



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



OECD



REGIONAL SEMINAR ON

“Corruption-Free Cities of the Future”

Hosted by the Government of Albania and

co-organised by UNDP, the Anti-Corruption Network of OECD, and Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI)

Tirana, Albania

7-8 December 2017

Concept and draft programme

CONTEXT

In 2016, 54% of people lived in cities; the UN estimates that by 2050, 66 percent of the world's population will be inhabiting in urban areas. Cities and subnational governments are frequently the hotbed of innovation, have autonomy over distribution of resources in many places, are in closer proximity to people and play a key intermediary role vis-a-vis national governments. The extent to which basic services are provided to citizens fairly and equitably, largely depends on the professionalism and integrity of these governments, and their ability to fulfill their functions in a transparent, responsive and accountable manner. Local governments and municipalities are also the primary interface between citizen and elected representatives, and as such represent a major opportunity for trust-building and participatory decision-making. Local governments are not protected from state capture and abuse of power, such as petty or grand corruption. In fact, municipalities can be particularly vulnerable to corruption due to their tight networks of power and their central role in delivering basic services. Most often, bribes are paid to local governments in exchange for construction permits, business licenses, land registration, social welfare benefits, or simply in exchange for getting a job or winning a business contract with the local government. For example, according to 2010 UNODC survey, 41.7% of surveyed adult population believed that corruption is widespread in local municipalities in Tirana, the capital of Albania.¹

Corruption risks pose a threat to the universal access to basic services, sustainable cities and local development. This can significantly impede implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, especially in reaching out the most vulnerable population segments. According to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption *'corruption hurts the poor disproportionately...[as it feeds] inequality and injustice...and is a major obstacle to poverty alleviation and development.'* In fact, substantially reducing corruption and bribery, and developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels are targets of SDG 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies. These targets are considered key enablers for reaching targets across all the SDGs, including SDG 11 on sustainable cities.

The Governments in the Western Balkans, South Caucasus and Western CIS have been engaging in reorganizing the sub-national level of governance usually with the intent of increasing local responsiveness and decentralizing power, which involves the process of redistributing power, responsibilities and funds between the central government and smaller administrative units. Those processes offer unmatched opportunities to design institutions and mechanisms with limited risks of corruption and increased openness and responsiveness to citizens' needs.

¹ https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/statistics/corruption/Albania_corruption_report_2011_web_small.pdf

While it is challenging to operate clean and efficient services in countries with captured national systems, individual mayors around the world have demonstrated that simple changes and solutions can impact the culture and functioning of local institutions and reduce the weight of corruption on their constituencies. Many municipalities have used the “*Islands of Integrity*” methodology, developed by the four-time Mayor of La Paz, Bolivia, Ronald Maclean Abaroa and the Founder of Partners Foundation for Local Development (FPDL), Ana Vasilache to scale up this successful experience in fighting corruption.² The approach is rooted in the active participation of public leaders, managers and employees, as well as other interested stakeholders, in the diagnosis and solutions finding processes based on the analysis of factors that breed corruption.

Through enhanced systems of public administration, transparent and accountable processes and open and responsive public services and municipal owned enterprises, local governments can profoundly alter the way citizens relate to and access essential services and local development. Advancements in new technologies have helped to open up new avenues for improving services and promoting participation and partnership at the local government and community level.

Strong social contracts are particularly important at the local level. Local governments in the region have a history working with civil society especially in the provision of social services, and more recently by experimenting with co-creation methodologies, especially in the development of digital tools. These developments are fragmented across the region, and are counteracted with shrinking civic space, limited availability of resources for civil society and weakening of legitimacy, especially vis-à-vis communities they are meant to represent.

There are a range of innovative methods that have arisen to promote transparency, integrity and accountability at the local level, including by:

- Supporting municipalities to reduce the risks and opportunities for corruption in their licensing, procurement or service delivery systems by simplifying processes and increasing transparency or by developing modern state-of-the-art service delivery;
- Facilitating the publication and visualization of municipal data and information to enable clearer communication from the local bodies and public oversight and watchdog’s activities;
- Using ICT, open data and innovative tools to co-create and improve communication with citizens and their municipality, as well as to get feedback and exchange more directly and easily on improving services and issues that matter to them;

² With funding from MFA Romania, UNDP implements, with Partners Global, the “*Promoting integrity and anti-corruption at the local level in the Eastern Partnership Area*” project, through which the “*Islands of Integrity*” methodology has been applied in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

- Working with citizens and civil society organizations on holding municipalities accountable while supporting municipalities to develop response mechanisms to citizen demands and complaints.

OBJECTIVES

The regional conference will provide an opportunity to exchange experiences about achievements and challenges in preventing corruption at the local level, including by cities, regions and other sub-national levels of public administration. The discussion will enable the identification of examples of successful tools and good practices, and will contribute to the development of regional recommendations on this subject. UNDP will present a draft *Toolkit on Corruption-Free Cities*, incorporating real time visualization of the conference discussions, to provide local administrations, as well as donors and civil society organizations a set of practical tools to design and implement integrity plans at the local level. The proceedings of the regional conference will be reflected in a Thematic Study that will be prepared by the OECD/ACN.

Specifically, the regional conference will pursue the following objectives to:

- Create awareness on SDGs, specifically on SDG16 with the focus on the role of local governments and anti-corruption;
- Provide a forum for the key stakeholders responsible for the design and implementation of anti-corruption and integrity initiatives at the local level;
- Highlight the existing anti-corruption tools and methodologies available for municipalities and local governments to assess and measure sector specific corruption risks and vulnerabilities;
- Facilitate contacts and exchange between “*Islands of Integrity*” Network (cases of positive deviance at the local level), willing mayors and local practitioners able to facilitate anti-corruption work at the local level.
- Contribute to the development of the regional thematic study with recommendations on the integrity at the local level.

WORKING METHODS

The conference will last for 2 days and will take place in Tirana, Albania on 7-8 December 2017. The programme will include a mix of Davos-type plenary sessions, workshops and TED style talks to ensure maximum information and knowledge exchange throughout the conference. Methods for engagement will also include a speed dating exercise, engagement with civil society organizations and live-sketching illustrations in order to capture and visualize talks, presentations and workshops.

The event will be concluded by the Government of Albania, UNDP, OECD and RAI highlighting the key outcomes and the way forward.

PARTICIPANTS

The regional conference will bring together around 80 participants from selected country representatives from Eastern Europe and the OECD members that are in charge of prevention of corruption at the local level, including practitioners from the central government bodies and local level officials responsible for integrity and corruption prevention at the level of cities and regions, academics and civil society organizations engaged in promoting of integrity and prevention of corruption at the local level:

- anti-corruption practitioners, including from among the local governments and municipalities (mayors/deputy mayors, heads of departments) and anti-corruption agencies;
- civil society representatives, academia and media representatives; and
- international organisations.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The conference is expected to result in:

- Better understanding of SDGs and the role of local governments, civil society and private sector in implementing and monitoring the agenda at the local level;
- Improved understanding of potential vulnerabilities to corruption as well as accountability mechanisms in the public and business sector;
- Better understanding of the need for constructive engagement of national authorities (anti-corruption agencies) with local governments and the need to go beyond compulsory integrity plans in their support to municipalities;
- Strengthening of the “*Islands of Integrity*” network and increasing visibility and impact of municipalities currently developing positive transparency and accountability case studies;
- UNDP Toolkit for Corruption-Free Cities; and
- ACN thematic study with regional recommendations.

CONFERENCE LANGUAGE

The working language of the Conference will be English with simultaneous translation to Russian, Albanian and BCMS.

COSTS

Organisers will cover the costs of participation by providing a lump sum to cover travel expenses and providing an accommodation in a hotel.

Venue

The Seminar will take place in Hotel Plaza, Tirana, 28 Nentori Street, Tirana Albania.
<http://www.plazatirana.com>

ORGANIZERS

<p>UNDP</p> <p>Irakli KOTETISHVILI (Mr)</p> <p>Policy Specialist, Anti Corruption and Public Administration</p> <p>Bureau for Policy and Programme Support</p> <p>UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub</p> <p>Email: irakli.kotetishvili@undp.org</p>	<p>OECD</p> <p>Rusudan MIKHELIDZE (Mrs)</p> <p>Consultant</p> <p>Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN)</p> <p>Anti-Corruption Division</p> <p>Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs</p> <p>Email: rmikhelidze@gmail.com</p>	<p>RAI</p> <p>Vladan JOKSIMOVIC (Mr)</p> <p>Head of Secretariat</p> <p>Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI)</p> <p>Fra Andjela Zvizdovica 1, UNITIC Tower B 5th floor, 71 000 Sarajevo - Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Email: vjoksimovic@rai-see.org</p>
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SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Day I, 7 December 2017

09:30-10.15 Opening Session

- ❖ Ms. Teuta Vodo, Deputy Minister of Justice of Albania
- ❖ Ms. Romina Kuko, Deputy Minister of Interior of Albania
- ❖ H.E. Mr. Mircea Perpelea, Ambassador of Romania to Albania
- ❖ Mrs. Shelley Inglis, Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster Leader, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
- ❖ Mrs. Olga Savran, Manager, Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, OECD
- ❖ Mr. Davor Dubravica, Chairperson, RAI
- ❖ Mr. Stephen Stork, EU Delegation to Albania

10:15-10:30 Networking break

10:30-12:00 Session 1: Meet the Mayor

Mayors from the region will present their experiences of fighting corruption in their cities and challenges they have faced. Participants will have an opportunity to engage in the discussion at the top level of local government of what works and what does not for preventing corruption at the local level. Following questions will be discussed: What are the roles of mayors and is political will enough to make a real difference at the local level? How to build a coalition of change-makers in order to prevent corruption? What are some successful solutions for preventing corruption in cities and municipalities?

- ❖ Mr. Erion Veliaj, Mayor of Tirana, Albania
- ❖ Mr. Petre Shilegov, Mayor of Skopje, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- ❖ Mr. Shpend Ahmeti, Mayor of Pristina, Kosovo³
- ❖ Mrs. Valentina Casian, Mayor of Strășeni, Moldova
- ❖ Mr. Taras Kuchma, Mayor of Drogobych, Ukraine

Session Moderator: Mrs. Shelley Inglis, UNDP

12:00-12:30 “The role of local governments in the fight against corruption in the SDG Era”

Mr. Herwig Van Staa, thematic spokesperson on Promoting Public Ethics and Preventing Corruption, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

12:30-13:30 Lunch

³ All references to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

13:30-14:30 “Speed-dating” networking for knowledge-sharing

Participants will have the opportunity to have quick face-to-face meetings with other participants to find out about local integrity models in other countries and to establish personal contacts that can be useful in their local context.

14:30-16:00 Session 2: Risk assessment methodologies and designing integrity plans in practice

This session will highlight successful experience of corruption risk assessment and designing local administration integrity plans, including, the “Islands of Integrity” and other methodologies

- ❖ Ms. Juliana Hoxha – “Applying Islands of Integrity methodology in 6 municipalities in Albania”, Director of “Partners Albania”
- ❖ Ms. Marijana Obradovic – “Model of local anti-corruption plan in Serbia”, Assistant Director for Prevention, Anti-Corruption Agency, Serbia
- ❖ Ms. Jasmina Jovev – “How integrity plans and protection of whistleblowers help prevent corruption at local levels?”, Head of County Prefect Office, Sisak-Moslavina County and President of Anti-Corruption Committee of the County, Croatia
- ❖ Ms. Andreea Grigore – “Map of good practices in integrity”, Head of Integrity, Good Governance and Public Politics Directorate, Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, Romania
- ❖ Kateryna Tsybenko – “Rating of Transparency of 100 Ukrainian Cities”, TI Ukraine

Session Moderator: Mrs. Olga Savran, OECD

16:00-16:15 Networking break

16:15-17:45 Session 3: Targeting corruption during distribution of resources at local levels

This session will look at the risks of nepotism and corruption in human resources management, public procurement and integrity in municipally owned enterprises. It will seek to answer the question: how can cities and municipalities design business processes to decrease these risks?

- ❖ Mr. David Jackson, PhD - “Nepotism in the human resources management process – case study of Kosovo”
- ❖ Mr. Sorin Ionita - “Deep connections between local clientelism and the public procurement system”, EFOR, Romania
- ❖ Mr. Francesco Saija - “Enforcing civic monitoring actions on public procurements in Italy”
- ❖ Mr. Bojan Bajic - Integrity in private companies and state-owned enterprises at the local level, CEO of Net Consulting Ltd, BiH

Session Moderator: Mr. Vladan Joksimovic, RAI

17:45-18:00 Session 4: Preparations for day 2 workshop on Case Study of La Paz

Mrs. Olivia Baciu to present to the conference participants the aim and working methods of the case study on La Paz

19:00 Reception hosted by the Mayor of Tirana

Day II, 8 December 2017

09:00-10:15 Case study of La Paz – how a single mayor can change the city

This workshop will focus on the case-study of La Paz, Bolivia and how its four-time Mayor Mr. Ronald McLean Abaroa designed and implemented innovative integrity actions in his office in order to decrease corruption, strengthen citizens’ trust towards local government and increase revenues for the local budget. This will be a practical exercise within the facilitated working groups, based on specific roles and tasks.

10:15 – 11:00 Case Study of La Paz, the follow up: presentation of the action plans by the working groups, and facilitated discussions and conclusions

Workshop moderator: Mrs. Olivia Baciu, Senior Advisor and Technical Lead, PartnersGlobal

11:00-11:30 Networking break

11:30-12:45 Session 5: Innovative methods in addressing corruption at local levels

This session will explore which local public services are the most vulnerable to petty corruption and what are the successful models of preventing it.

- ❖ Mr. Armend Vokshi - "Open government in Gjakova municipality", Deputy Mayor of Gjakova Municipality, Kosovo
- ❖ Mr. Miroslav Kučera - "How data crowdsourcing and public monitoring of city performance may limit the room for corruption and increase transparency", Aspiro Group, Slovakia
- ❖ Mrs. Voltana Ademi - "One stop shop system for integrated local service delivery in the city of Shkodra", Mayor of the Municipality of Shkodra, Albania
- ❖ Ms. Elena Calistru, "How to use civic tech/open government tools to boost transparency in the local public administration - case studies from Romania", Funky Citizens, Romania

Session Moderator: Mr. Irakli Kotetishvili, UNDP

12:45-13:45 Lunch

13:45-16:00 Session 6: Changing Role of Civil Society and Citizens: From Watchdog Organizations to Co-Creators

Building on the proceedings of the parallel *Civil Society Forum organized by UNDP*, this session will use mixed media (real-time online polling tools), with TED style presentations to reflect on and demonstrate the changing relationship between citizens, civil society and media and local administrations.

- ❖ Ms. Anjeza Gashi, - "How to effectively include citizens in decision-making", Lex Ferenda Albania
- ❖ Ms. Lejla Kusturica - "Reclaiming public space in Sarajevo", Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ❖ Mr. Agon Maliqi - "Building the grassroots: Critical thinking for active youth", Sbunker, Kosovo
- ❖ Ms. Qristina Parjani - "Using technology for engagement and accountability", ForSet, Georgia
- ❖ Mr. Nazar Boyko - "Ensuring electoral integrity with open data: Story of Ukraine", CIFRA Group

Session Moderator: Ms. Lejla Sadiku, UNDP

16:00 Conclusions & reflections and going forward

Government of Albania

Mr. Brian Williams, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Albania

Mr. Vladan Joksimovic, Head of Secretariat, RAI

Moderator: Mrs. Olga Savran, OECD