

**The role of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator**

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 June, 2023**

**Justice Reform and the Fight against Corruption, two Albanian experiences at the Prespa Forum Dialogue, 2023**

**15 - 16.06.2023:** The Prespa Forum Dialogue 2023, under the direction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia and the organization Friends of Europe organised a two-day work, with the gathering of many panels for discussion and information sharing. The Minister of Justice, Ulsi Manja, participated in a panel which theme was: "On the eradication of corruption through the policies of good governance and reform in justice", where data was shared and Albania's experience was given on the results of the Reform in Justice and on government policies to eradicate corruption in public administration. The fight against corruption through dedicated and special anti-corruption structures, the promotion and expansion of electronic services by offering 1227 electronic services through the e-albania portal, reforms in public administration to create a fair and more equal society for all citizens, were mentioned by Minister Manja specifically. The Prespa Forum Dialog 2023, was a great opportunity for all participants to share experiences, to find new solutions for common problems of the region and, above all, to strengthen good governance and transparency in public decision-making. Minister Manja also shared the Albanian experience in several bilateral meetings with the Secretary General of the OSCE, Mrs. Schmid, the special envoy of Germany in the Balkans, Mr. Sarrazin and the General Secretary of UNDP, Mrs. Živković, with whom the continuity of joint projects in justice and the fight against corruption was reconfirmed.



**The National Coordinator Against Corruption and ANAC, an opportunity for more cooperation against corruption**

**16.06.2023:** The anti-corruption structure at executive level in Albania (National Coordinator against Corruption) and the Italian National Agency against Corruption - ANAC, are getting ready to start a bilateral institutional cooperation. The Minister of Justice and the National Coordinator against Corruption, Ulsi Manja, held a bilateral working meeting with the General Director of ANAC, Giuseppe Busia, in Tirana. The two senior leaders discussed the coordination of effective instruments for the prevention of corruption and its punishment. Legal education for anti-corruption mechanisms, the extension of administrative punishment tools, strengthening the capacities of legal professionals to design efficient anti-corruption policies, strengthening technical capacities and increasing administrative qualities, communication and increased awareness against corruption as well as an efficient and useful punishment against corruption, were topics of conversation. Very soon, an agreement of understanding and cooperation between the National Coordinator against Corruption and ANAC will come to life, which will formalize the intense cooperation and facilitate the creation of an anti-corruption culture. The Italian experience of the fight against corruption is a model preferred by Albania, consolidating the establishment of a multidisciplinary agency in the near future in the country, where prevention – awareness - punishment would work together.



**Sub-committees of the European Commission and Albania hold meetings on the legal framework and administration structures**

**14, 15, & 27.06.2023:** The process of European integration and the reporting sessions of the technical structures of the high and midium level administration of the country, have continued with the meetings held during three days of June, for the information of Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights. In three days, the structures of the Albanian administration, in the field of justice and the fight against corruption, under the direction of the Deputy Minister of Justice Adea Pirdeni with representatives of the European Commission, reported on the developments of the legal, institutional, regulatory framework, the activity in practice and the future planning of these two fields. The General Directorate of Anticorruption prepared and shared detailed information on the achievements of the field in the three approaches of the fight against corruption: prevention - punishment - awareness. The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subcommittee "Justice, Freedom and Security" (June 14 and 15, 2023) and the PAR SG (June 27, 2023) highlighted the detailed efforts of integrity and transparency, the measures taken to effectively prevent and reduce corruption, especially in high-risk sectors, the financing of political parties, the capacities of the institutions responsible for the prevention of corruption, as well as the implementation of GRECO's recommendations. These meetings come in the framework of the planned meetings of the European Commission with Albania and the clarification of the country's progress towards legal and organizational standards of the European Union.



**Albania is part of the one-day panel of UNCAC for the prevention of corruption**

**14 - 16.06.2023:** Albania was chosen as one of the three countries participating in the panel "The link between the preventive and punitive approach against corruption", together with Austria and Ecuador. Proceedings of the plenary week of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption - UNCAC, an important annual global activity, which the session of this panel was a part of, brought Albania to the attention and interest to know and inform about our developments not only regarding the prevention of corruption, but also the presentation of anti-corruption structures and the implementation of the Inter Sectorial Strategy Against Corruption. The competence and mandate of the General Directorate of Anticorruption as a national authority with functions in the field of prevention, awareness and punishment of corruption were presented by the Director of Anticorruption Programs and Projects, Rovena Pregja. The panel had a one-day duration and questions and discussions from almost all participating countries in the session. The internationalization of Albania's anti-corruption efforts, the interaction and exchange of experiences with other countries in this context, help to strengthen international cooperation against corruption to have sustainable results. The General Directorate of Anticorruption is the official competent and representative structure of Albania in the technical and professional bodies of the field, which interacts and exchanges information and data and guarantees the implementation of government policies.

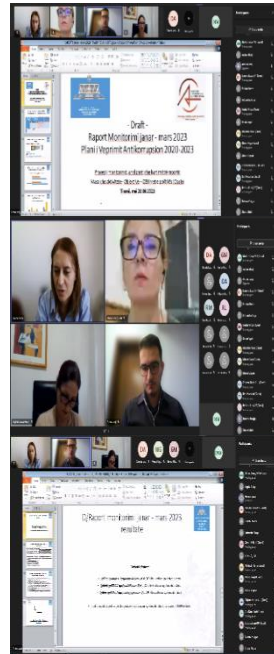




## Anticorruption Action Plan monitoring report, January-March 2023, publicly accessible

**20.06.2023:** The Anticorruption Thematic Group at the technical level, composed of representatives of all institutions involved in the implementation of the Anticorruption Action Plan, held the technical work meeting, in which they agreed on the content of the January - March 2023 monitoring report, which also corresponds with the last year of implementation of the ISAC 2015 - 2023. The draft monitoring report presents analytically and quantitatively the progress made by all reporting institutions for the implementation of the measures and activities of the ISAC, planned for implementation for this period, the level of achievement of the strategic objectives based on this analysis as well as the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations left in the previous monitoring report. In this first 3 months of 2023, the implementation of the Inter Sectorial Anti Corruption Strategy is 63.24%. According to the approaches, the progress is: prevention 84.69%; punishment 50.87% and awareness 54.16%. Positive results related to transparency in state activity, improving citizens' access to information, strengthening the integrity of public servants, continuing the processing of statistics as well as public awareness and education activities on the consequences of corruption are some of the achievements to be highlighted. This monitoring report also proves the consolidation of the results of the punitive approach of the General Directorate of Anticorruption, the State Police and the bodies that exercise criminal prosecution.

The final draft of the monitoring can be accessed at the link: <https://www.drejtesia.gov.al/raporte-monitorimi-2023/>



## The General Directorate of Anticorruption makes the punishing approach analysis in the 6 months of 2023

**01 - 30.06.2023:** The General Directorate of Anticorruption in the Ministry of Justice has added data on the fight against corruption at the administrative level and continues to engage in the fight against corruption in Albania, through concrete results. For the first 6 months, January-June 2023, there are 39 final reports through which 96 measures have been proposed for the initiation of disciplinary proceedings for public administration employees, 30 measures for removal from office and 118 recommendations. From the in-depth administrative investigations, a total of 9 referrals were made to the bodies that carry out the criminal prosecution for 28 persons criminally charged. The typology of cases found in suspected violations of corruption are the activities of the employees of the State Cadastre Agency, including its local directorates, the National Inspectorate of Territory Protection, the National Food Agency, the health service structures and the National Agency of Protected Areas Protection. The General Directorate of Anticorruption cooperates closely with the Network of Anticorruption Coordinators to ensure transparency and integrity in public institutions.

Report abusive cases and practices to: [koordinatoriak@drejtesia.gov.al](mailto:koordinatoriak@drejtesia.gov.al)

## UNODC cooperates with auditing institutions and anti-corruption bodies

**31.05 – 02.06.2023:** High-level officials of the Ministry of Justice participated in the regional seminar organized by UNODC, on the cooperation of anti-corruption agencies and public finance control authorities in the Western Balkans region. Taking into consideration that corruption is a complex phenomenon that affects different sectors of society and represents a serious threat to the economic development of the country, the cooperation between national anti-corruption agencies and the relevant authorities that control the use of the state budget as mentioned by the High State Controls, represents an added importance. In this meeting, the Albanian side, represented by the General Secretary of the Ministry of Justice Ismail Shehu and the General Director of Anticorruption, Florin Demollari, presented the relevant authorities at the national level, the mandate, the jurisdiction and the levels of cooperation between them. It was further discussed about the similarities and effectiveness of the mandates, the existing ways of cooperation and the challenges they have. The United Nations Convention Against Corruption - UNCAC, which contains binding provisions for state parties, provides a broad framework for the prevention of corruption, requiring and recommending that state parties to implement a wide range of measures, from anti-corruption policies, integrity in the public sector, asset declarations and conflict of interest rules, public procurement, public finance management, up to the role of the private sector and civil society. This workshop was organized in the form of plenary sessions over several days, enabling participants to brainstorm, present and hold discussions with the aim of exchanging information and further elaborating on the concepts covered. This activity brought together representatives from 8 countries of Southeast Europe, such as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia.



## The Balkan Region increases attention on resilience to organized crime and corruption among young people and minors

**06 - 07.06.2023:** The Ministry of Justice participates in the activity held in Skopje, North Macedonia with a focus on strengthening the resistance to organized crime and youth corruption in Southeast Europe. This two-day meeting, organized by the OSCE in North Macedonia and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Crime (GI-TOC), brought together government authorities from law enforcement, the judiciary, educational institutions and anti-corruption practitioners, academia, civil society and youth, from five countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. This regional effort aimed to engage actors involved in the effective prevention of juvenile crime and strengthening resistance to it, while contributing to good governance and the rule of law, taking into account the increased risk of juveniles being recruited by criminal groups and engage in illegal activities. The activity also aimed to contribute towards facilitating regional platforms for dialogue and cooperation between key actors to share good practices, experiences and lessons learned from the prevention of juvenile crime and their education on legality and integrity, as well as to identify capacities, gaps and challenges. Ensuring that young people have a better relationship with justice requires improving the monitoring and reporting of identified cases and having an effective assessment of the impact of measures taken against minors in conflict with the law.

## Regional conference of public authorities - CSOs for whistleblowing

**13.06.2023:** The General Anticorruption Directorate participated in the conference organized by the Center for the Study of Democracy and Governance in the framework of the Coalition of Southeast European countries for the Protection of Whistleblowers. Within the activities and agenda for the alignment of whistleblower legislation, policies and regulations with the most advanced international standards, the Coalition is promoting the alignment of the EU Whistleblowing Directive through research, monitoring and advocacy. With this aim, this conference brought together representatives from the countries of the Western Balkans who work in public bodies, as well as other actors interested in this process. At the conference, the Ministry of Justice and HIDAACI in the capacity of the leading institution for the whistleblowing instrument, updated the participants on the implementation of the whistleblower protection law in Albania and gave some concrete results of its implementation: HIDAACI has expanded its powers since 2016 to monitor the implementation of the law on whistleblowers, 208 administrative measures were given to the bodies that did not respect the law and 30 cases of denunciation, of which, 2 in the private sector. Albania is expected to align the whistleblower legal framework by 2025. All countries in the region are considering aligning whistleblower laws with the EU Directive, to create a complete legal framework as well as to achieve convincing results in terms of implementation of the law on whistleblowers and whistleblower protection.



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**The staff of the Ministry of Justice participates in the School of Integrity, organized by *Transparency International***



**26- 30.06.2023:** More than 50 representatives from different countries participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Integrity School, which was organized in Vilnius, Lithuania, by Transparency International. A specialist from the General Directorate of Anticorruption was also a participant, Marko Cenaj. The curriculum was based on discussions and seminars on various topics such as transparency, public integrity, corrupt behavior, corruption in sports and corruption in the defense sector. This platform was used to share experiences, knowledge and best practices between countries, with the aim of equipping individuals with the tools and knowledge needed to fight corruption and promote transparency in their countries. The participants in the School of Integrity belonged to the profiles of non-governmental organizations and the public sector. Through this forum, they had the opportunity to share their experiences regarding transparency, public integrity and the fight against corruption in their national context. The Integrity School also focused on drawing attention to the challenges of corruption and building a strong network of cooperation. The participation of representatives from different countries created a platform for the exchange of best practices and successful strategies to fight corruption.



**Two years of the monthly anti-corruption e-bulletin**

**30.06.2023:** The Ministry of Justice celebrates two years since the first issue of the e-bulletin: Anticorruption. An informative, awareness-raising and visible communication tool of the activity in the field of the fight against corruption has marked the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the publication. The monthly e-bulletin of the Ministry of Justice came as an initiative of the anti-corruption policy staff to provide a detailed overview of the main activities of the field, including important information collected on a monthly basis. The e-bulletin began to be drafted in June 2021, as the first e-bulletin of the ministry, an initiative that was later replicated by other structures of the institution, after two successful years. The e-bulletin offers a valuable opportunity for citizens, institutions, civil society organizations and all interested actors, to be informed, to be involved in efforts to fight corruption and promote transparency in justice. Each issue of the e-bulletin includes detailed information on the main activities conducted during the 30 calendar days. This information includes, among other things, the progress achieved in the implementation of effective policies in the preventive, punitive and awareness-raising approach. With the help of this public information mechanism, the Ministry of Justice aims to increase public awareness about the efforts and progress achieved in the anti-corruption field. The monthly e-bulletin of the General Directorate of Anti-corruption is a periodic report of the Ministry of Justice in the exercise of its role as the National Coordinator Against Corruption.

**You can read all issues of the e-bulletin in both languages, Albanian and English, at the link: <https://drejtesia.gov.al/e-buletin/>**

