



# NEWSLETTER

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

Although the summer is slowly entering its second half, the EPAC/EACN community is not yet on vacation, so get yourself another ice cream, Frappuccino or whatever keeps you cool, and dive into the latest anti-corruption news.

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

We wish you a wonderful summer and stay healthy!

**Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat**

## **SECOND EPAC/EACN BOARD MEETING OF 2020**

The Acting Presidents and Deputy Vice Presidents of EPAC/EACN met for a discussion on current topics in a video conference on 9 July 2020.

First, the Secretariat reported *inter alia* on the progress made by the working group "EU Integrity", provided feedback on current requests to members and briefed the Board on the grant received under the European Union's Internal Security Fund-Police.

The Board members then focused on the preparations for the Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly 2020. Because of the uncertainties caused by the global Covid-19 pandemic, the Board members decided to revert to the issue at their next meeting. Members will be informed about the arrangements in due course.

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## UPDATE ON CURRENT EPAC/EACN “EU INTEGRITY” SUB-WORKING GROUPS



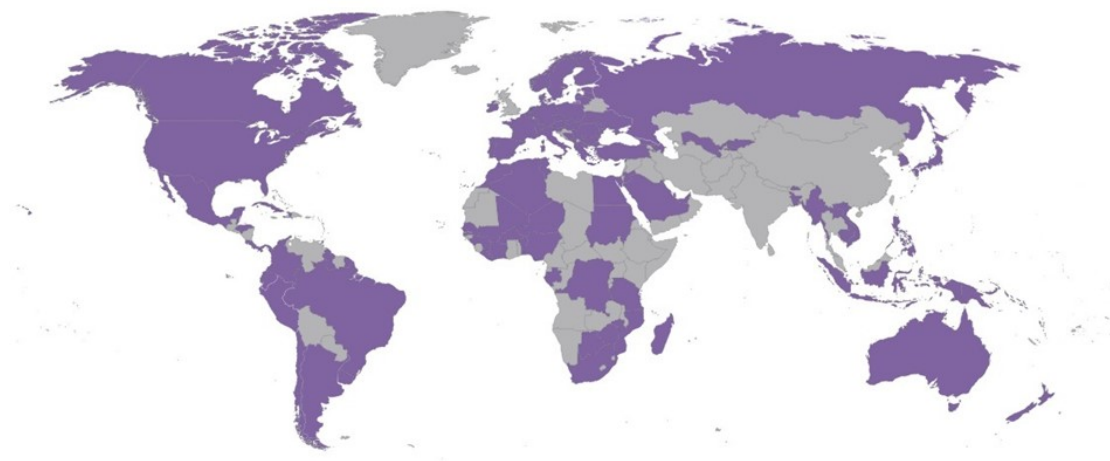
In the past months, the activities of EU Integrity and its sub-working groups had to be reduced to a minimum because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Unfortunately, the scheduled meetings for the first half of the year had to be postponed. Hopefully, the activities of the sub-working groups are soon getting back to normal.

After this involuntary break and delay in activities, the working group would like to take the opportunity and bring fresh energy to our EPAC/EACN working group “EU Integrity” starting in September.

The expected output of the “EU Integrity” working group is the development of an “Integrity Manual”. All sub-working groups will be asked to compile their findings and results and to proactively contribute to the manual. The manual is to be published on the occasion of the 21st EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference in 2021.

Despite the pandemic, all efforts for the coming months will be put on the finalization of the “Integrity Manual”.

## INCREASING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ANTI-CORRUPTION AUTHORITIES ACROSS THE WORLD



*The French Anti-Corruption Agency (AFA), in partnership with the Council of Europe’s Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the OECD, and the Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities (NCPA),*

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*published on 14 May 2020 the analysis report of the global mapping of anti-corruption authorities, a project that gathered the contributions of 171 national authorities tasked with preventing and fighting corruption in 114 countries and territories.*

In June 2019, AFA, in partnership with GRECO, the OECD, and the NCPA, launched a global mapping project of anti-corruption authorities.

The project's objective is to gather, centralize, and disseminate information about the various anti-corruption institutions established worldwide. This extensive data collection aims at helping anti-corruption practitioners to better understand anti-corruption authorities' characteristics and specific needs. It also seeks to identify common trends and challenges, and to explore concrete avenues for cooperation between, and with, anti-corruption authorities.

Besides, the project favors a knowledge-based approach to international cooperation on anti-corruption through research and analysis. In order to design and implement efficient cooperation activities, it is crucial to know who the relevant actors are, and what can be asked from them in light of their mandates. The global mapping project endeavors to strengthen peer-to-peer cooperation and mutual capacity building by providing an up-to-date picture of anti-corruption authorities.

Published on 14 May 2020, the analysis report of the global mapping of anti-corruption authorities illustrates and examines the findings of this joint project, based on data provided by 171 national authorities from 114 countries and territories.

The European Partners against Corruption (EPAC) and European Contact-Point Network against Corruption (EACN) played a key role in disseminating the survey in Europe by sharing it with their members and encouraging them to participate.

The analysis report of the global mapping of anti-corruption authorities is available at the following link:

[https://www.agence-francaise-anticorruption.gouv.fr/files/files/NCPA\\_Analysis\\_Report\\_Global\\_Mapping\\_ACAs.pdf](https://www.agence-francaise-anticorruption.gouv.fr/files/files/NCPA_Analysis_Report_Global_Mapping_ACAs.pdf)

The Basel Institute on Governance published a dedicated Q&A with AFA, in which the report's findings and their implications for anti-corruption practice and cooperation are further discussed:

<https://www.baselgovernance.org/blog/mapping-anti-corruption-authorities-around-world-qa-french-anti-corruption-agency>

## RISKS PREVENTION IN THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC AUTHORITY DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

### Reminders, recommendations and resources to promote Integrity

The Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia has issued a document which aims at increasing the trust reinforcing the ethical commitment, transparency, control and, at a later stage, the assessment and accountability of public entities during this crisis. The recommendations in the document call on the authorities to explain now and in real time what they are doing and why, and how they are doing it.

They aim to support internal and external control bodies so that they can carry out their roles in better conditions and in a more coordinated manner. And eventually, when the emergency sees its end, they encourage the public sector to commit to carrying out an independent assessment on how the COVID-19 crisis has been managed.

The entire document can be found here:

<https://www.antifrau.cat/sites/default/files/Documents/Quefem/Reccomendations-risks-prevention-exercise-public-authority-during-COVID-19-crisis.pdf>

## ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES TAKEN BY THE STT IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CRISIS

In order to tackle COVID-19 effects and boost economic recovery the Government of the Republic of Lithuania has introduced 5 billion Euros [Plan of Measures to Stimulate the Economy and Mitigate the Spread of Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). With regard to it, the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – the STT) has prepared the [Recommendations](#) on how to ensure transparency, avoid ambiguous interpretations, reduce potential risks of corruption and conflicts of interests when implementing the above-mentioned Plan.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the STT also has analysed the possible risks in public procurement procedures related to COVID-19. The results of the analysis were shared with the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

The following shortcomings in ensuring transparency and accountability of public procurement were identified:

Procurement is organized using the method of negotiated procedure without publication of a contract notice.

Publicity of procurement contracts carried out by negotiated procedure without publication of a contract notice is subject to a general time limit (within 15 calendar days from the signature of

contracts) and insufficient general publication of contracts in the Central Public Procurement Information System (hereinafter – CPP IS).

Suppliers who should normally be excluded from public procurement find ways to participate in procurement.

Potentially risky suppliers win high-value tenders.

Risks of corruption are observed both in the procurement of medical devices and medications, reagents and equipment: There is a lack of data on purchases of medications and reagents.

Procurement of medical equipment from unheard suppliers. No information is provided as to why contracting authorities chose to award contracts to companies that are unknown to the market.

Support for medical equipment as a way to bind to its supplier. When health care institutions receive medical diagnostic devices (laboratory equipment) in the form of support, there is a risk that the purchase of reagents needed to use that device in the future is tied to specific suppliers.

In order to strengthen the standards of transparency and accountability of public procurement, the STT has made the following recommendations for the improvement of the publication of public procurement data:

Open and regularly updated systematic data on all procurement contracts (not just those related to COVID-19).

Open and regularly centrally updated systematic data on other stages of public procurement procedure: planned procurements, announcements, procedures, execution of contracts.

Accelerated publicity for contracts awarded by negotiated procedure without publication of a contract notice due to extreme urgency.

Supplementation of published data on procurement contracts with indicators signalling high-risk procurement from an anti-corruption point of view (for example, procurement method).

General proposals for future transparency in public procurement:

continuing proven measures related to the centralization of public procurement, development of electronic catalogues of the Central Contracting Authority, dissemination of methodological assistance and good practice and modernization of CPP IS.

increasing the openness of public procurement data and support received by contracting authorities, creating an environment favourable to public control.

introducing provisions to prevent abusive suppliers from participating in future tenders.

assessing the possibility of establishing an institute of reputational risk of legal persons (understood as the equivalent of a conflict of interest of a natural person) in the legal acts.

ensuring effective control of conflicts of interests in the field of public procurement

creating preconditions for comparing the prices at which the contracting authority purchases goods, services and works with their prices in the market. To publish the results of this comparison in a “user-friendly” format to the public.

Additionally, the most common corruption risk factors have been identified and proposals how to eliminate corruption risk factors and / or reduce corruption risks were submitted to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. For instance, in order to avoid situations of inadequate planning of public procurement funds it was recommended to assess the market price of the respective procurement object, to take into account the experience of planning similar tenders, etc. Moreover, in order to avoid situations where a need for goods, services or works is created artificially with a view to receiving kickback payments from a particular supplier, it was suggested to establish a procedure of formation of the needs of the contracting authority, which, among other things, would provide for an obligation to substantiate the necessity of each procurement in a motivated (rational) manner. In addition, the STT recommended to increase the use of innovative, open and competitive purchasing methods in order to strengthen competition among bidders.

Furthermore, Public procurement office in Lithuania, after a few weeks since quarantine, created a tool and opened the data on contracts related to the management of COVID-19 in a publicly accessible, informative and user-friendly way. So this tool led to an analysis of contracts in different ways: by contractor, supplier, object of the contract, date of conclusion and duration of the contract, etc. Some interesting facts were found:

- a) 80 percent of the value of concluded contracts during the analysed period (84 mln. Eur) went to 10 procurers (out of 288).
- b) some of the suppliers with whom contracts had been awarded had never been involved in public procurement before, or had not supplied personal protective equipment and medical supplies, and were normally engaged in other activities.
- c) There were more than usual contracts with 100 percent advance payments, etc.

Information on all contracts concluded to fight COVID-19 and the list of analysed contracts (in Lithuanian) are publicly available on the Public Procurement Office [website](#). Mentioned analysis, found shortcomings and recommendations from the Public Procurement Office can be found there also (in Lithuanian).

## **CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND COMBATING BUREAU (KNAB) - WORK DURING THE EMERGENCY SITUATION**

Pursuant to the European Commission 13 March 2020 recommendation on conformity assessment and market surveillance procedures within the context of the COVID-19 threat, the Latvian government adopted emergency regulations, inter alia, alleviating the public procurement procedure for the acquisition of personal protective equipment against COVID-19.

Following this, KNAB, in cooperation with the Procurement Monitoring Bureau and State Audit Service, developed and published recommendations for public authorities on maintaining the principles of good governance and on the proper application of the alleviated public procurement procedures. A dedicated government website was also set up for the centralized provision of COVID-19 related information, including information on the aforementioned public procurements.

Information on the procurements falling within the scope of the alleviated procedure has been and continues to be closely monitored by KNAB analysts, as the situation makes for a tempting opportunity for potential violations of various rules and regulations, including those on anti-corruption.

## **ACTIVITY OF THE ANTI-CORRUPTION DIRECTORATE WITH THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC OUTBREAK**

The coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis has brought about unprecedented challenges of human suffering, uncertainty and major economic disruption on a global scale. In addition, the COVID-19 crisis posed new challenges to law enforcement agencies in their activities linked with the fight against corruption. It is worth noting that despite recession-like outcomes caused by the crisis, global government agencies, in partnership with international organizations, are developing new mechanisms to prevent, detect and prosecute corruption and bribery.

In this regard, the Azerbaijani government has continued to fulfil its social and other main duties during the pandemic. Accordingly, the government has taken timely measures in the social arena to ensure that the pandemic does not affect the well-being of citizens. Citizens deprived of their income due to restrictions imposed in connection with the quarantine regime received a one-time payment from the government. In addition, families on low incomes received food supplies on a regular basis, and the relevant state agencies were involved in the process.

Governmental care was felt not only in the social arena. The government took steps for improving health services and making them affordable and available to every citizen. For these purposes, new health facilities, including hospitals, were put into operation during the pandemic.

Along with this, it should be noted that COVID-19 has had a negative impact on all areas of the country, including law enforcement agencies. However, COVID-19 could not suspend the activity of law enforcement agencies altogether; they continued to carry out their direct duties in a limited manner.

In the above-mentioned circumstances, the Azerbaijan Prosecutor's Office continues to fulfill its main statutory functions during the pandemic. Thus, the Anti-Corruption Directorate with the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ACD) carries out its duties regardless of the limited possibilities caused by the pandemic. During the mentioned period, the Investigation Department of the ACD completed investigations of several cases, some of which were cases of public and governmental interest.

Corporate liability is a new area for Azerbaijan's national legal system, and the ACD is taking the necessary steps to make the legal regulations governing the process more operational. For example, during investigations carried out by the ACD, appropriate measures were taken against certain legal entities that were used as means of committing crimes.

It should be noted that the ACD took measures against officials who embezzled payments intended for citizens to improve their welfare during the pandemic. Complaints addressed to the ACD about mentioned unlawful acts by officials were taken seriously. Officials violating the rights of citizens were identified through well-organized operations and investigative actions by ACD staff, and appropriate legal action was taken against the perpetrators. Moreover, despite the specific obstacles posed by the pandemic, every complaint addressed to the 161 Hotline call center is carefully reviewed by the relevant ACD authorities. Complaints about health, labor and employment are especially kept in the spotlight during the pandemic, in order to reduce the negative effects of the pandemic experienced by citizens. A significant part of the complaints accepted by the 161 Hotline were granted and the infringed rights of citizens were restored immediately. Based on some complaints, criminal proceedings were initiated by the Investigation Department of the ACD.

At the same time, the ACD actively participates in all organized international online platforms on fighting corruption, mainly focusing on specialized international institutions such as GRECO, OECD, IACA as well as anti-corruption agencies of other states. In this context, it is vital to note that the ACD continues to execute its responsibilities regarding awareness raising campaigns by organizing and participating in various national online platforms as well.

To crown it all, the law enforcement bodies of Azerbaijan were able to overcome difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic successfully and fulfilled their responsibilities properly in spite of all the hardships.



## **ESTABLISHING THE INTERNAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS NETWORK (ICIN) WITHIN EUROPOL - AN INITIATIVE FROM THE SWEDISH POLICE**

The Special Investigations Department has initiated a new network called ICIN dedicated to internal criminal investigation organizations within the mandate of Europol. An invitation letter to nominate member or observer organizations has been sent out to the countries via Europol. Nominations are open until October 31st, 2020.



*Ms Ebba Sverne Arvill, head of Special Investigations Department, signing the invitation letter. Photo: Jan Carlsson*

The primary purpose with the network is to provide a forum for employees within internal criminal investigation organizations to share best practice and methods regarding corruption investigations within the police and, last but not least, to increase public confidence in each country in Europol and in the organization itself.

The intention is to call a meeting in the beginning of 2021 primarily at Europol. If you have any questions regarding ICIN or the invitation letter, please contact your Liaison Bureau at Europol.

## NEWS FROM THE HIGH AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC LIFE

### The HATVP is working with the European Commission on Ethics in public life

On Friday 19 June, the [High Authority for Transparency in Public Life \(HATVP\)](#) met with two units from the European Commission to discuss the management of ethical issues concerning European Commissioners and Commission personnel. This [virtual meeting](#) came as a follow-up to the European Commission's visit to Paris in January, and is part of a long-term cooperation strategy in the fields of ethics and prevention of conflicts of interests. These meetings allowed the Commission to learn more about the French system, where a single independent institution is responsible for collecting asset and interest declarations from public officials, managing a lobbying register and applying revolving doors regulations. The creation of an independent body dedicated to the promotion of ethical rules for all European institutions is supported by Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission. The French HATVP is often cited as an example and regularly responds to requests from institutions willing to share insights and lessons learned.

### New OECD project on public integrity indicators to start in the fall

Since the adoption of the [OECD Council Recommendation on Public Integrity](#) in 2017, a Task Force consisting of seven members of the Working Party of Senior Public Integrity Officials (SPIO) has been developing a set of Public Integrity Indicators to measure the successful implementation of the Recommendation. The framework establishes standard indicators for the preparedness and resilience of the public integrity system at the national level to prevent corruption, mismanagement and waste of public funds, and to assess the likelihood of detecting and mitigating various corruption risks by different actors in the system. The scope of the Recommendation requires data collection from a wide range of actors across the executive, legislative and judiciary branches. France has been particularly active in the Task Force, and the HATVP volunteered to test pilot indicators in the first half of 2020. After this instructive pilot phase, the full-scope data collection exercise is set to start in the fall.

### The HATVP takes over missions from the Civil Service Ethics Commission

Since February 1, 2020, the HATVP controls integrity risks when certain public servants leave the public sector to join the private sector or start up a business. This mission was previously led by the Civil Service Ethics Commission (CDFP). The law of August 6, 2019 on the transformation of the public service created an internal mechanism that allows the appointing authorities within administrations to authorise a post-service activity in the private sector directly. In difficult cases where no clear decision can be reached, the appointing authority may call on the HATVP. The law also introduced preventive control by the HATVP for certain high-ranking public servants who join from a private sector organisation. In July 2020, the HATVP published its 2019 Activity Report (available in French [here](#)), which provides more details on the new system.

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## DISCRIMINATORY ACTIONS — A PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION OF RISKS



IGAI, the Portuguese Inspectorate-General of Internal Affairs, has been paying attention to any forms of discriminatory actions and practices committed by officers of the Security Forces and Services (SFS) pertaining to the Home Affairs governing sector — which include the public security police force (PSP), the national military guard (GNR), and the immigration and borders service (SEF).

Those actions and practices are certainly forms of distorted administrative conduct, as are acts of corruption.

Hence, IGAI invited the Portuguese SFS top Commanders and Directors to discuss major headlines in the implementation of a prevention Plan of risks of discriminatory actions and practices that might occur when officers are in direct contact with citizens, or when they have to make decisions that might affect them.

The Plan contains programmatic measures related to the recruitment and training of police officers and contains measures for immediate implementation, namely those aimed at involving police officers in social networks when dealing with comments of a racist, xenophobic or other discriminatory nature.

The Plan is directed at all SFS and especially at the professionals involved in the training of officers of different police forces.

The Plan has two main objectives: firstly, to make police officers more aware of their role in the fight against discrimination; and secondly, to provide a set of resources, good practices and useful information to improve the conduct of officers in their relationship with the citizen.

In this sense, the ultimate goal is to improve the quality and effectiveness of the police service to prevent and combat discrimination.

A public event was held for this purpose on June 09, 2020, in Lisbon, in the presence of Mr. Eduardo Cabrita, Minister of Home Affairs. Footage of the event is available at <https://youtu.be/FoddzB5xiqE> (Portuguese language only).

## **PREVENTIVE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE ANTICORRUPTION GENERAL DIRECTORATE WITHIN THE ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, IN THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 2020**

In the context of the pandemic, the Anticorruption General Directorate (DGA) within the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) has intensified its preventive efforts, taking into account GRECO Recommendation (2020) 4 of 15.04.2020 and starting from the concrete situation currently registered at ministry level. The following measures were taken:

1. A written information note was elaborated and transmitted to all MIA structures, drawing attention to the risks of corruption that may be generated by the pandemic (for example, procurement of sanitary materials using procedural defects) and the ways of reporting corruption.
2. In the first half of 2020, DGA organized 2.561 preventive activities, attended by 18.622 civil servants, especially M.A.I. personnel involved in the following categories of activities: verification of persons and means of transport transiting the state border; ensuring the security of the quarantine centers; checking compliance with the isolation measure at the domicile.
3. DGA prepared the Annual Assessment Report on integrity incidents recorded at the level of MIA in 2019, based on the information transmitted by the M.A.I. structures, also presenting the main measures adopted to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents.
4. The evaluation study of the results of the national campaign "YOU CAN BRING LIGHT!" was completed. The campaign was carried out between October and December 2019, in order for MIA staff and citizens to become aware of the causes and consequences of involvement in corrupt practices.
5. A sociological research study was conducted on the perception of civil servants by the central public administration on corruption, within Project IP7 / 2017 - Strengthening the administrative capacity of the Technical Secretariat of the National Anticorruption Strategy 2016-2020, to support the implementation of anti-corruption measures. The research study was based on the method of sociological survey, using as research tools the self-administered questionnaire and the semi-structured interview. To this end, DGA designed a representative sample with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of  $\pm 2,8\%$ . The conclusions of this research approach will contribute to the substantiation of criminal policy proposals in the field of anti-corruption.
6. Following the publication by the European Commission of Special Eurobarometer no. 502 on corruption, at the level of DGA, the comparative analysis of the data presented in this document was performed for the years 2019 and 2017. The aim of the European study is to identify the perception by citizens of the Member States within the European Union regarding the spread of corruption, both at Union level and at the level of their own states. The data were analyzed and interpreted, and an information memo was written to the subordinate structures of the DGA, to use it in prevention activities.

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## **THE BALEARIC ISLANDS OFFICE FOR THE PREVENTION AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION DEVELOPS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST SIMULATOR ON ITS WEBSITE**

As everyone knows, conflicts of interest are conjunctural situations that can occur at any time during the performance of most professions. For this reason, each possible situation that raises doubts about the possible existence of a conflict of interest should be evaluated independently from any others. Conflicts of interest are not inherently negative. These are situations that occur due to the social and economic nature of the individual, who relates to other people and who has various different interests, including interests other than the public ones, which, as a public official, he or she must protect at any rate. However, it is essential that they are properly managed.

The Balearic Islands Office for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption has designed a web form to help Balearic public sector officials determine if they are or may be in a situation of incompatibility, or that generates a conflict of interest. Keep in mind that the two concepts are different, although they are closely related. Under any incompatibility situation lies a conflict of interest, but not vice versa. For this reason, regulations instituted regulate cases in which a specific situation is considered incompatible with the exercise of public office, but they have not done so with situations of conflict of interest, although such situations can also be sanctioned.

The simulator answers different questions that are solved in a guided way through the complex Spanish and Balearic regulations.

Visit the simulator here: <https://simulador.oaib.es/index.php>

## **NEWS FROM THE HIGH NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CENTRE (NAC)**

### **The level of implementation of the national integrity and anticorruption strategy 2017-2020 Government Meeting**

Prime Minister Mr Ion Chicu chaired the meeting of Monitoring Group 2 of the National Integrity and Anticorruption Strategy 2017-2020. The meeting was attended by members of Government, presidents of second level local public authorities, the mayors of Chisinau, Balti and Comrat, representatives of the business environment and of civil society. The event presented the progress and difficulties registered in the implementation of the Strategy for 2019, based on the Monitoring Report, prepared by the Secretariat of the Monitoring Groups within the National Anti-corruption Centre. According to the Report, out of the 51 actions planned for 2019, 20 were fully implemented, 23 were partially implemented, 5 are in the process of being implemented, 2 actions did not qualify and 1 action remains unfulfilled.

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Monitoring Group 2 is responsible for the implementation of Pillar II (Government, public sector and local public administration) and Pillar VII (private sector). The implementation of Pillar II aims to increase the integrity, accountability and transparency of Central Public Administration and Local Public Administration activity, as well as to reduce the risks of corruption. The actions provided by Pillar VII pursue the objective of promoting a competitive business environment, reducing the phenomenon of corruption in the system and the risk of money laundering.

Monitoring Group 2 decided to continue implementing the Action Plans for 2018-2020, to intensify the process of creating the electronic government platform that would allow citizens to monitor online processing of draft regulations sent to the Government, but also to strengthen training activities of public agents and representatives of the private sector, etc.

Note: The National Integrity and Anticorruption Strategy 2017-2020 was adopted on March 30, 2017 and was developed with the support of national and international experts, civil society, but also development partners.

### **Corruption generating laws can be reported through a platform launched by UNDP and the NAC**

UNDP and the National Anti-corruption Centre (NAC) have launched the "reLAWed" platform, through which any citizen will be able to report ambiguous or interpretable laws or regulations that can generate corruption. Subsequently, the normative acts will be examined by the NAC in order to identify risks of corruption, after which they will be proposed for amendment.

The platform can be accessed from a computer or from a mobile device, through the official website of the National Anti-corruption Centre [www.cna.md](http://www.cna.md) or from the address <http://relawed.cna.md/>. It offers users the opportunity to describe the problematic norm, but also to propose changes to the normative act they reported. All notifications can also be made anonymously, without disclosing the data leading to the identification of the person. The users will be able to follow the stage of examination of the notification they have made, by accessing the "Archive" or "Recent Reports" section on the platform's page or will receive information by e-mail. The platform will also contain statistics of the reports under the headings "Top most reported normative acts", "Top alerts registered by status", "Total alerts registered by occupation".

The interface design of the "reLAWed" platform was developed by the winning team of "LEGATHON: Hack Corruption. Law to the People", which took place on November 8-10, 2019, in Chisinau and brought together 30 young people from all over the country. One of the teams awarded in the Hackathon also proposed the name of the application. The "reLAWed" platform was developed within the project "Curbing corruption by building sustainable integrity in the Republic of Moldova", implemented by UNDP in partnership with the National Anti-corruption Centre, with the financial support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project runs from 2019-2021 and contributes

to strengthening the capacities of public and private sector actors, as well as civil society organizations, for the effective implementation of corruption prevention tools and standards.

### **The new deputy director, general Vadim Cojocaru, was presented to the command body of the National Anti-Corruption Centre**

General Vadim COJOCARU is the new deputy of the NAC, after the deputies voted for his candidacy, selected following a contest. Mr. Vadim Cojocaru held several management positions in state institutions, including the General Inspectorate of Police and the Department of Penitentiary Institutions. The general was also deputy director of NAC until 2018. Mr Vadim Cojocaru will have the responsibility for investigation activities, but also for the activities of the North and South territorial subdivisions of the NAC.

### **The NAC director attended the 25th steering group meeting of the Anticorruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN)**

The 25th meeting of the Steering Group of the Anticorruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN) took place on May 28, via the ZOOM platform, and brought together officials from several countries, the Republic of Moldova being represented by the director of NAC, Mr Ruslan FLOCEA. Subjects discussed included the approval of the Work Plan for 2020 - during the transition period associated with the pandemic - the presentation of the summary report of the 24th meeting of the Group, and the topic of Moldova's accession to the Istanbul Action Plan.

The meeting was opened by Patrick Moulette, Head of the Anticorruption Division of the OECD Directorate for Financial Affairs and Enterprise, who congratulated Moldova on becoming the 10th member of the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan, along with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Tajikistan. In his speech, the director of NAC, Ruslan Flocea, expressed his gratitude for the constant help provided by member states in strengthening the capacities of law enforcement institutions in the Republic of Moldova and strengthening the rule of law.

As the national coordinator and contact point, the National Anti-corruption Center is an active member of the Anticorruption Network (ACN), and participates in various activities which aim to ensure the exchange of good practices in the field of preventing and combating corruption.

According to the draft ACN Work Plan for 2020, the Republic of Moldova is one of the 5 countries selected to participate in the pilot monitoring round.



## **The Clep Project ended its mission. The Anticorruption Institution has benefited from european support in more than 50 activities**

The project "Controlling Corruption through Law Enforcement and Prevention (CLEP) and the National Anticorruption Center identified the total number of cooperation between the two entities in 2017-2020, with the NAC being the beneficiary of 55 activities supported by the European project. Among the most important achievements during the collaboration period is the strengthening of the capacity of the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency by providing advice on the development of the first standard operational procedures, but also by helping to increase the Agency's staff. The total figures were established during the video conference attended by several officials, including the head of the Council of Europe Office in Chisinau William Massolin, the ambassador of the EU Delegation to Moldova Peter Michalko, Executive Secretary, GRECO Gianluca Esposito, director of NAC, Ruslan Flocea, Attorney General Alexandr Stoianoglo and others. In his speech, the director of NAC, Ruslan Flocea, thanked the partners for their sincere efforts to help the institution strengthen its capabilities. "We are grateful for the organization of multiple trainings, study visits and workshops for my colleagues, which have proved to be very useful for our work. Together we have carried out evaluations of the institutional and normative framework and, based on your experience, technical guides and documents have been developed which contain concrete recommendations for improving the work processes."

According to Mr. Flocea, together with the CLEP project, the mechanism for coordinating and implementing anti-corruption plans at local level was created, and local authorities received advice and support to ensure the efficiency and transparency of the process of developing anti-corruption action plans in public administration for the years 2018-2020, which resulted in their approval during the meetings of District Councils. "However, one of the greatest achievements I would like to point out is the European experience that my colleagues have taken on from the Criminal Assets Recovery Agency - an institution that has an extremely important but also difficult mission: to return to the state the damage caused by criminals through various fraudulent activities."

The good practices of our counterparts abroad and the connections we have built during this period with the profile institutions will be of great use to us", stressed the NAC director. We recall that CLEP is a joint project of the Council of Europe and the European Union focusing on the priorities of the Council of Europe and the EU in the fight against corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing, and in asset recovery.

Among the beneficiaries of the Project were the National Anti-corruption Centre, Office for Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office, the National Integrity Authority, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, Prosecutor's Office for Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases, Ministry of Finance, Main State Fiscal Inspectorate, Customs Service, National Bank of Moldova, National Institute of Justice, Police Academy, and civil society.

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<https://www.coe.int/en/web/corruption/-/clep-moldova-presented-its-results-and-achievements-during-the-sixth-steering-committee-meeting-and-the-closing-event>

### **For the first time, NAC and UNDP introduce Business Integrity Award**

A business integrity award will be presented for the first time in this year's edition of the "Trademark of the Year" contest. The initiative belongs to the National Anti-corruption Centre (NAC), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Candidates for the business integrity award will have to prove the implementation of mechanisms to promote integrity and anti-corruption standards in business. In the contest file, candidates will present their own Code of Ethics or Business Conduct, procedures for reporting irregularities at work and resolving conflicts of interest, mechanisms for the protection of whistleblowers, procedures for declaring and evaluating gifts and internal control, as well as other internal integrity procedures.

The contest is open to commercial companies, which fall into the large, small and medium business, except for state or municipal enterprises, joint stock companies in which the state holds the majority stake and which are public entities. Participants admitted to the nomination for business integrity will be exempted from paying the participation fee, which will be covered by UNDP Moldova, through the project "Curbing corruption by building sustainable integrity in the Republic of Moldova".

### **NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION ACADEMY (IACA)**

As of 8 August 2020, Kenya will join IACA Constituency as 80th Member State, together with other 75 UN Member States and four IGOs.

IACA engages in projects with a variety of partners and stakeholders, playing a leading role in facilitating and delivering anti-corruption education, as well as fostering dialogue to increase awareness and facilitate activities to prevent and combat corruption. Training programmes, workshops, conferences, and other types of events on current topics relating to anti-corruption, compliance, and integrity are organized with renowned international partners in response to challenges and needs in such fields. IACA is open to receiving proposals for joint projects and welcomes contributions for the implementation of such activities. Currently, IACA and UNODC have one joint project open for funding on Providing Specialized Training on Anti-Corruption Legislation to Least Developed Countries to Fast-Track UNCAC Implementation. If you wish to obtain further information on IACA projects, please contact the IACA Secretariat on [mail@iaca.int](mailto:mail@iaca.int) or +43 2236 710 718 101.

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## Open applications at IACA

The International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) invites all eligible candidates to apply for its two online academic degree programmes: Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) and International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action (IMACC). IACA's master programmes are for two years and designed for professionals who continue working while pursuing their degrees. Focusing on the advanced study of anti-corruption and compliance, online academic programmes are comprised of seven teaching modules and a master's thesis. The modules comprise several core and stand-alone courses, composed of self-study readings, interactive presentations, discussion forums, self-assessment, group works, live sessions, written assignments, webinars, etc. All modules as well as master's thesis research and defence are conducted fully online. Upon successful completion of the modules and the master's thesis defence, the graduation ceremony takes place at IACA campus, in Laxenburg, Austria. Programmes will commence in mid-October 2020.

The International Anti-Corruption Summer Academy (IACSA) is an intensive, interdisciplinary online programme that addresses trends and practices on the global anti-corruption agenda and promotes a culture of the reflective practitioner. Participants will be exposed to the latest research and case studies from leading global experts in the field, providing them with frameworks to help bridge the gap between anti-corruption theory and practice. The seven-day training will be conducted fully online from 5 to 11 September 2020.

IACA's tailor-made trainings address the specific anti-corruption and compliance needs of individual organizations, such as government ministries, national anti-corruption authorities and audit institutions, and private and state-owned companies. Tailor-made trainings can vary in length and may include possibilities for simultaneous interpretation into a language other than English. The venue can be at IACA, the requesting organization, or conducted fully online.

For more information and to apply for the above-mentioned programmes, please visit IACA's website: <https://www.iaca.int/>.

## ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (29 JUNE 2020, VIRTUAL FORMAT)

The eleventh session of the Implementation Review Group was held in a virtual format in Vienna on 29 June 2020. The session was rescheduled from the original dates, which were from 8 to 10 June 2020, following the recommendation of the Bureau of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption at its eighth session. Due to the limitations of the virtual platform which were used for the meeting, the IRG meeting was held in a reduced one-day format and discussed only the following procedural matters on its agenda: item 1 (Organizational matters), item 2

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(Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption), item 3 (Financial and budgetary matters), item 6 (Other matters), and item 7 (Provisional agenda for the twelfth session of the Implementation Review Group). The thematic discussions were postponed to the first resumed eleventh session of the Group scheduled for the week of 31 August 2020.

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/IRG/session11.html>

and

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/WorkingGroups/ImplementationReviewGroup/8-10June2020/Generic\\_CU\\_2020\\_196\\_A\\_English.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNCAC/WorkingGroups/ImplementationReviewGroup/8-10June2020/Generic_CU_2020_196_A_English.pdf)

### **THE 29TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE POSTPONED DUE TO CURRENT GLOBAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN RELATION TO COVID-19**

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) holds annual regular sessions as well as intersessional meetings and is the preparatory body to the United Nations Crime Congresses. The 29th session had been scheduled to take place in Vienna from 18 to 22 May 2020 and the thematic discussion had been planned to be on the subject of "Effective measures to prevent and counter the smuggling of migrants, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants, particularly women and children, and those of unaccompanied migrant children". However, the 29th session was then postponed due to current global circumstances in relation to COVID-19. Additional information on the new dates will be shared once it becomes available.

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/index.html>

### **INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGAINST CORRUPTION**

In its resolution 74/276 entitled "Special session of the General Assembly against corruption", the General Assembly, inter alia, reiterated the importance of an inclusive preparatory process, including extensive substantive consultations, and invited the Conference of the States Parties to hold up to three intersessional meetings, as required, to advance such consultations. In accordance with the same resolution, the intersessional meetings of the Conference of the States Parties on the preparations for the special session will be open to participation by all States parties and observers, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference and established practice.

Accordingly and in line with the workplan for its subsidiary bodies for 2020-2021, adopted by the Conference at its eighth session, three intersessional meetings were scheduled to be held in 2020. Due to the limitations of the virtual platform to be used for official meetings with interpretation, the first

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intersessional meeting of the Conference on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, which was originally scheduled for 22 and 23 June 2020, was rescheduled for 2 September to 4 September 2020. Additional information will be made available on this website, as it becomes available. The Special Session of the General Assembly against corruption was rescheduled from April 2021 to 2 to 4 June 2021 (tbc.).

### **LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 17 to 22 August 2020: Transparency School – online training
- 31 August to 2 September 2020: First resumed 11th session of the UNCAC Implementation Review Group/Postponed 11th session of the Working Group on Prevention (Joint thematic and TA meetings of IRG and WG on Prevention), Vienna
- 2 to 4 September 2020: Postponed first CoSP intersessional on UNGASS preparations with the participation of all stakeholders, Vienna
- 5 to 11 September 2020: International Anti-Corruption Summer Academy (IACSA) – online training
- 21 to 25 September 2020: Postponed 85th Plenary Meeting (GRECO), Strasbourg
- 20 to 21 October 2020: Conference of Senior Representatives of Ministries of the Interior, Strasbourg