



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 legality, as well as identifying employees of institutions, part of the Network of Anti-Corruption Coordinators, who, with actions or omissions, have committed violations of legal/sublegal acts in force, as well as 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 throughout November, 2023

The National Anti-Corruption Coordinator of Albania and ANAC, Italy sign a cooperation agreement

13.11.2023: The Minister of Justice, in the capacity of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator, in Albania, Mr. Ulsi Manja, formalized an important step in the fight against corruption by signing in Rome, Italy, a cooperation agreement with the president of the Italian National Anti-Corruption Agency - ANAC, Mr. Giuseppe Busia. This development in the fight against corruption, materialized through the bilateral agreement between Albania and Italy, marks a step forward in strengthening anti-corruption structures. Strengthening the cooperation between the General Anticorruption Directorate in Albania and ANAC in Italy consolidates efforts to develop integrity in all institutional efforts. The focus of cooperation includes the prevention of corruption in institutional anti-corruption activities at the administrative level. The agreement is an example of combining resources and expertise to meet the complex challenges of corruption, by creating a common environment and integrating the practices and experiences of the two countries to address common challenges towards the objective of more action within the rule of law. This agreement will also serve in the future to strengthen the anti-corruption capacities in Albania, to transform the General Anti-Corruption Directorate into an agency under the Ministry of Justice. The agreement is concluded without a deadline and is the first institutional cooperation agreement with a member country in the European Union.



The fight against corruption and the business integrity bring together the Ministry of Justice and FIAA in a discussion forum

17.11.2023: The Ministry of Justice and the Association of Foreign Investments in Albania - FIAA, held a joint discussion forum. Anti-corruption experts, researchers, administrative investigators and representatives of foreign businesses in Albania gathered together to exchange views and experiences. This initiative marked an important step towards the strengthening of the cooperation between the private sector and public institutions against corruption. Experiences and the best work practices from foreign businesses were shared, with a focus on strengthening integrity in administration and conveying their models of success and ethics. The National Anti-Corruption Coordinator, Minister of Justice Ulsi Manja, confirmed the priority of improving the business climate as a principle of the fight against corruption. The reform aiming the reduction of bureaucracies and barriers, known as the deregulation reform, is expected to support a favorable climate for new investments in Albania. The participating parties, such as employees, shareholders or business partners, were engaged in a frank and open exchange on the measures available to prevent and respond to corruption. Communication with the private business to increase the number of cases that can be reported to the General Anticorruption Directorate and the programming of measures improving integrity in the private sector were the main topics of two discussion panels, consisting by the experts and professionals present. The exchange of best practices from several international companies, with a long history in promoting integrity, anti-corruption and ethical decision-making, were brought as an example of the efforts to strengthen the role of increasing investors confidence in Albania's potential, as a diverse and integrated destination in the international market.



November 2023: The anti-corruption structure in the Ministry of Justice provides measures and recommendations for public administration bodies

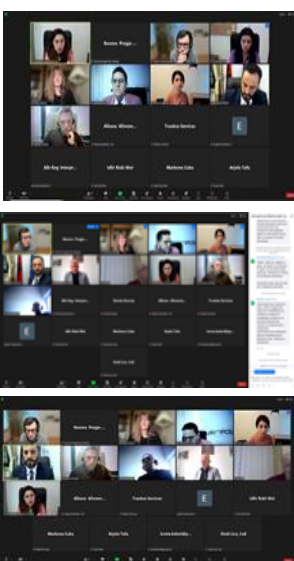
01-30.11.2023: The General Anticorruption Directorate has continued with the verification and administrative investigation of suspected cases of corruption, producing concrete results even during the month of November. Measures and actions based on labor statistics, provide significant results and a solid track record in joint efforts to build a fairer and more transparent society. From the analysis of the work results for the month of November 2023, it is evident that from a total of 24 complaints and denunciations, 20 measures have been taken to initiate disciplinary proceedings for violations of the rules of public employees, as well as 3 recommendations have been offered to improve and unify institutional practices. In addition to administrative investigations, the most frequently encountered problems continue to be those in the field of property, public services related to taxes, the protection service for the territory, labor, social and health services or the field of food quality assurance. The General Directorate of Anticorruption, in cooperation with the Network of Anticorruption Coordinators, continues its work handling of all complaints from citizens' denunciations, in order to provide concrete solutions to the problems encountered and to reduce the risk of irregular practices. This process is significantly facilitated by the Electronic System of Management of the Denunciations on Corruption Records, which enables the timely and efficient handling of citizen denunciations to the address of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator, in the country.

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



Drafting of the law on the organization and operation of the Asset Recovery Office begins

22.11.2023: A new institution is being added to the institutional standardization in the fight against corruption. The Asset Recovery Office - ARO, a multidisciplinary, law enforcement and coordinating institution will soon be established and will operate and be organized by a special law. The Asset Recovery Office will be Albania's central national point of contact to deal with the process of tracing and identifying proceeds of crime and other crime-related assets that may be subject to a freezing order, seizure or confiscation made by a court during criminal proceedings or in a civil court proceeding. The Asset Recovery Office will be established at the General Directorate of the State Police. The Asset Recovery Office will be the entry and exit gate of information for tracing and identifying the proceeds of crime, even in cases where it is suspected to have been committed outside the jurisdiction of the Albanian authorities, and will support the implementation of domestic and international seizure orders, freezing and confiscation of assets. The proposal for the establishment of the ARO comes as a proposal of the European Commission and its placement at the State Police was supported by the Ministry of Justice. The law on ARO is being drafted by the Ministry of the Interior with the assistance of the Council of Europe Office in Tirana. The draft law is being consulted with the Ministry of Justice and the prosecution body.



The HELP online course - Getting to know the Prevention of Corruption, comes in the Albanian language

23.11.2023:, The political staffs near the ministerial cabinets will soon undergo through periodic trainings, informational processes and confidential counseling on integrity and the anti-corruption framework. The Ministry of Justice is coordinating the implementation of an informational process for political staff (advisors) near the ministers (GRECO recommendation nr. 5 for Albania), enriching it with the online course provided by the Council of Europe, HELP: Knowledge of Corruption Prevention. The Albanian School of Public Administration - ASPA is benefiting from the technical assistance of the Council of Europe Office in Tirana to add to the anti-corruption training curriculum, this training course, incorporating the local regulatory framework, in implementation. Provisions on the ministerial code of ethics, the law on conflict of interest, post-employment rules, gifts and declaration of assets, the right to information, lobbying, political party finances, whistleblowing, the risk of corruption in public procurement and internal audit are the components of the HELP course, which will now also come in the Albanian language and at the end of which the participants will be certified. ASPA will have the ownership of this courses usage, which will be offered in the future also to the employees of the General Directorate of Anticorruption in the Ministry of Justice. The initiative is an added value for the Albanian administration (political staff), the training unit, Albanian experts in the field and the cooperation with foreign partners in setting standards.



Week of Integrity, edition V, activities for 10 days in December

01-30.11.2023: The Ministry of Justice closes the preparations for the activities of the largest annual awareness campaign, Week of Integrity, Edition V. Public education on the fight against corruption, the cooperation with businesses to establish a culture of integrity in the private sector and the partnership of denunciation of corruption, as well as the promotion of two guidelines for the investigation of cases related to economic crime and corruption, are some of the activities for this edition. The Integrity Week will intensively take place from 4-15 December 2023 with a variety of activities focusing on different groups of interests. The Ministry of Justice will start this edition by signing the cooperation project in the field of education to inform 15-year-olds about corruption, to continue with the promotion of practical publications for judicial professionals in the investigation of corruption cases. Integrity Week V will bring governments anti-corruption experts to a table with business representatives and close with information and awareness of political advisors on corruption prevention issues and cases for discussion on ethics and integrity. The Ministry of Justice will also join the activities of the of the V edition partners, to inform about its fundamental role in the progress of the country's path to European integration. Stay informed daily with the activities of the Week of Integrity on the social profiles of the General Directorate of Anticorruption, on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, etc.



**SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN ALBANIA AND ITALY**
4 December 2023
Prime Ministry of Justice premises

After the successful conclusion of the pilot project of cooperation between Albania and Italy in 2022 for the awareness of the culture of integrity provided to high schools in Tirana, we wish to expand the cooperation to 12 schools all across Albania.



Joint public
An official of the Ministry of Justice's Public Education Unit (UNODC) will support the Ministry of Justice's Public Education Unit (UNODC) in the field of education to inform 15-year-olds about corruption.



**UNCAC AT 20:
UNITING THE WORLD
AGAINST CORRUPTION**



**Business Forum
Partnership Against Corruption
Joint Efforts to Improve
Business Climate**



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