

News by SELDI members

Albania: EU Award for Investigative Journalism

Investigative journalists from Albania were awarded on 16 July 2015 in Tirana within the EU Investigative Journalism Award 2014. SELDI's partner, the Albanian Media Institute was administering the awards. The first prize went to Aleksandra Bogdani and Flamur Vezaj for their series of articles about jihadist recruitments in Albania for fightings in Syria. Juli Ristani of investigative programme 'Fiks Fare' received the second price for her story on judiciary treatment of drug users and smugglers, and Besar Likmeta from BIRN Albania was awarded for revealings of misuse of public funds by the previous government. **AMI, 16 July 2015.**



Photo: Albanian Media Institute

FYR Macedonia: Renewed Call of the Platform for Fight against Corruption to the Public Prosecutor's Office



Photo: Institute for Democracy 'Societas Civilis' in the FYR Macedonia

A renewed call to the Public Prosecutor' Office has been published by the CSOs Platform for Fight against Corruption. In the past months wiretapped telephone communications became public hinting at alleged abuses, illegal actions, corruption and violation of human rights. The call demands for a more efficient and more transparent action by pursuing these occurrences. **IDSCS, 21 July 2015.**

Kosovo: Conference 'Corporate Governance at Family Businesses'

Kosovo's Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with SELDI's partner Riinvest Institute organised a conference on 'Corporate governance at family businesses in Kosovo', highlighting the key challenges these businesses face like 'getting loans with low cost and of capital and ensuring a long-term sustainability.' **RIINVEST, 14 July 2015.**



Photo: The Institute for Development Research in Kosovo



Foto: skupstina.me
Photo: skupstina.me

Montenegro: Monitoring the Implementation of Electoral Legislation

The Center for Democratic Transition (CMT) invited Montenegrin President of the Parliament Ranko Krivokapic to participate in an open dialogue with the aim to establish a temporary committee for monitoring the implementation of electoral legislation. Such a committee could foster parity for participation and decision-making both for the ruling party and for the opposition parties. **CDT, 22 July 2015.**

[Romania: International Conference: 'Understanding Governance Virtuous Circles: Who Succeeds and Why'](#)

The Hertie School of Governance and the European Research Center for Anti-Corruption and State-Building organized the international conference 'Understanding Governance Virtuous Circles: Who Succeeds and Why' on 8-12 July 2015 within the EU FP 7 ANTICORRP project. Three SELDI members (CSD, PSD and the Romanian Academic Society) are partners in the ANTICORRP project. In the centre of attention were national success stories and their supporting patterns. Institutional developments in successful and non-successful countries were compared and discussed. Prof. Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, SELDI International Advisory Board member, who is editing with co-author Michael Johnston a book on these cases, summed up the provisional conclusions. **Romanian Academic Society, 13 July 2015.**

Anti-Corruption News from the SEE Region

[Albania: Charges against former Central Bank Governor](#)

The former governor of Albania's the Bank of Albania Ardian Fullani has been charged for abuse of office, Tirana's District Attorney declared. Fullani's conviction is related to a missing sum of 713 million ALL at the Bank of Albania. **Ibna, 4 August 2015.**

[BiH: State Minister accused for authorising inadequate salary](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina's State Minister of Defence Marina Pendeš has been charged for 'careless performance of official duties and forging documents for authorizing a salary to an advisor who didn't bother coming to work'. Ivo Miro Jović was hired as advisor during Pendeš's hold of office in 2013. 17.000 KM were paid for him although he did not appear at work. **CIN, 16 July 2015.**

Upcoming Events

[School on Security Policy, September 14-18, 2015, Bar, Montenegro.](#)

The Kosovar Centre for Security Studies and two SELDI members – the Belgrade Centre for Security Policy and the Institute for Democracy and Mediation organise a School on Security Policy addressing young or mid-career public servants, security professionals, journalists, civil society activists and researchers from Albania, Serbia and Kosovo. The event will be held within the scope of the project 'Security Research Forum (SRF) Belgrade-Prishtina-Tirana'. **BCSP.**

Reports and Analyses

[US Department of State 'Trafficking in Persons Report 2015'](#)

The new 'Trafficking in Persons Report 2015' by the US Department of State points out several shortcomings the country is facing. The report elaborates the role corruption plays for human trafficking in different countries in the region. **US Department of State.**

[Transparency International Report 'The State of Corruption'](#)

The report by Transparency International examines and assesses the effectiveness of anti-corruption institutions in Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. It states that corruption continues to be threat for 'economic development and political stability as well as the credibility of governments' in the countries. **TI.**

[GRECO Fourth Evaluation Round Report 'Corruption prevention in respect of members of parliament, judges and prosecutors in Serbia'](#)

In its newly published report the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption states that in Serbia the 'tools for preventing corruption among parliamentarians, judges and prosecutors must be improved'. Independence and role of several justice institutions need to be strengthened. The principles of ethics require further promotion. The report also assesses a new draft law published by the Serbian Anti-Corruption Agency. **GRECO**.

[Report 'Whistleblower Protection in Southeast Europe'](#)

SELDI's member, the Regional Anti-Corruption initiative, released a report on whistleblower laws, practices, cases and trends in ten Southeast Europe countries, written by Blueprint for Free Speech. It reveals increasing efforts and actions by many entities in Southeast Europe against whistleblower retaliation. **RAI**.

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