

Join us on Social Media!

www.facebook.com/EPACandEACN

in www.linkedin.com/company/epac-eacn/

www.twitter.com/EPAC EACN

NEWSLETTER 03 22

Dear ladies and gentlemen, colleagues and friends,

We are happy to share the November 2022 issue of the EPAC/EACN Newsletter with you, containing the latest news from the EPAC/EACN networks and information on the events that took place over the last couple of months. We would hereby like to thank you for your contributions to the newsletter and your active involvement in the further development of EPAC/EACN activities.

Of course, we would greatly appreciate your contributions to the next newsletter on future or past events, conferences, seminars, training courses, studies, project findings, etc., including topics and suggestions for improvement, which are mostly welcome. The next newsletter is planned in the beginning of 2023.

We would also like to draw your attention to the upcoming EPAC/EACN Contact Catalogue 2022. Concerning the production of the 2022 edition, we would like to remind all of our members and observers, who have not yet submitted their current contact data to the EPAC/EACN secretariat at secretariat@epac-eacn.org to kindly do so.

Thank you very much for your support.

Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat

I EPAC/EACN SECRETARIAT

II EPAC/EACN COMMUNITY

IV PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS

III INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS



EPAC/EACN SECRETARIAT

21ST EPAC/EACN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 21st EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly will take place in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, from 23 to 24 of November 2022. The two-day Conference will bring together prominent speakers from international organisations, EU agencies, national authorities and EPAC/EACN members to discuss topics related to investigation of high-level corruption cases, international cooperation and information exchange, criminal asset recovery, as well as new tools of corruption prevention and risk assessment.

The traditional event provides an important platform for professional discussions and best practices exchange between EPAC/EACN members. Among other, this year's Conference will host presentations by:

- Drago KOS, longstanding Chair of the OECD Working Group on Bribery,
- Hanne JUNCHER, Executive Secretary of the GRECO, Council of Europe,
- Gretta FENNER, Managing Director of the Basel Institute on Governance,
- Veronica DRAGALIN, Chief-prosecutor, Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, Republic of Moldova.
- Tomas STELZER, Dean of International Anti-Corruption Academy,
- **Simon PEH**, President of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities and former Commissioner of the Independent Commission against Corruption, Hong Kong,
- and number other excellent speakers.

The draft agenda of the upcoming conference foresees two plenary sessions as well as two parallel workshops. The Conference will feature traditional EPAC/EACN Awards for best anti-corruption and police oversight initiatives of the year. The event will close with EPAC/EACN General Assembly that will accept new members to the EPAC/EACN and adopt the Chisinau declaration.

The draft agenda, invitation to register for the event and application form for the 2022 EPAC/EACN award have already been communicated to all the members. The participation of each member of the Network is important to contribute to the success of the event. For the latest news and updated agenda, please visit the Conference webpage: https://event.cna.md/

.....



INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION HACKATHON IN LITHUANIA

In order to contribute to solving European transparency challenges, EPAC/EACN Secretariat together with hosting Lithuanian organisations have initiated the international "Integrity Hackathon". This is a two-part event that brought together professionals of different sectors and transparency enthusiasts to develop innovative ideas.



For that purpose, the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania (STT), AB Vilniaus šilumos tinklai (VŠT), which is actively involved in creating an anti-corruption environment, and EPAC/EACN joined forces to organise the Integrity Hackathon.

The organizers invited experts and enthusiasts of creating a transparent, corruption-resistant environment: the IT industry, entrepreneurs, science, risk

management experts, lawyers and students as well as everyone keen on developing of ideas for creating an environment based on trust, honesty and openness, to participate in "Integrity Hackathon".

The hackathon was aimed at bringing together professionals from different fields to develop transparency tools and solutions. Participants were invited to search for ways to integrate modern technologies for improving the environment of transparency (AI, Big data), to brainstorm how to promote anti-corruption awareness in different society groups, to form greater resistance to different forms of corruption and to expand international cooperation, creating a more transparent Europe and sharing good practices.

The two-part event brought together more than 100 experts and enthusiasts for creating a transparent, corruption-resistant environment. 13 teams from Lithuania, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Romania, and Brazil generated ideas in the virtual semi-final, which took place on September 29-30th.

Each team had to choose one of the six challenges and to help overcome the manifestations of corruption in Europe with their ideas and proposed solutions. It also provided a unique opportunity for participants to initiate challenges matching the theme of the hackathon themselves.

The ideas of all teams, their development and application and the creation of added value have been be evaluated by a jury consisted of Žydrūnas Bartkus, Director of Lithuanian Special Investigation Service, President of EPAC/EACN, Gerimantas Bakanas, general manager of Vilniaus Heating Company (Vilniaus šilumos tinklai), Drago Kos, Chair of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and



Development (OECD) Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, Roberto Perez-Rocha, Director of the International Anti-Corruption Conference Series and Global Initiatives (IACC) of Transparency International, Martin Kreutner, Dean Emeritus of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), International Counsel as well as Eglė Radvilė, Head of Intellectual Solutions and Data Management Department at UAB "Vilniaus Planas".

Two teams from Lithuania and one from Ukraine were selected as the winners of the hackathon semifinals and got to the final, namely "Faircheck" and "Vilniaus vystymo kompanija" from Lithuania and the team assembled by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) from Ukraine.

During the finals of the "Integrity Hackathon" the teams presented the developed projects and progress of their work which took place on November 11th in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The winning team — National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine — was awarded the prize of EUR 15,000 worth of their selected distance learning courses at prestigious world universities.



Congratulations to the WINNERS!

The final event was broadcasted live and anyone interested in innovations in the field of creating an anti-corruption environment had the possibility to watch it on <u>STT's YouTube channel</u>.

Contact:

- Benas Aldakauskas, Head of the Anti-Corruption Education Division, benas.aldakauskas@stt.lt
- Edvinas Chorostinas, Deputy Head of the Activity Administration Department, edvinas.chorostinas@stt.lt.

Additional Information: https://integrityhackathon.chc.lt/

EPAC/EACN COMMUNITY

NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU OF UKRAINE (NABU)



THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU OF UKRAINE IMPROVES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TOP-CORRUPTION INVESTIGATIONS BY IMPLEMENTING THE ECASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



The launching of the eCase Management System, developed for the automation of the pre-trial investigation among detectives, prosecutors, and judges marked a new milestone in the development of criminal justice in Ukraine and proved the inevitability of its digitalization.

The eCase Management System (MS) was developed with the support of the EU Anti-Corruption Initiative in Ukraine (EUACI) to optimize the pre-trial investigation of anti-corruption agencies of Ukraine. The System allows the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO) and the High Anti-Corruption Court (the HACC) to interact online.





NABU launched the System on December 16, 2021, and became the first law enforcement body in Ukraine to digitize pre-trial investigation. The eCase MS is intended to increase the efficiency of investigations, ensure the transparency of anti-corruption bodies, and save resources. The System provides gradual transition of the paper-based criminal process with the participation of NABU, SAPO, and the HACC into electronic format. Relevant electronic systems have proven their effectiveness in more than 20 EU member states. The implementation of the eCase MS was interrupted by the russian invasion of Ukraine. NABU and SAPO restarted operations with the System on August 1, 2022.

Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine, NABU did not stand aside but joined the fight against the enemy. In the conditions of martial law, NABU was primarily involved in helping the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine, and the Prosecutor General's Office protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state.





The NABU staff have been awarded various state honors, including the Irreproachable Service Medal, the Defender of the Motherland Medal, and the highest one — the Order of the Gold Star. 13 Bureau employees have been honored so far, one of them posthumously.

Further on, NABU took all measures to maintain an effective fight against corruption: not a single criminal case was lost, while a number of frauds and corruption schemes were exposed already after the invasion. Among them are the cases of former and current lawmakers, police officers and prosecutor office employees, ex-leadership of the State Fiscal Service, as well as attempted bribery of a city mayor with a record EUR 22 mln.

Contact: office@nabu.gov.ua

Additional Information: https://nabu.gov.ua/en;

https://nabu.gov.ua/node/6972; https://nabu.gov.ua/node/6459;

https://euaci.eu/news/nabu-and-sapo-have-registered-the-first-criminal-case-in-the-ecase-ms

NATIONAL SECURITY AUTHORITY, SLOVAK REPUBLIC





THE NATIONAL SECURITY AUTHORITY IS THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BODY FOR PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, CRYPTOGRAPHIC SERVICES, TRUST SERVICES AND CYBER SECURITY.

The establishment of the National Security Authority has historical connections to the negotiations for Slovakia's accession into the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), which required the creation of an independent institution responsible for protecting classified information and cryptographic protection of information. The Authority commenced its activities on November 1st, 2001 and smoothly took over the activities from its predecessor, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.The Authority has been assigned with new tasks and roles gradually over time. The Authority expanded its activities in 2002 to include electronic signature, from 2015 to 2018, it provided the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic with dossiers used in the vetting process for judicial eligibility, and in 2016 the Authority assumed responsibility for cyber security matters in Slovakia.

The configuration of rules for protecting classified information was largely inspired by EU and NATO principles. A four-level system is used to classify information based on level of secrecy (Restricted, Confidential, Secret and Top Secret).

In accordance with the Act No. 215/2004 the Authority on Protection of Classified Information is the Central authority for Cryptographic Services in the Slovak Republic.

The Authority, as the central government body for the protection of classified information, conducts security clearance screenings of natural persons and legal entities, secures the protection of foreign information and functions as the central node for receiving and distributing such information, performs certification and authorisation activities, conducts compliance audits in accordance to the Act on Protection of Classified Information and conducts testing of security employees.

Its main tasks in the field of cryptographic protection is:

- device certification and recognition of foreign certificates,
- inspection of safety devices,
- issuing of safety standards,
- · specific training of employees/staff,
- safety performance testing of employee/staffs in the field of cryptographic protection,
- coordination of research and development,
- management and coordination of departmental encryption bodies,
- ensuring government and foreign connections.

Trust service according to Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the Europian Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC, means an electronic service normally provided for remuneration which consists of:



- the creation, verification, and validation of electronic signatures, electronic seals or electronic time stamps, electronic registered delivery services and certificates related to those services, or
- the creation, verification and validation of certificates for website authentication; or
- the preservation of electronic signatures, seals or certificates related to those services.

On April 1, 2018, Act No. 69/2018 Coll on cybersecurity came into force. The Act comprehensively regulates the area of cybersecurity and information assurance, it implements basic security requirements and measures necessary for coordinated protection of information and communication managing systems. At the same time it tran in the Collection of Laws under the number 69/2018. This is the first legal norm governing the cybersecurity within the Slovak Republic. It comes into effect on April 1, 2018. At the same time it transposes <u>European directive on network and information security</u> (NIS Directive) into Slovak legal order.

In the fight against corruption, Internal security section performs tasks based on the authority's internal regulations.

Contact:

- PhDr. Ivan Hapšták, director of The Internal security section, ivan.hapstak@nbu.gov.sk
- Mgr. Ján Hazucha, deputy director of The Internal security section, jan.hazucha@nbu.gov.sk
- Mgr. Marián Kušnier, PhD., senior clerk specialist of The Internal security section, marian.kusnier@nbu.gov.sk

Additional Information: https://www.nbu.gov.sk/en/authority/index.html

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION SERVICE

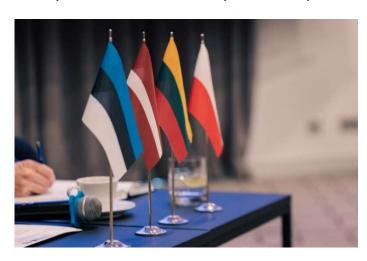
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA, LITHUANIA



STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH OF THE BALTIC REGION IN COMBATING CORRUPTION AND FRAUD AFFECTING EU FINANCIAL INTERESTS



On September 14-15, more than 60 participants from Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian, and Polish institutions took part in the International workshop "Multidisciplinary approach and Regional cooperation in tackling corruption and fraud risks affecting EU financial interests" organised by the Special Investigation Service (STT) of the Republic of Lithuania. During the event, the latest developments and activities were presented, experience and best practices of the law enforcement



and other institutions of the Baltic region were shared. Participants addressed the benefits and importance of the prevention, data analysis, proactive and retroactive investigations of corruption, fraud and other illegal activities, as well as discussed what measures should be used to fight effectively against fraud and corruption, affecting EU financial interests.

The workshop was organised as a part of the project financed by the EU Hercule III program. The seminar was attended by representatives of the region's anti-

corruption and anti-fraud institutions, prosecutor's office, tax authorities, financial intelligence units (FIU), anti-fraud coordination services (AFCOs) - both experts and heads of institutions and departments. In order to successfully combat the risks of corruption and fraud, opportunities and challenges were discussed, including combining preventive, analytical and crime investigation tools. Best practices in detecting, investigating and preventing cases of corruption and fraud, including affecting the EU financial interests, were presented.

Project participants not only presented overview of the activities and latest achievements of their respective institutions. but also participated in round table discussions in different sessions dedicated to data analysis, criminal investigations prevention. In a separate session of leaders, the heads of the anticorruption and anti-fraud institutions of the Baltic region discussed the main challenges faced during the ongoing war in



Ukraine and the role of anti-corruption institutions in such a context. Also reviewed the main challenges and priorities of their work, shared best practices and the importance of a strategic approach, examined further prospects in strengthening cooperation and interaction in the areas of combating fraud and corruption, in particular, in the area of protection of the EU financial interests. Representatives of the European Delegated Prosecutor's Office and the Austrian Federal Anti-Corruption Bureau (BAK) also shared their experience at the seminar.



The project was financed under the EU Hercule III program for the exchange of knowledge and best practices in the areas of identification and management of corruption and fraud risks that affect EU financial interests. Objectives of this project:

- Learning on the latest advancements in tackling fraud and, in particular, corruption affecting EU financial interests;
- Providing a forum for joint thematic discussions and exchange of information on strategic and tactical level on a continuous basis;
- Strengthening professional ties and mutual understanding between representatives of different national authorities, their branches and/or different authorities of neighbouring countries;
- Linking up themes of fraud and corruption, administrative and criminal proceedings, preventive and repressive approaches, proactive and retrospective investigations, etc. into holistic perspective.
- Better understanding of Union and national mechanisms, in particular, involved into combating fraud and corruption affecting EU financial interests.

Contact: Darius Mickevičius, Head of the International Cooperation Division, darius.mickevicius@stt.lt

THE FINAL EVENT ON BIG DATA ANALYSIS TOOLS TOOKS PLACE IN VILNIUS

As part of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) project, the final event on the identification of corruption and fraud risks using big data analysis tools took place in Vilnius. The event was attended by data analysts from 13 European countries, teachers from Switzerland and Hungary, and a representative from OLAF. The results of pilot analytical studies were presented during the event. The training not only strengthened the international cooperation of law enforcement institutions, but also opened up new opportunities in the field of big data analysis.



This project gave data analysts the opportunity to gain the necessary knowledge to understand big strategies, structure and quality assurance. Successfully conducted pilot studies made it possible to process and analyze various types of large-scale data, determining the risks of corruption, as well as get to know and practically test various analytical tools, which allow for more effective identification and reduction of corruption and fraud risks. Acquired new knowledge and skills will reduce time and labor costs.

The OLAF project "Strengthening the Analytical Capacities of Law Enforcement Institutions in the Field of Big Data Analysis in order to Reveal and Prevent Fraud and Corruption Harming the EU's Financial Interests" contributed to the Big Data Working Group of EPAC/EACN, an international organization uniting more than 100 European anti-corruption and police supervisory authorities. The project is financed under the OLAF-Hercule III program for the exchange of knowledge and best practices in the areas of identification and management of corruption and fraud risks affecting the EU's financial interests.



Additional information: https://stt.lt/en/news/7481/the-final-event-on-big-data-analysis-tools-tookplace-in-vilnius:3447

ITALIAN NATIONAL ANTI-**ITAIY**



THE NEW ITALIAN PORTAL ON CORRUPTION RISKS MANAGED BY THE ITALIAN NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION **AUTHORITY (ANAC)**

In July 2022 ANAC launched a website with data, information, bibliographies, infographics, media materials related to the topic of corruption risk measurement . The core of the portal is the section related to the dashboards to release datasets and corruption risk data/indicators/red flags at local and national level.

Among the various functions that the law attributes to Italian National Anti-corruption Authority (ANAC) is studying the causes and factors of corruption, to improve prevention processes. For this reason, the ANAC has always conducted specific studies on the subjects, analysing data and developing indicators, and, in line with international indications and recommendations, focusing in particular to objective measures of corruption. In July 2022 ANAC launched the results of the project "Corruption risk management and promotion of transparency" - financed by the European Union under the "National Operational Programme on Governance and Institutional Capacity 2014-2020 - and released a website portal with data, information, bibliographies, infographics, media materials related to the topic of corruption risk measurement.



The core of the portal is the section related to the dashboards to release datasets and corruption risk indicators that, even though not demonstrating the presence of corruption, should alert about its



potential occurrence. The identification of these red flags/early warnings could facilitate the implementation of preventive and law enforcement measures and the identification of the areas more exposed to corruption that are worthy of the attention of civil society and, and on which to invest more in terms of prevention activities.

In fact, rather than to calculate an "index", ANAC used the data to calculate indicators giving a comprehensive picture of the corruption phenomenon, form the local to the national aggregation level. In total about 80 corruption risk indicators/red flag have been developed so far taking also into account data concerning the socio-economic context. ANAC is keeping on working to integrate as many data sources as possible, to design methodologies for calculation and validation of indicators, to involve as many institutional, academic, research, NGOs and other relevant actors to work together on the production and subsequent use of corruption data and indicators. Since indicators are produced disaggregated for Italian provinces (and in some cases for municipalities), they allow to get a picture about risk of corruption at local level, providing the proper knowledge to set adequate preventive policies and practices.

Contact:

- Lorenza Ponzone, l.ponzone@anticorruzione.it
- Giuseppe Abbatino g.abbatino@anticorruzione.it
- Relazioni.internazionali@anticorruzione.it

Additional information

- Portal: https://www.anticorruzione.it/gli-indicatori
- Dashboards: https://anac-c1.board.com/#/screen/?capsulePath=Cruscotti%5CIndicatori%20di%20contesto.bcps&screenId=8e785fea-9a24-45ed-b086-6c5cf0cd1518&showMenu=false

INSPECTORATE GENERAL OF HOME AFFAIRS (IGAI), PORTUGAL



"FORCED RETURNS AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS"



IGAI'S CONFERENCES CYCLE ON "FORCED-RETURNS AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS" HELD IN PORTUGAL, TARGETED TO MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS



In the context of the European AMIF Project (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund), IGAI has been organising a cycle of conferences across the country under the topic "Forced Returns and Fundamental Rights".

The conferences were designed to engage IGAI's monitors and the Immigration and Borders Service's officers in charge of implementing forced-return operations, as well as multiple stakeholders of these forced-return cases, including monitors of national authorities from EU countries whose remit includes forced return monitoring.



Thus, part of the same cycle of conferences, an International Conference held over two days, on June 23 and June 24, 2022, took place in Lisbon, under the subject matter, "Good Practices in Monitoring Fundamental Rights Compliance in Forced Returns by Scheduled Flights".

Contact: Maria Antónia Rodrigues, Secretariat, marodrigues@igai.pt

Additional information:

- https://www.igai.pt/pt/Noticias/Pages/Conferencia-Internacional-2022.aspx
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=WSt8VKBLGCo&feature=youtu.be

COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION - PORTUGAL



COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION- 14 YEARS OF ACTION

The recent creation in Portugal of an organisation with reinforced powers to control the existence of instruments for the prevention of fraud and corruption risks in public and private organisations, motivated the Council for the Prevention of Corruption to produce a publication with the main results of its action over the years in which it has existed



The Council for the Prevention of Corruption was created in 2008 with the purpose of developing initiatives and contributions to raise awareness among citizens, institutions, public managers, and employees about the importance of integrity and risk prevention. This publication is about the projects carried out over 14 years of its existence.

The Council collaborated

with all kind of public entities in the creation and adoption of internal measures and instruments to prevent fraud and corruption, including codes of ethics and conduct, instruments for the prevention of conflicts of interest and risk prevention measures. More than 1300 entities of Portuguese Public Administration have today duly dynamized their codes of ethics and conduct and risk prevention plans pursuant to the recommendations of the Council for the Prevention of Corruption in this regard.

With its projects, the Council has consistently contributed to the development of more responsible organisational cultures with integrity and the prevention of fraud and corruption risks.

The Council also promoted several projects in the scope of education for citizenship together with schools and universities, with the aim of encouraging young people to reflect and become aware of



these issues, and of the decisive role of each citizen in preventing the problem and in strengthening the integrity indices of future generations.

Additional information: https://www.cpc.tcontas.pt/documentos/outros/CPC_14-anos.pdf

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS



DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Strengthening bilateral cooperation between the Department of internal control, Criminal investigations and professional standards of Republic of North Macedonia and the Inspectorate General of the security forces of the Czech Republic in the field of preventing and countering corruption

Representatives of the Czech Inspectorate General of the Security Forces and Macedonian Department of Internal control, Criminal Investigations and Professional Standards, met in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia on 16 September 2022 to discuss the possibilities of strengthening bilateral cooperation in the area of preventing and combating corruption.

The two authorities share the goal of fighting corruption by anti-corruption information and training events, awareness-raising campaigns for civil servants and citizens, corruption risk management, integrity testing, but also by detecting and combating corruption.

During the meeting, the partners signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Internal control, Criminal Investigations and Professional Standards of the Macedonian Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Inspectorate General of the Security Forces of the Czech Republic in the field of preventing and fighting corruption. The aim of the document is to strengthen cooperation in the fight against corruption, focusing on exchange of experiences in the field of implementation of integrity tests and internationally recognised good practices. The two parties will act in accordance with the provisions of their national laws and the international treaties signed by both states.

The areas of cooperation covered by this cooperation document are the exchange of information on legislation, analyses, studies and other materials on the prevention, detection and investigation of corruption offences. Moreover, the document also allows for the exchange of best practices in integrity testing and in the investigation of corruption offences.

Bearing in mind that in Republic of North Macedonia for the first time it will be started with the implementation of tests for the professional integrity of employees from April 2023, when the Law on Amending the Law on Internal Affairs enters into force, where the integrity test was foreseen, during the visit of the representatives from the Inspectorate General of the Security Forces of the Czech Republic, in particular, the manner of conducting the professional integrity test in the Czech Republic was discussed.



An official invitation has been sent by the director of Inspectorate General of the Security Forces of the Czech Republic to the Macedonian Department of Internal control, Criminal Investigations and Professional Standards to visit the Inspectorate General of the Security Forces of the Czech Republic in October 2022 in order to get acquainted with the techniques and scenarios used in the application of the integrity test by Inspectorate General of the Security Forces of the Czech Republic.

THE INSPECTORATE OF PERSONNEL AND SECURITY SERVICES, SPAIN



RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE AND SEAL OF QUALITY OF THE IPSS

The Inspectorate of Personnel and Security Services (IPSS), under the General Directorate of Coordination and Studies, is responsible for the inspection, verification and evaluation of the development of services, centers and units, central and peripheral, of the General Directorates of the Police (DGP) and the General Directorate of the Civil Guard (DGGC) in the exercise of the powers attributed in Royal Decree 734/2020, of August 4, which develops the basic organisational structure of the Ministry of the Interior (MIR), as well as in Instruction 5/2015, of the Secretary of State for Security (SES).

The R.D. 734/2020 and the aforementioned Instruction of the SES establish among the functions of the IPSS "Carrying out the monitoring of the quality programs established in Royal Decree 951/2005, of July 29 and, especially, the complaints and suggestions made by citizens in the field of the State Security Forces and Bodies, in accordance with Instruction SES 7/2007, of 28 June." In addition, the fourteenth section of the Instruction, on the "Quality Service" establishes in its section 2 "Ensuring the maintenance of the certified level of quality of the Inspection and propose the necessary actions for its improvement."

In 2014 this IPSS established the necessary contacts with the defunct Agency for Evaluation and Quality (AEVAL), belonging to the Ministry of Finance and Public Function, to obtain the recognition of excellence according to the quality model "EVALUATION, LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT" (EVAM) in its second level 200-299. As a result of the corresponding evaluation, this recognition was obtained, which was in force until 2020, with the maximum time of six years (three years of validity and another three years of extension) of validity of the quality seal.

During the years 2020 and 2021, the actions for the implementation of an improved quality system that would allow the obtaining of a new recognition of excellence were resumed. In February 2021, contacts were initiated between this IPSS and the General Subdirectorate of Innovation, Quality and Inspection of Services, hereinafter SGICIS, (Undersecretary of the Interior), to initiate the self-evaluation process following the EVAM scheme, which would lead to the elaboration of a plan for improvement and preparation of the organisation to achieve certification based on this model.

Finally, after the validation of the results obtained in the self-assessment process by this SGICIS, the request for certification of the level of excellence according to the EVAM Model, 2nd level (200-299 points) was sent to the General Directorate of Public Governance following the instructions reflected in Order HFP / 105/2022, of February 16 already mentioned.



On August 4, 2022, the resolution July 13 was entered, by which the General Director of Public Governance of the Ministry of Finance and Public Function certified that the IPSS had achieved a score of 200-299 in the EVAM Model, issuing the corresponding stamp with a validity of three years

Contact: Esther Fernandez, efernadezc@interior.es

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE - ROMANIA



THE ADOPTION OF A NEW NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY AND ITS CORRELATION WITH OTHER SECTORAL PUBLIC POLICIES

The Ministry of Justice elaborated the National Anti-corruption Strategy 2021 – 2025 based on a broad public consultation. This is the 6th strategy elaborated by MoJ in the field of preventing and combating corruption, since 2001, being continued the good practices of the previous strategic steps. Complementary to the National Anti-corruption Strategy, in 2021, the prerogative of public policies against crime was improved by the approval of the following strategies by the Government of Romania: The National Strategy on the asset recovery for the period 2021 - 2025 2021 – 2025 and the National Strategy against Organised Crime 2021-2024.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) elaborated the National Anti-corruption Strategy (NAS) 2021 - 2025 based on a broad public consultation. This is the 6^{th} strategy elaborated by MoJ in the field of preventing and combating corruption, since 2001, being continued the good practices of the previous strategic steps.

The Ministry of Justice initiated the strategy's drafting process at the end of 2020. The NAS 2021-2025 was approved by Government decision on the 17th of December 2021.

In order to identify the core action areas for the period 2021-2025, the MoJ analysed the current state of affairs in the country, using mainly: (CVM) reports, GRECO reports, OECD reports, the available statistical data (e.g. data regarding law enforcement activities, corruption perception index), good practices identified with regard to the implementation of the previous NAS.

The strategy has also a scientific basis consisting of a sociological and criminological study compiled by the Ministry of Justice and the General Anti-corruption Directorate of the Ministry of Interior and aims not only to fight corruption as a criminological phenomenon, but also to prevent corruption and the formation of an integrity culture in all public and private institutions.

The strategy addresses corruption in a modern trend, in which it is seen as part of a more complex phenomenon, which includes organised crime.

The monitoring and the evaluation of the implementation of the strategy is carried out through a set of tools developed as a result of the dialogue between all the recipients of the strategy.

Considering the fact that the tools developed in the previous strategic cycles proved to be real success factors in the implementation of the measures, they were taken over in the new strategy, respectively: the cooperation platforms, the thematic evaluation missions and the annual reporting. The new strategic document includes two new monitoring tools.



One of the two new instruments refers to the carrying out of ad hoc evaluation missions. Should some exceptional circumstances arise that might emphasize the potential mis-implementation of the regulatory framework in the integrity matter or which have been caused by an integrity incident, MoJ will be able to initiate actions to organise ad-hoc thematic evaluation. The purpose of these ad-hoc missions is to assess the manner in which the institution implemented the measures for institutional transparency and corruption prevention, from the perspective of the exceptional background, which called for such a measure.

The second new tool is represented by the establishment of dedicated working groups. The monitoring of the implementation of certain specific objectives, respectively the objective dedicated to the national education system and the objective dedicated to the public health system, is carried out by two working groups that, according to the strategy, meet quarterly. The working groups are made up of representatives of all the cooperation platforms.

As a novelty, in addition to the priority sectors from the old strategic cycle, namely the public healthcare system, national education system, business environment, public procurement, financing of political parties and election campaigns, the activity of the members of the Parliament, the NAS 2021-2025 includes two new priority sectors: environmental protection and the national heritage protection.

In social relations related to environmental protection, corruption plays a major role, it affects environmental policies and the way natural resources are managed. From the embezzlement of funds from environmental programs and the illegal issuance of permits for the exploitation of natural resources, to the complicity of public officials who facilitate environmental macro-crime, acts of corruption occur at every level, allowing actions that degrade the environment and prevent people from accessing to vital resources.

Building specific objectives regarding the protection of cultural heritage will contribute to strengthening administrative capacity and increasing performance in the public sector with attributions in protecting cultural heritage through integrated practices, to better information and participation of public cultural institutions, civil society and of citizens in decision-making, to a better protection of cultural heritage objectives.

Additional to the measures reserved for combating corruption, the strategy includes measures that are aimed at the prevention and education of officials, as well as of citizens, in relation to topics such as: organisational integrity and mitigation of corruption risks, the national framework criminalizing acts of corruption, human rights, access to public information, decision-making transparency, etc.

In the past years, a need for a holistic approach made its presence felt, exceeding the scope of singular, unconnected policies, given the intricate relationships between corruption and other forms of serious criminality. Consequently, Romanian authorities looked for a multidisciplinary approach, analysing what is needed in order to better address and prioritize threatens and vulnerabilities, corelate and increase efficiency of preventing and combating mechanisms available in our country and strengthen interinstitutional dialogue and cooperation.

When analysing said interdependencies corruption immediately stands out as a facilitator of organised crime. As profit-generating crimes, both corruption and organised crime are linked to the topic of asset recovery.

The profound research over the two matters addressed before has led in 2021 to the adoption of the National Strategy against Organised Crime, an energic instrument addressing organised crime in its most important manifestations, and the National Strategy on the asset recovery named "Crime is not



profitable!", both carefully correlated to the provisions of the present National Anti-corruption Strategy.

Contact: Ana-Lorena SAVA, Legal adviser with the status of a judge/prosecutor, Ministry of Justice (Department for Crime Prevention) - Romania

Additional information: https://sna.just.ro/docs/pagini/79/NAS%202021-2025.pdf

ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE OF CATALONIA (SPAIN)



THE ANTI-FAUD OFFICE LAUNCHES "DIALÈTIC" A TOOL FOR CIVIL SERVANTS WHEN FACING ETHICAL DILEMMAS

The Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia puts into place "DialÈtic", a new service to accompany civil servants when facing ethical dilemmas or ethical problems and concerns

On the 25 October, the Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia will put into place a new service that offers to externally accompany civil servants when facing dilemmas, doubts, concerns and problems of ethical nature that can arise in every day's professional life: Dialètic. This is an individualised and confidential accompanying service for civil servants designed to offer them orientation, which complements the assessment offered by the Anti-Fraud Office up until now.

A pioneering initiative in public administrations, which aims to contribute to fostering citizen's trust, favouring the strengthening of the organisational ethical culture of public institutions. It is a supporting tool addressed to the individual, even though the institution may also benefit as long as its civil servants implement public ethics in the reasoning behind all decision-making processes.

"DialÈtic" includes a consultation service, specialised contents, self-training items, examples of ethical dilemmas and other contents that will be useful in order to help the reflection of civil servants upon ethics and public integrity.

The surrounding in which civil servants develop their functions is day-by-day more complex. This can cause situations in which dilemas, doubts and concerns of ethical nature may arise. This is why an assessment channel was considered necessary in order to provide resources to these civil servants.

Contact:

- Joan Xirau, Deputy director, <u>direccioadjunta@antifrau.cat</u>
- Marisa Miralles, Legal advisor, <u>mmiralles@antifrau.cat</u>

Additional information: https://www.antifrau.cat/ca/que-es-dialetic



CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND COMBATING BUREAU OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



KNAB has developed practical informational material on forms of corruption and their recognition

The Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB) has developed a practical information material "How to recognise corruption" aimed to promote public ability to notice signs indicating possible corrupt behaviour. The material compiles examples and signs that may indicate possible corruption at various levels.

Corruption is a hidden criminal offense, but in many situations other people may, including in the performance of official duties at their workplaces or carrying out various transactions, notice suspicious coincidences and even signs that may indicate the involvement of public officials in corruption. As society has a very important role in the fight against corruption, KNAB encourages people to strengthen their skills in recognising corruption and to contact KNAB immediately in case of suspicion.

In order to strengthen public ability to recognise corruption, KNAB has developed a practical informational material, compiling descriptions, examples and guidelines in the form of checklists to facilitate the understanding and recognition of possible corruption at the following levels: administrative (day-to-day), political (high-level), public procurement as well as in the field of political party financing.

Additional information: https://www.knab.gov.lv/en/article/knab-has-developed-practical-information-material-forms-corruption-and-recognizing-them

NATIONAL ANTICORRUPTION CENTER (NAC), REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



DIRECTOR OF THE NAC, IULIAN RUSU: CORRUPTION HAPPENS BECAUSE IT IS NOT PUNISHED

DW has conducted an interview with Iulian Rusu, the director of the National Anticorruption Center (NAC), with whom he discussed corruption in Moldova, why high-level corruption cases are taking place, and how this phenomenon can be eradicated.

Iulian Rusu: The figures are not very different from those of the past years and indicate that we continue to investigate corruption cases, which come both through various complaints from citizens, but also through our investigative activity. The fact that these causes are still instrumentalized means



that the phenomenon of corruption exists and in order to reduce this phenomenon, coordinated actions are needed in several directions.

Corruption also happens because we have difficult living conditions, because often corruption is not punished, but also because we have not been able to reach finality on the resonance files. Obviously, we are making every effort to make this happen, but we are in a situation where we have to prove the crimes with indisputable evidence. More than that, unlike journalistic investigations, which can be done in a relatively short period of time, we act in the legal realm, of criminal procedure, in which evidence must be administered and guilt must be demonstrated, and this requires much more complex analyses.

I don't think that the numbers are an indicator that would talk about the phenomenon in general. So, what we succeed in, we detect, either from complaints or from our investigative activity. Our assumptions are that the number of corruption crimes, which are committed on the territory of our country, is much higher. It's just that it's a long way until these data reach us. Either people do not trust that the case will be completed, or because it is complicated to prove that the act of corruption took place. For example, active and passive corruption must be demonstrated by direct evidence audio or video recordings that money has been transferred, and if such information does not exist then we investigate the links that exist between different public officials with subjects, for example, who participate to public procurement. A challenge for us is also the data that we have to obtain from outside the country, to demonstrate the entire chain of actions, which were undertaken in a certain case of corruption.

DW: How many of these 291 corruption cases have reached the finality?

I.R.: At this moment, we can talk about intermediate results on the files that were started at the end of last year, the beginning of this year. We already have several important files that have been submitted to the court. However, this is not the finality expected by the whole society. We are interested in having definitive convictions and confiscation of assets. However, there is a judicial stage, in which the judges examine the files that were instrumented with the prosecutors and are going to present their opinion on the relevance of the evidence, on how strong the evidence is to prove the person's guilt. We are talking, first of all, about high-ranking officials, including from the justice sector. It is an imposing thing, which is being carried out at the present time to complete the instrumentation and submit to the court files on important subjects, who held high positions in the state in the past, accused of quite serious crimes, related to acts of corruption, of illegal financing, abuse of office.

DW: Citizens, as well as development partners, expect the NAC to investigate major corruption cases, convict key figures in fraud and high-profile crimes. I have seen that in the last year, several arrests have been made, such as that of Igor Dodon, of Marina Tauber, but which have not yet ended in any conviction. Why are lawsuits so difficult? Or is there not enough evidence?

I.R.: I have to make an important clarification related to the security measures in the form of preventive arrest or house arrest. Therefore, these measures are taken by the prosecutors to exclude the risks of destruction of evidence. For now, the security measures have been applied, but there is a long way related to the instrumenting of the file and, depending on the complexity, it might take more time. We also investigate facts that happened in the past, and the long term is related to the complex analysis we carry out and we are dependent on the answers we have to receive on our requests for international legal assistance. This makes it difficult to send the file to court. Often the answers from



outside the country are an essential element in the conclusion of the investigations and the submission of the case to the court.

I also want to highlight some practices in the region, such as that of the DNA from Romania, which needed 5-7 years to obtain the first convictions against persons with high positions in the state. So, it is very important to manage our expectations. We do not want to drag out the investigations indefinitely. It is a race against time, and in many ways, the resources we have at our disposal are also important, or in our case, they are quite limited compared to a fairly large number of criminal cases. For this reason, we focus on the most important causes, in order to ensure their finality.

DW: What's going on with the case of "theft of the billion". Eight years have already passed and there is no progress. When will we see the corrupt bigwigs brought home and the assets recovered?

I.R.: What we have managed to do is to apply seizures. To ensure a definitive recovery we need the same final judgments of the courts, which issue courts of law and, then, the confiscation can be applied. The bank fraud file itself involves a lot of assets, which left the Republic of Moldova and were transferred to many jurisdictions. We have focused our work on cooperating jurisdictions that provide information. Here the path is not very short, because at the beginning we have to prove that the assets we want to seize are suspected to be of illegal origin and from resources obtained from bank fraud, after which we must apply, through the court, seizure and subsequently to request from the foreign authorities the recognition of our conclusion and, therefore, the seizure to be applied in those states as well. In some circumstances, the analysis is quite difficult because it involves the initial identification of those assets, and that involves exchanging information with outside jurisdictions. The cooperation is going quite well. We have intermediate results, and an intermediate result that we will come out with publicly will be the enforcement of the seizure and the enforcement of our recovery actions from the assets confiscated from the bank fraud.

In the case of individuals, the same requests for international legal assistance, including extradition, were submitted. They are under review both in Israel and in the UK or Turkey, jurisdictions with which we are communicating to obtain additional information or, if an arrest warrant has already been issued, to request the extradition of these individuals. An important element is the changes that have been made to the Code of Criminal Procedure, which allow the trial in the absence of the person, when it is proven that sanctions have been taken, to inform the given person that he is summoned on a criminal case. So, our fellow prosecutors are communicating intensively to determine whether such requests for international legal assistance have been granted, and when it is not possible to bring charges, then the cases of these individuals will be examined in their absence. Here we are talking about emblematic subjects, participants in various episodes of bank fraud or other high-profile cases, which are widely known to the general public.

DW: What goals do you have for the future? Can the Republic of Moldova reduce the phenomenon of corruption to a minimum?

I.R.: The reduction is possible gradually. At the moment when the standard of living increases, but also excludes various opportunities to commit acts of corruption. We are very attentive to public procurement, which took place in the past, but also those of this moment. We have adjusted our investigative tactics. We understand that our priorities relate to areas where large assets are managed, such as the funds of the National Social Insurance Fund or the National Medical Insurance Company, but also funds in the field of infrastructure or road construction loans. These are priority areas for us, because the monetary value is also very high.



We have a number of strategic documents that we are working on. It is a national recovery program for the next four years. A project that is in the final stages of consultation and coordination, which we will soon submit to Parliament for consideration and approval. We examine how the National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy has been implemented. Accordingly, for next year we plan to develop a new document. We are also making an effort to internally streamline the activity of the NAC through digitization tools, such as the implementation of an automated information system - the Register of Criminal Assets. This will allow us to better account for our actions on the seizures we make and ultimately have a clearer picture of how our criminal prosecution and asset recovery actions are progressing.

Additional information: https://www.cna.md/libview.php?l=en&idc=5&id=4222&t=/Mass-Media/Events/Director-of-the-NAC-Iulian-Rusu-Corruption-happens-because-it-is-not-punished

DUTCH WHISTLEBLOWING AUTHORITY THE NETHERLANDS



BROCHURE ON INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT AND INTEGRITY MANAGERS

State of the art reflections and recommendations on integrity management and on the position of the integrity manager/officer

Integrity policies make organisations better. This brochure focuses on the topic of integrity management and examines the role of the integrity manager. Based on theory and literature research, the first part of the brochure offers insight into the usefulness and necessity of integrity management. Topics covered include: What does integrity mean, why is it important, and how does it relate to notions of corruption and compliance? What types of integrity violations can be distinguished, what are their causes, and why should all integrity violations (even relatively minor ones) be taken seriously? What components make up a good integrity system, what actors are involved, and why is it important for an organisation of any size to have an integrity manager? The second part of the brochure is based on the results of an online survey among (Dutch) integrity managers and how he or she views integrity management in his or her organisation on a daily basis.

Contact: Alain Hoekstra/ prevention unit/ <u>alain.hoekstra@huisvoorklokkenluiders.nl</u>

Additional information:

https://www.huisvoorklokkenluiders.nl/Publicaties/publicaties/2022/05/02/dwa_integrity-management-and-the-integrity-manager



INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION ACADEMY (IACA), AUSTRIA



IACA, AS A LEADING PROVIDER OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AND COMPLIANCE EDUCATION AND TRAININGS, OFFERS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED MASTER'S PROGRAMMES AND SPECIALISED TRAININGS AND COURSES IN VARIOUS FORMATS AND LANGUAGES, DEVELOPED BY IACA FACULTY MEMBERS, LEADING INTERNATIONAL ACADEMICS, AND PRACTITIONERS.

Various online, instructor-led and self-paced courses, covering a wide array of topics, are available. Additionally, applications are still possible for IACA's various academic programmes, such as the Master in Anti-Corruption Studies; the International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action; the Master in Anti-Corruption and Compliance (in Spanish); and the Master in Anti-corruption and Diplomacy (jointly with UNITAR). Applications for the Executive Diploma in Anti-Corruption and Diplomacy will open in November, with the programme being launched in early 2023.

In August, the Academy published a new revised edition of the Overview of Anti-Corruption Compliance Standards and Guidelines which aims to support the implementation of anti-corruption compliance in the business sector. It considers the principles, standards and recommendations from major intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, including UNODC, World Bank, OECD, ICC, and ISO.

IACA also started research on Integrity and Compliance in the Humanitarian Aid Sector, consisting of two main parts: analysis of corruption risks in the sector; and analysis of codes of conduct, anti-corruption compliance programmes and other relevant documents, training programmes and materials.

The Global Programme on Measuring Corruption has held its first expert workshop on Measuring Integrity, bringing together academics from multiple disciplines and practitioners to discuss the links between 'integrity' and 'anti-corruption'.

Contact: IACA Secretariat, mail@iaca.int

Additional Information:

- https://www.iaca.int
- https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/academic-programmes/master-in-anti-corruption-studies.html
- https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/academic-programmes/imacc.html
- https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/academic-programmes/master-en-estudios-anticorrupcion-y-compliance-maac.html
- https://www.iaca.int/iaca-programmes/academic-programmes/master-in-anti-corruption-and-diplomacy.html
- https://www.iaca.int/measuring-corruption/



EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE



PIF REPORT 2021: REINFORCING THE PROTECTION OF EU'S FINANCES

On 23 September 2022, the European Commission adopted its 2021 Annual Report on the protection of the EU's financial interests ("PIF" report). The report offers a comprehensive overview of the measures adopted at EU and national level to strengthen the protection of the EU's financial interests

In line with Article 325.5 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, submits every year to the European Parliament and the Council a report on the measures adopted to strengthen the protection of the EU's financial interests from irregularities and fraud.

The PIF Report 2021 presents a comprehensive view of the main activities by the anti-fraud players at EU and national level to counter fraud and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union. The report focuses on several key areas, such as transposition of relevant EU directives (PIF Directive; anti-money laundering and whistle-blower protection directives), the Rule of Law toolbox and the anti-fraud perspective of the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility and EU anti-corruption policy).

The PIF Report 2021 underlines that fraud and irregularities detected and reported by the competent EU and national authorities - 11 218 in total - remained stable in 2021 compared to 2020. The related irregular amounts increased to EUR 3.24 billion (compared to 1.82 billion in 2020), in large part due to a limited number of significant high-value cases in some Member States.

The report stresses the importance of correcting problems in the transposition of EU legislation into national rules and of pursuing transparency, digitalisation of the fight against fraud and fraud risk management

Contact: Andrea Bordoni, Deputy Head of Unit C.1, andrea.bordoni@ec.europa.eu

Additional information: https://anti-fraud.ec.europa.eu/about-us/reports/annual-reports-protection-eus-financial-interests-pif-report en

OLAF GATHERS MEMBER STATES, CANDIDATE COUNTRIES AND POTENTIAL CANDIDATES COUNTRIES IN FIRST JOINT CONFERENCE FOR ANTI-FRAUD SERVICES

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) held the first joint conference for representatives of antifraud coordination services (AFCOS) from the Member States and their counterparts in candidate and potential candidate countries. The meeting in Brussels focussed on enhancing cooperation and sharing best practices.





The conference, entitled "Fighting fraud together", addressed several current threats to the EU's budget. OLAF Director-General Ville Itälä pointed out during his opening speech that increased cost of living, an energy crisis, a sharp rise in digital fraud and the hundreds of billions available via the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility all contribute to an environment with an increased risk of fraud against the EU budget.

"Fraudsters do not have much regard for

borders or jurisdiction. OLAF connects the dots of these multi-jurisdiction frauds in order to see the bigger picture and take action to end them. However, we would not be able to do that without the help of our partners in the Member States and in candidate countries and potential candidates" said OLAF Director-General Ville Itälä.

Formal and informal discussions during the conference laid the foundations for increased cooperation between national authorities and OLAF, and between different countries, taking into account changes brought by the revised OLAF regulation.

One main challenge identified by OLAF was improving the ability to access accurate and relevant information on beneficiaries of EU funds from Member States. It was agreed that sharing this information is crucial, especially given the roll out of the Resilience and Recovery Facility.

Participants learned about forms of financial support that OLAF can provide to aid the fight against fraud in the EU via the Union-Anti-Fraud Programme. Representatives from candidate countries and potential candidates about access to programme funding in certain circumstances. Other topics discussed included reporting of irregularities to the Commission and national anti-fraud strategies.

Contat: Johan Wullt, Team Leader Inter-institutional relations, <u>Johan.WULLT@ec.europa.eu</u>

REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION
INITIATIVE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST EUROPE



IN 2022, RAI SECRETARIAT ENGAGED WITH OVER 300 YOUNG LEADERS IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE TO PROMOTE WHISTLEBLOWING. RAI SECRETARIAT TALKED ABOUT WHISTLEBLOWING AND ENGAGED WITH THE YOUNG LEADERS IN SARAJEVO, TIRANA, BUDVA, SKOPJE, NIS AND PRIZREN. EVENTS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN AUGUST 2021 AND 2022

Young people are more likely to be creative in their approach to problem solving. Their anti-corruption efforts are more innovative, forward thinking, and they make better use of modern technologies. They are also more likely to suffer disproportionately from corruption. Youth is directly affected vulnerable



group, whose future and employment prospects are hampered by corruption, thus exacerbating the already high youth unemployment rate in SEE.

This is one of the reasons why RAI Secretariat engaged with the youth organisations in the region to discuss their ideas and how to turn them into action.

RAI Secretariat met with over 300 youth in six cities from the region and engaged in a constructive discussion about civil courage and whistleblowing. Young leaders spoke about ways whistleblowing and whistleblower protection could be enhanced. Meetings were held in venues, which simulate parliamentary discussion and resolution adoption (European Youth Parliament) or such similar occasions, with youth who are active in the CSOs and political parties.

RAI Secretariat also shared the results of its youth survey that revealed a number of factors which discourage young people from reporting corruption: Scepticism 53% - 72%; Fear from retaliation 20% - 45%; and Friendship 19% - 28%.

Whistleblowing is instrumental in the fight against corruption, because the vast majority of serious corruption crimes is detected through reports of whistleblowers - persons who directly witnessed these crimes, which happen under the veil of secrecy. Those who stand up to oppose corruption, including young people, need proper protection.

Contact: Jasna Panjeta, Chief Programme and Communication Officer, jpanjeta@rai-see.org

Additional information:

- Link to one of the events held in Nis, Serbia. https://rai-see.org/rai-in-partnership-with-eyp-serbia-educates-youth-about-the-importance-and-role-of-whistleblowers/
- Link to the youth corner on RAI website providing information on youth survey about whistleblowing and youth events: https://rai-see.org/what-we-do/whistleblowing2/whistleblowing-platform/youth-corner/