

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 the month of January, 2024

Ms. Adea Pirdeni, is appointed Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption

11.01.2024: The country's government cabinet was completed with a new portfolio, Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption. Minister of State Mrs. Adea Pirdeni, former Deputy Minister of Justice, since 2020, has assumed the office of minister after taking the oath before the President of the Republic, Mr. Bajram Begaj. Minister of State Mrs. Pirdeni was proposed for this high executive position by the Prime Minister, Mr. Edi Rama and received the vote of confidence in the Assembly with 73 votes in favor. "It is right that the government's anti-corruption policies are better harmonized between the executive institutions, with the demands of the challenging process of negotiations with the EU for all the country's institutions, as well as with the civil society and entrepreneurship itself" - wrote Prime Minister Rama in the publication of the appointment of the minister. Minister of State Mrs. Adea Pirdeni will also hold the role of the new National Anti-Corruption Coordinator and will direct the drafting of national policies and the preparation of legal and by-laws for the prevention and fight against corruption. The Minister of State is also the head of policies for the management and energization of public administration human resources, the construction of state administration institutions and the training of public administration employees. The Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption has also been appointed responsible for fulfilling the principles of good governance and partnership for open governance. The appointment of a Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption was welcomed by the representative offices of foreign state organizations in Tirana, evaluating the intersection of these two areas of governance with importance and expectations for the country in the preliminary phase of the country's integration into the European Union.



Year 2023; The General Anticorruption Directorate processes 177 disciplinary measures, 175 recommendations and 16 criminal reports

23-24.01.2023: The General Directorate of Anticorruption developed the annual analysis as part of the technical structure of the Ministry of Justice, for the full working year, 2023. The General Directorate of Anticorruption has mainly focused on increased activity of cases of verification and administrative investigation of abusive practices in the public administration, together with the mechanism of the Network of Anticorruption Coordinators (hereinafter the Network). For the year 2023, 892 complaints have been filed, among which 533 of them have been completed and 359 complaints are still in the process of review by the specialists of the department. For the year 2023, 177 disciplinary measures, 175 recommendations have been proposed, and 16 criminal reports have been submitted to the prosecution body for 42 people. A draft document - Risk Analysis and Assessment has been prepared for 24 institutions, and remains in the process of consultation with the coordinators of the relevant institutions, with the aim of receiving comments and suggestions within the framework of its improvement and the inclusion of other institutions that are part of the Network. During the year 2023, the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator has approved Control Plans for 17 institutions, which contain the most risky activities for abusiveness and corruption and to concretize the focus of the chiefly launched investigations. Even for 2023, the problems of corruption cases continue to remain mainly concentrated in the services of the administration bodies for the public.

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

The Ministry of Justice approves the new Integrity Plan, 2024-2027

01.01.2024: The Ministry of Justice has a new integrity instrument in force since January 1, 2024. By order of the Minister of Justice, no. 705, dated 18.12.2023, the Integrity Plan of the Ministry of Justice, 2024-2027, was approved, as the second instrument that identifies and addresses institutional interventions to guarantee regular activity, accountability and efficiency in the use of human, financial and communication resources. The new Integrity Plan, 2024-2027, was drawn up during the period September-December 2023, in accordance with the Integrity Risk Assessment Methodology for Central Government. For this purpose, the analysis of the legal, internal regulatory framework and assessment of the intensity of the risks present in the institution was carried out. The Action Plan, as an integral part of the Integrity Plan, contains new control measures and improves the formulation and follow-up of the existing ones. There are a total of 31 measures for 13 areas of technical responsibility of the Ministry of Justice, for 3 specific objectives: (I) Strengthening the regulatory framework of integrity and instruments of the fight against corruption, (II) Improvement of human resources management, increased qualification and trained capacities and (III) Increased and full institutional transparency, partnership with interest groups and the general public. The innovation in this document is the inclusion of measures to increase the awareness and information of persons with political functions, political advisors. The Integrity Plan of the Ministry of Justice will be monitored for its implementation at the end of the first 6 months of 2024 and at the end of 2024.

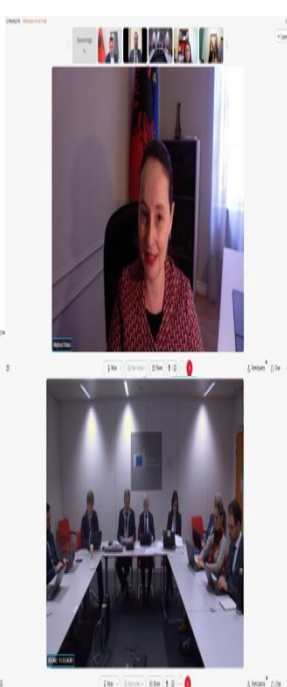
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2024-2027

The Integrity Plan of the Ministry of Justice, 2024-2027, can be accessed at this link: <https://www.drejtesia.gov.al/instrumente-antikorrupsioni/>

Anti-corruption measures part of the National Plan of Reforms and Growth in the European Union

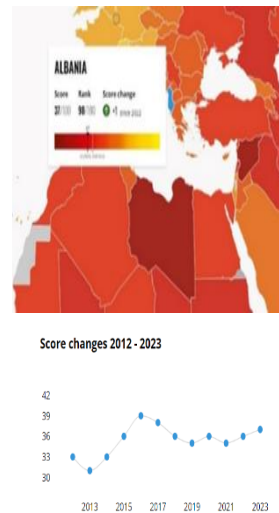
16.01.2024: The Ministry of Justice has a significant role in the drafting of government and state commitments of the National Reform and Growth Plan. The reforms proposed in function of the growth agenda by the Albanian Government and those proposed by the European Commission are already organized together in a unified document where the justice sector, the fight against corruption sector and the package of human rights and freedoms are under mentoring and care for the implementation of the Ministry of Justice. Following the process of approval of the "State of Law" Guideline, with the decision of the Council of Ministers on December 13, 2023, which also constitutes the basic document of Albania's integration into the European Union, the reform agenda for development and integration is being drawn up. The fight against corruption will be oriented in the framework of the fundamental development of preventive instruments, the establishment of a harmonized historical framework of statistical data as well as the progress of data for the investigation and punishment of the crime of corruption in the ranks of high state officials. Adoption and safe implementation of the national anti-corruption strategic planning document (Intersectoral Strategy against Corruption, 2024-2030), initiative and development of corruption risk assessment mechanisms in sectors identified as vulnerable to corruption (education-health-taxes - properties-public procurement), internationalization of achievements in the fight against corruption as well as increased awareness and education against corruption are an essential part of this document. Their programming became part of the topic of the meeting with the negotiating group of the Albanian government, headed by the Minister of State for Integration and Chief



Negotiator and the expert group of the European Commission. The meetings will continue with the agreement of the document and the approval of the political will.

CPI 2023: Albania receives 37 points and ranks 98 out of 180 countries

30.01.2024: The organization Transparency International published the Corruption Perception Index (CPI 2023) and once again Albania gained points and place in the total ranking of countries. Albania was rated one point higher than the previous year, with 37 points (36 last year) and ranked 98th among 180 countries (from 101 last year). The CPI 2023 orientated the evaluation of countries based mainly on the results of the justice system and the level of punishment of high officials. "Albania is improving its record by investigating and prosecuting high-level corruption, but the greatest progress is driven by strengthening criminal justice legislation and ensuring effective oversight of the executive. The decision to create a new ministry charged with anti-corruption responsibility comes with expectations for effective integrity mechanisms. However, this cannot be achieved as long as the parliament does not have stronger control, and civil society organizations and the media can perform their supervisory role without being hindered by the authorities" – noted the Index. Transparency International uses an index calculation system from 0 to 100 points, where 0 points refers to the highest level of corruption and 100 points to the absence of corruption in the country.

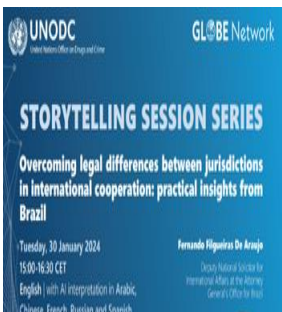


More information can be found at: <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023/index/alb>

International judicial cooperation as a means of fighting corruption brings together international anti-corruption experts, members of the GlobE Network

30.01.2024: The General Anticorruption Directorate participated in the online meeting organized by the Global Network of Anticorruption Law Enforcement Authorities - GlobE. The meeting, titled: Overcoming legal differences between jurisdictions in international cooperation: practical insights from Brazil, offered to all participants the examination of overcoming legal differences between jurisdictions in international cooperation, by using added practical knowledge from Brazil, as the host was the authorities of this country. The meeting focused on reviewing strategies and practical steps related to overcoming legal differences between jurisdictions.

Key speakers offered important recommendations and suggestions for improving international cooperation procedures such as strengthening informal cooperation, reflection and constant improvement and lessons learned from previous cases as precedents. The discussion about the prerequisites for the use of international cooperation, the preparation of documents, as well as the achievement of cooperation with foreign counterparts is essential for the efficiency of the international justice process, as noted at the meeting. Also, the specific procedure for international cooperation was evaluated, including its nature, due process in practice, defendants' rights, rules of evidence, and sanctions. In order to improve the efficiency of cooperation, one of the recommendations of the meeting was the preparation of presentations and special attention to the translation of documents. Albania is a member of the GlobE Network with representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the General Prosecutor's Office and the Special Prosecutor's Office - SPAK. Such meetings are an added experience for the staff and legal practitioners in our institutions.



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