



NEWSLETTER 01 23

**Dear EPAC/EACN members,
colleagues, and friends,**

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

We are pleased to present you with this newsletter, which marks the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the landmark United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). In addition to the input of the members of the network, this issue also features information on the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC, international conferences and other upcoming events.

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

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A FAREWELL WORD TO THE EPAC/EACN COMMUNITY FROM ŽYDRŪNAS BARTKUS, PRESIDENT EPAC/EACN

We announce that on 29th of March, 2023 the term of office of Žydrūnas Bartkus, who has led the EPAC/EACN network for the past few years, has come to an end. Vice-Presidents Ernst Schmid and Lucile Rolland, together with Deputy Vice-Presidents Traian Barlici and Hugh Hume, will temporarily hold the presidency until the new EPAC/EACN President will be elected by the General Assembly for a new term.

Please find the farewell word from Žydrūnas Bartkus below.



Žydrūnas Bartkus
EPAC/EACN President

Special Investigation Service of the
Republic of Lithuania,
A. Jakšto str. 6,
01105 Vilnius, Lithuania

29 March, 2023
Nr. 4-01-2557

Dear EPAC/EACN members and observers,

As you are reading this, my tenure as the President of EPAC/EACN has come to an end after nearly two years due to the end of term of office within my national institution – Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania.

A farewell cannot pass without an expression of gratitude for the support I have always received from the EPAC/EACN Board and all EPAC/EACN Community. Nevertheless, I consider it to be my duty to inform you about the changes.

As I have emphasised at the start of my term, I can repeat again that despite all the progress in Europe, corruption remains one of the threats to the national security and that an effective fight against it requires a systemic response. Corruption is also a transnational phenomenon that spreads in all our countries. The only solution to achieve results is to strengthen our cooperation, exchange information, including for the purposes of investigations and for criminal prosecution, and make sure that crime does not repeat again through measures of prevention and awareness-raising.

Strengthening democratic values and ensuring transparency is a mission of paramount importance for the EPAC/EACN Community, thus exchanging experience, innovations and best practices in the field can effectively contribute to furthering the cause.

Over the past two years, EPAC/EACN achieved major milestones.

During its first months the EPAC/EACN Board adopted EPAC/EACN Work Programme 2022-2023 and launched three task forces to further assist activities of the network. The task forces conducted analysis and policy advice, ensured transfer of knowledge and developed project activities.

In order to contribute to the work done by the EPAC/EACN on Big Data Analysis, an advanced training on Big Data Analysis for analysts from EPAC/EACN members took place in Vilnius. Another milestone – Integrity Hackathon – an international initiative and host of brave and innovative ideas aimed for creating a more transparent Europe gathered experts, enthusiasts and like-minded visionaries in Vilnius, Lithuania. Trainings and webinars for the EPAC/EACN



community were organised on topics such as whistleblowers' protection, importance and useful examples about good practice sharing, risk identification and management.

The 21st EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly in Chisinau, Moldova, gathered more than 200 participants from 24 different countries. Even facing power shortages during the event as a result of Russia's attacks on Ukraine's energy system, anti-corruption discourse still sparked a light into the darkest corners of the world.

We now have more than 104 EPAC/EACN members in total. During these two years the EPAC/EACN network has increased by new members from France, Ireland, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Slovakia and Ukraine, as well as a new observer – European Public Prosecutor's Office.

These accomplishments have only been possible with the full support and cooperation of the EPAC/EACN Community. I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Vice-president (ACA) *Ernst Schmid*, Deputy Vice-president (ACA) *Traian Mihăiță Barlici*, Vice-president (POB) *Lucile Rolland*, Deputy Vice-president (POB) *Hugh Hume*, as well as members of EPAC/EACN Secretariat, which functions were jointly performed by the Lithuanian Special Investigation Service and Austrian Federal Anti-Corruption Bureau. The commitment to advancing the partnership by the leadership of all institutions shows the strength and durability of the EPAC/EACN.

I am looking forward to hear much more fulfilling work within the EPAC/EACN in the future as well as I will continue to support the great cause.

I wish you and your institutions all the success in the anti-corruption work.

Yours sincerely,

Žydrūnas Bartkus,

EPAC/EACN President

Director of Special Investigation Service (STT) of the Republic of Lithuania

EPAC/EACN BOARD NEWS



SOURCE: EPAC/EACN Secretariat

On the 23rd of February, 2023, EPAC/EACN President had meetings with Secretariats of Internal Criminal Investigations Network (ICIN) and Camden Asset Recovery Inter-agency Network (CARIN) where ways of possible cooperation were discussed.

On the 2nd of February, 2023, EPAC/EACN Board had a meeting to discuss its work and accomplishments throughout the year of 2022. Secretariat presented the progress made in implementing the Work Programme 2022-2023 and results of task forces and communication.

The Board also discussed the preparatory work for the upcoming EPAC/EACN Annual Conference and General Assembly, which will take place in Ireland in the second half of 2023.



SOURCE: EPAC/EACN Secretariat



SOURCE: EPAC/EACN Secretariat

The Board also discussed preparations for this year's EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly, which is planned to be organised in Ireland. The topics of the Conference will include the protection of the EU's financial interests as well as whistleblowers' protection. The Board meeting concluded with an activity report from the Secretariat.

On 20th of April 2023, the members of the EPAC/EACN Board and Secretariat met at the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) in Vienna, Austria, for a Board meeting. Following the resignation of Žydrūnas Bartkus from his position as President of EPAC/EACN upon the expiry of his national mandate as Director of the Special Investigation Service (STT) of the Republic of Lithuania at the end of March, the remaining members of the EPAC/EACN Board agreed to jointly continue the activities of the Board until a new President is elected. Elections will be held during the General Assembly at the next Annual Professional Conference scheduled in the second half of 2023.



EPAC TASK FORCES: RESULTS AND OUTLOOK

Task force for Analysis and Policy Advice (APA)

APA continued to work on the visibility of EPAC/EACN in various events (such as Cambridge Symposium, International Anti-Corruption Conference, etc.) and made inputs on behalf of EPAC/EACN to various consultations by the European Union (such as the Annual Rule of Law Reports, the new EU Anti-Corruption Legislative Package).

EPAC/EACN contributed to the preparation of the annual Rule of Law Report

The European Commission was updated with the recent information on EPAC/EACN activities and the main challenges the network faces. In the letter to the Commissioners Mr. Didier Reynders and Mrs. Ylva Johansson, the President of EPAC/EACN stressed out the challenges and obstacles anti-corruption agencies are facing at the present:

- There is no unanimous definition of what constitutes corruption in Europe;
- There are no harmonised rules how anti-corruption framework shall be set up in Europe;
- There are also no common EU rules to ensure full independence of institutions detecting, investigating and preventing corruption offences in Europe;
- The same applies regarding access to personal data, banking information, as well as data from various public registers for the purpose of analysis, detection and prevention of corruption;
- There is a lack of common understanding how public and private anti-corruption compliance systems shall be set up effectively and which measures and tools shall be available to specialized anti-corruption authorities, as well as to integrity officers in public and private establishments;
- Moreover, the digital age, which we are experiencing now, should not be forgotten as a challenge.

EPAC/EACN expressed support for the upcoming EU Directive on minimum rules for combating corruption offences

Žydrūnas Bartkus, President of EPAC/EACN, in the letter to Mr. Johannes Luchner, Deputy Director-General of DG Home, European Commission, stressed that corruption remains a serious threat to the Rule of Law and public finances in Europe, as well as to society and business trust in the public governance and democratic values.

In addition to establishing minimum criminal law provisions on corruption offences and applicable sanctions, harmonisation and legislation on preventive aspects of action against corruption would also be welcome. A few suggestions for the upcoming EU Directive below:

- While there is no need to amend already classical definitions of active and passive bribery, other corruption offences, such as trading in influence, illicit political party financing, abuse of office, illicit enrichment are defined differently in international legal instruments, as well as national legislation of the EU Member States or other European countries;
- Strong investigative tools such as special investigation techniques and specialized equipment are needed to detect and investigate corruption crimes;
- A sufficient degree of independence to fulfil law enforcement authorities duties impartially are in need as well as free and swift access to public registers, databases and other relevant information;
- Activities by law enforcement agencies must be complemented by corruption prevention measures and for that purpose, public authorities should be granted access to certain data at public databases;
- It has been highlighted that there are no applicable EU standards on corruption prevention and integrity apart from Whistleblower protection rules and some definitions of basic corruption offences.

Panel discussion "Rethinking the Global Law Enforcement Response to Corruption" at the IACC

On the 9th of December, 2022, during the International Anti-Corruption Day, in one of the world's most important transparency forums – at the 20th International Anti-Corruption Conference in Washington, STT organised a panel discussion titled "Rethinking the Global Law Enforcement Response to Corruption".



SOURCE: EPAC/EACN Secretariat

EPAC/EACN President and Director of the STT Žydrūnas Bartkus, Unit Chief for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) International Corruption Unit at FBI Headquarters Patrick Killeen, Deputy Director of the Agence Française Anticorruption Alice Navarro, European prosecutor at European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) Kristel Siitam-Nyiri, Head of Europol European Cybercrime Centre Edvardas Sileris and the Acting Director of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine Gizo Uglava participated in the discussion.

The discussion was moderated by Sergejus Muravjovas, Chief Executive Officer of Transparency International Lithuanian Chapter. About 140 participants from all over the world took part in the discussion, while others watched it remotely.

Additional Information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4DtH9gE9IQ>

Task force for Training and Transfer of Knowledge (TTK)

After analysing the expressed training needs, three best practice sharing webinars were held in 2022. The first webinars covered topics such as whistleblowers' protection, the importance and useful examples of good practice sharing and risk identification. The webinars were well-received, with nearly 150 participants overall. Guest lecturers and professionals from various countries shared their knowledge, resulting in high-quality and expert webinars. New webinars are being planned for 2023, with the first one scheduled for the end of April and focused on criminal investigation. EPAC/EACN guidelines for trainings and transfer of knowledge will be drafted by November 2023.

Webinar for EPAC/EACN community on topic of the importance and useful examples about good practice sharing held on the 16th of November, 2022.

Additional Information:

<https://youtu.be/gKoBb0CjxSo>



SOURCE: EPAC/EACN Secretariat



SOURCE: EPAC/EACN Secretariat

Webinar on topic of whistleblowers' protection for the EPAC/EACN community. The aim of the webinar was to shed more light on different approaches to whistleblowers' protection and transposition of the EU Directive to the national legislation across Europe.

Additional Information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BuRxi81Wsc>

Webinar on the topic of risk identification and management. During this webinar, best practice examples of risk identification and the possibilities for efficient risk management in the organisation were introduced.

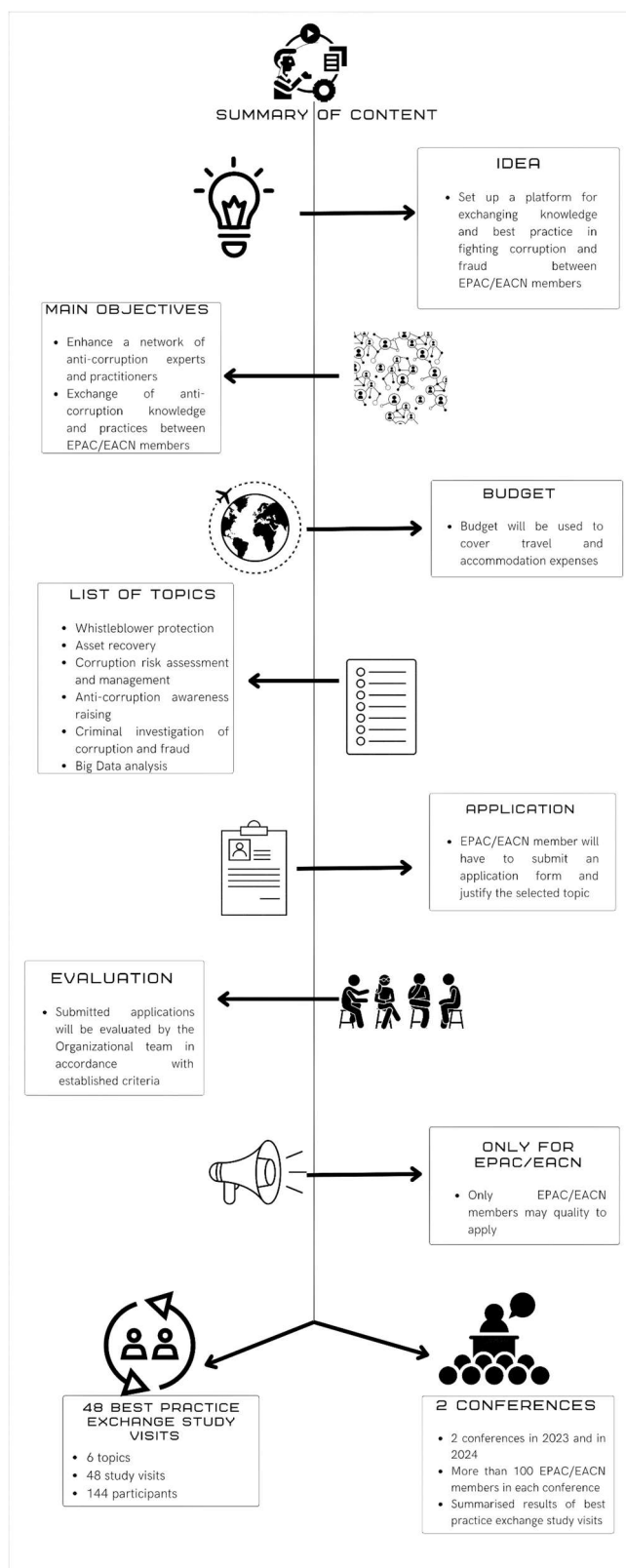
Additional Information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uf7MJSoSSy0>

SPEAKERS	
 Tobias Mahler Professor at University of Oslo, Norway	Legal risk management is relevant to both lawyers and non-lawyers, since it must be interdisciplinary.
 Luis Elias Superintendent of Portuguese public security police force, Portugal	Partnership between police, judicial authorities, academia and civil society may be crucial to understand the role of law enforcement in the community, the Do's and Don'ts, and to find ways to work together to identify misbehaviour, to denounce police conduct that violates professional ethics.
 Aurimas Kudūkis Head of Business Resilience team at Vilnius central heating company, Lithuania	Problems should not be mistaken for risks. Only after solving crises, risk management may be installed.

SOURCE: EPAC/EACN Secretariat

Task force for Developing and Implementing Project Activities (DIPA)



Won project on behalf of EPAC/EACN under the Union Anti-Fraud Programme (EUAF) programme

DIPA Task force prepared a project proposal under EUAF to support activities of EPAC/EACN. The project was successfully selected and will be supported by the European Commission.

The aim of this project is to assist EPAC/EACN members – European national anti-corruption authorities in sharing their best practices and expertise in the field of fighting corruption and related phenomena, including fraud that affects EU financial interests. This will create a chain of best practice dissemination where each participant will not only share, but also extend and improve their knowledge in combating corruption and fraud.

The project comprises two components:

- 1) A series of thematic study visits between national anti-corruption authorities;
- 2) Two annual conferences for EPAC/EACN members and other willing participants.

The special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania, which currently acts as Secretariat of EPAC/EACN together with the Austrian BAK, will implement the project activities to support national anti-corruption and police oversight authorities in 38 European countries.

The project foresees 49 study visits between EPAC/EACN members and two EPAC/EACN Annual Conferences. Total budget – € 135,000, out of which - € 27,000 (20% co-financing) are Lithuanian STT own contribution from the national budget.

DUTCH WHISTLEBLOWER AUTHORITY



Integrity is an indispensable and highly prized quality for public organizations. To uphold integrity, public organizations are encouraged to implement specific integrity measures. But despite these measures integrity violations still occur within the public sector, sometimes even on a daily basis. Therefore, it is important to expand our knowledge and understanding of public integrity management. Various themes are relevant in this regard, starting with attention for the origins and developments of national integrity policy processes, the institutionalization and management of integrity of public organizations in practice, and the evaluation of integrity systems and programs based on insights and criteria derived from the literature. These themes lead to the following sub-questions: What characterizes the origins and developments of Dutch public integrity policies, how do Dutch public organizations institutionalize and manage integrity in practice, which criteria can be derived from the literature to judge the quality of integrity systems/programs, and what are overall recommendations in this regard?

To answer the first sub-question an analysis is conducted of Dutch national integrity policies and how these have changed over time. This provides an understanding of the parameters for managing integrity in individual public organizations. Based on this analysis it can be concluded that national integrity policies have developed in several phases over time. The first two phases concern the rules-based formalization and regulation of integrity policies, followed by a more values-based third phase. The fourth phase indicates an emerging attention for political integrity, whistleblowing, and for the organizational aspects of integrity management. At the same time, it is important to relativize the influence of these (changing) national integrity policies as these only entail minimum requirements: Dutch public organizations remain -to a large extent- responsible for making their own decisions regarding the content and design of their integrity management.

To answer the second sub-question the research provides insights into how public organizations actually give substance to these policies and how they institutionalize and manage integrity in reality. It turns out that public organizations differ in the way they institutionalize and manage integrity. Six different types of institutionalization approaches were found and described: central and decentral organized integrity office(r)s; reactive and passive integrity approaches; and internal and external organized integrity networks. It also turns out to be quite a challenge for individual organizations to develop, implement, and maintain adequate integrity policies on their own and that it is beneficial for organizations to join external integrity networks, or to be more precise 'integrity partnerships'. Four types of integrity partnerships were found and described: the Workshop (sharing integrity instruments), the Pool (sharing integrity capacity), the Forum (sharing integrity knowledge) and the Megaphone (sharing integrity influence). In summary it can be concluded that there is no one best way of organizing integrity and that organizational size, commitment, and needs are of influence on how integrity is actually institutionalized and managed in public organizations.

In line with the third sub-question, it seems that there is a growing agreement among scholars that an integrated integrity management approach in which various integrity measures and activities are combined and connected is to be preferred. The interlocked cogs and wheels on the cover of this book represent such an approach that is based on a set of well-organized and interconnected integrity measures and activities that fit together. As little knowledge is available about what such an approach should entail two integrity frameworks have been developed. The first framework consists of seven theory-based criteria that constitute a complete and effective integrity management system. The seven elements of the framework are: attention to and clarity about integrity,

ethical leadership, a balanced rule- and value-based integrity strategy, integrity policies, organizational arrangements, and critical reflection on what matters and works. This framework is applied to evaluate and compare the completeness of the integrity systems in three European cities.

The second framework consists of four normative criteria, being: intentional wholeness, organizational wholeness, societal wholeness, and processual wholeness. This framework provides scholars and practitioners with a new lens for designing and evaluating integrity programs. This new lens accentuates, firstly, that without intentional wholeness, the integrity program lacks authenticity (it is then merely a façade to satisfy the opinions of others). Secondly, without organizational wholeness, the integrity program lacks internal coherence and specificity (it is then too generic to fit the organization's needs). Thirdly, without societal wholeness, the integrity program lacks contextual embeddedness (it is then too isolated to be acceptable to relevant others). Finally, without processual wholeness, the integrity program lacks adaptive abilities (it is then too static to respond to changes).

In line with the ambition to also make a contribution to the policy practice, several recommendations are made for the improvement of integrity management in the public sector. These recommendations certainly pertain to the Dutch context. But since many countries, surely in the western world, face similar challenges in the field of public integrity they most likely can benefit from these recommendations as well.

The (in total ten) recommendations are partly directed to the national government and partly to individual government organizations. The recommendations to the national level pertain to: the importance of adequate national integrity legislation and periodic integrity monitoring; the need for the clarification of the integrity concept and for developing a more coherent national integrity strategy; and for better integrity support structures, especially for smaller public organizations. On the organizational level the recommendations pertain to: the importance of mapping the organization's integrity risks and dilemmas; the benefits of formalized integrity plans and the appointment of designated integrity officers; the significance of critically analyzing integrity violations and of the periodic evaluation of the organization's integrity system or program.

Contact: Dr. Alain Hoekstra, Integrity expert and senior advisor for the Dutch Whistleblower Authority, e-mail: Alain.Hoekstra@huisvoorklokkenluiders.nl

Additional Information: <https://alainhoekstra.nl/publicaties/integrity-management-in-public-organizations-content-design/>

POLICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, NATIONAL ORGANIZED
CRIME AGENCY (NCOZ)



**THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PROSECUTORS AND EXPERTS OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC
PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE (EPPO) WITH THE NATIONAL EXPERTS OF THE CZECH AND SLOVAK
REPUBLICS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE EPPO**

Information on the first meeting and negotiations held between the prosecutors and experts of the EPPO and the national investigators from the Czech and Slovak Republics. The objective of the meeting consisted in enhancing the cooperation as yet undertaken in respect of criminal offences affecting the financial interests of the Union. Since the EPPO's establishment, the present event featured the very first cross-border meeting of European prosecutors with national experts.



SOURCE: NCOZ. Meeting participants

Within 6th – 7th February 2023, the first inter-state meeting was held between the prosecutors of the EPPO and national experts. The meeting was opened by Mrs. Laura Kovesi, the European Chief Prosecutor, who outlined the EPPO's structure. She further noted that being the Union body the EPPO is operating as an efficient, resilient, pro-active and specialized EU's institution irrespective of any "national borders".

The European Chief Prosecutor was followed by Mr. Petr Klement and Mr. Juraj Novocký, European Prosecutors participating in the meeting, who provided an in-depth introduction of the EPPO's nature pointing out at a considerable number of criminal proceedings, which were initiated in the Czech and Slovak Republics within the jurisdiction of the EPPO. Mrs. Petra Vítková and Mrs Renáta Ontkovičová, European Delegated Prosecutors participating in the meeting, closely detailed the cooperation of the EPPO with national bodies while emphasizing basic procedural tools. Mr. Jiří Mazánek, director of the National Organized Crime Agency (NCOZ), presented the activities of the Agency. He underlined that with the establishment of the EPPO the Agency initiated criminal proceedings within the jurisdiction of the EPPO, in which the level of damage exceeded more than 10 mil. EUR. The Agency furthermore has been conducting a number of criminal proceedings in coordination with the EPPO while focusing on corruption-related offences. The presentation of Mr. Jiří Mazánek was followed by the representatives of the National Criminal Agency (NAKA) of the Slovak Republic, who reported about criminal matters conducted in Slovakia as well as singled out high-profile cases, in which criminal proceedings were initiated.

The EPPO meeting was participated also by the national experts of the EPPO, namely Mrs. Hana Romme, Mrs. Eva Kurrayová and Mrs. Filip Široký, who gave account of the possibilities for analytical support being provided to the EPPO's activities.

During the course of the present event, the participants agreed upon arranging further meetings to be held at the expert level of investigators or analysts, the objective of which should be an expert exchange of analytical experience gained within the frame of criminal proceedings.

Finally, Mr. Petr Klement and Mr. Juraj Novocký, European Prosecutors, expressed their thanks to the participants for attending the event and confirmed further meeting to be held at the expert level.

In conclusion, it is worth to reiterate that the meeting of the national prosecutors held with the national level experts enhances a mutual cooperation in the area of revealing and investigating criminal offences, which considerably damage financial interests of the Union.



SOURCE: NCOZ. Presenting a gift of the NCOZ's director to the European Chief Prosecutor

Contact: Lt. Col. Michal Srb, adviser, International Cooperation and Advisory Department, National Organized Crime Agency (NCOZ), Police of the Czech Republic, e-mail: michal.srb@pcr.cz

NATIONAL SECURITY AUTHORITY, SLOVAK REPUBLIC



THE NATIONAL SECURITY AUTHORITY IS THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BODY FOR PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, CRYPTOGRAPHIC SERVICES, TRUST SERVICES AND CYBER SECURITY.

The establishment of the National Security Authority has historical connections to the negotiations for Slovakia's accession into the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), which required the creation of an independent institution responsible for protecting classified information and cryptographic protection of information. The Authority commenced its activities on November 1st, 2001 and smoothly took over the activities from its predecessor, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. The Authority has been assigned with new tasks and roles gradually over time. The Authority expanded its activities in 2002 to include electronic signature, from 2015 to 2018, it provided the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic with dossiers used in the vetting process for judicial eligibility, and in 2016 the Authority assumed responsibility for cyber security matters in Slovakia.

The configuration of rules for protecting classified information was largely inspired by EU and NATO principles. A four-level system is used to classify information based on level of secrecy (Restricted, Confidential, Secret and Top Secret).



The Authority, as the central government body for the protection of classified information, conducts security clearance screenings of natural persons and legal entities, secures the protection of foreign information and functions as the central node for receiving and distributing such information, performs certification and authorisation activities, conducts compliance audits in accordance to the Act on Protection of Classified Information and conducts testing of security employees.

In accordance with the Act No. 215/2004 Coll. on Protection of Classified Information is Authority the central authority for Cryptographic Services in the Slovak Republic.

Its main tasks in the field of cryptographic protection is

- device certification and recognition of foreign certificates,
- inspection of safety devices,
- issuing of safety standards,
- specific training of employees/staff,
- safety performance testing of employee/staffs in the field of cryptographic protection,
- coordination of research and development,
- management and coordination of departmental encryption bodies,
- ensuring government and foreign connections.

Trust service according to Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC, means an electronic service normally provided for remuneration which consists of:

- the creation, verification, and validation of electronic signatures, electronic seals or electronic time stamps, electronic registered delivery services and certificates related to those services, or
- the creation, verification and validation of certificates for website authentication; or
- the preservation of electronic signatures, seals or certificates related to those services.

On April 1, 2018, Act No. 69/2018 Coll on cybersecurity came into force. The Act comprehensively regulates the area of cybersecurity and information assurance, it implements basic security requirements and measures necessary for coordinated protection of information and communication managing systems. At the same time it tran in the Collection of Laws under the number 69/2018. This is the first legal norm governing the cybersecurity within the Slovak Republic. It comes into effect on April 1, 2018. At the same time it transposes European directive on network and information security (NIS Directive) into Slovak legal order.

In the fight against corruption, Internal security section performs tasks based on the authority's internal regulations.

Contact: PhDr. Ivan Hapšták, director of The Internal security section, e-mail: ivan.hapstak@nbu.gov.sk;
Mgr. Ján Hazucha, deputy director of The Internal security section, e-mail: jan.hazucha@nbu.gov.sk

Additional Information: <https://www.nbu.gov.sk/en/authority/index.html>



CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND COMBATING BUREAU OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



EC AND OECD LAUNCH KNAB INITIATED PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN CORRUPTION PREVENTION FRAMEWORK IN LATVIA

On 16 January, OECD launched the project 'Strengthening the Corruption Prevention Framework' at a high-level online event. The project will be implemented on the initiative of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB), and KNAB will be the responsible institution in Latvia for the implementation of the project.

The opening event was attended by over 150 representatives from the public and non-governmental sectors, academic and international communities, who were briefed on the project's objectives and main activities.

The overarching objective is to support Latvia in developing and implementing reforms in corruption prevention. The project has three sub-objectives: review relevance of the regulatory framework for the prevention of conflicts of interest, conduct a qualitative assessment of the internal anti-corruption control systems of public institutions, and developing a tailor-made methodology for assessing national corruption risks. Its development will, inter alia, provide guidelines for identifying latent corruption risks.

The Law On Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Activities of Public Officials came into force in 2002. It has been amended many times since, but no comprehensive assessment of its compliance with international best practices has been carried out. The project foresees a number of activities to revise and modernise the law, thus promoting State officials' compliance with its requirements.

The law requires public institutions to develop and implement an internal control system to mitigate corruption and conflict of interest risks. To date, no analysis of the quality of the systems nor institutions' understanding of the requirements has been carried out, thus the project intends to review the legal norms and guidelines regulating the internal control systems, including by focusing on the methodology that public institutions can use to assess the quality of the system and training practitioners in use of the methodology.

The Project will last 18 months, and is funded by the EC DG for Structural Reform Support, with technical assistance from both the EC and OECD.

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Additional Information: <https://www.knab.gov.lv/en/article/ec-and-oecd-launch-project-initiated-knab-strengthen-corruption-prevention-framework-latvia>



THE DUTCH WHISTLEBLOWERS' AUTHORITY,
THE NETHERLANDS



HUIS VOOR
KLOKKENLUIDERS

JOB PROFILE FOR INTEGRITY MANAGERS - USEFUL OVERVIEW FOR APPOINTING INTEGRITY MANAGERS

The Dutch Whistleblowers' Authority has made a handy overview of the do's and don'ts when appointing an integrity manager. The overview also offers a concrete job profile that organizations can immediately start working on.

More and more organizations are deciding to appoint an integrity manager. The call for this is also increasing. But which profile does it actually have to meet? Appointing an integrity manager makes it clear that the top of the organization is serious about integrity within the organization. It ensures more clarity and coherence of various initiatives in this area, and thus also to the better functioning of the entire organization. Yet many organizations are left with the question of how to fill this function. The Dutch Whistleblowers' Authority has therefore made a handy overview of the do's and don'ts when appointing an integrity manager. The overview also offers a concrete job profile that organizations can immediately start working on.

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Additional Information: <https://www.huisvoorklokkenluiders.nl/Publicaties/publicaties/2023/02/24/the-integrity-manager-a-job-profile>

NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION CENTER (NAC),
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



VIDEO INTERVIEW PARALLEL FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE CRIMINAL ASSET RECOVERY PROCESS

To identify illegally acquired assets, be it expensive cars, land or cash, within the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency (CARA) the Financial Investigations Directorate was created, made up of criminal investigation officers, who carry out parallel financial investigations. Such investigations are carried out in cases of corruption, money laundering, drug trafficking, human trafficking, smuggling, tax evasion or one of the 55 income-generating crimes under the CARA's jurisdiction.

In an exclusive interview, the head of the CARA's Financial Investigations Directorate, Vitalie Racu, and international expert Pedro Gomes Pereira, spoke about the importance of parallel financial investigations and the help offered by international experts in improving the process of recovering criminal assets from the Republic of Moldova.

"In 2015, studies were carried out by international experts, who found that criminal investigation bodies and prosecutors focus more on identifying the criminal fact, accumulating evidence regarding the person who committed the crime and sending the case to court. The identification of assets remained uncovered, or, in general, was not even carried out. Later, it was found that such a specialized body is necessary to carry out these parallel investigations on important criminal cases, such as cases of corruption, money laundering, cases of drug or human trafficking, smuggling and tax evasion", said the head of the CARA's Financial Investigations Directorate, Vitalie Racu.

The purpose of parallel investigations is not only to identify the assets that the subjects of property crimes have, but also to identify the assets that belong to them through third parties. International experts recommend that parallel financial investigations be carried out in collaboration with other institutions. Thus, the CARA collaborates with the Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering Service, the National Integrity Authority, banking institutions, etc.

"Law enforcement agencies, parallel investigation teams should be encouraged to meet regularly to discuss operational difficulties and issues, of course, respecting the limits imposed by legislation on what they can discuss during informal meetings. This is an example that has worked very well in Spain and Great Britain", noted the international expert, Pedro Gomes Pereira.

The Criminal Assets Recovery Agency is a specialized autonomous subdivision within the National Anticorruption Center. The CARA was founded in 2017, it aims to carry out parallel financial investigations, as well as to seize criminal assets. In the five years of activity, the CARA has managed to identify and seize, in the country and abroad, goods and assets worth over 6 billion lei.

Additional Information: <https://www.cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=4474&t=/Mass-Media/Events/VIDEO-INTERVIEW-Parallel-financial-investigations-and-their-role-in-the-criminal-asset-recovery-process>

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH
MACEDONIA - DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL,
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS



DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Plan for the Integrity of Jobs in the Ministry of the Interior 2023-2025

Within the framework of the Program for Reforms in the Intelligence and Security Sector in North Macedonia (2021-2026), which is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the DCAF Geneva Center for Security Sector Management, a Plan for the Integrity of Jobs in the Ministry of the Interior 2023-2025 has been developed and Action Plan for its implementation and they were adopted by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

Based on a previously performed comprehensive analysis of statistical and analytical data, we detected six areas of the operation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs that are most exposed to corrupt or other illegal behavior that are subject to the scope of the Integrity Plan, namely:

- risks of abuse of the official position by authorized officials from administrative services who are in direct contact with citizens in procedures for issuing personal documents, certificates, permits, etc.;
- risks of accepting a bribe in the traffic and border police;
- risks of excessive use of force when applying police powers;
- risks in the field of public procurement implementation;
- risks in the field of human resources management;
- risks related to ethics, impartiality, dignity, protection of the reputation of the Ministry of the Interior.

The Action Plan for the implementation of the Integrity Plan foresees a set of measures and activities that the competent organizational units will undertake in the next three years in order to reduce or suppress the posed risk. The Action Plan also provides indicators and goals for the implementation of the indicators in the next three years through which the level of implementation of the Integrity Plan will be monitored, i.e. a level of complete traceability of the implemented measures and their implementation will be achieved, and thus results achieved.

The Integrity plan of the Ministry of the Interior is published on the website of the Ministry of the Interior, and therefore available to the public

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Cvetanka Cureva Aleksovska, Chief Inspector, e-mail: Cvetanka_Cureva@moi.gov.mk

Additional Information: https://mvr.gov.mk/page/integritet?fbclid=IwAR0z_Ra6a458jgr3v5zksHR2WX8qiRn-917pNSBuhaMMr0pa_cLi2SoOd5w

ANTI-CORRUPTION GENERAL DIRECTORATE (DGA),
ROMANIA



DEVELOPMENT OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION CALL-CENTER TELEPHONE SYSTEM BY IMPLEMENTING AN ELECTRONIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In 2022, the Anti-Corruption General Directorate (hereinafter DGA) was involved in the implementation of a project financed by the Internal Security Fund (ISF) in order to develop a centralized platform for receiving and resolving petitions and calls to the Anti-Corruption Call Center line, with functions for data systematization, dissemination, reporting, and also voice interaction with callers through artificial intelligence.

Short history

The Anti-corruption Call-center telephone system is specialized in taking, processing and forwarding allegations of corruption to the competent DGA/prosecution units. It was established in 2005, offering citizens an active telephone line for communication and reporting.



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Programul Operațional Capacitate Administrativă
Competența face diferența!

SOURCE: Anti-Corruption General Directorate

Within the framework of the FSI project "Integrated Development of Anti-Corruption Tools - ANTICOR_INT", implemented by DGA in the period between July 2021-July 2022, the digitization of the entire process has been ensured, starting with the receipt of calls/requests, their assignment for resolution, the actual resolution, the approval of the resolution by the management.

The Call-center system extension was carried out by:

- developing the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system in line with DGA's workflows and operational requirements, ensuring the latest CRM technology and the number of licences for the user CRM solution at central and territorial structures. The licenses allow operational officers to handle Call-center calls and petitions, and the heads of structures will assign/advise documentation and process data (reports, analysis);
- definition of new workflows including county anti-corruption services.

The technical solution will also ensure the entire workflow is operational, starting from the receipt of information (Call-centre call/petition) to the carrying out of procedural activities (referral, flagrant, investigative use or criminal file): listening and transcribing calls, forwarding to the competent prosecuting units, dealing with the citizen to file the complaint.

Through the extension of the Call-centre system, data on incoming calls and petitions can be structured and codified, allowing for detailed reports and analysis on the dynamics of complaints, trends, activity at national level, etc.

The Anti-corruption Call-centre telephone system includes an artificial intelligence module that allows interaction with callers in situations where operators are unable to take the call, either through key words (e.g. money, bribery, corruption, danger, etc.) or by asking filter questions, which can simplify the interaction and make operational use of the data.

Results in 2022:

In 2022, the Anti-corruption Call-center system was staffed from Monday to Sunday on a permanent basis, with a total number of 20,805 calls, of which 3,731 calls were received by telephone operators and 17,074 calls were recorded on voicemail.

The incoming calls resulted into the registration of 40 criminal cases, 75 denunciations/criminal complaints and 35 petitions and, through the operational transmission of incoming referrals, 10 catching-in-the act were carried out.

Contact: relint.dga@mai.gov.ro

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITH LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES ON CORRUPTION PREVENTION

In 2022, the Anti-Corruption General Directorate (hereinafter DGA) implemented 16 projects carried out in partnership with local public administration authorities, with the aim of strengthening institutional integrity by reducing vulnerabilities to corruption, rigorously applying the anti-corruption regulatory framework, increasing the level of information of employees and raising the awareness of beneficiaries of public services on the consequences of corruption.).



SOURCE: Anti-Corruption General Directorate

Public administration employees and beneficiaries of public services alike feel the effects of corruption in administrative inefficiency, poor quality of service delivery, negative image of public institutions and civil servants, low investment in the community and increased social polarisation.

Convinced that institutional transparency and corruption prevention measures can be solutions for strengthening an environment of integrity and providing fair services to citizens, DGA was actively involved in initiating and developing partnerships with 16 municipalities and local councils.

The overall objective of this activity was to strengthen the anti-corruption management system, promoting ethics, transparency, integrity and competence at the level of local public authorities and subordinate/coordinating institutions.

The projects responded to the needs identified at local government level and proposed a comprehensive, integrated intervention that included, among others, the following measures:

- Conducting 39 workshops with the participation of DGA experts and local public administration staff to identify and assess risks and vulnerabilities to corruption and to establish/implement preventive measures,
- Development and adoption of formalised procedures on the prevention/assessment of integrity incidents with the support of DGA experts, procedures facilitating the implementation of the relevant legal framework in line with the objectives of the national anti-corruption strategy,
- Conducting 44 training sessions that aimed at increasing the knowledge and skills of local public administration staff in the field of corruption prevention, transparency, ethics and integrity,
- 39 awareness-raising campaigns on corruption in public administration targeting both civil servants and citizens,
- Carrying out 4 opinion polls among citizens and 2 sociological surveys among local public administration staff in order to identify the factors favouring and the consequences of corruption, as well as to identify the most appropriate prevention mechanisms and strategies.



SOURCE: Anti-Corruption General Directorate

Contact: relint.dga@mai.gov.ro



NATIONAL INTEGRITY AGENCY - ROMANIA



E-DAI - PLATFORM FOR ELECTRONIC FILING-IN AND SUBMITTING ASSET AND INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Starting with 2022, the Romanian public officials and dignitaries submit asset and interest disclosures exclusively through an online platform

The National Integrity Agency (ANI) developed an online platform entitled e-DAI, through which all public officials and dignitaries covered by law fill in and submit their asset and interest disclosures.

The new mechanism digitizes the entire process of filing in, signing, submitting and publishing the disclosures, while maintaining the usual flow and interactions between the public officials and dignitaries submitting the disclosures, the focal points within each public institution and the National Integrity Agency.

On these grounds, ANI's integrity inspectors have real-time knowledge of the persons who fail to submit disclosures in accordance with the legal provisions and, the information generated by e-DAI can be instrumented by the inspectors as risk factors that can contribute to triggering the evaluation activity.

To meet the needs of persons covered by law in the transition from paper-based disclosures to electronic ones, ANI carried out throughout 2022 various prevention and awareness activities, organized training sessions, developed video tutorials and guiding manuals.

Contact: ani@integritate.eu

GUARDIA CIVIL, SPAIN



GLOBE NETWORK CELEBRATES ITS 3RD PLENARY MEETING IN MADRID

The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) offers a platform for information exchange between frontline anti-corruption law enforcement practitioners in all countries across the globe.

Between 15th - 17th November, the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) 3rd Plenary Meeting took place in Madrid. This event was attended by more than 170 experts from around the world, being the first time since the existence of this Network that the Plenary Meeting was held outside Vienna.



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Spain currently holds the presidency of the Assembly through the three Members, Guardia Civil the National Police and the National Anti-Fraud Coordination Service.

This Network was formally created on 3rd June 2021, under the auspices of UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) and to date 136 agencies from 75 different countries have joined, gathering the most relevant competent agencies in the fight against corruption.

One of the most important outcomes of the meeting was the agreement on a document called "Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between GlobE Members" to provide a non-exhaustive list of types of information that can be informally exchanged among GlobE members with a view to facilitate informal cooperation in corruption cases.

Additional Information: <https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/ca/detalle/articulo/La-Red-GLOBE-celebra-su-Asamblea-General-en-Madrid/>

VALENCIAN ANTI-FRAUD AGENCY (SPAIN)



THE VALENCIAN ANTI-FRAUD AGENCY PRESENTS ITS COMPLAINTS MAILBOX TO THE GROUP OF EXPERTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The Valencian Anti-Fraud Agency was invited by the European Commission to show how its complaints mailbox works and its experience in the more than 5 years that this mailbox has been operating; 5 years in which more than 1,000 complaints have been managed.

On November 30, 2022, the Agency's General Director, Joan Llinares, participated in the Committee of Experts of the European Commission in charge of the work of transposing the EU Directive 2019/1937 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law, better known as the Whistleblowing Directive.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the 27 member states, as well as the candidate countries to join the European Union. The Valencian Anti-Fraud Agency was invited by the European authorities to explain how its whistleblowing mailbox works, as well as its experience in implementing this mailbox.

The Agency's whistleblowing mailbox is based on the Globaleaks platform that was originally adopted in Spain by the NGO X-Net. After introducing some improvements such as the bidirectionality of the channel, the possibility of incorporating documents or their legal approval, it was implemented in the Agency in 2018 during its first year of operation.

Currently, 88% of the complaints received at the Agency are made through this complaints mailbox which also allows the complainant to choose if they want to make the complaint anonymously.

The success of the Agency's complaints mailbox has been so important that its model has been exported to other Valencian public institutions by signing collaboration agreements with big institutions such as the Provincial Council of Castellón or the City Council of Valencia, and also with smaller ones such as the City Council of La Yesa, which has a population of just 120.



SOURCE: Valencian Anti-Fraud Agency

These collaboration agreements include that the Agency's complaints mailbox becomes the external complaints mailbox of these institutions, allowing them to be in accordance with the EU Directive on the protection of whistleblowers. In order to make this possible, the technology is adapted and a link that is incorporated on the institution's website connects to the Agency's complaints mailbox.

Furhermore, the Agency helps and advises these institutions so that they can implement the mailbox as an internal channel of complaints within a group of actions aimed at providing these institutions with a framework of integrity. In addition to this, the adoption of the Agency's internal complaints mailbox has also been shown as part of the approval of the Code of Ethics and Conduct for its staff and the creation of an Ethics Committee.

In his speech, the director of the Agency was accompanied by Javier Alamá, head of the Agency's IT Service and one of the persons responsible for the operation of the complaints mailbox who answered the technical questions asked by the members of the Committee of Experts on the operation of the mailbox.

In addition to the Valencian Anti-Fraud Agency, the Autorità Naziional Anticorruzione (ANAC) was invited to show its experience.

Contact: María José Moragues, Head of Unit of the Analysis and Investigation Division, e-mail: maria.moragues@antifraucv.es

Additional Information: <https://www.antifraucv.es/en/the-valencian-anti-fraud-agency-presents-its-complaints-mailbox-to-the-group-of-experts-of-the-european-commission/>

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA, LITHUANIA



STT PRESENTS A PUBLICATION ON THE POTENTIAL OF BIG DATA ANALYSIS FOR INVESTIGATING CORRUPTION-RELATED OFFENCES

The Special Investigation Service (STT), after completing an international project on Big Data analysis for fraud and corruption investigations in 2022, launched a publication that provides a structured overview of the training courses on identifying corruption and fraud risks using big data analysis. It focuses on strategy development, data availability and other measures needed to better protect the financial interests of the European Union (EU).

The successful implementation of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) project “Enhancing the analytical capacity of law enforcement authorities to detect and prevent fraud and corruption affecting the financial

interests of the EU” has provided the participants with the necessary knowledge to understand the Big Data analysis strategies, structure, quality assurance, when processing and analysing various types of big data, which has improved the capacity of law enforcement officers in ensuring the protection of the financial interests of the EU and in the investigation of corruption-related offences.

“This project allowed analysts from Lithuanian and foreign law enforcement agencies not only to deepen their knowledge and exchange best practices, but also to analyse in more detail the possibilities offered by Big Data analysis tools in detecting corruption-related crimes. 44 participants from 18 countries listened to lectures by competent lecturers and were able to put their knowledge into practice. We are delighted that we can now share key insights and training material”, said Rūta Kaziliūnaitė, Deputy Director of the STT and Project Manager.



SOURCE: Special Investigation Service

The project contributed to the activities of the EPAC/EACN (an international organization uniting more than 100 European anti-corruption authorities and police oversight bodies) Working Group on Big Data. The project is funded by the OLAF-Hercule III programme, which promotes the exchange of knowledge and good practice in the identification and management of corruption and fraud risks detrimentally affecting EU financial interests.

Contact: Viktorija Tervydė, Chief specialist of Coordination and Monitoring Division of Corruption Prevention Department of STT, e-mail: viktorija.tervyde@stt.lt

Additional Information: The publication can be found [here](#). the training material – [here](#).

LAW ENFORCEMENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE BALTIC REGION SHARED BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND FRAUD

On February 22-23, the final event of the EU-financed project "Multidisciplinary approach and regional cooperation in combatting corruption and fraud affecting EU financial interests" was held in Vilnius (Lithuania). The project was prepared and implemented by the Special Investigation Service (STT) of the Republic of Lithuania. More than 70 participants from the institutions of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland shared their experience in detecting and investigating criminal acts of a corrupt nature, in using big data analysis, in applying prevention measures, in creating and strengthening the anti-corruption environment in their respective countries.

Project participants – senior officials and experts of Lithuanian, Polish, Latvian and Estonian institutions working in the field of anti-corruption and fraud - presented their experience and proven solutions in preventing corruption and fraud affecting the financial interests of the EU.



SOURCE: Special Investigation Service

The participants heard various presentations, participated in round table discussions, discussed cases in separate sessions on prevention, investigation and analytics. In the leaders' session, the heads of the anti-corruption institutions of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland examined the latest trends and challenges of detecting and investigation serious corruption cases, in particular, affecting EU financial interests, and agreed on further closer cooperation in this area.



SOURCE: Special Investigation Service

At the event, invited experts from the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the Italian Guardia di Finanza, and the French Anti-Corruption Agency (AFA) also shared their insights and best practices.

This EU-financed project strengthened the multidisciplinary approach to combatting fraud and corruption, in particular, affecting the financial interests of the EU, as well as regional cooperation between the responsible institutions of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland. The project is financed under the EU Hercule III program. Two international seminars were organized during the implementation of this project. The first of them took place in September 2022. The total value of the project is EUR 58,464.80.

Contact: Darius Mickevičius, Head of International Cooperation Division of the STT, e-mail: darius.mickevicius@stt.lt

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT GLOBAL ANTI-CORRUPTION FORUMS WILL BE HELD IN LITHUANIA

In 2024, the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania. IACC is perhaps the largest and the most important global anti-corruption forum that brings together state leaders, civil society and private sector. At the conference, which is held every two years, representatives from more than 140 countries of the world are working together to solve the increasingly complex challenges posed by corruption. This year the 20th anniversary conference was held in Washington D.C., USA, during which it was announced that Lithuania will be the host of the 2024 conference.



SOURCE: Special Investigation Service

"Hosting next International Anti-corruption Conference in Lithuania is an indicator of our state progress in the areas of democracy and transparency. This is also a great opportunity for Lithuania to actively participate shaping the global anti-corruption agenda and ensuring support for democracy and the rule of law," inviting world anti-corruption leaders to Lithuania during the event said Audra Plepytė, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the USA.

IACC discusses anti-corruption policy, promotes networking, coordination of interests and positions, exchange of best practices that are necessary to take action at global and national levels. The conference promotes international cooperation by providing an opportunity to build a dialogue between the representatives of various institutions and organisations.

The beginnings of many famous global anti-corruption initiatives, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption or the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, were born precisely in the discussions of previous IACC conferences.

"It is a great honor for Lithuania to take over the baton of the host of the International Anti-corruption Conference from the USA. We understand that the opportunity to organise such a high-level forum in Lithuania is not only a great appreciation, but also great responsibility. A lot of preparatory work awaits, but we believe that the Special Investigations Service and Lithuania are ready for this challenge," said Žydrūnas Bartkus, Director of the Special Investigation Service of Republic of Lithuania (STT).



SOURCE: Special Investigation Service

U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, President of Moldova Maia Sandu, U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, Chair of Transparency International Delia Ferreira Rubio, President of the World Bank Group David Malpass, Ukrainian journalist Anastasiia Lapatina and other distinguished speakers spoke at the Conference held in Washington D.C. on December 6-10, 2022. The event included 6 plenary sessions, more than 70 workshops, including discussion "Rethinking the Global Law Enforcement Response to Corruption" that was organised by the



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STT, Fair-play music and film festivals, awards for young journalists and many other events. The IACC conference in Washington D.C. gathered more than 2,000 onsite participants, as well as several thousands of virtual viewers.

The preparatory work for the 2024 IACC conference will commence already in January 2023.

When selecting the future host country, the IACC Secretariat conducted consultations and collected applications from various candidate countries. Lithuania submitted an application after active consultations within the country and won the selection.

Previously IACC was held in: South Korea (2020), Denmark (2018), Panama (2016), Malaysia (2015) and Brazil (2012).

IACC is the major global forum that brings together heads of state and leaders of civil society and the private sector in order to fight the biggest threats of corruption in the modern world and since 1983 it has been successfully influencing the global political and economic agenda. Leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Hillary Clinton, Kofi Annan, Al Gore, George Soros, Angel Gurría and others have spoken at the conferences.

Contact: Darius Mickevičius, Head of International Cooperation Division of the STT, e-mail: darius.mickevicius@stt.lt

Additional Information: www.iaccseries.org. Youtube link [here](#).

HIGH AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC LIFE, FRANCE



THE HATVP LAUNCHES THE EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR PUBLIC ETHICS (ENPE)

On June 10th, 2022, the French High Authority for Transparency in Public Life (HATVP) launched the European Network for Public Ethics (ENPE), in Paris. The network currently brings together twelve public integrity authorities from the Member States of the European Union. Through an exchange of best practices, the network aims at promoting a culture of public integrity and at harmonizing the rules in this area within the European Union. Members discussed practical cases of conflicts of interest prevention during a meeting of the network in Zagreb, Croatia, in November 2022.

The President of the HATVP speaks at the OECD Forum on Trust and Democracy

On November 17th, 2022, the President of the HATVP participated in the Global Forum on Trust and Democracy in Luxembourg, organised by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Didier Migaud spoke at the panel on strengthening integrity and combating undue influence in democracies.

After presenting the French system of asset and interest declarations and the control of revolving doors between the public and private sectors, Didier Migaud raised the issue of undue influence on public decision making. He explained the mission of lobbying regulation led by the High Authority, which manages the online lobbyists' register in France.

The HATVP participates in the 20th International Anticorruption Conference (IACC) in Washington D.C.

On December 6th, 2022 the High Authority spoke at a panel on political integrity during the IACC, along with Transparency International and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Contact: Marie Lintzer, Head of international partnerships, e-mail: marie.lintzer@hatvp.fr

Additional Information: <https://www.hatvp.fr/en/>

III INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (RAI)



The results of the EU funded regional Project „Breaking the Silence: Enhancing Whistleblowing Policies and Culture in the Western Balkans and Moldova“ (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2023) were presented and discussed today in Sarajevo, at the Project Close-out Event “Have We Broke the Silence”.

The event was organized by the Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat in collaboration with the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and gathered representatives of the international community, public institutions and CSOs in BiH.

The opening remarks were delivered by the Head of EU Delegation and EU Special Representative to BiH Ambassador Johann Sattler, Head of Unit Western Balkans Policy and Regional Strategy at EC DG NEAR Thomas Hagleitner, and Head of RAI Secretariat Desislava Gotskova.



SOURCE: RAI

“Several aspects of this project deserve attention, one being that the corruption is fought by the people, public institutions and CSOs of the region through their Regional Anti-corruption Initiative”, said Thomas Hagleitner, Head of Unit Western Balkans Policy and Regional Strategy, EC DG NEAR.

Keynote speeches were delivered by beneficiaries of the Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Director of the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight Against Corruption of BiH Elvis Kondzic and Minister of Justice of Sarajevo Canton Darja Softic Kadenic.

Following the presentation of project activities and results, by the Anti-Corruption Expert and Project Manager, Elmerina Ahmetaj Hrelja, friends of the project, Tom Devine, RAI Whistleblowing Expert and Legal Director of the Government Accountability Project, USA, Arjan Dyrnishi Coordinator of the SEE Coalition on Whistleblower Protection, and COL Dimitrios Biris, Programme Manager for SSG Pillar at RACVIAC, shared their perspective on the significance of continuous support to whistleblower protection.

The event gathered ambassadors and deputy heads of missions of embassies of Croatia, Albania, Romania Bulgaria, Montenegro, North Macedonia, France, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands, Austria, Greece, Slovenia and Egypt, as well representatives of international organizations and missions UNDP BiH, UNODC, Council of Europe, IISG, RACVIAC, representatives of local institutions, including Ministry of Justice of BiH and Ministry of Security of BiH, and local civil society and investigative media organizations.

In answering the question whether we have broken the silence, Elmerina Ahmetaj Hrelja, noted that 'with an outreach of 30 million people in the region through its regional public information and education campaign on whistleblowing, RAI and its partners have certainly had their voice heard. RAI provided resources relevant to improved whistleblower protection, which are the first not only in the region, but beyond – [Gap Analysis, Model Provisions, Whistleblowing On-Line Tools](#). Furthermore, RAI training evaluation shows that caseworkers have better understanding, practical knowledge and confidence when handling whistleblower cases, while policy makers discuss whistleblower protection with a higher level of expertise.'

The creative and innovative approaches used to mobilize public support for anticorruption efforts, were presented through the screening of [Guerrilla Campaign Video](#), RAI's award-winning anticorruption awareness raising campaign, and the [Whistleblower Human Interest Story Video](#).

Additional Information: Please note that the videos will be available in Romanian, Albanian, Macedonian and Bosnian languages on [RAI's Youtube channel](#) by March 13, 2023.

IV PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

POLICE OVERSIGHT CONFERENCES

CACOLE



Annual Professional Development Conference will occur May 29 - 31, 2023 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This conference brings together police oversight professionals from across Canada, with the common goal of improving policing.

The 2023 conference agenda will consist of topics of interest to police oversight professionals, law enforcement officials, government officials and students. Participants will again have the option of attending virtually or in person. All presentations will be recorded and will be available to attendees at the conclusion of the conference.



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This year's conference will include an evening reception, breakfast and lunch each day and a delegate's dinner on the final evening. Additional conference information, including a link for registration, hotel information and a draft program, will be available on our website, www.cacole.ca, over the next few months.

Contact: Vicki Yeats, Executive Director, e-mail: cacole.executivedirector@gmail.com.

Additional Information: <https://cacole.ca/confere-reunion/index-eng.shtml>

NACOLE

NACOLE's Annual Conference will place 12-16th November in Chicago, Illinois. For the 29th year, NACOLE will bring together oversight practitioners, law enforcement officials, journalists, elected officials, students, community members, and others dedicated to effective and sustainable civilian oversight of law enforcement. This conference will provide a meaningful opportunity to exchange information and ideas about issues facing civilian oversight and law enforcement in addition to allowing participants the opportunity to engage in valuable networking with others in the field. Registration will open May 15, 2023.



Contact: Cameron McElhiney, e-mail: info@nacole.org

Additional Information: https://www.nacole.org/2023_annual_conference

ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCES

UNCAC



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

We would like to remind you, that the 10th session of COSP will take place in Atlanta, United States of America, 11-15 of December, 2023. It would be particularly important that EPAC/EACN members could participate as experts in their national delegations.

Additional Information: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/COSP/conference-of-the-states-parties.html>



EPAC/EACN CONTACT CATALOGUE 2022

The EPAC/EACN Secretariat has completed the 18th edition of the EPAC/EACN Contact Catalogue. As in previous editions, it compiles facts and figures about our members based on entries received during the year. This latest version of the Contact Catalogue is available for download from our website www.epac-eacn.org