

POLICY BRIEF

HIGH-LEVEL MULTI STAKEHOLDER SIDE
EVENT OF THE BERLIN PROCESS ON
ANTI-CORRUPTION AND GOOD
GOVERNANCE: ADVANCING THE PATH
TO EU INTEGRATION

OCTOBER 2025



**Berlin
Process**

High-Level Multi-Stakeholder
Side Event of the Berlin Process



Anti-Corruption and Good Governance in the Western Balkans:

Advancing the Path to Integration

October 6th, 2025
Sarajevo, BiH



UK Government



REGIONAL
ANTI-CORRUPTION
INITIATIVE



Bosna i Hercegovina
Ministarsvo pravde Bosne i Hercegovine



In partnership with:



HELVETAS



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Cooperation**

KEY OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Date: 6 October 2025

Location: Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Organizer: Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI)

In Partnership with: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS) and European Union Police Assistance for BiH – EUPA4BIH

Hosts: UK Government (host of the Berlin process), Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Supported by: The AIRE Centre Western Balkans and Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Berlin Process has become a vital framework for promoting regional cooperation, European integration, and reconciliation in the Western Balkans. Within this framework, anti-corruption is recognised as an essential prerequisite for stability, security, and economic growth.

The Sarajevo side event reaffirmed that combating corruption is not only a governance priority but a cornerstone of democratic development and regional stability. For the first time under the Berlin Process, RAI has gathered the Ministers of Justice from the Western Balkans to advance a shared vision for integrity and good governance. The event was organized by the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI) in partnership with HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (HELVETAS) and European Union Police Assistance for BiH – EUPA4BIH, with support of AIRE Centre – Western Balkans, Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH.

The event showcased the strong partnership between institutional and development actors in driving integrity reforms. It brought together Ministers of Justice, senior government officials, civil-society representatives, and international partners to translate political commitments into measurable reforms and strengthen cooperation across institutions and sectors.

The event also marked a milestone with the entry into force of the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations, advancing regional integrity and reinforcing the rule of law as part of the Western Balkans' path to EU accession.

KEY OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mainstream Political Commitment and Regional Instruments

- **Accelerate ratification and implementation** of the International Treaty on Exchange of Data for the Verification of Asset Declarations and adoption of the draft Asset Sharing Agreement, with clear national implementation plans and regional coordination.
- **Enhance dialogue with the European Union** on asset declaration, recovery, and illicit financial flows, including property tracing across jurisdictions.
- **Align regional reforms** with EU anti-corruption standards and enlargement conditionalities, treating the accession process not as an obligation but as a shared driver of good governance, enhanced public trust, and economic growth.
- **Promote regional ownership** of anti-corruption as a trust-building mechanism that helps retain talent and opportunities in the Western Balkans.

Institutional Reforms and Integrity Mechanisms

- **Embed integrity and ethics** across justice, law-enforcement, and public-administration institutions through transparent recruitment, regular training, and accountability mechanisms.
- **Advance digitalisation and open-data solutions** – e-procurement, transparency registers, and integrity portals – as enablers of efficiency and public trust.
- **Strengthen regional cooperation and peer learning** by connecting existing professional networks and regional mechanisms to foster mutual learning and capacity development across institutions in the region.

- **Operationalise the Regional Integrity Index** to track progress at national and local levels and inform policy dialogue under the Berlin Process.
- **Establish a Regional Task Force on Integrity Reforms** under RAI coordination to support implementation and staff exchanges among anti-corruption and justice institutions.
- **Promote gender equity and inclusion as integral elements of credible and resilient integrity systems**, ensuring that reforms reflect and serve all members of society. Actively encourage the equal participation of women and men in public life and decision-making to enhance legitimacy, transparency, and alignment with EU values and standards.

Monitoring, Accountability, and Open Governance

- **Institutionalise the systematic use of monitoring tools, open data platforms, and integrity indicators** to improve transparency and evidence-based policymaking at both national and local levels.
- **Encourage harmonisation and interoperability of oversight approaches across jurisdictions**, including common standards for monitoring integrity performance.
- **Advance digital transformation as a key trust-building mechanism**, enabling real-time transparency and public access to governance data, thus helping prevent corruption and restore confidence in public institutions.
- **Promote collaboration among regional knowledge partners** to create synergies and avoid duplication in data collection and integrity assessments across the Western Balkans.

Corruption as a Driver of Regional Instability and Migration

- **Integrate anti-corruption measures into regional security, development and migration strategies** by addressing corruption as a root cause of institutional distrust and youth emigration.
- **Promote inclusive and accountable governance at all levels** to strengthen citizens' confidence and create incentives for young people to build their future in the region.
- **Highlight anti-corruption as a main trust-building mechanism** that contributes directly to retaining talent and fostering social and economic resilience in the Western Balkans.
- **Ensure stronger regional dialogue on integrity and security**, linking anti-corruption reforms with broader efforts under the Berlin Process and EU-integration process.

Civil Society, Academia, and Collective Action

- **Institutionalise inclusive and protected multi-stakeholder engagement** by establishing regular, rule-based platforms that bring together government, civil society, media, and the private sector actors.
- **Promote convergence among public, private, and civic sectors** to enable shared responsibility for anti-corruption and integrity reforms, including joint training, data-sharing, and awareness initiatives.
- **Support and protect independent anti-corruption actors** through sustainable funding, legal safeguards, and inclusive platforms such as public-private partnerships, investigative media initiatives, and regional forums promoting integrity.
- **Link regional youth initiatives and anti-corruption education with ongoing regional platforms** and fellowships to promote integrity, public service values, and civic responsibility among younger generations.
- **Ensure follow-up actions should be linked with ongoing Berlin Process mechanisms**, such as the Business Forum, Civil Society Forum, and relevant ministerial coordination formats, to ensure coherence and continuity.

WAY FORWARD

These recommendations reflect a shared regional vision: to move from commitments to concrete, measurable results that strengthen transparency, accountability, and public trust.

Their integration into national reforms and Berlin Process frameworks will help anchor the Western Balkans in a future defined by integrity, stability, and full European integration.