

### 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 October 2022

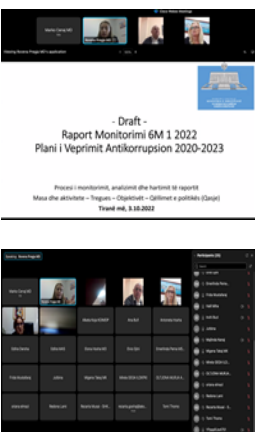
#### The Ministry of Justice is ready for the bilateral meeting with the European Commission, chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights

**01-28.10.2022:** On October 27 and 28, 2022, the simulation exercise was carried out for the presentation of the Albanian Government, within the framework of chapter 23: "Judiciary and fundamental rights". Concrete and sufficient information to ensure a complete, inclusive and effective reporting of the activity that this chapter includes, has been added into a presentation document and will be presented in November to the European Commission's expert team. Participants in this exercise were all the representatives of the contributing institutions responsible for the preparation of this information. Anti-corruption is one of the components of this chapter and will provide detailed data on anti-corruption policies, legal and institutional framework, structural organization and instruments of the fight against corruption in the country. The presentation also includes specific information of other authorities engaged in the fight against corruption in the country such as: the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Control of Assets and Conflict of Interest, the Specialized Structure Against Corruption and Organized Crime, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Central Commission of Elections and the Information and Data Protection Commissioner. The whole process was carried out in cooperation with the SEI project, which assisted the Ministry of Justice in the collection, processing and presentation of data. The final presentation will take place on November 24 and 25, 2022, in Brussels, with the development of bilateral meetings, under the direction of the negotiator for chapter 23, Deputy Minister Adea Pirdeni.



#### The 6-months 2022 monitoring report of the Anticorruption Action Plan is finalized

**04.10.2022:** The Ministry of Justice has finalized the monitoring report, January - June 2022, for the implementation of the Anticorruption Action Plan. At the meeting of the Anticorruption Thematic Technical Group on October 4, 2022, the final monitoring report for the implementation of the anti-corruption action plan, January-June 2022, was discussed and agreed upon the participants. All institutions implementing the action plan agreed on the data and analysis included in this report. According to this monitoring report, the implementation of the Intersectoral Anti-Corruption Strategy for this period is 69.01% and categorised: 84.99 for the preventive approach A; 41.5% for the punitive approach B and 75% for the awareness approach C. For this monitoring period, 56 measures and 103 activities foreseen for implementation were evaluated, as well as 37 performance indicators, which give an important trend in their measurement. This monitoring report will be approved at the meeting of the Anticorruption Thematic Group, led by the Minister of Justice, in November 2022.



#### Institutional technical consultations for the 2023-2030 anti-corruption strategy continue

**17-27.10.2022:** Technical work meetings and consultation with the institutions of the draft document of the Cross-Sectoral Strategy Against Corruption, 2023-2030, and the Action Plan continued throughout October 2022. Special meetings were held with 21 institutions in order to agree on all the constituent elements (indicators and measures) of the document. Adding appropriate capacities at all levels for the management of integrity policies, increasing the contribution of whistleblowing as a tool for building integrity, strengthening mechanisms for the implementation and periodic evaluation of the anti-corruption framework, and overall strengthening of capacities for the knowledge management, are some of the objectives agreed on these joint tables. The Ministry of Justice in the role of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator continues to be closely assisted in this process by the Technical Assistance Project for Anti-Corruption of the Delegation of the European Union in Albania. Soon, the Ministry of Justice will start the public consultation process of the draft document, with interest groups operating in various fields, CSOs, businesses, international partners.



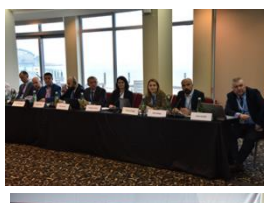
#### The General Directorate of Anticorruption taking measures for cases found in violation of the law

**1-31.10.2022:** The General Directorate of Anticorruption in the Ministry of Justice has conducted a series of administrative investigations at various institutions, part of the Network of Anticorruption Coordinators. Investigations and verifications are mainly carried out and initiated by complaints and denunciations received by the directorate from various sources. At the end of the conducted administrative investigations, final reports and proposals for administrative measures against the officials/employees of these institutions have been proposed. Specifically, in October 2022, the administrative investigation for the National Food Authority and the National Agency of Protected Areas was processed with a final report, for which the responsible persons found in violation were identified, as well as recommendations were left for the institution with the aim of undertaking relevant measures, not only in compliance with the law but also to improve the work activity of these institutions. Currently, the Network of Anti-Corruption Coordinators is continuing its work with the investigation of reported cases, with the aim of intensifying the fight against corruption, near all the institutions that are part of this Network, with the aim of returning the denied rights to citizens, increasing the integrity of the public institutions, and strengthening the applicability of the law, for a "strong and just Albania".



#### The anti-corruption guide, a joint regional initiative

**11-13.11.2022:** The fight against corruption remains under special attention in the countries of the Western Balkan region, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia. The initiative supported by UNODC, the "Anticorruption and Illicit Financing Roadmap", brought together representatives of the executive authorities, policy makers and law enforcement agencies of the Balkan countries, in Dubrovnik, Croatia, to share the experiences of the one-year implementation of this document, as a good way of cooperation to coordinate actions. Public procurement, declaration of assets and private interests and cooperation between law enforcement bodies in the fight against corruption are some of the objectives helping to implement this guide, initiated at the political meeting of the Berlin Summit in 2018 and emerged in a technical document, with the support of UNODC, in June 2021. The countries shared their data and information on the regulatory and institutional framework in the field of public procurement, information on the declaration and the online platform for the declaration of private assets and interests, and information on the activity and data of the Special Prosecutor's Office against Corruption and Organized Crime, State Police and Money Laundering unit. The guide will be reviewed at a technical meeting in November, to be finalized and agreed with the political will of the heads of government of the countries at the regional anti-corruption conference in Skopje, on December 9, 2022.



#### Training for public administration experts who will assist institutions for integrity plans

**25-26.10.2022:** The first group of trainers, employees of public administration bodies, who will inform and assist public institutions in the assessment of integrity risk and the drafting of Integrity Plans, is established. The organization IDM Albania, together with ASPA, held on October 25 and 26, 2022, a training meeting for a group of employees of public institutions and with the aim of preparing them to apply the design and implementation of anti-corruption instruments such as the plans of integrity.





This initiative comes within the project "Strengthening integrity for the improvement of public services". Experts at IDM Albania shared the curriculum prepared for the drafting of integrity plans, based on the legal, regulatory and institutional framework on ethics, prohibition of discrimination, prevention of conflict of interest, declaration of assets of public officials, corruption and protection of whistleblowers and the right to information in the public administration. Part of the process are also the integrity risk assessment methodology and the methodology for monitoring and reporting the integrity plan in the public administration, two floors approved by the Minister of Justice. The group of administration trainers who will offer their expertise in the following are officials of the General Anticorruption Directorate in the Ministry of Justice, representatives from the dependent institutions of this ministry, integrity coordinators in the line ministries, of the High Council of Prosecution, Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data.