The UNCAC Coalition Newsletter for the SEE Region highlights the major developments in the area of anti-corruption and good governance in Southeast Europe (SEE). It gathers information from multiple sources to provide you with the most relevant news and updates on the region.

UNCAC Coalition News

UNCAC Coalition, 15 February 2018
**The Essential Role of Civil Society in the UNTOC and UNCAC Review Processes**
The role of civil society in the UN Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and against Corruption (UNCAC) has been a contested issue. Although the importance of civil-society participation is referred to in the convention’s principles, there is no mandatory provision for it among states parties. In an interview with the Global Initiative’s Julia Stanyard, Ugi Zvekic explores the issue further.
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UNCAC Coalition, 14 February 2018
**Greater Integration, Cooperation Needed in UN Instruments to Prevent Organized Crime and Corruption**
In one of its latest articles author Ugi Zvekic from the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime explores the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) as the normative, criminal-justice-based platforms for prevention of organized crime and corruption. He underlines that crime prevention necessitates an integrated mix of initiatives, not just those that fall within the scope of criminal law and justice systems, but also the wider social and cultural spheres.
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UNCAC Coalition, February 2018
**UNCAC Coalition Seeks Consultant in Vienna to Start Up Coalition Hub Activities**
The UNCAC Coalition seeks a dynamic, self-starting, experienced social entrepreneur, who can manage a portfolio with a broad array of activities that help prepare the way for establishment of Coalition’s main Hub as a strong and autonomous base. The consultant will play a central role in laying the foundations for the Coalition’s presence in Vienna, Austria (which is the location of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the UN body tasked with overseeing the UNCAC).
[Continue reading →](#)

UNCAC Coalition, February 2018
**Open Call for Presenting Anti-corruption CSOs on the SEE Anti-Corruption Platform**
The UNCAC Coalition’s SEE Anti-Corruption Platform is continuing to seek new applications by anti-corruption CSOs, which would like to feature their profiles at the **Southeast Europe Anti-Corruption Platform**. CSOs interested in monitoring and promoting UNCAC implementation can increase their impact by sharing experiences and corruption-monitoring methodologies, building partnerships and exchanging updates about the status of UNCAC reviews.
[Continue reading →](#)
UNODC, 08 March 2018
**UNODC Message to the UNCAC States Parties to Follow up on UNCAC resolution 7/2**
UNODC, as Secretariat to the UNCAC Conference of States Parties, has written to the States Parties to follow up on [UNCAC resolution 7/2](https://www.uncac.org) on grand corruption adopted last November 2017. In UNODC’s Note Verbale dated 8 March, States Parties are asked to voluntarily share information with the Secretariat on: a) experiences and best practices on criminal and civil measures and remedies to enhance international cooperation and asset recovery related to corruption, when it involves vast quantities of assets; and b) best practices in the identification of legal and natural persons, involved in the establishment of entities, which may be abused to commit or conceal crimes of corruption. The UNCAC Coalition suggests that civil society stakeholders get in touch with their country representatives to encourage them to respond to the Note Verbale. Responses should be sent by States Parties to jennifer.sarvary-bradford@un.org as soon as possible, but not later than **15 April 2018**.

UNODC, 18 February 2018
**UNODC and UNESCO Join Forces to Promote a Culture of Lawfulness through Education**
UNODC and UNESCO announced a new project focused on educating youth on a culture of lawfulness to provide educational responses to meet some of the world’s most pressing rule of law challenges. The 'Initiative on Global Citizenship Education: Educating for a Culture of Lawfulness' is developed jointly by UNODC and UNESCO with the aim of equipping primary and secondary level educators with tools to uphold the principles of human rights and democracy, as well as to preserve and strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law."

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UNODC, 15 February 2018
**UNODC is Providing Integrated Support for Justice, Security in South Eastern Europe**
The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is advancing real-time, integrated cooperation to address justice and security challenges in South Eastern Europe, said UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov. Speaking at the opening of the Ninth Steering Committee Meeting on the Regional Programme for South Eastern Europe, the UNODC Chief highlighted work to address challenges posed by drugs, as well as smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and returning foreign terrorist fighters. A 2015 UNODC study found that the estimated value of illicit opiates trafficked along the Balkan route was US$28 billion annually.

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**News by SELDI members**

**Preventing Corruption through Administrative Measures**
The Winter School, which took place in Rome and Città di Castello, Italy, from 22 January to 2 February 2018, presented an intensive programme designed for professionals looking to consolidate their experience and enlarge their competences on curbing corruption, with particular attention to the misuse of European funds. Interdisciplinary in nature, it addressed trends and practices on the international anti-corruption arena and promoted culture of prevention. **RAI, 2 February 2018**

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The Judicial System in FYR of Macedonia: Changes without Reform

There is no clear vision of what and how to reform in the judiciary. The political and institutional crisis in the past few years has manifested all the weaknesses and shortcomings of the judiciary, related to political and party influence, corruption, and clientelism. However, despite the serious situation, the analysis of the Judicial Reform Strategy for the period 2017-2022 shows that there is no significant improvement in the situation in this sector. These are part of the conclusions of two analyzes of by the author Denis Presova, an associate of IDSCS, a SELDI member, that analyze current reforms in the justice sector and their alignment with the EU’s priorities. IDSCS, 19 February 2018
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Re-Launch of the Government Mirror
The initiative "Government Mirror" coordinated by SELDI’s partner, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), aims to answer the question “Do citizens and civil society organizations participate in the law-making processes?”. MCIC initiated the "Government Mirror" in 2012, recently re-lunched in November 2017, through monitoring the public consultation on laws published on the Single National Electronic Register (ENER). Thus, MCIC assesses the involvement of civil society organizations and the public at an early stage in drafting laws. The monthly reports for November and December 2017 and the monthly review for January 2018 are available on the Government’s Mirror website http://www.viewalonavladata.mk/. MCIC, 23 February 2018
Continue reading →

Institute Alternativa Asks the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption to Provide Evidence of Checks on the Credibility of Public Officials’ Declared Assets
Institute Alternative has requested reports, records or official notes on the conducted controls of asset declarations for six public officials. However, the Agency rejected access to this information, stating that income and asset reports are published online, as well as information on the established breaches of the law. On the other hand, the proceedings of verifying completeness and accuracy of data from income and asset reports is not accessible to the public, according to the Agency. Institute Alternativa requests that the proceedings, if conducted, must be formally concluded – by a report, an official note or any other form of written record that the proceedings were conducted as an evidence on the Agency’s work in this important area under its competence. Institute Alternativa, 14 February 2018
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Upcoming Events

Training on Investigation and Prosecution of Public Corruption Cases
The CEELI Institute announced an anti-corruption course on investigation and prosecution of public corruption cases. Participants from the SEE region are eligible to apply. This five-day, highly interactive training will provide participants with a comprehensive framework for initiating and pursuing official corruption cases. The course will take place in Prague the week of 23-27 April 2018, and is designed to walk participants through the investigation of a case involving official corruption. Participants will work in small groups with a hypothetical case to develop their own investigation strategy, learning to use time-tested investigative tools. CEELI Institute, 23-27 April 2018, Prague, the Czech Republic
Continue reading →
This Eurobarometer survey explores the level of corruption perceived and experienced by businesses in six sectors: energy, mining, oil and gas, chemicals; healthcare and pharmaceutical; engineering and electronics, motor vehicles; construction and building; telecommunications and information technologies; financial services, banking and investment. The survey covers: the prevalence of a range of corrupt practices; the management of public tenders; the prevalence of various corrupt practices in public procurement processes; bribery among political parties and senior officials; and how corruption is managed and punished.

Eurobarometer, December 2017

This survey covers public attitudes to: a) the acceptability of giving a bribe (money, a gift or a favour) to obtain something from the public administration or a public service; b) the extent of corruption in their country; c) the areas of society in which corruption is widespread present; d) how perceived corruption has changed in the past three years; e) services/sectors of society facing the biggest corruption problems; f) the effectiveness of government, the judicial system and institutions in tackling corruption.

Eurobarometer, December 2017

The discussion paper is devoted to the complex problem of prosecution of corruption in BiH. In the document, the author Adela Bejtović Janušić addresses key obstacles to a more effective judicial response to corruption, as seen from a substantive law perspective, that is, from the perspective of the definition of corruption criminal offenses. Particular attention is paid to examining the extent to which the legal framework in BiH is aligned with the international standards and recommendations of the relevant international bodies in this field. The author concludes that the practice of prosecuting corruption points to the incompleteness and imprecision of certain provisions of criminal codes in BiH. Analitika, BiH, January 2018
As more and more countries are seeking to adopt whistleblowing legislation, Transparency International has developed the *Best Practice Guide for Whistleblowing Legislation* for policymakers and whistleblowing advocates on how to implement its *International Principles for Whistleblower Legislation* into national law. It was done in collaboration with experts from Transparency International chapters who have successfully advocated for the adoption of whistleblower protection legislation in their countries. For each principle, the current guide sets out what constitutes current good practice and why.  
Transparency International, 1 March 2018

The ACTION SEE consortium developed a *Regional Open Source Index*, and *Regional and National Good Governance Roadmaps* that serve for measuring the percentage of transparency of governments and ministries in the Western Balkan countries. They examine a number of issues, such as: adopting a central policy of openness to the executive level to regularly publishing voter lists of MPs, whether the judicial authorities maintain an updated website and whether local governments publish information in a timely manner, etc.  
ACTION SEE consortium, including Zasto Ne and CDT, 6 January 2018

The report notes that Macedonia in the past few years has seen various weaknesses and shortcomings of the constitutional and political system. Within these weaknesses, the problems in the judiciary are among the most shocking. The analysis points to serious and worrying issues in the functioning and management of the judiciary, and related political and party influence, corruption, judicial clientele, etc. This contributes to the low confidence of citizens in the judiciary.  
IDSCS, 19 February 2018
Is Romania the Next Italy?

Romania is often featured in the media these days as the theatre of a black and white fight between good and evil. The once leader of Romania’s Coalition for a Clean Parliament, international anti-corruption expert Alina Mungiu-Pippidi explains why Romania’s anticorruption turned sour and why Romania travels in the footsteps of Italy, where only a minority of the public considers that corruption is less present than before the great purge undertaken via the Clean Hands campaign. When anticorruption is politicized by parties and the media, she warns, its electoral accountability effect disappears, a country gets locked in vicious conflicts, secret services and other occult groups get too powerful and the rule of law gets trampled by all sides.

SAR, 26 February 2018

Contacts

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