"Anti-corruption 2030: Foresight Analysis of future and current corruption challenges"

The main purpose of the *Anti-corruption 2030: a foresight analysis of future and current corruption challenges* Foresight Analysis is to contribute to the anti-corruption strategic planning. The analysis shows the possible scenarios in which corruption and the fight against corruption will develop until 2030 and how the institutions can cope with future challenges. The analysis was prepared in cooperation with the main anti-corruption institutions in the country and representatives of civil society - the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, the State Audit Office, the Customs Administration, the Financial Police, the Public Revenue Office, the Regulatory Commission for Energy and Water Services, the Commission for Protection of Competition, the Inspection Council, representatives of the International Republican Institute and the Platform of civil society organizations for fight against corruption. They all participated in a process of strategic planning aimed at dealing with the challenges brought by the fight against corruption.

Main findings and recommendations that emerged from the analysis:

1. **In a scenario that includes favorable climate for development of anti-corruption by 2030, after the end of the war in Ukraine, Europe is on the road to recovery.**

   In this scenario, North Macedonia is in an advanced stage of accession negotiations with the European Union. The energy prices are rising, so the country is becoming attractive for investors in renewable electricity sources. In 2030 there are problems with retaining critical staff migrating to Europe as a result of the economic progress in those countries. In 2030, North Macedonia has entered into rule of law reforms and the judiciary reform fruits can be already seen.

2. **In a scenario with an unfavorable climate for development of anti-corruption by 2030, the war in Ukraine has been transformed into prolonged instability with occasional intensification of military clashes.**

   In this scenario, the accession of North Macedonia to the EU is not in sight. Digital transformation follows the standards of medium-developed EU member states, but the integrity of digital transformation has not received the necessary attention due to political uncertainty, polarization and the slow pace of reforms. The strength of corrupt actors and the weakness of European conditioning make essential reforms in the judiciary impossible. Slowed economic growth and deteriorating quality of life are fueling migration and draining the human capital needed to support anti-corruption reforms.

3. **Human capital is not endless, and the decision to stay in the country does not depend solely on money.**

The decision to stay in the country depends on improving the economic development, the environment, education and health and getting rid of corruption and poor quality of services in these sectors. It is necessary to identify this vicious circle and make decisive steps towards remedying the weaknesses in this part of the system.

4. **Institutions should prepare their capacities for supervision, prevention, detection and sanction**

   They can do it in two ways. The first is to be prepared to prevent or sanction high-level decision-making that is fraught with corruption. The second aspect is building of capacities for control of specific sectors which will be subject to increased investments in the coming period, often encouraged by government benefits such as subsidies and privatization or operating in controlled economic sectors based on concessions, where there will be limited competition.

5. **The political will to fight corruption is demonstrated through a comprehensive investment in improving the integrity of institutions.**

   This investment implies investing in people and resources of the institutions and empowering management staff who will be able to independently lead the institutions. Central responsibility for this lies with the Government and the Parliament. The Government should find a way to abandon appointments based on party affiliation and enable a quality process of formulating future anti-corruption objectives and policies. It is the duty of the Parliament to protect the institutions, providing them with resources and quality laws by which they should act.

The Foresight Analysis was prepared as part of the project "Encouraging the public debate on anti-corruption" which aims to support the reform process in North Macedonia by strengthening the reform agenda in the area of the rule of law, and the project foresees cooperation and consultation with all relevant stakeholders for the achievement of this objective. The project is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy. The views expressed in the study do not reflect the views of the National Endowment for Democracy from the USA and the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" - Skopje.

The study is available in three languages:

Macedonian: https://idscs.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/B5_scenario_2023MKD.pdf

Albanian: https://idscs.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/B5_scenario_2030ALB.pdf

English: https://idscs.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/B5_scenario_2030ENG.pdf