

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 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 Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption and the General Directorate of Anticorruption in the anticorruption field, on a monthly basis.

Activities during the month of September 2024

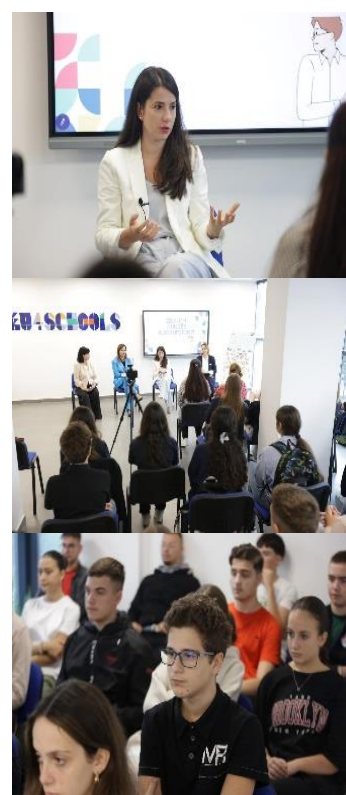
The document of the Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption has been finalized, 2024-2030

01-30.09.2024: The complete strategic package of the fight against corruption, 2024-2030, has been drafted and remains in the process of approval by the Albanian Government. At the end of the public consultation process, the Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption, 2024-2030, is expected to be approved at the meeting of the Council of Ministers during the following month, as the cornerstone that will address the horizontal and sectoral interventions of the fight against corruption in the public administration. Public institutions, central and local level, independent public administration authorities, civil society organizations, business chambers and their associations, international partners and individuals and citizens became part of the consultation with comments, suggestions and concrete proposals. The complete strategic package of the fight against corruption consists of 3 policy goals (prevention - punishment - awareness), 16 specific objectives, 62 measures, 309 activities and 26 performance indicators, the vision of which is: Albanian institutions that exercise their functions in accordance with the standards higher standards of integrity, transparency and public accountability by providing efficient services to citizens and businesses. The new Intersectoral Anti-Corruption Strategy, 2024-2030, is the primary document of the government's anti-corruption policies, which reflects concrete programs and initiatives of the anti-corruption development policy based on the National Strategy for National Development, the Roadmap for the Rule of Law and the Government's program Albanian. The assessment of the risk of corruption in sensitive sectors of public services, the involvement of local government with anti-corruption mechanisms and instruments, the design and implementation of lobbying as an anti-corruption instrument and integrity in the private sector are the innovations of this document that will advance the Agenda. 2030 of Albania in the European Union.



The Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption joins the students of the "Asim Vokshi" school with messages of cooperation

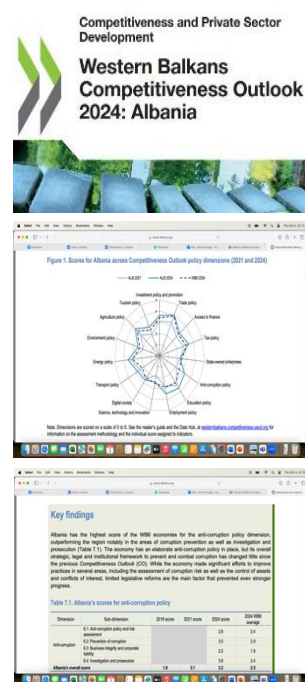
13.09.2024: The Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption, Adea Pirdeni, held a free social conversation in the auditorium of the high school of foreign languages, "Asim Vokshi", in Tirana. "Education against corruption" brings back Minister Pirdeni and officials of the General Directorate of Anti-corruption among the students of class X, conveying direct messages about integrity, good behavior in society, denunciation of corruption and ethical and moral actions. Minister Pirdeni enthusiastically promoted activation in education by increasing cooperation with schools, and bringing back the experience developed in the previous academic year 2023-2024 in high schools in Tirana and 6 districts of the country. Minister Pirdeni spoke to the students and teachers of the "Asim Vokshi" school about the culture of legality and responsible citizenship in schools, teaching issues related to the law, freedoms and rights, as well as offered some ideas for students regarding anti-corruption education. 10th grade students presented video messages calling against corruption, works based on the discipline of art (paintings, drawings and photos) based on their ideas as a result of the knowledge gained in the subject of "Citizenship", knowledge shared by specialists of the field and their innovative ideas. The "Education against corruption" project will soon resume for this academic year, 2024-2025, where 15-year-old students are expected to become the best conductors of anti-corruption initiatives and strengthening the reporting of corrupt cases in society. The culture of legality and ethics in society will be the promoters of the development of our society, guaranteeing the development and the presence of polite future generations, with legal culture and high accountability. The fight against corruption requires good and knowledgeable citizens, who are the engine of development and the guarantee of integration into the European family.



The report "Perspective of Competitiveness in the Western Balkans 2024 (OECD Outlook, 2024) evaluates Albania as the leader for anti-corruption policies in the region

04.09.2024: The OECD organization published in Tirana, the report "Perspective of competitiveness in the Western Balkans 2024, Albania", which measures the progress of policies in the main spheres of the economies of the Western Balkan countries. The evaluation report comes after two calendar years and analyzes the policies in 15 key areas (dimensions), and among them the dimension: Anti-corruption policy. According to the OECD, Albania is a leading country in the region for anti-corruption policies. In the general context, it constitutes finding data based on the real impact of policies that have been undertaken and are being undertaken to guarantee an irreversible standard of good governance for citizens. The anti-corruption policy evidences the good coordination of policies, the improvements in the digital system of asset declaration and the active role of institutions punishing corruption, such as the Special Prosecutor's Office for Corruption and Organized Crime - SPAK. The OECD report addresses the need for advanced legal reform and risk assessment interventions in vulnerable sectors and where services are provided to the public. The report is based on the data collected by the Albanian authorities, and the bodies that have preventive and punitive powers in cases of corruption.

The report can be found published at this link: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/western-balkans-competitiveness-outlook-2024-albania_541ec4e7-en



UNODC comes to Tirana and promotes the work plan for the following years in the field of the fight against corruption

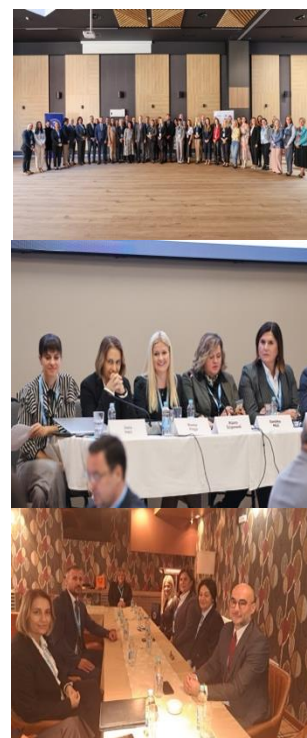
24.09.2024: The regional representative in the countries of the Western Balkans for UNODC, Danilo Rizzi, and his technical staff who follow and program cooperation projects came to Tirana and conducted official cooperation visits. Component III of the work program, "The fight against corruption" was discussed in a working meeting at a technical level near the premises of the Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption and the General Directorate of Anticorruption. Ms. Fotjona Taçe, director of the cabinet of the Minister of State for Public Administration and Anticorruption together with the director of Anticorruption Programs and Projects, Mrs. Rovena Prega, presented the latest developments in the fight against corruption, as part of the Minister of State's area of responsibility, and expressed agreement to address cooperation on issues of integrity instruments, anti-corruption education, revision of the UNCAC mechanism and regional cooperation in the field of mutual expertise. The regional anti-corruption platform that culminated with the meeting of the 6 countries of the Western Balkans region in Tirana, in June 2024, was mentioned as the past experience of mutual cooperation and to be replicated in other cases of cooperation under coordination and with technical support and financial of UNODC. Preparation of guidelines for (1) mutual legal assistance in



asset recovery and (2) rapid investigations of economic crimes and financial, these two products for the Albanian technical authorities are expected to continue with other rates of cooperation in the field of education and anti-corruption education together with UNODC.

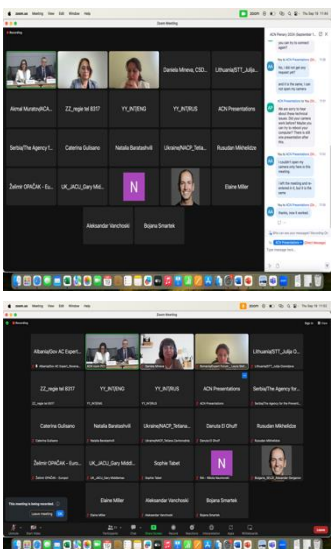
Integrity in the private sector as a control mechanism and anti-corruption cooperation

30.09.2024: Jahorina in Sarajevo returned to the center where the regional meeting "Integrity of the private sector in the Western Balkans" took place. The meeting in the format of a regional conference brought together representatives of anti-corruption agencies and business chambers and associations, with the aim of sharing experiences and good practices on how business, through its members, can become a good partner in the fight against corruption. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia were the countries that, together with UNODC and the Regional Anticorruption Organization - RAO, promoted the role of the private sector in the fight against corruption and its influences. Corruption is not fought alone, the phenomenon affects all countries and requires measures for action, so the organization of this activity brought professionals and technicians from countries to the discussion table to share their predictions and replicate each other's interventions. ISO standards referring to integrity in business and the way to change became the thesis of the sessions for discussion among the participants. Albania presented its forecasts of the Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption, where objective 1.9: Integrity in the private sector, constitutes innovation in the policies of the fight against corruption and establishes the basis of cooperation with the sector. The assessment of the risk of corruption including the private sector and the areas where the business mainly operates were discussed by the participants under the mentorship of the lecturers of the "Anticorruption" course from the academic field. Control mechanisms and the increased need for cooperation between anti-corruption agencies and private business were embraced by all participating countries. The activity was also accompanied by a special meeting held by the Anticorruption Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the countries of the region, proposing the request for direct and real cooperation between them.



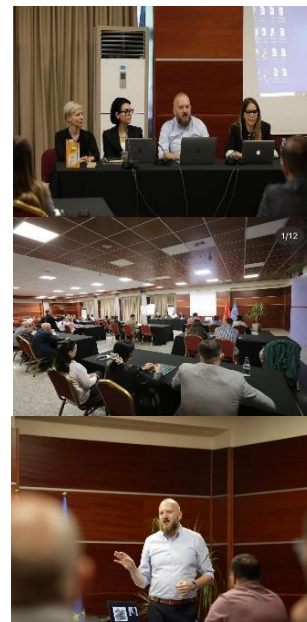
Anticorruption Policy Dialogue; discussion forum among ACN countries /OECD

19.09.2024: The Regional Dialogue of Anticorruption Policies was the session held within the 29th plenary session of the ACN organization (Network of Anticorruption Agencies) at the OECD. The held session served as a table of cooperation and sharing of ideas and initiatives among the member countries of the organization. Anti-corruption strategies and their Action Plans, as tools that generate anti-corruption reforms, were discussed in the meeting-dialogue, where the countries presented their cases of concrete interventions and collaborations with civil society organizations. Albania joined the meeting in the online format and intervened with a presentation prepared for the third policy of the Intersectoral Strategy Against Corruption, to be adopted soon. Cooperation with CSOs and private business and the format of anti-corruption education were the reference point of the presentation of Albania's anti-corruption reform to the entire audience of the meeting – Regional Anti-Corruption Policy Dialogue. Albania regularly attends and participates in ACN network meetings and forums because it values bilateral and multilateral cooperation and sharing and receiving good experiences of countries. Anticorruption reform remains the country's priority and the path to the European Union. Therefore such forms and active participation is a standard that must be achieved well and at the right time.



The professor of Harvard University, Ermal Frashëri gives an open lecture for the staff of the General Directorate of Anticorruption

17.09.2024: The General Directorate of Anticorruption and the Coordinators of the Anticorruption Network participated and benefited from the open hour of the lecture "Corruption in the current context and effective mechanisms for its prevention", by the professor of the subject "Anticorruption" of Harvard University, USA, Dr. . Ermal Frashëri. The lecture hour was realized within the project "Chronicles of integrity: Narrative for the fight against corruption", a multi-year initiative aimed at raising awareness and improving anti-corruption strategies. The project is implemented by the Meridian International Center and has the full support of the US State Department and the American Embassy in Tirana, reinforcing the international commitment to increase transparency and honesty in the country. During the lecture, the main factors that can contribute to the spread of corruption were analyzed, including institutional challenges, legal loopholes, and social and economic factors. The participants also reviewed successful models from different countries for the prevention of corruption, focusing on the most effective mechanisms that can be adapted and implemented at the national level. The lecture also served as a discussion forum for the production of awareness videos, through which various situations of corruption are shown in sensitive areas such as: health, property, education, thus aiming to inform and raise the awareness of the general public.



Administrative audit and verification, as part of the ongoing training of the technical staff of the General Directorate of Anticorruption

24–25.09.2024: Tirana once again gathered experts and professionals in the fields of control and inspection in the seminar on "The role of auditors in the fight against fraud and corruption". The World Bank promoted its intervention and care to gather Albanian experts who have an auditing role and experts from other institutions that exercise control and administrative investigation functions in state administration institutions, public entities and commercial companies with state capital. Three specialists of the General Directorate of Anticorruption, with the daily activity of inspection and administrative verification of corruption, participated and became part of the discussions on the auditor's role in the detection of fraud and corruption with public funds, as well as the implementation of preventive measures to mitigate the risk for fraud and corruption. The presentations during the sessions were interactive, encouraging the participants to share their experiences in dealing with practical cases. The seminar served as a good opportunity to further strengthen the cooperation of internal institutions in the common fight against fraud and corruption in Albania.

