

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, 17 October 2017

We condemn the barbaric murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia who fearlessly exposed corruption

Anti-corruption activists, press freedom advocates and investigative journalists from around the world condemn the barbaric murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia, an investigative journalist from Malta who courageously exposed organised crime and corruption in politics. *This post was originally published on the [Transparency International](#) website.*

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UNCAC Coalition, 5 September 2017

Petition to the International Association of Prosecutors

In the run-up to the annual conference and general meeting of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) in Beijing, China, the undersigned civil society organisations urge the IAP to live up to its vision and bolster its efforts to preserve the integrity of the profession. Increasingly, in many regions of the world, in clear breach of professional integrity and fair trial standards, public prosecutors use their powers to suppress critical voices.

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UNCAC Coalition, 22 June 2017

Statement by Manzoor Hasan at the UNCAC Implementation Review Group Briefing for NGOs

I am speaking on behalf of UNCAC Coalition, a network of non-governmental organisations around the world committed to advancing effective implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention against Corruption. My name is Manzoor Hasan and I am the Chair of the Coalition. I am also the Executive Director at the Centre for Peace and Justice, BRAC University in Bangladesh. Within the broad spectrum of civil society groups that are associated with the UNCAC Coalition there has been a huge and diverse range of anti-corruption work over the last 12 months. I will highlight a few areas of particular relevance to your discussions about the review mechanism and about the second review cycle.

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UNCAC Coalition, 11 April 2017

Second review cycle: Nine months in

Nine months into the second review cycle of the [UNCAC review process](#), we have been asking members in the countries participating about their experiences so far. In the last three to four years anti-corruption and integrity-building efforts at the national and local level have developed, but the Office of the National Coordinator against Corruption is under staffed and lacks minimum resources. In a whitepaper (delivered to OSCE in January 2017 to be shared with the government of Albania) IDM argued and proposed that a National Agency against Corruption approved by parliament should be established.

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UNODC, 25 September 2017

First Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on UNCAC and its Review Mechanism in Southeast Europe Commences

The first Multi-stakeholder Workshop on the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and its Review Mechanism took place from 25 to 29 September in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was the first of such workshop to be held in Southeast Europe (SEE). The workshop, which was supported by the Austrian Development Agency through the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative, and by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, aimed to develop capacities of around 60 participants from across the SEE region to contribute to the implementation of the UNCAC and its Review Mechanism.

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UNODC, 9 October 2017

UNODC hosts world premiere of 'Trafficked', spotlights global human trafficking

Lights, Camera, Action! United Nations Headquarters in New York was the backdrop for a prestigious red-carpet premiere of the movie 'Trafficked', a searing human trafficking drama inspired by true events. Hosted by UNODC, the movie premiered last week at a packed [Economic and Social Council](#) (ECOSOC) Chamber with distinguished attendees from Governments, civil society organizations, and the arts and media community. The premiere was moderated by [UNODC's New York Office](#) Head Simone Monasebian, and featured [welcoming remarks by CNN award winning journalist Richard Quest](#).

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News from SELDI members

RAI, 17 October 2017

Coordinators of Integrity Plans in Montenegro Trained on Corruption Risk Assessment



Photo: RAI

SELDI's associated partner, the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI), in cooperation with the Agency for Prevention of Corruption of Montenegro, organized one-day training for coordinators of integrity plans in institutions of Montenegro. The event gathered about 70 public officials and offered practical and methodological instructions devising the plans. The main objective of the training was that the coordinators get acquainted to the purpose and importance of the development and implementation of integrity plans in a comprehensive and participatory manner.

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Regional Cooperation Council, 9 October 2017

RCC's Balkan Barometer 2017: Unemployment Remains the Main Concern, while Anxiety over Corruption Grows

The Regional Cooperation Council's (RCC) presented in Brussels the 2017 edition of the Balkan Barometer (BB), an annual survey of citizens and business communities' opinion on the situation in the region. RCC Secretary General, Goran Svilanovic underlined that while there is further evidence of economic recovery across a number of the region's larger economies, unemployment remains the main concern. Worryingly, the Barometer also highlights the ever growing anxiety over corruption; in BB 2015, 15% of the respondents rated corruption as one of the key problems for the region. The number was up to 27% in 2016 and has further increased in 2017 to 32%. The Balkan Barometer, its database and publications are available at the [RCC website](#).

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Citizens Association Zasto Ne (Why not?), 19 September 2017

Awarded Grants to Civil Society Organizations



Photo: Citizens Association
Zasto Ne (Why not?)

Grants for implementation of six-month projects have been awarded to 18 civil society organizations from six countries: Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will address urgent local and national issues in order to advance good governance and the rule of law. These grants have been awarded within the ACTION SEE: Accountability, Technology and Institutional Openness Network in SEE project, which is implemented by Metamorphosis Foundation in partnership with organisations from Great Britain, Serbia, Albania, as well as the SELDI partners Citizens Association Zasto Ne (Why not?) from Bosnia and

Herzegovina and Center for Democratic Transition from Montenegro, with financial support of the European Union.

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** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

Partnership for Social Development, 7 October 2017

State Administration and EU Representatives Welcome New IT Tools against Corruption



Photo: Partnership for Social
Development

New IT tools developed by SELDI's member Partnership for Social Development (PSD), Croatia within the Integrity Observer project provide a new dimension in the fight against corruption. The tools are intended to help eliminate corruption risks in the management of public resources. Their application reduces the area in which corruption can occur and prevents corruption from going unnoticed by the system.

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RAI, 4 October 2017

BiH Anti-Corruption Institutions and Regional Counterparts Exchange Experience in Protection of Whistle-Blowers



Photo: RAI

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) organized a roundtable on exchange of experiences between BiH anti-corruption institutions and regional counterparts on protection of whistle-blowers on 4 October 2017 in Banja Luka. The roundtable was part of the support that the Mission and RAI Secretariat are providing to the Republika Srpska Ministry of Justice in the development and implementation of the Law on Protection of Persons Reporting Corruption, adopted in June 2017. Experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia

presented practices of implementation of similar legislation in the region.

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Centre for the Analysis and Prevention of Corruption (CAPC), 4 October 2017

Moldova: New Tool for Streamlining the Activity of the Board on Evaluation of Judges' Performances

On 3 October 2017 the Superior Council of Magistracy (SCM) approved the draft standardized electronic form for drafting decisions of the Board on evaluation of judges' performances (BEJP) at request of SELDI's partner Centre for the Analysis and Prevention of Corruption

(CAPC). BEJP's decisions-drafting system will allow the transparency of BEJP' activity by publishing automatically the decisions on the SCM web page, ensuring the fullness and visibility of the information; standardizing the practice of applying the criteria for evaluation of judges, being prevented the arbitrary allowance of the score; keeping up-to-date statistics on the efficiency of BEJP's activity; and significant simplification of the BEJP Secretariat' work.
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Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight Against Corruption, 6 October 2017

Coordination Meeting of Anti-Corruption Teams in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with the newly associated SELDI partner, the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight Against Corruption (APIK) organized a third coordination meeting in Sarajevo between representatives of anti-corruption teams of the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Brcko District Government, and the cantonal anti-corruption teams. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen coordination between the teams, to exchange perspectives for future engagement in the prevention of corruption and to contribute to raising the public awareness on the issue.

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Upcoming Events

Regional Forum on Effective Prevention of Corruption through Risk Assessment

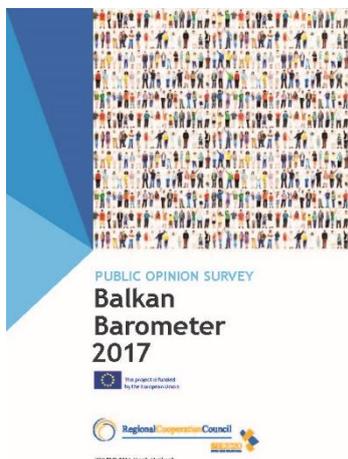
The Regional Anti-corruption Initiative and the Regional Cooperation Council, in cooperation with Slovenian Commission for Prevention of Corruption, and supported by the Austrian Development Agency are organizing the Regional Forum on Preventing Corruption through Efficient Risks Assessment in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 25-26 October 2017. To capitalize on the momentum created by the institutions, this Forum will discuss the progress achieved and the challenges faced with introduction and implementation of corruption risk assessment and anti-corruption assessment of laws. Particularly, the participants will present practical cases which brought an impact and innovative ideas in conducting the two preventive measures.

RAI, 25 – 26 October 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

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Useful Resources

Balkan Barometer 2017: Public Opinion Survey



Regional Cooperation Council, 9 October 2017

The 2017 edition of Balkan Barometer (BB) is yet another instalment in the series of annual public opinion surveys commissioned by the Regional Cooperation Council. It collects and analyses data across a host of thematic areas, examining aspirations and expectations of the region's populations and its business community on life and work, prevalent socio-economic and political trends as well as regional and European integration, among others. The Balkan Barometer Public Opinion Survey is conducted among 8000 citizens in 2016 throughout our part of Europe, and the key findings show the ever growing anxiety over corruption.

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Quality of Judiciary Response to Corruption in BiH



Center for Social Research Analitika, 11 October 2017

With the assistance of the EU, the new SELDI member, Center for Social Research “Analitika”, in partnership with [BIRN](#), published a Policy Brief within the project “Integrity through Justice: Independent Civil Society Monitoring and Assessment of Judicial Response to Corruption”. According to the authors, despite the important role of judiciary in combating corruption, there is a lack of research and reports covering the topic of prosecuting corruption-related offenses in BiH. Aggravating factors are unevenness of statistics on the work of courts and prosecutors.

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Quality of Indictments and Judgments in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a Factor in the Efficient Processing of Criminal Offenses of Corruption



Center for Social Research Analitika, 11 October 2017

In the new review of Analitika, the author Judge Ljiljana Filipovic deals with the issue of quality of indictments and judgments as a factor of the efficiency of the judiciary, firstly through insight into international standards dedicated to the quality of judicial and prosecutorial acts, and focusing on whether domestic criminal legislation provides the required level of quality of indictments and judgments. In a convincing and argumentative analysis, Judge Filipovic concludes that the quality of the analyzed judicial acts is not at a satisfactory level. In this regard, recommendations aimed at improving the quality of judicial acts, as well as the clarity and precision of legal provisions related to their content have been formulated.

[Continue reading \(in Bosnian\) →](#)

Contacts

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This UNCAC Coalition Newsletter was produced by Daniela Mineva of the SELDI anti-corruption initiative in cooperation with the UNCAC Coalition

Contact the UNCAC Coalition at:
Email: info@uncaccoalition.org
Twitter: [@uncaccoalition](https://twitter.com/uncaccoalition)