

The role of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator

The State Minister for Public Administration and Anti-Corruption, in the role of National Coordinator Against Corruption, coordinates efforts for the development of policies and the preparation of legislative and sub-legislative acts for the prevention and fight against corruption.

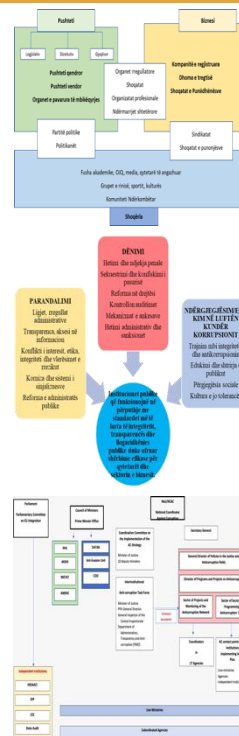
The National Coordinator Against Corruption is responsible for conducting verification (administrative investigation) of reports/complaints regarding abusive, corrupt, or arbitrary practices for the enforcement of legality, as well as identifying employees of institutions who, through actions or inactions, have violated existing laws/sub-laws. Additionally, they are responsible for the development of projects and programs in the field of anti-corruption, planning, coordinating, and determining the necessary tools for the implementation of anti-corruption policies.

The electronic newsletter is a broad communication tool aimed at informing through the reflection of a summary of key activities carried out by the State Minister for Public Administration and Anti-Corruption and the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption in the field of anti-corruption, on a monthly basis.

Activities throughout April, 2024

The Inter-Sectoral Anti-Corruption Strategy prioritizes Albania's 2030 Agenda against corruption and good governance

01-30.4.2024: The Working Group at the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption has consolidated the full package of the Inter-Sectoral Anti-Corruption Strategy, 2024-2030. The strategy will have three policy objectives: prevention, punishment, and awareness, structured into 17 specific objectives. The Passport of Indicators (accompanying document 1 of the strategy) consists of 40 performance indicators that will measure the level of implementation of the objectives over the 7-year implementation period. The Action Plan (accompanying document 2 of the strategy) contains concrete measures and activities to be carried out by central and local executive institutions, constitutional independent authorities including judicial institutions, on a 6-months and annual basis. The strategy will include interventions to strengthen law enforcement with specific legal and institutional measures to fight corruption at all levels of governance. Mechanisms and rules for law compliance and increased transparency in decision-making; citizen access and civil society involvement in the legislative process; decision-making at central and local government levels; prevention of conflict of interest and lobbying for private interests; deepening the digitalization process of public services and better control over them; improving accountability and transparency of high-ranking elected or appointed officials; strengthening mechanisms for integrity control of officials at all levels; raising functional mechanisms for financial transparency and developing a culture of democratic access to political parties; as well as legal, institutional, and administrative measures for sectors most vulnerable to corruption (cadastre, taxes, customs, education, health, public fund use, and public procurement) are the objectives of the strategy in its content. The strategy will soon undergo an open and comprehensive public consultation process.



Meeting on Integrity: Public and private sectors together against corruption

29.4.2024: The State Minister for Public Administration and Anti-Corruption, Ms. Adea Pirdeni, held the first meeting for the year 2024 with representatives of the private sector in the country. Heads of trade chambers and senior officials of business associations participated in this dialogue to coordinate cooperation between the private sector and public sector leaders. Coordination of actions, interventions, and proposals for change, possible legal measures, structures, and strengthening of regulations were the main topics of discussion. "Integrity Table: Public and private sectors against corruption" is reinstated as an initiative of this collaboration where both sectors aim to complement their activities and replicate the good experiences of countries with international standards of UNCAC and OECD in Albania. The conclusion of the meeting agreed on the organization of regular sectoral tables between business and public administration, the establishment of a joint task force to rigorously monitor all commitments within the framework of increasing integrity in the public and private sectors, and the organization of jointly held training sessions and seminars. Cadastre, education, health, taxes, and customs will regularly be the focus of public-private cooperation.



"Anti-corruption Education" tour of meetings and activities in 10 high schools in Albania

11 - 30.4.2024: The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption under the National Coordinator Against Corruption has conducted a series of meetings in 6 high schools in Tirana, 1 in Shkodra, 1 in Korça, and 2 in Vlorë, as direct beneficiaries of the "Anti-Corruption Education" project.

The series of meetings (April 11, 2024) "Anti-Corruption Education" kicked off at "Qemal Stafa" school in Tirana, with students from the 10th grade in the digital classroom. The students, as the first, young, dedicated partners, with desires and ideas to promote the fight against corruption for strengthening integrity standards in society. Through the meeting, students had the opportunity to meet with experts in the field of anti-corruption from the three initiating institutions of the cooperation agreement, for the culture of legality in schools and education against corruption, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education and Sports, and the Italian Embassy in Tirana.



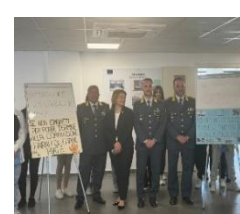
The second meeting of the day (April 11, 2024) was held in the auditorium of the theater hall of "Ismail Qemali" school, where participants focused on the importance of social activism and civic awareness against corruption. The attention and willingness of the youth to follow the curriculum and the willingness to join initiatives against corruption were accompanied by artistic achievements of some students, promoting the indispensable guarantee for a society with sustainable values. All the creations of the students will participate in a national-level activity in the presence of the initiating authorities of the project.



On the second day of the meetings (April 12, 2024), the third meeting was held at "Petro Nini Luarasi" school. The participating class welcomed us in the school library with questions, interventions in discussions, attention, and notes. During this presentation, ways of reporting corrupt practices in public administration were emphasized. Italian experts spoke about the implementation of the curriculum, promoting legality and responsible citizenship in schools, identifying teaching issues related to law and rights, and brainstormed activities with students for anti-corruption education.



On April 12, 2024, the day continued with the fourth meeting at "Asim Vokshi" school. "Anti-corruption Education" had dedicated young partners, polyglots, who brought their explored knowledge in foreign literature, presenting their ideas to promote the fight against corruption. There were drawings with images, writings, and creative and provocative messages in the field of anti-corruption. The Ministry of Justice addressed its request to gather evidence to convey anti-corruption messages, consciousness-raising videos, and informative videos for specialized anti-corruption units.



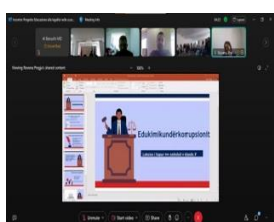
The fifth meeting of the project took place on April 15, 2024, at "Eqerem Cabej" school, in a classroom setting. The focus of the Anti-Corruption Directorate and pre-university education experts provided students with knowledge about the sources and appropriate means to convey the request for cooperation in their families and social environments. Thanks to the collaboration with legal and security experts from Italian partners, elements of the teaching process were deepened in creating a culture of law, responsible active citizenship, and a clean and honest society. Italian experts presented two videos from the activities of the "Guardia di Finanza" during their operations against various subjects engaged in criminal activities.



The meeting with the 10th-grade students of "Myslym Keta" school led to the extension to 6 high schools in Tirana (April 15, 2024), held for "Anti-Corruption Education." The anti-corruption policy staff, along with Italian colleagues, professional experts in the field of legality, informed and lectured on the role expected from young people in strengthening the integrity of society and the family. A flowing conversation and freedom of thought accompanied the meeting under the backdrop of students' creative work. At the end of the meeting, the distribution of anti-corruption materials published by the National Coordinator Against Corruption was also made possible.

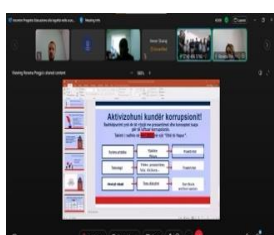


On April 29, 2024, "Anti-Corruption Education" continued at "29 Nëntori" school in Shkodra, in our seventh meeting. The classroom of a scientific subject like mathematics turned into the backdrop of an informative and presenter-style meeting on the anti-corruption curriculum presented by a representative of the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption. The civics and Italian language teachers of the school facilitated the meeting and engaged the students in producing videos or artistic works for the design of anti-corruption campaigns to be distributed later on. The values of justice and moral and social responsibility were emphasized as requirements and needs for cooperation among them.



The eighth meeting was held via an online format with the students of "Themistokli Gërmenji" high school in Korçë, on the same date (April 29, 2024). With the help of technology and the school's infrastructure, the students of the 10th grades accessed our meeting and joined the interest of their peers in other schools across the country. Why we should fight corruption, the values and norms of society, rights and obligations, and activism against corruption sparked the interest of the students. The need for accountability and a culture of legality for an honest citizen were embraced by the students of Korçë, and we look forward to the next meeting, hoping to meet in person.

On April 30, 2024, we arrived in Vlorë for a meeting that was made possible in a hybrid format. At "Halim Xhelo" high school, we held our ninth meeting, where officers from the Italian law enforcement agency in Albania, "Guardia di Finanza," joined the students along with representatives from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education and Sports in an online format. Two videos showcasing anti-corruption and anti-crime activities, along with data and information about the forms of corruption, were shared with the students. Following the presentations, an interactive discussion was held with the students, who provided examples from their daily experiences at school in dealing with illegality and suspected cases of corruption.

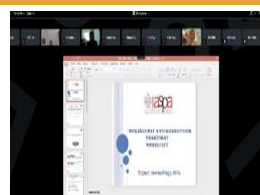


The ninth meeting of April (30.4.2024) took place and concluded the cycle of meetings at "Ali Demi" school in Vlorë. The 10th-grade class involved in the project had the opportunity, through the meeting held during the "Citizenship" class, to hear from experts in the field of anti-corruption and legal culture about information and experiences from their work in Albania and Italy. Representatives from "Guardia di Finanza" physically joined the students, sharing informative videos about the fight against criminal activities. The Ministry of Justice sought the students' collaboration to brainstorm interventions and commitments against corruption at the closing event of this school year.

After the meetings in Tirana, Shkodra, Korça, and Vlora, "Anti-Corruption Education" will continue its implementation in two other high schools, in Durrës and Gjirokastër, in May.

The anti-corruption curriculum for the contact points against corruption includes a 6-session training program.

28.3-19.4.2024: The Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA) organized and offered the complete cycle of training for anti-corruption contact points, under the theme "Anti-Corruption: Mechanisms, Practices, Protections". The curriculum, offered online, was divided into 6 sessions and was attended by 20 participants, staff at various levels of administration. Employees from ministries, dependent agencies, and independent institutions registered and attended this training under the mentorship of the Director of Anti-Corruption Policies at the Ministry of Justice. The curriculum consisted of 6 training topics: (1) The role of anti-corruption contact points as policy makers, (2) The role of anti-corruption contact points in facilitating the implementation of the strategy and action plan, (3) Integrity mechanisms as instruments in the fight against corruption, (4) Transparency and asset declaration (control) as instruments in the fight against corruption, (5) Ethics and whistleblowing as two instruments in the fight against corruption, (6) Anti-corruption and interest groups. At the conclusion of the training, participants were provided with training certificates, valid for demonstrating their knowledge and promoting engagement in the anti-corruption contact point network. Strengthening the capacity of administrative staff in the field, divided according to levels, is a new feature of the training curriculum prepared by ASPA and is being regularly implemented.



The Steering Group of the RAI agrees on the next meeting in Tirana.

18.04.2024: The Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) held its 43rd Steering Group meeting, with Albania being a member since 2007. This meeting was focused on discussing RAI's activities for the year 2023, planning the work for the following two years, 2024 and 2025, potential structural reorganization, and establishing cooperation with other similar bodies. Tirana will host the next Steering Group meeting of RAI in the autumn of 2024 (October-November). The proposal by the representative of Albania to convene in the Albanian capital was welcomed without any debate by other countries, promoting the idea that the progress of reforms and fieldwork is a good and convincing indicator for the region to gather in Tirana to discuss achievements and future plans. RAI is a regional organization that promotes and encourages anti-corruption initiatives and policies where countries orient interventions for actions and measures. Education and awareness against corruption, risk assessment tools for corruption in sensitive areas and sectors, as well as the establishment of structures for more operability are areas where RAI significantly intervenes in the region.

