

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 April, 2022

Anticorruption Coordinating Committee approves the Monitoring Report, 2021, of the Anticorruption Action Plan

13.04.2022. The Coordinating Committee for the implementation of the Cross-cutting Anti-Corruption Strategy, approved the 2021 annual monitoring report of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan. 2021 was the 7th year of implementation of the Cross-cutting Anti-Corruption Strategy and the 3rd of the Action Plan in force. This monitoring report provides complete and evaluative information on the progress of 18 specific objectives for the three approaches of prevention-punishment- awareness against corruption. During 2021, 64 measures and 119 activities were implemented, of which 37 measures / 77 activities were fully implemented, 20 measures / 16 activities were partially implemented and 7 measures / 26 activities were not implemented. For 37 performance indicators, 21 of them were fully achieved (100%), 4 were partially achieved (50%) and 12 were not achieved. The level of implementation of the Strategy for this year of implementation is 71.47%. Sectors that have made progress this year are transparency of public authorities, digitalization of electronic services, integrity of public servants, control of political party finances, cooperation and efficiency of law enforcement agencies, awareness and cooperation with the public in the fight against corruption.



Annual Monitoring Report, 2021 can be accessed at this link: <https://www.drejtesia.gov.al/viti2021/>

The Ministry of Justice continues the work for drafting the new Cross-cutting Strategy against Corruption, 2023-2030

1-29.04.2022. The Ministry of Justice has continued the work for drafting the new Cross-cutting Strategy against Corruption, 2023-2030. The working group has intensively continued the work for drafting the concept document of the Cross-cutting Anti-Corruption Strategy, 2023-2030. The Ministerial Working Group in close cooperation with the technical expertise of the European Delegation in Tirana (Technical Assistance Project for the National Coordinator against Corruption) has finalized the first draft of the new concept document, the vision of which is expected to be: Public institutions that operate in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, transparency and public accountability, and provide efficient services to citizens. The new Anti-Corruption Strategy will have a comprehensive approach (prevention-punishment mechanisms-awareness) and will confirm institutional cooperation in the field. The process is being carried out in coordination with other institutions such as ministries, independent bodies, law enforcement agencies with which the document is being consulted in advance. Soon, the Ministry of Justice will start developing open consultation tables on the document.



All line ministries approve integrity plans; GRECO recommendation No.2 is met

29.04.2022. The 10 line ministries have fully replicated the experience of the Ministry of Justice and have approved the Institutional Integrity Plans, 2022-2025. The 10 line ministries under the direct coordination of the Ministry of Justice and in open cooperation with civil society organizations have completed the integrity risk assessment and drafted and approved integrity plans with a duration of 4 years. These anti-corruption instruments have taken into account specific areas of activity and organization of these central institutions, where the focus has been the areas of transparency, human resources, financial management and internal control as well as the regulatory framework of the field. The approval of integrity plans in all ministries thus fulfills recommendation no. 2 of the evaluation report, round V, that GRECO has made to Albania in 2020, by April 2022. These integrity instruments are an added tool of control of institutional performance, transparency and accountability that central public authorities must perform and implement. All Ministries' Integrity Plans are published and can be accessed directly on the websites of each of the 10 ministries.



Integrity Coordinators under the Ministry of Justice begin the process of implementing Integrity Plans

6.04.2022. The Ministry of Justice gathers 12 Integrity Coordinators in all its subordinate institutions and requests the implementation of the Integrity Plans. With the adoption of these anti-corruption instruments in all subordinations of the Ministry of Justice in December 2021, and the start of their implementation, in accordance with the time forecasts, the appointed integrity coordinators were acquainted with their role and duties as followers and guarantors of the implementation of integrity plans at their institutions. The meeting explained the process of monitoring these instruments, namely the Methodology of Monitoring Integrity Plans in central institutions, based on which and implementation of monitoring reports on the implementation of integrity plans will be enabled. Monitoring will be done on an annual basis and will serve to assess these instruments as well as the progress they will bring to institutional performance. Strengthening integrity in public administration has currently entered a new phase of concrete implementation.



Government Cabinet political officials training on Ministerial Code of Ethics and integrity rules

28.04.2022. The Ministry of Justice in exercising its role as the leading institution for anti-corruption policies, organized a training for political advisors at all cabinet offices, on: Ethics Management and Integrity Plans in Public Administration. Political staff members, cabinet directors and advisers to 12 ministerial cabinets participated in the training session focusing on awareness and information on integrity issues in public administration, Integrity Plans and the Ministerial Code of Ethics. This training session was conducted in cooperation with the Technical Assistance Project of the European Union Delegation in Tirana, in the field of anti-corruption and with the Albanian School of Public Administration, as part of the anti-corruption curriculum component. The legal framework for integrity, rules and obligations deriving from the Ministerial Code of Ethics for political officials as well as their commitment in ensuring a better performance of ministries for more transparency and accountability were the focus of this meeting.



"Anti-Corruption Curriculum" in secondary schools, Tirana in activity with students

11 – 12.04.2022. The project "Anti-corruption curriculum" in high schools in Tirana has entered the 3rd phase of its implementation. High school students, "Petro N. Luarasi", "Qemal Stafa", "Asim Vokshi", "Myslym Keta" have held discussion sessions and interaction with experts in the field of anti-corruption organization "Avviso Pubblico" in Italy, the main partner of this project for the Ministry of Justice. Four meetings in the classes of 4 schools raised the students' interest in the ways in which corruption should be denounced and opposed. Applying proactive anti-corruption methods, such as exercising mechanisms in cases where they are required to pay bribes, not receiving service for this reason, delays and the conditions in which they and their families may find themselves were matters of discussion with students. Students were invited to be part of the project by presenting their original ideas on how corruption can be combated. The closing session of this project will take place before the end of the academic year 2021-2022.



Ministry of Justice anti-corruption awareness campaign with students of the Academy of Arts

21.04.2022 The Ministry of Justice, together with representatives of the Technical Assistance Project, held an awareness and information meeting in the auditoriums of the Academy of Arts, in Tirana on the role of the National Coordinator Against Corruption in Albania. The participating officials highlighted the importance of fighting corruption through a preventive, punitive and awareness-raising approach. They also focused on explaining the anti-corruption reporting mechanisms, the cases of control, verification and punishment of the responsible authors. Through their artistic works, students of the Academy of Arts were invited to become partners in the common fight against corruption, by creating a new approach to this phenomenon and raising the level of awareness in public communities.



The Ministry of Justice follows and informs the counterpart agencies in the region about the anti-corruption commitments

7 - 8.04.2022 The Ministry of Justice, as the authority responsible for Anti-Corruption, participated in the next meeting of the Steering Group of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), in Sofia, Bulgaria. At this meeting were discussed joint regional anti-corruption initiatives with preventive effects such as the declaration of assets of public officials, coordination of anti-corruption awareness activities and coordination of initiatives with other authorities in the field. Organizing the Anti-Corruption Summer School for young administration professionals, coordinating training on corruption risk assessment in the field of education and public enterprises, and assessing the scope for corruption that the country's laws may have, which is expected to take place in May, in Tirana, were topics of reconciliation and anti-corruption partnership with a direct impact on the fight against corruption.

More information can also be found at this link: <https://rai-see.org/37th-rai-steering-group-meeting/>

