



NEWSLETTER

**Dear ladies and gentlemen,
colleagues and friends,**

Hopefully the first months of the new year have already taken you on new and exciting adventures. To sweeten the spring up a little, we would like to give you some news and events to be excited about.

As always, we would appreciate your input regarding future or past events, conferences, seminars, training courses, studies, project findings, etc. for us to include in the next newsletter.

Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat

EPAC/EACN EVENTS AND LATEST NEWS

“EU INTEGRITY” PROJECT AND KICK-OFF CONFERENCE

The objective of the “EU Integrity “ project of the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) together with its partners from Germany (Landeskriminalamt Nordrhein-Westfalen), France (Agence Française Anticorruption) and Romania (Direcția Generală Anticorupție) is to contribute to the prevention of corruption by promoting integrity in all sectors with, however, a special focus on the public sector and inter-sectorial exchange of experiences. Project aims are, setting up an EU Integrity network and using it to strengthen mutual understanding, communication and cooperation across the EU. The network is intended to further enhance the commitment of all stakeholders to exchange expertise on a variety of topics, ranging from ethical values and value education to whistle-blowing, and the establishment of an analysis framework to facilitate structured exchange of best practices. Inter alia, this will be realized by organizing various working group meetings. Each working group will deal with a different issue derived from discussions held about integrity. Information gathered in these working groups as well as bilateral discussions will be fed into an IT platform, which is to be set up and developed after the initial phase of the project.

The Kick-Off Conference will be held in Vienna from 20 to 22 June 2018. It is intended to provide information on the project and introduce the project team, and to serve as a framework to establish working groups.

Editor: [EPAC/EACN Secretariat](#)

Homepage: www.epac-eacn.org

FIRST MEETING OF THE EPAC/EACN WORKING GROUP:

„How can POB organisations monitor the authorities of police forces in respect of the balance between collective security and individual rights mass meetings/events“

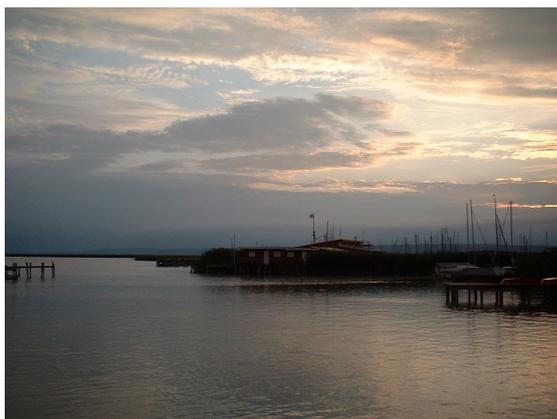
On 20 April 2018, representatives of anti-corruption authorities and police oversight bodies of the EPAC/EACN networks will participate in the first meeting of the working group: "How can POB organisations monitor the authorities of police forces in respect of the balance between collective security and individual rights mass meetings/events?", which will take place in Brussels, Belgium. The Working Group will be co-chaired by the "Inspectorate of Police of Luxembourg" and the Belgian "Standing Police Monitoring Committee".

Topics discussed will include: security risks run by festival visitors and employees, need for a legal basis and risk analysis, screening against national and international databases, opinion of the Committee on protection of privacy and appeal processes, etc.

SAVE THE DATE

18th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly

Please save the date in your calendar for the 18th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly at "Seehotel Rust" Hotel from 22 to 24 October 2018. The conference location is in the Austrian Federal State of Burgenland near Lake Neusiedl, which is the largest endorheic lake in Central Europe, with one part on Austrian and another one on Hungarian territory.



(Lake Neusiedl)

Further information and details regarding the conference, registration, and social programme will follow in due time.

We look forward to welcoming you as our guests in Austria this year.

SECOND MEETING OF THE EPAC/EACN WORKING GROUP (WG): “Analysis of big data, related legal aspects, use of databases”



On 26 and 27 March 2018 in Bucharest, the National Anticorruption Directorate of Romania organized session II of the EPAC/EACN working group on the analysis of big data, with financial support by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Romania.

The objective was to bring together EPAC/EACN member representatives to exchange best practices and recommendations for the analysis of big data and the use of databases in anti-corruption investigations.

The EPAC/EACN board members had met in Vienna in February 2017, and agreed on the establishment of the WG “Analysis of big data, related legal aspects and the use of data bases”, co-chaired by the Lithuanian Special Investigation Service and the Romanian National Anti-corruption Directorate. The first meeting of this WG took place in Vilnius, Lithuania from 2 to 3 October 2017.

Following up discussions held during the first session of the working group in Lithuania, the WG in Bucharest addressed the challenge of managing big data sets in investigations into corruption cases, bringing together experts representing anti-corruption authorities and members of EPAC/EACN to share their experience and best practices in the field.

Representatives of anti-corruption authorities and police institutions from 11 EU member states and non-member states attended the WG (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, and Ukraine), as well as representatives of OLAF and EUROPOL.

During the WG, speakers presented different software solutions used for big data analysis in investigating corruption offences, followed by a working exercise for drafting technical specifications for big data software solutions and lively discussions, creating the necessary framework for participants to share their experience and best practices in the big data field, and to give their input regarding the guidelines for analysis of big data and use of databases in anti-corruption investigations.

The main conclusion of the WG was that studying and actually employing advanced IT techniques during investigations will determine the improvement of methods and practices used. Another conclusion was that it was necessary to arrange for similar WG on a regular basis to continue the exchange of experience and best practices.

Guidelines resulting from the WG will be presented during the 18th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly.

[See: <http://www.pna.ro/faces/eventGeneral.xhtml?id=78&tip=5>]

GRECO COUNTRY EVALUATIONS 5th-Round-Reports

The 5th Evaluation Round of GRECO on the topic “preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies” was launched on 20 March 2017. It covers among other things, ethical principles and rules of conduct, conflicts of interest, prohibition or restriction of certain activities, and public awareness.

The first country evaluation reports were published recently. For instance, the report on Iceland recommends the strengthening of Iceland’s systems to limit risks of corruption and improper conduct in government functions and law enforcement agencies, or, the report on Finland also calls for the strengthening of systems to prevent and detect corrupt behaviour in central governments and law enforcement agencies.

[See: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/greco/evaluations>
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/greco/-/iceland-needs-effective-tools-to-preserve-integrity-in-government-and-the-police>
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/greco/-/finland-encouraged-to-boost-anticorruption-policy-in-central-governments-and-law-enforcement-agencies>]

LAUNCH OF UNODC's GLOBAL JUDICIAL INTEGRITY NETWORK

In April 2018, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched its Global Judicial Integrity Network. The two-day launch event in the presence of Chief Justices, senior judges and judicial professionals from around the world took place after two years of intense planning and preparation at the United Nations in Vienna. Since corruption harms people’s trust in the rule of law, the UNODC Judicial Integrity Initiative aims at helping to prevent corruption and to promote integrity in the justice sector all over the world.

The network provides a platform for judges to share good practices, lessons learned and other information, and to work together in developing new tools and guidelines for preventing corruption and promoting integrity.

[See: <http://www.unodc.org/dohadeclaration/en/news/2018/04/chief-justices-and-senior-judges-launch-unodcs-global-judicial-integrity-network.html>]

OECD INTEGRITY WEEK AND ANTI-CORRUPTION & INTEGRITY FORUM

This year's OECD Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum took place during OECD's Integrity Week from 27 to 28 March 2018. The Integrity Week included a number of other public events related to anti-corruption and integrity. The aim of the event was to actively support governments and organizations to strengthen integrity, build trust and fight corruption.

Among other things, participants discussed how integrity promotes a level playing field for business, reduces socio-economic inequalities and makes public policies more effective. Debates also focused on the governance of globalisation and its role in reducing corruption and unethical practices in areas such as trade, competition, infrastructure, development cooperation and revenue collection.

These events brought together stakeholders from government, academia, business, trade and civil society to exchange experiences, best practices, and current developments in the fields of integrity and anti-corruption.

(See: <http://www.oecd.org/corruption/integrity-forum/>)

EUROBAROMETER: Country factsheets on attitudes to corruption

In February, the European Commission published country-specific factsheets in addition to the latest Eurobarometer surveys about public attitudes to corruption - EU citizens' perceptions and attitudes towards corruption - and businesses' attitudes to corruption.

The Eurobarometer on businesses' attitudes towards corruption shows the degree to which businesses feel that they are affected by corruption and their experiences with public administration where corruption could affect them.

The new factsheets contain breakdowns of key results by Member State, comparing them with results from previous surveys, and with the EU average. According to the surveys, corruption is seen as a major problem rendering business dealings more difficult. Nonetheless, recent surveys show that there is an increasing optimism among citizens and business representatives about the current and future situation in this regard.

(See: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/eurobarometer-country-factsheets-attitudes-corruption_en)

PANEL SESSION OF THE OECD AND THE BASEL INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE : “The High Level Reporting Mechanism”

On 29 March 2018, the OECD and “Basel Institute of Governance” invited participants to the OECD Headquarters in Paris, to a panel session to present an innovative tool - the High Level Reporting Mechanism (HLRM) - which was jointly developed by these two institutions and Transparency International, to effectively address complaints of bribery solicitation and related practices that involve public officials. Upon receipt of a complaint, the HLRM triggers a process of rapid analysis and pragmatic response on the part of a government.

The panel discussion sought to portray the HLRM, recent experiences with its implementation in Colombia and Argentina, and its complementarity with public integrity and competition policy efforts.

The Presentation of the HLRM took place as a side event of the OECD Anti-Corruption and Integrity Global Forum during OECD Integrity Week.

(See: <http://www.oecd.org/fr/corruption/2018-hlrm-tool-to-prevent-corruption.htm>)

BEST PRACTICE GUIDE FOR WHISTLEBLOWING LEGISLATION

Transparency International published its “Best Practice Guide for Whistleblowing Legislation” at the beginning of March. The guide is directed to policy-makers and whistleblowing advocates. Its objective is to help countries to implement international principles of Whistleblower Legislation into national law.

The guide was developed together with Transparency International experts who successfully promoted the adoption of whistleblower protection legislation in their countries. For each principle, this guide shows what existing good practice there is, and the reason why. It provides examples from existing national legislation and future best practices. The guide should be used together with “International Principles for Whistleblower Legislation”. Readers can pick and choose specific principles which are interesting for them, or read the entire guide.

(See: <https://transparency.eu/wbbpg/>)

IACA UPDATE



On 8 March 2018 the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) celebrated its seventh anniversary [1] as an international organization by welcoming dozens of ambassadors and other prominent guests to a reception at its Laxenburg campus. The guest of honour was H.E. Ms. Karin Kneissl, the Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, representing IACA's host country. Addressing the guests, H.E. Ms. Kneissl reiterated Austria's strong support for IACA, which she described as "a centre of excellence and a hub of expertise and information sharing".

In this connection IACA is now welcoming applications for many of its programs and trainings. These include, among others, the 2018 – 2020 edition of its Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS), and the 2019 - 2021 International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action (IMACC), a new academic degree program for professionals involved with the business sector in these fields.

Other highlights in 2018 include the annual Summer Academy (29 June to 6 July), a two-day "Best Of" seminar with Prof. Tina Søreide, an IACA Frequent Visiting Faculty member (3 to 4 July), and a seminar on Digital Compliance: How disruptive technologies will drive changes in compliance systems (20 to 21 September). IACA will also deliver numerous tailor-made anti-corruption and compliance trainings throughout the year. See www.iaca.int for details.

Former students and participants are warmly invited to register for this year's IACA Alumni Reunion [2] in Laxenburg from 5 to 6 July 2018. In addition, IACA has made a small sample of research publications available on its website [3].

IACA has also reiterated its commitment to gender equality and female empowerment [4] to help realize the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development — in particular through the organization's existing pledges to ensure gender balance in its staffing and encourage increased female participation in its programmes and trainings.

Links to other web pages:

[1] <http://iaca.int/1009-seventh-anniversary-celebrations-at-iaca.html>

[2] <http://www.iaca.int/alumni-reunion-2018>

[3] <http://www.iaca.int/academic-programmes/selected-research-publications.html>

[4] <http://iaca.int/982-iaca-reaffirms-commitment-to-gender-equality-and-female-empowerment.html>

OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

- 04 Jun. to 06 Jun. 2018: Implementation Review Group Meeting (UNCAC), Vienna
06 Jun. to 07 Jun. 2018: Meeting Working Group on Asset Recovery (UNCAC), Vienna
08 Jun. 2018: Expert Meeting on International Cooperation (UNCAC), Vienna
12 Jun. to 15 Jun. 2018: Meeting Working Group on Bribery (OECD), Paris
18 Jun. to 22 Jun. 2018: 80th Plenary Meeting (GRECO), Strasbourg
21 Jun. to 22 Jun. 2018: "EU-Integrity" Kick-Off Conference, Vienna
03 Sep. to 05 Sep. 2018: Meeting Implementation Review Group (UNCAC), Vienna
06 Sep. to 07 Sep. 2018: Meeting Working Group on Prevention, Vienna
09 Oct. to 12 Oct. 2018: Meeting Working Group on Bribery, Paris
15 Oct. to 19 Oct. 2018: 81st Plenary Meeting (GRECO), Strasbourg
22 Oct. to 24 Oct. 2018: EPAC/EACN Annual Conference, Rust