

The role of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator

The Minister of State for Public Administration and Anti-corruption, 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 the verification (administrative investigation) of denunciations/complaints about abusive, corrupt or arbitrary practices for the implementation of legality, as well as the identification of 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 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 through the reflection of a summary of the main activities developed by the Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption and the General Directorate of Anticorruption in the anticorruption field, on a monthly basis.

Activities throughout the month of June 2024

The fight against corruption and the reforms envisaged in the strategic framework were presented at the meeting of National Council of European Integration

03.06.2024: Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption, Mrs. Adea Pirdeni responded to the call for a report by the National Council of European Integration on the package of reforms in public administration and the fight against corruption. Minister Pirdeni, acting as the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator, informed the members of the Council, members of the Parliament of Albania, representatives of public institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, the university and the media on the results of the anti-corruption reform in the public administration and the drafting of the new strategic framework of the field. Under his leadership and with the technical expertise of the General Directorate of Anticorruption, the measures for the collection and follow-up of citizens' reports on cases of corruption in the public administration bodies, where 1700 denunciations and requests are mentioned (for the annual period 2023-May 2024), have been coordinated. which were concluded in proposals for disciplinary measures, legal changes and in 48 criminal reports. Minister Pirdeni confirmed the preparation of several cooperation agreements, namely with the Public Procurement Agency, the Agency for Dialogue and Co-Governance and the prosecution body, as coordination of intervention measures. The review of the new strategic framework against corruption will have renewed targeting through specific measures of the sectors most susceptible to corruption, mentioning ownership, taxes, taxation, and public procurement. Under the mentoring of the expertise of the General Directorate of Anticorruption, the number of institutional instruments of integrity at the central level has increased, as protective measures against the risks of corruption in the daily political and technical activity of public authorities. The Minister, at the same time the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator Pirdeni, also confirmed the preparatory work carried out to address 19 of the 24 recommendations, left for implementation, and for which GRECO will express itself, in the following months.



You can find the hearing held at the National Council of European Integration at the link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=286904254411822

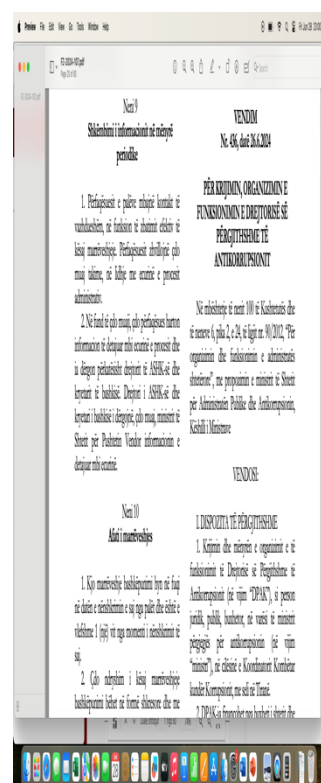
The 12-th meeting of PAR SG, EU-Albania examines the data of the fight against corruption in the public administration

27.06.2024: Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption, Mrs. Adea Pirdeni led the delegation of the Albanian government in the proceedings of the 12th meeting of the Special Group for Public Administration Reform, EU - Albania. The Albanian team led by Minister Pirdeni and made up of management level, high technical officials, developed in Brussels the reporting of policies and actions carried out during June 2023 - May 2024 in the direction of good governance, the fight against corruption and reform in financial management public. The meeting took place requested by European Commission officials. Reforming the strategic anti-corruption framework, anti-corruption action plan measures for the next three years, 2024-2026, progress with integrity instruments at the central and local level, promotion of public authority transparency indices, promotion of co-governance measures and addressing interventions for the protection of citizens in cases of corruption of public officials. The officials of DG NEAR and other EU institutions received detailed information from the Albanian officials about the strategic framework waiting to be approved, the fight against corruption, about the process carried out, the content of the intervention measures and the planned budget support, respectively. The Technical Team of the General Directorate of Anticorruption accompanied Minister Pirdeni and assisted in the preparation of technical information, making data and reporting information available to the European Commission.



The Council of Ministers unifies the technical unit of policy-making and administrative investigation against corruption

26.06.2024: The General Directorate of Anticorruption - GDAC will now function as a separate public entity. The central anti-corruption policy-making unit and the unit where the intervention of administrative investigation and verification measures for corruption cases in the public administration will be centered has been set up, organized to function as an administrative unit with its technical structure and support services. The decision of the Council of Ministers no. 436, dated 26.6.2024, "On the creation, organization and operation of the General Directorate of Anticorruption", regulates the legal dependence of this structure under the minister responsible for anticorruption, at the same time the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator. GDAC is the technical structure with the highest profile of drafting policies, programs and projects in the field of anti-corruption, communication, awareness and education of society for the fight against corruption. GDAC will conduct administrative investigations by receiving denunciations or complaints about abusive, corrupt or arbitrary practices for actions and/or inactions by public administration employees. GDAC will perform this function together with the anti-corruption coordinators who are in 26 public institutions and agencies, which offer and provide services to the public. These units belong to the sectors of public procurement, health, environment, agriculture, cadastre, food control, taxes and customs, education, health, territory control, social services and near hospital centers. The General Directorate of Anticorruption is the unit with technical expertise that will represent the Albanian state in all initiatives for cooperation with counterpart authorities in the field abroad and together with the line minister in leading negotiations for European integration with a focus on the fight against corruption.



You can find the full decision of the Council of Ministers on GDAC at the link: <https://qbz.gov.al/eli/fz/2024/107/a86431a8-f9cb-4f7f-8340-c8daaab64bbe>

Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption 2024-2030, towards technical finalization

11- 14.06.2024: The General Directorate of Anticorruption has developed a new cycle of technical consultations for the new strategy of the fight against corruption, for the years 2024-2030. On June 11-14, 2024, 8 technical meetings were held with a focus on the discussion of measures and activities planned to be developed and included in the Action Plan of the Cross-Sector Anti-Corruption Strategy and also the consolidation of performance indicators that will serve as measures of results expected for the specific objectives with implementation time in 2030. The Intersectoral Anti-Corruption Strategy, 2024-2030, has entered the final stage of its preparation (before approval) and the working group under the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator has discussed its technical content. 8 working meetings with (1) all line ministries, (2) agencies responsible for property, the education sector, the health sector, public procurement and public-private partnership, customs and taxes, (3) the Minister of State for Local Government and the agency responsible for relations with the local government, (4) the authorities responsible for the declaration of assets, (5) the control and operation of the public administration, public administration training, (6) authorities responsible for transparency and information,





electronic services as well as co-governance, (7) the Central Election Commission and (8) law enforcement authorities, prosecutors' offices, State Police, AASSA, School of Magistrates, where the details of the content of the strategy were discussed. The new Cross-Sectoral Strategy Against Corruption will have 3 policy goals with a focus on the prevention of corruption and the orientation of preventive mechanisms, 17 specific objectives that will affect all the instruments of the fight against corruption that the EU and the USA have requested from Albania and 60 measures, for action and intervention. The new Cross-Sector Anti-Corruption Strategy will be submitted to the public consultation process within the month of July 2024 for more inclusiveness of interest groups..

The full draft of the strategic document, announced for public consultation, can be found at the link: <https://konsultimipublik.gov.al>

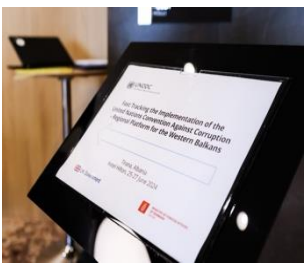
The HELP program of the Council of Europe, an enhanced training opportunity for technical anti-corruption staff

07.06.2024: The course "Introduction to the prevention of corruption" will be facilitated and attended by the staff and experts of the General Directorate of Anticorruption, under the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator. The Council of Europe office in Tirana, together with the Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption, promoted this initiative within the HELP Program, creating the technical space for the Albanian School of Public Administration to enable this course for this group of technicians. The General Directorate of Anticorruption and the Network of Anticorruption Coordinators will follow 13 modules of the program, with a duration of 12 hours. The course modules and evaluation will take place from June 10, 2024 - July 12, 2024. The 13 course modules will consist of raising awareness on the forms of corruption and the means of its prevention, ethical codes and behaviors, conflict of interest and ways of managing such situations, the purpose and strengthening of restrictions after leaving office, the regulation of gift management, the purpose of asset and conflict of interest declaration systems, the role of free access to information in the prevention of corruption, the regulation of lobbying, the transparency of the financing of political parties, the protection of whistleblowers, the risks of corruption in public procurement and mitigating measures, as well as the role of audit in the fight against corruption. Through practical examples and scenarios, the course highlights the ethical dilemmas and challenges of the actual implementation of anti-corruption measures. The course as a self-taught electronic tool, translated and adapted to the Albanian legal and institutional framework, will be mentored by two experts from the Council of Europe. At the end of the course, participants will have certificates of participation. The course comes as a very good experience attended by the political advisors of the ministers.



The II Regional Anticorruption and Illegal Financing Platform is drawn up and approved in Tirana

25-27.06.2024: The 2-nd Regional Platform Against Corruption and Illegal Financing met in Tirana, on June 25-27, 2024. The 6 countries of the Western Balkans Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo and Serbia joined under coordination of UNODC to draft the second roadmap (Roadmap) that will guide the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The technical staff of anti-corruption agencies, preventive authorities with activities in the field of public procurement, conflict of interest, integrity, information and educational qualification against corruption, as well as law enforcement bodies such as prosecutors' offices (general and specialized), state police, money laundering and administration and sequestration of crime assets discussed and oriented the region's commitments to the fight against corruption and good governance. This document (roadmap) will have an extension in 2024-2025, and foresees the same commitments for all 6 countries, guaranteeing its monitoring for each year of implementation. UNDOC is the technical structure that facilitated the development of this extended working meeting and supported countries for more concrete and clear planning. The document (roadmap) Anticorruption and Illegal Financing has two components: (I) Prevention of Corruption and (II) Criminalization, law enforcement, international cooperation and asset recovery. The prevention of corruption evidences the need for intervention and essential continuity in the strategic framework, education and increased information about mechanisms of the fight against corruption, intervention in the public procurement sector. The field of law enforcement evidences the need and further intervention in the cooperation between the prosecutor's offices and the police for the criminal investigation and the quality of the investigations, as well as in the promotion of asset recovery. II Regional Platform Against Corruption and Illegal Financing, Tirana 2024 was an indicator of the political and technical will to advance with anticorruption reforms in Albania and the region.



The fight against corruption as a topic of discussion in the open forum with young people

04.06.2024: The fight against corruption and the engagement of young people is a request, a need and a duty. The forum "Empowering youth in the fight against corruption and regaining trust in integrity" initiated and organized by the Albanian Helsinki Committee created an opportunity for communication between our authorities, public, civil society organizations and young people to talk and promote information against corruption. The forum turned into a communication platform for the empowerment of young people, for dialogue, exchange of knowledge and cooperation on the mechanisms of the fight against corruption and their denunciation. A panelist representative of the General Directorate of Anticorruption brought to the attention of the participants of the forum the need for engagement and increased public awareness of public institutions. Awareness campaigns, public education against corruption and the use of social communication for the fight against corruption are expected to be 1 of the 17 objectives of the Cross-Sector Anti-Corruption Strategy. The participants in this forum were also informed about the legal framework of signaling as well as about the rules and control mechanisms for the use of public funds. The critical voice of civil society was represented by the "Civic Attitude" organization, which brought its examples of monitoring cases of corruption in the public education sector. The forum is a good case of cooperation that should be replicated and has the readiness of the technical anti-corruption structure.



The e-bulletin "Anticorruption" in its three-year anniversary is evidenced as a good model of communication in NCPA

13.06.2024: The "Anticorruption" e-bulletin, this monthly information and communication tool for the work and processes of the General Directorate of Anticorruption, has become a model platform for the organization Network of Anticorruption Preventive Agencies - NCPA. After a three-year experience (June 2021 - June 2024) in the writing and distribution of the monthly e-bulletin "Anticorruption" by the General Directorate of Anticorruption on behalf of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator, this means of communication was evident. The NCPA network at the beginning of the application of this communication module proclaimed the e-bulletin of Albania and reproduced one of its articles (the article on the drafting of the Intersectoral Anti-Corruption Strategy 2024-2030, published in No. 35, April 2024) as a good experience. The communication, visibility and information about the fight against corruption among the interest groups of the National Anti-Corruption Coordinator of Albania has thus received a grade of appreciation, placing added value on this central mechanism. The fight against corruption recognizes as a pillar where communication and increased education can be supported, in accordance with the III policy of the country's anti-corruption strategic framework.

Information and data about the NCPA Network can be found at the link: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/corruption/ncpa-network>

