

News by SELDI members

The Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" is the new Secretariat of the Platform against Corruption



Photo: MCIC

The Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" - Skopje (IDSCS) was selected to host the Secretariat of the Macedonian Anticorruption Platform, a CSO-led initiative, for a period of three years. The decision was taken during the fourth session of the Platform's Assembly held on 7 April 2017. IDSCS will replace the Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI) in its role as Secretariat. **MCIC, 10 April 2017**

Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat Shares Experiences on Developing and Monitoring National Action Plans

The Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat, a SELDI partner, represented by Programme and Outreach Officer, Ms Jasna Panjeta, and Intern, Ms Dženeta Tabaković, took an active part in the Southeast Europe Peer Exchange organized on the 23 and 24 May 2017 in Sarajevo by the Open Government Partnership (OGP). The participants discussed the opportunities for linking national and regional priorities with more ambitious reforms through the OGP action plans. **RAI, 23 May 2017**

Business Ethics and Transparency in SMEs to Prevent Bribery and Corruption in Turkey

The Economic Policy Research Foundation, TEPAV, SELDI partner, has completed an initiative on "Promotion of Business Ethics and Transparency in SMEs", financed by the British Embassy's Prosperity Fund. The closing meeting was held on 3th of April 2017 in Ankara. The project aimed to raise awareness on business ethics among SMEs and the importance of trust and integrity in business. **TEPAV, 03 April 2017**

Fighting Police Corruption: Legal Solutions and Best Practices

The POINTPULSE held a conference dedicated to building police integrity on 1 June 2017. The participants discussed whether the Montenegrin Draft Law on Internal Affairs meets the international standards in fighting police corruption and which aspects from the different legal solutions in the Western Balkans can be utilized. The Law on Internal Affairs is an important legal act within the "Chapter 24: Justice, Freedom and Security" of the EU accession and it is a precondition for the establishment of professional, reliable and effective police service. Representatives from the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, Institute Alternativa in Podgorica, Belgrade Center for Security Policy, Center for Security Studies in Sarajevo, Institute for Democracy Mediation, Tirana took part in the event. **Institute Alternativa, 24 May 2017**

Assessing the Implementation and Effectiveness of Systems for Disclosing Interests and Assets by Public Officials, Tbilisi, Georgia

The conference was co-organised by the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), Anti-Corruption Network of OECD, UNDP and the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana, and hosted by the Civil Service Bureau of Georgia. It provided a forum for national stakeholders responsible for the design, management, implementation, enforcement, evaluation and impact assessment of interests and asset disclosures by public officials. The participants made a review of the existing disclosure systems and compared them

against the objectives set for those systems: a) to prevent and sanction conflicts of interest; b) monitor wealth variations of public officials and uncover illicit enrichment; and c) promote transparency. **RAI, 6 June 2017**

Anti-Corruption News from the SEE Region

Prosecution Names Gruevski in Two New Corruption Probes

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's Special Prosecution, SJO, said it suspects former Prime Minister and VMRO DPMNE leader Nikola Gruevski illegally financed his party through money laundering and was also involved in misuse of his office in relation to a highways contract. **Balkan Insight, 22 May 2017**

Bulgaria Specialised Anti-Corruption Unit Checks Signal about Unauthorised Access to Sofia Airport Information System

The Prosecutor General has received a signal that in February 2017 a private company was given full administrative rights (unlimited access) to the information system of the airport upon Sofia Airport Executive Director's request. At the same time, a concession procedure concerning the airport was held. According to the signal, one of the former owners of the private company in question is currently a chief of cabinet of a minister. **Novinite, 2 May 2017**

The Specialised Anticorruption Unit of Sofia City Prosecutor's Office Charges Agriculture Ministry Official with Breach of Duty

Charges have been pressed against Steliyan Mitev over an intentional failure to fulfill his obligations while director of the regional agriculture directorate in Dobrich, the Prosecutor's Office said. Mitev is currently head of the Land Relations and Management Directorate at the Ministry of Agriculture. He was regional director in Dobrich between November 2009 and September 2013. In that period he did not inform the mayor of Balchik over irregularities on the Kranevo North beach and his administration made fictitious inspections which paid no attention to illegal buildings there. **Novinite, 29 May 2017**

German Companies Complain against Ineffective Fight against Corruption and Crime in Bulgaria

In spite of several severe problems in Bulgaria, the country is constantly becoming more attractive as an industrial location, according to the German-Bulgarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK) in Sofia. Trade between Bulgaria and Germany has reached a new record in 2016, with a volume of 6.66 billion Euro. At the same time, many AHK member companies complained about the situation in Bulgaria. These are the main problems mentioned: an ineffective public administration, legal uncertainty, an ineffective fight against corruption and crime, a lack of transparency regarding public procurement, and a lack of political and social stability. **The Sofia Globe, 27 April 2017**

Romanian Mayor Awaits Sentence in Longest Corruption Trial

The nine-year-long trial of a former mayor and 36 businessmen and public employees charged with corruption, abuse of public service, forgery and complicity in illegal sales of beaches has reached a close. The Bucharest Appeal Court was set to issue a sentence in Romania's longest-ever corruption trial that has lasted nine years and counted over 100 hearings. But the court postponed the decision initially until May 31, 2017, and once again for 14 June 2017. Radu Mazare, 48, former Mayor of the port of Constanta and one of Romania's richest politicians, together with 36 businessmen, lawyers and employees of the City Hall, were indicted in 2008 for the illegal sale of state-owned land along the coast and of public beaches. **RAI, 22 May 2017 and Agerpres.ro, 31 May 2017**

Introducing Corruption Proofing of Legislation in Kosovo*

The Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI), in cooperation with the Anti-corruption Agency Kosovo and UNDP in Kosovo* supported by the Austrian Development Agency held a roundtable to discuss among stakeholders the Corruption Proofing of Legislation and to produce a roadmap for its introduction into Kosovo* legal framework and practice. The event was organized under the Southeast Europe Regional Programme on Strengthening the Capacity of Anti-corruption Authorities and Civil Society to Combat Corruption and Contribute to the UNCAC Review Process, which is implemented by RAI in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). **RAI, 15 May 2017**

Calls for the Removal of Corrupt People from Candidate Lists for Parliament in Kosovo*

Currently, there is lack of a law or a code of conduct which prohibits political parties to include people with criminal records or people under investigation on their election lists. According to the head of the Central Election Commission, Valdete Daka candidate lists cannot include people who have been convicted by the court in the past three years. This call has further been supported by the US embassy. **IBNA, 18 May 2017**

Moldova Detains Officials Suspected of Embezzling EU Money

Moldovan anti-corruption prosecutors have detained the transport minister and a senior road management official on suspicion of embezzling European Union funds. Prosecutors detained Transportation Minister Iurie Chirinciuc and the interim manager of Moldova's State Road Management, Veaceslav Teleman after searching their offices and the offices of two private companies. The companies' owners also were detained. **RAI, 27 April 2017**

The Mayor of Kishinev Retained Under the Allegation of Corruption

Dorin Chirtoaca was retained for 72 hours under the allegation of corruption, says the Unimedia and Kishinev journal. Chirtoaca is accused of traffic of influence and the abuse in office, in the file of the National Anti-corruption Centre (CNA) of the Republic of Moldova for the investigation of the construction of paying parking lots in Kishinev. He was taken to the Anti-corruption Centre penitentiary. **ACTMedia, 29 May 2017**

Millions from Ukraine's Corrupt Schemes Found in 41 Countries

Ukraine's National Anti-Corruption Bureau said that millions of dollars in proceeds from domestic corruption have been found in 41 countries, the Kyiv Post reported Tuesday. Businesses in at least 10 countries have helped funnel the illegal money out of Ukraine, the bureau said in an April 24 Facebook post. Some US \$208 million went to the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, US \$10.8 million to Austria and US \$99 million to Cyprus, according to a video. **RAI, 26 April 2017**

** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

Upcoming events

DG NEAR Open Call for Proposals and Tenders

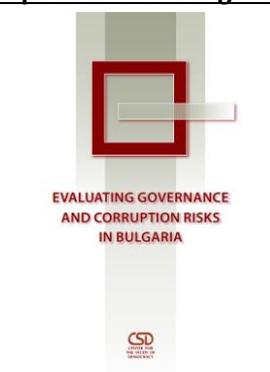
The Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) of the European Union is calling for the submission of proposals and tenders for good governance and anti-corruption initiatives in the EU's eastern and southern neighbourhood, i.e. in the Western Balkans. The deadline is 17 July 2017. **EuropeAid, 1 June 2017**

Civil Society Forum of the Western Balkans Summit Series Meeting, 10-12 July 2017, Trieste, Italy

The Civil Society Forum meeting in Trieste will bring together civil society organisations from the Western Balkans and the European Union in order to elaborate policy alternatives and push forward actions in response to the key challenges faced by the region and by the entire continent today. The Forum will be organised as a part of the 4th intergovernmental Summit of Western Balkans and EU countries, and will consider the topics of the Summit: youth cooperation, rule of law and anti-corruption, enterprise development and innovation potentials, to also include reflections about the future of the “Berlin Process”. Also, new topics will be brought up to inspire debate on questions of regional relevance – environment, energy and climate change, migrations, media freedoms, the issue of Brexit in relevance to the Western Balkans and the possible role of civil society in increasing the efficiency of the Berlin Process through communications. The Forum will create space for open deliberation of the range of matters, and will, in result, offer contributions and policy recommendations to the intergovernmental dialogue. By doing so, the Civil Society Forum will contribute to the Berlin Process by extending its democratic potential through inclusion of citizens in its proceedings and by providing technical and expert support to fulfilment of the Process goals, through own engagement in pushing forward the cooperation and the reform agenda in the region. **Civil Society Forum**

Reports and Analyses

Evaluating Governance and Corruption Risk in Bulgaria



The report underlined that corruption continues to be one of the main social problems for Bulgaria a decade after the country’s EU accession. The Bulgarian public is one of the few in Europe, which trusts EU institutions more than its own government to find a sustainable solution to this problem. Making sure the mechanisms of EU conditionality and public procurement support deliver on these high expectations is of paramount importance for delivering a lasting solution to Bulgaria’s rule of law problems. **CSD, 2017**

Measuring Media Realities Report



„Measuring media realities“ has been published within the framework of the project Civil Response to Clientelism in Media – MEDIA CIRCLE, implemented by Partnership for Social Development, Croatia and financed by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance by the European Union (IPA) Civil Society Facility (CSF). **Integrityobservers, April 2017**

The Annual Forecast and Analysis Report – Romania 2017

The 2017 SAR Annual Policy Analysis and Forecasting Report asks the big question: do EU funds lead Romania to “Europeanization”? Or to put it differently, do they contribute to our overall development or not? There are risks involved: it was barely the beginning of the

absorption period as over 10% of corruption sentences were related to the management of EU funds, and the extent of their bureaucratic burden was becoming legendary. The report looks into the education sector, health sector, infrastructure, and all over the policy areas benefiting from such financing, amassing in the process an unprecedented collection of data.
SAR, March 2017

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