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ANTI-CORRUPTION NEWSLETTER

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SELDI SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME: OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CIVIL SOCIETY FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION IN SEE

The Southeast European Leadership for Development and Integrity (SELDI) through its grants coordinator the Centers for Civic Initiatives (CCI) is seeking proposals for Support to Local Civil Society Organisations in Pursuing EU and Regional Anti-Corruption Agenda in IPA countries from the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey). The grant scheme is kindly supported by the European Commission through financial assistance for the Project "Civil Society for Good Governance and Anti-Corruption in Southeast Europe: Capacity Building for Monitoring, Advocacy and Awareness Raising (SELDI)".

The deadline for application is: **March 04, 2019.**

[For more information visit the CCI website.](#)

NEWSBY SELDI MEMBERS

FOLLOW-UP MEETING FOR AROUND 30 CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE REGION



In order to further the momentum generated by Multi-Stakeholder Workshop on the United Nations Convention against Corruption, UNODC together with RAI Secretariat held a one-day follow-up meeting for around 30 civil society and private sector representatives from the region on 1 February 2019 in Belgrade, Serbia. The Meeting was supported by the Austrian Development Agency as part of the South East

Europe Regional Programme on Strengthening the Capacity of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Civil Society to Combat Corruption and Contribute to the UNCAC Review Process.

The participants affirmed the fundamental importance of promoting the active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector in the prevention of and the fight against corruption and raising public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption, as stipulated by Article 12 and 13 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

The meeting resulted in setting targets and actions for the coming period as well as long term milestones. Representatives from SELDI's coordinator –the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) attended the meeting. **UNODC and RAI, 1 February 2019**

PROMOTING OPEN DIALOGUE FOR THE REFORM AGENDA IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



CCI organised a round table in Banja Luka as a platform for open public dialogue on CCI's key findings regarding the implementation of the Reform Agenda in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The participants presented additional recommendations in relation to six key areas: rule of law and good governance; public finance, tax policy and fiscal sustainability; business climate and competitiveness; labor market; the reform of the pension system, and the public admin-

istration reform. The Reform Agenda was characterised as lacking transparency in its implementation, reform planning, and commitment to implementing reforms among all decision-makers. In addition, the constant challenges of political crises have further slowed down the processes. The round table was thus beneficial in contributing to the better understanding and taking the necessary steps towards achieving the set goals through the open dialogue of all key actors. **CCI, 19 February 2019**

NORTH MACEDONIA: THE PLATFORM OF CSOS FOR FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION WILL CLOSELY MONITOR THE WORK OF THE NEW SCPC



The Platform of CSOs for fight against corruption welcomes the election of new members of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) and expresses expectation for decisive, thorough and indiscriminate fight against corruption at all levels of government.

Throughout the process, civil and media associations were fully involved in the interviews and asked each candidate questions that will show the integrity, knowledge and readiness of each person for the function. Despite the extremely short deadlines, the Platform supports the selection of candidates and believes in their future professionalism and efforts to fight corruption.

The selection committee was transparent in the whole process, and the entire process was broadcasted on the Parliamentary TV channel that enabled public to get acquainted with all the candidates and their performances. The platform considers that the model for selecting SCPC members is good, and applicable to other similar bodies. SELDI's Coordinator- the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) and SELDI's partner – The Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis", as members of the Platform actively participated in the process of selection of SCPC members. **MCIC and IDSCS, 18 February 2019**

PLANNING SESSION WITHIN THE REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION PROJECT



AIRE Centre and RAI Secretariat started implementation of a 2-year regional project on asset recovery titled Strengthening anti-corruption in the South East Europe through improving asset seizure measures in September 2018. The initiative is funded by the British Government. On 7 February 2019 RAI team held planning sessions with Lawrence Day, anti-corruption expert on asset recovery from UK and a representative of ALM Consulting. The consultations were dedicated to the three project activities: organizing a peer-to peer three days visit to UK National Authorities; developing and Hand-book on tools and best practices in International cooperation in criminal matters with the focus on asset recovery; and holding a first round of 2-day training on International cooperation in asset recovery. Later on, on 12 and 13 February 2019, the [Regional Anti-Corruption Project Team met in Sarajevo](#). During the meeting the team decided that 2019 will be dedicated to trainings for judges and prosecutors in international cooperation in criminal matters with the focus on international cooperation in asset recovery as well as on effective asset recovery in line with international and European standards. The trainings will be complemented by comprehensive handbooks and delivered by eminent experts in the respective fields. **RAI, 9 and 14 February, 2019.**

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OF MONTENEGRO

On the 11 February 2019, MANS filed a criminal complaint against DPS's President Milo Đukanović, as well as against several DPS activists on suspicion of money laundering, forgery of official documents and violations of the freedom of choice in voting. In a criminal complaint filed, it is stated that the reported persons made a conversion of 100 thousand dollars into Euros, whose origin they concealed, knowing that it was money obtained by a criminal offense ; made official documents – financial reports and reports on the financing of election campaigns with false data in which donations received by DPS were not mentioned. In addition, according to the complaint, they used the money through the activists to influence the freedom of voting i.e. to buy votes in elections in Zeta. **MANS, 11 February, 2019**

MONTENEGRO: GOVERNMENT IGNORED IA PROPOSALS

IA has submitted its proposals in order to improve Government's 2019 Work Programme. Our proposals largely fall under the scope of Ministry of finance and Ministry of justice. However, they have not been accepted, apart from the obligation of preparing the Law on the Protector of Property and Legal Interests of Montenegro. Still, as this particular obligation is being repeated in the Government's work programmes year after year, it is uncertain that it reflects the content of our request for more precise procedure of personnel selection and functioning of this important but neglected institution. **(IA, 19 February, 2019)**

TACKLING CLIENTELISM IN CROATIA

Predrag Bejaković from the Institute of Public Finance, a member of the SELDI network, participated with the paper on clientelism and pension system during a round table discussion held at Zagreb University. Political scientists, economists and legal experts who attended the event, organised by the "Miko Tripalo" Centre for Democracy and Law, spoke about clientelism in the country and its forms. The participants noted that in Croatia, unlike in stable Western democracies, voters punish fiscal responsibility and reward budget populism, while corrupt mayors stand a better chance of being re-elected. **Institute of Public Finance, February 14, 2019**

DISCUSSING THE EFFECTS OF CORRUPTION ON THE SOCIETY IN BOSNA AND HERZEGOVINA

SELDI's member CCI, took part in a media appearance on the regional Bijeljina TV. The broadcasting, part of the series Ideals of society in BiH, discussed corruption in BiH and its effects on the citizens. CCI used this opportunity to present the efforts of the SELDI network, its goals and ongoing activities and gave a critical opinion of the current situation regarding corruption in the country. **CCI, 16 February, 2019.**

CSOS ANNOUNCED AN ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENDA FOR CANDIDATES IN UKRAINE

12 leading non-governmental organisations have published an [anti-corruption agenda](#) for candidates for the presidency of Ukraine. Candidates are urged to publicly record their proposals to overcome key issues of state anti-corruption policy. For their part, civic organisations are ready to contribute to the discussion of these problems with presidential candidates. **Civil Control Platform, January 28, 2019**

ANTI-CORRUPTION NEWS FROM THE SEE REGION

The current section of the Newsletter presents a summary of the latest anti-corruption news from the SEE region, based on consolidated information from multiple sources, such as media outlets and narratives received by the SELDI project partners.

NEW ANTICORRUPTION MEMBERS APPOINTED IN NORTH MACEDONIA

57 candidates applied to be part of the anti-corruption commission on the open call published by the Parliament, which ran from 22 until 27 January. The candidates who have applied to be members of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, including a president, were being interviewed by a nominated Selection Committee, comprised of two representatives from the civil society, four representatives from the political parties and one representative from the Ombudsman office. The Committee drafted rank list with candidates and proposed the top seven ranked candidates to the Parliament's Committee on Elections and Appointment Issues for their endorsement. The list of seven candidates was approved by the Parliament's Committee, and later on by the Parliament itself. According to the ranking, Vladimir Georgiev (100) and Sofka Pejovska Dojcinovska, experienced anti-corruption officials as part of the SCPC Secretariat, were on the top of the list. They were followed by Katica Nikolovska, auditor, Nuri Bajrami, employee in the Municipality of Gostivar, Biljana Ivanovska, auditor, Goran Trpenovski, journalist and Sems Salai, employee in the Municipality of Vrapciste. Biljana Ivanovska was appointed for president of the new commission, a top ranked candidate who applied for the position of president, as well. **MCIC, 10 February 2019**

NORTH MACEDONIA: FULL HANDS OF WORK FOR THE NEW COMMISSIONERS

Immediately after the Anti-Corruption Commission was officially appointed, big fuss was created in the public, as it was announced that one of the new members of the Commission was a brother-in-law of the Parliament's speaker, Talat Xhaferi. The new composition of the Commission held its first session and discussed his election as a member of SCPC and whether there was a conflict of interests. The Commission considered that according to Article 8 of the Law on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interests, there was no conflict of interest involved in this case. He was elected as Vice-President of the Commission in a lottery draw. All members draw a ballot reading a member, and Bajrami draw the ballot reading vice-president. He will hold this position for six months, and then another member will be elected on the principle of rotation. At the same time, SCPC opened a procedure for examination of the employment procedure of 18 persons, close relatives of the families of the high level officials. SCPC announced that they will act on all other cases of suspicion of nepotism in employment in the public sector, but they will first work on the most recent cases. The commission also opened a case related to the allocation of funds for financing the annual program of the Ministry of Culture. **MCIC, 15 February 2019**

CROATIA: CORRUPTION TRIAL OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER ADJOURNED

The corruption trial of former prime minister Ivo Sanader and Zsolt Hernadi, CEO of the Hungarian energy company MOL, was adjourned at the Zagreb County Court on 19 February 2019 due to Sanader's health. A number of media reported that Hernadi is beyond the reach of Croatian authorities. The questioning of witnesses was delayed until February 25. Sanader suggested that a medical expert determines if he could be present at the hearings and for how long in a day, clarifying that this suggestion is also made "so as to avoid being crucified in public." **Institute of Public Finance, 19 February 2019**

CROATIA: FORMER CROATIAN GOVERNMENT MINISTER DISMISSES CORRUPTION CHARGES



Former Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) government minister Bozidar Kalmeta appeared in court to reject the indictment accusing him of siphoning money from road companies and defrauding the transport ministry by commissioning a promotional film during his time in office. Anti-corruption police Uskok contends that Kalmeta, who served as transport minister from 2003 to 2011, had organised a criminal group including officials at his transport ministry and the two state-owned road management companies, Croatian Motorways (HAC) and Croatian Roads (HC), and that they shared over 15 mil. kuna (€ 2 mil.) and € 850,000 in illegal gain siphoned from road maintenance and construction companies. He is also accused of defrauding his own ministry of more than 600,000 kuna (€ 80,000) by commissioning a promotional film titled Croatia's Transport Renaissance made by an outsource company. Also indicted are 9 other top officials and executives from the transport ministry and state-owned road management companies and private-owned construction businesses.

RAI, January 25, 2019

EU FUNDING SUPPORTS THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



The European Union is going to fund three new anti-corruption projects amounting to almost €3.5 million from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) funds. These EU efforts are planned to support 14 anti-corruption bodies in BiH by giving them funds for strategic, legal and operational support. The three projects are targeting different institutions from the public, private and civil society sectors. The project Institutional Support to Anti-Corruption – IPAK, worth €750,000 will assist anti-corruption and other institutions to strengthen the fight against corruption. The €2.2 million project EU4Justice, which will be implemented in partnership with Justice International Cooperation from France aims to enhance the efficiency of investigation and prosecution of serious corruption and organised crime cases through an interdisciplinary approach that requires close cooperation of all relevant stakeholders. Transparency International will implement the project EU Support against Corruption in BiH, worth €500,000 to flag up corrupt practices in the health sector in BiH.

CCI, February 2019

THE INDEX OF PERCEPTION OF CORRUPTION PLACES MACEDONIA ON THE EUROPEAN BOTTOM



Misha Popovic from IDSCS comments on the TI Index on corruption for Macedonia: „Probably many will think that the improvement of 14 places in the rank is a good result for us, but this jump is a result of deteriorated ratings of our neighbors. It is obvious that the assessment expressed some momentum in society, in which citizens become more sensitive to corruption. This momentum must be complemented by political will and efficient institutions that will deliver results. It's interesting how TI this year showed that there is no functional democracy below 50 index points. Macedonia has 37 and it will take years to get to functional democracy. But here, this relation between corruption and the attack on democracy should be a guide for political actors in making decisions". **DW, 29 January 2019**

MOLDOVA: UK COURT SEIZES MOLDOVAN EX-PM'S SON'S FORTUNE

A London court has forfeited frozen bank accounts containing half a million pounds, belonging to the former prime minister of Moldova's son, after investigators decided the cash came from his father's corrupt activities. A London judge has ordered the forfeiture of three frozen bank accounts belonging to the 22-year-old son of Moldova's former prime minister who was jailed for corruption in 2016. The bank accounts were frozen in May last year after an investigation by Britain's National Crime Agency ruled that the money derived from his father's illegal activities. **RAI, February 8, 2019**

EC URGES THE MONTENEGRO TO INVESTIGATE THE "ENVELOPE" AFFAIR

The European Commission urged the Montenegrin authorities to quickly and efficiently investigate quotes of owners of the Atlas Group, Dusko Knezevic, about donations to the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) shortly before the local and parliamentary elections in 2016. The "envelope" affair was initiated by Knezevic when he announced that in agreement with DPS leader Milo Đukanović, he gave 97,500 euros to former mayor of Podgorica Slavoljub Stijepovic for the election campaign in 2016. **CDT, February 2019**

UPCOMING EVENTS

C5 FORUM ON ANTI-CORRUPTION ITALY

The C5's 6th Forum on Anti-Corruption will take place on **March 13-14, 2019, in Milan, Italy**. It is the premier anti-corruption compliance event in the country. The conference will include an enhanced focus on practical lessons learned from recent and ongoing local and global compliance cases. Keynote speaker at the event will be Nicola Bonucci, Director for Legal Affairs at the OECD.

CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC SECTOR ECONOMICS AND CALL FOR PAPERSS

The Institute of Public Finance (IPF) and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) will organise the conference: Public Sector Economics 2019 – Wealth and prosperity taxation: where do we stand? on **October 24, 2019, in Zagreb, Croatia**. The conference aims to bring a unique assessment of the profession's thinking on the potentials and limitations of wealth and property taxes and their purpose in the modern economy. Organisers are calling for contributions in the form of submissions of historical reviews, studies of experience, as well as theoretical, empirical and policy papers on the different modalities of these kinds taxation. The conference will feature keynotes on historical experiences with wealth and property taxes, current state of property and wealth taxation, and how it might develop in the future. Among the speakers are: Sarah Perret, Center for Tax Policy and Administration OECD (France); and Enid Slack, Institute of Municipal Finance and Governance, University of Toronto, Canada. **Deadline to apply for the call for papers is 1 May 2019.** More at: [#CallforPapers](#)

21-20 MARCH 2019 OECD, PARIS

The OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum will take place on **March 20-21, 2019, in Paris, France**. The 2019 Forum "Tech for Trust" will focus on the risks and opportunities that new technologies such as big data analytics, blockchain, and AI constitute for governments and businesses in relation to anti-corruption and integrity. New insights connected to trade, foreign bribery, competition and development co-operation will feature in the open discussion. Among the the speakers of the event will be Carl Dolan, Director of Transparency International EU.

C5 FORUM ON ANTI-CORRUPTION SWITZERLAND

The C5's 3rd Annual Anti-Corruption Switzerland, planned for **April 3-4, 2019, in Zurich**, will address the most pressing issues facing the anti-corruption community. Some of the topics that will be covered during the first day are: the Swiss Confederation's policy and action against corruption, perspectives on the evolving compliance function, resource allocation and the latest anti-corruption programme best practices, the latest enforcement priorities and expectations for industry, and updated policies on data collection, transfers, and retention. Key speakers at the event will be Philipp Luscher, Head of Investigations at FINMA; Delphine Forma, Global Head of Compliance at Lykke; and Steve Young, Group Compliance Head of Fraud and Investigations at the Banque Lombard Odier & Cie SA Ethics and Compliance Switzerland.

C5 ANTI-CORRUPTION LONDON

The 13th International Conference on Anti-Corruption London will take place in **London, England on June 18-19, 2019**. The official agenda and list of speakers are expected to be released.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ANTI-CORRUPTION, GOOD GOVERNANCE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Conference will take place on **March 26-27, 2019 in Madrid, Spain**. Potential authors are encouraged to contribute and help shape the conference through submissions of their research abstracts, papers and e-posters. High quality research contributions describing original and unpublished results of conceptual, constructive, empirical, experimental, or theoretical work in all areas of Anti-Corruption, Good Governance and Human Rights are invited for presentation at the event.

ABC MINDS INTERNATIONAL – THE ANTI-BRIBERY & CORRUPTION CONFERENCE

ABC International will host their Anti-Bribery and Corruption Conference on **November 20-21, 2019, in London, England**. The event will be featuring various anti-corruption experts, special advisors, and leading anti-corruption agencies from around the world and raising the question of tackling corruption in the digital age. Among the speakers are: Hannah von Dadelszen, Head of Fraud at the UK Serious Fraud Office; David Johnson, Assistant Chief of the FCPA Unit of the U.S. Department of Justice's Criminal Division; Gianluca Esposito, Executive Secretary of Group States Against Corruption (GRECO), Council of Europe.

2ND NEGOTIATION MEETING ON DRAFT TREATY ON EXCHANGE OF DATA FOR THE VERIFICATION OF ASSET DECLARATION

The 2nd Negotiation Meeting on Draft International Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations will take place on **March 27, 2019 in Podgorica**. The Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) Secretariat announced that the meeting will be organized by RAI Secretariat and hosted by the Ministry of Justice of Montenegro. It is supported by the Austrian Development Agency as part of the South East Europe Regional Programme on Strengthening the Capacity of Anti-corruption Authorities and Civil Society to Combat Corruption and Contribute to the UNCAC Review Process. **RAI, February 19, 2019**

REPORTS AND ANALYSES

ANALYSIS OF THE PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

The Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector - MANS released an analysis of the proactive disclosure of information in January 2019. Since 2013, the Law on Free Access to Information stipulates in Article 12 that institutions shall disclose certain categories of information on their websites. MANS analysed to what extent authorities, as reporting entities of this Law, comply with its provisions and allow the public to proactively obtain information on their work, without filing a request for information and initiating complex legal procedures. The document provides an overview of the proactive disclosure of data by the Parliament of Montenegro, ministries, state administration bodies, local self-governments, & public companies. **MANS, January 3, 2019**



SAILING THROUGH THE WEATHER – MACEDONIA AND THE EU IN 2018



SELDI's partner, the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" – Skopje, published an analysis paper in February 2019 titled "Sailing through the weather – Macedonia and the EU in 2018". The IDSCS and the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation Macedonia performed the 3rd annual opinion poll to uncover how last year's events concerning the EU, the country and the Western Balkans region have impacted Macedonian citizens and their view on homeland policies and EU expansion. Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" – **Skopje, February 2019**

THE WESTERN BALKAN PAR MONITOR 2018/2017

This Public Administration Reform (PAR) Monitor report is carried out in the framework of the WeBER project. It provides detailed monitoring results and recommendations on citizen-oriented service delivery, more open, transparent and accountable administration. The PAR Monitor methodology is rooted in the regional approach. Its indicators enable comparisons between the administrations in the Western Balkans and allows for regional comparability of results. It builds on SIGMA's Principles of Public Administration as a cornerstone of PAR, while assessing them from the standpoint of an independently produced PAR Monitor methodology. Overall, the methodology is based on the selection of 21 SIGMA Principles within six key areas, monitored and reported through 23 compound indicators that focus on different aspects of PAR. Its structured and evidence-based approach to PAR monitoring brings the reform closer to the public by particularly focusing on PAR aspects with most relevance to the civil society and the public.

POLICY PAPER „INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS ARE A PRECONDITION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND CRIME“



SELDI's partner, the Center for Democratic Transition (CDT), prepared a document containing CDT's observations and assessments of Montenegro's progress in meeting the European criteria in fighting corruption and organised crime. The authors of the policy paper underline that this fight requires synchronisation and coordination of different strategic documents, action plans, laws and other regulations, as well as setting up of independent and efficient institutions. They also recommend that the Montenegrin authorities consider developing a new Anti-corruption strategy, in order to ensure the sustainability of the anti-corruption actions after the end of the negotiations with the European Union (EU). **CDT, December 2018**

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2018



CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2018

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 180 countries/territories around the world.

Since it was launched in 1995, Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index has become the leading global indicator of public sector corruption. CPI ranks 180 countries around the world by the levels of corruption in the public sector perceived by experts and businesspeople, using a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 signals high levels of corruption, and 100 signals a very clean sector. The lowest scores in the region in 2018 were awarded to Bulgaria (42), Greece (45), and Hungary (46). The organisation also warned against non-transparent procedures for appointments and decision-making, for example in Croatia, as well as a lack of willingness to tackle corruption scandals or suspected cases of corruption. **Transparency International, 29 January 2019**



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