



News by SELDI members

Corruption and State Capture Remain a Key Concern in Southeast Europe



Photo: SELDI

brainstorm ideas for countering these risks. **SELDI, 29 September 2016**

SELDI Second Regional Anti-Corruption Policy Forum drew an accurate picture of the corruption environment in the region, presented the latest data on corruption pressure and introduced new ways for improving anti-corruption efforts. The forum underlined that critical sectors with high corruption and state-capture risks should be addressed with priority. Special focus was placed on the state capture, the judiciary and the role of the civil society. The event gathered more than 100 representatives of the EU and civil society organizations from the region to

Six SELDI Members Promote the CSOs Participation in the Review Mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption



Photo: SELDI

Representatives of six SELDI members took part in the Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its Review Mechanism, held on 20-23 September 2016 in Vienna, Austria. They learned about the possibilities for cooperation between governments and civil society organizations (CSOs) in implementing the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and its second review cycle. Its Article 13 of the Convention specifically calls on society, including the CSOs, to actively participate in combating corruption. **SELDI, 20-23 September 2016**

Lack of Human Resources and Budget Funding Hinders the Effective Prosecution of Corruption in Kosovo



Photo: SELDI / Riinvest Institute

improved only by bringing to justice the high level figures involved in corruption. **SELDI, 13 September 2016**

According to the survey results presented by SELDI partner Riinvest Institute the level of corruption in Kosovo remains high and citizens have generally lost the trust in the opportunity of reducing substantially or eradicating corruption. Sevdije Morina, a State Deputy Prosecutor explained that one of the reasons for the negative results obtained from the survey is the lack of human capacities and budgetary constraints for prosecution in Kosovo. It was also pointed out that the negative perception of the citizens towards the fight against corruption, could be

Media Talks on Corruption or “What did a Computer Program Find out about Corruption in Romania”

SELDI's partner, the Romanian Academic Society, investigated the manner in which four Romanian newspapers have covered the news related to corruption and other similar topics by using a Computer Assisted Content Analysis method (CACCA). SAR found out that most resounding names associated with the term “corruption” are representative of just three domains: politics, sports and economy. The most frequently exchanged items between agents and clients of corrupt transactions were licenses, certifications, offices in various public institutions (29/5.2%), public procurement contracts (26/4.7%), and the abatement of negative consequences resulting from unannounced inspections (21/3.8%). **SAR, 15 September 2016**

SELDI Partner IDSCS Explores How to Close the Gap between Formal and Informal Institutions in the Balkans



Photo: Institute for Democracy ‘Societas Civilis’

The Macedonian Institute for Democracy ‘Societas Civilis’ Skopje (IDSCS), SELDI partner, launched in London an initiative to research themes such as formal and informal political environment, implementation of EU rules and regulations, economic environment and analysis of aspects of everyday life. Drawing on the insights gained from anthropology, economics, sociology, and political science, the research will result in comprehensive data on the role of formal and informal institutions and practices in the political, economic, and social environment, as well as interaction thereof in nine Balkan countries. **IDSCS, 03**

October 2016

Anti-Corruption News from the SEE Region

Political Parties Violate the Law during Elections in Montenegro?

The director of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption in Montenegro has recently stated that most political entities in the country did not fulfil their legal obligations during the election campaign. In particular, parties did not open bank accounts, and also failed assigning a responsible person for providing biweekly reports on the balances of those accounts. In relation to these violations of the electoral law, the agency will examine in detail all the financial help and services received by the political entities in question. **RAI, 7 October 2016**

Bosnia and Herzegovina to Introduce a Legal Obligation for Proactive Disclosure of Information

Transparency International in Bosnia and Herzegovina (TI BiH) organized in Sarajevo the first of six training courses for the state institutions of the Federation in the field of proactive transparency. The research conducted by TI suggests that it is necessary for the country to amend its laws on free access of information, develop guidelines and requirements of proactive transparency for administrative organs and establish mechanisms for the cooperation of institutions and civil society in the decision-making process, among others. The training courses will last until the January 2017. **RAI, 10 October 2016**

Ground-breaking New Platform in Moldova to Reveal Candidates’ Secrets before Election

Investigative journalists at RISE Moldova launched Prezidentiale 2016, an online source for voters who want to know who the candidates are, what businesses they are involved in, and where their money is coming from. The investigation conducted for months already gave results as a leading candidate was linked to a mysterious offshore that sponsored the Socialist Party. The ground-breaking platform marks a historic event for Moldova as voters can directly elect a leader for the first time in 20 years. **RAI, 5 October 2016**

Ex-Minister and a Former Major Received Prison Sentences for Corruption in Romania

A former Romanian minister, a former mayor and two businessmen received prison sentences for money-laundering, influence peddling and taking bribes. The former mayor of Piatra Neamt was handed six years in prison for influence-peddling as well as an order for confiscation of 4 million euros from his bank account. A former telecommunications minister was sentenced to three years for bribery and money-laundering and had 2.2 million euros confiscated. **RAI, 3 October 2016**

Upcoming events

Third Regional Meeting of Oversight Bodies for Asset Disclosure and Conflict of Interest

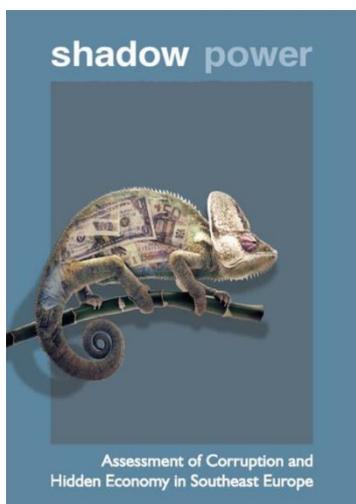
The regional meeting of oversight bodies for asset disclosure and conflict of interest will be organized by the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI), supported by the Austrian Development Agency, in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Council and the Commission for Prevention and Ascertainment of Conflict of Interest of Bulgaria. The forum, which will take place on 20-21 October 2016, will bring together high level representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. **RAI, 25 August 2016**

Nominations Now Open for the 2016 Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Anti-Corruption Excellence Award

The Rule Of Law and Anti-corruption Center (ROLACC) inaugurates the Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Anti-Corruption Excellence Award, which is given in support of the anti-corruption mandate of UNODC. The initiative, which is dedicated to showcase creative and outstanding achievements covers the following four categories: Lifetime Achievement, Academic Research, Youth Creativity and Innovation. Submissions are closing on Sunday 23 October 2016. **UNODC, 05 October 2016**

Reports and Analyses

Shadow Power: Assessment of Corruption and Hidden Economy in Southeast Europe



The report provides a civil society view of the state of corruption and comes in the wake of the 2014 SELDI comprehensive assessment of the various aspects of the legal and institutional anticorruption environments of nine SEE countries. The 2016 report underscores the need for broader political action for reform, which seems blocked or narrowing across the region. Inside pressure for such action has been suffocated by economic necessity and/or ethnic divisions, and the ossification of political and economic establishments. Outside pressure, delivered mostly by the European Union has been seen as wanting in relation to the size of the problems in the past couple of years due to a succession of internal and external crises. The authors underline that in none of the countries in the region has there been a clear sustained policy breakthrough in anticorruption though efforts to deliver technical solutions and to improve the functioning of the law enforcement institutions, mostly with support from the EU, have continued and even intensified in some cases. This has led to further slow decline in administrative corruption levels but at the expense of waning public support for reforms and of declining trust in national and European institutions. **SELDI, 27 September 2016**

Energy Governance and State Capture Risks in Southeast Europe: Regional Assessment Report



The SELDI report provides comparative assessment of national energy governance deficits and state capture risks in the Western Balkans and Turkey. It conducts a thorough review of the regulatory framework, the corporate and financial governance of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and the management of large-scale energy projects from the perspective of corruption pressures. The analysis proposes measures for increasing the effectiveness of public procurement, improving the corporate governance of SOEs, boosting transparent management of large-scale investment projects and enhancing the accountability and independence of energy regulatory authorities. **SELDI, 27 September 2016**

Explaining the allocation of regional Structural Funds: The Conditional Effect of Governance and Self-rule

The publication reveals the regional factors that can help explain the heterogeneity in Structural Funds distribution to European Union regions. Past studies have shown that aside from the level of economic development and rates of unemployment, other political, and economic factors systematically explain why certain European Union regions receive greater funding than others. The theory of the article suggests that the determination of Structural Funds is based on an interaction between a region's formal institutions and informal institutions. The theory is tested on data for 171 European Union regions for the 2007–2013 budget period. The results show robust empirical support for the theoretical claims. **ANTICORRP, 08 September 2016**

For a New Generation of Objective Indicators in Governance and Corruption Studies

Professor Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, the author of the publication, focuses on an old problem for both academics and policy-makers – the absence of a unanimously agreed definition of corruption. She suggests that it is previously and wrongfully believed that the reason for that is the informal and hidden nature of corruption, which is often tagged as “an unobservable phenomenon”. Her article challenges this popular belief. **ANTICORRP, 08 September 2016**

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