

"First International Anti-Corruption Summer School" – IACSS 2007

Practise Meets Science

Under the theme "Practice Meets Science" about 50 senior anti-corruption investigators and experts from the EU, the Western Balkans and countries of the European Neighbourhood met from 6 to 13 July in Altlengbach, Austria for a "First International Anti-Corruption Summer School". The convention was organized by the Austrian EPAC Partner BIA in cooperation with EPAC and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).



The selected audience from 23 countries attended interdisciplinary seminars and academic lectures by renowned practitioners and scientists like Prof. Michel Girodo (University of Ottawa), Prof. de Nève (University of Halle), Prof. Schneider (University of Linz), Prof. Lambsdorff (University of Passau). The innovative, experience-oriented concept merged practical approaches with aspects of diverse scientific disciplines such as psychology, criminology, political science, business administration, or political economics.

IACSS 2007 also promoted the exchange of experiences between the different participating authorities, be it from the Member States of the EU or from outside the Union, disseminated general and specific knowledge, and thus contributed to the fight against fraud and corruption, including fraud and corruption affecting the financial interests of the European Union.

In the evenings the event was completed by fireside chats, which were held by eminent personalities from politics, the business sector and the media.

5th anniversary of KNAB, Latvia

KNAB Conference, 9-10 October 07

The Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB) of Latvia is celebrating its 5th anniversary this year. At this occasion, an international conference "Corruption Prevention and Combating – Current Trends and Future Challenges" is planned on 9-10 October 2007 in Riga. The conference aims to bring together officials and experts from Latvia, other countries and international organisations to discuss achievements and future priorities in corruption prevention and criminal investigation of corruption crimes in Latvia since the establishment of KNAB and – to identify common trends with other countries. A session of the EPAC working group on "Common Standards and Best Practice for Anticorruption Agencies", which was entrusted to KNAB and STT (Lithuania) at the last EPAC annual gathering in Budapest in 2006, will take place within this conference. For more information on KNAB visit <http://www.knab.gov.lv/en>. Regarding the conference you can contact Ms. Inese Gaika, tel. +371 7356135, inese.gaika@knab.gov.lv.



International Network for the Independent Oversight of Policing (INIOP)

Steering group launched

Following the IPCCs attendance at the 2007 EPAC conference in Budapest, the INIOP steering group has held its first formal meeting, and has discussed a number of issues including the development of membership criteria and a draft constitution. We hope to be able to agree the constitution and formally launch the network in 2008.



Separately, John Wadham, Deputy Chair of the IPCC, has attended the conference of the East-African region of the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) held in June in Nairobi to promote INIOP and has made some very useful contacts with organisations responsible for police oversight. The conference expressed its support for the INIOP initiative in the final declaration and a number of individuals agreed to get involved.

In September 2007, the steering group will be meeting again at the annual conference of the US-based National Association for the Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), and EPAC will be represented here by Andre Vandoren, Martin Kreutner, Nuala O'Loan, Judge Kevin Haugh, and a representative of the IPCC.

Please email INIOP.secretariat@ipcc.gsi.gov.uk for more information on INIOP's current work, and to subscribe to our e-newsletter communiqué.

Article by Mark HINES, IPCC, England&Wales

International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA)



2nd annual conference in Bali

The second annual conference of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities will be organized in Bali from 21 to 24 November 2007. Apart from individual attendance of some partner organisations, EPAC, represented by the chairs, will attend the conference as observer to report about the developments of the IAACA at the Helsinki conference.

For further information please visit: www.iaaca.org.

United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Groups



In run-up to the 2nd Conference of State Parties to the UNCAC, which will be held in Bali, Indonesia from 28 January to 1 February 2008, three intergovernmental open-ended working groups are about take up there work in Vienna, Austria.

The first Working Group on Asset Recovery will be held in Vienna from 27 to 28 August 2007. The second open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption will take up its work in Vienna from 29 to 31 August 2007. The working group will consider appropriate mechanisms or bodies for reviewing the implementation of the UNCAC and prepare terms of reference for such mechanisms or bodies. The third Working Group on Technical Assistance will be held in Vienna from 1 to 2 October 2007.

From our point of view it would be of high value for organisations dealing with anti-corruption issues that as much practical input as possible will be provided already at the level of these working groups. Especially with a few to our eventual subsequent involvement in expert statements or missions regarding the implementation of the UNCAC in our respective countries, the active participation of many EPAC partners deems recommendable.

For further information please visit:

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crime_convention_corruption.html#workinggroup

European Anti-Corruption Network

Update on the proposed EU council decision on a contact point network against corruption



Based upon the common understanding of the Vienna Declaration 2004, which was reinforced by the EPAC Budapest Declaration 2006, Austria together with Finland, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Slovakia has sought for the setting up of a more formal European Anti-Corruption Network based upon the existing EPAC structures. After lengthy discussions in the council working group Multidisciplinary Group on Organised Crime (MDG) and a formal revision of the text by the German presidency, the project has finally informally been agreed upon in the Article 36 Committee (CATS) on 19 June 2007. After this agreement the text has been forwarded to the European Parliament for consultation and published in the Official Journal of the EU under: OJ C 173, 26.7.2007. Since we expect this council decision to be agreed upon formally until the end of the year, it will be one of the most important issues to be dealt with at the 7th EPAC Conference in Helsinki.

EPAC Helsinki Conference 07

First general information

As our 7th annual conference in Helsinki from 12 to 14 December is quickly coming closer, we would like to highlight some sources of information in this regard. Following a first invitation sent out via mail by the Finnish hosts of the conference three weeks ago, more details will follow as soon as they are available. We will thus update our homepage: www.epac.at > Helsinki 07, according to input provided by our Finnish colleagues. If there are any additional questions or remarks you may refer to eija.aspholm@poliisi.fi or jutta.purontaus@poliisi.fi, as mentioned in the invitational letter. As a matter of course you might also contact the EPAC Secretariat at any time under tel.: +43-(0)1-53126-5772, mob.: +43-(0)664-813 22 74 or email: bia77@bmi.gv.at.



The Economics of Corruption 2007

A University Training on Good Governance and Reform

From Oct. 7-13 2007 the annual program "The Economics of Corruption - A University Training on Good Governance and Reform", headed by Prof. Dr. Johann Graf Lambsdorff, will take place at the University of Passau, Germany. The program is directed towards anti- corruption policymakers and practitioners, as well as towards graduate and post-graduate students and faculty in the social sciences. For further information please go to www.icgg.org.

Article by Matthias NELL, University of Passau, Germany

EPAC NEWSLETTER NOTE!

Call for contributions

Following the first newsletter in this new format, we would like to thank you all for your dedicated support in our common initiatives so far! As you could see above, EPAC partners and colleagues from outside - to whom we herewith address our special thanks - already made use of the EPAC Newsletter for distributing potential common concerns.

This newsletter will be published quarterly from now on and on special occasions. If you would also like to contribute to this common information platform, please do not hesitate to send articles with around 200 words together with 1 or 2 attached photographs! We will be happy to publish your knowledge about relevant and recent developments in our common fight against corruption and other malpractice within law enforcement and beyond.

For more information please contact the EPAC Secretariat under tel.: +43-(0)1-53126-5772, mob.: +43-(0)664-813 22 74 or email: bia77@bmi.gv.at.