

NEWSLETTER 02 25



Dear EPAC/EACN members, colleagues, and friends,

Thank you for the valuable contributions you have shared for this edition of the newsletter. The EPAC/EACN Secretariat is pleased to present the second issue of 2025, highlighting insights from our network members as well as updates from International Organizations.

We would also like to inform you that our newsletter has been moved to a new, more user-friendly domain. This update makes it easier to subscribe, unsubscribe, and stay up to date with our latest news.

As always, we warmly encourage you to share information about your recent or upcoming activities—events, conferences, seminars, training initiatives, studies, project results, and more—for inclusion in future issues. Your continued engagement strengthens our community and supports the exchange of knowledge.

Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat



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www.youtube.com/@epaceacn

EPAC/EACN SECRETARIAT NEWS

EPAC/EACN BOARD NEWS

Updates from the 2nd, 3rd & 4th EPAC/EACN Board Meetings

In 2025, the Board continued preparations for the 24th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly, finalising logistics, shaping the agenda, and closing registration early due to exceptionally high interest. The Board also reviewed priorities for the 2026–2027 mandate, confirmed most members' readiness to stand for re-election. Progress on the 2024–2025 Work Programme remains strong, including ongoing project activities and planned webinars. New proposals to host the 2026 Conference are being positively considered, pending formal confirmation. Further discussions also addressed 24th Conference participation rules, website modernisation, and increased engagement with EU partners.

EPAC/EACN Survey 2024–2025 Results

In May 2025, EPAC/EACN Secretariat conducted a network-wide survey to better understand the needs and expectations of its members and observers. The survey was designed to collect feedback on four key areas: expectations from the network, training priorities, preferred formats for activities, and communication practices.

- 38 institutions from 24 countries provided contact details expressing interest in contributing trainers, case studies, or hosting training events.
- There is considerable readiness within EPAC/EACN to contribute expertise and host events.
- EPAC/EACN valued for networking and knowledge exchange;
- Members want innovation (AI, digital tools) and practical lessons;
- Network seen as knowledge-sharing hub and supporter of institution-building.

24th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference & General Assembly 2025

The EPAC/EACN community will gather on **24–25 November 2025 in The Hague** for one of the most significant annual events in the European anti-corruption and police-oversight landscape. This year's conference brings together an exceptional group of high-level speakers, practitioners, and leading international institutions.

The Conference agenda features contributions from some of the most influential bodies working in integrity, rule of law, and criminal justice, including:

- **GRECO** – David Meyer, President
- **European Commission (DG JUST)** – Monika Mosshammer, Deputy Head of Unit
- **Europol** – Jean-Philippe Lecouffe, Deputy Executive Director
- **European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)** – José António Lopes Ranito, European Prosecutor
- **OLAF** – Salla Saastamoinen, Acting Director-General
- **Eurojust** – Michael Schmid, President, and several National Members
- **IACCC** – Desirée van der Hoorn, Project Manager
- Senior representatives from **Romania's DNA, France's OCLCIFE, Portugal's IGAI, NACP Ukraine, NABU, Moldova's NAC, Iceland, Czech Republic, Spain, Azerbaijan**, and many others.

Parallel sessions will explore law enforcement integrity, measuring corruption, public procurement risks, anti-corruption education, AI and technology in investigations, and resilience in post-conflict contexts, with speakers such as Hugh Hume (PONI), Lucile Rolland (IGPN), Mihăiță Bârlici (DGA), Ernst Schmid (BAK), and experts from the International Criminal Court, Europol, and the Dutch Whistleblowers Authority.

All key details — agenda, travel and accommodation guidance, and practical instructions — are continuously updated on the official conference webpage:

<https://epac-eacn.org/conference/>

Participants are encouraged to check the webpage regularly for updates, logistical notes, and the final programme.

We look forward to welcoming all members, observers, and partners to The Hague for two days of expert insight, cooperation, and exchange — strengthening our collective efforts to advance integrity across Europe.

EPAC/EACN COMMUNITY NEWS



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

The Inspection of Personnel and Security Services strengthens its role in Citizen Services with Instruction 5/2025

The Secretariat of State for Security has issued Instruction No. 5/2025, which updates the procedure for handling citizen complaints, suggestions, and commendations addressed to the National Police and the Civil Guard. This new regulation consolidates the role of the Inspection of Personnel and Security Services (IPSS) as the central body for oversight, control, and assurance in managing these communications.

The IPSS assumes full coordination of the system through the Complaints, Suggestions, and Commendations Application (AQSF), a tool that enables structured, secure, and traceable registration, analysis, and exploitation of information. This function is key to identifying areas for improvement, promoting best practices, and ensuring a rigorous and respectful institutional response.

Additionally, the IPSS prepares quarterly and annual reports that allow for system performance evaluation, trend identification, corrective measure proposals, and enhancement of public service quality. Its work directly contributes to strengthening transparency, accountability, and public trust in law enforcement agencies.

The instruction also establishes the obligation to issue a formal and respectful response to the citizen, concluding the procedure with clarity and rigor. Through this measure, the Ministry of the Interior reinforces its commitment to a more open, responsible, and people-centered public security, aligned with the principles of the Second National Human Rights Plan.

Contact: Esther Fernandez, EPAC/EACN PoC, efernadezc@interior.es



National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP), Ukraine

Presentation of the documentary film "After the Age of Silence"

The premiere will take place on September, 29 with the participation of representatives of anti-corruption agencies, other government agencies, international partners, members of the public and the media.

The film tells the story of the creation and development of anti-corruption infrastructure in Ukraine, emphasizing the key role of civil society in defending democratic values and combating corruption.

The plot reveals how, after the Revolution of Dignity, public demand for change became the driving force behind decisions that ended the “era of silence” that allowed corruption to

flourish with impunity. Ukraine was able to create new anti-corruption authorities and achieve real results.

The film culminates with a story about the mass protests that erupted in the summer of 2025 in response to a bill that threatened the independence of anti-corruption bodies. These events showed that Ukrainian civil society is ready to continue fighting for transparency and justice, defending the country's European choice.

Contact: Natalia Kostynchuk, Head of the International Legal Obligations, Bilateral Cooperation and Experience Exchange Unit International Cooperation Department National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP/Ukraine), n.kostynchuk@nazk.gov.ua

Additional Information: <https://euaci.eu/en/news-and-events/hromadske-prezentuie-dokumentalnyy-film-pislia-ery-movchannia-stvorenyy-za-pidtrymky-euaci/>



High Authority for Transparency in Public Life, France

The French High Authority for Transparency in Public Life (HATVP) has experienced intense activity these recent months

On May 27, the members of the European Network for Public Ethics met via visioconference and adopted a common document on good practices in public ethics. This document was forwarded to the European Union institutions to contribute to the negotiations on the anti-corruption directive.

On June 25-26, the High Authority took part in the Regional workshop on public sector integrity organised by the Regional school of public administration (RESPA) in Budva, Montenegro. The HATVP, together with the French anticorruption agency and the General Directorate for administration and public function, presented the public sector integrity training - concepts, implementation and best practices - in force in France.

On August 1st, the decree applying the French law on foreign interferences entered into force. Under this legal framework, the HATVP will monitor interest representatives acting on behalf of foreign countries, and will supervise the digital register created for this purpose, which will open on 1 October 2025.

Contact: Jeanne Ollivier, Head of European and International affairs, jeanne.ollivier@hatvp.fr

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



National Protective Service, Hungary

Integrity Advisors' Day – Support and Knowledge Sharing Forum

The Corruption Prevention Department of the National Protective Service of Hungary organizes an annual professional forum for integrity advisors every year. The aim of the event was to provide up-to-date professional support to integrity advisors who play a key role in preserving and improving the integrity of public institutions.

A significant number of experts from the network of integrity advisors of state administrative bodies, comprising of 121 people, were present at the professional forum, which shows that the professional community is a committed and active participant in corruption prevention activities.

The topics of the programme were designed to provide participants with the most up-to-date and relevant information. The latest developments in the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy were presented in detail, and the domestic aspects of international anti-corruption actions were also reviewed. The workshop presented a summary analysis of the 2024 Integrity Reports and provided participants with insights into good practices in preparing the younger generation for careers in law enforcement. We also paid special attention to how the integrity approach can be applied to support the functioning of school communities.

It is extremely important for our organisation that communication with the integrity advisors was not only regular but also professionally inspiring. This event has served this purpose and preparations have already started for the next meeting, the programme of which will be drawn up with the involvement of the advisors concerned, in order to meet their professional needs as closely as possible, further strengthening the community and the effectiveness of the Integrity Advisory Network in the country.



NVSZ – BAK bilateral meeting in Vienna

The direct information-exchange and experience-sharing between partner authorities in different countries contributes greatly to the effective functioning of the (corruption) prevention field. International cooperation and networking is an important tool to build trust not only between the partner authorities but also between the staff working in the field. The exchange of experience helps to share best practices and to learn new good practices, which is beneficial for the work of our field.

In recent years, we have strengthened our professional relations with our Austrian counterpart. As part of our bilateral cooperation, we paid a professional visit to the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) of the Austrian Ministry of the Interior in spring, 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange experiences and learn/share best practices in specific professional areas.

Bilateral cooperation between the two organisations dates back to 2016, and the parties have met on several occasions to share expertise on professional issues in order to fight corruption effectively. This year's bilateral meeting was preceded by several months of preparation, which focused on three main topics: the process of creating a national anti-corruption strategy and the related evaluation systems, the role of education in raising awareness (target group-compatible information dissemination), and the creation of an Integrity Café forum at international level, based on the Hungarian Police Café methodology. The topics raised a number of questions between the parties, to which substantive and relevant answers were given, with forward-looking ideas and proposals. The Austrian partner presented in detail its multiplier training system and its process. It was a very substantive and professional dialogue, which encouraged further reflection. Many ideas and proposals have been exchanged, and by learning best practice on the spot, we can add new innovative elements to our professional trainings.

The exchange of experience has allowed a joint analysis of trends, which will help to develop prevention measures more effectively. Bilateral cooperation – which is one of the most effective means of international cooperation - has provided opportunities for professional development, sharing best practices and gaining a deeper understanding of educational programmes. The Austrian side also assessed the programme as providing scope for lively dialogue and intensive exchange of best practices. Representatives of both the NVSZ and the BAK stressed the positive outcome of the meeting. The exchange of experiences laid the

foundations for further joint projects in the field of preventing corruption and promoting integrity, and strengthened bilateral cooperation in a long term.



Additional Information: The success of the bilateral meeting was also reflected in the fact that both parties issued and published on their websites an official statement on the successful implementation of the programme.

<https://bak.gv.at/news.aspx?id=7063764E6A444A6F3654673D>,

<https://korruptciomegelozes.kormany.hu/>

<https://corruptionprevention.gov.hu/integrity-advisors-day-support-and-knowledge-sharing>



International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), Austria

News from International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)

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

Applications are open for various IACA's academic programmes, in particular: the Master in Anti-Corruption Studies; the International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action; and the Master in Anti-Corruption Studies and Compliance (in Spanish).

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

The Executive Diploma on Anti-Corruption and Diplomacy - developed jointly with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) – is to be implemented from 29 September 2025 to 8 March 2026.

The Regional Summer Academy for GCC States is to be implemented in Doha, Qatar from 9 to 12 November 2025. This is an intensive, interdisciplinary programme that addresses trends and practices on the regional and global anti-corruption agenda and promotes a culture of the reflective practitioner.

The 2nd edition of the IACA Annual Conference on Global Trends and Challenges in Preventing and Combating Corruption is scheduled to take place on 13 November 2025.

The Academy is launching the fourth cohort of the Anti-Corruption Collective Action Certificate in April 2026. Students from around the globe will combine intense learning activities with the practical implementation of collective action projects. Application will open in November 2025.

The Second Global Conference on Harnessing Data to Improve Corruption Measurement, co-organized by UNDP, UNODC and IACA, will take place at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 2 to 4 December 2025. Registration is open at the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1019059/>

The 15th IACA Summer Academy is scheduled to take place from 8 to 12 June 2026 at IACA campus. Various online, instructor-led and self-paced courses are open, covering diverse topics including whistleblower protection techniques, anti-corruption compliance, corporate investigation, ethics and integrity management and technology in anti-corruption.

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



Contact: IACA Secretariat, mail@iaca.int

Additional Information: <https://www.iaca.int>
<https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes.html>, <https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/open-trainings/summer-academy.html>
<https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/online-trainings/instructor-led.html>,

<https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/online-trainings/self-paced.html>,
<https://collective-action.iaca.int/>
<https://www.iaca.int/measuring-corruption/>
<https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/open-trainings/executive-diploma-in-anticorruption-and-diplomacy.html>
<https://www.iaca.int/resources/publications/research-publications>



National Anti-corruption Centre of the Republic of Moldova

Combating electoral corruption

NAC announces 130 searches nationwide and 15 people detained in a case of illegal financing of political parties, electoral corruption and money laundering.

During last two weeks The National Anti-corruption Centre (NAC), the prosecutors of the municipality of Balti and Chisinau Prosecutor's Office have informed about the carrying out of approximately 130 searches throughout the territory of the Republic of Moldova and the detention for 72 hours of 15 people, as part of a large operation targeting alleged acts of illegal financing of political parties, money laundering and electoral corruption in aggravating circumstances. The investigations are being conducted against a group of individuals affiliated with a political party, including decision-makers, members and supporters, who allegedly implemented a criminal plan in the run-up to the parliamentary elections scheduled for September 28, 2025.

According to the evidence, the suspects were allegedly involved in recruiting voters and promising them money, goods, services or other benefits in exchange for supporting a particular political party and exercising their right to vote in a certain way. During the criminal investigation, the NAC officers documented several suspicious financial transactions between the group members, including transfers of funds in various currencies, equivalent to approximately 28,500,000 lei, as well as the use of virtual currencies (in the amount of 185,000 USDT) to disguise the illicit origin of the money.

Following the searches, investigators recovered significant amounts of money in various currencies, materials with electoral content, informstorage devices, draft documents and other relevant evidence regarding the recruitment and influence of voters.

Anti-corruption Café

NAC organized a new edition of the “Anti-corruption Café” that brought together representatives of public institutions, international partners and young people

concerned with the integrity values.

The National Anti-corruption Centre (NAC) in partnership with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) held the first edition of this autumn of the “Anti-corruption Café”, an interactive space for discussions dedicated to promoting integrity and civic responsibility. The event brought together representatives of public institutions, international partners, anti-corruption volunteers, as well as young people concerned with ethical values and the development of a society based on transparency and fairness.

During the discussions, the participants addressed topics related to: the role of the Ministry of Education and Research in promoting integrity policies in the educational system, the importance of the active involvement of the teaching staff and parents in preventing acts of corruption, as well as successful experiences recorded at the local level.

This edition of the “Anti-corruption Café” is part of a broader program of activities initiated and implemented by the National Anti-corruption Centre, which have as their main objective the strengthening of anti-corruption education, raising awareness among citizens and stimulating the active involvement of communities in the fight for a society based on honesty, fairness and responsibility. Through such initiatives, the NAC aims to mobilize both public institutions, civil society and young people, to jointly contribute to the development of a healthy and sustainable social climate, based on democratic principles and respect for the law.

The event was made possible thanks to the support provided by OSCE, a strategic partner of the National Anti-corruption Centre in promoting the values of integrity and transparency.

Contact: Daniela GUIDEA, inspector of the International Cooperation Directorate, E-mail: daniela.guidea@cna.md

Additional Information: <https://cna.md/en/press-releases/nac-announces-60-searches-nationwide-and-15-people-detained-case-illegal-financing>,
<https://cna.md/en/press-releases/nac-and-balti-municipal-prosecutors-office-conduct-over-70-searches-across-country>
<https://cna.md/en/press-releases/nac-organized-new-edition-anti-corruption-cafe-brought-together-representativescosturi--impact.html>



Commission for Illegal Assets Forfeiture (CIAF), Bulgaria

Bulgarian Commission for Illegal Assets Forfeiture Strengthens International Partnerships

The Bulgarian Commission for Illegal Assets Forfeiture deepens international cooperation through new agreements with Kazakhstan and Ukraine, focusing on asset recovery, best practices, and the management of seized property.

The Bulgarian Commission for Illegal Assets Forfeiture (CIAF) signed an Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation with the Asset Recovery Committee of The General Prosecutor's Office of The Republic of Kazakhstan and also with the Asset Recovery and Management Agency of Ukraine (ARMA).

The agreements are a result of the consistent efforts of the CIAF to develop and deepen the partnership with related authorities and of the shared understanding that in today's dynamics, the effective implementation of the assigned powers implies sharing of experience, good practices and interaction on bilateral basis.

During both ceremonies, the institutions presented the main areas of their activities and competences, the mechanisms of work, as well as the accumulated experience and achievements in the field of tracking, seizure and forfeiture of illegally acquired property as well as the management of seized assets.

Contact: "International Cooperation" Unit, Email: icu@ciaf.bg

Additional Information: <https://ciaf.bg/bg>



Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Montenegro

Implementing institutional Psychological Support for Whistleblowers in Montenegro

The Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) and the Clinical Center of Montenegro signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to ensure systemic psychological support for whistleblowers, strengthening protection mechanisms in line with European standards.

The Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) signed in July this year a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Clinical Center of Montenegro laying the foundation for stronger and more systematic support of whistleblowers. The agreement focuses on providing professional psychological assistance to individuals who report suspicions of corruption.

The Memorandum was signed by Acting Director of APC, Dušan Drakić, and Director of the Clinical Center Dr. Aleksandar Radović. Through joint action, the two institutions aim to strengthen support mechanisms for whistleblowers, in line with the Law on the Prevention

of Corruption and European standards. The key goal is to ensure effective, comprehensive, and timely psychological support, particularly when whistleblowers initiate court proceedings and face pressures.

The Memorandum provides for cooperation in the fields of psychological assistance and counseling, professional training, research and educational campaigns, as well as contributions to the development of the normative framework for whistleblower protection.

Also, the Memorandum highlights the crucial role of whistleblowers in safeguarding integrity and combating corruption, while underlining the responsibility of institutions to provide them with professional and timely support. By joining efforts, Agency and Clinical Centre are building a systemic approach that encourages reporting of irregularities and guarantees effective support for those who come forward.



Additional Information:

<https://www.antikorupcija.me/me/zvzdaci/novosti/2507221131-ask-kccg-potpisali-sporazum-saradnji-psiholoska-podrska-zvzdacima-postaje-institucionalna/>



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

Strengthening Anti-Corruption Efforts through EU Twinning Project

The EU-funded Twinning project, led by Italy and Lithuania, aims to strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption (APIK), reinforcing its role in coordinating anti-corruption efforts across the country.

On 15 April 2024, the EU Twinning project “Strengthening the Capacity of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption (APIK)” was officially launched under the IPA 2020 programme.

The project is implemented by an Italian–Lithuanian consortium, led by Italy’s National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC), in partnership with Lithuania’s Special Investigation Service (STT). The project is funded by the European Union and is expected to run for 24 months.

The main goal is to enhance the institutional development and management capacity of APIK and support its positioning as the lead coordinating body for prevention of corruption in BiH. The project offers comprehensive technical assistance, including expert analyses, training, good practice exchanges, and study visits.

As the beneficiary, APIK expressed its readiness to ensure fruitful cooperation with the Twinning project and all relevant stakeholders in the field of anti-corruption.

The Twinning project is designed as a peer learning platform that fosters the exchange of knowledge, experience, and best practices among EU member states and the beneficiary country.

Bosnia and Herzegovina Adopted New Anti-Corruption Strategy (2024–2028) Through Inclusive Process

BiH adopted a comprehensive Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan for 2024–2028 through a participatory approach involving all levels of government, civil society, and international partners, aligned with EU priorities.

In June 2024, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted a new Anti-Corruption Strategy and corresponding Action Plan for the period 2024–2028. The strategic documents were developed through a participatory and inclusive process involving over 40 institutions from all levels of government, civil society, and international partners. This approach reflects GRECO recommendations and EU standards, and aims to ensure transparency, ownership, and effective implementation.

Led by the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption (APIK), the working group applied a bottom-up methodology, starting with a regional conference on best practices, followed by extensive consultations, SWOT analysis, and public e-consultations.

The Strategy is structured around three strategic pillars—prevention, prosecution, and cooperation—and is operationalised through 75 specific, measurable and result-oriented activities, organized into 13 strategic programmes. These cover areas such as capacity building, conflict of interest management, ethics in the private sector, financial integrity, anti-corruption education, digitalisation of anticorruption and strengthened cooperation between law enforcement bodies.

Bearing in mind that one year has passed since the adoption of the Strategy and Action Plan, APIK is currently preparing the first monitoring report, aimed at evaluating progress,

identifying challenges, and providing evidence-based recommendations to improve future implementation.

This comprehensive framework not only reflects EU accession priorities but also lays the foundation for a systemic and long-term response to corruption. APIK, as the key coordinating institution, has already initiated implementation of several systemic measures across government levels, positioning the Strategy as a cornerstone for building integrity and rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Contact: Damirka Mioč, Deputy Director, damirka.mioc@apik.ba

Additional Information: Anti-Corruption Strategy and corresponding Action Plan for the period 2024–2028 available in English: <https://www.apik.ba/zakoni-i-drugi-akti/strategije/default.aspx?id=3235&langTag=en-US>
<https://www.apik.ba>



Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania, Lithuania

Lithuania appointed as the first country Chair of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network (ACN)

At the annual meeting held in Paris, Lithuania officially assumed the role of the newly designated country Chair of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN) under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). During the 30th meeting of the ACN Steering Group, Lithuania took up its role of newly designated country Chair, with Egidijus Radzevičius, Deputy Director of the Special Investigation Service of Lithuania (STT), representing the country.

“Chairing the ACN is not only a significant recognition for Lithuania and the STT, but also a responsibility—to contribute to a more effective fight against corruption in the region. Our goal is to strengthen the region’s overall resilience to corruption and foster an environment in which citizens can trust public institutions. To this end, we will share best practices, promote cooperation, and support countries committed to the path of transparency,” said Mr Radzevičius, the newly appointed Chair of the OECD ACN.

The new position will reinforce the ACN's current leadership and support the further development of its activities. The Chair's role is expected to include:

- shaping the strategic direction of the ACN and supporting its Secretariat;
- promoting member engagement and mobilizing resources;
- coordinating the activities of the Network;
- representing the ACN in international and regional forums.

Lithuania's nomination as country Chair was based on its long-standing valuable experience within the OECD Working Group on Bribery, Mr Radzevičius' active participation in previous ACN Steering Group meetings, and significant contributions to ACN initiatives.

This appointment not only strengthens the STT's position as a reliable and active international partner, but also contributes to shaping more effective anti-corruption policies across the region.

The ACN is a regional initiative of the OECD Working Group on Bribery. Established in 1998, the Network currently supports 24 member countries in enhancing their anti-corruption efforts and prevention measures. It operates through the implementation of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan (IAP), the Law Enforcement Network (LEN) for anti-corruption investigators and prosecutors, the Business Integrity Group, as well as tailored country-specific projects.



STT calls on Lithuanian diplomats to become strategic partners against corruption

The Special Investigation Service (STT) participated in the Annual Meeting of the Heads of the Diplomatic Missions, Representations to International Organizations, and Consular Institutions of the Republic of Lithuania. During the meeting, STT reviewed last year's achievements and outlined future objectives. The institution emphasized the vital role of diplomats in strengthening both Lithuania's national and international anti-corruption reputation, as well as the importance of timely information exchange to identify potential corruption risks.

In recent years, Lithuania's anti-corruption environment has shown positive trends in international assessments. A country's success in combating corruption impacts its GDP, ability to attract foreign direct investment, and overall trust in public institutions. STT Director Linas Parnavas, who took part in the meeting, highlighted that diplomats are key representatives of the state, shaping Lithuania's image on the international stage. Therefore, their role in publicizing the country's progress in the fight against corruption is particularly significant.

During the meeting, the STT Director stressed the importance of identifying and appropriately responding to signs of potentially non-transparent or corrupt agreements between Lithuanian and foreign representatives. He pointed out that diplomatic staff are often the first to notice such incidents, making their vigilance and information sharing with STT especially valuable.

A concrete example was presented during the session – a recent international corruption case investigated by STT in the energy sector that was referred to court. This highlighted that international corruption is not only a problem for other continents or less transparent countries – it poses a real risk for Lithuania as well.

“The main message to diplomats from STT is: let's talk. We invite diplomats to be our partners in uncovering potential cases of international corruption, reporting any possibly non-transparent actions carried out abroad by Lithuanian citizens or businesses. Your partnership is essential to ensure that corruption risks do not remain hidden across national borders,” – stated STT Director Linas Parnavas during the meeting.

According to data from the United Nations and the World Bank, corruption causes global losses of around USD 2.6 trillion annually, of which USD 1 trillion is paid in bribes. Ultimately, businesses also bear the cost – corruption accounts for up to 10% of total global business expenses. In this context, the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions is especially relevant in mitigating such risks. One of Lithuania's commitments is to ensure that Lithuanian businesses operate honestly and transparently when conducting business abroad.

STT can be informed about known corruption cases in various ways: by email at pranesk@stt.lt, via the website www.stt.lt, by post, in person at the nearest STT office, or by calling the “Report to STT” line at (8 5) 266 3333.



Additional Information: <https://stt.lt/en/corruption-investigation/foreign-bribery/7695>



Anti-Corruption National Mechanism (MENAC), Portugal

Portuguese MENAC (Anti-Corruption National Mechanism) has a new Board of Directors

The Portuguese Anti-Corruption National Mechanism (MENAC), member of EACN, appointed a new Board of Directors on 14 August. The new leadership reaffirms MENAC's commitment to EPAC/EACN activities and will join the 24th Annual Conference and General Assembly in The Hague

MENAC (Anti-Corruption National Mechanism), portuguese anti-corruption authority, still EACN member has from August 14th a new Board of Directors:

President: José Mouraz Lopes;
Board Member: Ana Paula Lourenço;
Board Member: António Fonseca Delicado.

For the next 4 years, MENAC intends to strengthen its involvement into EPAC/EACN's activities along with other ACA's and POB's colleagues, united in the common goal of preventing and combating corruption.

By attending next 24th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly where MENAC hopes to be formally recognised as EPAC member, we reaffirm our engagement to this platform of exchange expertise and information in the sphere of anti-corruption and police oversight matters.



Looking forward to meet you all in the Hague, on 24 and 25 November!



From left to right: Ana Paula Lourenço (Board Member), José Mouraz Lopes (President), António Fonseca Delicado (Board Member)

MENAC's new Board issues first recommendation on emergency calamity situations and public procurement

Following the devastating rural fires in Portugal last August, MENAC issued its first recommendation, stressing the need for transparency and proportionality in the use of exceptional public procurement measures.

In response to the rural fires that tragically ravaged Portugal last August, the Portuguese Government recognizing the importance of rapidly acting in this context of catastrophe and crisis response, approved a Decree-Law, establishing, among others, exceptional public procurement measures applicable to procedures for the formation of public works contracts, the leasing or acquisition of movable property, and the acquisition of services related to damage caused by rural fires, which substantially expand the possibility of using non-competitive procedures.

In this context, and without prejudice to the specific powers of national supervisory authorities, within the scope of its mission to promote transparency and integrity in public action, MENAC issued a recommendation concerning the use of exceptional public procurement measures, namely those permitted under the aforementioned Decree-Law, which should, among other solutions, take into account the principle of proportionality, determining that, in circumstances where it is still feasible to meet the deadlines established for normal procurement procedures, priority should be given to these.



Source: Photo by Rui Duarte Silva, published in Expresso (4 September 2025)

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Additional Information: <https://mec-anticorrupcao.pt/nomeado-novo-conselho-de-administracao-do-menac/>
<https://mec-anticorrupcao.pt/recomendacao-do-menac-relativa-a-contratacao-publica-e-a-apoios-no-contexto-de-emergencias-e-respostas-a-cries/>

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