

The role of the National Coordinator Against Corruption

The Minister of Justice, in their role as the National Coordinator Against Corruption, is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption (ISAC). The vision of this strategy is to create transparent institutions, with high integrity, that enjoy the trust of citizens and that guarantee qualitative and non-corrupt services. This vision has been adopted in three approaches, preventive, punitive and awareness-raising, against corruption.

Pursuant to the awareness-raising measures and activities, the Ministry of Justice, each year drafts the Anti-Corruption Communication and Visibility Strategy. Through it, the Ministry aims to reach different audiences, within and outside public institutions and to build a new relationship with citizens, based on mutual trust, in the prevention and fight against corruption. The electronic newsletter is a broad communication tool that aims to inform through a summary of the main anticorruption activities carried out by the Ministry of Justice in, on a monthly basis.

Activities in June, 2021

The Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on "Challenges and Measures to Prevent and Combat Corruption"

02-04.06.2021. The Minister of Justice / National Coordinator Against Corruption participated in the proceedings of the UN General Assembly Special Session on Combating Corruption, held in New York. This session was conducted for the first time by the UN and was focused on discussing the importance of preventive measures and international cooperation to strengthen the fight against corruption. The efforts of the Albanian Government in the prevention and fight against corruption, the commitment at national and international level to find new ways and means to fight corruption, the establishment and functioning of new bodies in the fight against corruption and organized crime as part of punitive anti-corruption efforts were the reference of the speech delivered at this Assembly by the Minister of Justice. At the end of the 3-day session, the member states adopted a joint political statement on preventive measures and international cooperation to strengthen



The Regional High-Level Forum for the adoption of the Regional Roadmap "Anti-Corruption and Illicit Financing"

21-25.06.2021. The Ministry of Justice, in its role as the National Coordinator Against Corruption, participated in the high-level meeting of the representatives (technical and political) of the Western Balkan countries, held in Ohrid, to approve the Regional Roadmap on "Anti-Corruption and Illicit Financing", as a joint and coordinated regional to fight corruption. The roadmap is based on the commitments made by the Western Balkan countries at the London Summit, in the framework of the Berlin Process and the outcome of the first Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly against Corruption (UNGASS). In this meeting, the Albanian representatives reaffirmed the full commitment of the Albanian Government and the Ministry of Justice to strengthen the fight against corruption and lawlessness, as well as the willingness to share the best practices with the neighboring countries in the region.



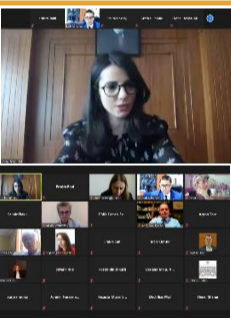
The signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and the Italian Embassy in Tirana, for the piloting of the anti-corruption module

15.06.2021. The Minister of Justice, in their role as the National Coordinator Against Corruption, the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth and the Italian Embassy in Tirana, signed a cooperation agreement for the piloting of an educational project in the field of anti-corruption. This project will be implemented for the first time, through an anti-corruption module, in pre-university educational institutions starting this September. It aims to prevent corruption, by raising the awareness of students at an early age and promoting integrity. The strategic cooperation of the three institutions is the first step in combining the legal expertise, the expertise in the field of education, as well as the best practices from Italy, to promote the participation of and increase the inclusion of all actors of the society, with a particular focus on the younger generations, in the fight against corruption.



The meeting of the Coordinating Committee for the adoption of the first quarterly monitoring report of ISAC

17.06.2021. The Coordinating Committee for the Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption held its first meeting for the 2021 reporting period, where they adopted the Quarterly Monitoring Report for the January-March 2021 period. The meeting was attended by representatives of the institutions involved in the strategy, representatives of civil society organizations, as well as representatives of donors and international strategic partners. During the meeting, the committee also discussed the progress of the work on drafting and adopting Integrity Plans in central governmental institutions, as one of the measures of the current Action Plan of ISAC, as well as one of the recommendations of GRECO.



Meetings of the Working Group for the evaluation and establishment of the Albanian Asset Recovery Office

14.06.2021. The Working Group for the establishment of the Albanian Asset Recovery Office, established by the Order of the Prime Minister, No. 49, dated 23.05.2021, held its first two meetings, respectively on the 14th and 30th of June. The focus of this group is the analysis of the existing legal framework, the assessment of the need for legal changes, as well as the assessment of the establishment, organization, and the structure of the Asset Recovery Office in relation to its functional and financial subordination and its area of competence. The establishment of this office is in line with the measures set out in the Action Plan of the ISAC, as well as in compliance with the recommendations of the European Commission reports. The working group is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Justice and it includes representatives from the General Prosecutor's Office, SPAK, State Police, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Agency for Administration of Seized and Confiscated Assets. The decision-making process will be part of an open discussion with internal and external actors in the field, as well as civil society actors.



The start of the training cycle for the anti-corruption focal points

18.06.2021. The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with and the support of the European Union Technical Assistance Project for the National Coordinator Against Corruption and the ASPA, started the training cycle for the anti-corruption focal points. The training aims to provide full knowledge regarding the process of reporting and monitoring of the Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption, to all anti-corruption focal points within the institutions identified in the strategy. The main objective of this training cycle is to improve the quality of reporting, in accordance with national and international standards, strengthening capacities in the design and implementation of anti-corruption mechanisms, use of instruments such as integrity, ethics and rules of conduct, whistleblowers, and anti-corruption communication tools. Three training sessions were held during June, 2021 on the 18th, 21st and 29th respectively.



The training of the Working Group for the drafting of the Integrity Plan in the General Directorate of Prisons

24.06.2021. The Ministry of Justice, in its role as the National Coordinator Against Corruption in cooperation with the Technical Assistance Project of the European Union, conducted a one-day training with the members of the working group for the drafting of the Integrity Plan in the General Directorate of Prisons. Participants were introduced to the methodology of integrity risk assessment in central governmental institutions, the process of identifying risk factors and the process of designing of specific measures to address them. The drafting and adoption of Integrity Plans in all subordinate institutions of the Ministry of Justice is one of the measures of the Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption, envisaged to be fulfilled by the end of 2021.



"Whistle for the End", Breaking the Silence to stop corruption!

10.06.2021. The Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, with the financial support of the European Union, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, as the National Coordinator Against Corruption, the High Inspectorate of the Declaration and Control of Assets and Conflict of Interest, as well as the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, organized the "Whistle for the End" event, to promote the role of whistleblowers in the fight against corruption. Through their participation in this event, by blowing the whistle in a symbolic way, the citizens of Tirana managed to save approximately 20,509,200 Lek which could be invested to improve the life of and services to Albanian citizens. The activity took place in an open environment in Tirana, in the presence of citizens and it had an interesting mechanism: as soon as the alarm was raised in case of corruption, the grinding of the banknotes (which symbolizes corruption) would also stop. With this activity, Tirana joined the capitals of the Western Balkans in this initiative.

