

News by SELDI members

Photo: CIN

Foreign Affairs Official Arrested on Bribery Charges

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) Prosecutor's Office filed charges against Velid Hamidičević, employee of the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs for issuing documents for travel and stay in France in exchange for money. While working as advisor for the consular affairs in the BiH embassy in Paris, Hamidičević issued documents to persons who did not meet the requirements. The prosecutors say that the accused issued more than 30 documents in exchange for cash, on average worth several hundred euros, without reviewing their personal information and often to persons he knew that did not have a Bosnian citizenship. **CIN, 29 December 2015.**



Photo: MANS

Settlement with Marovic Violated the Law on Criminal Procedure

SELDI's partner the Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS) invites the Council of the High Court in Podgorica to reject the agreement that the special prosecutor's office made with Milos Marovic, the son of high-ranking political figure in the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists, because it violates the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and actually represents Marovic's amnesty for involvement in multi-million corruption. It also gives the incentive to him and other persons in the future to continue with the same crimes. Milos Marovic is charged with participation in an organized criminal group that has earned millions of euros, and he intends to buy his freedom with money of dubious origin and for much lower amount than the inflicted damage, as the Prosecution has assessed. The minimum sentence that the prosecution agreed on with Markovic does not achieve even one of the purposes of punishment which the law prescribes. On the contrary, according to MANS, this settlement sends the message that corruption is very lucrative business and that in case of detection is possible to make an agreement with prosecutors that will allow freedom to be bought with suspicious money. **MANS, 12 January 2016**

OCCRP Announces 2015 Organized Crime and Corruption 'Person of the Year' Award

For his work in creating an oppressive political atmosphere and an economy choked by corruption and money laundering, OCCRP honors Milo Djukanovic, Prime Minister of Montenegro, as OCCRP's Person of the Year for his work in promoting crime, corruption and uncivil society. He has either been the President or Prime Minister for most of the nearly three decades of his career and the life of his country. "Djukanovic, the last European dictator, has captured our country for his own private interests and turned it into safe haven for criminals. While he, his family and friends enriched themselves, ordinary people suffer from poverty, injustice and lawlessness, while those who dare to talk about the corruption become his targets", said Vanja Calovic, Director of MANS. **MANS, 30 December 2015**

Establishment of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption in Montenegro

On 1 January 2016, when it was supposed to be fully operational, the Agency for Prevention of Corruption in Montenegro employs less than 50% of estimated number of its employees. According to SELDI's partner, the Institut Alternativa, during its establishment, several laws were violated, including the Law on State Audit Institution, the Law on Prevention of Corruption, the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest, with the potential violation of several others. Additionally, even before it had started to work, controversies over appointments of director and one member of the Agency's Council shed doubt on capacities of this institution to be independent and impartial anti-corruption body. **Institut Alternativa, 18 January 2016**

Serbia Arrests 80 in Anti-Corruption Sweep, Including Ex-Minister

Serbian police arrested 80 people including a former minister on graft charges on 26 December 2015, stepping up an anti-corruption drive days after opening talks on joining the European Union. They were charged with abuse of office, money laundering and financial crime, covering alleged offences dating back to 2004 and embezzlements totaling 7.8 billion dinars (\$70 million), Interior Minister Nebojsa Stefanovic said. Stefanovic further announced that police were searching for five more, and that a further 39 individuals were to be charged. **RAI, 28 December 2015.**

Macedonian Prime Minister Resigns

As agreed in the EU-brokered crisis agreement reached last summer aimed at resolving the country's long-running political crisis, Macedonia's PM Nikola Gruevski resigned on 15 January 2016. His resignation speech is available at the website of the [Independent Balkan News Agency](#). The crisis in Macedonia revolves around opposition claims that covertly recorded tapes, which it has been releasing since February 2015, show Gruevski was behind the illegal surveillance of some 20,000 people, including ministers. They insist that the tapes contain incriminating evidence against many senior officials. **RAI, 05 January 2016 and Independent Balkan News Agency, 15 January 2016.**

DNA Romania: 188 Defendants Sentenced in Corruption Cases in the Past Two Months of 2015

During November and December 2015, 65 court rulings remained final convicting 188 defendants in the corruption cases investigated by the National Anti-corruption Directorate (DNA), among whom there were a first prosecutor from a court prosecutor's office, a judge, nine lawyers, two bailiffs, five company managers, a city mayor, an university rector, two doctors, five police officers, four Fraud Squad inspectors and five customs officers. **RAI, 12 January 2016.**

B&H Lawyer: Dodik Suspected of Money Laundering

Republika Srpska President Milorad Dodik is suspected of money laundering in the case led by BiH Prosecutor's Office, lawyer Dusko Tomic has said. Tomic told media that raid was related to the purchase of Dodik's villa in Belgrade in 2007. Documentation that was taken relates to the purchase of the villa and loan approved by the Pavlovic Bank for that purpose. Dodik, who was then Prime Minister, bought villa in Belgrade in 2007 paying 750,000 Euros in cash and later claimed he bought it with the Pavlovic Bank's loan. It was recently discovered that the loan to Dodik was approved only a year later. It is suspected that he used this false loan to cover the origin of the money. **RAI, 07 January 2016.**

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Former Entity Agriculture Minister Named in Tax Fraud Indictment

State prosecutors filed an indictment against the former Agriculture Minister of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, ten of his alleged associates and five companies – who they say were all involved in an organized crime group that committed various financial crimes. Prosecutors say the group used a cascading set of companies to skip out on more than US\$ 7.5 million in debt they owed to the Federation, the entity controlled by the Bosniak and Croat ethnic groups. Prosecutors say this is one of the most comprehensive indictments for tax evasion since the end of the war in Bosnia more than 20 years ago. **RAI, 04 January 2016.**

Upcoming Events

[Global Anti-Corruption & Compliance Summit](#)

Corporate Parity's summit presents the perfect platform to dialogue with peers from various industries on the best practices and real solutions to the challenges faced by many business owners regarding ethics and compliance issues. This event is exclusively focused on senior management, and provides the attendees with a chance to have constructive and unconstrained communication between delegates and the speaker panel, which comprises of prosecutors, regulators, experts and many more. **Corporate Party, 7-8 April 2016, Amsterdam, the Netherlands**

[Central and Eastern European E/Dem and E/Gov Days 2016](#)

It is the main theme of this year's conference to explore how Information and Communications Technology ICT can act as an enabler for democracy and transparency. Nearly every state, whether inside or outside the EU, is in a situation that lends itself to principles of multi-level governance. This however requires horizontal and vertical coordination among policy actors as well as the involvement of citizens, civil society and the business community. **WBC-RTI, 12-13 May 2016, Hungary, Budapest**

[4th Summer Academy "Fraud and Corruption in the Public Sector"](#)

The event provides an intensive training on issues and tools needed to keep public institutions free from fraud and corruption. Good risk management as well as prevention, detection and control systems should be considered by every public sector authority as a constant challenge. **The European Academy for Taxes, Economics & Law, Berlin, August 2016**

[8th Russia and CIS Summit on Anti-Corruption](#)

The summit will gather compliance officers, senior legal counsel members, ethics officers, internal auditors, forensic accountants and private practice attorneys. **American Conference Institute (ACI) and C5, 31 May – 1 June 2016, Moscow, Russia**

Reports and Analyses

[Forthcoming: Corruption Perceptions Index to be launched 27 January 2016](#)

Transparency International will release its 21st annual Corruption Perceptions Index on **27 January 2016**. This year's index ranks 168 countries/territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. The index draws on 12 surveys covering expert assessments and views of business people. **TI, 5 January 2016**

[The Quest for Good Governance: How Societies Develop Control of Corruption by Prof. Alina Mungiu-Pippidi](#)

Prof. Alina Mungiu-Pippidi has taught Democratisation and Policy Analysis at the Hertie School of Governance since 2007. In her new Cambridge University Press book, *The Quest for Good Governance: How Societies Develop Control of Corruption*, Mungiu-Pippidi shows us why only so few succeeded in building control of corruption. Her research ranges from medieval Italy to contemporary Uruguay to illustrate what good governance means in practice and what a sound anti-corruption strategy looks like. She argues that with the right balance of conditions, even the most entrenched corruption cycles can be broken. The book will be presented at the **Legatum Institute, on 4 February 2016, London**

**Integrity in International
Perspective: Series of
Reports, Commissioned
by the Dutch
Ministry of the Interior
and Kingdom Relations
(BZK)**

In light of the Dutch Presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2016, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) has initiated various reports as part of an ongoing international dialogue on strengthening the public administration and developing evidence based integrity and anti-corruption policies. **Government of the Netherlands, 18 January 2016**

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