OECD ACN Thematic Study
“Prevention of Corruption in the Public Sector in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”

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Objectives of the study

- Identify effective and successful policies and tools to prevent corruption, common trends and challenges;
- Describe innovative and well-designed approaches to prevention of corruption;
- Develop regional policy recommendations; and
- Build capacity and promote exchange of good practice and useful tools among ACN countries and with OECD countries through a series of seminars.
Countries

Questionnaires received from governments and non-governmental parties in 20 countries:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR of Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

Additional examples from other countries:

Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Korea, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, etc.
Structure of the report

(1) Research (2) Expertise of legal acts
(3) Risk assessment (4) Integrity plans
(5) Monitoring of implementation
(6) Engagement of NGOs (7) Training and education
(8) Awareness raising
(9) Innovative measures to prevent conflicts of interest
(10) Responsible persons / units within agencies
(11) Coordination (12) Public finances
(13) Role of state audit institutions (14) Public services
(15) Publication of information
(16) Tools for reporting and whistleblower protection
Some commonalities and trends

Many common measures and practices.
- Mandatory or optional screening of (draft) laws/ reg-s.
- Some new sophisticated risk assessment methodologies.
- Monitoring of output, not outcome/ impact.
- Institutionalized NGO involvement, monitoring by NGOs.
- A lot of training and awareness-raising campaigns (impact often unclear).
- Authorized AC (confidence) persons not common.
- The role of SAIs underappreciated.
- E-procurement with limited functionality and use.
- Proactive publication and information materials (open budget data in some countries – new “gold standard”).
- Whistleblower protection – fragmented and limited.
Examples of innovative measures

ackle of the implementation of integrity plans with the help of client surveys (Serbia)

 Systematic review and “guillotine” of regulations (Armenia)

 Web-based platforms for the elaboration of AC plans (Montenegro, Serbia)

 Thematic evaluation missions by expert teams (Romania)

 Ex-ante verification of conflicts of interest and online application for checking incompatibilities (respectively Romania and Slovenia)

 Open budget data (Estonia, Kyrgyzstan)
Examples of well-designed measures

Values-focused, extensive supply of ethics training
(Estonia)

E-procurement with wide functionality
(Georgia, Kazakhstan)

Single “space” to render public services
(Azerbaijan, Georgia)

Monitoring by civil society
(judicial appointments in Bulgaria, tax services in Kazakhstan, election candidates in Latvia)

The AC Forum of state bodies and NGOs
(Kyrgyzstan)

Risk-management in the Road Traffic Safety Dept.
(Latvia)
Selected policy recommendations

Ensure that the AC assessment of legal acts covers all major risk areas by defining criteria for selecting drafts, laws and regulations that are subject to review.

Conduct corruption risk analysis, use its findings for adopting measures and report publicly about improvements it helped to create.

Raise senior management awareness and accountability for AC (integrity) plans.

Develop indicators demonstrating changes achieved with AC measures, include these indicators in AC policies and measure progress using them.

Further engage civil society and business organizations in AC policies.

Designate ethics officials or confidence persons with counseling and preventive tasks.
Selected policy recommendations (cont.)

- Ensure working and transparent inter-institutional coordination in the AC area.
- Publish budget data online in such detail and form that is relevant and useful for citizens.
- Strengthen the role of the SAIs in prevention of corruption.
- Extend the use of e-procurement in practice and beyond publication.
- Consider unifying public service provision.
- Ensure possibilities to effectively request and obtain information alongside increasing publication.
- Introduce legal measures to protect whistle-blowers and take steps to ensure this protection is actually provided.