

*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, 6-10 November 2017

#### 7th UNCAC Conference of States Parties



From 6 to 10 November 2017 representatives of many of the 183 States Parties to the [UN Convention against Corruption \(UNCAC\)](#) will meet in Vienna for the 7th session of the UNCAC Conference of States Parties (7th COSP). This biennial anti-corruption gathering is the most important global event for checking progress on the UNCAC and for strengthening efforts in the fight against corruption. About 1,000 government officials will attend the meeting, together with representatives of intergovernmental agencies and civil society organisations (CSOs). (Photo: UNCAC)

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### UNCAC Coalition, 8 November 2017

#### UNCAC Coalition Statement at General Plenary of 7th UNCAC COSP

“No, corruption is not a victimless crime. Its victims include the institutions that protect us. And, individuals and communities are directly harmed. When resources are stolen or diverted from the public purse, essential services suffer and people who are entitled to healthcare, education and social security go without. This has to stop!”

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### UNCAC Coalition, 24 October 2017

#### Special Rapporteur: Lack of UN-wide access to information policy “intolerable”

**24 October 2017** This post was originally published on the ARTICLE 19 website. The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, David Kaye, today presents a major report to the UN General Assembly on the right of access...

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## News by SELDI members

### Preventing Corruption Through Efficient Identification of Risks



Photo: RAI

Over 60 experts from ministries of justice, anti-corruption bodies and non-governmental organisations from South East Europe (SEE), gathered in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 25-26 October 2017 to discuss the implementation of corruption risk assessments (CRA) and corruption proofing of legislation (CPL) across the region. The participants reviewed the patterns of corruption in society and focused on specific corruption-related occurrences in SEE economies. The forum, organized by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI), in cooperation with SELDI, made important contributions for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of corruption proofing and risks assessments. In a separate panel discussion, SELDI presented its experience and future plans, seeking to deepen its public-private cooperation with public authorities across the region.

During the upcoming four years the coalition aims to further its policy impact not only on national and region levels, but also locally, enhancing the capacity of grassroots organizations to influence the decision-making process. **SELDI/RCC/RAI, 25 – 26 October 2017**

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### **Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption**

The Conference of the States Parties (COSP) is the main policy-making body of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The seventh session of the Conference was held at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 6 to 10 November 2017. In keeping with past practice, the general discussion of the Conference served as an opportunity for high-level representatives to address the Conference and provide guidance for its deliberations and the achievement of its objectives. The Conference was established to improve the capacity of States to implement the Convention, enhance cooperation among States in achieving the objectives of the Convention and to promote and review the implementation of the Convention. The Conference meets every two years and adopts resolutions and decisions in furtherance of its mandate. **RAI, 6 – 10 November 2017**

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### **Civil Society Guarding the Budget in Montenegro**

SELDI's member, Institute Alternative launched the initiative "Money Watch – Civil Society Guarding the Budget", on 6 October 2017 in the EU Info Centre in Podgorica. The project aims at contributing to the fight against corruption by more efficient control of public spending and reducing public distrust in the efficiency of public spending. These objectives will be achieved by strengthening the capacities of civil society through the "Open Budget School", media reporting on significant and burning issues of public money spending, as well as research and monitoring of the implementation of the Public Finance Management Program 2016-2020. The event was organised by the European Union Delegation within the civil society consultations on project programming in the upcoming period. **Institut Alternativa, 30 October 2017**

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### **MCIC Suggests a Reform in the State Financing of NGOs**



Photo: MCIC

SELDI's member, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), held a conference to present recommendations for a reform in the financing of NGOs. The MCIC experts stressed that the Code of Good Practices for Financial Support of Citizens' Associations and Foundations and the Law on Associations and Foundations should receive legally binding force. They also underlined that there is a necessity to improve the transparency, effectiveness and accountability of the funding distribution

procedure. **MCIC, 27 October 2017**

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Anti-Bribery & Corruption Conference 2017: International Enforcement Trends**

On 1 December 2017 the annual Amsterdam Anti-Bribery & Corruption Conference will take place for the third time. After two successful editions of the conference in Dutch, the conference will as of this year be held in English. The theme of this year's conference is 'International Enforcement Trends'. The program will cover a broad range of topics, including recent developments, stimulating debate, fostering networking, cross-fertilisation and the global exchange of experience. **White Collar Academy, 1 December 2017, Amsterdam, Netherlands**

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## **18th International Anti-Corruption Conference**

The International Anti-Corruption Conference Council and Transparency International announced that the 18th edition of the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark on 22-24 October 2018. The event will discuss innovative strategies to fight corruption which continues to trap millions of people around the world in poverty and threatens sustainable development. The International Anti-Corruption Conference, first held in 1983, has evolved into the leading global forum on governance and anti-corruption. It brings together leaders from the public and private sectors, civil society, international organisations, academics and the media to discuss the increasingly sophisticated challenges posed by corruption. **International Anti-Corruption Conference, 22-24 October 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark**

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## **Useful Resources**

### **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the Progress in Bulgaria under the CVM**

The Cooperation and Verification Mechanism report from 15 November 2017 presents the progress made in Bulgaria following up the recommendations set out in the January 2017 report. The report notes that the new Government showed determination to make up for lost time by pushing ahead quickly with legislative initiatives. At the same time the Commission stresses on the importance of inclusive legislative processes, in the context of the developments from July 2017, when a package of draft proposals for changes to the Judicial Systems Act were put on the agenda of the National Assembly by MPs, without public debate or consultation of stakeholders. High expectations are placed on the newly elected Supreme Judicial Council (SJC).

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## **Contacts**

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