

News by SELDI members

Coordinators of Integrity Plans in Montenegro Trained on Corruption Risk Assessment



Photo: RAI

SELDI's associated partner, the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI), in cooperation with the Agency for Prevention of Corruption of Montenegro, organized one-day training for coordinators of integrity plans in institutions of Montenegro. The event gathered about 70 public officials and offered practical and methodological instructions devising the plans. The main objective of the training was that the coordinators get acquainted to the purpose and importance of the development and implementation of integrity plans in a comprehensive and participatory manner. **RAI, 17 October 2017**

RCC's Balkan Barometer 2017: Unemployment Remains the Main Concern, while Anxiety over Corruption Grows

The Regional Cooperation Council's (RCC) presented in Brussels the 2017 edition of the Balkan Barometer (BB), an annual survey of citizens and business communities' opinion on the situation in the region. RCC Secretary General, Goran Svilanovic underlined that while there is further evidence of economic recovery across a number of the region's larger economies, unemployment remains the main concern. Worryingly, the Barometer also highlights the ever growing anxiety over corruption; in BB 2015, 15% of the respondents rated corruption as one of the key problems for the region. The number was up to 27% in 2016 and has further increased in 2017 to 32%. The Balkan Barometer, its database and publications are available at the [RCC website](#). **Regional Cooperation Council, 9 October 2017**

Awarded Grants to Civil Society Organizations



Photo: Citizens Association
Zasto Ne (Why not?)

Grants for implementation of six-month projects have been awarded to 18 civil society organizations from six countries: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will address urgent local and national issues in order to advance good governance and the rule of law. These grants have been awarded within the ACTION SEE: Accountability, Technology and Institutional Openness Network in SEE project, which is implemented by Metamorphosis Foundation in partnership with organisations from Great Britain, Serbia, Albania, as well as the SELDI partners Citizens Association Zasto Ne (Why not?) from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Center for Democratic Transition from Montenegro, with financial support of the European Union. **Citizens Association Zasto Ne (Why not?), 19 September 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.*

State Administration and EU Representatives Welcome New IT Tools against Corruption



Photo: Partnership for Social Development

New IT tools developed by SELDI's member Partnership for Social Development (PSD), Croatia within the Integrity Observer project provide a new dimension in the fight against corruption. The tools are intended to help eliminate corruption risks in the management of public resources. Their application reduces the area in which corruption can occur and prevents corruption from going unnoticed by the system. **Partnership for Social Development, 7 October 2017**

BiH Anti-Corruption Institutions and Regional Counterparts Exchange Experience in Protection of Whistle-Blowers



Photo: RAI

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) organized a roundtable on exchange of experiences between BiH anti-corruption institutions and regional counterparts on protection of whistle-blowers on 4 October 2017 in Banja Luka. The roundtable was part of the support that the Mission and RAI Secretariat are providing to the Republika Srpska Ministry of Justice in the development and implementation of the Law on Protection of Persons Reporting Corruption, adopted in June 2017. Experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia,

Montenegro and Croatia presented practices of implementation of similar legislation in the region. **RAI, 4 October 2017**

Moldova: New Tool for Streamlining the Activity of the Board on Evaluation of Judges' Performances

On 3 October 2017 the Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM) approved the draft standardized electronic form for drafting decisions of the Board on evaluation of judges' performances (BEJP) at request of SELDI's partner Centre for the Analysis and Prevention of Corruption (CAPC). BEJP's decisions-drafting system will allow the transparency of BEJP' activity by publishing automatically the decisions on the SCM web page, ensuring the fullness and visibility of the information; standardizing the practice of applying the criteria for evaluation of judges, being prevented the arbitrary allowance of the score; keeping up-to-date statistics on the efficiency of BEJP's activity; and significant simplification of the BEJP Secretariat' work. **Centre for the Analysis and Prevention of Corruption (CAPC), 4 October 2017**

Coordination Meeting of Anti-Corruption Teams in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the newly associated SELDI partner, the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight Against Corruption (APIK) organized a third coordination meeting in Sarajevo between representatives of anti-corruption teams of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Brcko District Government, and the cantonal anti-corruption teams. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen coordination between the teams, to exchange perspectives for future engagement in the prevention of corruption and to contribute to raising the public awareness on the issue. **Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight Against Corruption, 6 October 2017**

European Public Prosecutor's Office: A Breakthrough In The Fight against Corruption

The decision by 20 EU Member States to create a European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) is a breakthrough in the EU's efforts to fight corruption, according to Transparency International EU. The EPPO, which will be an independent EU body based in Luxembourg, will have the authority to investigate and prosecute fraud, corruption and other crimes involving EU funds. **RAI / Transparency International, 12 October 2017**

The Bulgarian Council of Ministers Declares that the Fight Against Corruption is a Priority

The draft law on counteracting corruption and for taking away the illegally acquired property of the Council of Ministers was submitted for consideration by the National Assembly and presented at a meeting of the National Security Advisory Council to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria on 9 October 2017. **RAI / Novinite, 10 October 2017**

Fight against Crime and Corruption of Utmost Importance for Kosovo*

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo*, Ramush Haradinaj, had a meeting with the European Commission's Director General for Neighbourhood and Negotiation for Enlargement of the European Commission, Christian Danielsson, with whom he talked about the European Reform Agenda, with particular emphasis on the Economic Reform Program. Prime Minister Haradinaj said that the new government will be focused on implementing the European agenda, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA), and the reform agenda, adding that the fight against crime and corruption is of utmost importance for Kosovo*. **European Western Balkans, 4 October 2017**

Kosovo*: A Vetting Process Must be Conducted

The lack of the rule of law has led to many senior state officials, who are involved in crime and corruption, to evade justice. Under these circumstances, the credibility of the judicial system, according to the citizens of Kosovo* for has fallen by 15%. "This system which has a disputed integrity, must undergo a vetting process in order to get rid of corrupt people who have a suspicious past", said the executive director of the Kosovo Law Institute, Betim Musliu. According to him, the plan of the new government, which also includes vetting, must be pushed forward. **IBNA, 16 October 2017**

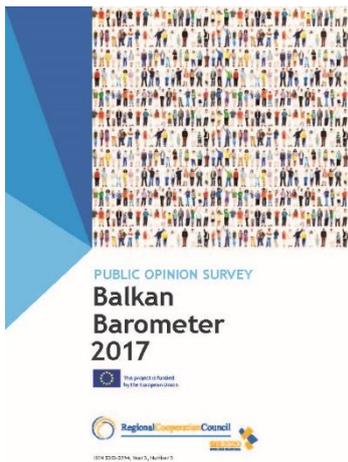
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Upcoming events

Regional Forum on Effective Prevention of Corruption through Risk Assessment

The Regional Anti-corruption Initiative and the Regional Cooperation Council, in cooperation with Slovenian Commission for Prevention of Corruption, and supported by the Austrian Development Agency are organizing the Regional Forum on Preventing Corruption through Efficient Risks Assessment in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 25-26 October 2017. To capitalize on the momentum created by the institutions, this Forum will discuss the progress achieved and the challenges faced with introduction and implementation of corruption risk assessment and anti-corruption assessment of laws. Particularly, the participants will present practical cases which brought an impact and innovative ideas in conducting the two preventive measures. **RAI, 25 – 26 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia**

Balkan Barometer 2017: Public Opinion Survey



The 2017 edition of Balkan Barometer (BB) is yet another instalment in the series of annual public opinion surveys commissioned by the Regional Cooperation Council. It collects and analyses data across a host of thematic areas, examining aspirations and expectations of the region's populations and its business community on life and work, prevalent socio-economic and political trends as well as regional and European integration, among others. The Balkan Barometer Public Opinion Survey is conducted among 8000 citizens in 2016 throughout our part of Europe, and the key findings show the ever growing anxiety over corruption. **9 October 2017, Regional Cooperation Council**

Quality of Judiciary Response to Corruption in BiH



With the assistance of the European Union, the new SELDI member, Center for Social Research “Analitika”, in partnership with [BIRN](#), has published a Policy Brief within the project “Integrity through Justice: Independent Civil Society Monitoring and Assessment of Judicial Response to Corruption”. According to the authors, despite the important role of judiciary in combating corruption, there is a lack of research and reports covering the topic of prosecuting corruption-related offenses in BiH. Aggravating factors are unevenness of statistics on the work of courts and prosecutors’ offices in this area and inconsistency in the use of proactive transparency by those institutions. **Center for Social Research Analitika, 11 October 2017**

Quality of Indictments and Judgments in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a Factor in the Efficient Processing of Criminal Offenses of Corruption



In the new review of Analitika, the author Judge Ljiljana Filipovic deals with the issue of quality of indictments and judgments as a factor of the efficiency of the judiciary, firstly through insight into international standards dedicated to the quality of judicial and prosecutorial acts, and focusing on whether domestic criminal legislation provides the required level of quality of indictments and judgments. In a convincing and argumentative analysis, Judge Filipovic concludes that the quality of the analyzed judicial acts is not at a satisfactory level. In this regard, recommendations aimed at improving the quality of judicial acts, as well as the clarity and precision of legal provisions related to their content have been formulated. **11 October 2017, Center for Social Research Analitika**

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