



Regional Conference

Private Sector Integrity in the Western Balkans

30 September – 1 October 2024

Hotel Vucko - Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The significant loss of assets to corruption severely undermines the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), threatens global economies, weakens democracies, and erodes the rule of law. For businesses, corruption translates into a range of negative consequences, including market distortions, unfair competition, increased operational costs, missed business opportunities, and substantial legal and reputational risks. With growing expectations from investors, governments, and consumers, business integrity has become a priority for the private sector. Environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) directives are raising the bar for companies to be more accountable, ethical, and transparent, contributing to the strengthening of public institutions and systems, in line with SDG 16.

At the 2023 World Economic Forum, the UN Secretary-General highlighted the crucial role of the private sector in achieving the SDGs, emphasizing that neither governments nor companies can tackle corruption alone. A collaborative, multisectoral approach, as outlined by the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), is essential for driving meaningful change and achieving lasting results over time.

The upcoming event is part of two projects implemented by UNODC: “Uniting Leaders for Business Integrity,” funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, United States of America, and the “Southeast Europe-Together Against Corruption II (SEE-TAC II)”, implemented in partnership with the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) and funded by the Austrian Development Agency. Central to both projects is the UNCAC, alongside partners’ commitments to reducing corruption in the Western Balkans by enhancing business integrity. This approach is also in line with the Tenth Principle of the UN Global Compact.

Additionally, Bosnia and Herzegovina has recently adopted a nationwide Anti-Corruption Strategy. Similar to other national strategies in the region, it prioritizes promoting private sector integrity and enhancing corruption prevention through capacity building within the private sector. This development provides a timely opportunity to bring together national, regional, and international experts to discuss best practices in private sector integrity, foster cooperation between the public and private sectors, and strengthen regional ties.

The event will cover a range of topics, including UNCAC, anti-corruption strategies and policies, business sector integrity, and regional cooperation on these issues.

The event is expected to involve around 80 participants, including public Officials from relevant national anti-corruption agencies and bodies, ministries, civil society and private sector representatives, such as members of Chambers of Commerce, the Foreign Investors Council, from the Western Balkans. UNODC and RAI experts, as well as representatives from the donor community, will also be in attendance. The event will be held in English, with simultaneous interpretation in local languages.



Agenda

Monday, 30 September

09:00 – 09:30 **Registration and welcome coffee**

09:30 – 10:00 **Opening remarks**

Mr. Constantine Palicarsky, Regional Adviser, UNODC

Mr. Drazen Jelenic, Chairperson, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative

H.E. Mr. Georg Diwald, Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Moderator: **Mr. Elvis Kondzic**, Director, Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption, Bosnia and Herzegovina

10:00 – 10:15 **Tour de table**

10:15 – 11:00 **Session I: Anti-Corruption Strategies and private sector integrity**

Ms. Damirka Mioc, Deputy Director, Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms. Rovena Pregja, Director, General Directorate of Anti-Corruption, Ministry of Justice, Albania

Ms. Bojana Scepanovic, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Serbia

Mr. Vladan Raicevic, Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister for political system, judiciary and anticorruption, Montenegro

Ms. Tatjana Dimitrovska, President of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, North Macedonia

Moderator: **Ms. Jasna Pekic**, Regional Specialist, UNODC

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee Break and group picture**

11:30 – 13:00 **Session II: UNCAC and the private sector**

Mr. Constantine Palicarsky, Regional Advisor, UNODC

Ms. Tijana Jankovic, Director, UN Global Compact, Serbia

Moderator: **Ms. Viktorija Nesterovaite**, Civil Society Unit, UNODC





- 13:00 – 14:00** Lunch break
- 14:00 – 15:30** **Session III: Business integrity - the most important things gathered in one place**
- Ms. Sandra Damijan**, Lecturer School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 15:30 – 16:00** Coffee Break
- 16:00 – 17:00** **Session III - Continued**
- Ms. Sandra Damijan**, Lecturer School of Economics and business, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Tuesday, 1 October

- 09:30 – 11:00** **Session IV: ISO Standards related to business integrity**
- Ms. Dragana Kokot**, RS Chamber of Commerce, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ms. Mia Glamuzina, FBiH Chamber of Commerce, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 11:00 – 11:30** Coffee Break
- 11:30 – 13:00** **Session V: Leading with integrity: Business as drivers for positive change**
- Ms. Sandra Damijan**, Lecturer School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 13:00 – 14:00** Lunch break
- 14:00 – 15:30** **Session VI – Group discussion: cross-cutting themes to building integrity**
- Ms. Tanja Sebez**, private sector representative, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mr. Constantine Palicarsky, Regional Adviser, UNODC
- 15:30 – 16:00** Coffee Break
- 16:00 – 16:30** **Next steps and closing remarks**

