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Dear ladies and gentlemen,

colleagues and friends,

Thank you for the impressive number of newsletter contributions you have provided us with.

We, the EPAC/EACN community, are once again sending a strong message in the fight against corruption. You can expect interesting articles on a variety of anti-corruption and police oversight activities from across our network. We are very pleased to announce the launch of our newly created social media channels. Join us!

As always, we would appreciate your contributions about future or past events, conferences, seminars, training courses, studies, project findings, etc., so that we can include them in the next newsletter.

We wish you safety and good health!

Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat

20TH EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly

On 1 and 2 December 2021, the 20th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly of the European Partners against Corruption (EPAC) and European contact-point network against corruption (EACN) took place in Vilnius. The conference, marking the 20th anniversary of EPAC, saw the adoption of the Vilnius Declaration and the election of a new EPAC/EACN Board with its new President, Mr Žydrūnas Bartkus, Director of the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania (STT). The EPAC/EACN conference, held in Lithuania for the first time, was organised by the STT. About 120 participants from 54 institutions and 30 different countries took part in this hybrid (on site in Vilnius and virtual) event. At the general assembly, a new EPAC/EACN Board was elected:

- **President:** Žydrūnas BARTKUS, Director of Special Investigation Service (STT), Lithuania
- **Vice-President Anti-Corruption Strand:** Ernst SCHMID, Acting Head of Department, Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK), Austria
- **Deputy Vice-President Anti-Corruption Strand:** Traian Mihăiţă BÂRLICI, Head of the Prevention Directorate in the Anti-corruption General Directorate (DGA), Romania

- **Vice-President Police Oversight Strand:** Ms Lucile ROLLAND, Deputy Head of the French National Police General Inspectorate, France
- **Deputy Vice-President Police Oversight Strand:** Hugh HUME, Commissioner of the Irish Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, Ireland

In addition, the Vilnius Declaration, the final conference document, was adopted by the general assembly. Addressing the members of the network, i.e. anti-corruption and police oversight bodies, as well as European national governments, European Union institutions and international organisations, it proposes various actions to enhance the fight against corruption. The declaration contributes to achieving EPAC/EACN's general aim of strengthening cooperation and the exchange of good practices in the fields of anti-corruption and police oversight.

Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Raising public awareness and educating primary and secondary school students on anti - corruption issues

The Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption (hereinafter: Agency) has been actively involved in raising public awareness and educating the public. The Agency awards prizes for artistic and literary works by school students on the theme of fighting corruption as part of an annual campaign. The best works were included in a promotional film and printed in the Agency's calendars.

The Agency has a traditional event related to the International Anti-Corruption Day. For the past five years, the Agency has awarded prizes for the best artistic and literary works by primary and secondary school students from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina on specific anti-corruption topics. These activities aim to raise awareness among citizens, especially students and their teachers, about the need to actively participate in the fight against corruption, to encourage them in their ethical thinking and to familiarise young people with the harmful consequences of corruption. In 2020 the theme was "I am worth more than money", the year before "Gifts talk", and every year several hundred works from all over B&H arrive at the Agency's address. In 2021, the theme was "My Value Tree". This project was included in the Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2015 - 2019 and the corresponding Action Plan, as well as in the new Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2020 - 2024 and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2020 - 2024 (pending adoption). Considering the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 virus pandemic, the Agency did not organise an award ceremony for students who wrote the best papers. There are 12 prizes for the first three places by primary and secondary school students in the categories of art and literary works. The best works of art and quotations from the students' best literary works are published in the Agency's calendar.

This project has been ongoing since 2017 and has so far involved 1,728 students whose works have been submitted to the Agency. Considering the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to changes in the whole social context and thus also in the activities related to educational programmes on corruption prevention, it is important to emphasise that the Agency has successfully continued its cooperation with the Ministry of Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina throughout this challenging period.

Contact: Jelena Turanjanin, Expert Adviser, jelena.turanjanin@apik.ba

Additional Information: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxXcTfGxNJo

LAWS AND AUTHORITIES DEALING WITH THE SUPPORT AND PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The State Law on the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption (APIK) regulates the area of corruption prevention. Whistleblower protection legislation provides administrative protection to all employees of institutions and bodies established at the state level. This legislation grants preventive protection to employees before any retaliation occurs. Anonymous reports are permitted.

In the Republika Srpska entity, whistleblower protection legislation provides for judicial protection against retaliation and applies to all persons reporting corruption in the public or private sectors. It also provides for a reversed burden of proof, a non-exhaustive list of possible harmful consequences from which protection can be sought, and access to an expedited judicial procedure. There is no such legislation in the Federation entity.

In Brčko District, there is legislation on the protection of whistleblowers, which provides for administrative protection. Legislation on the protection of whistleblowers needs to be aligned with the new acquis in this area[1]. The Law on Protection of Whistleblowers in the Institutions of B&H[2] was adopted at the state level in December 2013.

The Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption is responsible for processing applications submitted with indications of corrupt behaviour in accordance with Article 10, paragraph h) of the Law on the Agency[3]. In this context, it received a total of 101 submissions by mail, e-mail, telephone and in person in 2020. In accordance with its tasks and guided by the principles of professional and equal treatment and non-discrimination, as well as the principles of timeliness and justification, the Agency analysed each submission and, on the basis of the law and regulations on the treatment of applications submitted with indications of corrupt behaviour, submitted the respective reports for further competent treatment by the truly competent judicial and police authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

[1] Source: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-bosnia-and-herzegovina-analytical-report.pdf

[2] "Official Gazette of B&H", No.: 100/13, in force since 1 January 2014, http://www.APCCFC.ba/zakoni-i-drugi-akti /Zakoni/drugivaznijizakoni/LAW%20ON%20WHISTLEBLOWER%20PROTECTION%20IN%20THE%20INSTITUTIONS%20OF.pdf

[3] "Official Gazette of B&H" No. 103/09 and 58/13; http://apik.ba/zakoni-i-drugi-akti/Zakoni/Zakon_o_Agenciji/default.aspx?id=397&langTag=en-US

In 2020, the Agency received four requests for granting the status of protected whistleblower in B&H institutions, of which in one case the status was granted, while in the other three cases the conditions for granting the status were not met.

Implementation of the protection of whistleblowers

The implementation of the legislation on whistleblower protection is entrusted at the state level to APIK, in the Republika Srpska entity to the Judiciary and in the Brčko District to the District Office for Corruption Prevention. In the Federation entity there is no law providing for the establishment of a similar institution[4].

The Law on Protection of Whistleblowers in the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides that the main implementing bodies are APIK and the Administrative Inspectorate of the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the Law, APIK assigns whistleblower status to a person who reports corruption within 30 days from the date of the report. If the employer jeopardises the whistleblower's status in any way (dismissal, suspension, transfer to a lower position), he or she will be fined between KM 10,000 and KM 20,000. A fine of KM 1,000 to KM 10,000 is prescribed for a whistleblower who deliberately reports false corruption.

In addition, APIK has developed the "Rulebook on whistleblowing and the protection of whistleblowers". In direct consultation with all institutions and on the basis of the unified Rulebook, APIK has monitored and coordinated the process of adopting such rulebooks (rulebooks have been adopted in 64 institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina). Furthermore, the "Instruction for the implementation of the Law on Protection of Whistleblowers in the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina" was developed.

During the implementation of the Law on Whistleblower Protection in the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the analysis of applications received has shown that some of the persons do not have requirements for granting the status of protected whistleblower, and that in some of these cases the Law does not apply to the applicants because they do not belong to the category of persons employed in B&H institutions to which the Law applies, or because the whistleblowers did not act in good faith (according to Article 9 of the aforementioned Law) or could not provide concrete evidence for their allegations.

In view of all these circumstances, the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) and APIK concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on 28 October 2020 on cooperation in the field of strengthening the protection of whistleblowers in Bosnia and Herzegovina by strengthening the legal and institutional framework in line with the EU Whistleblowing Directive by supporting the improvement of whistleblower protection mechanisms in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Furthermore, all institutions at the state level were obliged to establish corruption reporting offices (e-mail address, mailbox, telephone number for reporting corruption, etc.).

[4] Source: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-bosnia-and-herzegovina-analytical-report.pdf

The Law on Whistleblower Protection in the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not apply to the private sector. In order to promote the protection of whistleblowers among the general public, APIK, in cooperation with the Centre for Social Research "Analitika", has prepared promotional brochures and materials. In this context, a free whistleblower hotline (080054321) was set up for employees in B&H institutions to help them report wrongdoing confidentially and anonymously. To improve the processing of reported corruption cases, APIK, in cooperation with UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina, has developed a database and software for reporting corruption and protecting whistleblowers.

Since the implementation of Whistleblower Protection in the Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, APIK, in cooperation with the Civil Service Agency B&H, has organised more than 30 trainings for a total of 700 civil servants in the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, aiming at the introduction of civil servants to their rights and obligations under the Law on Whistleblower Protection in the Institutions of B&H and resolving petitions by other civil servants and citizens with regard to reporting corruption. In this context, trainings were held for the Indirect Taxation Authority, Border Police B&H, Ministry of Security B&H, Ministry of Civil Affairs B&H, the State Investigation and Protection Agency, Ministry of Justice B&H and other entities and agencies within the ministries.

Furthermore, APIK has three certified trainers in the Civil Service Agency B&H and the Civil Service Agency B&H and made itself available to all institutions in B&H regarding the implementation of the Law and other activities related to reporting corruption. In 2019, APIK conducted trainings for the B&H State Protection Agency, two trainings for a total of 160 participants on the topic “Reports of corruption and protection of whistleblowers”.

INTERNAL SECURITY DIRECTORATE, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, BULGARIA

CENTER FOR ACTIVE MONITORING IN THE SYSTEM OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

The newly established Center has a specialized automated system for permanent direct audio and video surveillance for the use, processing and storage of operational information from various sources. The Center thus equipped increases the technical capacity of the Internal Security Directorate to achieve the specific goal of the project, which is to prevent crime and strengthen coordination and cooperation between law enforcement agencies through the establishment of an automated system for active monitoring.

The Internal Security Directorate of the Ministry of Interior has successfully completed the implementation of project BG65ISNP001-5.012-0001 "ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTER FOR ACTIVE MONITORING IN THE SYSTEM OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR". The project has a total value of BGN 154,700 (EUR 79,000) and was implemented with the financial support of the National Programme of Bulgaria under the Internal Security Fund. In the period from 11.10.2017 to 11.12.2021, the project management and implementation team managed to achieve the following pre-set results:

- Newly regulated Center for active monitoring in the system of the Ministry of Interior, administratively regulated and equipped with specialized technical equipment;
- Methodical development and introduction of three anti-corruption measures based on new technical solutions for automated, permanent and direct audio and video surveillance; use, processing and storage of operational information from various sources; and enhanced supervision of Ministry of Interior police officers;
- Printed edition containing information on three anti-corruption measures introduced in the system of the Ministry of Interior.

During the implementation of the project, the following operational anti-corruption measures were developed and implemented. It was ensured that these measures are technically secured. Thanks to them, we are able to carry out the following activities:

1. direct independent audio and video surveillance of police officers;
2. permanent remote supervision with internal operational communication;
3. automated system for active monitoring in the Ministry of Interior.

The technical and operational capacity of the Ministry of Interior thus created is a prerequisite for effective and objective operational, investigative and information-analytical activities designed to prevent corruption and other criminal acts by police officers.

Additional Information: Преглед (mvr.bg)

BASIC AND ADVANCED COURSE ON THE ISSUES OF BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION

Training organised by the National Crime Agency / City of London Police and the British Council in Sofia, Bulgaria, with course leaders David Aldous, Roger Dainty and Nicola Fairbairn from the City of London Police.

This training was organised for more than 20 staff and police officers from the Directorate "Internal Security" of the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior and colleagues from Ukraine. The training was divided into two training modules of four days each, which took place in October and December 2021 respectively. The main topics discussed were: International Perspective and Elements of Corruption, Bribery Indicators, The Bribery Act and The Bribery Landscape, as well as many case studies. The speakers paid particular attention to the Money Laundering Landscape, Off-Shore Financial Centres, The Fraud Landscape and Tracing Overseas Assets. The training sessions also included case studies and were designed in such a way that each delegate had the opportunity to actively participate in the discussions and exchange good practices with their counterparts from Ukraine. To promote inter-agency and international cooperation, the training facilitators encouraged as many individuals as possible to share contributions of their own.

Contact: Svetlana Milanova-Petkova, Head of Department "Prevention, International Partnership and Projects", SvOPetkova@mvr.bg

Additional Information:
https://cityoflondonpolice.moodle.tituslearning.com/course/view.php?id=169

National Anti-Corruption Authority, Italy

National recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) in Italy, the role of the National Anti-Corruption Authority

The National Anti-Corruption Authority ("Anac") plays a crucial role in the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan ("NRRP") in Italy as one of the institutions involved in the implementation of new strategic interventions to support and assist awarding authorities and economic operators in the correct use of public resources.

The Authority has many years of know-how in the field of public procurement and the management of the "National Database of Public Contracts" ("BDNCP"), a database containing an extensive range of information collected on public contracts (https://dati.anticorruzione.it/superset/dashboard/appalti/). The data in the BDNCP covers a period of over 13 years and provides the details of more than 57 million contracts, both above and below the EU thresholds, with a total value of more than EUR 2.61 billion.

The NRRP foresees the strengthening of the BDNCP to become a single platform of administrative transparency, containing a "virtual file" of all economic operators involved in the public procurement process. To this end, all the information of the contracting authorities related to the planning, the choice of the contractor, the award and execution of the contract must be managed and promptly transmitted to the BDNCP, through the use of compatible IT platforms.

Digitization of processes

The digitization of processes, products and services is one of the three strategic axes around which the entire NRRP is developed and is a determining factor in the recovery of productivity. Thanks to the BDNCP, the details of all procurement activities are transparent and openly available to auditors and citizens in real time, enabling them to monitor public spending, preventing cost inefficiencies and corruption. The data can also be used to track and compare prices related to essential goods, making it possible to detect cases of overcharging and potential fraud.

The Virtual File of economic operators

As a part of the simplification process of tender procedures aimed at speeding up and digitizing public procurement procedures, Anac approved the introduction of a Virtual File (Fascicolo virtuale) for economic operators. This file will allow contracting authorities to use the checks and controls that have already been carried out by another contracting authority to admit an economic operator to the tender, thus speeding up the activity of checking compliance with the general requirements (the so-called “white list”). In addition, economic operators will see a significant reduction in the burden of having to replicate the certificates proving that they possess the necessary requirements for each tender procedure.

Transparency platform

Anac will create a unified access point, i.e. a platform that is interconnected with other public databases, capable of simplifying and making the publication of data less onerous, at the same time facilitating usability and comparability. Public administrations should be able to upload data directly, after which this data should be accessible to everyone in a single virtual access point, allowing the central administration to have more and better information at their disposal: a form of portal of portals, a single point of access and consultation, that would simplify both publication by administrations and consultation. The creation of this access point will be a gradual process and will require the involvement of various institutional players.

Qualification of contracting authorities

A further measure provided for in the NRRP is the finalisation by Anac of the qualification of contracting authorities – a process by which the contracting authorities certify that they possess the organisational and professional capacity necessary to call tenders for works, services and supplies for different amounts, product sectors and territorial areas. On December 2021 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Italian Government and Anac to mark the beginning of the long-awaited process of updating contracting authorities and central purchasing bodies – one of the key points contained in the NRRP. The objectives are 1) to reduce the number of contracting authorities; 2) to strengthen the qualification of contracting authorities, in order to compensate for organisational and professional deficits due to excessive fragmentation; 3) to apply the criteria of quality, efficiency and professionalism, in order to achieve aggregation of demand; 4) to set up a single registry of contracting authorities. With the introduction of these measures, the role of Anac – and particularly of the BDNCP – will therefore be fundamental in simplifying tender procedures and significantly reducing the burden on both economic operators and awarding authorities, whilst at the same time increasing transparency in public procurement and preventing corruption.

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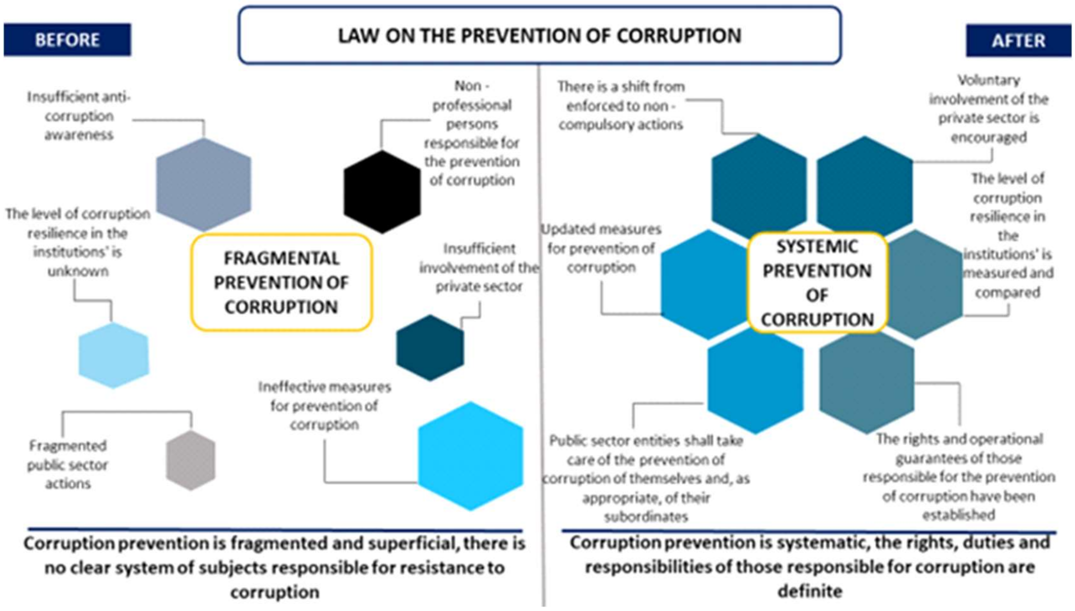
Additional Information: https://www.anticorruzione.it/

Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania, Lithuania

New corruption prevention system in Lithuania

The new Law on the Prevention of Corruption came into force on 1 January 2022. The Law seeks to ensure systematic rather than fragmentary prevention of corruption in the state and to create an efficient, reliable and measurable system for an anti-corruption environment.

The amendments to the Law aim to ensure that public sector entities are responsible for the creation of an anti-corruption environment not only in their own institution, but also in their subordinate institutions if they do not take sufficient measures to ensure this. The Law expands the scope of public sector entities to which this Law applies to include state-owned enterprises and their subsidiaries.



Larger public sector entities are now required to establish subdivisions responsible for the creation and promotion of an anti-corruption environment within their agencies. The Law confers not only duties on those responsible for preventing corruption, but also rights and guarantees, in order to ensure sufficient independence and operational tools for carrying out these activities.

The Law stipulates a system of measures to create an anti-corruption environment consisting of the following elements: (1) measures to prevent corruption, (2) anti-corruption awareness-raising, (3) security clearance of staff, (4) other measures that improve resilience against corruption (for example, declaration of private interests, declaration on lobbying activities). Most of the measures are optional and public sector entities can choose the measures they consider most relevant and best in terms of their activities, administrative capacity and existing corruption risks.

The Law provides for new anti-corruption measures: a) determination of the level of resilience to corruption, b) assessment of corruption risk management, c) implementation of anti-corruption standards of conduct. The Law is also paying closer attention to the private sector. The participation of private sector entities in anti-corruption activities is based on their voluntary nature and cooperation with the public sector. The state encourages the involvement of private sector entities in creating an anti-corruption environment in the public and private sectors.

Contact: Ieva Lukoševičienė, Chief Specialist of the International Cooperation Division, ieva.lukoseviciene@stt.lt

Additional Information: https://www.stt.lt/data/public/uploads/2021/09/law-on-corruption-prevention-new_2021.pdf

Immunity Board of the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior, Lithuania

"Toward more transparent Police: 10 years of the Police Immunity Units" – a POB success story

The Immunity Board of the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania issued a publication entitled "Toward more transparent Police: 10 years of the Police Immunity Units". The purpose of the publication is to review the activities of the Immunity Board from its establishment to today.

From one of the five most corrupt institutions in 2007 to one of the most trusted by society in 2020 – this could be called a success story. In 2021, the Lithuanian police celebrated the tenth anniversary of the establishment of a new police unit – the Immunity Board, which is meant to ensure more self-regulation and self-policing. The main task of the unit is to monitor the activities of police officers in pursuit of active and reactive prevention of corruption. The Board had not been given the statistical objective of detecting as many offences as possible nor maximising the number of officers sanctioned. Its main objective is to minimize the number of police officers committing misdemeanours and offences and to clean up the whole system. Protecting police officers from possible unlawful influences of all kinds is an equally important objective of the Board, which is becoming a priority along with a rapidly growing public trust index regarding the police. In order to achieve these goals, the Immunity Board applies a variety of tools ranging from public and police employee education using methodological materials to sophisticated pre-trial investigations and criminal intelligence techniques. Such a comprehensive range of measures is necessary to investigate complex corruption crimes and to substantially control and eradicate entrenched corruption manifestations, as well as to change the mentality of police officers and the public.

The publication shares insights into the work of the Immunity Board officers, who defend honest, principled colleagues against illegal acts, conduct various types of investigations into misconduct by officials as well as prevent corruption and organise training activities.

Contact: Ms Dalia Lombardero Chartuni, Chief investigator of Corruption Prevention and Analysis Division of Immunity Board of the Police Department under the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, dalia.chartuni@policija.lt

Additional Information: publication "Toward more transparent Police: 10 years of the Police Immunity Units": https://policija.lrv.lt/lt/korupcijos-prevencija

NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CENTER (NAC), MOLDOVA

PREMIERE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION INSTITUTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The National Anti-Corruption Center (NAC) of the Republic of Moldova is the first national anti-corruption agency to receive the ISO 37001 international anti-bribery certificate and the ISO 27001 information security management certificate. NAC has obtained the international anti-bribery and information security management certificates ISO 37001 and ISO 27001.

In order to obtain both certificates, NAC underwent a rigorous international audit over several months. The first phase of the assessment aimed at compliance with internal normative acts, followed by the diagnosis of the key processes within the institution and the formulation of recommendations to improve the current management of the anti-bribery and information security system. The second phase consisted of a work visit by the audit team including discussions with the NAC's senior and executive staff on work processes.

The ISO 37001 standard thus reflects best anti-corruption practices at the global level and enables the institution to implement an effective anti-bribery management system and improve its security measures. This system supports and promotes a sound institutional culture and establishes a clear set of anti-corruption rules and criteria to be followed in all NAC activities.

The second accreditation certificate obtained by the NAC is the ISO 27001 standard, which aims to improve information security management so that there are no breaches or other types of incidents related to information security risks. Receiving the certification demonstrates NAC's commitment to securing its information. The standardization certificates were issued for 3 years, with the possibility of renewal.

The certification was carried out with the support of the project “Curbing corruption by building sustainable integrity in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented by the United Nations Development Project (UNDP) Moldova with financial support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Additional Information: https://cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=3458&t=/Mass-media/Events/The-premiere-for-the-anti-corruption-institutions-in-the-Republic-of-Moldova-The-NAC-has-obtained-the-international-anti-bribery-and-information-security-management-certificates

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Citizens can report corruption with digital tools developed with UNDP support

Citizens have access to new digital tools, with which they can report corruption, become whistleblowers, or track the progress and purpose of public procurement procedures.

Citizens have access to new digital tools with which they can report corruption, become whistleblowers or follow the course and purpose of public procurement procedures. Open Money exposes the path of public money and sifts through the connections between companies involved in procurement, and on the ReLawed platform we can report the legal norms that leave room for interpretation. Integrity whistleblowers also have two online modules – an e-learning module and a protection application module.

All digital tools are easy to navigate, have simple and intuitive interfaces and have the potential to promote the anti-corruption agenda and facilitate citizens' communication with public institutions. These tools have been developed over the past few years as part of the project “Curbing corruption by building sustainable integrity in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented by UNDP Moldova with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For more details, see https://bit.ly/31GYiNV

Additional Information: https://cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=3652&t=/Mass-media/Events/Citizens-can-report-corruption-through-digital-tools-developed-with-the-support-of-the-UNDP

THE STORY OF THE ENVELOPES – THE FIRST ANIMATED FILM IN MOLDOVA ON THE THEME OF FIGHTING CORRUPTION

Fifth graders, their teachers, the creative team, NAC and UNDP representatives appreciated the screening of the first animated film in Moldova dedicated to the fight against corruption.

The scriptwriter, Ms Leontina Vatamanu, mentioned that "The Story of the Envelopes" aims to explain to children what corruption means and what harmful consequences it has on people's lives, through everyday situations such as a visit to the doctor or a road accident.

Mr Denis Simonov, the creative director of Pixtoon Animation Studio, stated that the team strived to make an interesting and captivating cartoon, especially for children. "Seeing so many eyes burning with curiosity today, I can say that our efforts paid off and the purpose of the animated film was achieved. I am glad that we managed to convey the message of integrity to the children." Mr Ion Pruteanu, the head of the NAC's Anti-Corruption Education Directorate, said that "The Story of the Envelopes" was created for primary and secondary school students and will be used as an interactive teaching material in civics classes as well as in other relevant subjects in various schools in our country.

The film consists of two parts and depicts some situations of corruption – at the doctor's office, in traffic, in court – in a language that children can understand. The first part is a nightmare and shows the negative impact of corruption on people, and the second part shows a reality where there is no corruption and everyone does their work honestly and everyone is happy. "The Story of the Envelopes" can be viewed at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frCYQmpVRi0

Additional Information: https://cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=3651&t=/Mass-media/Events/The-anti-corruption-cartoon-The-Story-of-the-Envelopes-was-presented-for-the-first-time-at-Spiru-Haret-High-School-in-Chisinau

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ANTI-CORRUPTION WEEK CULMINATED WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE E-LEARNING PLATFORM

The Anti-Corruption Week culminated with the launch of the "Anti-Corruption and Integrity E-Learning Platform" for officials. The e-learning course was set up to provide distance learning for public officials at the management and implementation levels.

The launch of the platform took place during an event attended by the NAC leadership, the project partners – UNDP Moldova – and the representatives of 25 public authorities that will use the platform.

In his opening speech, Mr Vadim Cojocaru, Deputy Director of the NAC, mentioned the following: “The development of the course was a great challenge for the National Anti-Corruption Center, but through the joint efforts and with the support of UNDP Moldova, it was possible to create a useful and long-awaited product.”

This new distance learning tool is divided into seven modules and offers the opportunity to officials to study and repeat some aspects as often as needed, to improve their knowledge and develop practical skills in integrity and corruption prevention. The educational modules are accessible on the governmental distance learning platform managed by the E-Governance Agency.

The “Anti-Corruption and Integrity E-Learning Platform” was developed with the support of a group of experts in the field in the framework of the project ”Curbing corruption by building sustainable integrity in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented by UNDP Moldova with financial support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Additional Information: https://cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=3653&t=/Mass-media/Events/The-Anticorruption-Week-has-culminated-in-the-launch-of-the-E-Learning-Platform

Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Montenegro

The Agency for Prevention of Corruption in Montenegro has conducted various anti-corruption trainings for public officials

The Agency for Prevention of Corruption, in accordance with Article 78 of the Law on Prevention of Corruption, has conducted trainings on various corruption prevention topics over the past five years. Especially in the past period, the Agency has intensified its trainings on the tasks and duties of public officials in the fight against corruption, both at the national and local levels.

Representatives of APC held numerous anti-corruption trainings as lecturers for public officials in various Montenegrin municipalities such as Podgorica, Herceg Novi, Ulcinj and Berane. The trainings were organised with the aim of informing public officials about the Agency’s anti-corruption powers under the Law on Prevention of Corruption, the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns and the Law on Lobbying.

During the one-day trainings in the Parliament of Montenegro and in Herceg Novi for newly appointed public officials who took office in 2021, staff of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption presented to the participants the practice, procedures and results of implementation of legal obligations related to reporting of income and assets of public officials, prevention of conflicts of interest in the performance of public functions, ethical dilemmas that public officials may face in the performance of their functions and methods to overcome them, as well as the main concepts of the Law on Lobbying. The representatives of the Natural History Museum of Montenegro participated in a training on "Prevention of Corruption – Ethics and Integrity" where the APC staff presented the legislation in the field of prevention of corruption, with a special focus on ethics and integrity of public sector employees.

The training in Ulcinj and Berane was held on the topic of "Implementation of anti-corruption laws with a focus on the obligations, prohibitions and restrictions of the Law on Financing of Political Entities and Election Campaigns". The training was attended by representatives of local self-government bodies, local government bodies, public enterprises and public institutions.

In the coming period, the Agency will continue its ongoing proactive and educational activities aimed at raising awareness among public officials and civil servants on ethical values and principles in the public sector.

Additional Information: *https://www.antikorupcija.me/en/library/news-archive/2201171247-apc-conducted-training-parliament-montenegro/*

DUTCH WHISTLEBLOWING AUTHORITY, THE NETHERLANDS

HUIS VOOR KLOKKENLUIDERS

NEW FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING INTEGRITY SYSTEMS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Public integrity is of critical importance, especially for local government organisations. Although research indicates that a systematic approach to integrity is preferable, there is limited knowledge about what such an approach should include. New research presents a framework that incorporates seven theory-based elements that make up a complete integrity system. This framework has been tested in three major EU cities: Antwerp, Amsterdam and Munich. Although the framework has originally been developed for local government organisations, it can certainly be used for other types of public organisations.

It is crucial for cities and municipalities to pay attention to integrity, as local government organisations are responsible for large public expenditures in areas of service delivery that are often known for their vulnerability to integrity breaches. Furthermore, integrity risks at the local level are heightened by the trend towards decentralization of public powers and responsibilities from the national to the local level, as well as by the intense contact with citizens at the local level, where officials may have greater vested interests due to social ties that can influence public decision-making. Local governments are therefore forced to think about how to address these vulnerabilities and risks and prevent integrity breaches.

In order to gain a better understanding of the theoretical and empirical content and design of (local) integrity systems, a research article presents key findings on three questions: (1) what are the constituent elements of an assessment framework for local integrity systems according to the literature, (2) what deficiencies in local integrity systems can be identified through the systematic application of this assessment framework, and (3) what practical recommendations can be made based on this systematic assessment? This article was recently published in Public Integrity (an American, double-blind, peer-reviewed academic journal).

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Additional Information: Link to the article: https://doi.org/10.1080/10999922.2021.2014204

ANTI-CORRUPTION GENERAL DIRECTORATE (DGA), ROMANIA

PROJECT "INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF ANTI-CORRUPTION TOOLS – ANTICOR_INT"

"Integrated Development of Anti-Corruption Tools – ANTICOR_INT" is a project implemented by the Anti-Corruption General Directorate (DGA) in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Affairs and the National Integrity Agency.

Its objective is to increase the effectiveness of the prevention and investigation of corruption offences and conflicts of interest, including through training activities carried out by representatives of the DGA, the Ministry of Public Affairs and the National Integrity Agency, and to combat corruption offences and conflicts of interest through the use of special methods of investigation, prevention and public relations.

The implementation period is 12 months, from 29 June 2021 to 28 June 2022, and the approved budget is approximately EUR 920,000.

The project is based on the positive experience of collaboration between the DGA and the Ministry of Public Affairs. Within the framework of the project, 10 training sessions are being organised involving teams of practitioners, prosecutors and judicial police officers of the DGA to share good practices in the common area of activity.

The purpose of this exchange of good practices is to include the cases presented in the training sessions in a good practice guide for the investigation of corruption offences, which will be useful for professionals in the field.

At the same time, four specialized driving training sessions took place under this project, which are useful for operational surveillance activities, and another five training sessions are to be held for DGA prevention officers at the call centre so that they are prepared and can respond as efficiently as possible to the calls received on the anti-corruption line 0800.806.806, through which acts of corruption are reported.

The interdisciplinary approach to the issue by the mixed teams of practitioners is the basis for the initiation of this project. It aims to develop the skills necessary for the optimal development of professional activity, to improve the activity of all actors involved in the prevention and investigation of corruption offences and conflicts of interest and lead to enhanced performance.

The transfer of good practices between the authorities will generate a series of project results that should streamline the activities of the authorities involved:

- Increase capacity of the specialized structures of the General Anti-Corruption Directorate to support evidence gathering in the execution of technical supervision mandates through improved technical equipment in this area;

- Improve the skills of specialists involved in the investigation of corruption, including the use of new investigative tools and techniques and access to international police cooperation mechanisms;
- Develop and disseminate a good practice guide on corruption investigation by law enforcement structures (Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice, Directorate-General for Anti-Corruption);
- Train the staff of the General Anti-Corruption Directorate in special driving training sessions in order to be able to apply the dynamic investigation methods in special road traffic and weather conditions;
- Optimize the anti-corruption call centre system, which will be fully digitized and expanded nationwide, including through the acquisition of workstations;
- Train General Anti-Corruption Directorate staff in the use of the anti-corruption call centre system, assessment of integrity incidents (including conflicts of interest) and monitoring of the implementation of the anti-corruption strategic framework at the level of the Ministry of Interior.

The comprehensive and integrated approach of the project will ensure the modernization of the operational capacity of the General Anti-Corruption Directorate, responding to the dynamics and new forms of corruption and promoting the transfer of good practices between the authorities responsible for preventing and combating corruption.

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Cooperation between the Romanian Anti-Corruption General Directorate (DGA) and the Polish Central Anti-Corruption Bureau (CBA) – latest developments

Over the years, DGA and CBA have developed excellent cooperation, which is now set out in a bilateral document signed in October 2021.

Cooperation with the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau (CBA) was initiated in 2011, when DGA requested CBA to indicate the Polish legislation on integrity tests and covert operations in order to compare it with the Romanian legislation. In this field, the specialized structure of undercover investigators of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau in Poland provided expertise to officers of the Anti-Corruption General Directorate – Undercover Service. In addition, over the years, the DGA participated in conferences organised by the CBA in Warsaw, on the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day. DGA and CBA also cooperate in working groups and annual conferences organised under the auspices of EPAC/EACN, as both institutions are full members.

At the request of the CBA, the DGA has repeatedly contributed to the preparation of the Anti-Corruption Bulletin in Poland. We mention that the DGA submitted a comprehensive article on integrity testing to the Polish partners which was published by the CBA in the Bulletin.

The continuation of these joint activities required the signing of a bilateral document recording the excellent cooperation with the Polish partners. Thus, in October 2021, at the headquarters of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau in Poland, a Protocol of Cooperation was signed between the Anti-Corruption General Directorate of the Ministry of Interior of Romania and the Head of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau in Poland in the field of corruption prevention.

The Protocol aims to expand the exchange of experience, adopt the e-learning methods that CBA has already successfully implemented and improve the possibility of joint access to projects with non-reimbursable European or international funding. At the same time, the Protocol envisages the implementation of joint steps to intensify actions in the field of prevention of corruption and corruption-like offences by employees of the Romanian Ministry of Interior and Polish civil servants, on the basis of existing legal powers and in accordance with the national laws of both parties.

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GUARDIA CIVIL, SPAIN

THE SPANISH GUARDIA CIVIL IS MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT TO INCREASE ITS IMPORTANCE IN INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION FORUMS

Guardia Civil, under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Defence, is responsible for the investigation of corruption, money laundering and other economic crimes through the Economic Crime Unit of the Judicial Police. It also analyses intelligence information and uncovers the latest modus operandi of corruption crimes.

In November 2021, Guardia Civil accepted the Presidency of the Globe Network (Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities). Among the 86 authorities from 52 countries that joined the GlobE Network, Spain was instrumental in the Internal Task Forces that discussed the terms and conditions for the creation of the Network. Spain was the first country to join this network against corruption and was invited by the Secretariat to assume the interim chairmanship for two years. Also, Guardia Civil chaired the first meeting of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, which took place from 15 to 17 November 2021. We also participated in a side event of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), where Guardia Civil presented the next steps of the Network.

In addition, Spain will take the lead in Operational Action 4.5 under the Operational Action Plan for the EMPACT priority 'Criminal Finances, Money Laundering and Asset Recovery' (CFMLAR) on anti-corruption. The aim of this action is to encourage and support criminal investigations against all types of corruption, especially corruption that takes place within EU borders or affects EU interests, including law enforcement, PEPs (politically exposed persons), public officials and highlighting the upcoming risks of the Next Generation EU – COVID-19 funds; it is the first operational action of this EMPACT priority to focus on this criminal area.

As the control and protection of the Next Generation EU funds is one of our priorities, Spain is taking part in Operation SENTINEL, which focuses on fraud involving COVID-19 EU recovery funds offered under the "Next Generation EU" initiative. It was launched on 15 October 2021 at Europol headquarters and involves the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), Eurojust, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and 19 EU Member States. This action will run for at least one year and will focus on the proactive exchange of intelligence and information, as well as supporting the coordination of operations to tackle fraud against COVID-19 EU recovery funds.

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INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION ACADEMY (IACA), AUSTRIA

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION ACADEMY (IACA)

IACA continues to be a leading provider of anti-corruption education, offering a wide range of innovative post-graduate programmes, trainings, courses, and panel discussions. It develops research and facilitates collaboration on anti-corruption issues at the local, national, and international level.

The Academy has launched a new master's programme in anti-corruption and compliance, offered in Spanish; two programmes (master's and executive diploma) on anti-corruption and diplomacy developed jointly with the United Nations institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); and a postgraduate diploma programme in anti-corruption enforcement.

The Anti-Corruption Collective Action Impact Centre has been established to promote the implementation of Collective Action initiatives through IACA's Anti-Corruption Collective Action Certificate.

Various online, instructor-led and self-paced courses cover topics including whistleblower protection techniques, anti-corruption compliance, corporate investigation, procurement and technology in anti-corruption.

The IACA Summer Academy is scheduled to take place from 25 June to 1 July 2022.

Tailor-made trainings addressing the specific anti-corruption and compliance needs of individual organisations are being offered virtually.

Research activities are being strengthened. In particular, IACA's Global Research Network has been launched to promote the sharing of resources and ideas, support project development and implementation, and assist policy makers and anti-corruption practitioners.

Finally, IACA has been facilitating the development of the Global Anti-Corruption Cities Network, a platform of mutual support for cities and other local governments, as they work to combat corruption more effectively and efficiently.

Detailed information on all initiatives, trainings and academic programmes of the Academy is available on IACA website.

POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ANTI-CORRUPTION ENFORCEMENT

The diploma programme consists of four modules. Whereas the first module focuses on the fundamentals of criminology and (anti)corruption, the second module covers the legal and regulatory framework and international initiatives in anti-corruption. The third module explores the nexus between corruption and other types of crime, and the fourth module involves criminal investigation and law enforcement. The programme is expected to start in March 2022 and run until April 2023, 54 weeks.

The programme offers an extensive curriculum that covers the behavioural, social, anthropological, and cultural study of corruption crime, the legal and regulatory frameworks, international cooperation in fighting corruption, the nexus between corruption and other forms of crime, and various tools and techniques in investigating corruption, and enforcement.

The Programme is designed for in-career professionals from the anti-corruption authorities, prosecutors, judges, police and other law enforcement officers, investigators, civil society activists, attorneys, investigative journalists, and professionals in the economic security branch of the business sector, including fraud prevention officers and internal investigators.

On the methodological side, both programmes will provide the students with the necessary tools and skills to contribute to the learning process. In each module, the students, individually or in groups, will work on given assignments. They will expand the content of the module by merging it with their knowledge and experience, and other issues related to corruption. Students will work under the guidance of the module lecturers and will present the results of their work through a seminar, at the end of the module. The programme aims to hold some seminars in a hybrid form on the IACA campus or a different location, combined with study visits, local content, and other side events.

Contact: IACA Secretariat, mail@iaca.int

Additional Information:

https://www.iaca.int
https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes.html
https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/open-trainings/executive-diploma-in-anti-corruption-and-diplomacy.html
https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/academic-programmes/master-en-estudios-anticorrupcion-y-compliance-maac.html
https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/academic-programmes/post-graduate-diploma-in-anti-corruption-enforcement.html
https://collective-action.iaca.int/

European Anti-Fraud Office

OLAF's ANTICO II conference: United against corruption

For the second year in a row, colleagues from EU institutions and bodies gathered virtually to discuss the fight against corruption, during OLAF's Anti-Corruption Conference (ANTICO II) on the International Anti-Corruption Day, 9 December 2021.

The conference started with an insight into an investigator's work and challenges when investigating EU internal cases, via case studies presented by OLAF and the European Commission's Investigation and Disciplinary Office (IDOC). The morning session continued with a panel discussion about the challenges of operational cooperation to address breaches of professional duties within the EU institutions.

Main takeaways from the morning session included:

- We all need to lead by example and, at the same time, be attentive to any sign of unethical behaviour that could lead to fraud or corruption. A zero tolerance policy is crucial if we are to keep the trust of the citizens;
- Operational cooperation is key for the success of internal investigations. EU institutions and bodies as well as EU Member States are stronger if we are fighting corruption together, by way of timely exchanges of information, mutual support and trust between all actors;
- The creation of the European Public Prosecutors Office (EPPO) is an important addition to the EU's anti-fraud architecture: thanks to the combined actions of both OLAF and the EPPO, together with the coordination work of Europol and Eurojust, the protection of the EU budget is now even stronger.

The afternoon session of ANTICO II was opened by a high-level panel discussion on future prospects and challenges that emphasised the high standards of integrity amongst EU staff. The panel explained how questions of ethics and integrity impact work within the EU institutions and towards EU stakeholders, and the mechanisms of control put in place to ensure a homogenous application of commonly defined principles within the EU institutions. In the second part of the afternoon colleagues discussed in a workshop with representatives of a number of EU institutions including the European Parliament and European Investment Bank (EIB) how to effectively encourage reporting of unethical behaviour within the public institution.

Main takeaways from the afternoon included:

- The European Commission has an important role to play in the fight against corruption not only within the EU institutions but also in the Members States and cross-border into third countries;
- The more transparent public institutions and bodies are, the less place there is for corruption. The EU therefore makes a large variety of data available to the public, via tools such as the Financial Transparency System (FTS), which lists the beneficiaries of EU funds implemented in direct and indirect management mode;
- Awareness-raising and training are essential for EU staff in order to effectively deal with ethical dilemmas and potential conflicts of interest in their daily professional life.

Overall, the conference showed clearly the importance of combining prevention, reporting, cooperation and investigation in order to tackle corruption and fraud.

Additional Information:

https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/contacts/general-contact-details_en

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Where EU money goes, OLAF goes – the Syrian Investigations Working group meets in Brussels

International donors' investigative bodies intensify their cooperation in order to protect funds spent as humanitarian aid in emergency and conflict situations.

Member organisations of the Syrian Investigations Working Group (SIWG) met in Brussels last November to discuss how to coordinate and exchange experience in protecting taxpayer's money and public funds in regions harbouring humanitarian crises. The SIWG event was organised jointly by USAID-OIG (Office of the Inspector General) and the European Anti-Fraud Office ('OLAF').

From left to right: Suzann Gallagher, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, USAID-OIG Nadine Kolloczek, Acting Head of Unit, OLAF.03, Anthony Garnett, Inspector General, UNHCR
On the screen: Fabienne Lambert, Inspector General, WFP.

The conference, attended by 80 people, allowed investigators from humanitarian and development agencies from all over the globe to share their approaches to tackle corruption and fraud in this field, as well as their investigative techniques and experiences, all with the purpose of enhancing cooperation through dialogue and networking. According to data published in 2021 by the European Commission, since the start of the Syrian crisis in 2011, the EU and its Member States have been leading donors in Syria, mobilising more than EUR 24.9 billion. OLAF works closely together with the European Commission's Directorate General for European Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO). The cooperation between the spending body and the investigators looking into potential misuse of such monies is of great benefit. From DG ECHO's side it leads to early reporting to OLAF and therefore earlier reaction on any allegations.

Some main takeaways from the conference we take from the conference are:

- The pandemic has increased the challenges for investigators: the humanitarian crises have worsened, while COVID-related restrictions have made investigations more difficult;
- Particularly corruption poses a serious threat for development goals and humanitarian aid projects – one of the main challenges of investigating corruption in humanitarian and development aid projects is to be able to effectively monitor and prevent corruption;
- Cooperation as well as regular exchange of information between agencies and donors can improve the success rate of such investigations. Fraudsters do not know borders, neither should investigators, within our respective legal limits. Cooperation is key in the future of the fight against fraud in the development aid sphere.

The conference also served as a platform to highlight new ways to investigate, such as the use of local contractors, new software tools and the creation of joint teams of different agencies.

Its members decided to extend the scope of the Syrian International Working Group to global investigations related to aid given to any country in a crisis that receives aid from the EU, US or UN. This currently includes countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Yemen. In light of this decision, the group was renamed to 'Complex Emergencies Working Group'.

Additional Information:

https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/contacts/general-contact-details_en

Preventing and fighting fraud through power of communication – 31st OAFCN Annual Meeting

Over 80 participants took part in this year's OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicators' Network (OAFCN) meeting where discussion ranged from communication on the Recovery and Resilience Facility to best practices from national authorities in Greece, Italy, Latvia and Slovakia and the use of podcasts.

The 31st annual virtual meeting of the OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicators' Network took place on 26 January 2022. During the event, partners from across the EU anti-fraud community had the chance to interact and exchange best communication practises. There was also great interest in an OLAF presentation on the Union Anti-Fraud Programme and its Hercule III component.

The meeting heard from representatives of OLAF, member states, EPPO, Eurojust, Europol, and DG ECFIN on their recent activities. Topics included work carried out at both national and institutional level to communicate on the European Commission's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), an explanation on how the RRF scoreboard operates and an inspirational presentation of the anti-fraud communication activities on the Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan.

During a session focused on case studies from the member states, a representative from Latvia shared her experience of organising a two-day conference aimed at strengthening cooperation between stakeholders involved in the fight against fraud. Moreover, a representative from Italy presented a project ("CATONE") funded by the Hercule III programme supporting actions to combat irregularities, fraud and corruption affecting the EU budget. Greek partners also shared the network and communication practices of the National Transparency Authority.

The meeting concluded with a tour de table to gain members' insights and experiences over the last year and share their most successful communication actions of 2021. An interactive brainstorming session took place to develop a joint communication action plan for 2022, with many members indicating an interest in using podcast to highlight the work they do.

OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicators' Network consists of Spokespersons & colleagues responsible for communication and public relations in the national investigative services that the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) co-operates with in the EU countries (i.e. customs, police, financial police, anti-fraud coordination services, prosecutor's offices). It is coordinated by OLAF which is based in Brussels, Belgium.

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Additional Information:

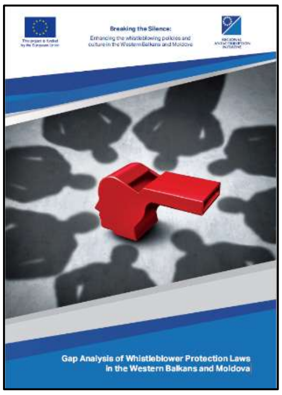
https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/olaf-anti-fraud-communicators-network-oafcn_en

RAI Publication

REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

We look for better solutions together.

Breaking the Silence: Gap Analysis of Whistleblower Protection Laws in the Western Balkans and Moldova



The Gap Analysis was produced as part of the regional project "Breaking the Silence: Enhancing Whistleblowing Policies and Culture in the Western Balkans and Moldova", funded by the European Union.

The Gap Analysis compares laws in project beneficiary jurisdictions to the Council of Europe (CoE) Recommendation on Protection of Whistleblowers and the EU Directive on the Protection of Persons who Report Breaches of Union Law. For this purpose, twenty-one key standards were extracted from the CoE Recommendation and the EU Directive. The Gap Analysis assesses to what extent each standard is incorporated in the laws. Through this quantitative assessment, general and specific gaps in statutory provisions were identified, and recommendations for improvement developed for each beneficiary jurisdiction. The results of the Gap Analysis and recommendations will provide the foundation for follow-up advocacy, capacity building and public awareness activities toward improving whistleblower policies and systems in beneficiary jurisdictions.

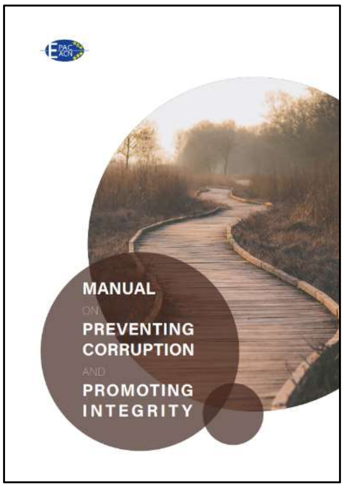
Additional Information:

https://rai-see.org/the-gap-analysis-of-whistleblower-protection-laws-in-the-western-balkans-and-moldova-finalized-and-delivered-to-beneficiaries/

EPAC/EACN PUBLICATION

Manual on Preventing Corruption and Promoting Integrity

EPAC/EACN set up the working group "EU Integrity" on the occasion of the 18th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly in 2018. "EU Integrity" had the objective to promote



integrity by sharing experiences and developing standards and strategies, as well as to exchange best practices. To ensure a comprehensive approach, “EU Integrity” consisted of four sub-working groups. Each of them covered different aspects of integrity: “Support and protection of whistleblowers”, “Interagency cooperation and common standards for its improvement”, “Educational and value management measures” and “Integrity and anti-corruption standards”. The Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) carried out the overall coordination of the “EU Integrity” working group.

The Manual on Preventing Corruption and Promoting Integrity comprises the overall outcome and key findings of the working group. With this manual, EPAC/EACN provide a publication of significant relevance in the fields of integrity and anti-corruption. The publication was developed in the context of anti-corruption authorities and police oversight bodies but is applicable to all other sectors across the EU.

Additional Information:

https://www.epac-eacn.org/fileadmin/Documents/EPAC_EACN_EU_Integrity_Manual.pdf

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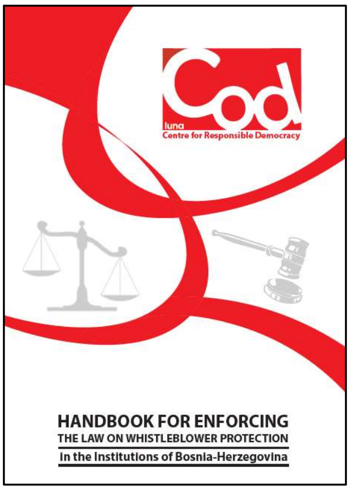
Centre for Responsible Democracy CRD Luna

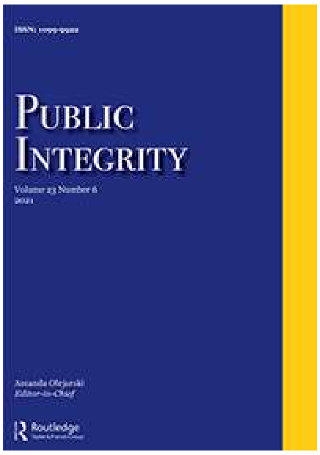


Handbook for Enforcing the Law on Whistleblower Protection in the Institutions of Bosnia-Herzegovina

The Handbook for enforcing the Law on Whistleblower Protection in B&H Institutions aims to facilitate understanding of the law content, which was unanimously adopted by both chambers of the Parliamentary Assembly of B&H, and to contribute to its successful implementation and practical enforcement. In addition to elaborating on each Article of the Law in detail in the Handbook, particular attention was paid to the development of a model/template of the Book of Rules on Internal Disclosure on Acts of Corruption and Whistleblower’s protection, to be issued by each respective institution of B&H as well as legal entities established by the institutions of B&H.

Public integrity Publication: Research Article

Content and Design of Integrity Systems: Evaluating Integrity Systems in Local Government



Public integrity is crucial, especially for local government organisations. Although research points out that a systematic integrity approach is to be preferred, only limited knowledge is available about what such an approach should entail. This article presents a framework that contains seven theory-based elements constituting a complete integrity system. This framework is used to assess the integrity systems in three large European cities, to detect shortcomings of these systems, and to provide recommendations for both administrative practice and future research. Based on the research findings the studied cities are, for instance, recommended: to improve their long-term awareness and support for organisational integrity; to work with a clearer definition of (and vision on) integrity (management); and to reflect more critical on their integrity system based on thorough policy analyses and evaluations.

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Additional Information:

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10999922.2021.2014204