

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.

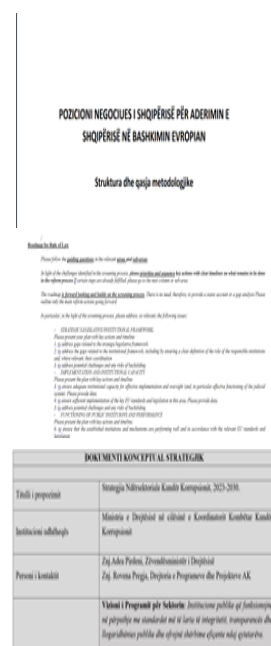
The National Anti-Corruption Coordinator is responsible for verifying (administrative investigation) denunciations/complaints about abusive, corrupt or arbitrary practices for the implementation of law, as well as identifying employees of institutions, part of the Network of Coordinators, who, by actions 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 July, 2023

The anti-corruption authorities start drafting the Negotiating Position for the country's membership in the European Union

03 - 25.07.2023: The integration process has gradually entered a busy phase for the Albanian administration. After the technical screening meetings with the structures of the European Commission, the chapters that have already closed this phase have started with the preparations of the document that will be the Negotiating Position of Albania. The field of anti-corruption as part of chapter 23: Freedom, justice and the functioning of democratic institutions is expected to be oriented towards full compatibility of national policies and legislation in the field with the *acquis* of the European Union, the alignment of the institutional framework and administrative capacities with *acquis* as well as the measures and activities estimated to achieve full compliance. The technical staff of the anti-corruption field with prevention functions, such as the Ministry of Justice with the General Anticorruption Directorate, HIDAACI, the Commissioner for the Right to Information and the Protection of Personal Data, the Public Procurement Agency, NAIS, etc, are conceiving these action measures based on concrete terms. Even the law-enforcement bodies, the General Prosecutor's Office and SPAK, as well as the General Directorate of the State Police, have joined this process by programming their interventions. The Negotiating Position Document accompanied by the action plans will be Albania's passport that will guarantee the country's membership in the European Union and that will be based by Albania's 2030 Agenda. Concrete measures to lead the country to the European Union will start with the approval of the Intersectoral Anti-Corruption Strategy 2023 - 2030, which will be a combination of preventive - punitive - awareness policies against corruption.



Drafting of the monitoring report for the implementation of the Anticorruption Action Plan, January - June 2023, begins

20.07.2023: The Directorate of Anticorruption Programs and Projects in the Ministry of Justice has prepared the draft of the monitoring report for the period January-June 2023 of the Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption, 2015-2023. The first monitoring draft provides an analysis and evaluation of 18 specific objectives that include three policy approaches: prevention, punishment and awareness raising against corruption. In this report, a 6-month performance evaluation is presented, reflecting data on the implementation of planned measures and activities. The presented results show that the performance indicators have marked high achievements during the first 6 months of 2023: 222 public authorities have installed the electronic register of requests and responses; The Public Procurement Agency continues to keep the changed elements of public contracts below the defined level; NAIS registers 2,827,371 users on the E-Albania platform, the Agency for Dialogue and Co-Governance and the General Anticorruption Directorate continue a fruitful cooperation, as a result of which 202 complaints have been handled, 83 measures have been taken to initiate the disciplinary process, 29 measures for removal from office, 109 recommendations and 9 criminal referrals, with 28 people reported; The State Police has identified 443 criminal offenses, with 510 perpetrators, with a detectability level of 84.19%, etc. In the following, the draft report is being reviewed by public institutions, which will complete and enrich the required analysis, and further, the report will be discussed and agreed at a technical level in the gathering of anti-corruption contact points.



The General Anticorruption Directorate provides measures and tasks for public administration bodies

03 - 31.07.2023: During July 2023, the General Directorate of Anticorruption in the Ministry of Justice has conducted administrative investigations in many institutions, including the Network of Anticorruption Coordinators, reacting to complaints and denunciations received from various sources. The cases are mainly addressed to the State Cadastre Agency, the General Directorate of Taxes and Customs, the National Food Authority, the Albanian Post or the Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education. After a detailed administrative verification, 4 final reports were drawn up, taking disciplinary measures against the persons identified in violation. These administrative investigations are aimed at implementing the law and improving the practices of the affected institutions, as the Network of Anti-Corruption Coordinators continues its work with investigations of reported cases with the aim of intensifying the fight against corruption in all institutions, an integral part of it. In concrete terms, during this month, 27 complaints were filed, after careful consideration of which, it was concluded with 3 measures for the initiation of disciplinary proceedings, 2 referrals to law enforcement bodies and 9 recommendations for public institutions. The use of administrative investigations and recommendations help to strengthen institutional structures and cultivate a culture of transparency in public institutions. Continuous work in this direction will help to improve the climate of integrity and to use human resources efficiently.



Report abusive cases and practices on: koordinatoriak@drejtesia.gov.al

Guide to quick Asset Recovery Investigations, an enhanced working tool for prosecutors and judicial police officers

03 - 31.07.2023: A guidance document for the investigation of financial and economic crimes, for judicial police officers at the prosecutor's office, police and prosecutors, is being prepared by a group of professionals from the ministry-prosecutor-police-money laundering. The General Directorate of Anticorruption is implementing a UNODC project with the aim of drafting Quick Response Guidelines for asset recovery in Albania. The guide aims to provide judicial police officers and prosecutors with a standard framework of legal aspects and actions to be taken into account at the stage of preliminary verifications or police tracking, during the referral of the criminal offense or property referral to the Prosecutor's Office. The guide can facilitate the process carried out in the phase of preliminary investigations for the collection of evidence, facts and documents as well as for the search and finding of assets created from criminal sources, in the phase of seizure, with the final aim of confiscating the property. The guide aims to support at the operational level the continuous building of professional capacities on the various elements of the asset recovery process. UNODC is assisting the countries of the Western Balkans with the drafting of this standard document, in accordance with the legal and regulatory framework of each country.



The GlobE Network, a mechanism that brings together anti-corruption policy and law enforcement professionals

11 - 14.07.2023: The GlobE network held the proceedings of the 4th plenary session. Albania is represented in this organization by the General Anticorruption Directorate, the General Prosecutor's Office and SPAK. The exchange of information between members of the Network, the use of developed communication tools in the fight against corruption (*Threema channel*), bilateral and multilateral talks and meetings between members were part of this plenary session. Participating authorities of GlobE member countries, strengthened professional knowledge of the field, innovations and capacities of anti-corruption units and law enforcement bodies by exchanging experiences and best practices. The establishment and development of a one-stop channel to facilitate data and information and set up development programs were also topics of the meeting days. Albania joined the GlobE Network - The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities, from 2021 as a member.



The fight against corruption in the field of public procurement; training and expertise sharing at the School of Magistrates



13.07.2023: During this month, the General Directorate of Anticorruption and the Network of Anticorruption Coordinators have participated in a specialized training at the School of Magistrates on the topic "Court practice for public procurement". The training was held in collaboration with the European Institute of Public Administration EIPA and aimed to boost professional efforts and capacities to ensure thorough administrative investigations. The participants, technical staff and anti-corruption coordinators gained new knowledge on the rules and practices of European Public Procurement, as well as judicial practices implemented in Albania and the European Union in relation to this field. The participants were provided with increased information, especially in matters of fraud and corruption in public procurement, following the methodology of judicial practice for the implementation of laws and concrete practices. The practical cases and exercises used in this training helped the participants to understand the challenges and efficient ways to fight corruption in the field of public procurement. This experience will serve as a valuable source of knowledge for improving the institutional response to issues of corruption and fraud in public procurement, as well as for strengthening public structures in good administration, control and management of public assets. The knowledge gained further helps in advancing the fight against corruption and improving the integrity of public procurement in the country. This positive development will also contribute to strengthening the partnership of the General Directorate of Anticorruption with other institutions in the field of the fight against corruption and demonstrate the commitment of the parties to improve the response to challenges of this nature.



Law enforcement officers attend RAI summer school in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

03 - 07.07.2023: Within the eighteenth edition with the theme "Young Anti-Corruption Professionals from Southeast Europe", professionals from various fields from the Balkan countries and RAI member countries participated in an activity organized by the RAI Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this activity, various topics related to detection, investigation and prevention of corrupt actions were addressed, focusing attention on risk analysis at all levels. The experts presented two important mechanisms for identifying corruption risks, namely: Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) and Verification of Anti-Corruption Legislation (CPL). Participants in the activity took part in exercises and analyzes to practice the implementation of these two evaluation mechanisms, while sharing knowledge and experiences from their countries to fight corruption. This summer school provided an effective platform for the exchange of knowledge and good practices, strengthening the cooperation between young anti-corruption professionals in the countries of South-Eastern Europe. At the end of the activity, the participants were successfully tested and certified in the application of the information received on the increased knowledge in these areas of legislation evaluation.

