

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 March, 2023

Summit for Democracy: Albania confirms the will and participation in the global anti-corruption commitment

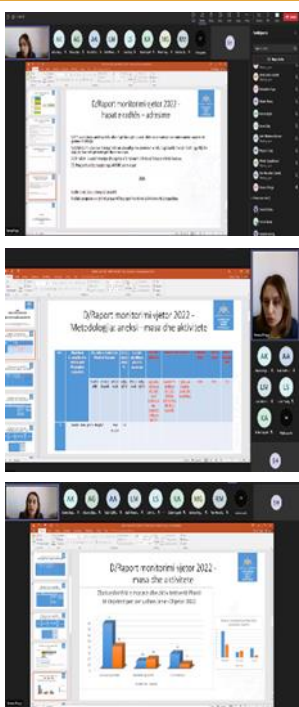
1-31.03.2023: The fight against corruption continues to unite countries in proposing initiatives, confirming collaborations and implementing country measures. The Summit for Democracy, as an initiative of the US President, continued the development of anti-corruption meetings (*anti-corruption cohort*) also during the month of March, with the development of online meetings of country experts, the development of the regional conference of South-Eastern Europe under the leadership of Bulgaria, and to culminate with the international activity in the USA on March 30-31, 2023. In technical meetings, the country was represented by officials of the General Directorate of Anticorruption and representatives of HIDAACI. At the March meetings, Albania joined regional and international commitments to (I) Strengthen cooperation in accordance with international standards, (II) Expand the use of international standards and the domestic legal framework, (III) Strengthen international operational coordination and (IV) Increased enforcement at the national level and management of assets (cases and practices) arising from crime. At the regional conference held by March 21, 2023 as part of the Summit for Democracy in Sofia, Bulgaria, an overview of the law of our country was given for the control of the declaration of assets and private interests, as well as the implementation of the anti-corruption whistleblowing instrument. The activities of the Summit for Democracy were finalized for this first three-month period of 2023 at the international meeting held in the USA, with the delegated participation of the Minister of State for Relations with the Parliament, Mrs. Elisa Spiropali. Prime Minister, Mr. Edi Rama, addressed a greeting speech to the Democracy Summit, also.



Prime Minister's Edi Rama addressed message is accessible in the link: <https://kryeministria.al/newsroom/fjala-e-kryeministrit-edi-rama-ne-samitin-e-demokracise-organizuar-nga-presidenti-i-shteteve-te-bashkuara-joe-biden/>

Anticorruption Technical Thematic Group agrees on the monitoring report of the Action Plan, 2022

28.03.2023: The Technical Secretariat at the National Coordinator Against Corruption in the Ministry of Justice has completed and drawn up the monitoring report for the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan, January-December 2022. The report was agreed at the technical meeting on 28.3.2023 with the participation of representatives of the institutions included in the action plan. This monitoring report provides information on progress for 59 measures and 111 activities planned for implementation in 2022, which belongs to the 3rd year of the anti-corruption action plan. From the monitoring carried out, it appears that 38 measures/76 activities were fully implemented, 14 measures/11 activities were partially implemented and 7 measures/24 activities were not implemented. Electronic services continue to be at the forefront of the implemented strategic objective, 1,227 in total, the online declaration of assets of public officials and functionaries has begun, the electronic register of requests and responses has been installed in 100 more public authorities, all ministries have drafted integrity plans, the State Police has exchanged 405 practices with Interpol, 2,740 correspondences with Europol, 77 practices with the CARIN network. The General Directorate of Anticorruption has issued 259 administrative measures and filed 20 criminal reports, 131 criminal proceedings have been registered with 76 persons under investigation only by SPAK, and the prosecution offices of general jurisdiction have registered 262 criminal proceedings with 201 defendants for group offenses in the field of corruption. The implementation of the Anticorruption Strategy for 2022 is calculated at 76.76%. The final draft monitoring report will be discussed and approved at the meeting of the Thematic Anticorruption Group, within the month of April 2023.



Anti-corruption structure in the Ministry of Justice provides disciplinary measures for violations committed on duty

1-31.03.2023: The General Directorate of Anticorruption in cooperation with the Network of Anticorruption Coordinators has administered and carried out inspections for 27 new cases of complaints and denunciations of corruption. The activities of institutions such as the State Cadaster Agency (and its local directorates), the Social Insurance Institute, the National Inspectorate for Territory Protection, the National Agency of Protected Areas, the Electricity Distribution Operator, the National Environment Agency, etc., have been checked by inspectors and anti-corruption coordinators relied on complaints and denunciations received through official channels in writing (21 cases) and to the electronic address (6 cases). After the verifications, violations were found and 12 final reports were completed, through which 4 measures for "dismissal from duty", 46 measures for starting the disciplinary process and 44 recommendations were proposed. Other cases of administrative investigation at the institutions where the Network of Coordinators against Corruption is located, are in process.



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Department of State Report for Albania 2022; supports the work of SPAK and the creation of the General Anticorruption Directorate

The United States Department of State (DOS) has published the annual Report on the Implementation of Freedoms and Human Rights 2022. On 2022, the Department of State has assessed positively the activity and work data of SPAK as the main body in the fight against corruption, documenting the proceedings and requests for punishment for high-ranking public and political officials and former officials and their punishment by the Special Court for Corruption and Organized Crime, in Albania. The Department of State report has evidenced the establishment and operation of the General Directorate of Anticorruption in the Ministry of Justice and the data of its work in the first year: 261 administrative measures and cases of criminal reports as well as the role of HIDAACI for the criminal referral of 6 cases for prosecution of criminal cases involving an MP, a prosecutor, three directors in government agencies and an administrator in a government company, on charges of refusing to declare assets, concealing assets or falsifying asset declarations, money laundering and tax evasion. On the other hand, the report has identified problems with public procurement and media freedom. The report also draws attention to the independence of the judicial system and its efficiency, as well as the problems of restrictions on the freedom and independence of the media.



Report is accessible in the link: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/albania>.

Ministry of Justice in close partnership with the projects of the Council of Europe in Tirana

30.03.2023: The Council of Europe office in Tirana organized the first meeting of the Steering Committee for 2023, part of the III Phase of the Horizontal Instrument project. Present at the meeting were representatives at the management level of the Albanian institutions, collaborators and beneficiaries of the project, such as the Ministry of Justice, in the role of the National Coordinator against Corruption, the Ministry of the Interior, the High Inspectorate for the Declaration and Control of Assets and Conflict of Interest, the General Directorate Office for the Prevention of Money Laundering, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Special Prosecutor's Office against Corruption and Organized Crime, the General Directorate of the State Police, the Financial Supervision Authority, the School of Magistrates and the Security Academy. In the meeting, cooperation with the project was confirmed for the next 4 years and contributions were made for concrete activities and cooperation, where the fight against corruption and organized crime will be the main decision. The Council of Europe remains one of the main partners of the Ministry of Justice and other Albanian agencies for facilitating the implementation of GRECO recommendations. Ministry of Justice brought into attention and of high interests the need of collaboration with the Council of Europe in the terms of implementation of the integrity instruments and technical expertise in the anticorruption field. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Delegation of the European Union and the Division for Cooperation against Economic Crime of the Council of Europe.



Partnership with the media as a way of communicating with the citizens in the fight against corruption

29.03.2023: The Ministry of Justice has established bridges of cooperation and communication with citizens through television. The Director of Anticorruption Policies at the Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Rovena Preqja, had a conversation on the RTSH24 station on issues of anticorruption policies, measures and objectives of the Albanian administration and their role within the country's integration process in the European Union. The participation of the Ministry of Justice as a leading institution in chapter 23: For freedoms and human rights and the functioning of democratic institutions, its cooperation and active role in the information of chapters 5, 12, 24 and the economic criterion, the basic initiatives taken by it in the field anti-corruption, cooperation with citizens through the media were the issues that were discussed. The Ministry of Justice informed the public about its collaborative role in the region and with other anti-corruption agencies within the Berlin process and the coordination of legal and technical capacities.

Follow the TV interview on the social profiles of the General Anticorruption Directorate at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089045846232> and <https://www.linkedin.com/company/88693364>