



REGIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
INITIATIVE

CONCEPT PAPER

and

AGENDA

15th Edition

*RAI School for Junior Anti-Corruption Practitioners from South-East Europe
(online)*

**Series of Webinars on “Promoting Integrity in Processing Corruption
Cases”**

5-15 October, 2020

Organizer:

Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative Secretariat

Supported by:

Central European Initiative

In cooperation with:

Judicial Academy of Croatia

UNODC - Global Judicial Integrity Network

Background

Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) Summer School for Junior Anti-Corruption Practitioners in South East Europe (SEE) was originally initiated in 2005 as a way to build and strengthen capacities of anti-corruption bodies in the region and to provide a platform for young practitioners to learn new practices and to exchange experiences. The School was subsequently launched in 2006 as a forum for exchange of ideas and practices among young judges, prosecutors and investigators¹.

Organization of the School 2020 is envisaged by RAI Working Plan (2018-2020), and it is in line with the commitment set up in the RAI Strategic Document, particularly aimed to strengthen investigative capacities of criminal justice institutions by fostering interagency co-operation and joint investigations.

Objectives of the School

General objective of the School is to provide a platform for young practitioners to learn new practices and to exchange experiences.

There are number of objectives geared towards general objective:

- Transfer new knowledge and innovative approaches by choosing selected topics in the field of prevention and fight against corruption
- Share experiences and good practices on the mechanisms for promoting integrity in the profession
- Build junior professionals' capacity and therefore add capacity of their respective institutions, and
- Build regional relationships, thus consolidating regional cooperation.

Format of the School

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, this year's, 15th Edition of the traditional School will be organized in a virtual format, following the same objectives, similar content and methodology with slight modifications imposed by the new circumstances. The School will offer 4 webinars in 2 weeks in October, 2020 as interactive lectures and opportunities to engage with the professional practitioners, including a *tour-de-table* session for exchange of good practices among the young practitioners. Participants will be provided with presentations from honourable experts in the areas

¹More detailed information about the agenda, participants, speakers and materials for each Summer School in the last 14 years are available on RAI web site www.rai-see.org.

of prevention and fight against corruption and on specific topics such as: corruption risk assessment, corruption proofing of legislation, integrity and conflict of interest, whistleblowing, asset declarations and on investigation, prosecution and adjudication of the corruption cases and asset recovery. In parallel, participants from the judiciary will share experiences and best practices in the field of integrity risks and how to improve the judicial integrity as a precondition for efficient and independent prosecution and adjudication.

Target audience / Participants

In order to ensure valuable exchange and interaction, the participation will be limited to 39 participants. In order to take part in the RAI School, participants will have to meet the following criteria:

- Be a junior practitioner - up to five years of professional experience as judge/prosecutor/in the anti-corruption body;
- Not have attended any previous editions of the Summer School;
- Be proficient in English language (working language of the School).

Target participants will be young representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kosovo^{*}, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Serbia.

There can be a maximum of three representatives from each jurisdiction. Suggested profiles: two representatives from **national judiciary (one judge, one prosecutor)** and one participant from **anti-corruption bodies**.

Participants will be selected through RAI Steering Group members. The participants are obliged to attend all 4 webinars in order to obtain the Certificate of Attendance.

Participants will be provided in advance with the relevant materials and with a Guide for Users of the webinars.

Panellists

- Mr. Duro Sessa, Justice, President of the Supreme Court of Croatia
- Mr. Marin Mrcela, Justice, President of the GRECO, Vice -President of the Supreme Court of Croatia
- Ms. Natasa Novakovic, President of the Commission for the Resolution of Conflicts of Interest, Croatia
- Mr. Jovan Nicic, Anti-Corruption Expert, Director, Prospector DOO Belgrade, Serbia
- Mr. Rudolf Turetschek, Caseowner - fighting corruption in the private sector, Federal Ministry of the Interior- Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption Austria (BAK), Austria

^{*} This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244(1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

- Mr. Vedran Libl, Public Prosecutor, Deputy Director, State Prosecutor's Office for the Suppression of Organized Crime and Corruption (USKOK), Croatia
- Ms. Azra Kalabic, Integrity Officer, High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council BiH
- Ms. Laura Stefan- RAI Chairperson
- Mr. Vladan Joksimovic – Head of RAI Secretariat
- Ms. Aneta Arnaudovska – Senior Anti-Corruption Advisor, RAI Secretariat
- Ms. Desislava Gotskova – Project Manager, Anti-Corruption Expert, RAI Secretariat
- Ms. Elmerina Ahmetaj Hrelja- Project Manager, Anti-Corruption Expert, RAI Secretariat
- Mr. Mark Worth, Expert in Whistleblowing, RAI
- Mr. Tom Devine, Expert in Whistleblowing, RAI

Contacts

Ms. Aneta Arnaudovska, Senior Anti-Corruption Advisor

aarnaudovska@rai-see.org;

Ms. Aida Zukic, Chief Financial and Operations Officer

abulbul@rai-see.org

Programme of the School

Webinar One: Corruption Preventive Tools / Asset Disclosure

Date: October, 5, 2020, Monday

Duration: 13 - 16 h (CEST)

Objective: The webinar will enable the participants to obtain advanced knowledge on the latest developments and practice in the field of preventive corruption tools corruption risk management and the corruption proofing of legislation as a key mechanism for strengthening the transparency and quality of the legislative process, with an emphasize on the digitalization of corruption in the SEE region as a prerequisite for more advanced regional cooperation towards transparent and accountable institutions, and on the role of the asset declaration in discovering the conflict of interest and illegal enrichment of public officials. The participants will be introduced with the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations and its importance on enhancing the regional and international exchange of data among the integrity bodies in the field of asset disclosure.

Panellists:

Mr. Vladan Joksimovic

Mr. Jovan Nicic

Ms. Azra Kalabic, High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council BiH

Moderator: *Mr. Vladan Joksimovic*

Draft Agenda

13:00- 13:20

Opening remarks and presentation of the Program

Mr. Vladan Joksimovic, Head of RAI Secretariat

Ms. Andrea Posavec Franic, Director of the Judicial Academy of Croatia

Ms. Roberta Solis, Team Leader of the Judicial Integrity Component, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Secretariat of the Global Judicial Integrity Network

13:20- 13:30

Introduce of the participants

13:30- 13:50

Corruption Risk Assessment and Corruption Proofing of Legislation as anti-corruption mechanisms/application in the judiciary

Mr. Jovan Nacic

13:50- 14:10

Asset Declarations – Regional Approach/ International Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations

Mr. Vladan Joksimovic

14:10-14:20

Break

14:20- 14:40

Application of IT in development and monitoring the implementation of integrity plans

Ms. Azra Kalabic

14:40-15:10

Questions and answers

15:10-15:20

Final remarks

Methodology: As this is the first of the series of webinars, the moderator will give the floor for the opening remarks and will shortly introduce the topics and the panellists. The moderator will encourage and lead the discussion during the Q&A session and will give the final remarks.

Webinar Two: Integrity and Conflict of interest/Whistleblowing Protection in the SEE region and other comparative experiences

Date: October, 8, 2020, Thursday

Duration: 13-16 h (CEST)

Objective: The webinar will enable the participants to obtain advanced knowledge on the latest developments and practice in the field of integrity of public officials and identifying the mechanisms for prevention of corruption and promoting the transparent and reasoned decision-making process towards accountable and transparent public service with a presentation of the national practice of EU member states. In parallel, the participants will be introduced with the newest developments and comparative experiences in the field of whistleblower protection, and the role of the public awareness campaign in tackling the prejudices and directed at change of the culture in the SEE region societies related to the whistleblowers in line with the new EU Whistleblowing Directive.

Panellists:

Ms. Laura Stefan

Ms. Natasa Novakovic

Ms. Elmerina Ahmetaj-Hrelja

Mr. Mark Worth

Mr. Tom Devine

Moderator: *Ms. Elmerina Ahmetaj Hrelja*

Draft Agenda

13:00- 13:10

Opening remarks and presentation of the Program

13:10- 13:30

Conflict of interests/ integrity of public officials - comparative experiences

Ms. Laura Stefan

13:30- 13:50

Conflict of interest - the practice of the Commission for the Resolution of Conflicts of Interest, Croatia

Ms. Natasa Novakovic

13:50- 14:20

Whistleblowing Protection/ good laws, practices and outcomes

Ms. Elmerina Ahmetaj-Hrelja / Mr. Mark Worth/Mr. Tom Devine

14:20-14:30

Break

14:30-14:50

Whistleblowing for integrity, justice and democracy

14:50-15:20

Questions and answers

15:20-15:30

Final remarks

Methodology: The moderator will shortly introduce the topics and the panellists. The moderator will encourage and lead the discussion during the Q&A session and will give the final remarks.

Webinar Three: Processing Corruption Cases/ Asset Recovery

Date: October, 12, 2020, Monday

Duration: 13 – 16 h (CEST)

Objective: The webinar will enable the participants to obtain advanced knowledge on the latest developments and practice in the field of criminal investigation and prosecution of corruption cases with presentation of the case-law of Croatia and investigation experience of Austria. In parallel, the participants will be introduced with the most current regional practices in the areas of asset recovery, freezing of assets and confiscation of the proceeds of the crime as one of the prerogatives for successful processing of the cases of corruption and organized crime and the role of the parallel

financial investigations and the importance of the regional cooperation and networking among the judicial practitioners and instruments of international legal cooperation in this field.

Panellists:

Ms. Desislava Gotskova

Mr. Rudolf Turetschek

Mr. Vedran Libl

Moderator: *Ms. Desislava Gotskova*

Draft Agenda

13:00- 13:10

Opening remarks and presentation of the Program

13:10- 13:30

Asset recovery and confiscation of property in service of effective processing corruption cases/ regional approach/ successful cases

Ms. Desislava Gotskova

13:30- 13:50

Presentation of the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption Austria (BAK)
Case study: Corruption in the construction sector (experience, challenges, best practices)

Mr. Rudolf Turetschek

13:50-14:00

Break

14:00-14:20

Presentation of the national case-law on high profile corruption cases, Croatia

Mr. Vedran Libl

14:20-14:50

Questions and answers

14:50-15:00

Final remarks

Methodology: The moderator will shortly introduce the topics and the lecturers. The moderator will encourage and lead the discussion during the Q&A session and will give the final remarks.

Webinar Four: Disclosure of conflict of interest/ Financial disclosure for judges and prosecutors

Date: October, 15, 2020, Thursday

Duration: 13 – 17 h (CEST)

Objective: The webinar will enable the participants to obtain advanced knowledge on the latest developments and practice in the field of integrity of judges as a key mechanism for effective prosecution and adjudication of the corruption cases. Judges and prosecutors should display the highest ethical standards in their professional and private life as well to act and to be perceived as independent and impartial in line with the ECtHR case-law. Many corruption risks can occur during processing the cases and judges and prosecutors should be aware and be able to resist to any internal and external influence on the decision- making process. The participants will be able to discuss the most important issues related to the asset disclosure, the content, the scope, the publicity of the asset declarations and the safety of judges as well other issues related to the balancing of the principles of transparency and accountability and independence of judges on the other side. The audience will be introduced with the comparative review of the GRECO recommendations related to the prevention of corruption of judges and prosecutors.

Panellists:

Mr. Duro Sessa

Mr. Marin Mrcela

Ms. Aneta Arnaudovska

Moderator: *Ms. Aneta Arnaudovska*

Draft Agenda

13:00- 13:10

Opening remarks and presentation of the Program

13:10- 13:30

Internal and external threats and influences on the judicial independence and promoting the judicial integrity

Mr. Duro Sessa

13:30- 13:50

Disclosure of conflict of interests/ asset declarations for judges and prosecutors/GRECO recommendations/

Mr. Marin Mrcela

13:50-14:00

Break

14:00-14:20

Corruption risks in the processing of corruption and organized crime cases/comparative experiences

Ms. Aneta Arnaudovska

14:20-15:30

Tour- de table/ possible corruption risks and promoting integrity of judicial officials in the prosecution and adjudication /max.10 minutes per delegation

All participants

15:30-16:00

Questions and answers

16:00-16:20

Final remarks and awarding Certificates of Attendance

Ms. Laura Stefan and Mr. Vladan Joksimovic

Methodology: The moderator will shortly introduce the topics and the panellists. The moderator will encourage and lead the discussion during the Q&A session, as well the tour-de -table. The RAI Chairman and the Head of RAI Secretariat will give the final remarks.