

NEWSLETTER #01 2026



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 first issue of 2026, which features an especially rich collection of input from our network members, alongside updates from International Organizations.

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

Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat



Stay connected with us on social media! Follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube for the latest updates, exclusive content, and behind-the-scenes insights. Don't miss out on being part of our growing community!

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EPAC/EACN SECRETARIAT NEWS

EPAC/EACN BOARD NEWS

Updates from the 1st EPAC/EACN Board Meeting

During the meeting, the Board approved the EPAC/EACN Work Programme for 2026–2027, setting the strategic direction of the Network for the upcoming period. Discussions also focused on preparations for the 2026 Conference.

The EPAC/EACN Board held its first meeting of 2026 on 12 February, bringing together Board members, the Secretariat, and representatives of the Agency for Prevention of

Corruption (APC) of Montenegro. The meeting marked an important step in shaping the network's activities for the coming two-year period and preparing for the 25th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly.

One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the adoption of the EPAC/EACN Work Programme 2026–2027. The document sets out the network's main priorities for the upcoming term and is structured around three key objectives: adapting to new realities, strengthening the transfer of knowledge, and enhancing communication and networking. The Board underlined that the Work Programme should serve as a flexible and practical guiding document, allowing the network to respond to emerging needs and opportunities.

As part of the first objective, the Board agreed to initiate a structured reflection on EPAC/EACN's governance arrangements and the continued development of the network. With EPAC/EACN having grown significantly over the years, Board members highlighted the importance of ensuring that the network remains effective, inclusive, and well adapted to its current size and operating environment. The Secretariat was mandated to prepare a member questionnaire to gather views on priorities, needs, and expectations for the future development of the network. Any possible follow-up proposals, including governance-related adjustments, will be developed through a structured and targeted consultation process.

Knowledge exchange will remain a central pillar of EPAC/EACN's work. The Board agreed that at least two thematic webinars should be organised each year, covering both the anti-corruption and police oversight strands. Board members will contribute to identifying relevant topics, speakers, and practical formats, while the Secretariat will support the organisational arrangements. In addition, the EPAC/EACN website will be further developed as a platform for sharing best practices, guidance, practical tools, and materials from member organisations.

The Board also discussed communication and outreach priorities. Members agreed to continue strengthening EPAC/EACN's communication through newsletters, website updates, and social media. LinkedIn and Facebook will remain the main platforms for engagement, while the potential of YouTube may be explored further where suitable content and resources are available. Work is also ongoing to develop a more unified visual identity, including communication guidelines, templates, and branding tools.

A major part of the meeting was dedicated to preparations for the 2026 EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly. The Board confirmed that the event will be hosted in Budva, Montenegro, on 5–7 October 2026, with 5 October foreseen as the arrival day and 6–7 October as working days. The meeting noted Montenegro's strong institutional readiness and support for hosting the event, including financial, logistical, protocol, and operational preparations.

The 2026 conference will be particularly significant, as it will mark the 25th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly. The Board agreed that the event should provide an opportunity not only for professional exchange, but also for reflection on the network's development, achievements, and future direction. The Secretariat, the host, and Board members will work jointly on the conference agenda, speakers, breakout sessions, and draft Declaration.

The Board also welcomed the support secured through the EU Anti-Fraud Fund project for the organisation of the 2026 and 2027 Annual Professional Conferences. The project will support essential conference-related costs and contribute to strengthening cooperation, knowledge exchange, and strategic dialogue in areas related to the protection of the EU's financial interests.





25th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference & General Assembly 2026

Save the Date: 25th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly to Take Place in Budva, Montenegro

The EPAC/EACN community will gather on 5–7 October 2026 in Budva, Montenegro, for the 25th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly — a milestone event for one of Europe’s key professional networks in the fields of anti-corruption, integrity, and police oversight.

This jubilee conference will bring together members, observers, partners, practitioners, and decision-makers from across Europe to exchange knowledge, strengthen cooperation, and reflect on the future direction of the network. As the 25th Annual Conference, the event will offer an important opportunity not only to address current professional challenges, but also to look back at EPAC/EACN’s development and consider how the network can continue adapting to new realities.

The Conference will be hosted by the Montenegro Agency for Prevention of Corruption in Budva, on the Adriatic coast. Montenegro’s role as host provides a valuable setting for dialogue between EU Member States, candidate countries, and international partners, particularly on shared challenges related to corruption prevention, institutional integrity, accountability, and the protection of public interests.

The 2026 Annual Conference will also be supported through the EU-funded EPAC-PROTECT project — “EPAC/EACN Conferences for Strengthening the Fight Against Corruption and Protection of EU Financial Interests” — implemented by the Lithuanian Special Investigation Service (STT), which currently performs the functions of the EPAC/EACN Secretariat. The project aims to strengthen the fight against corruption and enhance the protection of the European Union’s financial interests by fostering strategic dialogue, professional cooperation, and the exchange of best practices among anti-corruption institutions across Europe.

The Conference is expected to provide a platform for high-level discussions, practical exchanges, and peer learning on topics relevant to both EPAC/EACN strands: anti-corruption and police oversight. It will also contribute to reinforcing a shared commitment to integrity, transparency, accountability, and effective cooperation across borders.

Further details, including the agenda, speakers, logistical information, and practical instructions for participants, will be announced in due course on the official EPAC/EACN Conference’26 webpage.

Participants are encouraged to follow EPAC/EACN updates regularly and save the dates of 5–7 October 2026. A dedicated Conference subpage has already been created on the

EPAC/EACN website – <https://epac-eacn.org/conference26/>. All relevant and up-to-date information — including the agenda, logistical details, practical instructions and other important updates — will be made available there as preparations progress. Participants are therefore encouraged to check the Conference subpage regularly to stay informed about the latest developments.

We look forward to welcoming EPAC/EACN members, observers, and partners to Budva for this important anniversary conference — a moment to strengthen cooperation, share expertise, and continue advancing integrity across Europe.



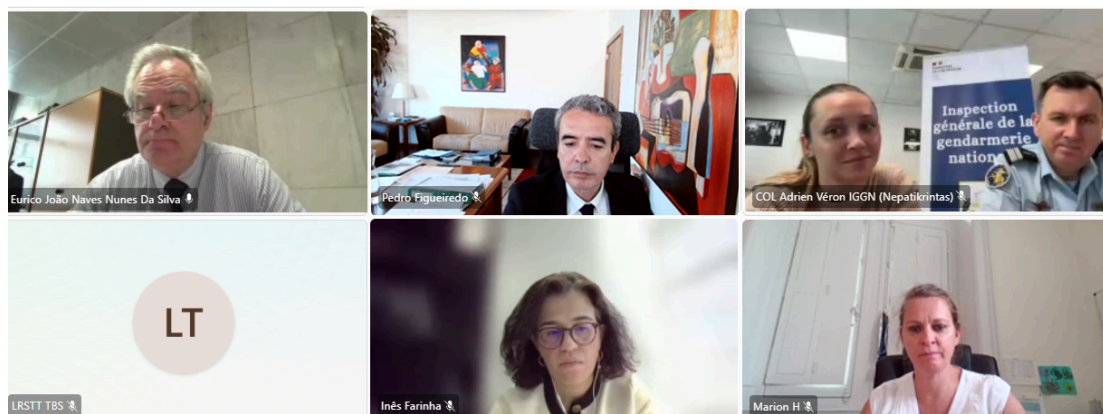
EPAC/EACN Webinar “POB Role on Tackling Corruption”

Members and observers of the EPAC/EACN took part in a webinar dedicated to the role of police oversight bodies in tackling corruption within law enforcement. The event provided a platform for exchanging institutional experience, practical tools and preventive approaches aimed at strengthening integrity, accountability and public trust in policing.

Mr Pedro FIGUEIREDO, Inspector-General at the Inspectorate-General of Internal Administration in Portugal, vice-president of EPAC/EACN, expressed his appreciation for hosting the webinar and underlined the importance of continuous exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices within the EPAC/EACN network.

The event was moderated by Ms Marion HIDRIO, Head of the French National Police General Inspectorate in Rennes, deputy vice-president of EPAC/EACN. The session featured presentations by representatives of the General Inspectorate of the National Gendarmerie (IGGN), France, the General Inspectorate of the National Police (IGPN), France, and the Inspectorate-General of Internal Administration (IGAI), Portugal.

Representatives from the General Inspectorate of the French National Gendarmerie (IGGN) – Colonel Adrien VÉRON, Head of the Criminal Investigations Bureau, and Ms Léanne CLAEYSEN, Jurist Analyst within the Internal Investigations Division, presented the topic of communication, awareness-raising and training of law enforcement officers on corruption risks. Their presentation explored how gendarmerie officers can better understand the ways in which corruption risks may emerge, including through personal, professional or operational vulnerabilities. They also outlined existing and planned prevention tools, such as the anti-corruption MOOC, self-assessment mechanisms, operational feedback and future initiatives aimed at improving officers' ability to recognise risk situations, weak signals and the operational and criminal consequences of corrupt behavior.



Ms H el ene THOREL, Police Superintendent and Deputy Head of the National Anti-Corruption Delegation within the General Inspectorate of the French National Police (IGPN), France, addressed whistle-blowing topic and the improvement of internal and external reporting of corruption-related misconduct. She presented the main sources of information that may lead to internal affairs investigations and highlighted the need to encourage reporting, strengthen monitoring tools and explore alternative sources of information to detect misconduct more effectively.

Mr Eurico Jo o Naves Nunes Da SILVA, Inspector at the Inspectorate-General of Internal Administration (IGAI), Portugal, presented the institution's role in preventing and tackling corruption within law enforcement. He provided an overview of the Inspectorate-General of Internal Administration (IGAI), Portugal's mandate as an independent oversight body and focused in particular on its monitoring of police operations, including large-scale operations and on-the-spot roadside checks. He also addressed the relevance of the Police Code of Ethics and the importance of adapting ethical guidance to current challenges related to integrity and corruption prevention.

This was followed by **Ms In es FARINHA, Inspector at the Inspectorate-General of Internal Administration (IGAI), Portugal**, who presented how audits and inspections contribute to preventing and addressing corruption risks. She explained the Inspectorate-General of Internal Administration (IGAI), Portugal's external control role in relation to services under the Ministry of Home Affairs, with particular attention to security forces. Her presentation highlighted the importance of audits in assessing legal compliance, transparency, efficiency and the practical implementation of corruption risk prevention measures across relevant institutions.

The discussions underlined that effective police oversight requires not only investigation and disciplinary action, but also prevention, training, institutional learning and cooperation between oversight bodies. In his closing remarks, **Mr Pedro FIGUEIREDO** emphasised that anti-corruption efforts should not be merely reactive, but also preventive and pedagogical, supported by specialised training and the monitoring of police action in order to contribute to the excellence of police activity and its interaction with citizens.

The EPAC/EACN Secretariat extends its appreciation to all speakers and participants for their contributions. Members and observers wishing to suggest topics for future webinars or activities are invited to contact the Secretariat at secretariat@epac-eacn.org, thereby helping to shape future exchanges within the EPAC/EACN network.

EPAC/EACN WEBINAR

**POB ROLE
ON TACKLING CORRUPTION**

Eurico SILVA
Inspector, IGAI Portugal

In es FARINHA
Inspector, IGAI Portugal

H el ene THOREL
Police superintendent,
Deputy head of the national
anti corruption delegation
within the General
Inspectorate of the National
Police (IGPN), France

Adrien VERON
Colonel, Head of the
Criminal Investigations
Bureau within the General
Inspectorate of the
National Gendarmerie
(IGGN), France

L eanne CLAEYSEN
Jurist Analyst within the Internal
Investigations Division, General
Inspectorate of the National
Gendarmerie (IGGN), France

Have Your Say on the Future of EPAC/EACN

EPAC/EACN is launching an important reflection process on the future role, functioning and added value of the networks for their members and observers.

To support this process, EPAC/EACN members and observers are invited to complete a questionnaire aimed at collecting views, needs and proposals on how the networks should develop in the coming years. The feedback received will help identify possible improvements in EPAC/EACN's priorities, governance, working methods, communication,

working groups, annual conferences, General Assembly procedures and internal documents.

The questionnaire provides an opportunity for all members and observers to share their experience and expectations regarding the current and future operation of EPAC/EACN. It covers a wide range of topics, including the added value of the networks, thematic priorities, cooperation with external partners, resources and sustainability, communication channels, and possible amendments to EPAC/EACN internal documents.

Your input is essential to ensure that EPAC/EACN continues to serve as a relevant, practical and forward-looking platform for anti-corruption and police oversight bodies across Europe. The responses may be analysed in an aggregated manner and used for preparing proposals for discussion at the EPAC/EACN General Assembly.

The link to the questionnaire will be shared with members and observers of the EPAC/EACN network through the Contact Persons.

All EPAC/EACN members and observers are encouraged to contribute to this important consultation and help shape the future direction of the networks.

The European Partners against Corruption (EPAC)
European contact-point network against corruption (EACN)

Have Your Say on the Future of EPAC/EACN

Complete the questionnaire and help shape the future direction of the networks.

INTEGRITY | COOPERATION | TRANSPARENCY | ACCOUNTABILITY | EUROPEAN COLLABORATION

EPAC/EACN Secretariat Adopts Its Official Brand Book

The EPAC/EACN Secretariat has officially approved its new Brand Book!

The Brand Book sets out the key principles for using the EPAC/EACN visual identity, including the logo, colours, typography, layout style and communication materials. It will serve as a practical guide for ensuring a coherent and professional presentation of EPAC/EACN across different platforms, publications and events.

By adopting the Brand Book, the Secretariat aims to enhance the visibility, recognisability and credibility of EPAC/EACN communications, while supporting a unified image of the network and its activities.

The Brand Book will be applied in future EPAC/EACN communication products and will contribute to a more consistent representation of the network at both internal and external levels.



SECONDARY COLOR VARIATIONS

4

BLACK #000000 (HEX)

WHITE #FFFFFF (HEX)

SLATE BLUE #40596B (HEX)



LOGO USAGE

5

The logo has been designed for optimal legibility across print and digital applications. To maintain clarity of the typography and the star elements, it must not be reproduced below the following minimum sizes:

PRINT APPLICATIONS
minimum width 30 mm
(absolute minimum: 25 mm, only when unavoidable)



DIGITAL APPLICATIONS
minimum width 140 px
(absolute minimum: 120 px, only when unavoidable)



EPAC/EACN COMMUNITY NEWS



International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), Austria

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

IACA continues to develop its role as a global centre of excellence for anti-corruption academic programmes, research, and capacity development, as well as for technical assistance, policy dialogue, and international networking.

Through its work, IACA empowers its Parties and partners to prevent and combat corruption by strengthening knowledge, skills, and institutional

frameworks, thereby supporting the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Master Programmes

Applications are now open for the **Master in Anti-Corruption Studies** and the **International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action** until 31 July 2026. A limited number of scholarships are available to applicants from Least Developed Countries and from IACA State Parties.

Certificate Programmes

The **Certification Programmes in Integrity and Anti-Corruption Compliance** are tailored for compliance professionals in the financial and business sectors, both 9-week online certification courses will support the professional development of managers, compliance officers, lawyers and internal auditors working in financial institutions and companies in various sectors and industries.

- The Certificate for “Compliance Officer in the Business Sector” highlights the key elements of anti-corruption compliance management systems within companies. The programmes cover various types of corruption offences and related crimes, while also presenting leading international and regional standards and best practices in anti-corruption compliance.
 - Next class: 30 September – 25 November 2026
 - Applications deadline: 31 August 2026
 - Programme fee: 1,150 EUR

- The Certificate for “**Compliance Officer in the Financial Sector**” reflects the features of anti-corruption compliance in financial institutions (banks, insurance and reinsurance companies, securities brokers, investment and pension funds, leasing companies). The curriculum includes typologies and risks of money laundering, terrorist financing and financial fraud, international standards and recommendations for financial institutions.
 - Next class: 1 October – 26 November 2026
 - Applications deadline: 31 August 2026
 - Programme fee: 1,150 EUR

Capacity building activities

The **16th edition of the IACA Summer Academy** is scheduled to take place from **8 to 12 June 2026** at IACA campus in Laxenburg, near Vienna, Austria. This an intensive, interdisciplinary programme explore trends and practices shaping the global anti-corruption agenda and promotes a culture of the reflective practitioner.

This year’s edition will focus on:

- Corruption, Ethics, and Organized Crime
- Effective Anti-Corruption Strategies and Open-Source Intelligence
- AI for Corruption Prevention
- Organizational Integrity and Ethical Leadership in the Age of AI
- Collective Action and Compliance.
 - **Applications deadline:** 10 May 2026
 - **Programme fee:** 995 EUR

IACA also offers **Tailor-Made Trainings** designed to address the specific anti-corruption and compliance challenges faced by individual organizations, such as government ministries, national anti-corruption authorities, audit institutions, international organizations, and private and state-owned companies.

The bespoke capacity building programmes can be delivered in three formats:

- At the IACA campus in Austria;
- On-site in the requesting country;
- Online in a modular format.

Online trainings

IACA’s online trainings provide a comprehensive range of resources on various anti-corruption and compliance topics catering to professionals at all levels of experience across the public and private sectors, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, media, and beyond. Courses are offered in both instructor-led and **self-paced**.

Instructor-led courses currently open for registration are:

- **Financial Integrity, Corruption and Sanctions: Resetting the Agenda or Business as Usual?**

Date: 3 - 28 August 2026
Application deadline: 31 July 2026
Fee: EUR 780
Duration: 4 weeks

- **Fighting Corruption in the Supply Chain**

Date: 7 September – 2 October 2026
Application deadline: 4 September 2026
Fee: EUR 780
Duration: 4 weeks

- **Business, Human Rights and Anti-Corruption**

Date: 5 - 30 October 2026
Application deadline: 2 October 2026
Fee: EUR 780
Duration: 4 weeks

Global Programme on Measuring Corruption

The [IACA Anti-Corruption Agency Effectiveness Dashboard](#) was launched at the Second Global Conference on Harnessing Data to Improve Corruption Measurement, held in December 2025 at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The event was co-organized by IACA, UNDP, UNODC, OECD, IMF, and World Bank, alongside other stakeholders.

The Dashboard offers a distinctive and comprehensive overview of global average data drawn from 50 anti-corruption agencies worldwide, including some EPAC/EACN members, and reflects the results of IACA's pilot survey on agency effectiveness.

The outcome document of the conference, the [New York Recommendations on the Future of Corruption Measurement](#), was acknowledged in Resolution 11/5 [Enhancing data collection to measure corruption and its impacts , as well as to assess the effectiveness of anticorruption and integrity measures](#), adopted by the 11th session of CoSP UNCAC in December 2025 in Doha, Qatar.

In addition, IACA finalized and published three key resources, now available on its website:

1. [Measuring the effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies: A research methodology](#)
2. [Global trends in Anti-Corruption Agency effectiveness: Initial reflections](#)
3. [The Architecture of corruption measurement: Principles for building purpose-fit corruption metrics](#)

Looking ahead, IACA will launch an updated 2026 survey in May, allowing anti-corruption agencies to self-assess and benchmark their performance against global and regional data.

In addition, IACA is planning a European regional expert meeting in partnership with the National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC) of Italy in September 2026, in Rome.

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

Contact: IACA Secretariat, secretariat@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>
- <https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/online-trainings/instructor-led.html>
- <https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/online-trainings/self-paced.html>
- <https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/academic-programmes/master-in-anti-corruption-studies.html>
- <https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/academic-programmes/imacc.html>
- <https://collective-action.iaca.int/>
- <https://www.iaca.int/measuring-corruption/>
- https://www.iaca.int/resources/publications/research-publications_
- <https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/certification-programmes/business-sector.html>
- <https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/certification-programmes/financial-sector.html>
- [movchannia-stvorenyy-za-pidtrymky-euaci/](https://www.iaca.int/movchannia-stvorenyy-za-pidtrymky-euaci/)



European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), Belgium

OLAF Report 2025: 6.8 billion recovered to EU budget over past 10 years

In its 2025 annual report OLAF (the European Anti-Fraud Office) highlights how it protected EU funds from fraud and irregularities. It also offers recommendations on how to improve the EU fight against fraud and details how it put €6.8 billion back into the EU budget in the last decade.

On 20 April 2026 the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) published its annual report for 2025 showing that it recommended recovery of almost €600 of misused EU funds, prevented €18 million from being unduly spent, closing 209 investigations and opening 254 new ones.

The report highlights OLAF's actions in safeguarding the EU's financial interests and introduces two innovations. The first shows that OLAF helped return €6.8 billion to the EU budget in the past decade. The second lists OLAF's recommended actions for relevant stakeholders to help foster a more effective and coordinated approach to combating fraud and irregularities.

Other work showcased in the report includes OLAF's investigations into complex financial irregularities, cross-border illicit trade, customs violations and environmental fraud and sensitive cases involving high-ranking EU officials.

The ongoing work at identifying circumvention of EU sanctions against Russia and Belarus and providing support to Ukrainian customs and law enforcement authorities also gains attention. In other areas the report looks at OLAF's involvement in the root and branch review of the [European anti-fraud architecture](#).

OLAF Director-General Petr Klement said that the report shows the positive impact that OLAF makes in supporting Member States and citizens and protecting EU finances allowing schools to be built, research projects funded and borders to be protected.

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

Additional Information:

- OLAF annual report 2025: [Digital format](#)
- OLAF annual report 2025: [PDF format](#)



Inspectorate General of the Internal Administration, Portugal

IGAI's events and conferences

On December 5th, 2025, a conference dedicated to the topic of forced returns and monitoring, within the framework of the approved operation FAMI2030-FAMI-00372400, took place at the Me Lisbon Hotel in Lisbon. The event brought together several experts and professionals who shared their experiences and challenges in this field, promoting a space for reflection and debate (1 – see *below the video*).

The General Inspectorate of Internal Administration (IGAI) marked its 30th anniversary on February 23rd, 2026, with a conference dedicated to reflecting on three decades of activity in safeguarding human rights and promoting democratic legality. The event took place at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and brought together current and former officials of the institution, as well as distinguished personalities from the judicial system and internal administration.

Throughout the conference, participants shared experiences and reflections on IGAI's journey, highlighting the institution's fundamental role in overseeing the activities of security forces, promoting democratic legality, and defending the rights, freedoms, and guarantees of citizens.

It also took place a concert, on the 17th of march, with the participation of the Symphonic Band of the National Republican Guard and the Symphonic Band of the Public Security Police, to highlight the commemorative anniversary (2 and 3 - see *below the videos*).

Contact: Inês Farinha, Inspector, ifarinha@igai.pt

Additional Information:

- 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYyvT78zN8A>
- 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsrCjoxbiEA>
- 3 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ww5B95vbxAM>



Contact: Inês Farinha, Inspector, ifarinha@igai.pt

Additional Information:

- 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYyvT78zN8A>
- 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsrCjoxbiEA>



Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Montenegro

Strengthening integrity: training for Montenegro's top executive officials

Over 100 top executive officials in Montenegro have been invited to join an interactive online training on ethics and integrity, developed with UNDP, aimed at reinforcing anti-corruption standards and promoting accountability in public office.

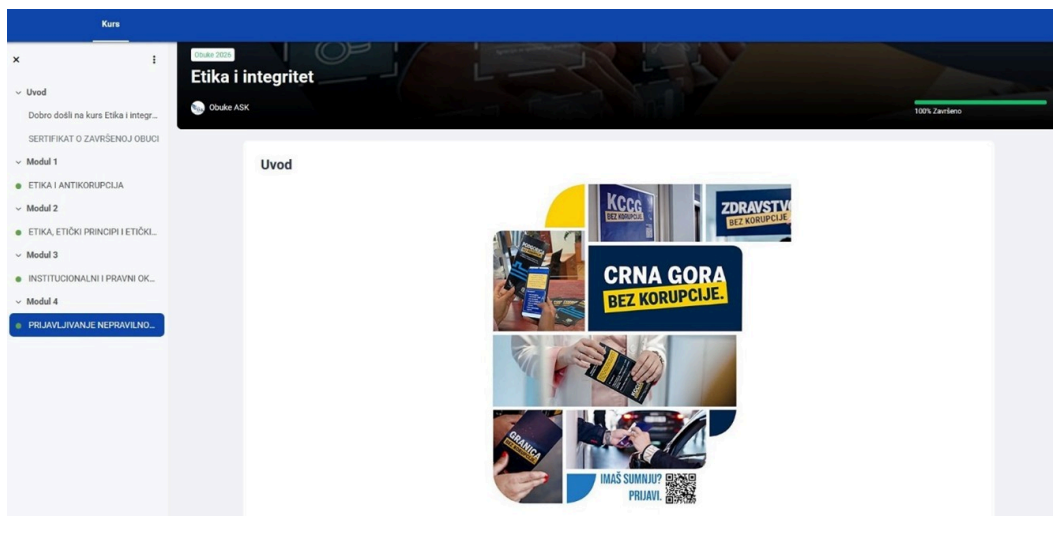
The Agency for Prevention of Corruption has invited around 110 holders of top executive functions to take part in an online training programme on "Ethics and Integrity," developed in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Delivered through a dedicated digital platform, the training offers a practical and accessible approach to understanding corruption risks and strengthening ethical decision-making in public office. It highlights how integrity standards translate into everyday responsibilities for senior officials and why their role is crucial in safeguarding public trust.

The programme is structured across four modules, covering anti-corruption principles, ethical standards and codes of conduct, Montenegro's institutional and legal framework, and mechanisms for reporting irregularities, including whistleblower protection. Particular attention is given to encouraging a proactive approach to reporting corruption and reinforcing accountability within public administration.

This initiative directly supports Montenegro's obligations under the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) Fifth Evaluation Round, which calls for continuous training of senior officials on ethics and integrity standards.

By equipping decision-makers with relevant knowledge and tools, the training contributes to building a more transparent, accountable, and resilient public sector.



High Authority for transparency in public life

High Authority for Transparency in Public Life, France

The High Authority for transparency in public life launches its first reporting campaign on foreign influence activities.

In France, the first reporting campaign on foreign influence activities began on 1 January 2026. The High Authority also organised several targeted webinars on disclosure obligations. The High Authority will soon release a general assessment report reflecting on the 12 years of existence of the institution and the ways forward.

On 1 January 2026, the implementation of the register of foreign influence activities by the High Authority for transparency in public life continued with the launch of the first reporting campaign on foreign influence activities, three months after the register came into force. Since 1 October 2025, this new public register has made it possible to identify lobbying activities carried out on behalf of foreign principals, in line with the objective of Law N°2024-850 of 25 July 2024 aimed at preventing foreign interference in France. Following the launch of the campaign, the High Authority organised a webinar to provide guidance to people affected by these new requirements.

In February 2026, the High Authority organised a webinar on the disclosure obligations of senators. This session is part of a specific support scheme for parliamentarians, designed to inform and assist them in submitting their declarations of assets. Following the French local elections in March 2026, the High Authority also held an information session for outgoing and incoming mayors, deputy mayors and other local public officials who are required to submit declarations to the High Authority.

The president of the High Authority was confirmed as president in early March, for a 6-year term. Upon taking office, the president had decided to undertake the drafting of a general assessment report. The report will reflect on the 12 years of existence of the High Authority and draw up proposals on potential evolutions of the institution.

Contact: Jeanne Ollivier, Head of European and International affairs, jeanne.ollivier@hatvp.fr; Maya Rachail, European and International Affairs Officer, maya.rachail@hatvp.fr

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



EMPACT – FIAP, Internal Affairs Unit, National Police, Spain

“PREVENTION AND DETECTION OF CORRUPTION IN Law Enforcement Agents” a High-Level Meeting looking for a better a faster Police Oversight and improving Anti corruption policies

Within the framework of EMPACT, the Operational Action 1.6 CCH (Cannabis, Cocaine and Heroin), under the theme “Delimiting Corruption in Law Enforcement Agencies: an Intelligence and preventive approach”, several activities are being scheduled.

One of this activities will consist on an expert meeting to be held in Avila between 16th and 18th of June. This collaboration aims to benchmark best practices and will focus on oversight mechanisms for law enforcement and safeguard the integrity of police and security institutions throughout Europe from infiltration by organised crime networks.

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Under the leadership of EMPACT, the Spanish Internal Affairs Unit (IAU) leads **Operational Action 1.6 2026-27 CCH EMPACT** also with Europol and the Swedish Special Investigations Department as co-leaders. This OA has made its priority to expose the critical reality of how the most dangerous criminal networks involved in drug trafficking and other serious crimes exploit the corruption of law enforcement officials to facilitate their operations and ensure positive outcomes.

To address this vulnerability, the project focuses on three strategic pillars:

- 1. Vulnerability mapping:** Identifying the most affected EU regions, detecting criminal trends and analysing the recruitment and reward systems used by organised crime to entice and corrupt police officers. The aim is to profile the most common methods in order to prevent them more effectively.
- 2. Intelligence standardisation:** Unifying information management at the European level and promoting best practices and a common doctrine in the fight against corruption to enable

information to be shared quickly and smoothly.

3. Prevention and Response: Strengthening robust preventive mechanisms and ensuring effective reactive responses to professional misconduct.

As a key milestone of this collaboration, this summer of 2026, from **June 16th to 18th**, the **Spanish National Police Academy in Ávila, one of the nearest** cities to Madrid will host a high-level meeting. This event will bring together the Operational Action co-leaders and a panel of top-tier experts in the fields of Police Oversight and anti-corruption measures in the Public and Private Sector.

The event will feature specialized presentations on police oversight and professional ethics—delivered by Academy faculty—as well as the participation of the **Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office**, whose judicial expertise will provide indispensable practical insights. This meeting in Ávila seeks not only to exchange theoretical knowledge but to consolidate a comprehensive operational strategy that safeguards the integrity of police institutions across the continent."

The aim is to bring together various stakeholders involved in this task, including members of academia, the private sector, the public prosecutor's office, international agencies, and different police units.

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



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PROSECUTOR
GENERAL'S
OFFICE

Prosecutor General's Office, Ukraine

Regional Workshop "Integrity of elections: preventing democratic backsliding and enhancing resilience by detecting illicit financial flows"

The aim of the event is to enhance understanding of corruption, money laundering and terrorist-financing risks linked to elections and political party and campaign financing including those arising from indirect and digital channels.

The workshop brought together practitioners from national competent authorities, including electoral management bodies and political finance oversight authorities, anti-corruption agencies, financial intelligence units, law enforcement authorities and prosecution services, reflecting the multi-agency approach required at all stages of the electoral integrity cycle.

The event took place on 28-31 March in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova) within the framework of the Partnership for Good Governance (PGG) III Project: Strengthening measures to prevent and combat economic crime in the Eastern Partnership region.

As a result of the visit, a deeper understanding was gained of international standards on transparency, oversight and prevention of circumvention of the law in financing political parties and electoral campaigns. Up-to-date information was obtained on integrating anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing tools in the electoral context, in particular regarding application of targeted financial sanctions.

In addition, participants engaged in a substantive exchange of experience with representatives of anti-corruption and law enforcement bodies of participating countries regarding the practice of conducting parallel financial investigations in criminal proceedings related to interference in electoral processes.

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

4th Expert Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Task Force for Ukraine

The aim of the event is to share experience, initiatives and plans, as well as discuss possible technical assistance and capacity building strategies of anti-corruption measures in Ukraine.

The event featured working meetings and thematic sessions with the participation of Ukrainian authorities and international partners, during which current challenges in the field of anti-corruption were discussed, along with practical aspects of implementing anti-corruption tools, as well as the role of international cooperation in strengthening the institutional capacity of the relevant authorities.

The event was held by the Ministry of Justice of Japan in Paris (French Republic) on 28-29 January 2026.

Particular attention was paid to the exchange of best practices, coordination of efforts in the implementation of anti-corruption initiatives, as well as the identification of priority areas for possible international technical assistance, taking into account the needs of the Ukrainian side.

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Third meeting of the regional, interagency Black Sea Anti-Corruption Working Group

The purpose of the event is to build a regional network of anti-corruption experts to discuss and exchange best practices related to the investigation and prosecution of grand corruption and related money laundering and transnational criminal cases.

The working group focuses on strategies for combatting corruption and recovery of assets laundered overseas, addressing topics including use of human intelligence, mutual legal assistance, asset tracing and international grand corruption trends.

The session was held in Budapest (Hungary) on 9-13 March 2026 with the support of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Transnational Anti-Corruption Partnership (TAP) and the U. S. Department of Justice Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance,

and Training (OPDAT), both implementing partners of the U. S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

Using specific case examples, corruption was studied as a facilitator of transnational organised crime. The issue of uncovering corruption schemes with the participation of representatives of political elites was addressed. The state of cooperation in the implementation of border control and counteraction to the smuggling of drugs and weapons, as well as human trafficking, was discussed. The topic of money laundering through real estate, banking secrecy and other mechanisms was highlighted. Attention was paid to the principles of independence and integrity of judges and prosecutors. Ways to improve activities aimed at preventing and suppressing corrupt practices in the field of public procurement were considered.

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Training course on European integration on the topic of “Anti-Corruption”

As part of the event, the following topics are proposed for discussion: EU accession and fundamental values; anti-corruption activities in the EU; e-governance, digitalisation and combatting corruption; integrity in state authorities; work of criminal police; prosecution service and its role in combatting corruption; the role of parliament in combatting corruption; the role of independent media in combatting corruption; and national audit and its role in protecting taxpayers.

The training session took place in Tallinn (Republic of Estonia) on 4-6 May 2026 with the support of the Estonian Centre for International Development (ESTDEV)

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Portuguese Anticorruption Authority (MENAC)

The MENAC submits the 2025 Annual Anti-Corruption Report to the Portuguese Parliament and Government

The Portuguese National Anticorruption Mechanism (MENAC) presented its 2025 Anti-Corruption Report, offering independent and evidence-based insights into corruption in Portugal. The report outlines key challenges and risks, policy directions, and opportunities to strengthen prevention, detection and combat efforts.

MENAC submitted the 2025 Annual Anti-Corruption Report to the Portuguese Parliament and Government.

This Report is a strategic document prepared by MENAC, which is submitted to Parliament and to the Government up until April 30 of the year following the one to which it refers.

Its central function is to provide political authorities with factual, systematic, and independent evidence on corruption and related offenses in Portugal, while also supporting the development, evaluation, and adjustment of public policies in this area.

For citizens in general, businesses, academia, civil society organizations, the media, and international partners, this is a relevant document, particularly for improving understanding of these matters and identifying a set of pathways to prevent, detect and combat it.

This first report presents an initial comprehensive overview of the integrated system for the prevention and repression of corruption in Portugal, with reference to the year 2025, as well as the identification of a set of opportunities for improvement and future action, mainly focused on prevention and detection, which are MENAC's core areas of activity.



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Additional Information: <https://mec-anticorruptcao.pt/menac-entrega-o-relatorio-anual-anticorruptcao-2025-ao-presidente-da-assembleia-da-republica/>

The MENAC and the Supreme Court of Auditors formalize a cooperation protocol in Portugal

The Portuguese National Anticorruption Mechanism (MENAC) and the Supreme Court of Auditors signed a cooperation protocol to strengthen transparency, risk analysis, and corruption prevention. The agreement promotes information sharing, oversight, and joint efforts to reinforce sound public management and the rule of law.



The signing ceremony of the cooperation protocol between MENAC and the Supreme Court of Auditors took place last April. The agreement was formalized by the MENAC's Chairman, Mr. José Mouraz Lopes, and the Supreme Court of Auditors President, Ms. Filipa Urbano Calvão.

The protocol establishes a framework for collaboration based on the structured sharing of information between MENAC and the Supreme Court of Auditors, focusing in particular on compliance programs, internal control systems, and strategies for preventing and detecting corruption and related offenses.

It also provides for cooperation in risk analysis, monitoring the implementation of recommendations, and the sharing by the court of aggregated data from audits and inspections, with a view to identifying systemic weaknesses and strengthening prevention mechanisms.

At the signing ceremony MENAC's Chairman stated that the agreement represents "a decisive contribution to strengthening transparency, sound public management and, above all, the prevention of corruption," stressing that "there are no reasons to reduce oversight." The President of the Supreme Court of Auditors highlighted the importance of the protocol for fulfilling the missions of both institutions and reinforcing the rule of law, emphasizing their points of convergence and shared objectives.



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Additional Information: <https://mec-anticorruptao.pt/menac-e-tribunal-de-contas-celebram-protocolo-de-colaboracao-para-reforcar-a-prevencao-da-corruptao/>

MENAC highlights integrity and global cooperation at OECD GACIF 2026 and PIAC in Paris

The Chairman of the Portuguese National Anticorruption Mechanism (MENAC) participated thoroughly at the OECD GACIF 2026 and in PIAC in Paris, highlighting a strong commitment to compliance, integrity education, and global partnerships, while presenting initiatives to strengthen transparency and foster a new generation of ethical leadership.



Mr. José Mouraz Lopes, MENAC's Chairman, took part as a speaker, in March, at the 2026 OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum (GACIF) in Paris, contributing to Session 5, titled "Stronger Partnerships: A Whole-of-Society Approach to Growth and Integrity."

MENAC's Chairman reaffirmed the strong commitment to continuous collaboration with both public and private organizations, aiming to enhance the understanding and integration of the economic, political, and social benefits of compliance. It was also stressed that this effort is a crucial step towards fostering a new generation of leaders capable of overcoming outdated practices and meeting the demands of a more transparent, sustainable, and fair society.

Among key examples, during his intervention it was highlighted MENAC's active role in the "RedEscolas Anticorrupção" program and ongoing international cooperation, including a developing protocol with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This initiative seeks to strengthen collaboration in integrity education and to disseminate practical guidelines and recommendations for public and private sector entities under the General Regime for the Prevention of Corruption (RGPC).

MENAC's Chairman also presented its integrated approach to building an "integrity infrastructure," combining education, training, management, cooperation, and cross-sector participation, aligned with OECD best practices. Additionally, the program "*Prevention is more important than cure*" was also presented to the GACIF.

While in Paris, MENAC's Chairman also participated, alongside Supreme Court of Auditors representative Paulo Costa, as newly appointed Portuguese delegate in the 4th meeting of the OECD Working Group on Public Integrity and Anti-Corruption (PIAC).

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Additional Information:

<https://mec-anticorruptao.pt/presidente-do-menac-intervem-no-forum-global-da-ocde-sobre-anticorruptao-e-integridade/>

<https://mec-anticorruptao.pt/menac-representa-portugal-na-reuniao-do-piac-em-paris/>



Federal Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAK), Austria

Austrian Anti-Corruption Day 2026 – Fighting Corruption through Interdisciplinary Approaches

The Austrian Anti-Corruption Day 2026, held on 8 April 2026 in Vienna, brought together approximately 150 participants from the public administration, state-owned enterprises, and the Network of Integrity Officers (Integritätsbeauftragten-Netzwerk (IBN)) to discuss the theme "Homo corruptus? Corruption explained from a socio-scientific perspective". The event aimed to shed light on the complex phenomenon of corruption and explore ways to prevent and combat it. Experts from various fields, including psychology, sociology, and political science, shared their insights and experiences, highlighting the importance of understanding corruption from multiple perspectives.

According to Mathias Vogl, Director General at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, a comprehensive understanding of corruption can only be achieved by considering the interplay between individual, organizational, and institutional factors. Otto Kerbl, Director of the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK), emphasized the need to address corruption from a multidisciplinary approach, stating that "the question of whether corruption is inherent in human nature or a result of external influences is crucial in developing effective prevention and combat strategies".

Criminal psychologist Thomas Müller underlined the importance of considering the psychological and social factors that contribute to corrupt behavior, highlighting the role of self-esteem, social competence, and organizational culture in shaping individual behavior. Further keynote speeches by renowned experts such as Ina Kubbe, political scientist and adjunct professor at Tel Aviv University, and Markus Pohlmann, professor of sociology at the Max Weber Institute at Heidelberg University, emphasized the need for a systemic approach to addressing corruption, taking into account the complex interactions between individuals, organizations, and institutions.

The event concluded with an expert lab, an interactive discussion format consisting of a panel of all three keynote speakers, which allowed participants to engage in a lively exchange of best practices, new ideas and perspectives.

The Austrian Anti-Corruption Day 2026 contributed to ongoing efforts to prevent and combat corruption, promoting a culture of integrity and transparency in the public sector.



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Bulgarian Commission for Illegal Assets Forfeiture (CIAF)

Bulgarian Commission for Illegal Assets Forfeiture (CIAF) traces significant assets in other EU Member States via rapid and effective international cooperation

Successful cooperation between Bulgaria, Germany and Greece led to the discovery of significant undeclared assets abroad, thus demonstrating how rapid information exchange between EU Member States is crucial for effective asset recovery and fight against corruption.

A Bulgarian citizen, who has not filed an assets and interests declaration within the deadline in accordance with the national anti-corruption legislation, as well as the current legal framework for asset recovery in Bulgaria, was being investigated by the Commission for Illegal Assets Forfeiture (CIAF). The data collected during the course of the investigation revealed a high possibility that the person owns assets on the territory of other EU Member States.

In this regard, international requests were made to Germany and Greece, and thanks to the rapid response and effective cooperation with the German and Greek colleagues, it was established that the person participates in commercial companies registered on German territory, owns real estate in Greece and has bank accounts in Germany and Greece.

The identified assets on the territory of Germany and Greece are of significant value, and the relevant proceedings are to be initiated in Bulgaria, therefore the good interaction and the information received from German and Greek colleagues will be a major contribution to the successful conclusion of the case.

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



The Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau of Republic of Latvia

“The Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau became Latvia’s Whistleblower Contact Point as of March 1, 2026.”

By taking over whistleblowing contact point duties, the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB) will continue contributing to the objectives of the Whistleblowing Law and the EU Directive, promoting public interest reporting, ensuring effective mechanisms, and providing adequate protection for whistleblowers.

As a whistleblower contact point, KNAB is responsible for coordinating the whistleblowing system, ensuring the effective functioning of reporting channels and the proper routing of reports.

KNAB strengthens the implementation of the whistleblowing framework through training and awareness-raising activities, ensuring a consistent and high-quality approach to handling disclosures across competent authorities. KNAB provides support and guidance to persons considering reporting as well as whistleblowers, including consultations on reporting procedures and applicable protection measures, and manages the official whistleblowing website (www.trauksmescelejs.lv), while also promoting public awareness of whistleblowing as a mechanism in the public interest.

KNAB oversees compliance with the [Whistleblowing Law](#) and assesses the practical functioning of the system, using the findings to propose improvements to the regulatory framework where necessary.

Since the entry into force of the Whistleblowing Law in 2019, KNAB has been one of the institutions that most frequently receives reports submitted as whistleblowing reports. In addition, last year KNAB received the highest number to date of reports submitted as whistleblowing reports. Accordingly, the statistics indicate that KNAB has sufficient experience in handling whistleblowing reports.

These changes do not affect the reporting procedure, which remains unchanged: whistleblowers may continue to submit reports either to competent authorities or to KNAB as the whistleblower contact point.

As a result, KNAB has applied for membership in the Network of European Integrity and Whistleblowing Authorities (NEIWA), and a decision on its admission will be taken at a meeting at the end of May 2026.

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Additional Information:

<https://www.knab.gov.lv/en/article/knab-become-contact-point-whistleblowers>

<https://eng.lsm.lv/article/society/crime/03.03.2026-knab-anti-corruption-cops-report-on-2025-and-take-on-whistleblowing-duties.a637145/>

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/knabgovlv_from-1-march-korupcijas-nov%C4%93r%C5%A1anas-un-apkaro%C5%A1anas-activity-7427621233828986880-GLiy



Republic of North Macedonia
Ministry of Interior

Ministry of Interior of the Republic of North Macedonia

Department for Internal Control, Criminal Investigations and Professional Standards

Professional Integrity plan of Ministry of Interior 2026-2028 and Action plan for the implementation of the 2026-2028 Professional Integrity plan

Following the successful implementation of the Plan for Integrity of the Ministry of Interior for the period 2023–2025, in February 2026 the Department for Internal Control, Criminal Investigations and Professional Standards adopted a new Professional Integrity Plan of the Ministry for the period 2026–2028, along with an Action Plan for its implementation.

Based on a comprehensive analysis, the Department concluded that risks related to professional integrity in certain organizational units, which had been identified in the previous Integrity Plan, still persist, and new risks have also been identified in other organizational units, as well as emerging trends in corruption.

The identified risks were further elaborated and categorized into several groups and main risk areas:

- risk of abuse of official position and authorizations by employees performing duties at the Department for Civil Affairs,
- risk of abuse of official position and authorizations by police officers at traffic police and at border police,
- risk of excessive use of physical force in the exercise of police powers,
- risk of abuse of official position and authorizations by employees implementing public procurement procedures,

- risk in the field of human resources management,
- risk of abuse of official position by police officers in the issuance of residence permits to foreign nationals, and
- risk of disclosure of classified information, official, and personal data.

The Action Plan for the implementation of the Professional Integrity Plan foresees a set of measures and activities aimed at preventing and reducing the occurrence and development of various forms of corruption and other unprofessional conduct among employees of the Ministry of Interior. Through their implementation, the following is expected to be achieved:

- strengthening of employees' professional integrity,
- consistent compliance with legal and by-law regulations,
- increased transparency in operations,
- control over discretionary powers,
- respect for ethical values, and
- introduction of an effective system of supervision and control over employees' work and conduct.

In order to ensure transparency and greater accessibility for both citizens and employees, the Professional Integrity Plan has been publicly published on the official website of the Ministry of Interior.

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Additional Information: <https://portal.mdt.gov.mk/post-documents/oddel-za-vnatresna-kontrola-kriminalisticki-istragi-i-profesionalni-standardi-document-qv7i.pdf>



NATIONAL AGENCY ON CORRUPTION PREVENTION

National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP), Ukraine

Side Event “Data as the Foundation for Communicating the Topic of Corruption”

On 14 May 2026, a side event will take place in Lviv, organized by the National Agency for Corruption Prevention (the NACP) in partnership with UNDP as part of the Lviv Media Forum (LMF 2026). This large-scale event will bring together foreign and Ukrainian media professionals working in an international environment – public intellectuals, researchers, politicians, representatives of the civil society sector, and international organizations.

The purpose of the event is to present a set of analytical tools and data sources that form the basis of the government's anti-corruption policy and can be used by journalists and civic activists in their work.

In addition, it is important to receive feedback from the audience regarding the usefulness of existing information and analytical resources and to learn what data journalists, diplomats, and public figures lack for effective communication on the topic of corruption.

This will help improve the quality of public discourse, support informed decision-making, and demonstrate the importance of measurable data in shaping the anti-corruption narrative.

Audience: representatives of Ukrainian and international media, anti-corruption civil society organizations and think tanks, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, other public authorities, Ukrainian and foreign diplomatic missions, and international partners.

Participants will discuss the following topics:

- information and analytical resources as sources of data on corruption and Ukraine's anti-corruption results;
- disinformation narratives related to corruption;
- insights from media monitoring, sociological, and expert surveys
- ways to strengthen the role of data in changing perceptions of corruption in society and on the international stage, etc.

In addition, experts will present the NACP's information tools.

Additional Information: <https://lvivmediaforum.com/en>

Presentation of the results of an expert survey on the assessment of the level of corruption in Ukraine.

On 28 April 2026, the presentation of the study “Corruption in Ukraine 2025: Experts' Perspectives and Assessments” will take place.

The purpose of the expert survey is to obtain information containing experts' assessments of changes in the level and prevalence of corruption in the country and in specific sectors, as well as the implementation of the state's anti-corruption policy.

The study was conducted within the framework of the project “Support to the Development of Effective Tools for Corruption Prevention and Strengthening Anti-Corruption Compliance in Ukraine”, implemented by the OSCE Support Program for Ukraine in cooperation with the National Agency for Corruption Prevention.

Main objectives of the study are:

- to develop an overall ranking of sectors based on the level of prevalence of corruption;
- to determine expert assessments based on key indicators of corruption perception in Ukraine (prevalence of corruption in the country, seriousness of the problem, dynamics of change, etc.);
- to determine expert assessments of the effectiveness of the State's anti-corruption policy (including the performance of public authorities) and its priorities;
- to obtain data for further comparison with the results of standard surveys on corruption in Ukraine (representative surveys of the population and business representatives).

Within the study, an index of perceived prevalence of corruption across sectors (on a 5-point scale) was calculated, and an overall ranking of 48 sectors was established. Based on the assessments of anti-corruption sector experts, a group of 11 leading sectors with the highest levels of corruption prevalence was identified.

The survey was conducted by Rating Group with the support of the NACP in late 2025 – early 2026.

Presentation of the guide “Reporting Corruption: A Step-by-Step Guide”

On 23 June 2026, there will be a presentation of the guide “Reporting Corruption.” This practical guide clearly explains how to effectively interact with public authorities in order to expose corruption offenses.

The purpose of the guide is to describe, in an accessible manner, the procedures for reporting corruption to the relevant public authorities. The information, including practical instructions and specific examples, will be useful for civil society activists, journalists, business representatives, and all citizens seeking to contribute to the detection of corruption-related offences.

The guide explains the concept of corruption, the jurisdiction of different authorities, and the available reporting channels through which citizens can submit complaints. A dedicated section focuses on the technical aspects of the process, including the distinction between applicants and whistleblowers, general requirements for the content of reports, and methods of submission. In addition, the guide contains information on the procedure for reviewing reports, applicable timeframes, and practical advice in case of difficulties.

The final section is devoted to reports submitted to the NACP, specifically regarding violations in asset declarations, conflicts of interest, and inconsistencies between an individual's lifestyle and their official income.

The event is aimed at changing the perception that anti-corruption procedures are overly complex and providing everyone with a clear toolkit to protect their rights. The guide will help make legal explanations easy to understand and apply in practice. The presentation will serve as an important platform for all those who aspire to contribute to the development of an integrity-based society and wish to confidentially navigate the legal landscape of anti-corruption legislation.

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ØKOKRIM

Antikorrupsjonskonferansen Sti, Norway

Corruption as a Security Risk: 12th Oslo Anti-Corruption Conference

The 12th Oslo Anti-Corruption Conference will address corruption as a growing security risk. The event gathers experts across sectors to explore vulnerabilities, risks, and preventive measures. Registration is now open.

The 12th Oslo Anti-Corruption Conference will take place on 11–12 June 2026 at Quality Hotel Expo, Fornebu, Norway. This year's theme, "Corruption as a Security Risk," reflects the increasing recognition of corruption as a threat to national and international security.

The conference is a well-established annual meeting place for professionals working with anti-corruption, bringing together representatives from public authorities, law enforcement, academia, civil society, and the private sector. It aims to promote knowledge-sharing, strengthen cross-sector cooperation, and raise awareness of corruption risks and preventive measures.

This year's programme will explore how corruption can undermine democratic institutions, distort markets, and weaken trust in governance. It will also address how corruption may be exploited by hostile actors, facilitate organized crime, and create vulnerabilities in critical sectors.

Through keynote speeches, panel discussions, and practical case presentations, participants will gain insights into emerging risks and effective prevention strategies. The conference is open to an international audience, and professional simultaneous translation from Norwegian to English will be provided.

Registration is now open. For more information, please visit the conference website.

ANTI- KORRUPSJONS+ KONFERANSEN

Contact: Petter Skjærvø, National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime

Additional Information: Oslo Anti-Corruption Conference | Participate now – learn more about anti-corruption <https://www.antikorrupsjonskonferansen.no/>



**Oficina Antifrau
de Catalunya**

Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia, Spain

Open the whistle: protecting whistleblowers through transparency, cooperation and Open Government strategies

The project “Open the whistle: Protecting whistleblowers through transparency, cooperation and Open Government strategies” (OPWHI) will address these challenges, contributing to create a safe environment for whistleblowers and ensure the proper functioning of whistleblowing systems in these countries.

Bulgaria, Italy and Spain face significant challenges in ensuring effective and safe protection for whistleblowers under their recent national laws adopted in 2024, transposing the EU Directive 2019/1937. Key issues include:

- Lack of clear guidelines on the information that must be provided to potential users of reporting systems (lack of transparency).
- General distrust by citizens and employees in internal and external reporting systems, stemming from a weak speak-up culture (lack of confidence).
- Insufficient knowledge and training for managers of reporting systems in both the public and private sectors (lack of knowledge and training).
- Poor cooperation and coordination among authorities, obligated parties, civil society, and other stakeholders (lack of cooperation).
- Recent adoption of national laws leading to common implementation challenges (lack of implementation).

The main objective of OPWHI is to create an environment that supports protected reporting of breaches of Union law and other infringements, promoting a culture where whistleblowers can safely speak up. This goal will be achieved by delivering capacity-building materials, training and campaigning to ensure a widespread EU whistleblowing protection policy based on a whistleblower-centred approach.

Operating within the framework of Open Government strategies, and through a cooperative approach involving Civil Society Organizations, academia, and authorities in Bulgaria, Italy and Spain, OPWHI will develop a holistic and inclusive approach founded on three pillars: Toolkits, Trainings, and Transparency.

Proposed activities:

1. Whistleblowing Integrity Toolkit: To provide a comprehensive toolkit ensuring adequate protection for whistleblowers. This toolkit will benefit CSOs and private organisations implementing the EU Directive on whistleblower protection, as well as national and regional authorities and public servants. The toolkit's utility will extend beyond the three involved countries and can be used elsewhere.
2. Advanced Trainings: To offer advanced training programmes, including a train-the-trainers approach, tailored for national and regional authorities, public servants, and private organisations involved in the EU Directive's implementation. These trainings will promote knowledge and experience exchanges, helping authorities and organisations review, improve, and adapt their procedures to incorporate best practices.
3. Whistleblowing Strategic Campaign: To increase public knowledge and understanding of national laws transposing the EU Directive, the existence of internal and external reporting channels, and the legal remedies and protections available in case of retaliation.

Results to achieve:

1. To shape a new whistleblower protection model based on Open Government and a collective cooperative approach between authorities, academia, and CSOs, providing all parties involved in the EU Directive's implementation with necessary guidelines.
2. To build the capacity of CSOs, national and regional authorities, public servants, and private organisations involved in implementing the EU Directive to ensure a widespread EU whistleblowing protection policy centred on the whistleblower. This will be achieved by providing tailored training and training materials on best practices and Open Government strategies.
3. To promote and increase awareness among the general public and potential whistleblowers about existing reporting channels and procedures, as well as the rights provided under the EU Directive, fostering a cultural paradigm shift towards trust in whistleblower narratives.

Explore all challenges here: www.openthewhistle.eu

Partners:

[Transparency International España](#) – Spain
[Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia](#) – Spain
[Libera. Associazioni, nomi e numeri control le mafie](#) – Italy
[Autorità Nazionale Anticorruzione](#) – Italy
[Komisiya za Zashchita na Lichnite Danni](#) – Bulgaria
[Center for the Study of Democracy](#) - Bulgaria
[Università degli Studi di Pisa](#) – Italy

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Funded by
the European Union

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Additional Information: www.openthewhistle.eu



The Special Investigation Service of Lithuania (STT)

The Special Investigation Service of Lithuania (STT), in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), has completed a European Commission-funded project under which an AI-based pilot model for assessing fraud and corruption risks in public procurement was developed. The model will help identify potential public procurement risks on a large scale and strengthen preventive oversight. The project's closing conference took place in Vilnius on 24 February.

During the final conference held in Vilnius on 24 February, OECD experts presented the implementation process and key results of the project, and discussed further directions for the development of the model and future cooperation. The event was attended by representatives of STT and partner institutions, while members of the European Commission and the EPAC/EACN network of European anti-corruption and police oversight authorities joined remotely.

As part of the project "Deployment of Digital Innovations in Law Enforcement and Development of an AI-Based Model for Identifying Corruption Risks in the Use of Public and European Union Funds", funded by the European Commission's Technical Support Instrument, OECD experts and researchers from the Government Transparency Institute developed a pilot AI-based model for assessing fraud and corruption risks in public procurement. The model employs advanced data analytics and machine learning methods that integrate and analyse data from various state registers and information systems. This will enable the systematic identification of potential risk indicators, prioritisation of cases for more detailed assessment, and strengthening of preventive oversight before possible violations or criminal offences occur.

The project also made a significant contribution to strengthening STT's data governance. OECD experts provided consultations on improving data governance, developing a risk assessment methodology, and implementing international best practices.

"Public procurement remains one of the areas most exposed to corruption risks. Given the scale of public procurement in the country and the complexity of related processes, it is essential to apply advanced analytical methods based on data analysis in order to detect risks not only in individual decisions but also in recurring patterns. By implementing this project, we have taken an important step in strengthening the Service's analytical anti-corruption intelligence capacities. The adapted model will allow for more efficient and systematic assessment of risks related to the use of the state budget and European Union funds. This will help not only to identify potential violations more promptly but also to apply targeted preventive measures. The model will also reinforce data-driven decision-making and enhance inter-institutional cooperation," – said STT Director Linas Pervanas.

Given that Lithuania is currently receiving and will continue to receive significant EU investments in the coming years, including funds under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the new model provides additional safeguards for transparent and responsible management of public finances. Transparent and efficient use of these funds is directly linked to public trust in the state, its institutions, and their ability to ensure sound financial

management. This is particularly relevant in the context of increasing investments in strategically important areas, including national defence.

The AI-based model is designed to help identify potential risk indicators and process large volumes of data more efficiently; however, final decisions will remain based on expert analysis.

The model will continue to be further developed and implemented in practice. Its targeted application will help strengthen the state's analytical and preventive capacities, enable timely identification of risks, and ensure transparent use of public funds.

The project was implemented from September 2024 to March 2026. It was carried out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, with the Special Investigation Service of Lithuania as the beneficiary.



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Additional Information: <https://stt.lt/en/news/7481/ai-based-pilot-model-for-assessing-corruption-risks-in-public-procurement-developed:4165>

The Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania (STT), together with the Estonian Internal Security Service (KAPO), the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB), the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau of Latvia (KNAB), the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention of Ukraine (NACP), have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation.

The purpose of the Memorandum is to establish a permanent regional practical and operational platform aimed at safeguarding EU and national funds allocated for the reconstruction of Ukraine. The Central Anti-Corruption Bureau of Poland (CBA) will participate in the platform as an observer.

The initiative originates from a high-level meeting of Baltic anti-corruption authorities held last year, with Ukraine participating as a guest. During the meeting, discussions focused on how the Baltic States could further support Ukraine through the exchange of experience and expertise and by strengthening cooperation, as well as on enhancing security and transparency across the region. The idea to reinforce structured cooperation, developed during that meeting, has now been implemented through the signing of this Memorandum.

“Large-scale reconstruction projects inevitably entail increased risks of corruption and fraud. Declarations alone are not sufficient – concrete operational mechanisms are essential. This Memorandum sends a clear signal that the region’s anti-corruption institutions stand united in support of Ukraine. Lithuania, together with Estonia, Latvia and Poland, drawing on extensive practical experience in combating corruption, is assuming an active role in strengthening structured and operational cooperation with Ukrainian partners. I am confident that this partnership will establish an effective mechanism for regular information exchange, enhance the capacity of Ukrainian institutions to implement new financial control legislation, and make a significant contribution to protecting the EU’s financial interests and detecting corruption cases,” said Linas Pernavas, Director of the Special Investigation Service of Lithuania.



“This Memorandum reflects our shared commitment to strengthening regional cooperation in preventing and combating corruption. For NABU, partnership with our Baltic colleagues is not only an exchange of expertise, but a practical instrument to reinforce accountability and institutional resilience, especially in times of ongoing security challenges,” noted Semen Kryvonos, Director of the National Anti-corruption Bureau of Ukraine.

“We are moving from diplomatic agreements to practical cooperation on the ground, which is based on three principles: the protection of reconstruction funds, supporting Ukraine on its path to the EU, and direct cross-border interaction between our analytical and investigative units. Through real-time data exchange, we will be able to promptly block and dismantle potential international corruption schemes,” said Viktor Pavlushchuk, Head of the National Agency on Corruption Prevention of Ukraine.

“By taking part in the Frontline Regional Initiative for the Protection of EU Financial Interests in Ukraine, we strengthen cooperation between regional partners. The Memorandum provides a clear framework for regular and steady cooperation to protect the European Union’s financial interests in Ukraine,” commented Jānis ROZE, Deputy Director for Criminal Intelligence of the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau of Latvia.

„Corruption makes countries and their people vulnerable. This cooperation agreement will help improve the well-being of Ukraine and the whole Europe,” noted Andres Ratassepp, Deputy Director General of the Estonian Internal Security Service.

The platform is being established in the context of the long-term financial and institutional commitment of the European Union and its Member States to contribute to Ukraine’s reconstruction. The initiative highlights the practical contribution of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, as well as Poland and other countries in the region, in ensuring the transparent

and accountable use of assistance funds and strengthening cross-border preventive and law enforcement cooperation.

The cooperation will include regular coordination meetings involving investigators, analysts and liaison officers. The partners will exchange information and risk indicators related to EU and national reconstruction funds, including public procurement, grants, subsidies, budget support and other financial instruments.

Joint thematic seminars are planned, focusing on investigative methodologies, risk analysis and the strengthening of transparency assurance systems. Close cooperation with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) is also envisaged, ensuring alignment with EU-level mechanisms and judicial cooperation frameworks.

The Memorandum has been signed by six institutions: the Special Investigation Service of Lithuania, the Estonian Internal Security Service, the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board, the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau of Latvia, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, and the National Agency on Corruption Prevention of Ukraine.

All signatory institutions are members of the European Partners against Corruption (EPAC/EACN) network, which is currently chaired by the STT. The Memorandum establishes a mechanism allowing additional participants to join in the future, enabling the initiative to expand and involve more countries and institutions over time.

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Additional Information: <https://stt.lt/en/news/7481/frontline-eu-regional-anti-corruption-platform-established-to-safeguard-ukraines-reconstruction-funds:4171>

On 21–22 April, the Special Investigation Service (STT) of Lithuania, in cooperation with the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN), hosted the Strategic Dialogue of Anti-Corruption Leaders of Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Vilnius. It brought together more than 60 representatives from 21 ACN countries to discuss progress and challenges in advancing anti-corruption reforms across the region and to explore future strategic directions for the Network. The event was co-funded by the European Union.

The event was attended by heads of anti-corruption authorities, ministers, judges and anti-corruption practitioners, as well as representatives of the OECD, and international partners, including the European Commission, and other donor organisations. Discussions focused on shaping the OECD ACN Work Programme for 2027–2030, with an emphasis on strengthening specialised law enforcement institutions to tackle high-level corruption, promoting business integrity through public-private partnerships, and enhancing country capacities.

“This dialogue provides an important platform for partners to jointly define priorities, which will help ensure that the OECD ACN remains responsive to the evolving needs of participating countries. Our goal is to turn commitments into measurable progress, closing the gap between standards and implementation. This discussion helps promote sustained cooperation, which is vital to an effective fight against corruption,” remarks Julia Fromholz, Head of the OECD Anti-Corruption Division.

“Lithuania’s chairmanship of the OECD ACN reflects both recognition and responsibility to bring countries together in strengthening transparency and resilience to corruption. The Strategic Dialogue in Vilnius provides an opportunity not only to assess progress but also to shape future actions in a meaningful way,” says Egidijus Radzevičius, Deputy Director of the STT and Chair of the OECD ACN.

The OECD ACN, established in 1998, is a regional initiative supporting countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in their fight against corruption through monitoring, peer learning, exchange of experience and targeted assistance. It serves as a platform for promoting anti-corruption reforms and sharing expertise among OECD, EU and partner countries. Lithuania has been actively engaged in the Network since its inception and, in 2025, became the first country to assume the Chairmanship of the ACN, marking an important milestone in its leadership in the international anti-corruption agenda.

The event contributes to broader priorities of the OECD and the European Union, including advancing enlargement and neighbourhood policies by mobilising collective efforts to fight corruption, supporting institutional capacity building and strengthening integrity standards across the region.



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Additional Information: <https://stt.lt/en/news/7481/oecd-anti-corruption-network-for-eastern-europe-and-central-asia-acn-strategic-dialogue-of-leaders-held-in-vilnius:4206>

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