



EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly

Protecting Public Integrity and EU Financial Interests: Practical Cooperation Against
Corruption, Fraud and Misconduct

5–7 October 2026
Budva, Montenegro

Day 1 – Monday, 5 October 2026

19:00 – 21:00

Welcome dinner & Cultural Activity (*optional*)

Day 2 – Tuesday, 6 October 2026

8:00 – 9:00

Registration of participants

9:00 – 9:30

Official Welcome

Master of the Ceremonies: Jelena ČORLUKA, journalist and editor at Nova M.

- Miloško SPAJIĆ, Prime Minister of Montenegro
- Linas PERNAVAS, President of EPAC/EACN and Director of the Special Investigation Service (STT), Lithuania
- Danilo ŠARANOVIC, Minister of the Interior, Montenegro
- Bojan BOŽOVIĆ, Minister of Justice, Montenegro
- Kristina BRALETIĆ, Director of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption, Montenegro

9:30 – 10:30

Plenary Session I. Combatting Corruption: Latest Strategic Perspectives from European and International Partners

Moderator: Ognjen MITROVIĆ, Legal expert – European Union Support to the Rule of Law in Montenegro (EUROL IV)

Speakers:

- David MEYER, President of GRECO, Council of Europe
- János BERTÓK, Deputy Director of the Directorate for Public Governance (GOV), OECD
- Kristina JANKOVICH, Head of Sector – Integrity and Anti-Corruption, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission
- Constantine PALICARSKY, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Corruption and Financial Crime Branch, UNODC

10:30 – 11:00

Family photo + Coffee Break



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11:00 – 12:15

Plenary Session II. From Cooperation to Impact: Practical Responses to Corruption and Fraud Affecting EU Financial Interests

Moderator: Ernst SCHMID, EPAC/EACN Vice-President and Head of Department at the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Austria

Speakers:

- “The EPPO’s experience in the fight against expenditure fraud and corruption”
Tamara LAPTOŠ, European Prosecutor, European Public Prosecutor’s Office
- “FRONTLINE-EU initiative: regional cooperation in protecting EU financial interests and ensuring integrity in Ukraine’s reconstruction process” – Jovitas RAŠKEVIČIUS, First Deputy Director of the Special Investigation Service, Lithuania
- Paweł WAŚNIK, National Member for Poland and Chair of Economic Crime Working Group, Eurojust
- Céline GUILLET, Deputy Chief Prosecutor, National Financial Prosecution Office (PNF), France
- “International Cooperation. Europol’s experiences combating corruption” – Pablo SALAZAR, Head of Office, Analysis Project Corruption, European Financial & Economic Crime Centre (EFECC), Europol

12:15 – 13:00

EPAC/EACN Awards (*presentation of nominations + voting*)

- 5 min. Introduction – Moderator (EPAC/EACN Secretariat)
- 5 nominations (5 min. per presentation)
- Voting

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:15

Parallel Break-Out Sessions I

Session A

National Anti-Corruption Agencies and Police Oversight Bodies in the New/Revised EU Integrity Framework: Challenges and Expectations

This breakout session will examine how national anti-corruption authorities and relevant EU bodies can translate recent EU anti-corruption and anti-fraud developments into practical cooperation. The discussion will focus on the implementation implications of the new EU Anti-Corruption Directive, the preparation of the first EU Anti-Corruption Strategy, and the ongoing Anti-Fraud Architecture Review, including the evolving roles of EPPO and OLAF. Rather than a political debate, the session will highlight operational needs, cooperation gaps, case-based lessons, and practical opportunities for EPAC/EACN members.

Panel Discussion:

- Kristina JANKOVICH, Head of Sector – Integrity and Anti-Corruption, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission
- José MOURAZ LOPES, MENAC’s Chairman of the Board of Directors, Portugal
- Claire DUBOIS-LIDON, Senior International Affairs Officer, French Anticorruption Agency, France

Moderator: Jure ŠKRBEČ, anticorruption expert, Slovenia

Session B

From Red Flags to Evidence: Practical Case Studies on EU Funds related Fraud and Corruption

This breakout session will examine practical case examples and typologies of fraud and corruption, including affecting EU-funded projects, such as procurement manipulation, conflicts of interest, false declarations, double funding, undue influence and misuse of grants or subsidies. The session will focus on how red flags can be transformed into actionable intelligence, evidence and institutional learning. It will also explore the role of anti-corruption authorities in supporting managing authorities, audit bodies, law enforcement and prosecutors.

Case Study Presentations:

- Patrice BRIZÉ, Director, Central Office for the Fight Against Corruption and Financial and Tax Offences (OCLCIFI), National Police, France
- Anita BETHRE, Head of Strategy Department, Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau, Latvia
- “Internal synergy of prevention and enforcement in identifying corruption risks: example from Lithuania” – Domantas LUKAUSKAS, Head of Corruption Risk Division, Corruption Prevention Department, Special Investigation Service, Lithuania

Moderator: Helena PAPA anticorruption expert, French Expertise

15:15 – 15:30

Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:45

Parallel Break-Out Sessions II

Session C

Combatting Corruption and Safeguarding EU Support in Candidate Countries

This breakout session will be dedicated to cooperation with EU candidate and potential candidate countries receiving significant EU support, with particular focus on Western Balkans, Ukraine and Moldova. The discussion will address anti-corruption reforms, as well as corruption and fraud risks linked to recovery, reconstruction, accession-related reforms and large-scale EU funding. The session will be co-led by candidate country authorities and EU Member State representatives, with the aim of identifying institutional capacity-building needs, information exchange barriers and practical forms of EPAC/EACN support.

Thematic Presentations and Moderated Discussion:

- "Turning Reform Commitments into Lasting Results: OECD Engagement for Sustainable Anti-Corruption Reform in Candidate Countries" – Rusudan MIKHELIDZE, Head of ACN Monitoring, Anti-Corruption Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD
- Serhii HUPIAK, Deputy Head of the National Agency on Corruption Prevention, Ukraine
- "From international support to lasting capacity-national and regional practices" – Aneta ARNAUDOVSKA, Senior Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Expert, Former Judge

Moderator: Aleksandar ĐORĐEVIĆ, anticorruption expert/ Regional Anti-Corruption Specialist Asset Recovery & Anti-Corruption, Programme Office Serbia, UNODC

Session D

Advancing Technology: Data, AI and Digital Tools for Prevention, Detection and Oversight

This breakout session will examine how advanced technologies can support anti-corruption agencies, police oversight bodies and anti-fraud actors in preventing, detecting and analysing corruption, misconduct, fraud and other integrity risks. The discussion will focus on practical uses of technology tools and innovation, artificial intelligence, machine learning, open-source intelligence, monitoring tools, beneficial ownership data, asset declaration systems, secure reporting channels and digital case-management platforms.

Demonstration / Thematic Presentations:

- "Making Technology Stick: From Digital Experimentation to Operational Integrity Tools" – Maria-Eugenia HEYACA, Policy analyst – Lead Tech and Analytics, GOV/ACIOG, OECD
- "The Protection of Fundamental Rights and Prohibited Practices relating to Artificial Intelligence" – Eurico SILVA, Inspector,
- Inspectorate-General of Internal Administration, Portugal "Transition from AI-assisted Research to End-to-End, Human-Supervised Integrity Workflows" – Máté BENYOVSZKY, Head of Software Development and AI, Integrity Authority of Hungary

Moderator: Ernst SCHMID, EPAC/EACN Vice-President (anti-corruption strand) / Head of Department 1, Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Austria

16:45 – 18:00

Free time

18:00 – 18:30

Transportation to the Dinner venue

18:30 – 21:00

Dinner & Cultural Activity