

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

We have the pleasure to present the first newsletter of 2017. In this edition, we provide you with an overview of the network's future activities as well as with an update on upcoming events and conferences so you can put the dates in your calendar.

We are pleased to announce that the 17th Annual Professional Conference and Session of the General Assembly will take place in Portugal in November 2017 and will be hosted by the Inspeção-Geral da Administração Interna (IGAI). More details to follow soon.

Please suggest topics for future newsletters and share events, seminars and conferences that might be of interest to all members. We look forward to receiving your suggestions and information.

Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat

EPAC/EACN Working Groups Formed

EPAC/EACN is happy to inform you that two Working Groups (WGs) were established and will begin their work shortly. The WG "Risk Management and Risk Analysis" will be chaired by the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK), while the WG "Analysis of Big Data, related Legal Aspects, Use of Databases" will be chaired by the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania and co-chaired by the Romanian National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA).

The results of their work will be presented at the Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly.

Final Session of the EPAC/EACN Working Group “Criteria for Evaluation of Efficiency of A Police Oversight Body”

The EPAC/EACN WG “Criteria for Evaluation of Efficiency of a Police Oversight Body”, which was initiated and chaired by the General Inspectorate of the French National Police (IGPN) in 2016, will hold its last meeting in Luxembourg on 6 April 2017, where the result of the WG’s work, the “Handbook for evaluating the effectiveness/efficiency of police oversight bodies”, will be presented to and discussed with the EPAC/EACN members having participated in this WG.

17th IACC Hosted by Panama in December 2016

The International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) takes place every two years in a different part of the world and brings together heads of state, the civil society and the private sector.

17th IACC in Panama City:

More than 1,600 people from around 130 countries gathered in Panama City, where the Panama Declaration “Time for Justice, Equity, Security, Trust” was published on 4 December 2016. Among others, the following topics were discussed during this four-day conference: the Panama Papers, corruption and migration, tax havens, shadow economy, justice and impunity, SDGs and human rights, cooperation with the business sector and citizen participation.

The participants also reflected on the critical role of the media and investigative journalists. Furthermore, they agreed that there should be increased cooperation with anti-corruption champions as well as well-minded business and that the rise of autocracy around the world must be prevented.

The 18th IACC will take place in Denmark in 2018.

For more information, please visit the website:

<http://iaccseries.org/blog/the-panama-declaration-time-for-justice-equity-security-trust/>

Seminar of the General Inspectorate of the French National Police

On 17 January 2017, the General Inspectorate of the French National Police (Inspection Générale de la Police Nationale, IGPN) organized a one-day internal seminar. 120 participants from all departments and bureaus of the Inspectorate were invited to discuss the following topics:

- results of the roadmap and the Inspectorate's development over the last two years
- strengthening the cohesion of the Inspectorate's employees and, thus, allowing for agents with different profiles to meet and exchange experiences
- courses of action to fuel the 2017-2019 roadmap

The event ended with the Inspectorate's traditional New Year wishes ceremony, which was attended by the Police Commissioner of Paris and the Director-General of the National Police.

Corruption Perceptions Index 2016 — a Quick Look at the Situation in Europe

At the end of January 2017, Transparency International (TI) published the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2016 which ranks 176 countries and territories based on how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be. None of the countries and territories got the perfect score of 100 points. Denmark took the top spot with 90 points, while Somalia was the worst performer (10 points).

With a few exceptions, there is no dramatic change in the ranks of the EPAC/EACN member states. This shows that the situation has not deteriorated. However, there is still potential for improvement in the fight against corruption. According to TI, the following problems have to be addressed: lack of integrity in democratic institutions, weaknesses in law enforcement and capture of political decision-making. TI recommends focusing not only on a comprehensive legal framework, but also on the implementation of anti-corruption provisions. Nevertheless, the overall picture shows that European countries meet high standards and that their efforts bear fruit.

For more information, please visit the website:

http://www.transparency.org/news/feature/europe_and_central_asia_an_overall_stagnation

OECD Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum in March 2017

The Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum will take place from 30 to 31 March 2017 in the OECD Conference Centre in Paris. Under the theme “In the Public Interest: Taking Integrity to Higher Standards”, the forum will deal with global integrity challenges such as inequality and exclusion. Furthermore, it will focus on the question how increased integrity standards contribute to inclusive growth in various fields, such as public administration, institutional oversight, infrastructure and revenue collection.

The forum brings together relevant policy communities, the private sector, civil society organizations and academia. It aims to provide latest insights as well as instruments to foster equality and protect the policy cycle from undue influence.

For more information, please visit the website:

<http://www.oecd.org/cleangovbiz/integrity-forum-2017.htm>

Anti-Corruption Switzerland

From 28 February to 1 March, the conference “Anti-Corruption Switzerland Edition” took place in Zurich, Switzerland. This two-day conference organized by the think tank C5 in partnership with the Basel Institute on Governance aims to provide the attendees with the best platform for networking and sharing experiences of cutting-edge risk mitigation strategies in compliance.

The target group are compliance officers, accounting and consulting firms as well as private practice lawyers specializing in, inter alia, corporate governance or white-collar crime.

For more information and to register, please visit the website:

<https://www.c5-online.com/anti-corruption-switzerland/>

ICAC International Seminar on Financial Investigation

Under the theme “Cutting the Financial Vein of the Corrupt”, Hong Kong’s Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) will host an international seminar on financial investigation. The seminar will take place from 9 to 10 May and consists of a plenary session, the presentation of case studies and two workshops dealing

with the topics “Secret Ownership – A Bullet Proof Shield?” and “Holding Corporates Liable?”. Subsequent to the seminar, an optional training attachment for anti-corruption and other law enforcement agencies will be held from 11 to 12 May. This specialized training on financial investigation as well as asset recovery methodology and strategy will be conducted by experienced officers from ICAC.

For more information, please visit the website:

<http://www.icac.org.hk/seminar/en/p06.html>

Conference on Fraud, Asset Tracing and Recovery

From 16 to 17 March, the conference “Fraud, Asset Tracing and Recovery” organized by the think tank C5 will take place in Geneva, Switzerland. The target group are practitioners from these fields, who will share their knowledge and insights. Furthermore, the conference provides unique learning and networking opportunities.

For more information on the conference (e.g. organization and accompanying fees) and to register, please visit the website:

<https://www.c5-online.com/fraud-asset-tracing-and-recovery-geneva-643117-gen/>

IACA Update

IACA is currently welcoming applications for a wide variety of anti-corruption and compliance programmes in 2017, including the fifth edition of the unique two-year Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) programme, which starts in October 2017, and the seventh annual Summer Academy, taking place from 30 June to 7 July at IACA campus in Laxenburg/Vienna, Austria.

Highlights are, among others, the “Best Of” seminar from 4 to 5 July with Drago Kos, Chair of the OECD Working Group on Bribery, as well as trainings focusing on anti-corruption in local governance and procurement. Students and participants who successfully complete these courses can join IACA’s alumni network of professionals in about 150 countries. Further details are available in the latest IACA News Bulletin and at www.iaca.int or can be found on Facebook and LinkedIn.

On 7 February, IACA and INTERPOL concluded a memorandum of understanding that paves the way for the two organizations to cooperate more closely in the global fight against corruption.

INTERPOL was one of the Academy's initiating partners alongside the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the Republic of Austria.

Overview of Upcoming Events and Conferences

28 February to 1 March: "Anti-Corruption Switzerland Edition" conference, Basel

14 to 17 March: Plenary Meeting of the OECD Working Group on Bribery

16 to 17 March: "Fraud, Asset Tracing and Recovery" conference, Geneva

30 to 31 March: OECD Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum, Paris

6 April: EPAC/EACN WG "Criteria for Evaluation of Efficiency of a Police Oversight Body", Luxemburg

9 to 10 May: ICAC International Seminar on Financial Investigation "Cutting the Financial Vein of the Corrupt", Hong Kong; (from 11 to 12 May: optional Training Attachment)

31 May: application deadline for the Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) 2017-2019, IACA (starting in October 2017)

13 to 16 June: Plenary Meeting of the OECD Working Group on Bribery

30 June to 7 July: 7th Annual Summer Academy, IACA

4 to 5 July: "Best of" seminar with Drago Kos (Chair of the OECD Working Group on Bribery), IACA

10 to 14 July: Anti-Corruption in Local Governance Training 2017, IACA