

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 July, 2021

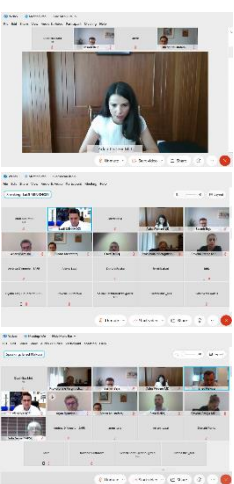
The High-Level Conference on “Challenges and opportunities in fighting corruption and fostering integrity”

05.07.2021. The Ministry of Justice, in its role as the National Coordinator Against Corruption, held a high-level conference on "Challenges and opportunities in the fight against corruption and fostering integrity". The conference was held in two panels on (1) "Challenges and opportunities in the punitive approach to corruption" and (2) "Challenges and opportunities in preventing corruption and fostering integrity". In the discussions of Panel 1, the focus was placed on the importance of punishing corruption cases and the intensification of interventions by law enforcement institutions was requested. Panel 1 was chaired by the Minister of Justice, Mrs. Etilda Gjonaj, with the participation of the leaders of SPAK, Mr. Arben Kraja and BKH, Mrs. Aida Hajnaj, the Ambassador of the European Union in Tirana, Mr. Luigi Soreca and the Permanent Legal Adviser of the Department of Justice at the US Embassy, Mr. Clay Stiffler. The special guest of Panel 1 was the Chief Prosecutor of the Romanian National Anti-Corruption Division, Mr. Crin Bologna, who presented data on the activity of the anti-corruption prosecution in Romania. Panel 2 was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Justice, Mrs. Adea Pirdeni, with the participation of the Ambassador of Italy in Albania, Mr. Fabrizio Bucci, the Executive Secretary of GRECO, Mrs. Hane Juncher and the Head of the RAI Secretariat, Mrs. Desislava Gotskova, who brought the experience of the organizations they lead and expressed their support as Albania's strategic partners for further strengthening the fight against corruption.



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

14.07.2021. The working Group for the establishment of the Albanian Office of Asset Recovery (ARO), established by the Prime Minister's Order no. 49, dated 28.05.2021, continued the meetings during July, respectively on 14, 16 and 30. The focus of these meetings has been the analysis of the existing legal framework, the assessment of the needs for possible legal changes, as well as the assessment of the establishment and organization of the structure of the Asset Recovery Office in relation to its organizational and financial dependence, as well as the area of competence. The group has considered several European models of the organization and function of asset recovery institutions, as well as concrete proposals from various guests. On the July 30th meeting, three models of ARO attachment were presents, namely to the Special Structure Against Corruption, to the General Prosecutor's Office and to the State Police. The group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each model. Members of the working group, are expected to agree on the most suitable solution for Albania. Decision-making will be part of an open discussion with internal and external actors in the field, as well as civil society actors. The establishment of this office is in line with the measures set out in the Action Plan of the Inter-Sectorial Strategy Against Corruption, as well as in compliance with the recommendations of the European Commission reports.



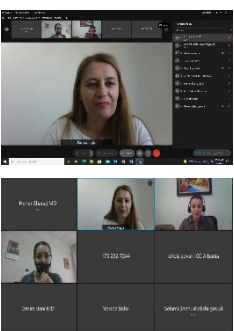
The monitoring and drafting of the Draft Semi-Annual Monitoring Report of the Action Plan of the Inter-Sectorial Strategy Against Corruption

01.07.2021. The Technical Secretariat of the National Coordinator Against Corruption at the Ministry of Justice has started the monitoring process and drafting the semi-annual monitoring report of the Action Plan, 2020-2023, in implementation of the Inter-Sectorial Strategy Against Corruption, for the January-June 2021 period. Monitoring is being carried out in close cooperation with the responsible institutions of the Action Plan, in accordance with the planned activities. The draft monitoring report aims to present in a substantive and quantitative way the progress made by all reporting institutions for the implementation of measures/activities of the Inter-Sectorial Strategy Against Corruption, the level of achievement of indicators, as well as the implementation of the recommendations left in the past report. This is the second monitoring report for 2021, of the Action Plan in implementation of the Inter-Sectorial Strategy Against Corruption. The draft Semi-Annual Report will be subject to a period of institutional consultation with all reporting institutions as well as consultation with the public and CSOs.



The drafting and public consultation of the Draft-Methodological Instrument for the Monitoring of the Integrity Plan for Central Governmental Institutions

07.07.2021. The Ministry of Justice, in accordance with the National Action Plan 2020-2022 of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), specifically with reference point no. 9, priority measure no. 2, commitment no.1 of the thematic anti-corruption component, drafted the Draft-Methodological Instrument for the Monitoring of the Integrity Plan for Central Governmental Institutions. This document will serve the Ministry of Justice to monitor the implementation of its Institutional Integrity Plan, as well as anticipates the monitoring needs of other central institutions, which are in the process of drafting their Institutional Integrity Plans. The document underwent a public consultation process in accordance with the principle of co-drafting of policy documents with active civil society organizations (CSO) in the country. Following its publication on the official website of the Ministry of Justice, a dedicated consultative meeting was held with CSOs, whose comments and suggestions were fully reflected in the document.



The training cycle for the anti-corruption focal points

06.07.2021. The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with and the support of the European Union Technical Assistance Project for the National Coordinator Against Corruption and ASPA, completed the first part of the training cycle for anti-corruption focal points. The main objective of this training cycle is to strengthen the capacities for anti-corruption focal points in public administration bodies. Throughout the first part of this cycle, June-July, anti-corruption contact points were trained on prevention issues and the best anti-corruption practices, coordination models and job descriptions of anti-corruption focal points, planning and monitoring of anti-corruption strategies, and action plans, drafting and developing performance and impact indicators, as well as the ethics and integrity of the civil servant. The second part of the training cycle will continue in September 2021.



The introductory Workshop on Policy Coordination Analysis in Albania

15-16.07.2021. Heads of the Directorate of Programs and Projects in the Field of Anti-Corruption in the Ministry of Justice, participated in the seminar held by the Regional School of Public Administration, on the Policy Coordination Analysis in Albania. This activity took place following the publication of the study on "Policy Coordination in the Western Balkans". The main purpose of this activity was to present the findings of the analysis, as well as recommendations for addressing the problems identified in the region in general, and in Albania in particular, for efficient implementation and effective coordination between strategic policies in the country. The event addressed issues such as: development of legal and institutional frameworks for policy coordination, evaluation of the role of international institutions in policy coordination in Albania, coordination of PAR and PFM strategies with field strategies, approximation of policy planning with budget planning, coordination of central institutions, recommendations for improving the policy coordination mechanism, as well as strengthening strategic planning based on factual data. The seminar contributed to further the development of the technical and professional capacities of the staff of the directorate, where the plans of policies and action documents in the field of anti-corruption are created, coordinated and consolidated.

