

The role of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator

The Minister of Justice, in the role of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator, coordinates the work for the drafting of policies and the preparation of legal and by-laws for the prevention and fight against corruption.

The National Anti-Corruption Coordinator is responsible for verifying (administrative investigation) denunciations/complaints about abusive, corrupt or arbitrary practices for the implementation of law, as well as identifying employees of institutions, part of the Network of Coordinators, who, by actions or omissions, have committed violations of legal/sublegal acts in force, as well as simultaneously the development of projects and programs in the field of anti-corruption, planning, coordination and determination of necessary instruments for the implementation of policies in the field of anti-corruption.

The electronic newsletter is a broad communication tool that aims to inform by reflecting a summary of the main activities developed by the Ministry of Justice in the anti-corruption field, on a monthly basis.

Activities of September 2022

Explanatory meetings for chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights are held in Brussels

26-27.09.2022: The two-day explanatory meetings for the Albanian institutions, responsible for the follow-up and implementation of the *acquis*, chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights, were held in Brussels. The Minister of State and the Chief Negotiator of the Republic of Albania, Ms. Majlinda Dhuka and the Deputy Minister of Justice, negotiator for chapter 23, Ms. Adea Pirdeni, led the delegation of the Government of Albania in the first explanatory meetings. The team consisting of directors and technical representatives of the institutions of the Parliament of Albania, the Central Election Commission, the Agency for the Protection of Civil Society were introduced on the first day of the meeting with the explanation of the legislation of the European Union in the field of guaranteeing the rule of law, the electoral process, the functioning of elected representative and executive bodies, as well as the creation of an enabling environment for the participation of civil society in decision-making processes. The meeting continued on the second day with explanations about institutions in the field of justice, anti-corruption policies, protection of personal data, non-discrimination, children's rights, media freedom. Participants were leaders and representatives of the General Prosecutor's Office, the Special Anti-Corruption Structure, the High Inspector of Justice, the Ministry of Justice, the Commissioner for the Right to Information, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, etc. The process will continue in November with the development of bilateral meetings where Albania will report and inform Brussels experts about the regulatory framework, institutional development and other statistical data.



More information can be found in the link: <https://www.facebook.com/drejtesia.gov.al>

Sectors at risk of corruption, lobbying, anti-corruption awareness and education, as specific objectives of the anti-corruption strategy, 2023-2030

Titulli i Sektorit	Risiku i Korrupsionit	Objektivat e Strategjisë	Veprimet e Propozuara	Termini i Përcaktuar
Administrata Publike	Abuzimi i fuqisë së detyrës, shpërdorimi i burimeve publike, shpërndarja e favorizimeve.	Reformimi i procedurave të punës, zbatim i standardeve të larta të integritetit.	Shpërndarja e kodit të etikës, zbatimi i mekanizmit të llobyimit.	2023-2025
Shërbimet Publike	Abuzimi i fuqisë së detyrës, shpërdorimi i burimeve publike, shpërndarja e favorizimeve.	Reformimi i procedurave të punës, zbatim i standardeve të larta të integritetit.	Shpërndarja e kodit të etikës, zbatimi i mekanizmit të llobyimit.	2023-2025
Shërbimet Financiare	Abuzimi i fuqisë së detyrës, shpërdorimi i burimeve publike, shpërndarja e favorizimeve.	Reformimi i procedurave të punës, zbatim i standardeve të larta të integritetit.	Shpërndarja e kodit të etikës, zbatimi i mekanizmit të llobyimit.	2023-2025

1-30.09.2022: The Ministry of Justice is continuing the process of drafting and completing the draft strategic package of the Cross-Sectoral Strategy Against Corruption, 2023-2030. During September, the passport of indicators was composed and it has already started the drafting of the first action plan, for the years 2023 - 2025. The draft document is in the process of technical consultation and discussion with the technical expertise of policy-making, law-enforcement and communication institutions to consolidate a comprehensive strategic and planning document that will materialize the government's priorities in the fight against corruption. The technical working group cooperates with the technical expertise of the Delegation of the European Union in Tirana, and has addressed in the content of the strategy the recommendations given to the country in the progress report of the last years. Sectors with corruption risk, the strengthening of the regulatory framework against corruption, the establishment of lobbying mechanisms and increased control in the authorities that exercise administrative powers are specific objectives, innovations in the future strategy. Increased anti-corruption communication and visibility and prioritization of research and analytical capacities within policy-making have an increased attention, also in this document. In the following, the draft strategy will undergo a second phase of public consultation, during the month of October 2022. Through this process, we intend to design a framework as comprehensive as possible, which will reflect the vision of the Albanian government for the 2030 objectives of the fight against corruption at the national level.

The draft concept document of the Anticorruption Strategy 2023-2030 can be found at: <https://www.drejtesia.gov.al/strategjia-ndersektoriale-kunder-korrupsionit/>

Recovery of criminal assets, strategic and operational field interventions gather experts from the Western Balkans region in Tirana

13-14.09.2022: The fight against corruption is in constant coordination even at the level of regional cooperation. With the initiative of UNODC and as a component of the project that is being implemented in the 6 countries of the Western Balkans, "From illicit financial flows to the recovery of assets", a regional forum was held in Tirana, on the establishment and creation of the strategic and institutional structure of asset recovery and increasing their capacities for mutual legal assistance. Representatives of Asset Recovery offices, prosecution offices, police and specialized bodies from North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Albania gathered in this two-day forum to present the function and performance of recovery of criminal assets, the strategic regulatory framework of countries, international cooperation in the field as well as for the creation of a model guide, for mutual legal assistance. The Ministry of Justice in the role of the National Coordinator Against Corruption brought together experts in the field of international jurisdictional cooperation, prosecutors, experts and practitioners of the capture and administration of criminal assets to offer cooperation with the UNODC project and colleagues from other countries. The Mutual Legal Assistance Guide is a summary material that will assist prosecutors and law enforcement officers in following procedures and international judicial institutional cooperation. The guide for Albania and the one for Kosovo were finalized on the second day of the forum and soon the final copy will be shared with practitioners in the field of law.



International cooperation against economic and financial crime and asset recovery brings together the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor's Office and the State Police with CARIN and EUROPOL



20-22.09.2022: UNODC is active and has increased its activity in bringing together professionals and practitioners in the fight against corruption, economic and financial crime and international judicial cooperation, for the countries of the Western Balkans. In Split, Croatia, the regional seminar of 6 Balkan countries took place together with the representatives of the CARIN and EUROPOL networks. Increasing the capacities of police officers who follow and maintain contacts with the homologous bodies of the fight against economic and financial crime, of prosecutors who follow and implement the instruments of the fight against crime, of the authorities who maintain and ensure the exchange of information and judicial practices were the focus of this two-day meeting. The fight against economic and financial crime is closely related to the seizure and confiscation of assets and goods resulting from criminal activity, and cooperation with the CARIN and EUROPOL networks constitutes a requirement and approach to appropriate countermeasures. For two years now, the Ministry of Justice, as the policy-making authority and executive representative against corruption, coordinates cooperation with UNODC, as well as offers the participation of local expertise in these meetings. The recovery of assets resulting from criminal activity requires strategic cooperation and operational support with international organizations.

The review and implementation of the UNCAC brings together policy specialists from the Western Balkans region

27-29.09.2022: The United Nations continues to develop interactive activities with anti-corruption policy specialists. Specialists and practitioners of anti-corruption research and policy-making from the countries of the Western Balkans gathered in a three-day workshop, in Kumbor, Montenegro, on the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and its Review Mechanism. The seminar aimed to develop the capacities of the participants in the recognition, implementation and review mechanisms of UNCAC and to establish a constructive dialogue between civil society and government experts. Through the theoretical framework and practical exercises, participants were provided with essential expertise on the UNCAC provisions required to undergo the review process, as well as to address observations arising from the reviews, the methodology and tools used for reviewing countries, building of capacities to reproduce the



workshop sessions at the national/regional level as well as providing a platform for constructive dialogue and exchange of experiences. The seminar consisted of plenary sessions that enabled participants to contribute through presentations, engage in discussions and exchange information, interacting in order to create concrete learning opportunities for all participants. The Ministry of Justice was represented in this activity by specialists in the field of anti-corruption policies.



Holding seminar for the engagement plan of interested groups

29-30.09.2022: The Ministry of Justice in the role of the National Coordinator Against Corruption in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Union in Tirana organized a training for the management of interested parties. The two-day seminar was conceived for the staff of anti-corruption policies in the ministry and for the members of the Network of Anti-corruption Contact Points in line ministries and in public authorities that are part of the initiatives and engagement of anti-corruption policies. Determining and creating an effective cooperation with interested groups, stakeholders, public institutions and those outside the administration, at the executive and law-enforcement level, is a pillar of support for any policy framework that is programmed to be revised or created from scratch. Stakeholders have an interest and influence in policy initiatives and law-making. This good and efficient practice applied in other countries and with experience gained in these processes, was also offered to this group of practitioners of public bodies in the country, as a good opportunity to perform successfully in the formulation of anti-corruption policies and in the processes of implementation, too. The seminar focused on the drafting of a document: The plan of engagement of interested groups on anti-corruption based on the experience and information provided by the Cross-Sectoral Strategy Against Corruption, in the country. This is the first commitment of the Ministry of Justice for this purpose, showing an additional commitment in its anti-corruption policy-making initiatives.



The anti-corruption activity takes place in Tirana: Masterclass - "From silence to action"

28.09.2022: The public activity: "Masterclass - From silence to action" took place in Tirana, within the framework of the regional project initiated and implemented by the Regional Anticorruption Initiative (RAI). The fight against corruption requires commitment and actions, and whistleblowing and whistleblowers are an instrument that must be promoted and highlighted in society. The activity developed in Tirana in the presence of young people brought attention to the importance and the need to increase participation. The responsible authorities in cooperation with foreign partners highlighted the need to increase communication with the public and the media for whistleblowing, and the protection of the rights of whistleblowers, by setting good examples. Protecting and saving public finances from corruption is the common goal. In this regard, activities and awareness raising to use instruments, is our priority. The activity held in Tirana is part of a round of meetings that started in Sarajevo and were further developed in Skopje. Tirana is a city fully involved in regional anti-corruption events.

