

Dear ladies and gentlemen,
colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the September 2017 issue of the EPAC/EACN Newsletter. We are excited to share the latest news from the EPAC/EACN networks and to announce numerous events taking place during this autumn.

Information about events, conferences, seminars, training courses, studies, project findings etc. for the next newsletter are most welcome.

Your EPAC/EACN Secretariat

EPAC/EACN EVENTS

ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017



This year's 17th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 15 to 17 November 2017, kindly hosted by the Portuguese Inspectorate General of Home Affairs (IGAI).

There are five interesting plenary sessions on the agenda focusing on: the latest developments at international and European level; measurement of corruption, integrity and anti-corruption efforts; admissibility of electronic evidence and CCTV; misuse of databases by police officers, breach of official secrecy; presentation of the reports of the ACA and POB accompanying workshops.

The plenary sessions will be chaired by high representatives of various anti-corruption authorities and will bring together around 120 professionals from different EPAC/EACN Member States. Lively and interactive discussions are expected to take place. Finally, during the General Assembly a declaration on the work and strategic orientation of the networks will be officially presented and adopted.

Furthermore, the results of the working groups "Risk Management and Risk Analysis" and "Analysis of Big Data, Related Legal Aspects, Use of Databases" will be presented at the conference.

Finally, during the General Assembly, a declaration on the work and strategic orientation of the networks will be officially presented and adopted.

FIRST MEETING OF THE EPAC/EACN WORKING GROUP "RISK MANAGEMENT AND RISK ANALYSIS"

From 17 to 18 May 2017, representatives of anti-corruption authorities and police oversight bodies of the networks European Partners against Corruption (EPAC) and European contact-point network against corruption (EACN) participated in the first meeting of the working group "Risk Management and Risk Analysis", which took place at the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK).

The group of experts gathered in Vienna, talked about the status quo as to the application of risk management in the participating countries.

Furthermore, the participants got an overview of the steps involved in the implementation of a risk management system. The two-day meeting closed with a workshop led by certified risk managers of the BAK and an open discussion on the future steps of the WG.

TRILATERAL MEETING OF THE EPAC/EACN WORKING GROUP “RISK MANAGEMENT AND RISK ANALYSIS”

From 6 to 7 July 2017, a trilateral meeting between working group participants representing Slovenia (CPC), Serbia (ACA) and Austria (BAK) took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia. In addition to the exchange of experience, priority was given to the development of the guideline for the implementation of risk management.

You will find further information on the second and final working group meeting in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, below.



SECOND MEETING OF THE EPAC/EACN WORKING GROUP “RISK MANAGEMENT AND RISK ANALYSIS”

The second WG meeting will take place in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, from 27 to 28 September 2017. It is hosted by the National Anti-Corruption Centre (NAC) of the Republic of Moldova. The aim of the working group, which is chaired by the Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK), is to develop a risk management/risk analysis guideline for ACAs and POBs.

During this second WG session, the guideline will be finalized. It shall serve as a basis for setting minimum standards for the implementation of risk management systems and will be presented during the 17th Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly in Lisbon, Portugal.

FIRST MEETING OF THE EPAC/EACN WORKING GROUP “ANALYSIS OF BIG DATA, RELATED LEGAL ASPECTS, USE OF DATABASES”

From 2 to 3 October 2017, representatives of anti-corruption authorities and police oversight bodies of the EPAC/EACN networks will participate in the first meeting of the working group “Analysis of Big Data, Related Legal Aspects, Use of Databases”, which will take place at the Special Investigation Service of the Republic of Lithuania (STT) in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The WG is co-chaired by the Lithuanian Special Investigation Service (STT) and the Romanian National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA) and will focus both on technical and legal aspects related to big data and databases. Its aim is to develop a set of written best practices, conclusions and/or recommendations.

LATEST NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

EPAC/EACN HANDBOOK FOR THE EVALUATION OF POLICE OVERSIGHT BODIES

After about a year of work, approx. 30 representatives of authorities of the networks European Partners against Corruption (EPAC) and European contact-point network against corruption (EACN) approved a handbook for police oversight bodies (POB) in Luxembourg on 6 April 2017. The handbook, which comprises a comprehensive questionnaire, should serve the self-evaluation of these institutions.

In the framework of several meetings, a working group chaired by the General Inspection of the National Police (IGPN) and consisting of experts from eight European authorities elaborated a questionnaire allowing for POBs to evaluate their efficiency and effectiveness. The questionnaire covers various areas such as legal basis, human and financial resources, education and ethics, powers and methods, internal and external communication as well as supervision over police oversight bodies.

In her speech, the Secretary of State of Internal Security, Francine Closener, stressed that the handbook is a crucial contribution to fair control which is in turn important for the population, the society, politics and, in particular, the police.

The General Inspector of the Luxembourg Police, Monique Stirn, chaired the session. In her role as Deputy Vice President of EPAC/EACN, she was closely involved in the development of the handbook.

In the course of the event, the College of Policing for England and Wales and the High Authority for Transparency in Public Life, an independent French authority, introduced themselves.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL WITH UKRAINIAN AGENCY

On 1 August 2017, the Anti-Corruption General Directorate within the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs signed a bilateral cooperation protocol with the National Agency on Preventing Corruption of Ukraine, a young institution which was established in 2015 and became functional in August 2016.



The Anti-Corruption General Directorate (DGA) is the central structure of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) in charge of preventing and countering corruption within the ministry's personnel.

While conducting specific activities, DGA identified the need to establish cooperation with similar institutions of neighbouring countries, having in view particular situations and cases, especially in relation with border issues, both with EU and non-EU states.

In order to facilitate collaboration with the partners from the neighbouring states, DGA concluded a series of bilateral cooperation agreements, which constitute flexible working tools mainly for operational situations, but also for preventive activities. Such documents were signed with anti-corruption institutions from all of Romania's neighbouring countries, i.e. Bulgaria, Serbia, Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine. Due to Ukraine's and Romania's common interest in corruption cases related to the Romanian-Ukrainian border crossing points, DGA has recently intended to foster cooperation with law enforcement agencies from Ukraine. DGA signed a collaboration protocol with the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) in June/September 2016, which already proved its utility. In the framework of this document, DGA exchanged operational information with the above mentioned unit and also supported the institutional building of NABU by furnishing expertise in the field of prevention and professional integrity testing.

http://www.mai-dga.ro/eng/archives/bwg_gallery/01-august-2017

EXPERIENCE-SHARING WORKSHOP ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND REVOLVING DOORS

The 8th Experience-Sharing Workshop, organized by the European Commission (DG HOME) on 15 June 2017 in Barcelona, brought together representatives from national ministries, civil society, specialized corruption prevention, integrity and ethics authorities, national parliaments and national prosecution services, alongside experts from the European Commission.

The workshop was divided into 5 sessions covering subjects such as: prevention, detection and verification of conflict of interest situations; sanctions and enforcement – typology and dissuasiveness; incompatibilities and post-employment situations etc., and presentation of valuable working tools for the anti-corruption landscape.

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/corruption/experience-sharing-programme_en

SEMINAR ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FOR THE PREVENTION OF FRAUD AND CORRUPTION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

In the framework of the HERCULES III programme (2014-2020) and with the support of the European Union, the Anti-Fraud Office of Catalonia is organising a seminar on the management of conflicts of interest intended to contribute to the prevention of fraud and corruption in the European Union. The seminar, taking place in Barcelona on 19 and 20 October 2017, aims to gather public officials or responsible persons from managing authorities of European structural funds who are in charge of the implementation of the anti-fraud measures foreseen in arts. 125.4 c) and 72 b) of the Regulation (EU) no 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 December 2013. In particular, the seminar aims to identify which measures for the prevention of conflicts of interest have been implemented as well as to provide participants with tools enabling them to better manage conflict of interest situations. Based on a questionnaire distributed among these managing authorities and on the findings of the seminar, which will also include a practical case, a report will be drafted. This report will focus on finding out which regulatory and organisational measures are in place with regards to the management of conflicts of interest and on detecting good practices across managing authorities to recognise potential actions to be taken in the future to guarantee the impartiality and objectivity in the management of EU funds.

https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/policy/hercule/hercule-iii_en

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AT IACA

On 23 August 2017, the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) hosted a well-attended briefing for Permanent Missions in Vienna on current developments within the organization, in particular on the preparations for the upcoming sixth session of its Assembly of Parties (AoP) from 2 to 4 October 2017 in Sharm El Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt.

Representatives of IACA informed participants about various AoP-related matters, including submission of credentials, registration for the session, draft documents, logistical issues, and other organizational aspects. This was followed by a question-and-answer session reflecting the high level of interest in the AoP.

Further details about the upcoming session will soon be available here [1].

The briefing contained additional updates on the Academy's programmes and activities, including its new fee discount scheme [2] for participants from IACA's Parties and for registered Alumni.

Recent and forthcoming highlights include a busy summer of standardized (open) trainings, increasingly strong demand for IACA's customized tailor-made trainings [3], and two academic degree programmes that are currently open for applications. The fifth intake of the Master in Anti-Corruption Studies (MACS) [4] will start its studies in October this year, and IACA will soon begin accepting applications for the class that begins in autumn 2018. In addition, the new International Master in Anti-Corruption Compliance and Collective Action (IMACC) [5] will start later in 2017 and is open for applications. This is the first master's programme specially designed for practitioners involved with the business sector in these fields.

[1] <http://www.iaca.int/governance/assembly-of-parties.html>

[2] http://www.iaca.int/images//IACA-2017-FI-0014_IACA-Discount-Scheme.pdf

[3] <http://www.iaca.int/tailor-made-trainings/general-information.html>

[4] <http://www.iaca.int/academic-programmes/macs.html>

[5] <http://www.iaca.int/academic-programmes/imacc.html>

OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

- 27 to 28 September 2017:* Second Meeting of the EAPC/EACN Working Group “Risk Management and Risk Analysis”, Chişinău
- 2 to 4 October 2017:* First Meeting of the EPAC/EACN Working Group “Big Data, Legal Aspects, Use of Databases”, Vilnius
- 2 to 4 October 2017:* 6th Session of the Assembly (IACA), Sharm El Sheikh
- 17 to 20 October 2017:* Plenary Meeting of the Working Group on Bribery (OECD), Paris
- 6 to 10 November 2017:* Conference of the States Parties (UNCAC), Vienna
- 6 to 7 November 2017:* Expert Meeting on International Cooperation (UNCAC), Vienna
- 7 to 8 November 2017:* Implementation Review Group (UNCAC), Vienna
- 9 to 10 November 2017:* Conference on Lessons Learned from GRECO’s 4th Evaluation Round (GRECO), Prague
- 15 to 17 November 2017:* EPAC/EACN Annual Professional Conference and General Assembly, Lisbon
- 6 to 7 December 2017 (tbc):* Anti-Corruption Conference (Europol), The Hague
- 12 December 2017:* Roundtable on 20 Years of the Anti-Bribery Convention (OECD), Paris
- 12 to 15 December 2017:* Plenary Meeting of the Working Group on Bribery (OECD), Paris