to make things visible, understandable and clear. „We created a photo series in teamwork that tells a story and creates the mood“, said Kreis.





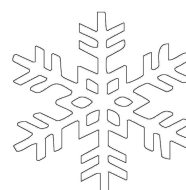
4) ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE IN THE HAGUE

EUROPOL, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, organised and chaired the first Anti-Corruption Conference in The Hague on 6 and 7 December 2017. As the first of its kind, the conference set a milestone in the EU corruption framework and illustrated the importance of effective transnational collaboration on this matter. Nearly all EU member states, the European Commission and representatives from the Brazilian government participated in EUROPOL's conference to exchange expertise and share their knowledge gained through investigating and prosecuting corruption cases. In addition, the conference aimed at illustrating the necessity of transnational collaboration and introduced information sharing systems to the participants.

The representatives from Brazil provided the audience with insights into the so-called "Car Wash" case. Due to successful investigations, this case had turned into an issue of global scope that several international organizations were involved in. It clearly demonstrated that corruption or corrupt networks have no boundaries and must therefore be tackled with effective collaboration between the states and organizations concerned. Representatives from the UK, France and Slovenia presented additional cases which underlined the complexity of the issue of corruption and its cross-border dimension once more.

To promote cross-border collaboration, the two networks EPAC/EACN and the recently founded International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre were introduced at the conference and the participants were invited to join in on their activities. Aside from discussing different corruption cases, the conference also analyzed the role and tasks of the various IT departments that are involved in data collection and data filtering.

The conference was a huge success and clearly outlined the necessity for more collaboration to fight corruption. As a result, further conferences of this kind will take place in the near future.

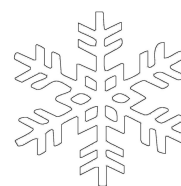


5) OECD CROSS-COUNTRY STUDY: THE DETECTION OF FOREIGN BRIBERY

The study was undertaken by the OECD Working Group on Bribery which brings together the 43 countries party to the [Anti-Bribery Convention](#). The report was launched on 12 December 2017 at a [Roundtable on 20 years of the Anti-Bribery Convention](#).

The OECD Anti-Bribery Convention focuses on enforcement through the criminalisation of foreign bribery but it is multidisciplinary and includes key requirements to combat money laundering, accounting fraud, and tax evasion connected to foreign bribery. The study looks at the primary sources of detection for the foreign bribery offence and the role that certain public agencies and private sector actors can play in uncovering this crime. It examines the practices developed in different sectors and countries which have led to the successful detection of foreign bribery with a view to sharing good practices and improving countries' capacity to detect and ultimately step-up efforts against transnational bribery. The PDF version of the study is available for download [here](#).

Source: <http://www.oecd.org/daf/anti-bribery/the-detection-of-foreign-bribery.htm>



6) 7TH CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE UNCAC

The 7th Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption convened in Vienna, Austria from 6 to 10 November, 2017, to review the implementation of the Convention and discuss key issues regarding, asset recovery, prevention and technical assistance.

Representatives of States Parties, particularly from government agencies for preventing and combatting corruption, as well as officials from international and non-governmental organisations attended the event. The session was complemented by several side events on a wide variety of anti-corruption topics, ranging from Sustainable Development Goals to education. For more information, please visit the [official website](#).



7) EXPERIENCE SHARING WORKSHOP: THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CORRUPTION

The workshop “The Economic Impact of Corruption” in the framework of the Anti-Corruption Experience-Sharing Programme took place in Brussels on 12 December 2017. Aside from the economic consequences of corruption and its impact on the business environment and business decisions, participants also discussed the social impact of corruption as well as potential new ideas for integrity policy incentives. Further information and the agenda of the workshop will be available on the corresponding Commission website in due course.

