



REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE

Regional Conference

Southeast Europe Together Against Corruption: Developing Regional Resilience

20 February 2024, Hotel Hills, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Conference Overview

The Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has been implementing a 3-year Regional Programme "*Southeast Europe – Together Against Corruption (SEE-TAC)*". The Programme is funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and covers the Southeast Europe (SEE) region.

The final conference of the SEE-TAC programme serves as a momentous occasion to celebrate the collective achievements and efforts in combatting corruption and building anticorruption resilience in the region. Bringing together government officials, civil society representatives, private sector members and other project stakeholders, the event will provide a platform for reflection on achievements, sharing valuable insights, and strategizing for the future sustainable anti-corruption activities.

Additionally, esteemed experts will leverage this opportunity to present their findings, offering insightful recommendations that pave the way for the next steps in the programme's evolution. By fostering a dynamic exchange between beneficiaries and experts, the conference becomes a catalyst for collaborative decision-making and continuous improvement within the program framework.

The SEE-TAC Programme, implemented from November 2020 to the present, was designed to achieve six key outcomes, all contributing to the overarching goal. These outcomes involved strengthening Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) mechanisms, fortifying Corruption Proofing of Legislation (CPL) in specific jurisdictions, and advancing asset disclosure systems through regional cooperation and the signing of the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for Verification of Asset Declarations. The Programme also aimed to raise public awareness in the region about corruption prevention and relevant entities. Additionally, it focused on empowering Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders by enhancing their capacities, knowledge, and engagement in implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Finally, the project sought to foster increased collaboration and knowledge-sharing among CSOs, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and Chambers of Commerce, particularly in the areas of collective action and compliance.

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Conference Agenda

10:00 – 10:30 *Registration and welcome coffee*

10:30 – 11:00 *Opening remarks*

H.E. Ulrike Hartmann, Ambassador of Austria to BiH

Ms. Mirella Dummar Frahi, Chief of the Civil Society Unit, UNODC

Mr. Dražen Jelenić, Chairperson, RAI

Moderator: Ms. Desislava Gotskova, Head of Secretariat, RAI

Group photo

11:00 – 12:45 Panel I: *Anti-corruption preventive mechanisms and tools - good practices and case studies*

11:00 – 12:00 Strengthening the asset disclosure systems through enhanced regional cooperation. The International Treaty of Exchange of Data for Verification of Asset Declarations.

Panelists:

Mr. Vitalie Armasu, Main Specialist, National Integrity Authority, Moldova

Ms. Biljana Karakashova Shulev, State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, North Macedonia

Mr. Vadym Peheta, Head of the International Legal Obligations, Bilateral Cooperation and Experience Exchange Unit, National Agency on Corruption Prevention, Ukraine

Mr. Esmir Berhamović, RAI Technical Expert - Consultant

Moderator: Nikola Naumovski, Senior Anti-corruption Advisor, RAI Secretariat

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12:00 – 12:45 Optimizing Governance: Sectorial Approach to Corruption Risk Assessment and Corruption Proofing of Legislation

Panelists:

Ms. Rovena Pregja, Director of Programs and Projects in Anti-Corruption, Ministry of Justice, Albania

Representative of the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption (APIK), Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Yll Buleshkaj, Director of the Anti-Corruption Agency, Kosovo*

Mr. Jovan Nicić, RAI Expert/Consultant on CRA & CPL

Moderator: Nikola Naumovski, Senior Anti-corruption Advisor, RAI Secretariat

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 15:30 Panel II: Together against Corruption – examples of collective actions implemented in SEE

Panelists:

Ms. Ardita Seknaj, Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce, Albania

Mr. Zoran Ilieski, Executive Director, Coalition of Youth Organizations SEGA, North Macedonia

Ms. Danella Newman, Project Manager, UNCAC Coalition

Ms. Alma Fejzić, Legal Advisor and Project Manager, Center for the Development of Youth Activism CROA, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms. Snezhana Kamilovska Trpovska, Project Coordinator, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), North Macedonia

Moderator: Viktorija Nesterovaite, Programme Officer, Civil Society Unit of UNODC

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30 Panel III: Advancing Regional Cooperation in Developing Resilience to Corruption – discussion and conclusions

Unlocking the Progress: Insights and Recommendations from Phase I and Phase II of the Regional Programme SEE TAC – Ms. Coralie Pring and Ms. Suzanne Mulcahy, External Evaluators

* 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.

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Discussion

Panelists:

Ms. Snežana Trajanovska, Director, Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative- MARRI

Mr. Denis Piplaš, Deputy Secretary General, Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)

Ms. Daniela Mineva, Senior Analyst, SELDI, Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD),

Mr. Aleksandar Đorđević, Regional Anti-corruption Specialist, UNODC Programme Office in Serbia

Ms. Desislava Gotskova, Head of Secretariat, RAI

Moderator: Mr. Harun Karčić, Executive Producer, Al Jazeera Balkans

18:00 Cocktail Reception

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