



NEWSLETTER

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

Thank you for the impressive number of newsletter contributions you have provided us with. We, the EPAC/EACN community, are once again sending a strong message in the fight against corruption. You can expect interesting articles on a variety of anti-corruption and police oversight activities from across our network and the announcement of the next Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly. This year, EPAC is also celebrating its **20th anniversary!**



As always, we would appreciate your input on future or past events, conferences, seminars, related training, studies, project findings, etc., for publication in the next newsletter.

We wish you safety and good health!

Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat

Message from the EPAC/EACN Board

This year's Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly, the 20th edition, will be hosted by the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania (STT), which has generously extended its offer to host this important event. The conference is scheduled to take place in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 30 November to 2 December 2021. Due to the current situation, the final decision on the Annual Professional Conference will not be made until the end of September 2021. If the situation allows, official invitations will follow in October. Meanwhile, you are kindly invited to save the date.

One item on the agenda of the General Assembly will be the election of EPAC/EACN's Board functions, the President as well as Vice Presidents and Deputy Vice Presidents for both strands, anti-corruption authorities and police oversight bodies.

Members are kindly invited to express their interest in any of the functions prior to the conference. In case of any questions, the Secretariat will be pleased to assist you.

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2021 also marks EPAC's 20th anniversary, providing us with yet another reason to look forward to this year's Annual Professional Conference. Besides the conference, a couple of additional activities are currently in the pipeline. E.g., on 25 March 2021, the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption hosted the second meeting of SWG 4 ("Integrity and anti-corruption standards") of the EPAC/EACN Working Group "EU Integrity". Moreover, the Lithuanian STT is in the planning stage of a webinar on "COVID-19 vaccination and managing corruption risks". In this context, we cordially invite you to come forward with ideas for activities that your own institution could implement for the benefit of other EPAC/EACN members in 2021. The Secretariat will be happy to receive your proposals.

We hope that it will be possible to meet you all in person this year at our Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly in Vilnius and celebrate the 20th anniversary of our networks. In the meantime, stay safe and well!

Yours sincerely,

EPAC/EACN Board

Integrity Tests in the Czech Republic conducted by the Inspectorate General of the Security Forces (GIBS)

GIBS is a national-level law enforcement agency and our mission is to investigate cases where Czech police officers, customs officers, prison officers or civilian employees of law enforcement agencies are suspected of committing criminal offences in the line of duty. We consider integrity testing to be a very important tool in the prevention of and the actual fight against corruption as well as the investigation of criminal activities in our jurisdiction. Along with the rest of our agenda, integrity testing has become one of our focus points in recent years.

An old proverb says that integrity is choosing your thoughts and actions based on your values rather than on your personal gain. In the area of security forces, this truth is obviously not limited to personal values, but first and foremost to legal boundaries. Therefore, since 2008, and in order to ascertain that the members of the various security forces of the Czech Republic "practice what they preach" as well as comply with both legal regulations and the highest ethical standards when conducting their daily duties, the legislator has instituted the instrument of integrity testing and embedded it in the overall legal system of the Czech Republic.

In the beginning of 2012, the task of planning and conducting integrity tests of police, prison service and customs administration employees, along with other key tasks, was entrusted to the responsibility

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of the then newly formed Inspectorate General of the Security Forces of the Czech Republic (Generální inspekce bezpečnostních sborů - GIBS).

While it built on the tradition and operating principles of its informal predecessors, the individual Inspectorates of Police, Prison Service and Customs Administration – all three of which ceased to exist at the end of 2011 – GIBS was established as a ‘greenfield’ organization. From the beginning, it was endowed with appropriate rights and adequate resources that enabled it to effectively conduct complex investigations into crimes committed by officers or civilian employees of the three above mentioned security forces as well as of its own organization. Naturally, just like all civilian police investigations, and in full compliance with Czech legislation, the cases investigated by GIBS are invariably supervised by the public prosecutor’s office. GIBS, which unlike its informal predecessors is not part of any specific ministry, and whose Director reports exclusively to the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, has thus become a supreme independent investigative authority with regard to the Czech police, prison service and customs administration.

Given its exclusive position within the hierarchy of the Czech law enforcement system, GIBS was also assigned several other key tasks at the time of its establishment, such as educational, monitoring and preventive activities within the organizations under its jurisdiction, along with the preparation of appropriate methodological recommendations for the Czech law enforcement community. Nevertheless, the area of conducting integrity tests, together with the day-to-day detection and investigation of crimes, has become one of the GIBS’ flagship activities.

The way in which GIBS can execute the integrity tests is strictly regulated by the relevant legislation, which clearly prescribes how the exercise can and cannot be carried out. The actual tests are conducted by simulating an artificial situation, yet similar to the tested person’s daily work routine, and are intended to verify whether they are carrying out their duties properly and in accordance with applicable legislation and codes of conduct. Under no circumstances is it possible for the officers conducting the integrity test to act against the law or force the tested person to commit an offence or a crime, or create life-threatening or other conditions generally prohibited by law. Most importantly, the integrity tests and the way they are conducted do not create provocations. As it is an instrument to objectively verify the tested person’s resilience to corruption, illegal or unethical behaviour, the performance of each integrity test must be documented by means of video and audio recordings.

For example, the integrity tests conducted on members of the Czech traffic police: During the exercise, GIBS officers commit a deliberate violation of traffic rules and then passively observe the traffic police officers’ reactions and behaviour. As mentioned above, covert video and audio recording is used throughout the interaction with the tested personnel. The GIBS officers are in no way able to intervene or provoke unlawful actions during the entire incident. The way the situation is handled and its ultimate outcome are entirely in the hands of the traffic patrol and its staff under test. Of course, there

are also much more complex test scenarios, and on average two to seven GIBS officers are required to prepare, conduct and evaluate each test.

In line with the philosophy of “Hope for the best, but plan for the worst”, integrity testing of the Czech police, prison service and customs administration has become a key element in recent years to ensure that their officers behave as expected by both the law and ordinary citizens. Should this not be the case, GIBS remains on guard 24/7 to ensure that the appropriate legal action is taken, and to protect the trustworthiness of the entire Czech law enforcement system in the eyes of the public.

Inspectorate General of the Security Forces of the Czech Republic

Generální inspekce bezpečnostních sborů - GIBS

Office of the Director, Legal & External Affairs

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AFA releases new guidelines on prevention and detection of corruption

The French Anti-Corruption Agency (AFA) has been updating its guidelines to help public sector entities and companies implement effective anti-corruption programmes.



In January 2021, AFA updated its guidelines to assist organizations, whether public or private, large or small, French or foreign, in preventing and detecting corruption and related offences against integrity. Developed through a collaborative process, these recommendations are based on the experience acquired over the past three years, as well as on feedback by multiple stakeholders, gathered through a public consultation. In particular, they include input from government entities, trade associations, consulting firms and NGOs.

In accordance with international best standards, AFA's new guidelines provide comprehensive guidance on how to design and implement an effective anti-corruption programme. Their structure consists of three key parts, tailored to the specific needs of various kinds of organizations:

- The first part contains general guidance applicable to all entities. This guidance revolves around three pillars: commitment by senior management, accurate knowledge of the corruption risks the entity faces (corruption risk mapping), and management of these risks through prevention, detection, and remediation measures;
- The second part concerns large companies subject to the compliance requirements of the 2016 French Anti-Corruption Law, known as Sapin II;
- The third part is dedicated to public sector organizations.

Wide-ranging yet precise, AFA's guidelines are a valuable resource for anti-corruption practitioners both in France and abroad.

AFA's guidelines are available at the following links:

In French:

<https://www.agence-francaise-anticorruption.gouv.fr/files/files/Recommandations%20AFA.pdf>

In English:

<https://www.agence-francaise-anticorruption.gouv.fr/files/2021-03/French%20AC%20Agency%20Guidelines%20.pdf#>

HATVP exchange with the European Commission on the monitoring of revolving door cases

On 5 March 2021, an exchange took place between the Legal and Ethics Division of the HATVP and the Ethics Department of the European Commission. Participants discussed how revolving door cases between the public and private sectors are handled by their respective institutions.



This collaboration followed two exchanges organized in [2020](#). The aim was to share the working methods of each institution and discuss challenges and good practices in case analysis.

HATVP presented how checks are carried out in the case of a senior French public official who seeks to move to the private sector and in the case of a combination of activities by a civil servant. The Commission then presented how it handles the monitoring of the secondary activities of a Commissioner and the revolving door intentions by a European civil servant.

The discussion raised issues related to the avoidance of conflicts of interest, the different possible approaches in the conditions imposed on certain professional engagements, or the need for means to carry out effective control audits.

There are many points in common in the case analysis of the two institutions and the HATVP is delighted to have a regular exchange with such a partner.

New comparative study on lobbying regulation and new guide on conflicts of interest

In October 2020, the High Authority published a review of the mechanisms for regulating lobbying in 41 jurisdictions. The study, available in [French](#) and [English](#), covers all European Union Members States as well as countries such as Canada, Chile and the United States, local initiatives such as the one implemented in Catalonia and the mechanism provided for by the European institutions.

By compiling data from multiple sources, the study allows for a better understanding of the wide range of definitions of lobbying, the types of public officials concerned and the means of control provided for in the various jurisdictions.

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HATVP is also proud to publish the second edition of its [Ethics Guide](#), which focuses on avoiding conflicts of interest. With the law of 6 August 2019 on the transformation of the civil service, the HATVP has become the main actor in the field of public integrity, including in the regulation of the revolving door phenomenon. The guide is aimed at administrations, ethics officers, public officials and civil servants. It presents the HATVP's doctrine on conflict of interest risks and summarises the ethical procedures that characterise the career of a public official or agent.

Subscribe to the HATVP's international newsletter

Every month, the HATVP publishes a newsletter focusing on the prevention of corruption and the promotion of public integrity around the world. You can subscribe by filling out this [form](#) or by sending an email to contact.presse@hatvp.fr.

Online event on the importance and necessity of internal anti-corruption control in public and private sector organizations

Latvia: On 8 December 2020, at the "4K" (Control, Corruption, Crises, Competition) online event to open the International Anti-Corruption Day, high-level experts from the public and private sectors discussed the importance of internal anti-corruption control to reduce corruption risks in state and municipal tenders, especially in the current pandemic situation.



The event was kicked off by France Chain, Senior Legal Analyst of the OECD Anti-Corruption Division; she presented the OECD Study on "Corporate Anti-Corruption Compliance Drivers, Mechanisms, and Ideas for Change".

In the current pandemic, where swift action is required, public procurement remains susceptible to high corruption risks and ensuring that the public's financial resources are used effectively, impartially and in the public interest becomes increasingly important.

The importance of internal supervision mechanisms, including internal anti-corruption control systems, is most apparent in emergency situations. Although the development and implementation of such systems is mandatory in Latvia only for public sector institutions, including state-owned enterprises, it is also recommended for private companies.

Participants at the event emphasized that such systems not only reduce corruption risks, but can also promote sustainable development and help companies become more efficient and competitive.

Participants unanimously agreed that an effective, risk-based system is one of the most important solutions that allows companies to operate under fair competitive conditions, integrate good governance principles and ensure good reputation. It is equally important to implement a code of ethics

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and reporting channels in each organization, to ensure effective exchange of data and information, and to organize employee training according to the risks incurred.

The event was viewed live by over 700 participants, both domestic and international.

Official press release:

<https://www.knab.gov.lv/en/knab/news/552472-during-the-online-discussion-the-importance-and-need-for-internal-anti-corruption-control-was-highlighted.html>

Video recording of the online event (in English):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_7PH9lsLLk

Link to the OECD presentation (in English):

https://www.knab.gov.lv/upload/oecd_france_chain_08_12_2020.pdf

Lithuania strengthens its capacity in confiscation and asset recovery

Effective confiscation and asset recovery mechanisms are increasingly becoming one of the major trends in fighting corruption as the international community pays more attention to new tools such as non-conviction based confiscation. In this regard, Lithuania has made an important step by adopting a new Law on Civil Confiscation of Property and taking further implementing measures. Along with that, the Special Investigation Service (STT) has established its Asset Recovery Unit (ARU).

The new Law, which came into force last year, establishes the legal basis, conditions and procedure for civil confiscation of illegally obtained property. The main distinctive feature of the new Law is that it does not require proving the person's guilt in committing a crime and that civil confiscation is not considered a type of criminal punishment. According to the Law, assets are deemed to be of an illegal origin if:

- 1) there are grounds to believe that the property in question was not obtained in a legal way; and
- 2) the property in question exceeds 100 000 Euros; and
- 3) the property in question belongs to:
 - i. a person against whom criminal proceedings for serious crimes, including corruption-related crimes such as active and passive bribery, trading in influence, abuse of office, were started, concluded or terminated, or the person in question was released from criminal liability; or
 - ii. a person included in the list of organized crime groups prepared by the Police Department under the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania; or
 - iii. a spouse or a co-habiting partner of a person under i) or ii).

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The Law provides that civil confiscation measures can be applied to assets illegally acquired after 11 December 2010.

Along with the new legislation, the STT established a specialized Asset Recovery Unit (ARU) as of 1 November 2020. ARU seeks to further strengthen STT activities related to the identification, freezing and subsequent confiscation, including civil confiscation, of property obtained in corruption and bribery schemes. ARU focuses on criminal intelligence activities, large data set (Big Data) analysis and international cooperation between law enforcement agencies.

The STT invites its partners to continue close cooperation in tracking and recovering assets obtained illegally and to make full use of the newly established mechanisms in Lithuania. Any non-classified queries may be addressed by e-mail to asset.recovery@stt.lt.

“Trademark of the Year” and “Quality Award”

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova (CCI RM) launched the “Trademark of the Year 2020” and “Award for achievements in the field of quality of products and services in 2020” competitions on 10 February 2021.

“Trademark of the Year” is in its 18th edition and is organized jointly with the State Agency for Intellectual Property of the RM (AGEPI), in partnership with the National Anti-Corruption Centre and UNDP Moldova, under the project “Curbing corruption for building sustainable integrity in the Republic of Moldova”, implemented with the financial support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The contest is one of the most efficient mechanisms for promoting trademarks in the internal and external market and successful practices in marketing and branding. Trademarks can be registered in the contest under one or more of 17 categories, including 2 new categories: “Business On-line” and “Family Business”.

In total, over 1500 trademarks have participated in the competition in the 17 years it has been running.

The “Quality Award” is entering its 7th edition and aims to recognize companies that have successfully implemented quality management and promoted modern quality approaches.

This is the first and only competition dedicated to quality management and is considered the preparatory phase of a company to promote its products on the external market. The application of the excellence criteria for self-evaluation allows participants to obtain an external image of their activity, to assess the extent to which the company’s activity satisfies the needs of customers, staff, suppliers and society, and to determine strategic development objectives. Over 210 companies have competed during the 6 editions to highlight the quality of their products and services.

The objectivity of the nomination of the winners in both contests is ensured through the qualitative assessment by a professional jury, but also through a survey conducted among consumers. The award ceremony will take place during the traditional ceremony of the Gala of Moldovan Business, which will be held in May-June 2021.

<https://cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=3086&t=/Mass-media/Events/The-launch-of-the-contest-Trademark-of-the-Year-and-Quality-Awardhttp://relawed.cna.md/>

<https://cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=3083&t=/Mass-media/Events/Contest-NAC-and-UNDP-will-award-private-companies-implementing-integrity-standards-in-business>

Training on how to handle whistleblower reports and protect whistleblowers conducted by APC staff

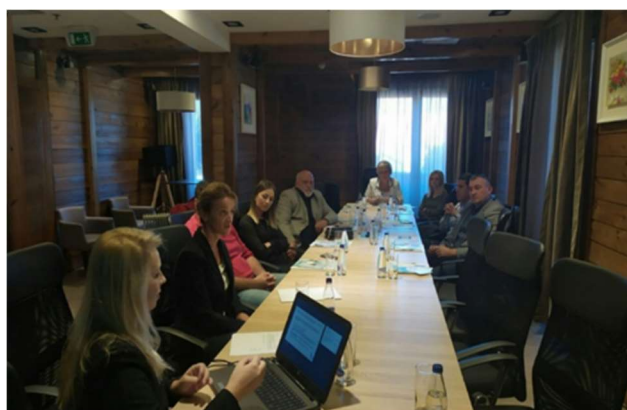
Montenegro: The Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC), in cooperation with the NGO Center for Development of Non-Governmental Organizations (CRNVO), provided training on how to deal with whistleblowing and how to protect whistleblowers to almost 400 persons responsible for acting on whistleblowing in public and private institutions.



Employees of the APC – Section for acting on reports of whistleblowers and whistleblower protection – participated as lecturers in anti-corruption trainings as part of the "Let your voice be heard" project, which is entirely dedicated to whistleblowers.

The mentioned trainings were organized to acquaint participants with the legal procedures for filing reports on threats to public interest indicating the presence of corruption, in accordance with the Law on Prevention of Corruption of Montenegro.

During these trainings, employees of the Agency presented to the participants the legal obligations of the persons designated to act on whistleblowers, as well as the obligations of the institution to which the report was submitted, the way whistleblower reports are processed, and the mechanisms for protecting whistleblowers. The work and results of the Agency in this area were also presented through case studies and the Agency's experience in this area to date.





Last year, the Agency's staff held six trainings of this kind, intended for representatives of the education sector, i.e. persons responsible for handling whistleblower reports in primary schools, then for representatives of health care institutions, government agencies, businesses, etc. These trainings were attended by 80 participants.

This project started in 2017 and since the beginning, 29 trainings have been held for

almost 400 participants.

The project is funded by the Embassy of the Netherlands.

<http://www.antikorupcija.me/en/whistleblowers/news/1910180817-continued-training-actions-upon-whistle-blower-reporting/>

http://www.antikorupcija.me/media/documents/Bilten_antikorupcija_2020_eng.pdf

Agency for Prevention of Corruption staff attends training for trainers on increasing integrity in top management positions in Montenegro

Employees of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC) participated in a training for trainers with the aim of providing future trainings for representatives of the executive branch, members of government and their advisors on ethics and integrity, and the development of a code of ethics for senior executive officials with guidelines on ethics and integrity. The training for trainers was held in November 2020.



On the same occasion, the Agency, in cooperation with representatives of the General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro and with the support of experts from the Council of Europe, prepared a draft Code of Ethics for Senior Executive Officials with Guidelines on Ethics and Integrity.

In accordance with its preventive activities established by the Law on Prevention of Corruption in Montenegro, the Agency is committed to an intensive advisory and educational function, especially when it comes to ensuring that public officials of all three branches of government, the executive, the legislative and the judiciary, uphold the highest ethical values and standards and ensure, through

established mechanisms, respect for personal and institutional integrity, and thus, integrity of the public sector as a whole.

This activity is part of the project "Fight against Economic Crime – Horizontal Mechanism for the Western Balkans and Turkey", a joint initiative of the European Union and the Council of Europe for Southeast Europe.

<http://www.antikorupcija.me/en/library/news-archive/2012221201-draft-code-ethics-prepared-representatives-highest-levels-executive-power/>

http://www.antikorupcija.me/media/documents/Bilten_antikorupcija_2020_eng.pdf

Forced Returns and Fundamental Rights

Portugal's Inspectorate General of Home Affairs (Inspeção-Geral da Administração Interna – IGAI)'s cycle of conferences on "Forced Returns and Fundamental Rights"

As part of the cycle of national conferences organized under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Project on Forced Returns Monitoring, under the responsibility of IGAI in the 2019/2021 triennium, the second conference of this cycle was held on the topic of "Forced Returns and Fundamental Rights" in Porto on 16 October 2020.

The conferences included in this cycle have been specifically designed for Immigration and Border Service inspectors in charge of carrying out forced return operations and aim to improve the quality and intervention of these officials from the perspective of respect for and protection of human dignity, the right to life and physical integrity, freedom of movement and other fundamental rights directly affected in the course of these operations; rights that all human beings are entitled to regardless of their nationality, origin or social situation.

On the IGAI website you will find a short reference (in Portuguese only) to the date and venue where the Conference took place:

<https://www.igai.pt/pt/Noticias/Pages/Conferencia-Retornos-Forcados-e-Direitos-Fundamentais---Porto-2020.aspx>

Footage of the event (in Portuguese only) is available at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFtCZZ0PeEk&feature=youtu.be>

Causes and determining factors of corruption – A criminological research report, qualitative and quantitative

The Romanian Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has the task of elaborating the national criminal policy in the field of preventing and combating corruption and also fulfils the role of the institution under whose authority the National Anticorruption Strategy is elaborated and its implementation is monitored.

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In 2014-2015, in order to correctly map these steps and draft the new anti-corruption strategy 2016-2020, the Ministry of Justice, through the NAS Technical Secretariat provided by the Crime Prevention Department, in partnership with the Research Centre in Criminal Sciences at the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest and the School of Criminology at the Faculty of Law of the VU Amsterdam University, developed the study "Offenders on causes and consequences of corruption – A study on corruption in Romania". It aimed to investigate the corruption phenomenon in the light of the direct experiences of people convicted for corruption. Given that the corruption phenomenon is dynamic and its research tools need to provide up-to-date data in order to effectively serve as a scientific basis for the MoJ's approaches, the aforementioned study, developed five years ago, cannot remain a singular approach. New data is necessary, collected and analysed through methods comparable to the ones used in the aforementioned study, which can also substantiate the future strategic instrument.

The current research aims to analyse the determining causes and factors in the commission of acts of corruption from the perspective of persons convicted of such acts. The objective of this study is to obtain information related to the motivation of persons convicted of corruption, as well as the aspects that favoured, facilitated or triggered the adoption of such behaviour.

In the context of the complementarity of the two approaches with the same object of study, namely the causes and determining factors in the commission of acts of corruption, the development of the current activity is modelled on the previous study and the research tools used for it, and is taking the need to ensure the continuity of the research methods into consideration, as well as the comparability of the conclusions of the two studies.

Link to the full research report:

<https://sna.just.ro/docs/pagini/60/Raport%20cercetare%20studiu%20criminologic%20engleza.pdf>

Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia launches a new data-driven intelligence strategy

The Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia has adopted a data-driven intelligence strategy based on data analytics that can support its actions in the field of corruption prevention and investigation. A Data Analysis Team has been created for this purpose. The expected outcomes over the next three years include an automated early warning system in public procurement, the creation of a data warehouse for the public sector and specific data analysis through the use of Big Data methods and analytical tools.

In the context of the emergence of new global paradigms, both technological and legal, and considering the exponential growth of data collection, processing and analysis tools, together with the datafication of public activity as well as regulatory developments with a strong impact on this particular issue (development of e-procurement, implementation of the legal framework for transparency, among others), the Anti-Fraud Office has launched a new data-driven intelligence strategy.

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On 18 November 2020, the Director of the Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia approved the initial report on the new data-driven intelligence strategy with a threefold objective: to provide the Office with the necessary human and material resources, to improve the skills and knowledge that will enable the Office to develop its own strategy in the data field in line with its mission and functions, and to contribute to the development of a data culture and data governance in Catalonia.

The main expected outcomes of this intelligence strategy, which will initially run for 3 years, are the following:

- a field study and the elaboration of a general report on automated early warning systems in the field of public procurement, analysing the possibilities of implementing such systems in regional and local administrations in Catalonia;
- the design and implementation of a public data warehouse that integrates all available and, from the control bodies' point of view, relevant data and information of the public sector in Catalonia for consultation and exploitation; and
- the implementation of the data warehouse is intended to allow us to carry out specific analysis and studies focused on the different areas of activity of the Anti-Fraud Office, among others, public procurement and public grants, by applying analytical tools and machine learning techniques.

We welcome any input from EPAC/EACN members with experience in this field to share best practices and methodologies. The Anti-Fraud Office hopes to soon be in the position to share the main findings and outcomes of this new strategy with our EPAC/EACN partners.

For more information on the specifics of this project, please contact the Head of the Data Analysis Team, Mr. Bruno González at bgonzalez@antifrau.cat.

<https://www.antifrau.cat/index.php/es/antifraude-crea-programa-nuevo-impulsar-estrategia-inteligencia-basada-analisis-datos>

Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia is Knowledge Partner in the upcoming 2021 OECD Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum

[The Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia](#) has been appointed Knowledge Partner in the upcoming 2021 Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum. The institution will host the webinar "Tools for managing risks during COVID-19 pandemic" on 25 March 2021 at 4.30 pm (Paris local time). This session aims to present two tools developed by the Anti-Fraud Office to support public organizations in managing integrity risks during the pandemic:

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- [Risks prevention in the exercise of public authority during COVID-19 crisis Reminders, recommendations and resources to promote Integrity](#) (24 April 2020);
- [Interactive guide to manage integrity risks in public procurement](#) (11 May 2020), based on a research that identified [public entities' inherent risks in public procurement](#) and an exhaustive list of approximately 70 factors creating, reinforcing and perpetuating those risks ([organisational factors](#), [personal factors](#), [procedural factors](#), [leadership & cultural factors](#)...).

These tools will be discussed by Lara Baena and Anabel Calvo from the Prevention Department of the Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia together with Professor Louis de Sousa (Research Fellow-ICS-ULisboa) to compare them with similar regional initiatives.

We welcome all EPAC/EACN members to participate in this webinar. Please do not hesitate to contact the Office if you require more information.

Direct link to the session description:

<https://oecd-events.org/gacif2021/session/a613cd39-b180-eb11-b566-000d3a20ecf5>
<https://www.antifrau.cat/en>

Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic participates in international project IntegriSport Erasmus+

The National Crime Agency of the Police Force Presidium (Ministry of the Interior) of the Slovak Republic participated in the international project IntegriSport Erasmus+ initiated by the CSCF Foundation for Integrity in Sport with the aim of implementing the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions.



The project focused on setting standards for law enforcement and judicial authorities, with an emphasis on strengthening prevention and combating the manipulation of sports competitions, so-called match-fixing.

In addition to Slovakia, law enforcement agencies from Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Lithuania and Portugal joined forces to tackle the threat of sports competition manipulation and related crimes such as corruption, fraud and money laundering, which violate the values of integrity and the principle of fair play in sport. International organizations dealing with sport and sports betting, such as EU Athletes, GLMS, University of Aix-Marseille and Council of Europe also participated in the project.

The implementation of the project IntegriSport Erasmus+ was completed with a final conference on 10 March 2021. The conference was addressed by the project partners from European countries and the representatives of international organizations working in the field of sports.

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A representative of the National Crime Agency of the Police Force Presidium emphasized that the implementation of the project has helped to increase the knowledge of law enforcement and judicial authorities on sports manipulation and to improve cooperation with national and international partners.



The implementation of the IntegriSport Erasmus+ project has contributed to raising awareness of new crime trends affecting sport and sports competitions, in line with the development of modern means of information and payment, and to strengthening law enforcement cooperation and promoting a culture of integrity and responsibility in sport.

Please [click here](#) to read the media statement of the event.

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6775813828723671041>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CSCFSportintegrity/photos/a.102778804649780/261261175468208/>

Twitter:

https://twitter.com/Cscf_integrity/status/1370056422407475202

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/p/CMS6MKfs_jB/?igshid=vlszawhx9dv0

New rules strengthen OLAF and set the stage for cooperation with the EPPO

As of 17 January 2021, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) operates under a revised legal framework. This revision achieves the two main objectives that the Commission set in its 2018 proposal: to pave the way for a smooth collaboration with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), and to improve the effectiveness of OLAF's investigations.



After two and a half years of negotiations between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, a revised OLAF Regulation entered into force on 17 January 2021. This new regulation ensures cooperation between OLAF and the EPPO, and reinforces OLAF's investigative capacity.

Both OLAF and the EPPO protect the EU budget. While they do so within their own mandate, the revised OLAF Regulation ensures that they also do so in close cooperation. This cooperation rests on three pillars. First, EPPO can rely on the support and expertise of OLAF in carrying out its tasks. Second, OLAF can launch investigations that are complementary to those of EPPO, to facilitate recovery or adopt administrative precautionary measures. Third, the offices will exchange information before and during investigations, through mutual reporting mechanisms.

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The revised regulation also equips OLAF with sharper tools to investigate fraud against the EU budget. For instance, OLAF will conduct on-the-spot checks pursuant to clearer rules and benefit from an enhanced two-way cooperation with national authorities. OLAF will also be able to access bank account information under the same conditions that apply to national competent authorities. These tools now coexist with stronger procedural guarantees for persons concerned by OLAF investigations, and with control mechanisms for their enforcement.

As the EU starts implementing a new financial framework accompanied by an ambitious recovery plan, a revamped EU anti-fraud architecture is now in place to protect EU citizens' money. Along with the investigative and prosecutorial powers of the EPPO, the analytical capacity of Europol, and the coordinating role of Eurojust, a reformed OLAF equipped with the tools to work with EPPO and to carry out even more effective investigations is a central piece of this architecture.

Consolidated text of Regulation 883/2013:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02013R0883-20210117>

Press release issued upon the adoption of the amending Regulation:

https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/file/5380/download_en?token=bUTKxDkK

Questions and Answers on OLAF's new legal framework to protect the EU budget:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_2437

OLAF organizes a training webinar with African partners on the role of technology in the fight against fraud

On 11 March 2021, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) organized an interactive training webinar on “The role of technology in the fight against fraud and corruption: legal framework and limitations” with representatives of FIGE (Le Forum des Inspections Générales d'Etat) in Africa as well as relevant authorities in other non-FIGE countries, international organizations and European Union Delegations.



In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the usual face-to-face meeting was replaced by an interactive on-line webinar. The topic of the seminar reflected both the challenges of investigating fraud in such demanding times as well as proposing concrete solutions to enhance the efficiency of investigations by using information technology tools. Representatives of more than 30 African authorities, international organizations and EU Delegations took part in the event, reaching above 70 active participants and even more following via webstream.

OLAF shared its experience as well as the strategies and tools employed when conducting an investigation, before focusing on capabilities and limitations provided by digital forensics and analysis, including the legal framework in which such investigative activities must be performed. The

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representatives of FIGE presented an overview of their capabilities and needs in using technology in investigations and actively engaged in discussions on the most appropriate tools to be employed in the current context.

OLAF is continuously pursuing cooperation with the investigative authorities of African countries. This cooperation relies on strong collaboration with FIGE with annual meetings taking place at OLAF premises and in African countries. The webinar aimed at further strengthening this cooperation in investigations, fostering exchange of experiences and best practices in using IT tools during investigations and, finally, raising awareness on the importance of cooperating to tackle transnational fraud.

Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) conducts first annual regional multi-beneficiary training on whistleblower protection

Practitioners from ministries of justice, anti-corruption agencies and other whistleblowing oversight bodies, as well as civil society organizations involved in supporting and advocating whistleblowing, discussed the key requirements and challenges arising from the EU Whistleblower Protection Directive.

Under the auspices of the EU-funded regional project 'Breaking the Silence: Enhancing the whistleblowing policies and culture in Western Balkans and Moldova', RAI conducted a two-day online training on whistleblower protection consisting of two webinars: 'Building Effective WB Protection for the Benefit of Citizens in line with the EU Whistleblowing Directive' and 'Experiences of



Screenshot from the training

Public Institutions and Civil Society in Handling WB Reports: How to Enhance Mutual Cooperation and Coordination?'. The first such regional training brought together more than 50 representatives from ministries of justice, anti-corruption agencies and other whistleblowing oversight bodies, as well as whistleblowing CSOs, to discuss the laws in SEE in light of the EU Whistleblower Protection Directive and best practices for whistleblowing. In line with the EU Directive, the 'Breaking the Silence' project supports SEE in its efforts to:

- Improve disclosure channels and protection mechanisms for whistleblowers by strengthening the legislative framework and institutional arrangements;
- strengthen the capacity of CSOs to support whistleblowing through public policy advocacy, public education and information campaigns;

- enhance public awareness, especially among youth, about the importance of whistleblowing through a regional campaign.

<https://www.rai-see.org/rai-delivers-the-regional-multi-beneficiary-training-on-whistleblower-protection/>

News from International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)

IACA offers a wide range of standardized online and tailor-made trainings and master's programmes, covering various anti-corruption and compliance related topics.

The Academy launched a handful of new online courses, covering different topics related to anti-corruption and compliance, including the role of new technologies in the global fight against corruption, mutual legal assistance, research and writing in anti-corruption, behaviourally informed interviewing, auditing, procurement, risk management, investigation, etc.

Applications for IACA's 10th "Best Of" training will be opened in March this year. This edition will feature Guido Palazzo from the University of Lausanne.

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. Currently, tailor-made trainings are offered virtually.

Applications for the new classes of the Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) and International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action (IMACC) are open on IACA website, for programmes to begin in October this year, in a fully online format.

IACA's new master's programme in Anti-Corruption and Diplomacy (MACD), developed in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), offers an innovative curriculum that reflects a variety of academic disciplines necessary for providing comprehensive insight into anti-corruption, compliance systems, and diplomacy. The application process is already open for the programme to start in September 2021.

A detailed catalogue of all online courses, as well as information on master's programmes and tailor-made trainings is available on IACA website.

<https://www.iaca.int>

<https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/online-training/training-catalogue.html>

<https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes.html>

<https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/open-trainings/best-of-seminar.html>

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Third intersessional meeting of the Conference on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly against corruption (22-23 February, hybrid format)

In its resolution 74/276 entitled “Special session of the General Assembly against corruption” (UNGASS), 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. The third and last intersessional meeting took place on 22 and 23 February 2021 (thematic focus on various aspects of preventing and combating corruption) and provided four panels on the following topics:

1. “Sustained political commitment: UNGASS 2021, an opportunity to reinforce our commitments against corruption” and “After 15 years of UNCAC’s entry into force, what is our way forward”;
2. “Beneficial ownership transparency and the role of the private sector in supporting anticorruption efforts, including through better compliance with anti-money-laundering standards, collective action initiatives and supporting measures for self-regulation”;
3. “Measures to address impunity, including by strengthening the independence, transparency and integrity of the judiciary and enhancing the role of oversight bodies, such as state audit institutions”;
4. “Harnessing the full potential of education and technology in efforts to prevent and combat corruption”.

The special session of the General Assembly against corruption will take place from 2 to 4 June 2021 in New York.

[Intersessional meetings of the Conference \(unodc.org\)](https://www.unodc.org/conferences/ungass2021/)

Informal technical briefing for United Nations delegates in Vienna on 2 and 3 March 2021

On 25 February 2021, the High Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI Panel) has released its report which provides 14 recommendations for promoting financial integrity for sustainable development. These recommendations, which the FACTI Panel believes are technically feasible and politically viable, will revitalize the global architecture to combat illicit financial flows with a view to cementing ‘financial integrity for sustainable development’. The informal technical briefing, organized jointly by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the FACTI Panel Secretariat, gave representatives of Permanent Missions in Vienna the opportunity to engage with the FACTI panel and each other in a dialogue on the recommendations contained in the report.

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[UN FACTI Panel](#)

Plenary Meeting of the OECD Working Group on Bribery (8-12 March 2021, virtual format)

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, the OECD Working Group on Bribery held a virtual plenary meeting in March 2021. Besides a tour de table and evaluation related issues the Working Group agreed to undertake a review of the designation and functioning of the Management Group. Further, the Working Group addressed the recruitment procedure for a new Chair, and the duration of the mandate of the Chair. It also discussed the topic of corruption in sport as well as the Working Group contribution for the UNGASS 2021.

List of upcoming events

- 7 May 2021: Special session of the UNCAC Conference of the States Parties, Vienna
- 17-21 May 2021: 30th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Vienna
- 2-4 June 2021: Special session of the General Assembly against corruption, New York
- 15-18 June 2021: OECD Working Group on Bribery, Paris

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