

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 standards of integrity, that enjoy the trust of citizens and that guarantee qualitative and incorruptible services. This vision has been adopted into three approaches: preventive, punitive and awareness-raising against corruption.

Pursuant to the awareness-raising measures and activities, each year the Ministry of Justice, 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, on a monthly basis.

Activities in October, 2021

The establishment of the General Directorate of Anticorruption at the National Coordinator Against Corruption

20.10.2021. The National Coordinator Against Corruption will have an organized, dedicated and specialized structure with the aim of performing its functions, pursuant to the DCoM No.618, dated 20.10.2021 "For the establishment, organization and functioning of the Network of Coordinators against Corruption". As part of this structure at the Ministry of Justice, the General Directorate of Anticorruption will exercise competences related to the preventative – punitive – awareness-raising areas. This structure will lead the process of drafting strategic policies and legal frameworks in the anticorruption field; will coordinate the conduct of projects and programs for the implementation of the strategic and legal framework in the anticorruption field; and it will also have competences in auditing and tackling corruption in public institutions. The structure will represent the National Coordinator and the Albanian Government in their commitments to combating corruption.



The new DCoM is accessible via this link: <http://qbz.gov.al/eli/vendim/2021/10/20/618>

The adoption of the Monitoring Report of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption, for the January-June 2021 period

25.10.2021. The Coordination Committee for the Implementation of the Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption adopted the Semi-Annual Monitoring Report for the period of January-June 2021, of the Action Plan 2020-2023. The meeting of the committee was chaired by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Ulsi Manja, in the presence of the deputy ministers of the line ministries, in charge of the anticorruption portfolio. The Semi-Annual Monitoring Report provides detailed information on the progress of the implementation of measures, activities and performance indicators. The report also identifies problems in implementing the action plan, recommendations, as well as tasks for the implementing institutions. For this period, 26 measures and 56 activities have been fully implemented, 24 measures and 22 activities have been partially implemented, and 11 measures and 28 activities were not implemented.

The Semi-Annual Monitoring Report 2021 can be accessed via this link: <https://www.drejtesia.gov.al/viti2021/>

The meeting with subordinate institutions of the Ministry of Justice for the introduction of the Manual for the Integrity Risk Assessment in Central Institutions

14.10.2021. The Ministry of Justice, in the role of the coordinating institution for the integrity risk assessment process and Integrity Plan drafting in its subordinate institutions, in cooperation with the Technical Assistance Project of the European Union Delegation (TA EUD), held a dedicated meeting with the representatives of these institutions. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Justice, Ms. Adea Pirdeni. The Manual for the Integrity Risk Assessment in Central Institutions was drafted by the experts of the TA EUD Project and was presented by them in this meeting. The manual is a short and clear synthesis of the Methodology for the Integrity Risk Assessment in Central Institutions, adopted by the Order of the Minister of Justice No.334, dated 07.10.2020. During the meeting, the TA EUD expert gave an extensive presentation on the entire risk assessment process and specific advice for the drafting of the Integrity Plan. The manual will serve subordinate institutions to better structure their institutional risk assessment process and the drafting of effective Integrity Plans.

The manual will be accessible after publication via this link: <https://www.drejtesia.gov.al/instrumente-antikorrupsioni/>



The launch meeting for Albania of the OECD Report on "Competitiveness in Southeast Europe: A Policy Outlook 2021"

18.10.2021. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) held a launch meeting for Albania, presenting the results of the Report on "Competitiveness in Southeast Europe: A Policy Outlook 2021". The report is composed of 16 dimensions, through which the competitive ability of each of the region's countries is assessed. In the dimension of anticorruption policies, the report particularly praises the corruption prevention efforts in Albania. In this dimension of the report, Albania has received a higher score than the average score of the region. The report has praised the key role of the Directorate of Programs and Projects in the Field of Anticorruption regarding the planning, coordination and monitoring of this field's policies. The strategic priority that Albania has given to the funding from the state budget of the awareness raising activities has been viewed in positive light. The report also contains general recommendations to increase the country's competitiveness.

The OECD report is accessible via this link: <https://www.oecd.org/publications/competitiveness-in-south-east-europe-2021-dcbc2ea9-en.htm>

The training cycle for the anti-corruption focal points

26.10.2021. The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation and with the support of the European Union Technical Assistance Project to the National Coordinator Against Corruption and ASPA, started the second part of the training cycle for the anticorruption focal points. The main objective of this training cycle was to strengthen the capacities of the anticorruption focal points in the public administration bodies. This training session was focused on the process of the integrity risk assessment and the drafting of the Integrity Plan in central institutions. The session had an interactive character and participants were directly engaged by giving concrete examples from their institutions. The process of the integrity risk assessment and the drafting of the Integrity Plan for central institutions is a priority and the trainer's technical advice and recommendations in this session will serve this process positively.



The meetings with the responsible institutions for the implementation of the GRECO recommendations of the fifth evaluation round

27.10.2021. The Ministry of Justice, in its capacity as the responsible structure for the institutional coordination of the implementation of recommendations and reporting to GRECO, after monitoring the current performance of this process, held three special meetings with some of the institutions responsible for the recommendations of the fifth round of evaluation. Representatives of the High Inspectorate of the Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflict of Interests, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Interior, State Police, External Evaluation Commission and Service for Internal Affairs and Complaints, participated in these meetings. Institutions reported on the performance of the implementation of measures taken within the framework of implementing GRECO recommendations. The meeting served for the discussion and agreement on technical issues of the process, as well as for a concrete calendar for future meetings in terms of inter-institutional cooperation for the priority implementation of these recommendations.

The partners' meeting for the third edition of the Week of Integrity

08.10.2021. The Ministry of Justice, as the National Coordinator Against Corruption, participated in the partners' meeting for the third edition of the Week of Integrity, held by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Albania. The Week of Integrity is a national awareness-raising campaign, which aims at promoting the culture of integrity in Albania in both, the public and the private sector. The third edition of the Week of Integrity will take place on December 1-10, 2021. The main objective of this meeting was the planning, coordination and cooperation for the proposed activities of the third edition. During this edition, the Ministry of Justice will hold two respective forums with the civil society organizations and the business community. These forums will have an informative and awareness-raising character, especially focusing on the new changes in the anticorruption institutional framework and the opportunities for direct contribution in the fight against corruption through the use of new mechanisms.

