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**Annual Conference on Anti-corruption:  
Preventing corruption through the use of Information and Communication  
Technologies**

Hotel Novotel (Bristol), Sarajevo, 27 March 2019

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On March 27, 2019, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Mission) organized an annual conference on anti-corruption „Preventing corruption through the use of Information and Communication Technologies“.

After the presentations and panel discussions with the conference participants<sup>1</sup>, the following conclusions were made:

**Introductory speakers:**

Mr. Hasim Šabotić, Director, Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Co-ordination of the Fight against Corruption of BiH (APIC); Ambassador Bruce G. Berton, Head of the OSCE Mission to BiH; Ambassador Martin Kačo, Embassy of the Slovak Republic to BiH, country chairing the OSCE.

**Conclusions:**

- Corruption represents a serious challenge for Bosnia and Herzegovina, as it diminishes citizens' trust in the political system, deterring investors, and scatter public resources.
- While the authorities are taking positive steps to curb corruption, a recent survey suggests that corruption is still widespread. For example, the latest Corruption Perception Index issued by Transparency International ranks BiH as 89th out of 180 surveyed countries in 2018.
- The successful prevention of corruption is complex and multifaceted, necessitating a robust judiciary, modern technology, a comprehensive legislative framework, as well as BiH citizens themselves.
- No individual or state, and therefore no membership in an international organization or institution, provide societies with an immunity from corruption. Partnership, learning and possible alliances between and within international and local organizations and institutions are expected to lead to better results in combating corruption.
- The fight against corruption is a long process that the OSCE Mission to BiH remains committed to.

**Strengthening anti-corruption capabilities of the public sector through the use of ICT**

Moderator: Lejla Brčić, Minister of Justice and Administration of Sarajevo Canton Government.

Panellists: Peter Kovarik, Head of Section of Corruption Prevention and Crisis Management, Government Office of the Slovak Republic; Dušan Polović, Head of ICT Department, Montenegro Agency for Fight against Corruption; Miloš Vujošević, Independent Advisor for Development of Software, Montenegro Agency for Fight against Corruption; Mevludin

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<sup>1</sup> The conference was attended by representatives of BiH ministries, institutions and agencies, entity governments, cantonal governments and assemblies and their anti-corruption teams, Ombudsmen in BiH, cities and municipalities, international organizations and embassies, local civil society organizations and representatives of Slovakia and Montenegro.

Džindo, Assistant Director, APIC; Mladen Maksimović, President of the Commission for the Implementation of the Republika Srpska Strategy for Fight against Corruption and Action Plan; Erduan Kafedžić, Head of Department for Fight against Corruption and Quality management, Sarajevo Canton Government.

### Conclusions:

- By refereeing to one of the conclusions from last year's conference on the digitalization of corruption prevention, progress and results on this issue during the past year, it is necessary to continue and improve this process by using good national and international practices.
- There is no universal approach to fight corruption that would suit all countries of the world. Therefore, it is necessary to adapt suitable information and communication solutions to all levels of government, which would aim to reduce or eliminate the corruption risks.
- In order to introduce information and communication technologies (ICT), with an aim to prevent corruption, it is necessary to provide a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework as well as adequate human resources as a precondition for the beginning of this process.
- The experience of the Republic of Slovakia with the digitalization of the Register of Risks, the publication of sectoral anti-corruption programs and application of the electronic questionnaire in this process, are good examples for introducing a similar process in BiH.
- The necessity for mutual co-operation between public institutions in order to meet achievements in preventing corruption as well as publication of information in real time was confirmed by the presentation of the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption from Montenegro. Guided by this example, all BiH institutions are invited to improve co-operation and co-ordination with aiming to achieve further progress.
- Good practices from Montenegro, such as the Register of Officials, the Module for Controlling the Financing of Political Parties, the method of entering and controlling data in the Register of Income and Property Reports and the way of determining the accuracy of entered data by using ICT (establishing a "red flag" system) are some of the examples on how this area can be improved in BiH.
- In terms of adequate use of ICT, it is necessary to permanently strengthen the awareness of citizens about the harmfulness of corruption, as well as the possibilities of applying anti-corruption ICTs.
- The existing anti-corruption ICT in the Republika Srpska needs to be further improved, in accordance with the 2018-2022 Action Plan for Implementation of the Strategy for the Fight against Corruption in Republika Srpska, which defines approximately thirty measures in this regard.
- It is expected that the presented platform of multi-modular analytical software *AnticorruptiKS* of Sarajevo Canton, which is in the final phase of development, will be a very good ICT tool for the prevention of corruption. This platform should enable unified information management of established databases, as well as process of automatization, reporting and searching by specified parameters, mutual "communication" of databases, upgrade and significant improvement of the effectiveness of anti-corruption activities.

- The conference supports the process of digitalization of anti-corruption at all levels, since it contributes to the efficiency of the public institutions system, data transparency, and the involvement and co-ordination of all stakeholders in the prevention of corruption.

### **Promoting good governance and transparency of the public financial management and funding of civil society organizations in local governance units**

Moderator: Ms. Ljiljana Perkušić, National Chief of Democratic Governance, OSCE Mission to BiH

Panelisti: Ms. Ljiljana Perkušić, National Chief of Democratic Governance, OSCE Mission to BiH; Ms. Mia Buljubašić, Senior Auditor for International Co-operation and Communication, Audit Office for the Institutions of the Federation BiH, Ilija Jovičić, Mayor of Brod Municipality, Sanja Zagorac-Jozić, Head of Department for Social Affairs and MZs in Ilijaš municipality, Aida Daguda, Director of Civil Society Promotion Center (CSPC).

### **Conclusions:**

- The Mission, within the Municipal Anti-corruption Initiative, has reviewed current practices in supporting civil society organizations in twenty selected local government units (LGUs)<sup>2</sup> in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This assessment pointed out the need to improve the management of support to CSOs.
- Preliminary findings have been presented, while the official report will be available in the coming period, followed by individual findings in each LGU.
- Recommendations refers, among other things, to the establishment and development and adoption of procedures for the management of CSOs databases, the establishment of criteria for all types of CSOs support, and the improvement of monitoring of invested funds and activities of CSOs as well as impact assessment.
- In order to improve the work of all levels of government in supporting CSOs, institutions are invited to use modern ICT tools.
- The recommendations of the Audit Office for the FBiH Institutions are a good basis for preventing corruption and improving the work of institutions. Thus, recommendations shall be implemented in order to strengthen the trust of citizens in public institutions.
- The LGUs in Federation of BiH are urged to apply Guidelines on minimum standards for allocation of budget funds through transfers and subsidies in the FBiH, published by the Federal Ministry of Finance in the FBiH Official Gazette on February 28, 2018.
- CSOs are called upon to strengthen their own integrity, greater participation in the processes of consultation with LGUs, more transparent work and greater public information about the effects of the implemented projects.
- LGUs are invited to introduce a criterion on CSO's transparency in the process of selection of CSOs to which support will be provided.

*All views, statements or opinions contained in this document, which are not explicitly indicated as those of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Mission.*

<sup>2</sup> Bijeljina, Bihać, Breza, Brod, Donji Vakuf, Goražde, Grude, Han Pijesak, Ilijaš, Kladanj, Odžak, Prozor, Sokolac, Srebrenica, Stanari, Šamac, Šipovo, Tomislavgrad, Trebinje and Ugljevik