

News



Brussels, Belgium: SELDI Policy Forum: Good Governance Agenda for Southeast Europe: the Role of Civil Society and the European Institutions

On 24 and 25 February 2015 SELDI presented the key findings and policy recommendations from the first two years of the initiative in Brussels. The conclusions from the SELDI Regional Anti-Corruption Report: **Anti-Corruption Reloaded: Assessment of Southeast Europe** were discussed with representatives of the civil society, the European Commission and the European Parliament. The forum charted the needed governance reforms to prepare

the countries for accession once the enlargement freeze of the EU is lifted.

SELDI, 25 February, 2015.

Albania: A new national platform for the fight against corruption

In February 2015 the Albanian government presented the website <http://www.stopkorrupsionit.al> dedicated to the fight against corruption, asking for citizens' cooperation. It is yet another way for the country to respond to the reports of the European Commission on the progress in the fight against corruption and organized crime.

RAI-SEE, 19 February, 2015.

Bulgaria: Bulgarian Deputy PM: Anti-corruption strategy to be presented in March

"Corruption. This is an issue we will continue paying serious attention to because it is part of the cooperation and verification mechanism in the fields of justice and home affairs. To some great extent this mechanism allows Bulgaria being recognised as a serious partner. Plus, in March we will present a strategy with an action plan for the fight against corruption," Ms Kuneva explained. **RAI-SEE, 9 February, 2015.**

Moldova: Anti-corruption Center of Students to prevent corruption in universities

Corrupt practices in universities will be monitored through a project launched by the National Anti-Corruption Center (CNA) in cooperation with the Association of Students of Faculties of Law from Moldova (ELSA). It is about the Students' CNA, an initiative of students from faculties of law from the country which aims to educate and sensitize the young generation in the spirit of intolerance towards protectionism and corruption. **RAI-SEE, 13 February, 2015.**

Montenegro: Multi-Million Euro Police HQ contracts may be illegal

The Montenegrin Parliament set a two-month deadline for the state prosecutor to find out if corruption was involved in a 13-million-euro deal to build a new police headquarters. The parliamentary anti-corruption committee asked the chief prosecutor to collect all data related to the building and report back to parliament. The committee will then assess whether the contract was signed illegally or not. **Balkan Insight, 23 February, 2015.**

Romania: Prime Minister's brother-in-law in EU embezzlement probe

A company owned by the sister and brother-in-law of the Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta was among 14 locations raided by anti-corruption officials Tuesday morning. Prosecutors think they were involved in embezzling an estimated US\$ 2 million from a European Union-funded project which represents 54 percent of the budget of a program to improve infrastructure in Prahova. **OCCRP, 17 February, 2015.**

Serbia: Former telecommunications minister indicted on fraud charges

The Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime has raised an indictment against former Serbian Telecommunications Minister Jasna Matic and her aides. They are suspected of embezzling budget funds through frauds in the Serbia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SIEPA) and are charged with criminal abuse of office and face two to 12 years in prison. **RAI-SEE, 24 February, 2015.**

Upcoming Events

Business Integrity Forum CEE 2015: Success through integrity and compliance. The Integrity Window, composed by professionals, experts and enthusiasts in the field, will provide attendees with an informal opportunity to share ideas, report confidentiality and whistle-blowing issues. This Forum will take place in Budapest, Hungary on March 23rd 2015.

20th IAP Annual Conference 2015, 13-17 September, 2015. This annual meeting will be held in Zurich, Switzerland. This year's theme will be "White-Collar Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering". At the Conference, participants will have the opportunity to explore more thoroughly what are the strategies, the legal frameworks and best practices. Of importance it is also to see how prosecutors contribute to ensuring different applications. Registration will open in late March.

Call for Papers: 1st Corruption and Political Misconduct, 27-28 August, 2015, Brighton, UK. The Annual meeting is organized by the School of Law, Politics and Sociology at the University of Sussex. The deadline for sending abstracts is March 16th 2015.

Reports and Analyses

Local Governance Integrity: Principles and Standards

*The purpose of the Anti-Corruption Principles and Standards for Local Governance Systems is to provide clear guidance as to how to prevent corruption and deal with it when it occurs. Most of them apply to the whole governance system, including citizens, civil society, the media and the private sector. **Transparency International, February 2015***

Corruption Assessment Report Turkey

*Along with presenting evidence on the degree of corruption in Turkey, the report analyzes the current legal setting and the effects of corruption on the economy. It emphasizes the importance of a free judicial system, the role of civil society, and the benefits of international collaboration in fighting corruption. The report also offers possible solutions to fighting corruption, focusing on the elements that make corruption commonplace. **TESEV and SELDI, 26 February 2015.***

Corruption and Anti-corruption in Croatia 2013-2014

*The report Corruption and Anti-corruption in Croatia 2013-2014, elaborated in the framework of the SELDI initiative, presents the main trends and manifestations of the phenomena in Croatia. The authors note that the period 2011 – 2014 was marked by two micro periods. Peak of anti-corruption activities in 2011 and first half of 2012 was in relation to the end of the EU Accession negotiations and benchmarking in the Chapter 23. **PSD and SELDI, 17 February 2015.***

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