

Effective Combat Against Corruption

September 2018 - September 2023



Center for Anti-Corruption
& Democratic Trust



About the Program

While the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and a myriad of regional treaties and review bodies have set out important anti-corruption commitments for their state parties, they are not always implemented effectively in practice. With support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INLEA), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the CEELI Institute support domestic stakeholders to identify, prioritize, and execute concrete actions to advance implementation of these commitments.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Strengthening Accountability for Money and Politics

CSO partner: Transparency International Bosnia and Herzegovina (TI BiH)

Institutional partner: The Central Election Commission (CEC)

TI BiH has been engaging directly with the CEC to meet outstanding GRECO recommendations for improved political finance transparency. Activities are designed to enhance political parties' financial compliance (a critical step in maintaining oversight of the flow of money in politics). TI BiH is working with the CEC to help parties navigate both annual and campaign-specific reporting obligations, and to provide training in advance of the October 2022 elections. These coordinated efforts with the CEC will yield concrete resources and teaching tools that will outlast the ECAC project. They are also supporting stronger state compliance with a GRECO recommendation that was deemed only 'partly implemented' at the close of the mechanism's third round of evaluations.

Bulgaria: Improving Judicial Remuneration

CSO partner: The Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives (BILI)

Institutional partner: Supreme Judicial Council (SJC)

BILI has been partnering with the SJC to advance compliance with recommendations on judicial remuneration issued by GRECO, the European Union and the Venice Commission, calling for the use of fair criteria for determining compensation. Under BILI's action plan, the SJC accompanied ECAC partners on a listening tour with judges across the country, developing a deeper understanding of grievances. Through these listening sessions, and a peer exchange with judges in Austria, the SJC were able to develop new schemes for pay to Bulgarian judges, based on experience and merit. BILI collaborated with economists to build forecasts that would show the financial repercussions of the proposed reforms to improve judicial compensation, which are being leveraged in advocacy efforts and budget deliberations, to inform a new policy for remunerations.



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Montenegro: Building Institutional Capacity to Prevent and Detect Corruption

CSO partner: Center for Monitoring & Research (CeMI)

Institutional partner: Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (APC)

CeMI has been making steady progress towards a third round GRECO recommendation to establish clear rules around use and abuse of public resources in elections. They have coordinated directly with the APC, strengthening their internal methods for monitoring and control of public finances in elections. Through the course of this cooperation, CeMI's relationships with the APC grew significantly – opening new opportunities to work with the state institution on its public communications efforts and reporting templates: enabling civil society to better monitor the Agency's progress towards fulfilling its mandate.

Romania: Increasing Transparency of Local Development Funds

CSO partner: Expert Forum of Romania (EFOR)

Institutional partner: Multiple

EFOR has been enhancing transparency around the award and use of local development funds, which present multiple corruption risks if mismanaged (for instance, misused to bolster a party's electoral support, awarded in a partisan manner, or disbursed for projects that are never implemented). EFOR aims to support achievement of an unfulfilled commitment under the government's 2018-2020 Open Government Partnership Action Plan. EFOR's interactive map allows watchdogs to monitor award and use of funds, and understand where projects have stalled, progressed, or never started. EFOR has also collaborated with journalists, giving interviews for two episodes of a popular national television show that investigates public interest stories. These efforts are helping to keep this issue area at the fore of public attention, even after the OGP action plan it was initially drafted for closed.

