

Recommendations of the Regional Conference *Preventing Corruption by Assessing its Risks*

On 14 November 2014, governmental officials, anti-corruption experts, relevant practitioners and representatives of civil society gathered in Tirana at the invitation of Albanian Ministry of State on Local Issues, the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI), the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the Southeast Europe Leadership for Development and Integrity (SELDI) to discuss how to prevent corruption by assessing its risks.

Recalling the international commitments, as well as obligations at regional level to prevent corruption, including the Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs of the SEECP participating states from Bucharest, May 2014, in particular, the pledge to “foster the stronger regional frameworks for tackling corruption (...)”, as well as to “allocate adequate resources for implementing efficient preventive mechanisms and programs, as well as proactive measures to enhance institutional transparency and good governance”;

Recalling also the South East Europe 2020 Strategy and the RAI Work Plan for 2014 – 2015;

The participants recommended the countries in South-East Europe (SEE) to review their policy and practice on corruption prevention as follows:

Corruption proofing of legislation:

1. Countries without any specific anti-corruption assessment tool of the laws should consider **introducing** this tool in line with the respective Methodology developed by RAI and RCC and in line with the Ten Principles of Effective Corruption Proofing.
2. Countries having already a specific corruption proofing tool in place should **review** as to what extent it complies with the guidelines and principles in the Methodology on anti-corruption assessment of laws.
3. For incorporating anti-corruption assessment of laws into their anti-corruption efforts, countries should **involve** all legal drafting state bodies, specialised anti-corruption bodies, parliament and civil society.

4. Countries should review their **legal drafting** guidelines as to whether they comprehensively prevent corruption risks from ambiguity.
5. Countries should make **public** their methodology on anti-corruption assessment of laws in order to involve and enable civil society stakeholders to contribute to the review.
6. Countries should make corruption risks an issue in the **legislative process** – at the drafting stage, during public consultations, and in parliament.
7. Countries should raise **awareness** on anti-corruption assessment of laws and provide all public officials involved in the legislative process with training on corruption proofing, using practical exercises.
8. Countries should review their **broader framework** on the legislative process and its integrity, as to whether it facilitates anti-corruption assessment of laws (legal drafting guidelines, transparent and participatory law-making process, lobbying, political finance, ethics in legislation).

Furthermore, the participants adopted the **Ten Principles of Effective Corruption Proofing** as an international standard in this field.

Risk assessment:

9. Countries without any specific corruption risk assessment tool for public institutions should consider **introducing** this tool by designing and implementing, within a pilot project, a methodology on corruption risk assessment in public institutions.
10. Countries having already a specific tool on corruption risk assessment should apply it to all relevant sectors and secure sufficient **resources** in terms of finance, time, training, knowledge and IT support for its implementation and constant monitoring, revising and upgrading.