



# NEWSLETTER 01 25

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

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the contributions you have provided for this newsletter. The EPAC/EACN Secretariat is delighted to present you with the first edition of 2025, showcasing valuable input from our network members and featuring news from the International Organizations.

As always, we welcome your contributions on future or past events, conferences, seminars, training courses, studies, project findings, and more, to be included in our next newsletter. Your active participation enriches our community and enhances the exchange of knowledge.

**Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat**

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## EPAC/EACN BOARD NEWS

The first EPAC/EACN Board meeting of the year was held virtually on February 6th.

The Board discussed latest development and activities of EPAC/EACN, implementation of the EPAC/EACN Work Programme 2024-2025, as well the Board members welcomed a successful implementation of the Best Anti-Corruption practise exchange (BACPE) project, which supported in total 49 best practice exchange visits between EPAC/EACN member organisations, as well as progress with the EPAC/EACN SitRep Working Group.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The **Best Anti-Corruption Practice Exchange (BACPE) project** is reaching its final phase:

- 18 best practice exchange visits were conducted in the first cycle
- 31 visits conducted in the second cycle
- In total, 49 visits were completed
- Two Annual Conferences successfully held in Dublin and Bucharest, partially supported by the BACPE project

Additionally, two webinars are being planned for **2025**, further enhancing knowledge-sharing within the network.

### Communication and Cooperation

- Three newsletters were issued in 2024, with the same number planned for 2025
- The EPAC/EACN Member Catalogue is regularly updated.
- The EPAC/EACN website is being expanded with new content, including information on police oversight and anti-corruption standards, selected best practices and expert interviews.

The Secretariat encourages EPAC/EACN members to actively contribute to these initiatives, ensuring continued progress and collaboration.

The EPAC/EACN Work Programme for 2024-2025 is available at [https://www.epac-eacn.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/EPAC-EACN\\_Work\\_Programme\\_2024-2025.pdf](https://www.epac-eacn.org/fileadmin/user_upload/EPAC-EACN_Work_Programme_2024-2025.pdf)

### EPAC/EACN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2025 EU RULE OF LAW REPORT

The EPAC/EACN Secretariat has provided a substantial input to the European Commission's 2025 Rule of Law Report, reflecting on key developments, challenges, and priorities in the fight against corruption across Europe.

In his letter to Commissioner McGrath, EPAC/EACN President Linas Pervanas emphasized the network's commitment to strengthening the anti-corruption landscape by supporting independent oversight mechanisms, advancing legal frameworks, and leveraging digital innovation.

## Key Highlights of EPAC/EACN's Input:

**1. Strengthening Operational Independence.** EPAC/EACN raised concerns about increasing political pressures on anti-corruption bodies in some countries. The Secretariat underlined the necessity of independent and well-resourced anti-corruption authorities, referencing international legal instruments such as the UNCAC, CoE conventions, and EU standards.

**2. Expanding EPAC/EACN's network.** The EPAC/EACN network now includes 120 members from 39 countries, following the inclusion of new institutions from Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, North Macedonia, and Kosovo. Recent initiatives include the establishment of a working group on corruption situational reports, launched in February 2025, and the Best Anti-Corruption Practice Exchange (BACPE) project, which funds study visits for anti-corruption professionals.

**3. Advocating for a Unified Legal Framework in the EU.** EPAC/EACN stressed the need to harmonize corruption definitions across Europe, as differences in national legislation create obstacles to cross-border cooperation. The Secretariat reaffirmed its general support for the upcoming EU Directive on Combating Corruption, expected to be adopted in 2025.

**4. Harnessing AI & Big Data for Anti-Corruption Efforts.** The use of AI in corruption investigations is becoming a priority, as big data analytics can enhance risk assessment and fraud detection. The Secretariat called for greater investment in digital forensics and AI-powered oversight mechanisms to combat financial crimes and online corruption schemes.

## UPDATE ON THE NEW SITREP WORKING GROUP

At the 23rd EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference the General Assembly accepted the initiative of the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) to establish a working group on the development of situational reports on corruption. The working group '**Corruption SITREP**' focuses on the creation of situation reports on corruption, with the main objective to develop common standards for the creation of situation reports and to develop effective approaches for strategic corruption analysis. The working group counts more than 40 experts from a wide range of EPAC/EACN member organizations.

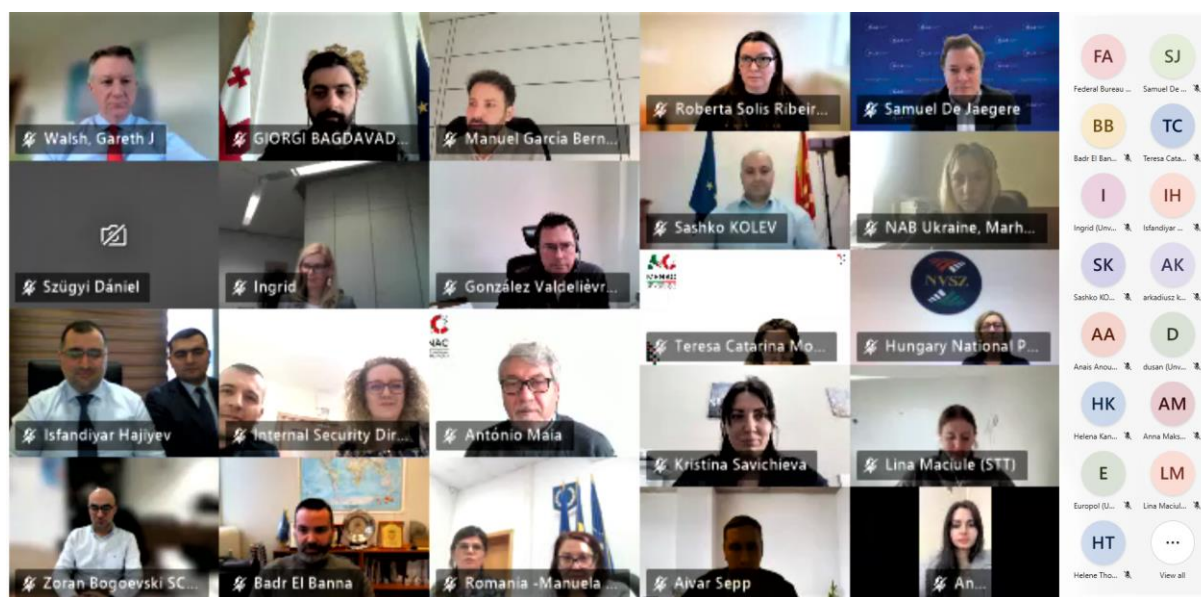


Since Anti-Corruption agencies handle large amounts of data, this data can be effectively utilized by organizing and structuring it into comprehensive situational reports. By publishing these reports, the data becomes accessible to the interested public, allowing for greater transparency. At the same time, these insights are crucial for the agency itself, as they

may play a significant role in shaping its strategic direction and decision-making processes.

## Establishing comprehensive situational reports on corruption can bring significant advantages, including:

- The Creation of better Understanding
- Data-Driven Strategy Alignment
- Standardized Metrics
- Strengthened Legal Frameworks
- Public Awareness and Engagement



For this purpose, one of the aims of the working group is to create a template for situational reports and to find a common strategy for the establishment of such reports. This requires a qualified exchange of knowledge and the development of best practices to subsequently create a joint document that will serve as a guideline for the coordinated and sustainable preparation of situation reports. Medium and long-term developments in corruption-related crimes should be systematically examined as part of the situation report in order to enable data driven decisions to be made on preventing and combating corruption. Additionally, it is possible to classify corruption phenomena through a comprehensive situational picture and provide additional information about the leading offense. The results of the working group should therefore create a basis for further progress and should serve as an assistance for the prioritization of preventive and repressive measures to effectively curb corruption offences.

## The main objectives of the working group are:

- Creation of a template for the preparation of situational reports
- Setting common standards in the area of situational reports for corruption
- Providing ACAs with an additional tool to enhance their efforts in fighting and preventing corruption.

The first meeting of the working group already took place online on 13 February 2025. The interactive opening session was preluded by a presentation on strategic crime analysis from the BAK, followed by a contribution from a representative of department 15 of the state criminal police office of North Rhine-Westphalia (LKA NRW) as a best practice example for the creation of situation reports on corruption.

On 12 March 2025, the Working Group invited an external expert from the Austrian Ministry of the Interior to share his experiences with situation reports in a security context. In another online meeting, a speaker from

Brussels will address the topic from a military perspective. These presentations, together with the preparatory work of all participants, will pave the way for the expert workshop in Vienna at the end of April.

On two days, experts from more than 25 organisations, will discuss different aspects and approaches relevant to the creation of situation reports, eventually leading to a publication available for all EPAC/EACN members and other interested stakeholders.

The working group strives to conclude its work by the middle of 2025 to allow for a presentation of its outcomes at the next EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly

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## CPI TRENDS ANALYSIS (2017–2024)

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is an index that scores and ranks countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, as assessed by experts and business executives. The CPI generally defines corruption as an "abuse of entrusted power for private gain". The index is published annually by the non-governmental organisation Transparency International since 1995.

The 2024 CPI, published in February 2025, currently ranks 180 countries "on a scale from 100 (very clean) to 0 (highly corrupt)" based on the situation between 1 May 2023 and 30 April 2024.

CPI include a large number European countries, where EPAC/EACN members and observers are based.

The CPI data for 2017–2024 underscores that corruption dynamics can shift quickly, driven by political events, reforms and public scrutiny. In Europe, a few states have succeeded in bolstering transparency, while others have struggled to maintain trust due to high-profile scandals or weaker institutional checks. As global awareness of governance issues grows, the future trajectory will hinge on whether these countries—particularly those facing notable declines—implement robust reforms and strengthen anti-corruption mechanisms.

Below is a brief overview and analysis of how European countries performed on the CPI from 2017 to 2024.

### Top Performers and Overall Trends

- Denmark has maintained the top spot among European countries, moving from a CPI score of 88 (rank 2) in 2017 to 90 (rank 1) in 2024. Finland (85 → 88) and Luxembourg (82 → 81) have also remained among the highest-scoring.
- While Denmark gained two points across the period, Norway (85 → 81) and Sweden (84 → 80) each declined by four points overall, though both remain in the top tier. Finland increased slightly from 85 to 88.

### Significant Improvements

- **Moldova** shows the largest overall gain (31 → 43), improving by +12 points since 2017.
- **Estonia** rose from 71 to 76, building on what was already a relatively strong base compared with other Central/Eastern European peers.
- **Kosovo** gained five points (39 → 44).
- **North Macedonia** and **Ukraine** each climbed by five points (North Macedonia 35 → 40; Ukraine 30 → 35).

### Marked Declines

- **United Kingdom** dropped from 82 to 71, losing 11 points over the period which is one of the sharpest declines among established high-income European countries.
- **Malta** went down by 10 points (56 → 46).
- **Azerbaijan** fell from 31 to 22, a 9-point decline.



- **Austria** slid by 8 points (75 → 67).
- **Poland** declined by 7 points (60 → 53).
- **Germany** fell by 6 points (81 → 75).

## Stable or Minimal Change

- **Italy** essentially unchanged (54 → 54).
- **Montenegro** and **Bulgaria** both held roughly steady (Montenegro 46 → 46; Bulgaria 43 → 43).
- **Croatia** and **Romania** had small decreases of 2 points each (Croatia 49 → 47; Romania 48 → 46).

## Conclusions

- **Nordic countries** (Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway) consistently top the index, though a few have seen modest declines.
- **Western and Central European countries** show mixed results, with some (like Austria and Germany) experiencing notable drops, while others (e.g., Estonia, Ireland) have improved.
- **Eastern and Southeastern Europe** is where some of the most significant changes—both positive (Moldova's strong improvement) and negative (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina)—are visible.
- **Political and institutional reforms** appear to correlate with shifts in scores, especially in countries like Ukraine and Moldova that have pursued anti-corruption measures in recent years.

In summary, from 2017 to 2024, Europe shows a mix of steady top performers (Nordics, Luxembourg), notable improvements (Moldova, Estonia, Kosovo) and concerning downward trends (UK, Malta, Austria, Poland). Denmark continues to hold the highest score at 90 in 2024, while other countries' trajectories suggest that domestic reforms and shifting political landscapes directly impact their perceived levels of public-sector corruption.

| Country        | CPI score 2024 | Rank 2024 | CPI score 2023 | Rank 2023 | CPI score 2022 | Rank 2022 | CPI score 2021 | Rank 2021 | CPI score 2020 | Rank 2020 | CPI score 2019 | Rank 2019 | CPI score 2018 | Rank 2018 | CPI score 2017 | Rank 2017 |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Denmark        | 90             | 1         | 90             | 1         | 90             | 1         | 88             | 1         | 88             | 1         | 87             | 1         | 88             | 1         | 88             | 2         |
| Finland        | 88             | 2         | 87             | 2         | 87             | 2         | 88             | 1         | 85             | 3         | 86             | 3         | 85             | 3         | 85             | 3         |
| Luxembourg     | 81             | 5         | 78             | 9         | 77             | 10        | 81             | 9         | 80             | 9         | 80             | 9         | 81             | 9         | 82             | 8         |
| Norway         | 81             | 5         | 84             | 4         | 84             | 4         | 85             | 4         | 84             | 7         | 84             | 7         | 84             | 7         | 85             | 3         |
| Sweden         | 80             | 8         | 82             | 6         | 83             | 5         | 85             | 4         | 85             | 3         | 85             | 4         | 85             | 3         | 84             | 6         |
| Netherlands    | 78             | 9         | 79             | 8         | 80             | 8         | 82             | 8         | 82             | 8         | 82             | 8         | 82             | 8         | 82             | 8         |
| Ireland        | 77             | 10        | 77             | 11        | 77             | 10        | 74             | 13        | 72             | 20        | 74             | 18        | 73             | 18        | 74             | 19        |
| Estonia        | 76             | 13        | 76             | 12        | 74             | 14        | 74             | 13        | 75             | 17        | 74             | 18        | 73             | 18        | 71             | 21        |
| Germany        | 75             | 15        | 78             | 9         | 79             | 9         | 80             | 10        | 80             | 9         | 80             | 9         | 80             | 11        | 81             | 12        |
| United Kingdom | 71             | 20        | 71             | 20        | 73             | 18        | 78             | 11        | 77             | 11        | 77             | 12        | 80             | 11        | 82             | 8         |
| Belgium        | 69             | 22        | 73             | 16        | 73             | 18        | 73             | 18        | 76             | 15        | 75             | 17        | 75             | 17        | 75             | 16        |
| Austria        | 67             | 25        | 71             | 20        | 71             | 22        | 74             | 13        | 76             | 15        | 77             | 12        | 76             | 14        | 75             | 16        |
| France         | 67             | 25        | 71             | 20        | 72             | 21        | 71             | 22        | 69             | 23        | 69             | 23        | 72             | 21        | 70             | 23        |
| Lithuania      | 63             | 32        | 61             | 34        | 62             | 33        | 61             | 34        | 60             | 35        | 60             | 35        | 59             | 38        | 59             | 38        |
| Slovenia       | 60             | 36        | 56             | 42        | 56             | 41        | 57             | 41        | 60             | 35        | 60             | 35        | 60             | 36        | 61             | 34        |
| Latvia         | 59             | 38        | 60             | 36        | 59             | 39        | 59             | 36        | 57             | 42        | 56             | 44        | 58             | 41        | 58             | 40        |
| Portugal       | 57             | 43        | 61             | 34        | 62             | 33        | 62             | 32        | 61             | 33        | 62             | 30        | 64             | 30        | 63             | 29        |
| Cyprus         | 56             | 46        | 53             | 49        | 52             | 51        | 53             | 52        | 57             | 42        | 58             | 41        | 59             | 38        | 57             | 42        |
| Czechia        | 56             | 46        | 57             | 41        | 56             | 41        | 54             | 49        | 54             | 49        | 56             | 44        | 59             | 38        | 57             | 42        |
| Spain          | 56             | 46        | 60             | 36        | 60             | 35        | 61             | 34        | 62             | 32        | 62             | 30        | 58             | 41        | 57             | 42        |
| Italy          | 54             | 52        | 56             | 42        | 56             | 41        | 56             | 42        | 53             | 52        | 53             | 51        | 52             | 53        | 50             | 54        |



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|------------------------|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|
| Georgia                | 53 | 53  | 53 | 49  | 56 | 41  | 55 | 45  | 56 | 45  | 56 | 44  | 58 | 41  | 56 | 46  |
| Poland                 | 53 | 53  | 54 | 47  | 55 | 45  | 56 | 42  | 56 | 45  | 58 | 41  | 60 | 36  | 60 | 36  |
| Greece                 | 49 | 59  | 49 | 59  | 52 | 51  | 49 | 58  | 50 | 59  | 48 | 60  | 45 | 67  | 48 | 59  |
| Slovakia               | 49 | 59  | 54 | 47  | 53 | 49  | 52 | 56  | 49 | 60  | 50 | 59  | 50 | 57  | 50 | 54  |
| Croatia                | 47 | 63  | 50 | 57  | 50 | 57  | 47 | 63  | 47 | 63  | 47 | 63  | 48 | 60  | 49 | 57  |
| Malta                  | 46 | 65  | 51 | 55  | 51 | 54  | 54 | 49  | 53 | 52  | 54 | 50  | 54 | 51  | 56 | 46  |
| Montenegro             | 46 | 65  | 46 | 63  | 45 | 65  | 46 | 64  | 45 | 67  | 45 | 66  | 45 | 67  | 46 | 64  |
| Romania                | 46 | 65  | 46 | 63  | 46 | 63  | 45 | 66  | 44 | 69  | 44 | 70  | 47 | 61  | 48 | 59  |
| Kosovo                 | 44 | 73  | 41 | 83  | 41 | 84  | 39 | 87  | 36 | 104 | 36 | 101 | 37 | 93  | 39 | 85  |
| Bulgaria               | 43 | 76  | 45 | 67  | 43 | 72  | 42 | 78  | 44 | 69  | 43 | 74  | 42 | 77  | 43 | 71  |
| Moldova                | 43 | 76  | 42 | 76  | 39 | 91  | 36 | 105 | 34 | 115 | 32 | 120 | 33 | 117 | 31 | 122 |
| Albania                | 42 | 80  | 37 | 98  | 36 | 101 | 35 | 110 | 36 | 104 | 35 | 106 | 36 | 99  | 38 | 91  |
| Hungary                | 41 | 82  | 42 | 76  | 42 | 77  | 43 | 73  | 44 | 69  | 44 | 70  | 46 | 64  | 45 | 66  |
| North Macedonia        | 40 | 88  | 42 | 76  | 40 | 85  | 39 | 87  | 35 | 111 | 35 | 106 | 37 | 93  | 35 | 107 |
| Serbia                 | 35 | 105 | 36 | 104 | 36 | 101 | 38 | 96  | 38 | 94  | 39 | 91  | 39 | 87  | 41 | 77  |
| Ukraine                | 35 | 105 | 36 | 104 | 33 | 116 | 32 | 122 | 33 | 117 | 30 | 126 | 32 | 120 | 30 | 130 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 33 | 114 | 35 | 108 | 34 | 110 | 35 | 110 | 35 | 111 | 36 | 101 | 38 | 89  | 38 | 91  |
| Azerbaijan             | 22 | 154 | 23 | 154 | 23 | 157 | 30 | 128 | 30 | 129 | 30 | 126 | 25 | 152 | 31 | 122 |

Additional information: <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024>

## REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE



## REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

### PROMOTING I RAI GATHERS JUNIOR ANTI-CORRUPTION PRACTITIONERS FOR SUMMER SCHOOL ON ASSET RECOVERY

**The Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat organized the 19th Edition of the Summer School for Junior Anti-Corruption Practitioners from Southeast Europe (SEE) in Bucharest, Romania, from June 11-14, 2024**

The Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat organized the 19th Edition of the Summer School for Junior Anti-Corruption Practitioners from Southeast Europe (SEE) in Bucharest, Romania, from June 11-14, 2024. Titled “Unveiling Corruption: Introduction to Asset Recovery and Financial Investigation Techniques,” the event aimed to equip junior prosecutors, anti-corruption practitioners, and financial investigators from SEE law enforcement agencies with key knowledge in the field of asset



recovery. The program brought together 20 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania.



The goal of the Summer School was strengthening the capacities of anti-corruption bodies across the region by creating a platform for participants to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and network.

In addition to technical skills, sessions on critical thinking and Emotional Intelligence (EI) were also included, helping participants enhance their



personal and professional effectiveness, and equipping them with the tools to apply critical thinking in various situations relevant to their work.



The event was hosted by the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) and supported financially by the Central European Initiative (CEI) and the America for Bulgaria Foundation.

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#### Additional Information:

- [Video Recap](#)
- [19th Summer School for Junior Anti-Corruption Practitioners from SEE Held in Bucharest](#)

## CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND COMBATING BUREAU OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



### KNAB AND TI LATVIA ORGANIZE A CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

On 9 December, the International Anti-Corruption Day, the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB) jointly with Transparency International Latvia organised a conference titled “Corruption – a Threat to National and Global Security”.

The conference “Corruption – a Threat to National and Global Security” was organised by KNAB and TI Latvia for the third consecutive year, and on 9 December 2024 was held at the premises of KNAB. The event aimed to bring together professionals from the private, public, non-governmental, and academic sectors to discuss what Latvia must do to reduce corruption and its impact on national and global security.

The conference was divided into three panel discussions. In the first, academics and researchers discussed what shapes public perceptions of corruption and what needs to be done to improve Latvia’s performance in surveys, studies, and indices. Participants pointed out that public perceptions were shaped by factors not necessarily directly related to corruption offences, such as economic development. Overall, Latvia’s position in corruption perception indices and surveys is improving and matches the level of economic growth.

In the second discussion, experts from the private sector shared experience and practical solutions on how companies can protect themselves from corruption risks, and also presented the first results and recommendations of the company integrity self-assessment tool developed by the Zero Tolerance Against Corruption initiative. They also discussed effective tools and approaches to help build open and sustainable business and analysed successful examples from Latvian companies.

In the closing discussion, high-level public officials and the non-governmental sector discussed Latvia's anti-corruption priorities and whether the public sector is effectively tackling corruption as a national and global threat. The discussion focused on the impact of reducing red tape, implementing digital transformation, and promoting efficiency in public administration in the fight against corruption.

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**Additional Information:** <https://www.knab.gov.lv/en/article/knab-and-delna-organise-conference-international-anti-corruption-day>

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## NATIONAL INTEGRITY AGENCY, ROMANIA



### V-DAI: RAISING THE BAR FOR INTEGRITY CHECKS

#### The National Integrity Agency's v-DAI platform takes a more proactive approach to verifying assets and interests of Romanian officials

Starting with 2024, the National Integrity Agency (ANI) implemented a new digital instrument – v-DAI. The system goes beyond simple accuracy checks, proactively identifying cases that could signal integrity breaches such as conflicts of interest, incompatibilities or unjustified wealth cases.

The platform ensures consistent and comprehensive review of all disclosures, enhancing oversight and accountability. By targeting risk factors, ANI strengthens anti-corruption efforts, with key areas including:

- Potential false data or unjustified wealth – Failure to declare incomes, significant loans granted or debts of the declarant;
- Potential illegal tenure of public office – Breach of the 3 year interdiction to occupy public offices due to incompatibilities findings;
- Potential breach of incompatibility rules – Incomes from independent activities or other sources, membership in management bodies of commercial entities, political affiliation;

- Potential breach of conflict of interest rules – State contracts involving officials or their family members;
- Potential risks of biased decision-making – Benefits and awards obtained;
- Potential breach of the submission rules – Failure to submit disclosures within the legal term.

Thus, the evaluation activity will benefit from an exhaustive perspective on all disclosures within each submission cycle and real-time identification of high-risk ones.

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## NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION MECHANISM (MENAC), PORTUGAL



### 1ST FORUM ON INNOVATION IN PROMOTING INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY

The 1st Forum on Innovation in Promoting Integrity and Transparency took place on December 2, 2024, at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, in Lisbon. This Forum organized by MENAC launched the Anti-Corruption Month – December – and gathered over 100 participants. The event addressed public sector innovation, digital transparency, and business ethics.



Olívio Mota Amador, MENAC's Vice President

The 1st Forum on Innovation in Promoting Integrity and Transparency was held on December 2, 2024, at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, in Lisbon, organized by MENAC. This event launched the 2024 Anti-Corruption Month and brought together over 100 participants, including policymakers, researchers, civil society representatives, and international experts. The Forum was livestreamed on MENAC's YouTube channel to ensure broad accessibility.

MENAC's President, António Pires da Graça, opened the Forum, stressing the importance of innovation in ethical governance. Portugal's Prosecutor General, Amadeu Guerra, was also present, reinforcing institutional support for the initiative.





António Pires da Graça, MENAC's President

The event featured four thematic panels: Public Sector Innovation and Leadership, Health Research and Integrity, Digital Transparency and Data Integrity, and Business Ethics. Experts shared insights, case studies, and strategies to address emerging challenges. Panel coordinators summarized key takeaways, highlighting policy recommendations and the need for cross-sector collaboration.

MENAC's Vice President, Olívio Mota Amador, closed the Forum by emphasizing the importance of sustained dialogue and institutional partnerships in the fight against corruption.



Forum's Audience

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**Additional Information:** MENAC quarterly Newsletter #8 October to December 2024 <https://mec-anticorruptao.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Newsletter-MENAC-8.pdf>





## FEDERAL BUREAU OF ANTI-CORRUPTION (BAK), AUSTRIA

 Bundesministerium  
Inneres

Bundesamt zur Korruptionsprävention  
und Korruptionsbekämpfung

### VALUES & ROLE MODELS IN FRONT OF THE LENS

The 'Values & Role Models in Front of the Lens' photo competition, launched by the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) in 2025, is a new corruption prevention format, aiming to promote integrity through creativity amongst young people.

With its new format, BAK aims to inspire students at upper secondary schools with a focus on photography to explore the importance of integrity and values and to present their findings in photographs. A kick-off event with workshops organized by the BAK was held at the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) in January 2025. Through interactive activities, representatives of the IACA, Transparency International – Austrian Chapter, and BAK provided information on the dangers, forms and ways of combating corruption and convey the essential principles of corruption prevention, such as values and integrity.

In a second phase – the creative phase – the students will elaborate their ideas and translate those into photographic works. Together with the teachers, the students will choose the class's favorite works, which subsequently will be submitted for evaluation by a jury of experts, both art and compliance.

All submitted photographs will be presented at a festive closing event in mid-June 2025 and the winners will be awarded. Eventually all photographs will be presented as part of a travelling exhibition at several locations in Austria.

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**Additional information:** Further information on the photo competition 'Values & Role Models in Front of the Lens' can be found at the following link: [Fotowettbewerb](#)

## AGENCY FOR PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION, MONTENEGRO



### THREE ROUND TABLES ON IMPROVING MONTENEGRO'S ANTI-CORRUPTION LEGISLATION

Last year, the APC and Ministry of Justice held three round tables in Montenegro to strengthen anti-corruption efforts, covering the roles of public officials, whistleblower protection, and APC's independence. These discussions aimed to improve transparency, legal clarity, and the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures.



The Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC), in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, organized three round tables at the end of last year to address key issues in improving anti-corruption legislation and the APC's role within the anti-corruption system.

The first round table discussed the obligations of public officials and the scope of public office in Montenegro, emphasizing the need for clearer duties, rationalization of public officials, and greater transparency, especially with ongoing amendments to the Law on the Prevention of Corruption (LPC).



The second round table focused on whistleblower protection, highlighting concerns over the new LPC restricting protection of whistleblowers to judicial measures only, removing the Agency's role after eight years of positive experience, potentially deterring whistleblowers due to fear of retaliation and legal costs.



The final round table focused on the position of the APC within the anti-corruption system, where the importance of ensuring the functional, operational, and financial independence of the Agency was particularly emphasized, with the goal of ensuring its sustainability and integrity.

These events brought together representatives from state institutions, the international community, and civil society to improve the legal framework for preventing corruption and ensuring transparent public functions.

## Additional Information:

- <https://www.antikorupcija.me/en/news/2412160831-round-table-prescribed-obligations-public-officials-and-scope-public-functions-montenegro-held-podgorica/>
- <https://www.antikorupcija.me/en/news/2412160834-second-round-table-amendments-law-prevention-corruption-focus-reporting-and-protection-whistleblowers/>
- <https://www.antikorupcija.me/en/news/2412160838-third-round-table-amendments-lpc-stable-legal-framework-and-good-governance-key-prerequisites-effective-fight-against-corruption/>

## ART CONTEST "STOP CORRUPTION" – RAISING AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH

**On the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9, the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Innovation, organized an art contest titled "Stop Corruption," intended for final-year elementary school students across Montenegro.**

The Agency for Prevention of Corruption, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, and Innovation, organized an art contest titled "Stop Corruption," intended for final-year elementary school students across Montenegro.

The aim of the contest was to raise awareness among young people about the damaging consequences of corruption and to promote ethical and responsible social values. Through artistic expression, students had the opportunity to present their views on this issue, conveying powerful and inspiring messages. Since its establishment, the Agency for Prevention of Corruption has been implementing educational activities aimed at young people, promoting the principles of transparency, integrity, and social responsibility.

A commission, consisting of representatives from the Agency, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Innovation, and an illustrator, evaluated the artworks based on originality, authenticity, and clarity of the message.

At the award ceremony, prizes were given to the students whose artworks were recognized as the best. In addition to the three winning pieces, the commission highlighted nine others for their creativity and technical excellence.

The Agency for Prevention of Corruption and the Ministry of Education, Science, and Innovation continue to support initiatives aimed at young people, encouraging critical thinking about the importance of fight against corruption. This contest represented another step toward building a society based on transparency, responsibility, and ethical values.



**Additional Information:** <https://www.antikorupcija.me/en/library/news-archive/2501301149-awarded-best-student-artwork-stop-corruption-art-contest/>



## CENTRAL ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU, POLAND



### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ASSET DECLARATIONS: UNIFICATION, DIGITALIZATION AND CONTROL



On December 9–10, 2024, the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau (CBA) hosted an international conference at the Cyber Command Headquarters in Legionowo under the honorary patronage of Minister of Interior and Administration Tomasz Siemoniak, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Affairs Krzysztof Gawkowski, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz. Aligned with International Anti-Corruption Day (December 9), the event spotlighted key strategies to enhance transparency and strengthen the legal framework around asset declarations.

The conference featured high-profile participants from Poland and abroad. Foreign delegations included the heads of Romania's National Integrity Agency (ANI), Ukraine's Agency for Asset Recovery and Management (ARMA), Ukraine's National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP), Lithuania's Special Investigation Service (STT), and Latvia's Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB), among others. Representatives from the OECD, the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), and major Polish law enforcement, judicial, and public administration bodies also took part. Additionally, Polish NGOs such as the Stefan Batory Foundation, Citizens Network Watchdog Poland, and the Institute of Public Affairs Foundation contributed their insights on the importance of civil oversight.

A central focus was the need to unify Poland's currently fragmented regulations on asset declarations—spread across numerous legislative acts—and to replace multiple paper-based forms with a single, fully digital system. Experts discussed harmonizing deadlines, improving clarity in legal provisions, and introducing proportionate sanctions for missing or falsified data. Presenters highlighted the benefits of integrating various public registers, employing artificial intelligence for enhanced oversight, and ensuring robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive information.

#### Key Highlights

- **Draft Legal Act.** The CBA presented progress on a proposed law to standardize asset declarations. This includes a single electronic declaration form, uniform deadlines, penalties for non-compliance, and mandatory verification procedures.



- **Cooperation Agreement.** A significant outcome was the signing of a partnership between the CBA and Ukraine's ARMA, committing both agencies to share data, expertise, and best practices for tracing illicit assets.
- **NGO Debate.** Representatives from leading NGOs joined the CBA in a panel discussion, addressing how to balance transparency and individual privacy, expand the list of individuals required to file declarations, and strengthen criminal penalties for false statements.
- **Cybersecurity Focus.** Experts from the Cyber Command, the Internal Security Agency, the Ministry of Digital Affairs, and other institutions led a debate on safeguarding asset declaration data. They emphasized advanced encryption, secure authentication, and interoperability with existing state databases.
- **International Experiences.** Delegates from Romania, Estonia, Moldova, Hungary, and Ukraine shared practical lessons on automating declaration processes. They pointed to the necessity of ongoing oversight, user-friendly digital forms, and thorough data cross-checking to deter corruption effectively.

Closing the conference, CBA Head Agnieszka Kwiatkowska-Gurdak thanked participants and stressed that consolidating and digitizing the asset declaration system is critical to building public trust and enhancing anti-corruption efforts. She expressed confidence that the knowledge exchanged and the connections forged over the two days will drive the implementation of a streamlined, reliable, and secure approach to asset declarations—one that meets modern standards and bolsters integrity in public life.

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## DUTCH WHISTLEBLOWERS AUTHORITY, THE NETHERLANDS



HUIS VOOR  
KLOKKENLUIDERS

### BROCHURE INTERNAL REPORTING GUIDE PUBLISHED BY DUTCH WHISTLEBLOWERS AUTHORITY

**To help organisations set up and conduct good internal investigations, the Dutch Whistleblowers Authority publishes the amended Internal Reporting Guide. This version has been adapted to the Dutch Whistleblowers Protection Act (Wbk) and can be used for investigations into all reports of integrity violations, including suspicions of social abuses (whistleblowing reports).**

The brochure describes what is needed to organise an internal investigation and how the organisation can prepare for that investigation. Attention is paid to the assessment of a report, the investigation itself and its completion. In addition the brochure underlines the importance of an investigation protocol to vouchsafe that investigations are conducted in a consistent and uniform manner. Finally, attention is paid to any steps that may follow, such as informing the reporter and those involved, employment law or preventive measures, aftercare and handling of data.

The aspect of communication is also a topic of interest. Not only with the reporter, but with everyone involved in the investigation, other employees and any stakeholders of the organisation. The brochure contains obligations under the Working Conditions Act and Wbk, as well as practical tips.



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**Additional Information:** [Brochure Integrity in Practice - Internal Investigation](#) | [Brochure Huisvoorklokkenluiders](#)

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## ANIMATION VIDEO HOW DO YOU ENSURE A GOOD REPORTING PROCEDURE? CREATED BY DUTCH WHISTLEBLOWERS AUTHORITY

It is important that employees who suspect wrongdoing at work are able to report safely within their organisation. After all, reports protect the organisation and society from harm and danger. That is why reporting persons deserve protection. This is not only a legal requirement, but also a matter of good management

The two-minute animation video describes four steps employers can take to set up a good reporting procedure in their organisation. It underlines the importance of employees being able to report safely within their organisation.

This animation was inspired by: Kenny, K., Vandekerckhove, W., & Fotaki, M. (2019) The Whistleblowing Guide: Speak-up Arrangements, Challenges and Best Practices. Wiley: Chichester.

**Contact:** Kristien Verbraeken, senior integrity advisor, [kristien.verbraeken@huisvoorklokkenluiders.nl](mailto:kristien.verbraeken@huisvoorklokkenluiders.nl)

**Additional Information:** [How do you ensure a good reporting procedure?](#) | [Video](#) | [Huisvoorklokkenluiders](#)

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## NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION CENTER (NAC), REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



### ANTI-CORRUPTION CAFE – AN EVENT TO PROMOTE A CULTURE OF INTEGRITY, DEDICATED TO YOUTH IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The National Anticorruption Centre (NAC), in collaboration with USAID Moldova, organized a special edition of the Anti-corruption Cafe to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day.

The event was held within the framework of the Justice Reform and Anti-Corruption Project, providing an open space for youth to discuss strengthening integrity and transparency in the Republic of Moldova.

The event brought together representatives of the NAC and USAID Moldova leadership, who held open and constructive discussions with NAC anti-corruption volunteers, as well as students from the Moldova State University (USM) and the Free International University of Moldova (ULIM). Key topics discussed included: anti-corruption education and the importance of citizen involvement in preventing corruption; projects and initiatives

carried out by the NAC with the support of international partners and exploring ways to strengthen anti-corruption mechanisms.

The Cafe analysed the latest initiatives in preventing and combating corruption, as well as the crucial role of collaboration between public institutions, international partners and civil society.

These interactions aimed to exchange ideas, share experiences and strengthen a common understanding of the importance of involving young people in promoting integrity and preventing corruption. The dialogues were marked by the enthusiasm of the participants and their commitment to ethical and civic values, highlighting the active role of young people in building a fairer society.

**Additional Information:** <https://cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=5853&t=/Mass-Media/Events/NAC-and-USAID-Moldova-Organize-a-Special-Edition-of-the-Anti-corruption-Cafe-an-Event-to-Promote-a-Culture-of-Integrity-Dedicated-to-Youth-in-the-Republic-of-Moldova>

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## A COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION CENTRE AND THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE WAS SIGNED

**A Cooperation Agreement was concluded between the National Anticorruption Centre (NAC) of the Republic of Moldova and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).**

The document was signed by the Director of the NAC, Alexandr Pînzari, and the Chief Prosecutor of the EPPO, Laura Codruța Kovesi. The working agreement will allow the EPPO and the NAC to exchange information, expertise and resources to contribute more effectively to the investigation and prosecution of cross-border crimes.

According to the Agreement, the joint actions of these institutions will focus on cases related to corruption and fraud concerning EU funds, as well as on the recovery of criminal assets, creating a legal framework for the secure and efficient exchange of information, data and evidence. This will greatly contribute to the identification of complex criminal networks operating in the Republic of Moldova and in EU Member States.

The parties will also strengthen their capacities through the exchange of expertise, with the EPPO being the institution that will provide technical assistance, training and best practices to the NAC to strengthen the institutional capacity to investigate corruption cases. The agreement ensures that resources from EU financial assistance and development funds are used in a transparent and efficient manner and represents a step forward towards further alignment with EU requirements in the field of governance, rule of law and anti-corruption policy.

**Additional Information:**

<https://cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=5824&t=/Mass-Media/Events/Cooperation-Agreement-between-the-NAC-and-the-European-Public-Prosecutors-Office-signed-in-Bucharest-by-the-Director-of-the-NAC-Alexandr-Pinzari-and-Laura-Codruta-Kovesi-Chief-Prosecutor-of-the-EPPO>

## THE NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION CENTRE HAS LAUNCHED THE NATIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM "REGISTRY OF SEIZED AND CONFISCATED ASSETS"

**The National Information System "Registry of Seized and Confiscated Assets" - a centralized database that will generate relevant statistical data for institutions involved in the recovery process, has been launched by the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency (CARA) of the National Anticorruption Centre.**

The software represents an innovative way of tracking and managing assets confiscated or sequestered in criminal proceedings, facilitating quick and efficient access to essential information for the competent authorities.

The new platform will ensure secure and easy access to state information systems through the MConect interoperability platform, the generation of statistical data and reports, and the NAC's CARA, prosecutors, bailiffs, the State Tax Service and the courts have been established as data providers for this system.

By integrating data and providing an IT tool to monitor them, the registry will provide:

- More transparency in the process of recovering frozen assets, which will strengthen trust in state institutions and the justice process;
- A centralized record that will generate relevant statistical data and serve as support for institutions involved in the recovery process;
- More efficient cooperation between state authorities, the private sector and international institutions;
- Achieving high standards of data security;
- Faster interoperability with national public registries, as well as
- Ensuring EU standards on the record of seized and confiscated criminal assets provided for by the recent EU Directive No. 1260 of 2024.

It is important to emphasize that this project not only improves the management of frozen assets, but also facilitates closer collaboration between justice and financial institutions, both nationally and internationally. Through this register, the National Anti-corruption Centre, through the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency (CARA), reaffirms its commitment to supporting the recovery of assets obtained through criminal activities, ensuring that criminals cannot benefit from their illegal activities.

**Additional Information:** <https://cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=5851&t=/Mass-Media/Events/NAC-has-launched-the-National-Information-System-Registry-of-Seized-and-Confiscated-Assets-a-centralized-database-that-will-generate-relevant-statistical-data-for-institutions-involved-in-the-recovery-process>





## HIGH AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC LIFE, FRANCE



High Authority  
for transparency  
in public life

**The French High Authority for Transparency in Public Life (HATVP) has experienced intense international activity in recent months with the annual conference of the European Network for Public Ethics (ENPE) in Rome, the participation to the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual conference of the European Partners Against Corruption network (EPAC) in Bucharest, and the strengthening of cooperation with the High Authority for Good Governance of the Ivory Coast**

On 10-11 October 2024, the European Network for Public Ethics (ENPE) held its annual conference in Rome. The members of the Network adopted the [Rome Declaration](#), which supports preventive measures within the [directive on combating corruption](#). The Declaration also calls for the definition of common standards within the European Union to facilitate the exchange good practices, strengthen national anti-corruption bodies and ensure their effective independence and their capacity to act. At the end of the plenary meeting, the High Authority handed over the presidency of the Network to the National Anti-Corruption Authority of Italy (ANAC), for the next two years. The High Authority will manage the secretariat of the Network.

On 15 October 2024, the High Authority strengthened its cooperation with the High Authority for Good Governance (HABG) of the Ivory Coast for a full-day study visit to the premises of the High Authority, punctuated by presentations of all its missions, activities and control mechanisms.

On 26 and 27 November 2024, The High Authority took part in the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual conference of the European Partners Against Corruption network (EPAC) in Bucharest, which brought together nearly 200 participants to discuss the theme “Together for Integrity”. The High Authority took part in a panel discussion on the use of digital tools to guarantee integrity in the public service, presenting the online declaration system set up in France and the use of direct access to tax administration databases.

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

## ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU OF GEORGIA



### GEORGIA HOSTS UNCAC COUNTRY VISIT

**In November 2024, Georgia welcomed a UNCAC country visit, showcasing progress in anti-corruption efforts**



From November 5 to 7, 2024, a country visit took place in Tbilisi as part of the second cycle of the implementation review of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The Bureau commenced preparations for this significant event several months in advance, undertaking a comprehensive approach to ensure Georgia's readiness. This included direct and individualized communication with all 31 relevant state institutions to update the self-assessment report initially submitted by Georgia in 2020.



In October, as part of the preparatory process, a high-level meeting was convened with the participation of all interested stakeholders. The objective of this meeting was strengthen Georgia's ability to effectively present its progress and implementation efforts during the review.



The country visit is a fundamental component of the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) and plays a crucial role in assessing compliance with the Convention's requirements. The visit provided an opportunity for dialogue and exchange of best practices between national and international stakeholders, thereby contributing to the broader goals of transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption efforts.



The meetings held during the visit were attended by representatives of the UNODC Secretariat, delegations from the Republic of North Macedonia and Malaysia (acting as reviewing states), and representatives from Georgia's state institutions (31 in total). Additionally, representatives from non-governmental organizations and the academic community actively participated, demonstrating the inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach adopted by Georgia in the fight against corruption.

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### UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

#### 11TH UNCAC COSP

**The State of Qatar will host the meetings of the 11th session of the Conference of the States Parties (COSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, scheduled for 2025.**



Participants in the 10th session of the COSP to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which concluded its work in Atlanta, the United States of America, chose the State of Qatar to host the next edition of the conference, as Qatar submitted an official request to host it, in light of its keenness to permanently contribute to supporting international efforts to prevent corruption, combat it, and enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, also known as CoSP, is the main decision-making body of the Convention. It supports parties and signatories in their implementation of the Convention and provides policy guidance to UNODC to develop and implement anti-corruption activities.

**Additional information:** <https://www.unodc.org/corruption/en/cosp/conference-of-the-states-parties.html>

#### UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is the world's largest and most diverse gathering of policy-makers, practitioners, academia, intergovernmental organizations and civil society in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The Congresses have been held every five years since 1955 in different parts of the world, dealing with a vast array of topics. They have made considerable impact in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and influenced national and international policies and professional practices.

## 15<sup>th</sup> Crime Congress Agenda

### OVERALL THEME

Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law:  
Protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for  
Sustainable Development in the digital age

### AGENDA ITEM 1

Advancing innovative and evidence-based crime prevention strategies towards social, economic and environmental development

### AGENDA ITEM 2

Promoting people-centered, inclusive and responsive criminal justice systems in a world of continuous change

### AGENDA ITEM 3

Addressing and countering crime - including organized crime and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations - in new, emerging and evolving forms

### AGENDA ITEM 4

Working better together to elevate cooperation and partnerships, including technical and material assistance and training, - at the national, regional and international levels - in crime prevention and criminal justice

### WORKSHOP 1

Building resilient societies, with a focus on protecting women, children and youth – fostering engagement, education and the culture of lawfulness

### WORKSHOP 2

Ensuring equal access to justice for all - towards safe and secure societies while respecting the rule of law

### WORKSHOP 3

Getting ahead – strengthening data collection and analysis to better protect people and planet in times of new, emerging and evolving forms of crime

### WORKSHOP 4

Turning the digital age into an opportunity: promoting the responsible use of technologies in crime prevention and criminal justice

The Fifteenth Crime Congress will be held from 25 to 30 April 2026 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates under the overall theme “Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age”, in line with the General Assembly resolution [78/223](#).

**Additional information:** <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crimecongress/about.html>



## INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE



### HOST OF THE 2026 INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE (IACC)

The 22nd edition of the International Anti-Corruption Conference (#IACC2026), the world's largest independent global forum on fighting corruption, will take place in the Dominican Republic in 2026.



Since the first IACC in 1983, it has brought together policymakers, business leaders, civil society organisations, young people, activists and journalists from over 140 countries to highlight the global impact of corruption and how we can work together to fight it. During the most recent IACC in June 2024, co-hosted by the Lithuanian government in Vilnius, over 2000 people from all walks of life addressed key issues from climate crimes, lack of trust in public governance, and the spread of populist regimes and democratic backsliding.

IACC encourage interested participants – including heads of state, policymakers, business leaders, civil society organisations and journalists – to reach out to the IACC team to learn how you can engage with the next conference, from developing the agenda to designing workshops



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