

**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 November, 2022**

**The EC-Albania bilateral meeting on Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights takes place in Brussels**

**24-25.11.2022:** Within the process of negotiations for Albania's membership in the European Union, a bilateral meeting between the European Commission and Albania on the analytical review of Chapter 23: "Judiciary and Fundamental Rights" took place in Brussels. The Albanian delegation was chaired by the Minister of State and Chief Negotiator Ms.Dhuka, the negotiator of Chapter 23, Deputy Minister of Justice, Ms.Pirdeni and leaders and senior representatives of justice institutions and public authorities that ensure the implementation of human rights. The Albanian institutions presented to the European Commission the degree of approximation of the Albanian legislation with the EU acquis, the institutional administrative capacities, the practical implementation of the legislation as well as the future plans of the field. Additional information in response to questions posed by the EU were presented in this bilateral meeting, as well. Written information is being prepared for some of the questions, in order to conclude this phase of the process with the report of the chapter that will be addressed to the Albanian government.



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

**GRECO evaluates Albania for the transparency of public officials, integrity policies, declaration of assets and SSACOC**

**28.11.-2.12.2022:** In the plenary session of The Group of States against Corruption, of the Council of Europe, GRECO, the evaluation report for Albania was assessed in the implementation of the 24 recommendations given to the country within the framework of the V Evaluation Round: Prevention of corruption and promotion of integrity in central government (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies. The report of the Albanian government submitted on April 30, 2022, and the additional information provided as well as those in the plenary session, were assessed by the GRECO secretariat and the reporting experts of the two countries, Greece and Hungary. From the evaluation made, Albania was assessed very well for the increased transparency of public authorities, for informing the staff and senior political officials and their information; for the establishment of integrity plans in the central institutions of the administration and its implementation in the structures of the state police; for providing online declaration of assets and interests of public officials as well as administrative capacities for their control; for the growth and professional capacities of SPAK. A positive assessment was made on issues such as: the provision and establishment of control mechanisms of political functionaries (ministers and their advisers), increased levels of public consultation of acts, and increased awareness of corruption and integrity of political functionaries and in police structures, or increased application of the whistleblowing instrument in these sectors. Other issues such as increased oversight and guarantees for senior police officers' tenure or post-employment rules for political and police officials still remain for further implementation in GRECO. Albania will submit additional information to GRECO no later than June 30, 2024.



**The technical anti-corruption secretariat finalizes the monitoring report of the Action Plan, July - September 2022**

**1-30.11.2022:** The Technical Secretariat at the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator in the Ministry of Justice has completed and drawn up the monitoring report for the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan, for the period July - September 2022. This monitoring report provides information on the progress of 58 measures and 108 planned activities for implementation for this period of the year, in the areas of prevention - punishment - awareness against corruption. From the monitoring carried out, it appears that 25 measures/51 activities were fully implemented, 16 measures/12 activities were partially implemented and 16 measures/38 activities were not implemented. Electronic services continue to be of good applicability, 1,225 in total, and exceeding the number compared to the forecast in the action plan, the Office of the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data continues and guarantees the provision of information to the public through coordinators of the right to information, the State Police interacted 452 practices with Interpol, 939 practices with Europol, 96 practices with the Department of International Relations and 23 practices with the CARIN network; there are 7 criminal proceedings finalized by the Police Supervision Agency. The final draft monitoring report will be agreed with the implementing institutions of the Anticorruption Action Plan in December, and the final draft will be discussed and approved at the meeting of the Anticorruption Thematic Group.



More information can be found in the link: <https://drejtesia.gov.al/viti-2022-2/>

**The General Anticorruption Directorate continues the administrative investigation of suspected cases of corruption**

**1-30.11.2022** The Monitoring Directorate of the Network of Anticorruption Coordinators and the Operational Directorate for Anticorruption Issues at the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator in the Ministry of Justice have actively continued the investigation and verification of suspected cases of corruption. During the month of November, a detailed administrative investigation process was carried out on the reported cases, at the end of which, final investigation reports were drawn up for the officials/employees of the institutions, subject to the investigation found in violation of the law. Specifically, during this month, the final reports of the administrative investigation were processed for the Local Directorate of the State Cadastre Agency in Fier, the Local Directorate of the State Cadastre Agency in Kamëz-Vorë and the General Directorate of Customs, for which the responsible persons found in violations, as well as recommendations have been left for the institution in order to take the relevant measures. The National Anti-Corruption Coordinator aims, through the mechanism of recommendations, to ensure the implementation of the law and the improvement of the working activity of public bodies in the country. Anyone who has indications and reasonable doubts about cases of corruption in public administration bodies can easily contact the responsible structures in the ministry and/or the Anticorruption Coordinators' Network.

Complaints/denunciations can be sent directly to email: [koordinatoriak@drejtesia.gov.al](mailto:koordinatoriak@drejtesia.gov.al)

**RAI Steering Group confirms engagement in regional anti-corruption projects**

**21-22.11.2022:** The Ministry of Justice in the role of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator participated in the 38th meeting of the Steering Group of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), in Bucharest, Romania. This meeting was organized by the RAI Secretariat and this time the host of the meeting was the Ministry of Justice in Romania. The Steering Group, consisting of representative members of the countries of the Western Balkans, but also countries of the region such as Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Moldova, discussed and decided on important issues, such as: the presentation of the work evaluation report 2021-2022, the approval of the work plan for RAI for 2023-2025, the extension of the mandate of the director and the head of the technical secretariat, the approval of the annual budget and the confirmation of the vacancy announcement in January 2023 of the position of senior advisor for anti-corruption. The Ministry of Justice of Albania also



presented to the members of the Steering Group, some of the most important developments and projects of the period April - November 2022, as well as the main achievements in the field of anti-corruption programs and projects. RAI will continue to organize cooperation programs and activities in the fight against corruption, with a focus on strengthening the capacities of the states of the region to join efforts in this common challenge and to achieve new results as partners, at the regional level.



More information can be found in the link: <https://www.facebook.com/raiseeorg/posts/515282427305581>



### Western Balkan countries together to continue cooperation on the Regional Roadmap Against Corruption and Illegal Finances

**13-14.11.2022:** The 6 countries of the Western Balkans, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia continued on regional meetings under the coordination of UNODC and RAI, to agree on the continuity of their commitments within the document: Regional Roadmap Against Corruption and Illegal Finances for the Western Balkans. The meeting took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia. For two days, the state delegations of the countries of the region, together with civil society representatives, discussed the content of the guide and further elaborated the conclusions presented by the previous meetings. The Ministry of Justice of Albania led the Albanian delegation consisting of representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of the Interior, the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Control of Assets and Conflict of Interest and the Public Procurement Agency. The Regional Guide Against Corruption and Illegal Finances will continue to be oriented and will contain commitments for countries in the field of public procurement (legal framework and capacity building), declaration of assets of public officials and regional cooperation in the field of criminal and financial investigations. The guide will be reviewed by political leaders and senior officials at a conference to be held in December in Skopje, Macedonia.

More information can be found in the link: <https://www.facebook.com/raiseeorg/posts/521692566664567>

### Asset recovery and international judicial cooperation topics of discussion in the UNCAC plenary session

**7-11.11.2022:** Plenary session of the joint working groups of the UN Convention on asset recovery (16th meeting), international cooperation (11th meeting) and review of the implementation of the Convention (meeting of the 2nd group of the session 13) took place in Vienna, Austria. Representatives of Albanian institutions in the field of justice, anti-corruption, public procurement and declaration of assets attended these meetings and informed about the country's developments in these sectors. During the proceedings, a special meeting (side event) was also held, for the organization and operation of the Asset Recovery Offices in the Western Balkans. In this meeting, the countries of the Western Balkans shared their practices and experiences in the field of asset recovery. Albania made a general presentation on the status of the establishment of this Office, in the country, expectations and possible institutional interventions. Also, a bilateral working meeting was held with the UNODC secretariat for the review mechanism of the UN Convention against Corruption, in which it was informed that the draft report for Albania will soon be forwarded to the post-assessment made by Liberia and Azerbaijan, for implementation of chapter 2 and 5 of the UN Convention (organization of the regulatory, institutional and structural framework). Next, the visit of evaluation experts to the country will be prepared.

