

Opening Conference

**Implementing Shared Anti-Corruption
and Good Governance Solutions in Southeast Europe:
Innovative Practices and Public–Private Partnership**

26 May 2021, [Zoom](#)

Agenda

- 9:30 CET** *Welcoming Remarks and Introduction*
Ruslan Stefanov, Program Director, Center for Study of Democracy
Frode Dal Fjeldavli, Head, Funds and Horizontal Concerns Unit, EEA and Norway Grants
Desislava Gotskova, Head, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative Secretariat
Amer Kapetanovic, Head, Political Department, Regional Cooperation Council
- Democracy and Governance in Europe in the Next Decade: Challenges and Policy Options*
Keynote speaker:
Prof. Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, Chair, European Research Centre for Anti-Corruption and State Building Research; HERTIE School of Governance
- 9:50 CET** *Plenary: Addressing Challenges to Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe and its Regions*
Giulio Venneri, Head, Centre of Thematic Expertise, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission
Tamara Mišerda, Directorate for European Affairs, International and Judicial Cooperation, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of Croatia
Traicho Traikov, Mayor of Sredets District, Sofia Municipality and Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism (2009 – 2012)
H.E. Haakon Blankenborg, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Republic of Croatia
Dr. Mihály Fazekas, Director, Government Transparency Institute, Hungary
- Discussion*
Moderator: **Dr. David Jackson**, Senior Advisor, U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre Lead, Christian Michelsen Institute, Norway
- Closing: Anti-Corruption and Youth – a Forward Look*
Gian Luca Bombarda, Fund Director for Youth Employment and Regional Cooperation Funds
- 10:30 CET** *Coffee Break*
- 10:45 CET** *Co-Design Breakout Groups: Turning Corruption Measurement Tools into Effective Medium for Anti-Corruption*
Group 1: Anti-corruption monitoring
Moderators:
Dr. Alexander Gerganov, Senior Analyst at the Center for Study of Democracy and Assistant Professor at the Institute Philosophy and Sociology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Jorida Shytaj, Senior Political Advisor, Regional Cooperation Council
- Group 2: Tackling state capture vulnerabilities**
Moderators:
Dr. Todor Galev, Director of Research, Center for Study of Democracy, Bulgaria
Aneta Arnaudovska, Senior Anti-Corruption Advisor, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative Secretariat
- Group 3: Public procurement governance**
Moderators:
Ágnes Czibik, Managing Director, Government Transparency Institute
Daniela Mineva, Senior Analyst, Economic Program, Center for Study of Democracy
- 12.15 CET** *Closing Plenary*

Discussion Points

High-level panel:

- What is the future of Europe in governance?
- Can the US-led drive for democracy and human rights inspire the EU to engage more in SEE? Will the EU choose a different path?
- What can we learn from EU's anti-corruption experience to date?
- Who are the agents of reform pushing the anti-corruption agenda forward?
- Can SEE public and private stakeholders deliver the reforms needed alone?
- How can the EU play a more effective role?
- Do we need a reset of anti-corruption efforts in Central and Southeast Europe? If so, how can we achieve that and what role could the new anti-corruption tools play?
- How could these tools stop the massive kleptocracy and personal enrichment of the politicians; and what checks will protect the future EU funding (incl. the Recovery and Resilience Facility)?

Questions for Group 1: Anti-corruption monitoring:

- What types of methodologies are missing or not efficiently used? Where should our future analysis focus, e.g.:
 - analyses of the internal policies of public institutions, including: recruitment and promotion of employees; service provision to citizens and businesses (also "consultations" where confidential information could be disclosed); (bribes to avoid) checks and sanctioning; (mis-)management of state-owned enterprises; ethical codes, anti-corruption trainings; rotations; video-surveillance; committees assessing procurement offers, including of external experts, etc.;
 - analysis at mezo and macro level: checks of asset declarations; checks into state aid and signing of large investment deals; public access to information (including open registers); transparency of the media ownership and media funding; laws on lobbying;
 - building capacity for: establishing ultimate ownership of investors, investigating money laundering, setting up open and interconnected public registers and databases, e-government.
- What are the best sources of information and redflags for measuring corruption risks in these areas?
- What type of CSO-lead tools and monitoring will be useful to the public authorities?

Questions for Group 2: Tackling state capture vulnerabilities

- What types of methodologies are missing or not efficiently used? Where should our analysis focus:
 - lack of integrity, impartiality and private interest bias at the public bodies – the judiciary and media outlets, ministries, state agencies, and regulators;
 - political and institutional capture by private interests;
 - business capture and monopolisation pressure (from national and foreign companies, lobbyist laws, use of legal gaps, political pressure by big investors);
 - media capture, administrative and judicial corruption;
 - direct subsidies and anti-monopoly laws; privileged access to procurement ("strategic investor").
- What are the best sources of information and redflags for measuring state capture risks in these areas?
- What type of CSO-lead tools and monitoring will be useful to the public authorities?

Questions for Group 3: Public procurement governance

- What methodologies are currently used by the government bodies to prevent fraud, corruption and bias in the public procurement area?
- How could the redflags methodology of Opentender.eu be effectively used for fighting corruption in public procurement in the region?
- How could the methodology and redflags of Opentender.eu be improved? What new redflags could be developed to detect suspicions/high-risk public procurement contracts?
- Discussion on availability of procurement data at the country level and possibilities for cross-border merging and comparison of data.

The R2G4P project, coordinated by the Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria benefits from a € 1.5 million grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation. The aim of the project is to implement shared anti-corruption and good governance solutions in Southeast Europe through innovative practices and public-private partnerships.