Overview

The Greece Public Integrity Forum is a two day multi-stakeholder dialogue where government officials, the private sector, civil society organisations and academia will come together and discuss anti-corruption issues such as the cost of corruption to society, the importance of accountability in the public sector, the key role integrity plays, the use of political donations to buy influence, and the new role that the media and the citizens play in the fight against corruption.

The Forum is part of the Greece-OECD project: Technical Support on Anti-Corruption in Greece supported by the European Commission. The main objective of this project is to increase integrity and reduce corruption in Greece through technical empowerment of the Greek authorities for the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP).

Inequality, exclusion and disillusionment: the real cost of corruption

Corruption is one of the most corrosive issues of our time. It wastes public resources, widens economic and social inequalities, breeds discontent and political polarisation and reduces trust in institutions. It also perpetuates inequality and poverty, impacting well-being and the distribution of income and undermining opportunities to participate equally in social, economic and political life.

Integrity for Prosperity

A strategic and sustainable response to corruption is Public Integrity, understood as the consistent alignment to values, principles and norms that prioritise the public interest over the private interest in the public sector.

Integrity is one of the key pillars of political, economic and social structures and is essential to the economic and social well-being and prosperity of individuals and societies as a whole.

Public Integrity assures citizens that the government is working in their interest, not just for the select few. But integrity is not just a moral issue; it is also about making public sectors more efficient, societies and economies more inclusive and especially about restoring trust, not just in government, but trust in public institutions, regulators, banks, and corporations. To this end, the Greece Public Integrity Forum will engage diverse stakeholders from different parts of Greek society and government.
Tuesday, 11 July

8:30 – 9:00, Registration and welcome coffee

OPENING REMARKS

9:00 – 10:30 Opening remarks by GSAC, Government of Greece, EC, and OECD

- Mr. Panagiotis Skourletis, Minister of Interior
- Ms. Olga Gerovassili, Minister of Administrative Reconstruction
- Mr. Christoforos Vernardakis, Minister of State
- Mr. Dimitris Papaggelopoulos, Alternate Minister of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights
- Mr. Luiz De Mello, OECD, Deputy Director, Public Governance Directorate (GOV)
- Mr. Theo Strijker, Coordinator Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Corruption, European Commission, Secretariat-General, Structural Reform Support Service
- Ms. Maria Papaspirou, General Inspector of Public Administration
- Mr. Konstantinos Christou, General Secretary, General Secretariat against Corruption (GSAC)
- Moderator: Ms. Margarita Gasparinatou, General Secretariat against Corruption (GSAC)

10:30 – 11:00 Upholding Integrity in the Public Service

Public officials have a duty to uphold high standards of integrity. Without this, they jeopardize the trust vested in them by the community and undermine the legitimacy they need to implement policy and deliver services on behalf of government. All public sector leaders – not only senior executives but managers and supervisors – have a responsibility to model the values and behaviour.

- Mr. Daniel Li, former Deputy Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption of Hong Kong (ICAC)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee & networking break

SESSION 1

11:30 - 13:00 Managing Conflict of Interest in the Public Service

Governments are expected to ensure that public officials do not allow their private interests and affiliations to compromise official decision-making. In an increasingly demanding society, inadequately managed conflicts of interest on the part of public officials have the potential to weaken citizens' trust in public institutions. This session will discuss lobbying in public decision making and asset declaration as necessary components of an organisation's integrity strategy.
13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

SESSION 2

14:00 -15:30 Whistle-blower Protection Mechanisms and Practice

Whistle-blower protection is essential to promote a culture of accountability and integrity in both public and private institutions, and to encourage the reporting of misconduct, fraud and corruption. Greece is currently developing a legal framework to protect whistle-blowers. This session examines how to create the right control environment, the most effective ways to protect whistle-blowers from reprisals and how to make recipients of whistle-blower allegations accountable as to how they handle disclosures of misconduct.

- Ms. Kalliopi Zouvia, Jurist, Special Scientist in the subject area of State-Citizen Relationship to the Independent Authority of Ombudsman
- Mr. Stelios Kouloglou, Journalist, Member of the European Parliament
- Mr. Mark Worth, Director of the International Whistle-blower Project and Co-coordinator of the Southeast Europe Coalition on Whistle-blower Protection
- Dr. Maria Stilianidou, Board Member of Independent Authority for Public Procurement
- Moderator: Ms. Eirini Stamouli, Jurist, Special Advisor, General Secretariat Against Corruption (GSAC)

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee & Networking break

SESSION 3

16:00 – 17:30 Increasing Transparency in Political Finance and Election Campaigns

Money in politics is a double edged sword. It is a necessary component of the democratic processes, enabling representation and facilitating democratic competition. But, while money is a channel of political participation, if the financing of political parties and election campaigns is not adequately regulated, money may also be the means for undue influence and policy capture by narrow private interests.
SESSION 4

9:30 – 11:00 Promoting Transparency through New Technologies: Opportunities Ahead

Greece is at the forefront of promoting transparency by using new technologies to strengthen governance. The Greek government has recognized the critical factor of transparency, accountability and citizen engagement to enable the transition to a new public administration model that is looking for new ways to continuously improve the services provided to citizens and enhance e-democracy and e-participation. In this regard it has taken important innovative actions such as the Government Portal ERMIS, the open e-deliberation and recruitment platform, the Transparency Program (Di@vgeia) and the open taxation data initiative. This session will examine Greece’s experiences and future opportunities to address important policy issues using open government tools.

- Mr. Georgios Pitsilis, Governor, Independent Authority of Public Revenue
- Mr. Ioannis Tafillis, General Secretary, Ministry of Digital Policy
- Mr. Alonso Cerdán, Deputy Director of Government Support and Exchange, Open Government Partnership (OGP) Support Unit
- Prof. Diomidis Spinellis, Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB) and President of Open Technologies Alliance (GFOSS)
- Ms. Nancy Routzouni, Head of the inter-ministerial team on open government and Open Government Partnership (OGP) Point of Contact in Greece
- Moderator: Mr. Yiannis Vougiouklakis, General Director of New Media, ERT
SESSION 5

11:30 – 13:00 General Secretariat against Corruption: Presentation of 2016 Annual Report

With the aim to fight corruption more effectively and efficiently, the Greek government created the General Secretariat Against Corruption (GSAC). GSAC’s mission involves, among others, ensuring the coherence and effectiveness of the Greek National Anti-Corruption Strategy, coordinating the fight against fraud as well as resolving overlapping responsibilities arising from departments or agencies involved in the fight against corruption. This session will take the opportunity to highlight GSAC’s main achievements in its Annual Report being launched at this event.

- GSAC representatives
- Moderator: Kristallia Tsironi, GSAC Official

SESSION 6

14:00 – 15:30 New roles for Media and Citizens in the Fight Against Corruption

Journalists and citizens have an important role in promoting and demanding good governance and transparency in government. To help government officials to do their jobs better, there are tools and techniques that journalists and citizens can use to monitor government transactions and report corruption in a responsible way. One of these, for example, is to use investigative tools and available public information to ensure fiscal transparency at the municipal and local level.

- Mr. Lefteris Kretsos, Secretary General of Communication and Media, Ministry of Digital Policy
- Mr. Jean-Michel Duffrene, Team Leader Media Neighbourhood Project at BBC Media Action
- Mr. Vassilis Sotiropoulos, Regional Ombudsman at Region of Attica
- Mr. Kostas Vaksevanis, Journalist, Writer
- Moderator: Mr. Israel Marañón De Pablo, Anti-corruption Specialist, OECD

15:30- 16:00 Coffee & Networking break
HACKATHON AWARDS

16:00-17:00 Hackathon Presentations and Awards

On April 2017, the OECD in partnership with the Greek General Secretariat against Corruption (GSAC), the Harokopio University and the Greek Open Technologies Alliance (GFOSS), organised a Hackathon on Public Integrity in which students, academia, start-ups and software developers engaged in collaborative computer programming to design new tools to fight corruption. This session presents the winning proposals.

- Presentation: Hackathon First place: “Vouli Open Budget” helps non-state actors (i.e. citizens, civil society organisations, journalists, researchers) navigate through the vast amount of documents and datasets regarding Greek Parliament’s fiscal affairs (v.gr. revenue, budgeting and expenditure), by converting raw data into a tool for democratic accountability.

- Presentation: Hackathon runner-up “The Justinian Project” offers a web application to monitor in real time court trials, which will also allow users to electronically submit documents and requests for postponement.

- Presentation: Hackathon runner-up “Make the difference” is a student-created application that will include a learning tool for students to understand the concept and consequences of corruption, an anti-corruption reporting platform and an interactive learning game.

Moderators: Mr. George Boukouvalas & Mr. Leonardo Mamas, General Secretariat against Corruption (GSAC)

CLOSING REMARKS

17:00-17:15 Closing remarks

- Mr. Konstantinos Christou, General Secretary, General Secretariat against Corruption (GSAC)