

'Fight Against Corruption: The Western Balkans in focus'

Regional policy forum

April 7, 2022, Skopje, North Macedonia, Holiday Inn and online (hybrid event)

Agenda

9:30 **Registration**

9:45 **Media statements**

10:00 **Opening**

Aleksandar Kržalovski, Director, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation/ SELDI Coordinator

Marko Troshanovski, President, Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis- Skopje

Keynote speakers

H.E Kate Marie Byrnes, Ambassador, The United States Embassy in Skopje

Mr Allan Jones, Head of Unit DG NEAR A2: Thematic Support - Rule of Law, Governance and Security

10:30 **Session 1 Anti-corruption diplomacy with trans-Atlantic partners**

Ruslan Stefanov, Program director, Center for the Study of Democracy

Nikola Burazer, Programme Director, Center for Contemporary Politics

Snezana Petijevic, Project Manager, Crime and Corruption Reporting Network (KRIK)

Moderator: **Misha Popovikj**, Program Coordinator, Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis

What kind of synergies do you see with the EU and EU member states driven initiatives?

What should be the key priorities, modalities and activities that anticorruption diplomacy should take in the Western Balkans?

How do you see diplomacy answering challenges holding corrupt actors accountable?

11:30 **Coffee break**

11:45 **Session 2: Extending anticorruption cooperation between governments**

Summit for Democracy anti-corruption commitments and regionally coordinated response

Nikola Tupancheski, Minister of Justice, North Macedonia

Ulsi Manja, Minister, Ministry of Justice, Albania

Albulena Haxhiu, Minister, Ministry of Justice, Kosovo*

Bojan Bozovic, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Montenegro

Josip Grubesha, Minister, Ministry of Justice, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Moderator: **German Filkov**, President, Centar for Civil Communications

Anticorruption commitments from the Summit for Democracy

*All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Where are we on the Berlin Process Commitments in anticorruption?
How can the countries use the international anticorruption initiatives as a way to forward the processes and increase ambition?

12:45 ***Session 3: Corruption trends in the Western Balkans 2014-2021: current and future policy options***

Dr. Alexander Gerganov, Senior Analyst, Center for Study of Democracy

Moderator: **Daniela Mineva**, Senior analyst, Center for Study of Democracy

13:15 ***Lunch***

14:30 ***Session 4: Strategic anti-corruption assistance partnerships in the Western Balkans***

Vojtech Hons, Policy and Programme Officer, Sector Rule of Law, Security, Migration and Reconciliation, DG NEAR, European Commission

Biljana Ivanovska, President, State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, North Macedonia

Rovena Sulstarova, Governance Program Manager, Institute for Democracy and Mediation, Albania

Jelena Perovic, Director, Anticorruption Agency, Montenegro

Andrija Mladenovic, Project Coordinator, European Policy Centre, Serbia

Viktorija Nesterovaite, Programme Officer, UNODC Civil Society Unit

Ana Đurnić, Public Policy Researcher, Institute Alternative, Montenegro

Moderator: **Ruslan Stefanov**, Program director, Center for the Study of Democracy

How can we leverage international assistance in advancing anti-corruption while still maintaining responsibility and ownership? How can assisted institutional development tackle corruption beyond the anticorruption and judiciary bodies?

15:30 ***Closing remarks***

Aleksandar Kržalovski, Director, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation/ SELDI Coordinator

Marko Troshanovski, President, Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis Skopje