# NEWSLETTER 02 22

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**Dear ladies and gentlemen,**

**colleagues and friends,**

Once again, we thank you for the impressive number of contributions you have provided us with in this second newsletter in 2022.

Your contributions show once more how much work the EPAC/EACN community accomplishes in the fight against corruption on a daily basis.

This newsletter features exciting news from the EPAC/EACN Board as well as interesting articles on a variety of anti-corruption and police oversight activities from across our network.

With lots of good news like this, it's a great way to kick off the summer! The EPAC/EACN Secretariat wishes you a pleasant read, health and safety. Until the next issue!

**Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat**

# NEWSLETTER 02 22

## I EPAC/EACN SECRETARIAT

### 2ND EPAC/EACN BOARD MEETING 2022 IN VILNIUS & ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

**The EPAC/EACN Board held its second official meeting on 10 May 2022 in Vilnius, Lithuania. During the meeting, the EPAC/EACN Board discussed the implementation of the EPAC/EACN Work Programme 2022-2023 and plans for the Annual Professional Conferences and General Assemblies.**

Board members also discussed questions of enhancing cooperation with international networks such as the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) and other international organisations and monitoring bodies. During the meeting, the Board members also discussed how to further involve institutions and authorities in the activities of the Network. New ideas were put forward for more engaging conferences, webinars and other online workshops tailored to members' specific interests.

At this point, the Board established a work programme based on three main thematic areas:

- Transfer of knowledge
- Analysis and advice
- Visibility and partnerships

In addition, the Board approved the setting up of these three task forces:

- **Task force for Analysis and Policy Advice (APA)** – to conduct analysis and assist the EPAC/EACN Board in providing opinions or advice, where appropriate, on behalf of EPAC/EACN on important policy issues or public consultations.
- **Task force for Training and Transfer of Knowledge (TTK)** – to plan and conduct dedicated webinars for the EPAC/EACN community on relevant anti-corruption and police oversight topics;
- **Task force for Developing and Implementing Project Activities (DIPA)** – to initiate and develop project activities to promote the exchange of expertise and best practices between EPAC/EACN members and observers.

The activities of each task force are coordinated by an EPAC/EACN Board member and each task force is open to volunteering experts from across the EPAC/EACN community. Therefore, EPAC/EACN members and observers who wish to propose their candidates for the aforementioned task forces are invited to contact the EPAC/EACN Secretariat.

Last but not least, we are pleased to confirm that from today's perspective Moldova will host the 2022 EPAC/EACN Annual Conference at the end of November.

**Additional Information:** News - European Partners Against Corruption (epac-eacn.org); EPAC-EACN Work Programme 2022-2023 - adopted.pdf

# Police Oversight Agency, Ministry of Interior, Albania

## Transformation of Service for Internal Affairs and Complaints into Police Oversight Agency within the Ministry of Interior

Law No. 128/2021 on the "Police Oversight Agency" entered into force on 9 February 2022. This law is part of the legal framework for the reform of security structures in our country. The law became necessary under the influence of several factors, namely the need to take over the legal and functional responsibility of the (former) SIAC to conduct vetting of State Police and Republic Guard personnel, the judicial reform and the creation of new justice institutions such as the Special Prosecution Office Against Corruption and Organized Crime (SPAK) of the National Bureau of Investigation (BKH).

The adoption and implementation of this law is one of the main priorities of the medium-term institutional development document "Strategy of POA 2020 - 2024 and Action Plan 2020 - 2022".

The law aims to strengthen the current competencies of the institution, such as

- Preventive activity
- Criminal procedural investigation
- Administrative investigation of complaints & inspections

And to expand the competencies of the Agency in terms of oversight activities through processes such as

- Preliminary and periodic assessment of the employees of the structures that are the subject of the Agency's activities in three components (assessment of characteristics, assessment of background and assessment of professional skills).
- Application and verification to obtain a Personnel Security Certificate for recognition, creation, storage, transport, transmission of classified information during the performance of duties or in the course of performing an activity in compliance with the "need to know" principle as in other public institutions and private bodies.
- Disciplinary investigation of serious offences against the employees of the structures, subjects of the Agency's activity.
- Conduct polygraph tests as part of the vetting process and application in the recruitment of employees of the entities overseen by the Agency to ensure their integrity in the performance of their duties.

The new law will enable the reform and transformation of the Agency towards a more democratic model according to EPAC standards in terms of mission, definition of functional tasks, responsibilities, structure and staff, thereby enhancing its capacity to take a proactive approach against corruptive phenomena and various forms of lawlessness among its subjects.

**Contact:** Oriana Elmazi, contact person at the Police Oversight Agency (POA) – Chief of Analyses Sector and Information, oriana.elmazi@amp.gov.al & oriana.elmazi@mb.gov.al

**Additional Information:** http://amp.gov.al/

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## POLYGRAPH TEST IN THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA / FIVE ALBANIAN EXPERTS AT THE POLICE OVERSIGHT AGENCY


The polygraph test is a testing procedure performed to measure changes in certain physiological indicators such as blood pressure, heart rate, respiration and skin conductivity in a person while being asked some prepared questions. The purpose of this test is to determine from the physiological responses whether the examinee is sincere or deceitful about a particular issue.

There are two test formats that can be used with the polygraph: the crime detection format and the recruitment or pre-employment format, the latter being used by law enforcement agencies or even private agencies that require "the highest level of integrity" from their employees.

In our country, the use of the polygraph is provided for the first time in Law No. 95/2016 "On the organization and functioning of institutions to fight corruption and organized crime", where the creation of new institutions under the judicial reform necessarily requires employees with high integrity. Specifically, Articles 34 and 38 of this law provide as follows:

a) Candidates for the post of Director of the National Bureau of Investigation (BKH) must give their consent to undergo a polygraph test and "the information in the report prepared by the polygraph specialist is taken into account during the selection process".

b) All candidates for investigators of the National Bureau of Investigation (BKH) must have given their consent to undergo a "polygraph test on the integrity of the candidate" and the information in the report prepared by the polygraph specialist is taken into account during the process of appointment and reappointment.

c) All BKH investigators are required to “consent to undergo a polygraph test for integrity every two years. The information in the report prepared by the polygraph specialist is taken into account during the reappointment process.

Also, the Law on the Police Oversight Agency (POA) No. 128/2021, provides in its Article 34 for the application of the polygraph test for the employees of the Agency as well as for other subjects according to the respective requirements. The procedures for performing the polygraph test are regulated in other bylaws.

In accordance with the legal provisions, five Albanian experts from the POA, supported and funded by the ICITAP Program at the US Embassy, were initially selected and trained by international experts from the American Polygraph School, who were certified upon completion of the relevant training and licensed to perform polygraph examinations.

The Polygraph Structure at the Police Oversight Agency has developed a large number of tests over the past two years that have helped to identify candidates with high integrity in the selection process for the Director and Investigators of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Specifically, three test campaigns were conducted for the selection of candidates in the National Bureau of Investigation, with one campaign of 8 tests for the Head of BKH and two others of 39 and 75 tests for BKH Investigators.

In addition, a test campaign was conducted with the other law enforcement institutions, testing 59 employees of these institutions, and it should be noted that in all cases the work and feedback received from the institutions interested in the process was maximum.

**Contact:** Oriana Elmazi, contact person at the Police Oversight Agency (POA) – Chief of Analyses Sector and Information, oriana.elmazi@amp.gov.al & oriana.elmazi@mb.gov.al

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## HAUTE AUTORITÉ POUR LA TRANSPARENCE DE LA VIE PUBLIQUE (HATVP), FRANCE

Haute Autorité pour la transparence de la vie publique

### HATVP ORGANISES A CONFERENCE ON ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION COUNCIL

FRANCE22

On 9 June 2022, the High Authority for Transparency in Public Life (HATVP) organises a conference in Paris entitled «Ethics and transparency: which tools to ensure citizens' trust?».

The conference begins with an opening speech by Ms Věra Jourová, Vice-President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency, and by Ms Emily O'Reilly, European Ombudsman. There are two panel discussions, one on the prevention of conflicts of interest in the public sphere and the second on the regulation of lobbying in the European Union and its Member States.

The event provides an opportunity for a structured dialogue between European actors on public integrity. This is the registration form.

**Contact:** colloquePFUE@hatvp.fr

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## HATVP President speaks at OECD Global Anticorruption and Integrity Forum 2022

On 30 March 2022, the President of the High Authority, Didier Migaud, spoke at the OECD 2022 Global Anticorruption and Integrity Forum during the opening session on «Strengthening Political Integrity». The President shared his experience in raising awareness and applying integrity standards for public officials in France.

Along with the other panellists, Kathryn Stone, George Hyzler and Jack Markell, Didier Migaud stressed the need to adopt legislative instruments at both national and European levels to support Member States in complying with the rule of law. President Migaud answered several questions, which gave him the opportunity to present the various missions of the High Authority in spreading a culture of integrity, as well as the successive extension of its competences since its creation.

Discussions focused on the role of integrity systems in restoring trust in democracies, the main challenges in ensuring that political leaders in France comply with integrity standards, the means to overcome these challenges, and the balance between control and independence of Parliament. Didier Migaud underlined the importance of the independence of integrity authorities, and of adequate investigative and sanctioning powers.

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## Future Leaders welcomed by the HATVP

As part of the Future Leaders Invitation Programme (PIPA) of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, President Migaud received Ms Tabata Amaral, MP from the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo, and Sven Clement, MP from Luxembourg. Both are renowned for their commitment to fighting corruption and upholding integrity in their countries. The discussions touched on the missions of the High Authority in relation to the control of assets and declarations of interest of public officials, the control of revolving doors and the regulation of lobbying.

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## Annual report

The High Authority is also pleased to announce the publication of its annual report for the year 2021 on 1 June 2022.

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## Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC), Ireland

### GSOC publishes its 2021 Annual Report – GSOC in Transition

GSOC's 2021 Annual Report documents a sustained increase in caseload, as well as the commencement of its preparatory work for the oversight body's expected 'Transition' to a reformed and expanded mandate, under forthcoming Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill.

The Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) published its 2021 Annual Report, GSOC in Transition, today (Thursday, 19 May 2022). The report documents a sustained increase in the policing oversight body's caseload.

The report also looks ahead to the expected expansion of GSOC's mandate, as proposed in the general scheme of the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill, published in April 2021. GSOC welcomes these proposed reforms as addressing "a clearly defined and long-signalled gap in Ireland's policing accountability infrastructure", while emphasising the importance of guaranteeing adequate resourcing and enhanced cooperation, if the reformed body is to fulfil its new mandate properly.

GSOC in Transition provides an overview of our work in 2021, including statistics on the number of complaints received, the number of investigations undertaken, and outcomes reached. The year saw an increase of 12% in the volume of complaints received from the public, and an increase of 40% in referrals made to it by An Garda Síochána following incidents involving death or serious harm. There was also a significant increase – 21% – in the volume of cases closed in 2021. In 2021, GSOC made 60 findings of a breach of discipline by members of An Garda Síochána, resulting in the imposition of sanctions by the Garda Commissioner. Five criminal cases were decided in court in 2021, involving charges of sexual assault, assault and theft. The year also saw the Director of Public Prosecutions direct the prosecution of 13 charges arising from GSOC investigations, involving sexual offences, assault, breaches of the Road Traffic Acts and the provision of false information.

Speaking today on the publication of the report, GSOC Chair, Judge Rory MacCabe, said:

"2021 saw GSOC deliver on our statutory mandate, which, in the context of the growing caseload, significant staff changes and ongoing challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, shines a positive light on the energy and commitment of the staff at all levels.

The Report also looks to GSOC's future. The sweeping changes proposed in the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill, if implemented, create a new Garda Ombudsman with significantly enhanced functions and independence. These proposals are a positive platform from which a clearly defined and long-signalled gap in Ireland's policing accountability infrastructure will be addressed. If reform is to achieve its aims, it is crucial that adequate resources, staffing, expertise and cooperation are guaranteed.

It is my priority and that of my Commission colleagues, to build on the groundwork done in 2021 so that the transition of GSOC to the new role that the Oireachtas delivers will be seamless."

**Additional Information:** Read GSOC's press release, additional notes, and download the report at https://www.gardaombudsman.ie/news-room/archive/gsoc-publishes-its-2021-annual-report-gsoc-in-transition/

## Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau of the Republic of Latvia (KNAB)

Korupcijas novēršanas un apkarošanas birojs

### KNAB studies Icelandic and Dutch experience on conflict of interest, nepotism, strategic and tactical analysis

KNAB representatives visited Iceland and the Netherlands for an exchange of experience on various anti-corruption topics, including preventing conflicts of interest, reducing nepotism, implementing lobbying regulation, as well as conducting strategic and tactical analysis, and gaining insights into each other's anti-corruption efforts.

During an experience exchange in Iceland, representatives of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB) studied Iceland's experience as a small country in the prevention of conflicts of interest, reduction of nepotism, implementation of lobbying regulations and other anti-corruption issues. During the visit from 4 to 8 April 2022, KNAB representatives met with experts from various Icelandic authorities, including the Prime Minister's Office, Parliament, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance, National Audit Body and the Icelandic Police, as well the Director of Public Prosecution and Ombudsman of Iceland.

During the 16-20 May 2022 visit to the Netherlands, KNAB representatives, including analysts and investigators, examined the Netherlands' experience and best practices in carrying out strategic and tactical analysis and gained a broader insight into the country's fight against corruption by meeting with, among others, the Dutch National Internal Investigation Department, the Fiscal Information and Investigation Service, the Anti-Corruption Centre, the Anti Money-Laundering Centre and Eurojust.

The visits were organised under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 programme "International Police Cooperation and Combating Crime", under which Latvia received support for the project "Support for the establishment of a whistle-blowing system in Latvia". The aim of the initiative is to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and the EEA grant beneficiary countries.

**Additional Information:**
https://www.knab.gov.lv/en/article/knab-studies-icelandic-experience-preventing-conflict-interest-and-reducing-nepotism
https://www.knab.gov.lv/en/article/knab-studies-dutch-experience-and-best-practice-strategic-and-tactical-analysis

## Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania (STT), Lithuania

### Leaders of the Baltic region's anti-corruption institutions met for the traditional high-level regional anti-corruption workshop

The heads of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau of Poland (CBA), the Special Investigation Service of Lithuania (STT), the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau of Latvia (KNAB), the Estonian Internal Security Service (KAPO) and the Corruption Crimes Bureau of the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board participated in the meeting organised by the STT in Birštonas, Lithuania, from 11 to 13 May 2022.

During the meeting, relevant topics such as the war in Ukraine and its impact on the anti-corruption environment, the plans of the EPAC/EACN Presidency and the latest results, challenges and best practices in the investigation of high-level corruption crimes were discussed.

The ongoing war in Ukraine has an impact on the activities of anti-corruption institutions. It became clear that we need to pay more attention to the investigation of possible corruption offences, provide all possible support to our partners in Ukraine, and at the same time consider what new challenges might await us in the future. The unity of the states of the region in helping the victims of the war in Ukraine was noted. The joint initiative of the Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian anti-corruption institutions has provided shelter and assistance to the families of the officials of the Ukrainian Anti-Corruption Bureau, in total more than 350 people, mostly women and children.

The seminar also presented significant results of the first year of operation of the Economic Court of the Republic of Latvia, as well as ongoing and planned joint events and projects.

The Estonian and Polish partners shared their experience in implementing economic and other international sanctions and pointed out the important role of anti-corruption institutions in ensuring a strategic approach to national security issues.

The meeting of the heads of anti-corruption institutions of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Poland, already the fourth, will further strengthen cooperation between the four countries and allow for more effective work in the context of crises and emerging challenges.

**Contact:** Ieva Lukoševičienė, Chief Specialist of the International Cooperation Division, phone: +370 706 63385, email: ieva.lukoseviciene@stt.lt

## NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION CENTER (NAC), MOLDOVA

### THE NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION CENTER HAS LAUNCHED A NEW CORRUPTION PREVENTION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN: "INTEGRITY FOR HEALTH" TARGETING DOCTORS AND OTHER MEDICAL WORKERS

"Integrity for Health" is the motto of the information and awareness campaign launched today by the National Anticorruption Center in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and the Swiss Red Cross. With this campaign, the partner institutions aim to combine their efforts to prevent corruption cases in the country's health sector and jointly promote the values of integrity among health professionals, pharmacists, pharmaceutical company representatives, patients and society in general.


Present at the launch event, the director of the NAC, Iulian Rusu, began his speech by expressing his unconditional gratitude to the doctors who take care of the nation's health on a daily basis. Convinced that most employees in the medical system are honest, sincere and professionally devoted, he said, however, that there are risks of corruption in the health services sector that should not be underestimated. "We want to eliminate corruption and promote integrity, and information campaigns are a proven means of preventing corruption in both the public and private sectors. At the same time, we will not tolerate and investigate incidents of corruption that endanger human health. Otherwise, illegal personal gain and misuse of resources, especially in the field of health, are a threat to our lives and this is unacceptable," said the head of the NAC.

In the same context, the Minister of Health, Ala Nemerenco, addressed the medical staff with the following words: "I urge you not to accept informal payments, to be worthy and proud of the profession you have chosen. I urge you to be partners in this fight against corruption." The official also said, "Informal payments are demeaning and leave an extraordinarily large stain on the work that every medical employee does, they destroy society's respect for us, doctors and other medical staff."

The campaign's launch event culminated in an initial information session attended by the medical staff of the Republican Hospital. During the seven-month campaign, anti-corruption officers will visit all medical facilities that are part of the national public health system. The target locations have been strategically divided into three areas: North, South and Central.

The Integrity for Health campaign is part of the Towards Health Equity through Social Responsibility project funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

**Contact:** Maria Munteanu, Senior Inspector, International Cooperation Directorate; landline: +373 22 259 345; maria.munteanu@cna.md

**Additional Information:** https://cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=3935&t=/Mass-Media/Events/Corruption-risks-in-the-field-of-medical-services-should-not-be-underestimated-said-the-director-of-the-NAC-at-the-launch-of-the-Integrity-for-Health-campaign

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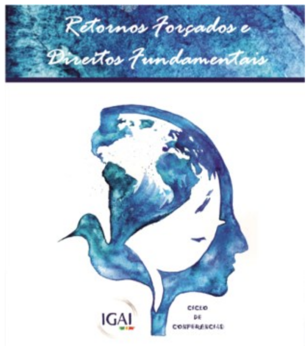
## Inspectorate General of Home Affairs (IGAI), Portugal

### "Forced Returns and Fundamental Rights"

IGAI conference cycle on "Forced Returns and Fundamental Rights" in Portugal, targeting different stakeholders.




As part of the European AMIF (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund) project, IGAI has organised a cycle of conferences across the country on the topic of "Forced Returns and Fundamental Rights".

The conferences have been designed to involve IGAI observers and Immigration and Borders Service officers in charge of implementing forced return operations, as well as multiple stakeholders in these forced return cases — namely criminal and administrative judges, public prosecutors, and lawyers. The aim is to improve the quality of these various interventions in terms of respect for and protection of human dignity and the safeguard of fundamental rights that may potentially be at risk in the course of the operations, e.g. the right to life and physical integrity, as well as basic rights such as access to water and proper food, easy access to toilets or respectful treatment by escorts, rights that all human beings are entitled to regardless of their nationality, origin or condition.

The fourth of four conferences in the cycle was held on 15 October 2021, in Ponta Delgada, Açores.

As part of the same cycle of conferences, an international conference was held in Lisbon on 27 September 2021.

On 11 March 2022, a final conference was held in Porto to complement the five previous sessions and to present conclusions and proposals for improvement.

**Additional Information:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD-Z2-KspujUgLT_nliAH5g/videos
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lGq76mPELts

**Contact:** Maria Antónia Rodrigues, Secretariat, marodrigues@igai.pt

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# ANTI-CORRUPTION GENERAL DIRECTORATE (DGA), ROMANIA

## STRENGTHENING BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ANTI-CORRUPTION GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ROMANIA AND THE INSPECTORATE GENERAL OF THE SECURITY FORCES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTING AND COUNTERING CORRUPTION

Shortly after the lifting of travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, representatives of the Romanian Anti-Corruption General Directorate and the Czech Inspectorate General of the Security Forces met in Bucharest on 4 April 2022 to discuss the possibilities of strengthening bilateral cooperation in the area of preventing and combating corruption.

The initiative was launched in 2019. The two authorities share the goal of fighting corruption by anti-corruption information and training events, awareness-raising campaigns for civil servants and citizens, corruption risk management, integrity testing, but also by detecting and combating corruption.

During the meeting, the partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Anti-corruption General Directorate of the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Inspectorate General of the Security Forces of the Czech Republic in the field of preventing and fighting corruption. The aim of the document is to strengthen cooperation in the fight against corruption, focusing on integrity tests successfully applied by the Anti-Corruption General Directorate and internationally recognised good practices. The two parties will act in accordance with the provisions of their national laws and the international treaties signed by both states.

This Memorandum of Understanding develops their cooperation in the spirit of the provisions of the Agreement between Romania and the Czech Republic on Cooperation in Combating Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors, Terrorism, as well as other Serious Crimes (Prague, 13 November 2001).

The areas of cooperation covered by this cooperation document are the exchange of information on legislation, analyses, studies and other materials on the prevention, detection and investigation of corruption offences. Moreover, the document also allows for the exchange of best practices in integrity testing and in the investigation of corruption offences, as well as the exchange of knowledge on high-tech solutions, innovations, computer applications and other tools used in the fight against corruption.

**Contact:** relint.dga@mai.gov.ro

# National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA), Romania

## Results for the National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) of Romania in 2021

Remarkable results on most indicators for the National Anticorruption Directorate of Romania in 2021.

The National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) is a prosecutor's office specialised in combating high- and medium-level corruption. It was established in September 2002 as part of the negotiations for Romania's accession to the European Union and following the ratification of the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption adopted by the Council of Europe.

DNA is part of the Public Ministry (Prosecution Service of Romania). It is organised as an autonomous structure at the level of the Public Prosecutor's Office, which is subordinate to the High Court of Cassation and Justice.

With jurisdiction over the whole country, DNA has a central structure in Bucharest and a territorial structure. The central structure is divided into sections, services and units. The territorial structure of DNA consists of 14 territorial services located in the cities where there are courts of appeal.

DNA investigations are carried out by prosecutors who are assisted in their work by police officers as well as by economic, financial, banking, customs, IT and other experts.

DNA staff composition (total 862):

- 195 Prosecutors (76% occupied)
- 290 Police officers (87% occupied)
- 84 Experts (80% occupied)
- 293 Auxiliary and administrative staff

In 2021, DNA achieved remarkable results. High performance was recorded in most statistical indicators, in terms of both quantity and quality, including the duration of case resolution, the number of cases set for trial and the percentage of convicted defendants. Successful investigations were conducted and concluded into corruption and corruption-related offences in the health sector, public procurement and central and local public administration. As a result, a number of dignitaries, senior public officials, heads of authorities, administrations and agencies, etc. have been brought to justice.

Statistical indicators in 2021:

- Total number of cases: 6076, of which 2899 were solved
- Cases brought to court: 317 out of 730 accused
- Final convictions: 255 in relation to 427 defendants
- Provisional seizure measures: EUR 259 million
- Confiscation orders: EUR 85 million

Persons in leading or other important positions who were prosecuted in 2021:

- 7 Members of the Romanian Parliament, including a President of the Chamber of Deputies
- 2 Ministers and 1 Former Prime Minister
- 3 Secretaries and 1 Undersecretary of State
- 1 Prefect
- 2 Presidents and 1 Vice-President of County Councils
- 19 Mayors and 1 Deputy Mayor
- 54 Police officers
- 17 Military officers
- 15 Directors of Public Institutions
- 2 Presidents of the National Health Insurance Authority and 4 Hospital Managers

Persons in leading or other important positions who were convicted by a court in 2021:

- 4 Members of the Romanian Parliament
- 2 County Council Presidents
- 1 Judge
- 13 Employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs
- 10 Mayors and 4 Deputy Mayors
- 28 Directors of public institutions
- 8 Persons from medical institutions, 2 of whom were in management positions

**Contact:** Costin Varlan, Chief Prosecutor of the International Cooperation Service; cvarlan@pna.ro

**Additional Information:** *https://www.pna.ro/comunicat.xhtml?id=11031*

## National Integrity Agency, Romania

### Reform of Integrity Legislation in Romania planned through EU-funded project

ANI has launched an EU-funded project to update integrity legislation and support authorities and taxpayers in the transition to digitization of declarations of assets and interests.

On 22 February 2022, ANI started the implementation of a project to update integrity legislation and support authorities and agents in the transition to digitization of asset and interest declarations.

The project aims to make a comprehensive inventory of all the problems existing in the Romanian integrity legislation and to draft a clearer, predictable and updated legislation on integrity rules.

The project, entitled NIAct and financed with European funds, also includes a prevention component in which ANI is to train its legal subjects, develop the electronic transmission of assets and interests, and so on.

The NIAct project is also supported by the European Commission and the Romanian Government, as it is considered a milestone in the Recovery and Resilience Plan of Romania (PNRR).

The ultimate goal is to address the issues identified by the European Commission in the Rule of Law Report regarding the "continued challenges to the legal framework for integrity and the need for stability, clarity and a robust framework".

The project is scheduled to be finalised in the second half of 2023.

**Contact:** ani@integritate.eu

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## Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia, Spain

### The Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia hosts the 7th NEIWA meeting in Barcelona

The Network for Integrity and Whistleblowing Authorities (NEIWA), which gathers the competent authorities for the protection of whistleblowers througout the European Union, holds its 7th meeting in Barcelona on 16 and 17 June 2022. The Network, which brings together several authorities with responsibilities in whistleblower protection and provides a platform for knowledge sharing in the fields of integrity and whistleblowing, holds a two-day meeting in Barcelona, hosted by the Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia. During the meeting, members discuss some internal aspects (structure, membership, etc.) as well as progress in the implementation by EU Member States of Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October on the protection of persons reporting breaches of Union law. Finally, a Declaration addressed to relevant stakeholders (legislators, governments) is issued and published, reflecting the results of the working groups and the positioning of the network members on key issues.

**Additional Information:** European network (NEIWA) | Samenwerking | Huisvoorklokkenluiders

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# Inspectorate of Personnel and Security Services (IPSS), Spain

## Establishment of the National Office for Human Rights Guarantees (ONGADH)

Following the adoption of the Spanish Constitution in 1978, Spain has been and continues to be a fundamental actor in the protection and promotion of human rights at the international level through the ratification of international treaties and conventions. In this regard, the 1993 Vienna Conference on Human Rights identified the elaboration of national action plans as one of the measures to be taken by states to implement the protection of human rights. As a result, our country launched the first National Human Rights Plan for the period 2008-2012.

Among the measures established in this National Plan is the mandate to make appropriate amendments to legislation in order to further improve the effectiveness of the Inspection of Personnel and Security Services (IPSS) as well as to establish a computer application aimed at collecting "up-to-date data on cases that may involve the transgression or violation of the rights of persons in police custody". For this reason, the computer application of the National Human Rights Plan was created in 2011 to analyse, monitor and use the information collected in the field of fundamental rights protection. Since 2016, the IPSS has assumed responsibility for the control and monitoring of this application.

Spain remains committed to the promotion and protection of human rights, as it was a member of the UN Human Rights Council from 2018 to 2020 and will assume the European Presidency in July 2023, which reinforces the policies to be developed in the field of human rights.

On the other hand, on the occasion of the last Universal Periodic Review, Third Cycle under the Human Rights Council in 2020, Spain accepted the recommendation to elaborate and adopt a new National Human Rights Plan, which is why an inter-ministerial technical group was created in February 2022 to advance the elaboration of the second National Human Rights Plan 2022-2026 in which the Ministry of the Interior will actively participate and which will strengthen Spain's new candidacy for the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2025-2027.

In this context, there are numerous requests for information addressed to the Ministry of the Interior by the Ombudsman in his capacity as National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, by representatives of the Cortes Generales, by judicial authorities, by other ministries and even by citizens in application of the Transparency Law, as well as by international organisations (OHCHR, UN CEDAW, CPT and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment – of the Council of Europe, FRONTEX,…).

Some national and international agencies with which the Ministry of the Interior cooperates have established human rights structures and bodies. For example, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation has the Office for Human Rights; the Ministry of Justice established the General Directorate of International Legal Cooperation, Relations with Confessions and Human Rights in 2018; and the FRONTEX Agency has the Office of Legal Affairs and Fundamental Rights.

Against this backdrop, at the initiative of the IPSS, work has been underway since 2018 to create a solid administrative structure, the work of which was intensified in 2021 with the creation of two working groups composed of representatives of the IPSS, the General Directorates of the Police (DGP) and the Civil Guard (DGGC), as well as representatives of the different departments of the Secretary of State for Security, the General Directorate for Coordination and Studies (DGCE) and the General Directorate of International Relations and Foreigners (DGRIE), with the aim of creating a reference body in the field of human rights, the purpose of which is the following:

To respond comprehensively and unambiguously to all requests for information with transparency and rigour, to reinforce trust and make visible the commitment to guaranteeing the human rights of citizens, in particular the rights of those subject to ambulatory deprivation of liberty. To ensure the legal security of police officers in their professional activities by promoting the review, study and evaluation of procedures that allow for the continuous improvement of police work, as well as raise awareness and provide the necessary training in this area. To regulate the measures and responsibilities in the recording, control, monitoring and use of the computer application of the National Human Rights Plan. Since the creation of the application in 2011, it has been necessary to regulate the recording procedure as well as the definition of the criteria, as there is no legal instrument to support this procedure.

In this regard, the unquestionable commitment of the Ministry of the Interior, the SES, the DGP and the DGGC to comply with national and international standards against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment has led to the guarantee and respect of the fundamental rights of individuals, has led to the establishment of the National Office for the Guarantee of Human Rights (ONGADH), created by Instruction 1/2022 of the Secretary of State for Security and integrated into the Inspection of Personnel and Security Services (IPSS) under the General Directorate of Coordination and Studies (DGCE).

The aforementioned ONGADH concentrates the functions already being developed in the IPSS, in accordance with Royal Decree 734/2020 of August 4, which develops the basic organic structure of the Ministry of the Interior, and SED Instruction 5/2015 on the organisation and functions of the IPSS. Specifically, in relation to Section 9 "Ensure that the FCSE comply with national and international standards against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment", the ONGADH will undertake all the tasks mentioned in the fifth section of Instruction 1/2022, the review and assessment of compliance with the instructions or other provisions on acts that may affect the exercise of fundamental rights, and the monitoring, control and analysis of all events that may lead to the death, suicide, attempted suicide or injury of persons during police actions, in their capacity as agents of the authority, among other functions derived therefrom.

With all this, the creation of this ONGADH brings with it an impetus in the field of the protection and promotion of human rights, the guarantee of these rights being the cornerstone that guides the FCSE's activity, providing a clear response to the growing demand for information based on transparency and rigour, strengthening trust and making visible the commitment to respect the human rights of citizens and to protect the legal security of police officers.

## International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), Austria

### News from the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)

IACA, as the leading provider of anti-corruption and compliance education, is implementing high impact academic activities and is accepting applications for its graduate programmes and specialised courses for professionals who wish to deepen their theoretical knowledge and strengthen their practical skills.

Applications are open for IACA´s academic programmes, in particular the following: Master in Anti-Corruption Studies; International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action; Master in Anti-Corruption and Compliance (in Spanish); and Master on Anti-corruption and Diplomacy – the latter developed jointly with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

The Academy marked a milestone with the start of activities of the Anti-Corruption Collective Action Certificate. Students from around the globe are combining intense learning activities with practical implementation of collective action projects. Various online, instructor-led and self-paced courses are offered on a range of 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 on the IACA campus 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 and in-house.

In 2021, IACA's Global Research Network was established. Numerous anti-corruption scholars from around the world joined the network. The network is also open to young researchers. IACA has launched a Global Programme on Measuring Corruption. The programme is a response to G7, G20 and UNCAC CoSP calls for more accurate and actionable indicators of corruption. In this context, IACA will consult with users of measurement indicators in government, the private sector and NGOs to find out how indicators can be better tailored to their needs. Detailed information on all the Academy’s initiatives, trainings and academic programmes is available on the IACA website.

**Additional information:**

https://www.iaca.int

https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/academic-programmes/master-in-anti-corruption-studies.html

https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/academic-programmes/imacc.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/master-in-anti-corruption-and-diplomacy.html

https://collective-action.iaca.int/

https://www.iaca.int/resources/news-articles/191-2022/1478-liz-david-barrett-joins-iaca-to-head-new-global-programme-on-measuring-corruption.html

## INTERNAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS NETWORK (ICIN), SWEDEN

### ICIN TO HOST ITS FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT EUROPOL IN AUGUST

Following the Pandemic, ICIN will host its first physical Annual General Meeting.

ICIN connects organisations responsible for criminal investigations against an employee within a police organisation. ICIN has its mandate with Europol and the network currently has 26 member organisations. The first physical Annual General Meeting is now scheduled at Europol premises for 30 and 31 August 2022.

The primary purpose of ICIN is to share methods for detecting and investigating corruption in police organisations. ICIN also aims to enhance public confidence in member organisations, police organisations and Europol. Ultimately, the network is a crime prevention tool that can help Europol succeed in its operational investigations and cooperation between members without interference from insiders.

ICIN has also just launched a pilot exchange programme where professionals from member organisations can shadow and gain experience in other member organisations to share knowledge and experience in a hands-on way.

**Contact:** Contact persons in each member organisation or via the ICIN Secretariat icin@polisen.se

**Additional information:** Information on how to register for the AGM has been sent to ICIN contacts in each member organisation.

## EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE (OLAF)

### OLAF IN 2021: TACKLING AND PREVENTING FRAUD

In 2021 the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) recommended over half a billion euro to be recovered to the EU budget. Detecting and investigating increasingly adaptable fraudsters, and working on preventing fraud against the EU's multi-billion Recovery and Resilience Facility, OLAF has kept protecting the EU budget despite the continuous challenges posed by the pandemic.

The OLAF Report 2021 unveils emerging fraud trends, investigations and operations, with a special focus on fraud schemes damaging the environment – from an afforestation project that never happened, or a collapsed pipeline for drinking water to waste smuggling.

Once again OLAF achieved excellent investigative results, including recommending the recovery of EUR 527.4 million lost to the EU budget in fraud and irregularities.

Prevention is the most effective way of ensuring that every euro is well spent, and it is at the heart of the work of OLAF. In 2021 OLAF contributed to develop safeguards for the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which will see over EUR 720 billion invested to ensure Europe's green and digital transition. Cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) was also an important part of OLAF's work in 2021.

Fraudsters kept benefitting from the pandemic and became even more sophisticated. When all eyes were focused on the vaccine roll-out, OLAF exposed the scam attempts of fraudsters approaching national authorities with bogus offers of vaccines worth over EUR 16 billion.

On expenditure, the most worrying phenomenon has been the infiltration by organised criminal groups through patterns of administrative irregularities, such as double funding, conflict of interest or manipulation of tenders.

In relation to revenue, fraudsters coped with increased difficulties in moving large quantities of goods by breaking up shipments of goods into smaller consignments. Complex patterns of shell companies established in many jurisdictions, including outside the EU, served to cover undervaluation and origin fraud.

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

**Additional information:** For more information, you can read the full press release and OLAF Report 2021.

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## ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS – OLAF'S 3RD SEMINAR ON INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWING

From left to right, Mathilde Noc, Patrick Embley, Tom Willems, Luna Filipovic, Martha Kompter and Merljin Van Montvoort

Operational experts, scientists and academics came together on this OLAF event to discuss modern approaches to investigative interviewing and how science can be used to obtain the best results in today's interviewing landscape.

On 6 May 2022, OLAF hosted its 3rd annual Seminar on Interviewing. The day kicked off with a brief welcoming speech by the host Tom Willems, OLAF's Liaison Officer in Luxembourg and expert in interviewing techniques.

As a first speaker, Mathilde Noc, PhD Researcher from the University of Clermont-Ferrand (FR), guided the participants through today's interviewing landscape. She set out the two main approaches to investigative interviewing and expressed her support for an information-centred approach. Next was Dr Meghana Srivatsav, who joined virtually from India to present her talk on the Strategic Use of (non) Evidence (SUE). She emphasised the importance of using evidence strategically, and offered an overview of useful tactics that can be employed to get reliable information from suspects.

The early morning session concluded with the presentation of Deloitte's financial crime expert, Merlijn van Montvoort. His exploration of the use of SUE (see above) in financial investigations really captured the imagination of OLAF investigators and colleagues protecting the EU's financial interests.

The second round of presentations offered a debate on the boundaries of the right to remain silent versus the persistence during interviews. Radboud University professor Anna Pivaty took the floor first, presenting the main findings of her research project EMPRISE, encompassing a comparative study on how the right to silence and the privilege against self-incrimination are implemented in 4 EU Member States. Patrick Embley from OLAF's legal unit followed up with a clear overview of relevant case law by the EUCJ, referring in particular to the important CONSOB decision, extending procedural guarantees to administrative investigations. Tom Willems then stepped in with an innovative approach to interviewing, entailing the use of social influence techniques and persuasion.

The afternoon session started off with a presentation by Luna Filipovic, Professor of Forensic Linguistics at the University of East Anglia. Her intervention offered insight into miscommunications during interviews and addressed the challenges of working in a second language and with the assistance of interpreters.

Finally, Dr Martha Komter, Research Fellow at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR), presented her research on "What gets lost". Based on extracts from real interview records, she reminded all practitioners in the audience of the important and subjective selection processes at play when transcribing what the interviewee actually said during the oral interaction into a 'negotiated' version that ends up in the interview record.

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

## Regional Anti-corruption Initiative Secretariat

REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

### The RAI Secretariat presents another interesting social experiment on whistleblowing: Whistle – For the Brave Ones!

A five-minute video presents an everyday situation and addresses some of the key questions for young people facing corruption. How would you react if you were a victim of corruption? How would you feel? Would you speak up and protect your interests by becoming a whistleblower?

Whistleblowing has proven to be among the most effective means of exposing and fighting corruption and organised crime. In the past decade, new whistleblower laws and practices have been adopted in all regions of the world. South Eastern Europe is no exception.

An important milestone was set in 2019 with the adoption of the EU Whistleblowing Directive. The practical experience gained by public institutions in the region prior to the adoption of the Directive provided countries in SEE with the opportunity to align with the Directive and reflect the intended positive changes in their societies.

At the same time, the Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat began implementing a three-year regional project "Breaking the Silence: Enhancing the whistleblowing policies and culture in the Western Balkans and Moldova", funded by the European Union. The project focuses on improving whistleblowing policies in South Eastern Europe and promoting the role of whistleblowers in the region.

One of the pillars of the project is a regional awareness-raising campaign. As part of the campaign, the RAI Secretariat has developed and launched the social experiment video 'Whistle for the Brave Ones'. The video aims to inform the public about whistleblowing by emphasising the direct benefits to the wider community. To achieve this, one of the things we need to do is to dispel stereotypes about whistleblowers. The social experiment explores the difficult reality of being a whistleblower. As part of the experiment, six young people were invited to a mock casting session for a television commercial. As the session unfolds, the participants fall victim to an act of nepotism. You can see how the story ends by watching the video.

**Contact:** Jasna Panjeta, Chief Programme and Communications Officer, jpanjeta@rai-see.org

**Additional information:** Link to the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbgO_uxTv7U

## Transparency International Event

## Transparency International School on Integrity 2022

Transparency School is an annual state-of-the-art anti-corruption and accountability training for future leaders. The School introduces its participants to the latest developments in the field of anti-corruption and accountability and helps young people put their ideas into practice.

The deadline for applications is 17 July 2022.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, so you are encouraged to apply as early as possible.


**Additional information:** https://transparencyschool.org/