



NEWSLETTER

Dear ladies and gentlemen,
colleagues and friends,

Summer is finally here and we hope you are well cooled or working from the beach. Let's weather the heat with some amazing anti-corruption events. Scroll down to find out more and don't forget to **save the date for this year's 19th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly**, taking place in December in the beautiful city of Stockholm, Sweden.

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

Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat

EPAC/EACN EVENTS AND LATEST NEWS

SAVE THE DATE



Polisen The Swedish Police Authority
Special Investigation Department



EPAC/EACN ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

for	19th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly
from	10 to 12 December 2019
in	Stockholm, Sweden
at	Clarion Hotel® Stockholm Östra Järnvägsgatan 35, 111 20 Stockholm, Sweden Phone no: +46 (0)8-676 98 00

Further information and details regarding the conference, registration and social programme will follow in due time.

We look forward to welcoming you as our guests in Sweden this year.

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SECOND EPAC/EACN BOARD MEETING OF 2019

The second EPAC/EACN board meeting in 2019 was hosted on 6 and 7 May in Tallinn, Estonia, by Mr Mati Omblar, Vice President of EPAC/EACN for the ACA strand and Head of the Estonian Corruption Crimes Bureau.

Discussions included the agenda of the 19th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly to be held from 10 to 12 December 2019 in Stockholm, Sweden, the state of play of the current EPAC/EACN Working Groups and the future funding of EPAC/EACN.

ANTI-CORRUPTION EXPERIENCE SHARING PROGRAMME Berlin, 7 May 2019

The 11th Experience Sharing Workshop organized by the European Commission (Directorate General Migration and Home Affairs) brought together representatives from national ministries, senior prosecutors and law enforcement officials from Member States, international organizations, civil society and the private sector, as well as experts from the Commission, and addressed the issue of preventing corruption in State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). Through presentations delivered by experts in the field of anti-corruption, the Workshop sought to discuss the corruption-related challenges faced by SOEs and possible ways to address them. The workshop facilitated participants to share relevant national experiences and best practices.

(see: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/corruption/experience-sharing-programme_en)

7th ICAC SYMPOSIUM Hong Kong, 22-24 May 2019

Entitled "Fighting Corruption – A New Perspective", the 7th ICAC Symposium co-hosted by the Independent Commission Against Corruption and the World Justice Project held in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre between 22 and 24 May 2019 had concluded with success. During this two-and-a-half-day event, more than 500 eminent participants from over 50 jurisdictions pooled their professional knowledge and valuable insight in the excellent platform for intellectual exchange and capacity building in the fight against corruption and the advancement of the rule of law worldwide.

Representing the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) and EPAC/EACN networks, Mr. Wieselthaler participated in several events within the framework of the symposium.

(See: <https://www.icac.org.hk/symposium/2019/en/index.html>)

FIRST MEETING OF THE EPAC/EACN “EU-INTEGRITY” SUB-WORKING GROUP 4: “Integrity and anti-corruption standards”



From 28 to 29 May 2019, the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK) hosted the first meeting of the sub-working group 4 (SWG 4) of the “EU Integrity” Working Group (WG) in Vienna, Austria.

SWG 4 focuses on “Integrity and anti-corruption standards”. The WG “EU Integrity” itself had been established by the EPAC/EACN General Assembly during the 18th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference held in October 2018. It is organized under the umbrella of the networks EPAC/EACN.

The meeting was attended by over 20 representatives from 16 countries and of 15 EPAC/EACN member authorities as well as several national guests.

The lecture “Assessing (infra)structures for integrity and compliance: some conceptual thoughts”, given by Stephan Leixnering from the Vienna University of Economics and Business on the first day of the event, formed the basis for further discussions on the development of a self-assessment tool.

The second conference day was very interactive; following a short presentation of the “EPAC/EACN Integrity Risk Management Guideline” as a best practice model, participants were divided into three groups to exchange their views on the following topics: “What should be the main components of an integrity infrastructure?” “How should best practices be presented?”

Finally, the steps to be taken until the next meeting of SWG 4, which is expected to be held in the second half of 2019, were discussed.

The numerous informal discussions between experts present at this meeting combined with the enormous exchange of information and experience will contribute to further developing professional standards, promoting international cooperation and creating synergies.

GLOBAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON CORRUPTION INVOLVING VAST QUANTITIES OF ASSETS

Oslo, 12-14 June 2019

From 12 to 14 June 2019, over 140 experts specialized in preventing, investigating and prosecuting corruption involving vast quantities of assets coming from more than 50 countries from all over the world met in Oslo for a second Global Expert Group Meeting on Corruption involving Vast Quantities of Assets.

The Expert Group Meeting was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and with the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). The meeting comprised eight substantive sessions on topics considering vast quantities of assets such as improving international cooperation, enhancing transparency in political party financing and electoral processes or whistleblower protection. In each session, panellists shared experiences and introduced various ideas for improving international cooperation on corruption involving vast quantities of assets. Finally, the group made recommendations to be considered by decision-makers in the coming years, in order to effectively prevent and combat corruption involving vast quantities of assets effectively.

(see: https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/meetings/OsloEGM2019/Oslo_Outcome_Statement_on_Corruption_involving_Vast_Quantities_of_Assets_-_FINAL_VERSION.pdf)

83rd PLENARY MEETING OF GRECO

Strasbourg, 17-21 June 2019

In its 83rd plenary meeting GRECO discussed, with a view to their adoption, 5th round evaluation reports on Denmark, Slovak Republic and Spain focusing on corruption prevention in central governments, including top executive functions, and law enforcement. Further, GRECO considered the request by the European Union for observer status in GRECO (Greco(2019)7) prepared under the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and signed by European Commission First Vice-President Frans TIMMERMANS and Commissioner Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS. All GRECO member States except Turkey (supports EU as a member but not as an observer) agreed to grant observer status in GRECO to the European Union, and therefore decided to refer the European Union's request to the Committee of Ministers for decision. Finally, GRECO welcomed the availability of the HUDOC-GRECO Database since 17 June 2019.

(see: <https://rm.coe.int/decisions-greco-83/1680953ebd>)

DIRECTOR OF GIBS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC VISITS THE BAK IN AUSTRIA

On 18 June 2019, the first visit abroad by the Director of the "Inspectorate General of the Security Forces of the Czech Republic (GIBS)" took him to the Austrian Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK). Mr. Radim Dragoun had been appointed new Director of GIBS in September 2018. A representative of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Vienna accompanied the Czech delegation.

In addition to getting to know each other, the main purpose of the meeting was to explore the potential for bilateral cooperation and closer integration of GIBS into the current projects and working groups of the European anti-corruption networks EPAC/EACN.

After a brief presentation of the BAK's various areas of responsibility by the Director of BAK and President of EPAC/EACN, Mr. Andreas Wieselthaler, the guests were particularly interested in the BAK's wide range of prevention and education services, such as activities to raise awareness among young people, including police trainees; the topics of ethics, prevention of and fight against corruption and targeted training to prepare for (further) working life. The area of prevention at the Czech authority is currently being established.

Mr. Dragoun later presented the organization, competence and structure of the GIBS. The main task of the authority is to conduct internal investigations against members of police, customs and prison system. From a content point of view, the field of activity of reliability testing was highlighted in particular.

The successful meeting ended with GIBS's commitment to participate in this year's EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly and a return invitation from the Czech colleagues.

INTERPOL AND IOC STEP UP INVESTIGATIONS INTO SPORTS CORRUPTION IN THE NORDIC-BALTIC REGION

TALLINN, Estonia – INTERPOL and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) conducted a Law Enforcement Investigators' Training for agencies across the Nordic-Baltic region, with a focus on sports and competition manipulation, transnational investigations, evidence collection and evaluation, betting monitoring and working with sports authorities.

The two-day training (2 and 3 July) brought together 40 representatives from law enforcement and anti-corruption agencies in Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden. It was hosted in close cooperation with the Estonian Central Criminal Police, with strong support from the INTERPOL National Central Bureaus of each country involved, as well as experts from the International Ice Hockey Federation and the IntegriSport Erasmus+ Project.

Opening the training, Aivar Alavere, Head of Central Criminal Police, Estonian Police and Border Guard Board welcomed participants, reminding them that fraud and corruption were just as present in sports as in other areas of society. He stressed the importance of raising awareness at all levels, including with athletes, coaches, federations, sponsors and betting offices.

During the session, participants learned how INTERPOL's policing capabilities and Match Fixing Task Force (IMFTF) could boost their efforts to tackle competition manipulation.

The IMFTF supports member countries in match-fixing investigations and operations in all sports, and maintains a global network of specialized investigators who share information, intelligence and best practices. The IMFTF currently has 84 member units, with more than 120 national points of contact worldwide.

This is the fifth such course delivered by INTERPOL and the IOC this year, who recently announced the expansion of their joint global training programme until 2021.

After the meeting, the next day, 4 July, the 5th Nordic-Baltic Anti-Corruption Agencies meeting took place. There, 8 countries were presented. During the day there were discussions on the issues that have most affected the countries in terms of corruption; interesting criminal cases and investigations carried out by the Anti-Corruption Agencies.

Mati Omblar, head of the Estonian Corruption Crime Bureau, summarized the main topics of the event that were discussed: "It was pointed out that countries should find more time to turn their attention to the following issues: Anti-corruption strategies, counterparts and their responsibilities; high risks in the healthcare sector, public procurement, state or local government owned companies; there is an enormous need for transparency and mitigation of corruption risks in these areas."

PARADISE LOST? POLICING IN THE AGE OF DATA PROTECTION

3rd EDEN Conference on Data Protection in Law Enforcement

On 19 and 20 September 2019, the 3rd EDEN Conference on Data Protection in Law Enforcement will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The aim of this conference is to explore the practical implementation of EU data protection rules within the law enforcement sector and highlight some of the challenges that data protection experts face in light of developments in policing, society as a whole, and a rapidly changing criminal environment.

The conference will bring together internationally renowned practitioners from law enforcement and security authorities with privacy experts, academics and representatives from private industry and civil society.

For further information and online registration please see: <https://www.era.int/cgi-bin/cms?>

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE ANTI-CORRUPTION BODY REPORT WARNS: PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF LOW LEVELS OF CORRUPTION MAY BE MISLEADING

The Council of Europe's anti-corruption body (GRECO) today warned that public perceptions of low levels of corruption in certain countries may lead to underestimating the need for measures to combat corrupt practices. GRECO also expressed concern about the overall slow progress in implementing its recommendations and called on states to address them without delay.

In its annual report, GRECO reviews action taken by its 49 member states against corruption in 2018, notably in respect of MPs, judges and prosecutors, as well as its most recent evaluation round focusing on preventing corruption in central governments and law enforcement agencies.

{see: https://search.coe.int/directorate_of_communications/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=0900001680952467}

OPEN APPLICATIONS AT IACA

The International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) invites all eligible candidates to apply for its two academic degree programmes: Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) and International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action (IMACC).

IACA's master programmes run for two years and are designed for professionals who continue working while pursuing their studies. Focusing on the advanced study of anti-corruption and compliance, the MACS programme is comprised of seven teaching modules and a master's thesis. The IMACC programme focuses on anti-corruption compliance and consists of six modules and a final project or a master's thesis.

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

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

OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

12 to 14 June 2019: Global Expert Group Meeting on Corruption involving Vast Quantities of Assets, Oslo

17 to 21 June 2019: 83rd plenary meeting of GRECO, Strasbourg

2 to 4 September 2019: 1st resumed 10th session of the UNCAC Implementation Review Group, Vienna

3 to 4 September 2019: UNCAC-Conference “Safeguarding Sport from Corruption: Towards effective implementation of resolution 7/8 on corruption in sport”, Vienna

4 to 6 September 2019: 10th session of the UNCAC Working Group on Prevention, Vienna

19 to 20 September 2019: 3rd EDEN Conference on Data Protection in Law Enforcement Copenhagen

8 to 11 October 2019: Meeting of the Working Group on Bribery (OECD), Paris

10 to 12 December 2019: 19th EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly, Stockholm