

News by SELDI members

Preventing Corruption Through Efficient Identification of Risks



Photo: RAI

Over 60 experts from ministries of justice, anti-corruption bodies and non-governmental organisations from South East Europe (SEE), gathered in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 25-26 October 2017 to discuss the implementation of corruption risk assessments (CRA) and corruption proofing of legislation (CPL) across the region. The participants reviewed the patterns of corruption in society and focused on specific corruption-related occurrences in SEE economies. The forum, organized by the

Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI), in cooperation with SELDI, made important contributions for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of corruption proofing and risks assessments. In a separate panel discussion, SELDI presented its experience and future plans, seeking to deepen its public-private cooperation with public authorities across the region. During the upcoming four years the coalition aims to further its policy impact not only on national and region levels, but also locally, enhancing the capacity of grassroots organizations to influence the decision-making process. **SELDI/RCC/RAI, 25 – 26 October 2017**

Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

The Conference of the States Parties (COSP) is the main policy-making body of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The seventh session of the Conference was held at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017. In keeping with past practice, the general discussion of the Conference served as an opportunity for high-level representatives to address the Conference and provide guidance for its deliberations and the achievement of its objectives. The Conference was established to improve the capacity of States to implement the Convention, enhance cooperation among States in achieving the objectives of the Convention and to promote and review the implementation of the Convention. The Conference meets every two years and adopts resolutions and decisions in furtherance of its mandate. **RAI, 6 – 10 November 2017**

Civil Society Guarding the Budget in Montenegro

SELDI's member, Institute Alternative launched the initiative "Money Watch – Civil Society Guarding the Budget", on 6 October 2017 in the EU Info Centre in Podgorica. The project aims at contributing to the fight against corruption by more efficient control of public spending and reducing public distrust in the efficiency of public spending. These objectives will be achieved by strengthening the capacities of civil society through the "Open Budget School", media reporting on significant and burning issues of public money spending, as well as research and monitoring of the implementation of the Public Finance Management Program 2016-2020. The event was organised by the European Union Delegation within the civil society consultations on project programming in the upcoming period. **Institut Alternativa, 30 October 2017**

MCIC Suggests a Reform in the State Financing of NGOs



Photo: MCIC

SELDI's member, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), held a conference to present recommendations for a reform in the financing of NGOs. The MCIC experts stressed that the Code of Good Practices for Financial Support of Citizens' Associations and Foundations and the Law on Associations and Foundations should receive legally binding force. They also underlined that there is a necessity to improve the transparency, effectiveness and accountability

of the funding distribution procedure. **MCIC, 27 October 2017**

Anti-Corruption News from the SEE Region

Albania as an Example of Fighting Corruption

The USA supports the Government of Albania that has set an example of being devoted to fighting corruption, said Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs. Hoyt Brian Yee expressed his satisfaction with Albania's progress and said he was happy that the USA had the opportunity of making a contribution in the reforms, the reform in judiciary included, as well as fight against organized crime and corruption. According to him, all these raise Albania's standard, but even back the country's advance toward EU membership. **European Western Balkans, 25 October 2017**

Romania: Anti-corruption Protests Held in Dozens of Cities

Rallies in Bucharest and other cities have taken aim at a law that will weaken efforts to root out corruption. The government says a new law will prevent the judiciary from pursuing a politically motivated agenda. More than 10,000 people took part in protests across Romania on 5 November 2017, in an attempt to stop the government from passing new legislation they say will weaken the powers of the anti-graft prosecutor. Under the proposals, Romania's justice minister would have the power to hire and fire the country's top prosecutors, something only the president can do at the moment. The anti-corruption prosecutor's office (DNA) would have its wings clipped and be prevented from investigating magistrates. The new law would also allow a person with a criminal conviction to be elected president. Some estimates put the number of protesters in several Romanian cities at 20,000. **RAI, 6 November 2017**

Croatia's Government Survives No-Confidence Vote

Croatia's government said it has survived a no-confidence vote, which the opposition demanded. In early November, SDP leader submitted a motion for a non-confidence vote in the government over its treatment of the Agrokor crisis. In the vote, preceded by a 12-hour debate, 78 members of the 151-seat parliament backed Plenkovic and his government, while 59 supported the censure motion. **See News, 13 November 2017**

Western Balkans Recommendation on Public Participation Endorsed by Public Administration Ministers

Western Balkans Recommendation on Public Participation was endorsed by ministers in charge of public administration reform from Western Balkan economies, at the 8th Governing Board Meeting at Ministerial Level, organised by Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) in Tirana. The set of guidelines and rules are made to encourage and assist governments to design policies and legislation in an inclusive manner, enabling an active participation of society, including non-governmental organisations, private sector and advisory bodies. **RCC, 6 November 2017**

[Albanian Judge Arrested on Corruption and Bribery Charges](#)

An Appeals Court judge has been arrested by Tirana police on corruption and bribery charges following a year-long investigation by the Prosecution Office for Serious Crimes. Police said that officers from the Investigation and Corruption Sector at the Directorate for Investigation of Economic and Financial Crimes at the Albanian State Police, in collaboration with the first instance of the Prosecution Office for Serious Crimes, successfully finalized operation codenamed "A second murder." Prosecutors had raised reasonable suspicions based on evidence of favouring a man convicted of premeditated murder and illegal possession of firearms in exchange for bribes. **RAI, 13 November 2017**

Upcoming events

[Anti-Bribery & Corruption Conference 2017: International Enforcement Trends](#)

On 1 December 2017 the annual Amsterdam Anti-Bribery & Corruption Conference will take place for the third time. After two successful editions of the conference in Dutch, the conference will as of this year be held in English. The theme of this year's conference is 'International Enforcement Trends'. The program will cover a broad range of topics, including recent developments, stimulating debate, fostering networking, cross-fertilisation and the global exchange of experience. **White Collar Academy, 1 December 2017, Amsterdam, Netherlands**

[18th International Anti-Corruption Conference](#)

The International Anti-Corruption Conference Council and Transparency International announced that the 18th edition of the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark on 22-24 October 2018. The event will discuss innovative strategies to fight corruption which continues to trap millions of people around the world in poverty and threatens sustainable development. The International Anti-Corruption Conference, first held in 1983, has evolved into the leading global forum on governance and anti-corruption. It brings together leaders from the public and private sectors, civil society, international organisations, academics and the media to discuss the increasingly sophisticated challenges posed by corruption. **International Anti-Corruption Conference, 22-24 October 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark**

Reports and Analyses

[Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the Progress in Bulgaria under the CVM](#)



The Cooperation and Verification Mechanism report from 15 November 2017 presents the progress made in Bulgaria following up the recommendations set out in the January 2017 report. The report notes that the new Government showed determination to make up for lost time by pushing ahead quickly with legislative initiatives. At the same time the Commission stresses on the importance of inclusive legislative processes, in the context of the developments from July 2017, when a package of draft proposals for changes to the Judicial Systems Act were put on the agenda of the National Assembly by MPs, without public debate or consultation of stakeholders. High expectations are placed on the newly elected Supreme Judicial Council (SJC).

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