



Dear ladies and gentlemen,
colleagues and friends,

Before the year is drawing to an end, we would like to share the December 2019 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 few months.

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

We wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Christmas time and all the best for 2020!

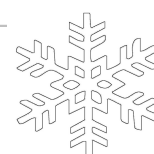
Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat

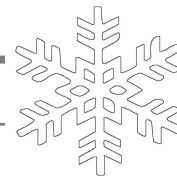
EPAC/EACN EVENTS AND LATEST NEWS

19th EPAC/EACN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY “Understanding the underlying mechanisms of corruption – global challenges and preventive measures”



More than 136 delegates representing 36 member countries as well as international organizations attended the 19th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference.





19th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly of the European anti-corruption networks EPAC/EACN in Stockholm, Sweden

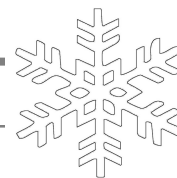
Once a year, the members of the European networks "European Partners against Corruption" (EPAC) and "European contact-point network against corruption" (EACN) exchange views on current developments in the field of preventing and combating corruption. This time, the representatives of the police oversight bodies and anti-corruption authorities met at the invitation of the Swedish police (Special Investigations Department) in Stockholm. Due to its role, the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) was actively involved in the organization and implementation of the conference; Since the end of 2016, the BAK has been providing the EPAC/EACN President (also Director of BAK) and the EPAC/EACN Secretariat.

This year's event took place from 10 to 12 December on the theme "Understanding the underlying mechanisms of corruption – global challenges and preventive measures".

At the beginning, the Swedish Minister of the Interior, Mikael Damberg, the General Commissioner of the Swedish Police, Anders Thornberg, and the EPAC/EACN President and Director of BAK, Andreas Wieselthaler, welcomed more than 120 participants from 30 European countries and regional as well as international organizations.

In the further course of the conference, topics such as the current international and European approaches to preventing and combating corruption, the role of whistleblowers, the latest requirements in the area of anti-corruption training, corruption risks in connection with the issuance of visas and permits, as well as the challenges of the digital revolution and its direct influence on the work of police oversight bodies were discussed in various panels and workshops, some of which took place in parallel.

In addition, the first conference day featured a report on the results of the World Café held in Austria during the 18th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference focusing on the expectations and concerns of EPAC/EACN members, and the second day included a presentation of the British organization "Curbing Corruption" with its tools and research activities. As a highlight at the end of the conference, EPAC/EACN President Wieselthaler presented the EPAC/EACN Award for the second time.



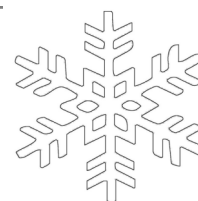
The conference participants had voted for the most innovative project of a member organization. They chose " Stay clean, say NO to corruption " from a total of 5 submitted projects.

EPAC/EACN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On 12 December 2019, the General Assembly, EPAC/EACN's decision-making body, approved the applications for membership received from the Dutch, Swedish and Romanian authorities and welcomed them as new members.

The EPAC/EACN Vice-President for the anti-corruption authorities strand, Mati Omblor from Estonia, was confirmed in office and Monique Stirn from Luxembourg was elected EPAC/EACN Vice-President for the police oversight bodies strand following the early departure of Jack Vissers from Belgium. Her deputy for the next two years will be Thierry Gillis from Belgium. The on-going EPAC/EACN working group "EU Integrity" with its four sub-groups, led by the German State Criminal Police Office of North Rhine-Westphalia, the French Agence française anticorruption (AFA), the Romanian Anticorruption General Directorate (DGA) and the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) respectively, will continue its work. Initial interim results, such as the creation of an integrity framework, were presented at the General Assembly. In addition, at the initiative of the Lithuanian Special Investigation Service (STT), the EPAC/EACN working group "Big Data", which was suspended in 2019, will resume its activities in 2020.

Safeguarding Sport from Corruption: Towards effective implementation of resolution 7/8 on corruption in sport (Vienna, 3-4 September 2019)



Building on the success of the international conference on Safeguarding Sport from Corruption held in Vienna on 5 and 6 June 2018, this conference sought to add to the momentum generated. Its overall aim was to serve as the primary global platform for Member States, sports organizations and other relevant stakeholders to discuss and share progress on the implementation of resolution 7/8 on corruption in sport, and where applicable other efforts to safeguard sport as they relate to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Representatives from relevant national law enforcement, anti-corruption and government sport organizations were invited, in addition to sports organizations and relevant private sector entities.

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/Safeguardingsport/Meetings/2019-09_-_Safeguarding Sport from Corruption/Provisional agenda - Safeguarding sport conference - 3 and 4 September 2019 updated 26.08.2019.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/Safeguardingsport/Meetings/2019-09_-_Safeguarding_Sport_from_Corruption/Provisional_agenda_-_Safeguarding_sport_conference_-_3_and_4_September_2019_updated_26.08.2019.pdf)

Eighth sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CoSP) (Abu Dhabi, 16-20 December 2019)



The Conference of the States Parties (COSP) is the main policy-making body of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It supports States parties and signatories in their implementation of the Convention, and gives policy guidance to UNODC to develop and implement anti-corruption activities.

The Conference was established, as per article 63 of the Convention:

- To improve the capacity of States to implement the Convention;
- To enhance cooperation among States in achieving the objectives of the Convention; and
- - To promote and review the implementation of the Convention.

The Conference meets every two years and adopts resolutions and decisions in furtherance of its mandate. The eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption took place in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates from 16 to 20 December 2019. A number of meetings were held on 14 and 15 December 2019. The eighth session was chaired by H.E. Dr. Harib Al Amimi, the President of the State Audit Institution of the United Arab Emirates.

<http://www.8cosp.ae/subPage.aspx?pageld=50146&lang=en>

International Workshop on Exchanging Best Practices on Professional Integrity Testing and Corruption Risk Assessment

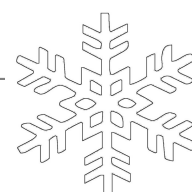
RAI Secretariat participated in the International Workshop on Exchanging Best Practices on Professional Integrity Testing and Corruption Risk Assessment that took place in Chisinau, Moldova on September 4th 2019.

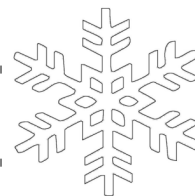


The Workshop was organized under the auspice of the Anti-corruption Twinning Project funded by the European Union. This occasion gathered experts and professionals in the field of Integrity and Corruption Risk Assessment. This was an opportunity to engage in a dialogue and exchange on the mentioned topics and identify best practices as well as lessons learned from the work conducted and methodologies applied so far.

Mr. Vladan Joksimovic, Head of RAI Secretariat shared the experiences of RAI Secretariat based on the work with jurisdictions in Southeast Europe over the last four years within the Regional Programme titled “Southeast Europe Regional Programme on Strengthening the Capacity of Anti-corruption Authorities and Civil Society to Combat Corruption and Contribute to the UNCAC Review Process” funded by the Austrian Development Agency.

During his stay in Chisinau, Mr. Joksimovic met with the representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, with the Director of National Integrity Authority Ms. Rodica Antoci and her team, and the newly appointed Director of the National Anti-corruption Centre Mr. Ruslan Flocea.





Key points of discussion were signing and the future of the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations facilitated by Regional Anti-corruption Initiative. Mr. Joksimovic informed all the colleagues about the current project in the field of asset recovery, as well as the upcoming EU project in the field of whistleblowing.

<http://www.rai-see.org/chisinau-moldova-international-workshop-on-exchanging-best-practices-on-professional-integrity-testing-and-corruption-risk-assessment/>

8th session of the Assembly of the Parties of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (Nur-Sultan, 2-4 October 2019)

The Assembly of Parties of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) convened for its eight session in Nur-Sultan, Republic of Kazakhstan, from 2 to 4 October 2019. The agenda also included a panel discussion focused on the topic of whistleblower protection, taking into consideration a broad spectrum of national and regional legal frameworks. Further, the Officer-in-Charge updated the Assembly on the serious crisis suffered by the Academy at the end of 2018 which threatened its continued existence and forced the Academy to make desperate appeals for funding to allow it to continue to function. While she reported that IACA is recovering, she reminded the Assembly that the crisis still looms over the organization. The Officer-in-Charge further reported that the establishment of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on financial matters also played an important role in opening new channels of communication between the IACA Parties and the Secretariat of the Academy. As a result, a closer relationship between the Academy and the Parties has been fostered.

https://www.iaca.int/images/AoP_2019/

Resolu-

tion on the Report of the eighth session of the Assembly of Parties.pdf



High-Level International Anti-Corruption Conference took place in Belgrade

Under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Aleksandar Vučić, and European Union Delegation to Serbia, the two-day High-Level International Anti-Corruption Conference took place in Belgrade on November 4-5. It was organised by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia and EU funded project "Prevention and Fight against Corruption".

The Conference highlighted and promoted the complementary efforts of the international and national anti-corruption and integrity mechanisms and authorities, including the results of the specialized law enforcement institutions in fight against corruption in the region and beyond. The overall aim of the Conference was to strengthen capacities, define competencies and establish strong cooperation between anti-corruption efforts, both at the state and regional level.

RAI representatives, Mr. Vladan Joksimovic Head of RAI Secretariat and Ms. Aneta Arnaudovska, Senior Anti-corruption Advisor have taken active participation, both at the plenary and during the thematic panels.

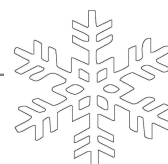
<http://www.rai-see.org/4-5-november-2019-belgrade-serbia-high-level-international-anti-corruption-conference/>

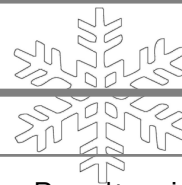


Rome – Conference – Curbing corruption: learning from the decade behind us and looking into the decade ahead

RAI Secretariat took an active participation at the conference – Curbing corruption: learning from the decade behind us and looking into the decade ahead, organized by the CEI, ANAC and hosted by the Luiss University in Rome.

Mr Vladan Joksimovic, Head of RAI Secretariat greeted the participants and made final conclusions of the conference, while Mr Aneta Arnaudovska, RAI Senior Anti-Corruption Expert was chairing one of the panels.





For the next decade, the implementation, will remain a challenge. Result-oriented implementation, evidentiary based and performance evaluated policies in all fields of the anti -corruption- prevention and fight should be a priority for action. New forms of effective and measurable assistance from media, civil society, academia and encouraging youth to build a new role model of professional behavior are necessary. New technologies, including the artificial intelligence should be used for safe storing of vast amount of information and data and prevent illicit financial flows. Lot need to be done in the area of protection for whistle-blowers, e-governance and promoting integrity, accountability through effective conflict of interest management, visible and proactive initiatives and broad public campaigns and surveys, was inter alia stated by Mr Joksimovic.

Participants were anti-corruption experts and public officials from the CEI and RAI member states, as well as students from the Luiss University.

The conference was concluded with the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the CEI-ES and the RAI Secretariat in order to pinpoint joint forms of collaboration.

<http://www.rai-see.org/26-november-2019-rome-conference-curbing-corruption-learning-from-the-decade-behind-us-and-looking-into-the-decade-ahead/>

84th Plenary Meeting of GRECO (Strasbourg, 2-6 December 2019)

In its 84rd plenary meeting, the GRECO elected by secret ballot, Monika OLSSON (Sweden) as Vice-President of GRECO and Panagiota VATIKALOU (Greece) to the vacant seat in the Bureau. It also adopted the Fifth Round Evaluation Reports on Belgium, Croatia and France. It also noted with concern that in order to implement the core work programme in 2019, it had been necessary to rely on additional funding in the form of voluntary contributions and in-kind contributions (e.g. member states covering the cost of participation of their representatives, interpretation for evaluation visits). The 2020 budget adopted by GRECO's Statutory Committee (26th meeting, 22 November 2019) is even more fragile than the 2019 budget. Finally, GRECO adopted its Programme of Activities for 2020 (Greco(2019)12 -fin).

<https://rm.coe.int/greco-2019-15-eng-decisions-greco-84/1680993475>



Fight corruption to achieve sustainable development progress: UN Convention against Corruption conference begins in Abu Dhabi

The world's primary anti-corruption conference began in Abu Dhabi today with a call to advance efforts to prevent and combat corruption to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



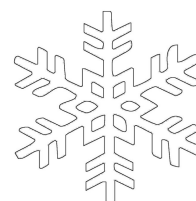
"You meet at a critical moment. As we enter the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, we must unite against corruption to stop the drain on resources caused by illicit financial flows," said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in his message to the eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

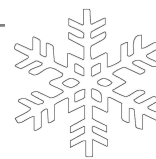
"Corruption threatens the well-being of our societies, the future of our children and the health of our planet. It must be fought by all, for all."

The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Yury Fedotov, emphasized corruption's role in facilitating crime, and other threats, calling corruption "the sinister enabler of some of the worst problems we face".

He said: "By preventing and curbing corruption, we can nip corruption's contribution to instability in the bud. We can stop corruption from prolonging conflict and spoiling peace. We can check illicit financial flows and return resources to where they are needed. By stopping the abuse of public trust for private gain, we can restore a much-needed trust and invest in our future."

The Convention against Corruption, with 186 parties, is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. Every two years, the States parties to the Convention meet to review the implementation of the Convention and to discuss how States can better tackle corruption.





The week-long meeting brings together more than 1,300 participants from countries around the world. Some 15 draft resolutions will be considered. Among the topics to be discussed at the eighth session are prevention, asset recovery and international cooperation, as well as the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held in 2021.

"The work we begin in Abu Dhabi will keep the international spotlight on corruption through next year and beyond, preparing for the first-ever General Assembly Special Session against corruption in 2021," said UNODC Executive Director Fedotov. "This offers a genuine chance to agree new approaches and seek innovative solutions to corruption threats facing all our countries."

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2019/December/fight-corruption-to-achieve-sustainable-development-progress-un-convention-against-corruption-conference-begins-in-abu-dhabi.html?ref=fs1>



Independent Police Complaints Authority

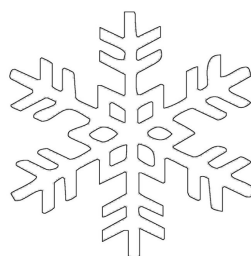
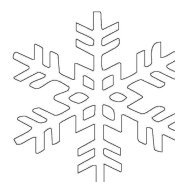
The **Danish Independent Police Complaints Authority** handles investigation of criminal cases against police officers and considers and decides complaints of police misconduct. Headed by a council and a chief executive, the Police Complaints Authority exercises its functions in complete independence of both police and prosecutors.

Organisational structure

The Independent Police Complaints Authority is an independent authority headed by the Police Complaints Council and the Chief Executive. The Police Complaints Council is the supreme governing body of the Authority and consists of a Chair, who must be a High Court judge, an attorney, a professor of jurisprudence and two representatives of the general public. Members of the Police Complaints Council are appointed by the Minister of Justice for four years at a time and are eligible for re-appointment once.

The Chief Executive is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Police Complaints Authority, which must be managed in accordance with the directions and guidelines issued by the Police Complaints Council.

The Police Complaints Authority also has several investigators as well as legal and administrative staff in its employ.

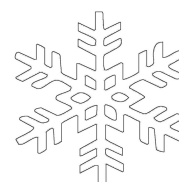


Anticorruption Directorate with the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ACD)

Anticorruption Directorate - is a body specialized in the prevention; detection and investigation of the corruption crimes, and is subordinated to the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Deputy Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Dr. Kamran Aliyev, is the Director of ACD. The key roles and responsibilities of the Directorate are as follows: consideration and investigation of complaints received in relation to corruption infringements; to institute criminal proceedings and conduct a preliminary investigation of corruption crimes; carry out operational-search activities to prevent, detect and disclose corruption crimes; confiscation, seize and freeze of the proceeds of the crime, disgorgement of profits, direct recovery of property, and compensation for damages; collect, analyze and summarize information on crimes related to corruption; to increase the effectiveness of the fight against corruption, send motions and recommendations to the relevant state body; ensures the implementation of security measures for witnesses, victims, accused and other persons involved in criminal prosecution; through the Prosecutor General, regularly informs the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Commission on Combating Corruption about its activities; cooperates with the government, NGOs, civil society, international organizations and other key players in the field of the fight against corruption; informs the public about its performances, ensures transparency of its activities, etc.

It is important to note that in 2011, necessary amendments to laws on "Detective-search activity" and on "General Prosecutor's Office" were made and the Anti-Corruption Directorate was authorized to carry out operational



and search activities. After those amendments Azerbaijan became the first country in the Commonwealth of Independent States which delegated a prosecutorial agency with such kind of powers.

Besides, newest Decree of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 8th of October 2018 on the Amendments to the Statute of Anti-Corruption Directorate within the Prosecutor General and on several measures on anti-money laundering entitled Directorate to organize centralized statistics of money-laundering related crimes on electronic form, to ensure the information system which is responsible for gathering, processing and transfer of the said statistic data. The decree also imposed the obligation to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Taxes, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Justice, State Customs Committee, State Security Service and

and State Border Service to submit said statistic data to the Directorate on an ongoing basis. Court statistics on money laundering related crimes also have to be submitted to the Directorate via the Ministry of Justice according to this document.

Furthermore, criminal and criminal-procedural legislation is also improved in order to facilitate investigation bodies to detect and prevent money laundering offenses. For instance, according to the amendments made to Criminal-Procedural Code in 2018, investigation bodies were entitled to get information on financial transactions, bank accounts, and tax payments status prior to opening the criminal case. This was very progressive amendments that create opportunities to investigation bodies, as well as, Anti-Corruption Directorate to detect any illegal cash flow, suspicious transactions which followed by money laundering, at the earliest stage.

Staff of the Directorate consists of:

- 140 investigators, detectives and prosecutors
- 100 civil servants
- Also for preliminary investigation of corruption crimes ACD forms joint investigative teams with investigators of other law enforcement agencies, such as Police, Ministry of Taxes, State Security Service and etc.



Anti-Corruption Campaign in Finland

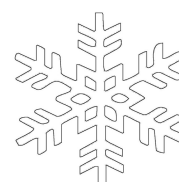
In 2019, an anti-corruption campaign was launched for the first time in Finland (#eikorrupiolle / #nejtillkorrupition / #notocorruption). The National Police Board signed the police force in the campaign from its beginning and has participated in posting material mainly to social media. One of the slogans of the campaign is that corruption has several forms and it's not only bribery, which is sometimes forgotten in Finland.

The year 2019 has also been the first year of full use of the national multidisciplinary anti-corruption web portal anti-corruption.fi. Please, feel free to visit e.g. the "do the right thing" section of the portal.

Focus on the General Inspectorate of the French National Gendarmerie (IGGN)'s role in promoting integrity within the Gendarmerie

The General Inspectorate of the national gendarmerie (IGGN) is the body responsible for investigating complaints against the professional conduct of the gendarmes. It plays a key role as regards the prevention and the fight against unethical behaviors within the French Gendarmerie.

It carries out its actions and investigations independently of all branches of the Gendarmerie, its independence having been recognized by the European Court of Human Rights in 2014*. In particular, its judicial investigations are led under the authority and control of the prosecutors.



It also has a general competence on ethics matters. The Chief Inspector of the IGGN is, for the whole Gendarmerie, the point of contact of all independent administrative authorities and NGO's. Besides, following recent laws on ethics and transparency in the public sector, he is the point of contact of whistleblowers within the Gendarmerie and leads a network of commissioned officers who can be consulted by any gendarme when a question arises on a matter related to ethics. Lastly, the IGGN conducts audits, inspections and assessments, examines the complaints from the public against the gendarmerie staff through its online platform and addresses reports on internal cases of harassment and discriminations within the Gendarmerie.

All of the IGGN's actions, whether preventive or corrective, lead to feedbacks of experience which are integrated in training programs, translated into recommendations for the chain of command, and into short anonymised thematic reports which are sent to all the points of contact in charge of ethical matters in order to spread these cases and experiences to the whole Gendarmerie.

* Case Guerdner v. France (68780/10)

Croatia—Internal Control Department

The **Internal Control Department** which is aligned with the Regulation on amendments to the Regulation on the internal organisation of the Ministry of the Interior is one of the organisational units of the Minister's Office.

It coordinates and aligns the control and supervision of lawfulness, professional and ethical work of police officers and other civil servants and employees of the Ministry; coordinates and aligns the supervision of actions taken upon citizens' reports and complaints; prepares documentation and other information necessary for the work of the Complaints Committee and prepares reports for Committee sessions; analyses and supervises the collection of data and information indicating to the loss of integrity and unlawful activities of civil servants and employees of the Ministry; supervises and, where necessary, carries out joint coordinated activities with the competent organisational units which conduct criminal investigations of more complex criminal offences committed by police officers and other civil servants and employees of the Ministry; based on assessment, supervises the work of the organisation units of the Ministry in cooperation with heads of the organisational units; **initiates and**

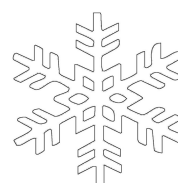


supervises launching of disciplinary proceedings or directly launches disciplinary proceedings against police officers and other civil servants and employees of the Ministry; analyses the state of professional liability and integrity of police officers and other civil servants and employees; determines the causes of unlawful, unprofessional and unethical conduct and behaviour, and in this regard proposes preventive measures (development of risk assessments for particular positions, reassignments, rotations of the management, etc.) to heads of organisational units; gives proposals aimed at improving the regulatory framework; points to omissions and in this regard proposes the best possible models of training; cooperates with state administration bodies, judicial authorities, state attorney offices, ombudsman, unions, civil society organisations and citizens

in order to prevent and detect unlawful, unprofessional and unethical work of police officers and other civil servants and employees of the Ministry; exchanges expert experience and new information with its counterparts in other countries; collects data and information on the state of lawfulness when it comes to use of police powers, breach of work discipline, unethical, unprofessional or unlawful performance of tasks and conduct; supervises the manner of keeping and using the prescribed records on actions to be taken upon complaints and grievances; drafts the necessary analyses and reports; analyses operational information and findings on unlawful, unprofessional and unethical conduct of police officers and civil servants and employees of the Ministry; proposes ways to eliminate the causes of unlawful, unprofessional and unethical conduct of police officers and other civil servants and employees of the Ministry; coordinates, directs and supervises the work of regional internal control departments.

The following sections will be set up for the tasks under the competence of the Internal Control Department:

1. Section for Lawfulness of Conduct
2. Section for Coordination, Integrity and Prevention
3. Section for Analytics



at the headquarters of the Department, and

1. Section for Internal Control and Supervision - Zagreb based in Zagreb
2. Section for Internal Control and Supervision - Split based in Split
3. Section for Internal Control and Supervision - Rijeka based in Rijeka
4. Section for Internal Control and Supervision - Osijek based in Osijek

The above sections directly supervise the lawfulness of work of particular lines of work of the police; they supervise the use of police tasks and powers and, where necessary, directly participate in inspections when there is suspicion in lawfulness and abuse of police powers; they initiate and organise the collection of data and information indicating to unlawful conduct or improper behaviour of police officers and other civil servants and employees, and systemise and analyse them for prevention purposes; they directly verify the allegations stated in complaints and objections to replies submitted by legal and natural persons in cooperation with other lines of work; they analyse complaints and anonymous grievances within a reporting period for prevention purposes;

they directly verify the allegations stated in complaints and objections to replies submitted by legal and natural persons in cooperation with other lines of work; they analyse complaints and anonymous grievances within a reporting period for prevention purposes; they get directly involved in procedures aimed at verifying reports and use of means of coercion in cooperation with other lines of work; they initiate the necessary measures to be taken to eliminate unlawfulness of conduct and behaviour of police officers and other civil servants and employees; they directly initiate disciplinary proceedings against police officers and other civil servants and employees under their competence in the territory of all twenty police administrations; they represent the initiating authority before a disciplinary court, and perform other tasks in accordance with the decisions made by the Internal Control Department.

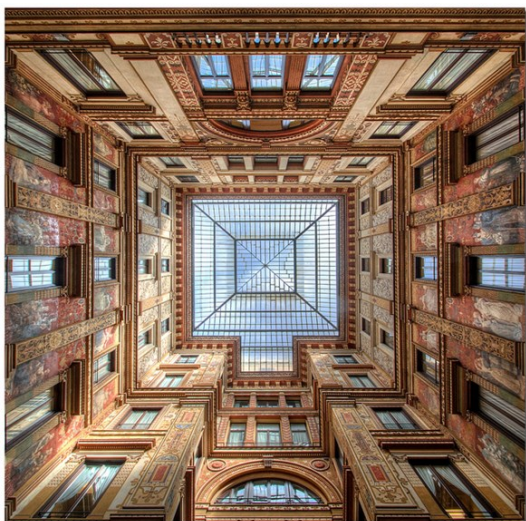


National Police Office for Suppression of Corruption and Organized Crime, Croatia

In Republic of Croatia in order is to improve cooperation with citizens and encourage them to share their knowledge with the competent bodies, Ministry for the Interior, National Police Office for Suppression of corruption and organized crime, Economic and Corruption Department actively contribute in drafting of the Law on Protection of whistle.blowers, which came into force 1 July 2019.

A significant novelty in the whistleblower law is that it no longer applies only to public administration bodies, but also to employers. All employers with more than 50 employees, according to the Law on the Protection of whistleblowers are obliged to establish a system of internal reporting of irregularities - corruption or malpractice. This means that they have to adopt a rulebook for reporting irregularities that must be accessible and transparent to all employees, and the employer is required to designate a confidential person in charge of enforcing that rule as well as a deputy of that person. That person is obliged to receive and examine each application and to inform the whistleblower of the actions taken within 30 days of receiving the application and to enable him to see the files suspected of being the source of the irregularity.

Italy—National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC)



The Authority was established by Law 190 of 2012, which has assigned to the Commission for Evaluation, Integrity and Transparency in Public Administrations (CIVIT) the role of National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC), entrusting it with the functions of control, prevention and contrast to corruption and illegality in the public administration.

With the establishment of ANAC, the legislator fulfills the mandate referred to in article 6 of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption

(2003), which provides that each State shall ensure the presence of one or more bodies responsible for preventing corruption through specific ad hoc policies and the dissemination of knowledge on corruption prevention.

The decree-Law 90/2014 (converted with amendments into the Law 114/2014), marked the re-organization of the institutional framework of the National Anti-Corruption Authority. The structure is now based on the prevention of corruption within the public entities, as well as in the subsidiary and controlled enterprises, through the protection of transparency in all aspects related to the management, the monitoring of public procurement and public offices, the impartiality of public officials, and more in general any sector of the public administration that could potentially develop phenomena of corruption.



The institutional reconfiguration of the Authority has been characterized, among the many measures, by the transfer of powers and resources from the then Authority for the Supervision of Contracts on Public Works, Services and Supplies (AVCP) and by the absorption of functions provided by the then CIVIT into ANAC, except for the measurement of performance, transferred to the Department of Public Function, under the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

In an effort to spread the culture of legality, the key of ANAC's activity is the monitoring, through preventive and advising instruments, in order to avoid corruption, create a collaborative network within the institutions and public administrations; at the same time, promoting resource efficiency, reducing formal controls, including procedural burdens (which in practice increase the costs of public administration without creating value, neither for the citizenry nor for companies).

EPAC/EACN Working Group on Big Data will continue its activities with financial support from OLAF

The **Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania** has signed a Grant Agreement with OLAF which stipulates funding for further activities of EPAC/EACN Working Group “Analysis of big data, related legal aspects, use of databases”

During the EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and Plenary Meeting, that was held in Riga 2016, the Working Group „Analysis of big data, related legal aspects, use of databases“ was established. The first meeting of the „Analysis of big data, related legal aspects, use of databases“ Working Group took place in Vilnius in 2017 <http://www.epac-eacn.org/latest-news/250-epac-working-group-on-big-data-analysis-starts-in-vilnius>, the second meeting – in Bucharest in 2018 <http://www.epac-eacn.org/latest-news/253-2nd-meeting-of-epac-working-group-on-big-data-analysis> .

In March 2019, calls for Proposals for actions funded under the OLAF Hercule III Programme 2019 were launched. In order to join its efforts in the field of analytical anti-corruption intelligence, the perspectives of the Working Group and the opportunities provided by OLAF, the STT prepared and submitted its proposal to get OLAF funding for further work in the field of BigData in the form of a project which will continue and expand the work of the aforementioned Working Group.

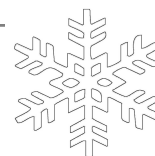
The application was successful and on 16th of December, 2019, the STT signed the Grant Agreement for the HERCULE-TC-AG-2019 project Nr. 878557 „Strengthening law enforcement analytical capacities in Big Data Analysis to prevent and detect fraud and corruption affecting EU financial interests“.

Now we are looking forward to the activities of the project to be completed in 2020, which will consist mainly of:

- 1) a specialised intensive three-day targeted training course for analysts of the STT and its partners on big data analytics for law enforcement and intelligence analysis;
- 2) a one-day follow-up workshop on results reached and lessons learned in using advanced data analytics to detect and prevent fraud and corruption.

All interested EPAC/EACN members will be invited to take part in the forthcoming activities.





OLAF AND EUROJUST STEP UP CO-OPERATION

As a follow-up to the annual meeting between Eurojust's President, Mr Ladislav Hamran, and OLAF's Director-General, Mr Ville Itälä, in July of this year, Eurojust College meeting on 17 December was devoted to exploring ways of improving operational cooperation between the two bodies.

Since September 2008, both EU bodies have a practical agreement to step up the fight against fraud, corruption or any other illegal activities that affect the financial interests of the European Union. To highlight the good cooperation, Mr Itälä paid a visit to Eurojust and spoke to the College of Eurojust.

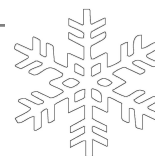
During the visit, Mr Boštjan Škrlec, National Member for Slovenia and Eurojust Contact Point for OLAF, gave a presentation on the practical operational tools of Eurojust, such as the organisation of coordination centres. Representatives of the National Desks at Eurojust met with OLAF investigators to discuss open cases and enhance practical cooperation.

OLAF protects EU money from organised criminals

This year's Report also focuses on the ways in which OLAF foils the plans of organised criminals attempting to pocket EU money. When it comes to fighting complex fraud cases perpetrated by highly-organised criminals, experience comes in handy. OLAF investigators are not only dedicated, they also have years of practice behind them. This helps them quickly identify patterns and apply their knowledge to solve cases quicker and to identify new areas of fraud.



OLAF REPORT 2018: MAJOR INVESTIGATIONS PUT AN END TO CROSS-BORDER FRAUD SCHEMES, STOP ORGANISED CRIMINALS



The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) maintained a strong investigative performance in 2018, focusing its efforts on the areas where it could bring the highest added value to European citizens – complex, transnational cases that would be impossible to tackle by national authorities alone. Whether in the field of Structural Funds, Customs or Direct Expenditure, OLAF's unique expertise and its team of highly-qualified investigators, forensic experts and analysts have helped the Office solve even the most difficult cases, and stop organised criminals from defrauding the EU budget.



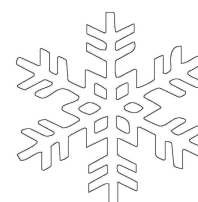
OLAF's investigative performance in 2018 in numbers:

- OLAF concluded 167 investigations, issuing 256 recommendations to the relevant national and EU authorities
- OLAF recommended the recovery of EUR 371 million to the EU budget
- OLAF opened 219 new investigations, following 1259 preliminary analyses carried out by OLAF experts

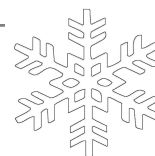
Trends in anti-fraud investigations:

The transnational dimension of its work allows OLAF to form a unique view of the changing nature of fraud across Europe. Therefore, OLAF took the opportunity to present an analysis of some of the most striking trends revealed by its investigations:

- Setting up fake companies and disguising falsified business transactions in order to obtain EU funds
- Fraud in the promotion of agricultural products, with money often being laundered through third countries
- The evasion of customs duties orchestrated through transnational criminal schemes



EU BUDGET: 30TH ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROTECTION OF THE EU'S FINANCIAL INTERESTS



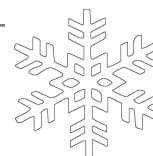
The Juncker Commission has achieved good progress in making sure that every euro from the EU budget is well-spent and is handing over to its successor a strong system for the protection of the budget. This is one of the key conclusions of the 30th edition of the report on the protection of EU's financial interests – the PIF report, which the European Commission on 11 October 2019. Of course, more efforts at European and national level are necessary in order to counter new trends in circumventing the rules and adapt to a changing institutional landscape.

Günther H. Oettinger, Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources, said: “In the last five years, the Commission has taken significant steps to make sure that the EU budget is well-protected and creates added value for the citizens. This is good news for all of us. Citizens can be reassured that their money goes where it is most needed, helps address EU-wide challenges and makes a difference for a large number of people, in the EU and beyond.”

To that end, the Commission has taken a number of measures over the years. These include, for example, new simplified rules under which the EU budget is spent which entered into force on 2 August 2018 and a new Anti-Fraud Strategy that seeks to further improve the detection, sanctioning and prevention of fraud and will support the Commission's ongoing efforts to bring fraud against the EU budget further down. The Commission is also actively supporting the creation of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) - an independent and decentralised prosecution office of the European Union, with the competence to investigate, prosecute and bring to judgment crimes against the EU budget, such as fraud, corruption or serious cross-border VAT fraud. To facilitate the smooth cooperation between the EPPO and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the Commission proposed changes to the rules governing OLAF, which are currently being negotiated by the co-legislators.



All these efforts have led to good results. According to the latest PIF report, in 2018 Member States continued strengthening their national systems and procedures, by focusing on prevention and detection. In 2018, the number of detected fraudulent cases was stable in comparison to the previous year, at 1152, or 10% of all reported irregularities. At the same time, their financial impact was higher on both the revenue and expenditure side of the budget. This suggests better targeting of the control activities by Member States. Detected non-fraudulent irregularities significantly declined both in number and in value.



OLAF AND PARTNERS STRENGTHEN EU-AFRICA COOPERATION IN FIGHTING FRAUD AGAINST THE EU BUDGET

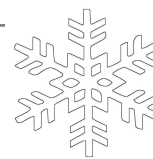
The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and its African partners met in Brussels on 8-9 October 2019 to discuss how to strengthen their cooperation in the fight against fraud and corruption. Participants included representatives from 10 African countries and 16 national, European or international institutions, such as national financial inspection and audit bodies, anti-fraud and anti-corruption offices, the African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, the World Bank and several EU delegations.

OLAF can investigate wherever European Union funds are spent, within or outside Europe. Currently in its ninth edition, the event was organised to strengthen the cooperation between OLAF and investigative authorities in Africa but also to establish new channels of cooperation by enlarging the scope of the event to new institutions, such as investigative bodies in South Africa and Uganda.

The two-day agenda particularly focused on the powers of participating institutions in fighting fraud and corruption, to what extent these powers allow for performing investigative activities on behalf of or in cooperation with OLAF, as well as on their limitations and how to overcome them. It also presented examples of recent investigations conducted by OLAF and the EIB together with African authorities and explored new perspectives for closer cooperation.



Contribution to the EU policies to fight fraud



In addition to its investigative work, OLAF plays an active role in the development of the anti-fraud policies of the European Union. In 2018, OLAF was instrumental in the development of the new Commission Anti-Fraud Strategy, and will now be the one steering its implementation. The strategy proposes enhanced data analysis for evidence-based anti-fraud policy measures, as well as a more comprehensive analysis of fraud risks which should lead to better deployment of anti-fraud controls.

Better tools, fit for an evolving anti-fraud landscape

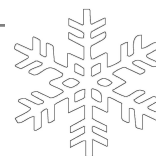
In May 2018, the European Commission also adopted a proposal to amend OLAF's legal basis. The Commission proposed to strengthen the admissibility of OLAF evidence in national courts, to grant OLAF access to bank accounts, facilitate on the spot checks and provide the Office with the necessary tools to fulfil its mandate in the area of VAT. The amendment aims to ensure that OLAF is able to efficiently work alongside the new European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), complementing the work of the EPPO for the benefit of European citizens.

To read the full report, please click [here](#).

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU)

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) is the first law-enforcement agency created in independent Ukraine from the scratch. In record time — after 8 months from the establishment in April 2015 — the NABU Detectives started their first investigations. It should be reminded, that the NABU exposes corruption committed by Ukrainian top-officials.





As of the end of November 2019, the NABU Detectives and SAPO Prosecutors brought to justice 418 top-officials. Among them there are eight Members of Parliament, three Deputy Ministers, two Ministers, the Heads of the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine, of the State Audit Service of Ukraine, of the Accounting Chamber of Ukraine, and more than 45 judges. The NABU Detectives and SAPO Prosecutors sent 237 cases to court. They continue investigations within the scope of 836 criminal proceedings.

Along with investigations, the NABU also carries out preventive work. In 2017-2018, together with the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine, an all-Ukrainian raise-awareness campaign “Students against corruption” was conducted. In cooperation with the EU Anti-Corruption Initiative in Ukraine, the Corruption Park project was implemented in June 2018. With the support of UNDP and EUACI, anticorruption opinion festivals “DumkoFest” were organized in 2018 and 2019.

Anti-corruption General Directorate within the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs

DGA officers had been sharing experience to support European and international partnership against corruption

DGA (Anti-corruption General Directorate within the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs) enhanced its efforts in offering capacity building assistance to anti-corruption agencies and organizations, in order to strengthen cooperation in the fight against corruption and to promote best practices achieved along the years in preventing and countering this scourge.

TUNISIA - The National Agency for the Fight against Corruption (INLUCC), May 2019

DGA received the visit of the leadership of INLUCC, a young institution which identified the need to take the example of a similar structure which, along the years, succeeded in putting in place effective mechanisms to prevent and fight corruption.



The delegates were presented case studies which revealed the methods and working procedures used for managing and solving citizens' petitions and complaints, as well as specific steps taken while investigating corruption cases.



EU Integrity sub-working group 3 "Educational measures and value management", May 2019

The reunion gathered almost 50 specialists in the field of anti-corruption training and value management from Romania and other 6 countries - Austria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Spain and Ukraine – who discussed about preventing corruption by promoting integrity within Romanian and EU public and private sectors. The initiative belongs to BAK, Austria and DGA is one of the partners, together with other 2 structures from Germany and France.

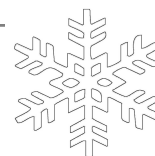
European Agency for Law Enforcement Training – CEPOL, June 2019

In the framework of a larger EU project entitled "Investigating and Preventing Corruption", DGA provided expertise to an extended group of specialists across the EU in the field of anti-corruption education and training, methodology for assessing the risks to corruption and integrity incidents, international cooperation, integrity testing and investigating a complex cross – border corruption case.

Republic of Moldova, July and October 2019

A significant contribution was brought by DGA to the elaboration of an anti-corruption training curriculum for the students of the Economic Studies Academy from the Republic of Moldova, following the model implemented by our experts within the Romanian Police Academy, where an anti-corruption class was established since 2017. DGA specialists offered their experience, too, during Summer School course "Young generation against corruption".





Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – OSCE, September and November 2019

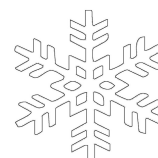
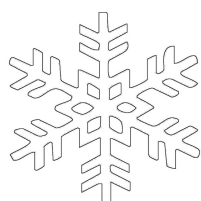
DGA officers specialized in prevention and operative activities strongly contributed to the launch of the Regional Anti-corruption Platform (ACP) for Internal Security/Oversight Departments of border and law enforcement agencies of the OSCE participating States of the Western Balkans, Ukraine and Moldova, which took place in September 2019, in Vienna, Austria. Following this event, in November 2019, the members of ACP came to Romania, being presented significant aspects in the field of criminal investigations, intelligence gathering and undercover activities.

European Union Strategy for the Danube Region – EUSDR, November 2019

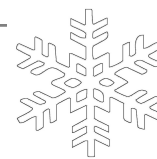
DGA presented its experience in instrumenting and investigating complex cross-border corruption cases, in the framework of a regional conference organized in Munch, Germany, entitled Danube Region Strategy – anti-corruption, which addressed relevant subjects, such as international financial investigations, corruption in public procurement and corruption in agencies with attributions in the field of border security.

Regional Conference organized in Poiana Brasov, Romania, December 2019

In December 2019, DGA, with the support of Hanns Seidel Foundation, organized the Conference entitled Regional Initiative on Organizational Ethics and Integrity, which brought together experts from 5 neighboring and partner countries and OSCE. The goal of the conference was to share the experience of the specialists within police forces, anti-corruption units and civil society regarding best results obtained in the field of ethics that can contribute to promoting organizational culture based on institutional values, integrity and professionalism.



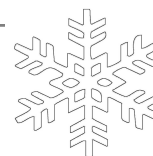
Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI)



Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) is the leading intergovernmental regional organization, which deals solely with anti-corruption issues, covering nine member and three observer with a mission is to lead regional cooperation by providing a common platform for discussions through sharing knowledge and best practices. In the past several years, RAI has spread its action in targeted key thematic anti- corruption areas, such as: promoting capacities of anti-corruption agencies and civil society in conflict of interest & asset disclosure, corruption proofing of legislation, capacities of national judiciaries in the fields of asset recovery and financial investigations. Over the past 14 years, RAI Summer Junior School has become a platform for knowledge exchange among more than 360 young professionals and half hundred experts from all sectors. RAI has been engaged into several projects related to the whistleblowing topic since 2015 and following this path, in April 2020, RAI will start with implementation of the new three years EU- IPA regional project “Breaking the silence”- Enhancing whistleblowing policies and culture in Western Balkans and Moldova. The Project overall objective will be achieved through increasing disclosure channels for whistleblowers, enhanced reporting channels and strengthened protection levels in selected public institutions, as well in peer-to-peer and cross-sectoral exchanges with and among them, free legal aid providers, and other identified CSOs using the RAI platform. The project will also implement a large public campaign, in order for the general public, professional community and public institutions to be more sensitized and informed about whistleblowing targeting specifically youngsters, students, social media activists, etc.



POLICE INSPECTORATE OF KOSOVO*



Police Inspectorate of Kosovo as a police oversight body was established in 2006 as an executive and independent agency within the Ministry of Internal Affairs with the help of the OSCE mission in Kosovo.

Mission

Mission of Police Inspectorate of Kosovo is to provide:

accountable, democratic and transparent police service in accordance with the applicable legislation and required standards

Legislation

In 2008 the Law on Police Inspectorate of Kosovo was adopted and bylaws were drafted. In 2010 Law on Police Inspectorate of Kosovo was amended and many new bylaws were adopted.

Mandate of Police Inspectorate of Kosovo

2007-2010

Inspections in the Kosovo Police management areas;

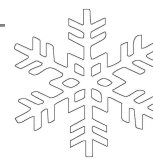
Investigation of high disciplinary violations by the Kosovo Police Officers.

As of 01.06.2011

- prevention, detention, documentation and investigation of the criminal offences committed by the Kosovo Police employees regardless of rank and position while on duty or off duty;
- inspection of structures and functions of Kosovo Police to ensure accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of applicable laws, sub-legal acts and standard operational procedures that are in force;
- investigation and/or inspection of high profile disciplinary incidents, involving Kosovo Police employees;
- investigation of alleged disciplinary offences of police officers having the highest rank of the senior police management level and senior executive level police officers;

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

- when there are grounded suspicions that the General Director of the Kosovo Police has committed disciplinary violations, The Prime Minister shall authorize the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo to conduct the disciplinary investigation. Upon completion of disciplinary investigation, the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo shall report on findings to the Prime Minister;
- receive of all citizen complaints and review and determination of which complaints are going to be investigated by Police Inspectorate of Kosovo and which are to be referred to Kosovo Police or responsible institutions.

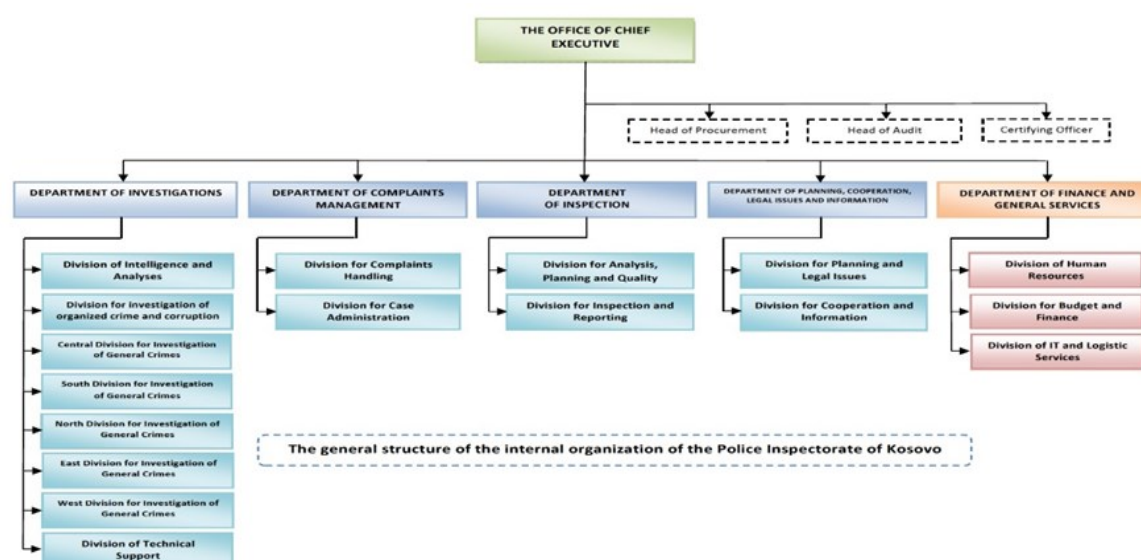


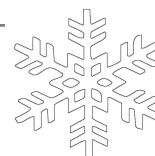
Organizational structure of Police Inspectorate of Kosovo

Police Inspectorate of Kosovo consists of:

- Department of Investigation
- Department of Inspection
- Department of Complaints Management
- Department for Planning, Cooperation, Legal Issues and Information and
- Department of Finances and General Services

Each department has its own divisions. For more details, please, see the organizational structure of Police Inspectorate of Kosovo below.





Duties and responsibilities of the Department of Investigation

- Gathers information and evidence to determine the conduct of the police officer against whom the case was initiated.
- Exercises investigative powers accurately and swiftly, with the aim of increasing confidence in the rule of law;
- Uses all the services of specialized units, Police tools and facilities, including but not limited to forensics, laboratory, interception devices;
- Investigation of the case is conducted in close coordination with the state prosecutor.

Duties and responsibilities of Department of Inspection

Inspection of structures and functions of Kosovo Police to ensure accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of applicable laws, sub-legal acts and standard operational procedures that are in force.

Duties and responsibilities of Department for Planning, Cooperation, Legal Issues and Information

Department is responsible for Legal Issues, Planning, Cooperation and Partnerships inside and outside the country and responsible for Communication and Information/

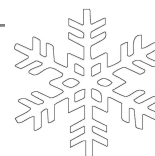
Duties and responsibilities of Department for Management of Complaints

To receive all citizen complaints and to review and determine which complaints are going to be investigated by Police Inspectorate of Kosovo and which are to be referred to Kosovo Police or responsible institutions.

Duties and responsibilities of Department of Finances and General Services

Manages the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo human resources information, assists in management the internal organization, provides administrative, logistic and information technology support services.

Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia, Spain



The article from the Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia approaches, as recommended by the United Nations, the proactive submission of integrity proposals in relation to current regulations or those undergoing approval that cover aspects directly or indirectly related to the areas of expertise of the Anti-Fraud Office. This practice is already integrated in the internal working processes of this institution from its creation.



Generalitat de Catalunya
Escola d'Administració Pública
de Catalunya

Preventing corruption through regulation

Mercè Pidemont Pujol,
expert at the Legislation
and Legal Affairs
Department of the
Anti-Fraud Office of
Catalonia

Abstract

This article discusses the work carried out by the Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia in helping to develop a regulatory framework that provides more robust resistance against fraud, as a little-known means of strengthening transparency, integrity and the prevention of corruption through anticorruption agencies.



The article belongs to a publication issued by the Public Administration School of the Catalan Government (EAPC) and co-led by our institution that can be accessed via this link: <http://www.gencat.cat/eapc/epum/N9/index.html>

OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

16 to 20 March 2020: 85th Plenary Meeting (GRECO), Strasbourg

10 to 13 March 2020: Meeting of the Working Group on Bribery (OECD), Paris

