Fighting transnational bribery in Croatia

Impact of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and new perspectives for public and private stakeholders

PROGRAMME

23 November 2021
National and University Library, Zagreb

Project: “Raising Awareness and Standards of Fighting Bribery in International Business Transactions”, funded by the European Union Structural Reform Support Programme
Fighting bribery in international business is ever more important for ensuring good governance and sustainable economic development, as well as the integrity of international markets. This is especially relevant for countries in the European single market like Croatia. For over two decades, countries in our globalised economy have stepped up efforts to encourage companies to prevent transnational bribery, and to punish those that engage in this pernicious conduct.

The OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions (Anti-Bribery Convention) is the only international treaty dedicated to fighting transnational bribery in business. Some 44 countries – including all 38 OECD members – are now Parties to the Convention. The OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions comprising these countries monitors the implementation of the Convention. Croatia has signalled its intention to join this collective effort.

This one-day event will raise awareness of the importance of fighting bribery in international business. Representatives of the OECD Working Group on Bribery will explain how this endeavour has led to reforms in national anti-bribery legislation and strengthened criminal enforcement efforts in other countries. Representatives of the Croatian government, private sector and civil society will discuss potential opportunities for reform in Croatia.

The event is part of the project “Raising Awareness and Standards of Fighting Bribery in International Business Transactions”, financed by the European Union Structural Reform Support Programme and jointly conducted by Croatia’s Ministry of Justice and Public Administration, the European Commission, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Registration

Please register here: https://forms.gle/RPGjD9MBNgkUAmtq7

Logistics

The event will be in English and Croatian with simultaneous English-Croatian interpretation. Refreshments and lunch will be provided during breaks.
PROGRAMME

10:00-11:00 Opening remarks


Opening Remarks:
• Mr. Ivan Malenica, Croatia Minister of Justice and Public Administration
• Ms. Nathalie Berger, Director for Support to Member State Reforms, European Commission’s Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM)
• Ms. Mathilde Mesnard, Acting Director, OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs

11:00-11:30 Press conference

• Mr. Josip Salapić, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration
• Ms. Nathalie Berger, Director for Support to Member State Reforms, European Commission’s Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM)
• Ms. Mathilde Mesnard, Acting Director, OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break for participants not attending the press conference

11:30-12:30 OECD Anti-Bribery Convention: tackling transnational bribery and promoting business integrity

The Parties to the Anti-Bribery Convention are bound by high standards to ensure that individuals and companies engaging in transnational bribery are punished. They must also promote corporate anti-corruption compliance systems to prevent and detect this crime. This roundtable session will consider how the Convention provides “carrots and sticks” for achieving these aims.

Moderator: Ms. Lucia Ondoli, Legal Analyst, OECD Anti-Corruption Division

Roundtable Participants:
• Mr. Drago Kos, OECD Working Group on Bribery Chair
• Mr. Marko Markić, Director of the Directorate for EU Programs and Projects, European and International Affairs, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
• Mr. Damir Zorić, Director General, Croatian Employers’ Association
Transnational bribery is a complex phenomenon that poses unique challenges for investigators and prosecutors. As a criminal law treaty, the Anti-Bribery Convention requires countries not only to enact effective laws but also to vigorously investigate and prosecute transnational bribery and related offences. This roundtable session will look at how the OECD encourages countries to enforce these laws and support these enforcement efforts by enhancing enforcement agencies’ tools and expertise, and by strengthening international co-operation among enforcement agencies and international bodies.

Moderator: Ms. Tamara Mišerda, Head of the Sector for the Prevention of Corruption, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration

Roundtable Participants:
- Ms. Maja Veber Šajn, Co-Chair of the Working Group on Bribery’s informal meeting of Law Enforcement Officials (LEOs)
- Ms. Daniëlle Goudriaan, European Prosecutor, European Public Prosecutor’s Office
- Ms. Ksenija Krizman, Deputy Director of Croatia’s Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organised Crime (USKOK)
16:30-17:00  **Closing reflections and remarks**

- Ms. Mathilde Mesnard, Acting Director, OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs
- Ms. Ciresica Feyer, Project Manager, European Commission’s Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM)
- Ms. Maja Vitaljić, Director of the Directorate for European Affairs, International and Judicial Cooperation and Prevention of Corruption, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration