

The UNCAC Coalition Newsletter for the SEE Region highlights the major developments in the area of anti-corruption and good governance in Southeast Europe (SEE). It gathers information from multiple sources to provide you with the most relevant news and updates on the region.

UNCAC Coalition News

UNCAC Coalition, 15 February 2018

[The Essential Role of Civil Society in the UNTOC and UNCAC Review Processes](#)

The role of civil society in the UN Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and against Corruption (UNCAC) has been a contested issue. Although the importance of civil-society participation is referred to in the convention's principles, there is no mandatory provision for it among states parties. In an interview with the Global Initiative's Julia Stanyard, Ugi Zvekić explores the issue further.

[Continue reading →](#)

UNCAC Coalition, 14 February 2018

[Greater Integration, Cooperation Needed in UN Instruments to Prevent Organized Crime and Corruption](#)

In one of its latest articles author Ugi Zvekić from the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime explores the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) as the normative, criminal-justice-based platforms for prevention of organized crime and corruption. He underlines that crime prevention necessitates an integrated mix of initiatives, not just those that fall within the scope of criminal law and justice systems, but also the wider social and cultural spheres.

[Continue reading →](#)

UNCAC Coalition, February 2018

[UNCAC Coalition Seeks Consultant in Vienna to Start Up Coalition Hub Activities](#)

The UNCAC Coalition seeks a dynamic, self-starting, experienced social entrepreneur, who can manage a portfolio with a broad array of activities that help prepare the way for establishment of Coalition's main Hub as a strong and autonomous base. The consultant will play a central role in laying the foundations for the Coalition's presence in Vienna, Austria (which is the location of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the UN body tasked with overseeing the UNCAC).

[Continue reading →](#)

UNCAC Coalition, February 2018

[Open Call for Presenting Anti-corruption CSOs on the SEE Anti-Corruption Platform](#)

The UNCAC Coalition's SEE Anti-Corruption Platform is continuing to seek new applications by anti-corruption CSOs, which would like to feature their profiles at the [Southeast Europe Anti-Corruption Platform](#). CSOs interested in monitoring and promoting UNCAC implementation can increase their impact by sharing experiences and corruption-monitoring methodologies, building partnerships and exchanging updates about the status of UNCAC reviews.

[Continue reading →](#)

UNODC News

UNODC, 08 March 2018

UNODC Message to the UNCAC States Parties to Follow up on UNCAC resolution 7/2

UNODC, as Secretariat to the UNCAC Conference of States Parties, has written to the States Parties to follow up on [UNCAC resolution 7/2](#) on grand corruption adopted last November 2017. In UNODC's Note Verbale dated 8 March, States Parties are asked to voluntarily share information with the Secretariat on: a) experiences and best practices on criminal and civil measures and remedies to enhance international cooperation and asset recovery related to corruption, when it involves vast quantities of assets; and b) best practices in the identification of legal and natural persons, involved in the establishment of entities, which may be abused to commit or conceal crimes of corruption. The UNCAC Coalition suggests that civil society stakeholders get in touch with their country representatives to encourage them to respond to the Note Verbale. Responses should be sent by States Parties to jennifer.sarvary-bradford@un.org as soon as possible, but not later than **15 April 2018**.

UNODC, 18 February 2018

UNODC and UNESCO Join Forces to Promote a Culture of Lawfulness through Education

UNODC and UNESCO announced a new project focused on educating youth on a culture of lawfulness to provide educational responses to meet some of the world's most pressing rule of law challenges. The 'Initiative on Global Citizenship Education: Educating for a Culture of Lawfulness' is developed jointly by UNODC and UNESCO with the aim of equipping primary and secondary level educators with tools to uphold the principles of human rights and democracy, as well as to preserve and strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law."

[Continue reading →](#)

UNODC, 15 February 2018

UNODC is Providing Integrated Support for Justice, Security in South Eastern Europe

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is advancing real-time, integrated cooperation to address justice and security challenges in South Eastern Europe, said UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov. Speaking at the opening of the Ninth Steering Committee Meeting on the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe, the UNODC Chief highlighted work to address challenges posed by drugs, as well as smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and returning foreign terrorist fighters. A 2015 UNODC study found that the estimated value of illicit opiates trafficked along the Balkan route was US\$28 billion annually.

[Continue reading →](#)

News by SELDI members

Preventing Corruption through Administrative Measures



Photo: RAI

The Winter School, which took place in Rome and Città di Castello, Italy, from 22 January to 2 February 2018, presented an intensive programme designed for professionals looking to consolidate their experience and enlarge their competences on curbing corruption, with particular attention to the misuse of European funds. Interdisciplinary in nature, it addressed trends and practices on the international anti-corruption arena and promoted culture of prevention. **RAI, 2 February 2018**

[Continue reading →](#)

The Judicial System in FYR of Macedonia: Changes without Reform



Photo: IDSCS

There is no clear vision of what and how to reform in the judiciary. The political and institutional crisis in the past few years has manifested all the weaknesses and shortcomings of the judiciary, related to political and party influence, corruption, and clientelism. However, despite the serious situation, the analysis of the Judicial Reform Strategy for the period 2017-2022 shows that there is no significant improvement in the situation in this sector. These are part of the conclusions of two

analyses of by the author Denis Presova, an associate of IDSCS, a SELDI member, that analyze current reforms in the justice sector and their alignment with the EU's priorities. **IDSCS, 19 February 2018**

[Continue reading →](#)

Re-Launch of the Government Mirror

The initiative "Government Mirror" coordinated by SELDI's partner, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), aims to answer the question "Do citizens and civil society organizations participate in the law-making processes?". MCIC initiated the "Government Mirror" in 2012, recently re-lunched in November 2017, through monitoring the public consultation on laws published on the Single National Electronic Register (ENER). Thus, MCIC assesses the involvement of civil society organizations and the public at an early stage in drafting laws. The monthly reports for November and December 2017 and the monthly review for January 2018 are available on the Government's Mirror website <http://www.viewalonavladata.mk/>. **MCIC, 23 February 2018**

[Continue reading →](#)

Institute Alternativa Asks the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption to Provide Evidence of Checks on the Credibility of Public Officials' Declared Assets

Institute Alternativa has requested reports, records or official notes on the conducted controls of asset declarations for six public officials. However, the Agency rejected access to this information, stating that income and asset reports are published online, as well as information on the established breaches of the law. On the other hand, the proceedings of verifying completeness and accuracy of data from income and asset reports is not accessible to the public, according to the Agency. Institute Alternativa requests that the proceedings, if conducted, must be formally concluded – by a report, an official note or any other form of written record that the proceedings were conducted as an evidence on the Agency's work in this important area under its competence.

Institute Alternativa, 14 February 2018

[Continue reading →](#)

Upcoming Events

Training on Investigation and Prosecution of Public Corruption Cases

The CEELI Institute announced an anti-corruption course on investigation and prosecution of public corruption cases. Participants from the SEE region are eligible to apply. This five-day, highly interactive training will provide participants with a comprehensive framework for initiating and pursuing official corruption cases. The course will take place in Prague the week of 23-27 April 2018, and is designed to walk participants through the investigation of a case involving official corruption. Participants will work in small groups with a hypothetical case to develop their own investigation strategy, learning to use time-tested investigative tools.

CEELI Institute, 23-27 April 2018, Prague, the Czech Republic

[Continue reading →](#)

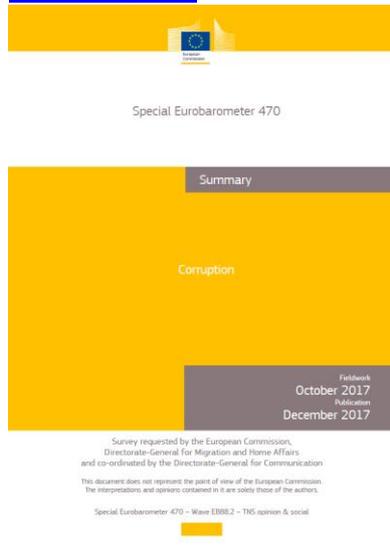
Useful Resources

[Flash Eurobarometer 457: Businesses' Attitudes towards Corruption in the EU](#)



This Eurobarometer survey explores the level of corruption perceived and experienced by businesses in six sectors: energy, mining, oil and gas, chemicals; healthcare and pharmaceutical; engineering and electronics, motor vehicles; construction and building; telecommunications and information technologies; financial services, banking and investment. The survey covers: the prevalence of a range of corrupt practices; the management of public tenders; the prevalence of various corrupt practices in public procurement processes; bribery among political parties and senior officials; and how corruption is managed and punished. **Eurobarometer, December 2017**

[Special Eurobarometer 470: Public's Opinion on Corruption](#)



This survey covers public attitudes to: a) the acceptability of giving a bribe (money, a gift or a favour) to obtain something from the public administration or a public service; b) the extent of corruption in their country; c) the areas of society in which corruption is widespread present; d) how perceived corruption has changed in the past three years; e) services/ sectors of society facing the biggest corruption problems; f) the effectiveness of government, the judicial system and institutions in tackling corruption. **Eurobarometer, December 2017**

[Key Problems in Prosecuting Corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina: A Substantive Law Perspective](#)



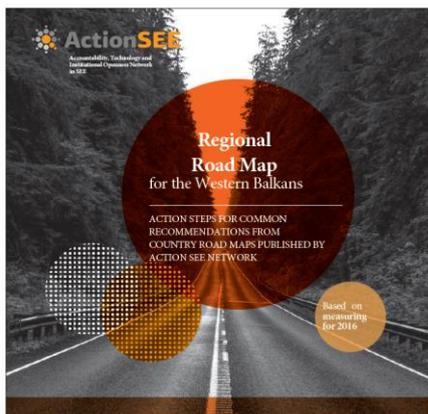
The discussion paper is devoted to the complex problem of prosecution of corruption in BiH. In the document, the author Adela Bejtović Janušić addresses key obstacles to a more effective judicial response to corruption, as seen from a substantive law perspective, that is, from the perspective of the definition of corruption criminal offenses. Particular attention is paid to examining the extent to which the legal framework in BiH is aligned with the international standards and recommendations of the relevant international bodies in this field. The author concludes that the practice of prosecuting corruption points to the incompleteness and imprecision of certain provisions of criminal codes in BiH. **Analitika, BiH, January 2018**

Best Practice Guide for Whistleblowing Legislation



As more and more countries are seeking to adopt whistleblowing legislation, Transparency International has developed the *Best Practice Guide for Whistleblowing Legislation* for policy-makers and whistleblowing advocates on how to implement its [International Principles for Whistleblower Legislation](#) into national law. It was done in collaboration with experts from Transparency International chapters who have successfully advocated for the adoption of whistleblower protection legislation in their countries. For each principle, the current guide sets out what constitutes current good practice and why. **Transparency International, 1 March 2018**

Regional Roadmap for the Western Balkans



This project is funded by the European Union. The "Accountability, Technology and Institutional Openness Network in South East Europe - ACTION SEE" project is implemented by Metamorphosis Foundation, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, CRTA - Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability, Citizens Association Why not?, Center for Democratic Transition, Open Data Kosovo (ODK) and Lavija Mjani.

The ACTION SEE consortium developed a *Regional Open Source Index*, and *Regional and National Good Governance Roadmaps* that serve for measuring the percentage of transparency of governments and ministries in the Western Balkan countries. They examine a number of issues, such as: adopting a central policy of openness to the executive level to regularly publishing voter lists of MPs, whether the judicial authorities maintain an updated website and whether local governments publish information in a timely manner, etc. **ACTION SEE consortium, including Zastvo Ne and CDT, 6 January 2018**

Judiciary Reforms in Republic of Macedonia: Changes without Reforms?



The report notes that Macedonia in the past few years has seen various weaknesses and shortcomings of the constitutional and political system. Within these weaknesses, the problems in the judiciary are among the most shocking. The analysis points to serious and worrying issues in the functioning and management of the judiciary, and related political and party influence, corruption, judicial clientele, etc. This contributes to the low confidence of citizens in the judiciary. **IDSCS, 19 February 2018**

Is Romania the Next Italy?

Forthcoming in the Summer issue 2018, *Journal of Democracy*

IS ROMANIA THE NEXT ITALY?

By Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, pippidi@hertha-school.org

Alina Mungiu-Pippidi is the author of 'A Quest for Good Governance. How Societies Build Central of Corruption' (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and the founder of the 2004-2016 Romanian Coalition for a Clean Parliament and the anticorruption watchdog website Clean Romania.
Alina Mungiu-Pippidi chairs the European Research Centre for Anticorruption and State-Building (ERCAS, www.againstcorruption.eu) at Hertha School of Governance in Berlin, where she teaches democratization and comparative public policy. She is also a consultant for various government and international organizations, having worked in recent years for the World Bank as an author for the [World Bank Development Report for International Monetary Fund](#), for European Parliament as principal investigator on [Clean Trade](#), for the Swedish Government on a strategy for international donors to increase [effectiveness of good governance assistance programs](#), for the EU Dutch Presidency on [trust and public integrity](#) in EU-28, for the European Commission DG Research on [governance innovation](#).

EU's Anticorruption Stress

In 2018 Romania is likely to pass for the first time in its history the 10 000 USD income per capita threshold, promoting in the upper tier of middle-income countries after a doubling of its per capita income since 2000, the year when she was invited to join EU. However, due to conflict ridden politics, persistent corruption and an increase in inequality, a majority of Romanians consistently claim in public opinion surveys that the country is headed in the wrong direction (75%, compared to just 17% who think the direction is right). A significant part of the labor force has migrated to the rest of EU in

1

Romania is often featured in the media these days as the theatre of a black and white fight between good and evil. The once leader of Romania's Coalition for a Clean Parliament, international anti-corruption expert Alina Mungiu-Pippidi explains why Romania's anticorruption turned sour and why Romania travels in the footsteps of Italy, where only a minority of the public considers that corruption is less present than before the great purge undertaken via the Clean Hands campaign. When anticorruption is politicized by parties and the media, she warns, its electoral accountability effect disappears, a country gets locked in vicious conflicts, secret services and other occult groups get too powerful and the rule of law gets trampled by all sides.

SAR, 26 February 2018

Contacts

[Click here to
Subscribe/Unsubscribe](#)



This UNCAC Coalition Newsletter was produced by Daniela Mineva of the SELDI anti-corruption initiative in cooperation with the UNCAC Coalition

Contact the UNCAC Coalition at:

Email: info@uncaccoalition.org

Twitter: [@uncaccoalition](https://twitter.com/uncaccoalition)