

Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Dedicated to preventing and
fighting corruption since 1998



The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It is a global forum that allows countries to work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems.

OECD Working Group on Bribery

The OECD Working Group on Bribery (WGB) is leading global efforts to fight bribery of foreign public officials in international trade and investment. Monitoring by the WGB has established the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions as the most rigorously enforced international anti-corruption instrument. Guided by the principle of dissemination and promotion of the values contained in the Convention, the WGB engages in an ongoing dialogue with a wide range of non-members around the world both bilaterally and through regional anti-corruption initiatives.

Welcome Letter

The Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN) started in 1998, in the middle of a transition process that has opened up this region to the world. Many countries have achieved remarkable progress on their way to developing functioning democracies and successful market economies. Several ACN countries have become OECD members.

The ACN has also grown remarkably since its inception. From an awareness raising initiative, it evolved into a strong programme that has a real impact on anti-corruption policies of its members through the monitoring programme, known as the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan, and through its capacity building activities.

As one of the most dynamic outreach programmes of the Working Group on Bribery, the ACN transfers know-how and best practices from the OECD countries to its members, and in this way fosters the implementation of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention as well as other international anti-corruption and integrity instruments. The ownership of this initiative by the countries in the region, together with active involvement of non-governmental and international partners, and continuous support from the donors made ACN a real driver of anti-corruption reforms in the region. The new ACN Work Programme for 2016-2019 focuses on enforcement of anti-corruption policies and anti-corruption legislation. The implementation of this Work Programme will be an important contribution to the global fight against corruption.

Patrick Moulette
Head, OECD Anti-Corruption Division



Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Established in 1998, the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN) is one of WGB's global relations programmes. It brings together 25 countries from the region and provides a regional forum for the promotion of anti-corruption reforms, exchange of information and elaboration of good practices. The Network is open to: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR of Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. OECD countries also take part in the ACN.



ACN family photo at the 16th Plenary Meeting, 7-9 October 2015 – adoption of the new Work Programme.

ACN Work Programme 2013-2015 in facts and figures:

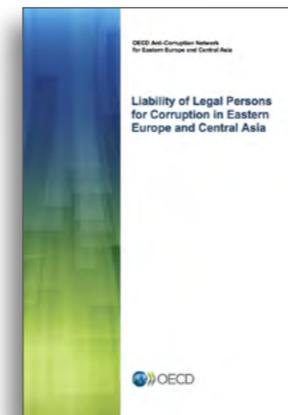
- “Fighting Corruption in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Anti-corruption Reforms in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Progress and Challenges, 2009-2013 “;
- During the third round of monitoring under the Istanbul Action Plan, nine monitoring reports and 15 progress updates were adopted; at least 90% of recommendations were partially, largely or fully implemented;
- Three expert seminars on corruption prevention, and the study “Prevention of Corruption in the Public Sector in Eastern Europe and Central Asia” was published;
- Three meetings of the Law Enforcement Network were organised, and thematic studies on “Foreign Bribery Offence and its Enforcement in Eastern Europe and Central Asia” (2015), “Liability of Legal Persons for Corruption in Eastern Europe and Central Asia” and “International Cooperation in Corruption Cases in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”

- Second edition of the Thematic Study on “Specialised Anti-Corruption Institutions – Review of Models” was published;
- Two meetings of the Advisory Board and one expert meeting on Business Integrity were organised, several country consultations took place, and the study “Business Integrity in Eastern Europe and Central Asia” was prepared.

Partners:

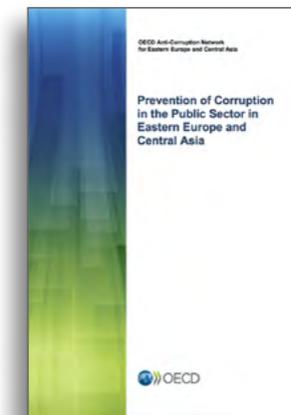
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Council of Europe Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO), Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI), Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA), Transparency International and other international, non-governmental, business and academic organisations.

The Network publishes several types of material, including monitoring reports, thematic studies and summary reports. Recent examples include:



Liability of Legal Persons for Corruption in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Analyses the legislation on liability of legal persons for corruption and its enforcement in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, highlighting national practices that may be promoted as good practice. It focuses on 25 countries participating in the ACN.



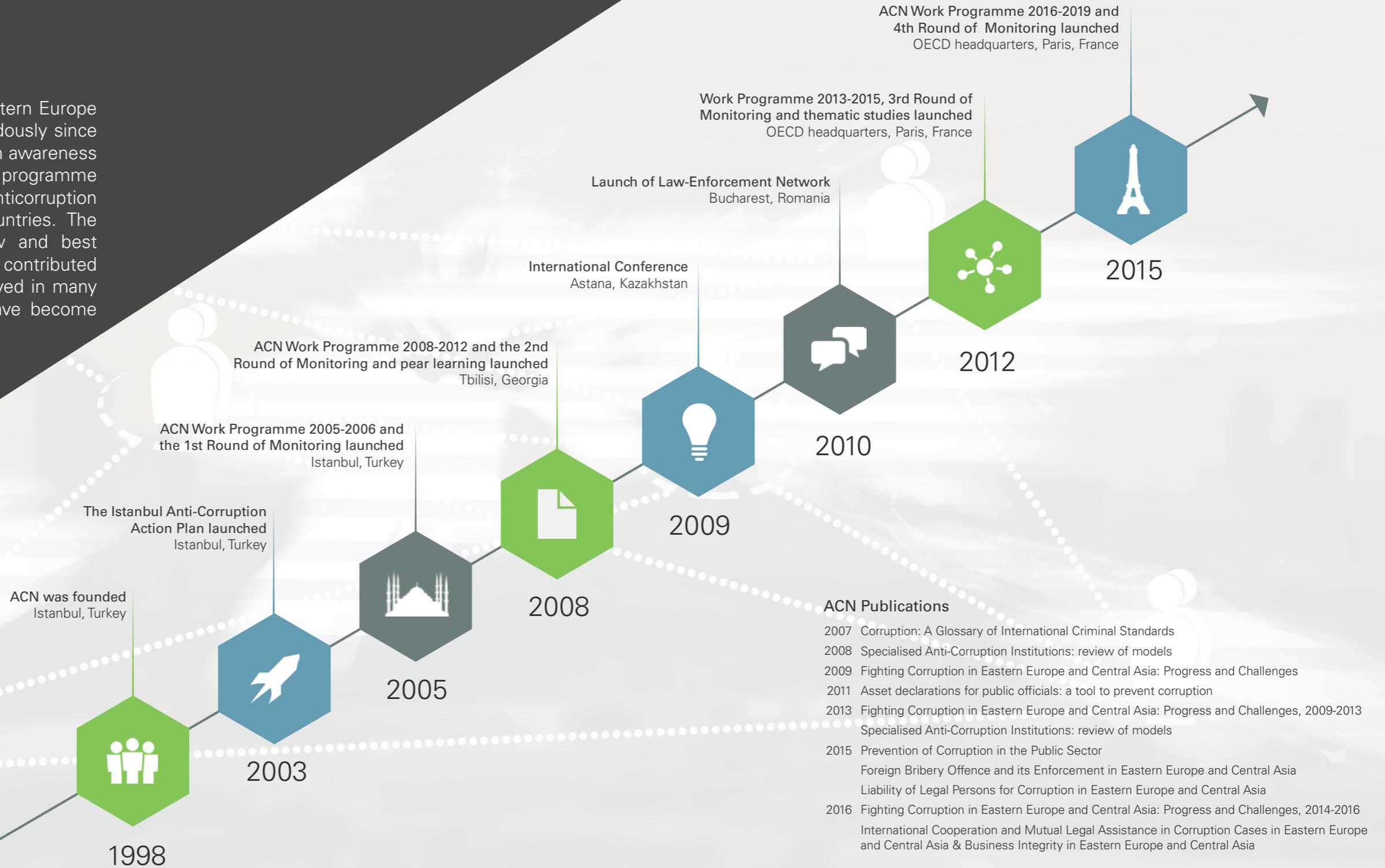
Prevention of Corruption in the Public Sector in Eastern Europe & Central Asia

Analyses the preventive measures that have proven to be effective and successful in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The review focuses on 21 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and includes examples from OECD countries.



1998 to 2016

The Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia has grown tremendously since it was launched in 1998. Originally an awareness raising initiative, ACN is today a strong programme making a measurable impact on anticorruption policies and practices in ACN countries. The continuous exchange of know-how and best practices within the Network have contributed to the extraordinary progress observed in many ACN countries. Several of them have become OECD members.



ACN Publications

- 2007 Corruption: A Glossary of International Criminal Standards
- 2008 Specialised Anti-Corruption Institutions: review of models
- 2009 Fighting Corruption in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Progress and Challenges
- 2011 Asset declarations for public officials: a tool to prevent corruption
- 2013 Fighting Corruption in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Progress and Challenges, 2009-2013
Specialised Anti-Corruption Institutions: review of models
- 2015 Prevention of Corruption in the Public Sector
Foreign Bribery Offence and its Enforcement in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Liability of Legal Persons for Corruption in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- 2016 Fighting Corruption in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: Progress and Challenges, 2014-2016
International Cooperation and Mutual Legal Assistance in Corruption Cases in Eastern Europe and Central Asia & Business Integrity in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

The fight against corruption in Eastern Europe & Central Asia

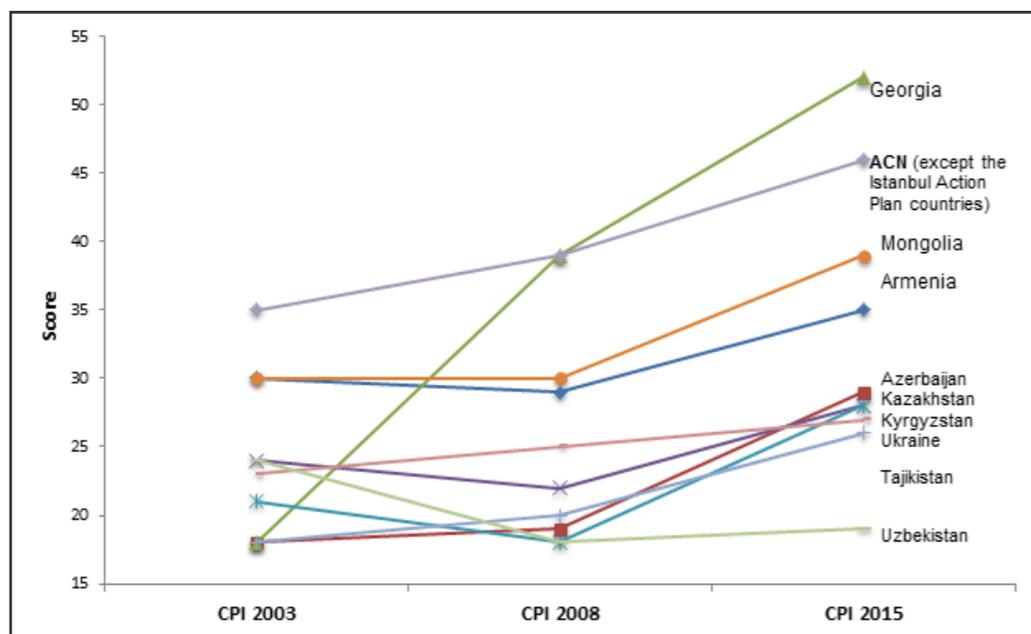
There have been several important achievements in the anti-corruption efforts in the region:

- Most ACN countries have adopted a new generation of anti-corruption strategies and action plans, and made these policy documents more concrete and effective;
- Most countries have established and are strengthening their anti-corruption bodies;
- ACN countries bring their anti-corruption legislation in compliance with international standards;
- All ACN countries take an active part in international anti-corruption initiatives;

- ACN countries are taking measures to prevent corruption in the public and business sectors;
- Civil society has become more engaged in anti-corruption policies and measures.

Many ACN countries are witnessing lower levels of corruption according to Transparency International. New or aspiring EU member states are more effective in their efforts to reduce corruption. Yet, corruption remains a serious problem for all countries in the region, compared to the OECD members, enforcement remaining the main challenge.

Rank in TI corruption perception (2003 - 2015)



IAP countries in the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI Score)

Source: Transparency International, CPI



International Support

The work of the ACN has received generous donor contributions from Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Liechtenstein. The Ukraine project was funded by Latvia, Lithuania, the Slovak Republic, Sweden and the United States. International organisations, such as the OSCE, UNODC and UNDP, as well as participating countries co-funded ACN activities.

The Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan (IAP)



Enery Quinones

"The Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan was launched in 2003, and it is the flagship project of the ACN. Under the Action Plan, participating states commit to having their progress in

implementing anti-corruption reforms periodically reviewed by other ACN countries. The review methodology is based on that of the OECD Working Group on Bribery. This methodology gives the participating states full ownership of the process, allowing for the development of practical recommendations based on international standards and national experiences. The objective of the periodic reviews is to provide independent assessment of how well Action Plan countries are living up to their obligations. The successful fight against corruption can only be to the benefit of the lives of people in Eastern Europe and Central Asia" (Enery Quinones, ACN Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan).

Development & expansion of the IAP:

- 2003-2005 – Baseline Reviews for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and Tajikistan
- 2004 – Kyrgyzstan joins the IAP
- 2005 – Kazakhstan joins the IAP
- 2006 - 2007 – First Round of Monitoring
- 2008 - 2012 – Second Round of Monitoring
- 2010 – Uzbekistan joins the IAP
- 2012 – Mongolia joins the IAP
- 2013 - 2015 – Third Round of Monitoring
- 2016 - 2019 – Fourth Round of Monitoring

The fourth round of implementing the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan will focus on enforcement and monitoring. For the first time, the reports will include in-depth analysis of anti-corruption measures in one selected sector. Schedule for the 4th round of monitoring:

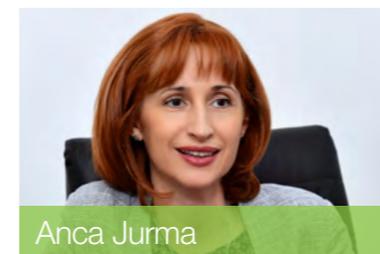
Monitoring Meeting	Monitoring Reports	Progress Updates
September 2016	Azerbaijan, Georgia	Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine & Uzbekistan
June 2017	Tajikistan, Armenia and Kazakhstan	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Ukraine & Uzbekistan
March 2018	Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine	Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, & Uzbekistan
December 2018	Mongolia, Uzbekistan	Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan & Ukraine

The Network's future

The Work Programme 2016-2019 focuses on the practical implementation and effectiveness of anti-corruption policies and measures, as well as the enforcement of anti-corruption laws. It includes the following activities:

- Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan;
- Law enforcement network;
- Corruption prevention in the public sector;
- Business integrity;
- Country-specific projects.

The Steering Group, which is composed of ACN National Coordinators and Contact Points, will advise the Secretariat on all issues related to ACN activities. It will also provide a regional framework for regular exchange of experience among participating countries and stakeholder consultations.



Anca Jurma

"Corruption crimes become ever more complex, they often involve high level public officials and businessmen. Corrupt persons and their fortunes cross borders to hide from justice.

To allow for effective enforcement of corruption crimes, law-enforcement practitioners need modern anti-corruption legislation. They need to learn continuously from each other about the most effective investigative methods. Law enforcement practitioners from different countries should work closely together to exchange information and support investigations if we want to succeed in the global fight against corruption. To help law enforcement practitioners from Eastern Europe and Central Asia in these challenging tasks, the ACN launched its Law Enforcement Network in 2010 in Bucharest. The Network will continue providing

a useful framework for the law enforcement practitioners from the region, and will facilitate their co-operation with their colleagues from OECD countries and from other regions" (Anca Jurma, Chief Prosecutor for International Cooperation, DNA, Romania and Chair of the OECD/ACN Law-Enforcement Network).

The Law Enforcement Network (LEN) will organise one or two meetings per year in order to provide capacity building and network opportunities for the practitioners from the region. Based on the good practice from the past years, some of these meetings will be organised jointly with the Global Network of Law-Enforcement Practitioners. The LEN will also provide a framework for several thematic studies on new and complex corruption crimes.

Thematic activities will also focus on practical implementation and enforcement of corruption prevention measures, including:

- Expert seminars on prevention of corruption in the public sector, at both sectoral and local level, and new thematic studies on best practices in this area;
- Expert seminars on business integrity to promote recommendations for governments, business associations and companies, and a study to review progress in their implementation.

Country-specific activities will include the Anti-Corruption Project for Ukraine, focusing on building the capacity of NABU and other law enforcement bodies, as well as assisting the Office of Business Ombudsmen to work with the business complaints about corruption.

In addition, the Network will provide assistance to Kyrgyzstan to build law enforcement capacity and support for the international assessment of Romania's anti-corruption strategy. Other country-specific projects will be undertaken based on demand and the availability of resources.

Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

For more information visit
www.oecd.org/corruption/acn

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