

NEWSLETTER

ANTI-CORRUPTION

ISSUE #72 MAY-JUNE 2024 SELDI.NET



WELCOME TO THE ANTI-CORRUPTION NEWSLETTER

Corruption is a pervasive problem that affects countries, institutions, and individuals across the globe. It undermines trust in government, distorts markets, and hinders economic development. Anti-corruption efforts are crucial for promoting transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. In this newsletter, we will explore the latest developments in the fight against corruption, including legislative and policy updates, investigative reports, and case studies of successful anti-corruption initiatives. We hope to inspire and inform our readers on the importance of anti-corruption measures and the impact they can have on building more equitable and just societies.

SELDI SECRETARIAT

Macedonian Center for International Cooperation
www.mcms.mk | mcms@mcms.mk | [@mcms.mk](https://www.instagram.com/mcms.mk)

SECRETARIAT ADDRESS

PO BOX 55, str. Nikola Parapunov 41a,
1000 Skopje, Macedonia

SELDI CONTACT INFORMATION

www.seldi.net | seldi@mcms.mk | [@SELDI.network](https://www.facebook.com/SELDI.network)

KNOWLEDGE AND OUTREACH

Center for the Study of Democracy | www.csd.bg

NEWS BY SELDI MEMBERS

COMPANIES ARE AFRAID TO REPORT CORRUPTION, BUT BELIEVE THAT TOUGHER PENALTIES WILL HELP



The Chamber of Commerce of North Macedonia presented a survey on corruption in the private sector, highlighting the country's 76th-place ranking in the corruption perception index. Conducted in March 2024, the survey involved 138 companies, with 83% identifying corruption as a top issue. Key findings include that 51.2% of respondents were asked for bribes between 1,000 and 10,000 euros, and 48% experienced business delays for refusing bribes. Future activities under the "Citizens Against Corruption" program include cooperation with the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, training for 150 companies, and anti-corruption workshops. **MCIC, 25 June 2024**

MCIC IS THE NEW SECRETARIAT OF THE PLATFORM OF CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION



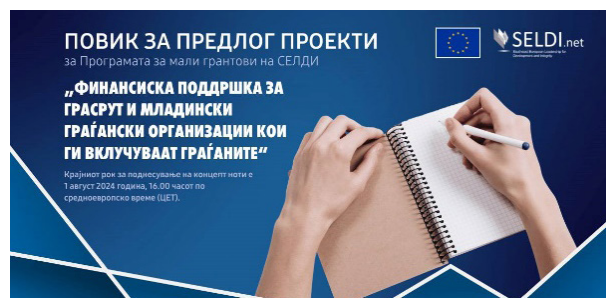
On June 7, the platform of civil organizations for the fight against corruption held its annual meeting in Struga, where priorities and activities were discussed and new Board and Secretariat members were elected. Representatives from various organizations, including the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" - Skopje, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIS), and Transparency International Macedonia, were elected to the Board. MCIS was unanimously chosen as the new Secretariat, responsible for managing Platform activities for the next three years, and pledged to strengthen the role of non-governmental actors and the fight against corruption through collaboration with central and local institutions. **MCIC, 11 June 2024**

USAID'S TWO LARGEST PROGRAMS WILL JOINTLY FIGHT CORRUPTION



A workshop at the Chamber of Commerce of North Macedonia brought together the “Citizens Against Corruption” (GPK) and “Partnership Against Corruption” (PPK) programs to enhance collaboration in combating corruption. The workshop emphasized raising citizen awareness and improving cooperation with institutions to amplify their impact. Key outcomes highlighted the need to prioritize citizens, who are most affected by corruption, and to bolster the capacity of state institutions involved in anti-corruption efforts. Another workshop session is planned for the second half of August to further advance these goals. **MCIC, 26 June 2024**

AN INFORMATION SESSION WAS HELD ON THE SMALL GRANTS OF SELDI



On June 28, 2024, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation successfully hosted an information session on the Small Grants Program for civil society organizations in the Western Balkans. Approximately 70 participants engaged actively, discussing project ideas, eligibility criteria, and funding details. The session fostered a vibrant exchange of ideas and networking opportunities among attendees committed to advancing anti-corruption efforts in their communities. **MCIC, 28 June 2024**

ANTI-CORRUPTION NEWS FROM THE WESTERN BALKANS

MINISTER OF JUSTICE ULSI MANJA ADMITS THAT THOSE CONVICTED OF CORRUPTION BENEFITED FROM THE AMNESTY

Justice Minister Ulsi Manja recently acknowledged that the Penal Amnesty law resulted in reduced sentences for around 100 individuals convicted of corruption by the Court Against Corruption and Organized Crime. Despite initially promising otherwise, Minister Manja stated he took political responsibility for the government’s draft but disclaimed responsibility for the final version passed by parliament. The Special Prosecution Office reported that among those benefiting were individuals convicted for illegal influence, corruption, tender violations, and abuse of office, including public officials, judges, and prosecutors. Critics argue the law undermines anti-corruption efforts and erodes trust in special institutions. **Reporter.al, 9 May 2024**

PS VOTES ALONE FOR THE CONTROVERSIAL 'ANTI-CORRUPTION' COMMISSION



The Albanian parliamentary majority, led by Prime Minister Edi Rama, successfully voted to establish a special parliamentary commission focused on anti-corruption efforts, despite opposition objections. This commission, part of the “For Deepening Reforms for Good Governance, Rule of Law, and Anti-Corruption for Albania 2030” resolution, aims to oversee and coordinate comprehensive reform initiatives. It will comprise members from parliamentary committees and the National Council for Integration, with its chairmanship yet to be appointed by the majority. The opposition, skeptical of the majority’s motives, abstained from voting on the resolution. **Reporter.al, 30 May 2024**

CORRUPTION BLOCKS EU FUNDS FOR AGRICULTURE

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) officially announced that it has identified the misuse of 33 million euros of EU funds intended to aid Albanian agriculture and recommended blocking the next funding package until measures are in place to guarantee the protection of the EU’s financial interests. The scandal involves funds provided by the European Union for the agricultural and rural development of Albania through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPARD II). It began after several Albanian citizens who applied for funds reported the Albanian office for corrupt practices. After a series of investigative steps, including digital forensic searches of documents related to IPARD II beneficiaries, ARDA, and other economic operators, OLAF uncovered many serious irregularities during the grant-awarding phase and the implementation of many projects. OLAF has recommended to the European Commission that calls one and two of the IPARD II program be declared invalid. The total funds for these calls amount to 33 million euros. **Reporter.al, 21 June 2024**

ABUSES INVOLVING CANCER PATIENTS, INVOLVING DOCTORS AND STAFF AT THE ONCOLOGY INSTITUTE IN TIRANA

In Tirana, the Prosecutor’s Office has uncovered a disturbing scheme involving the exploitation of cancer patients at QSUT’s Oncology Hospital. Five doctors and specialists, along with administrators from a private hospital and a pharmaceutical warehouse, including QSUT’s deputy director, have been implicated. The investigation revealed that patients were diverted from state facilities to private clinics under false urgencies or through deliberate obstruction. Shockingly, radiotherapy equipment at QSUT intended for patient care since 2021 was found unused and improperly maintained, posing risks to staff safety due to potential emissions. **VoA, 25 June 2024**

BIH ADOPTS ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina has finally adopted the Anti-Corruption Strategy 2024-2028 and its Action Plan after a five-year delay, aligning them with BiH’s EU membership priorities. Emphasizing EU accession as a strategic goal, the Strategy aims to prioritize prevention and combatting corruption through coordinated efforts across institutions and society. It highlights the need for efficient resource allocation to achieve effective anti-corruption measures and addresses weaknesses in institutional frameworks and public trust. Strategic goals include enhancing mechanisms for detecting and prosecuting corruption and strengthening capacities in judicial and law enforcement bodies. **europeanwesternbalkan.com, 19 June 2024**

MONTENEGRO HAS MET THE INTERIM BENCHMARKS IN THE RULE OF LAW AND CAN START CLOSING CHAPTERS, EU CONFIRMS

The EU has adopted common position regarding Chapters 23 and 24 in negotiations with Montenegro, confirming that the country has met the interim benchmarks in the rule of law. Based on the current enlargement methodology, this step also means that Montenegro can now start closing other negotiating chapters. Montenegro has become the first EU candidate country to receive a positive Interim Benchmark Assessment Report (IBAR). europeanwesternbalkan.com, 26 June 2024

IBAR FOR MONTENEGRO: A MORE POLITICAL THAN A MERIT-BASED DECISION



The consensus within the EU that Montenegro should receive the IBAR indicates that the country is ready for the next phase of alignment with EU standards on its path to full membership. While the Montenegrin Government, led by Milojko Spajić, made obtaining IBAR its main priority since the beginning of the year, EWB interlocutors believe that receiving the IBAR is a more result of the EU's political will to have one success story in the Western Balkans than a genuine commitment by Montenegrin authorities to the reforms in the most important areas. europeanwesternbalkan.com, 21 June 2024

GROWTH PLAN FOR THE WESTERN BALKANS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL



The Council gave its final green light to setting up a Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans, a new instrument to support EU-related reforms and economic growth in the region. As it is stated in a press release, Growth Plan will cover the period from 2024 to 2027 and is expected to provide up to 2 billion euros in grants and 4 billion in loans to the EU's six Western Balkan partners in the coming years. europeanwesternbalkan.com, 7 May 2024

LITHIUM MINING PROJECT RETURNS TO FOCUS IN SERBIA, EUROPEAN COMMISSION REITERATES IT WANTS A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON A RAW MATERIAL



Commenting on the latest reports by Financial Times about the readiness of Serbia to greenlight the previously cancelled lithium mining project, with the involvement of the European Union, Johanna Bernsel, the European Commission's Spokesperson for the Internal Market, states for the European Western Balkans that the EU remains committed to entering into a strategic partnership on critical raw materials with Serbia. europeanwesternbalkan.com, 18 June 2024

IN SERBIA, THERE IS A NEED FOR FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION WITHIN THE SYSTEM DESIGNED TO COMBAT CORRUPTION

A large number of Serbian citizens are skeptical about the possibility of effectively combating corruption, shows a study presented on Wednesday by the Centre for Contemporary Politics (CCP). During the panel discussion participants highlighted that the biggest problem in the fight against corruption in Serbia is the lack of a critical public and the corruption within the anti-corruption system themselves. The CCP's survey was presented during the conference titled "Fundamentals First: The State of Democracy and the Fight Against Corruption in Serbia". At the conference, CCP presented the result of survey from the Corruption Assessment Report for Serbia, published within the SELDI Network. europeanwesternbalkan.com, 9 May 2024

THE PARTIES, INSTEAD OF THREATS, SHOULD PROVIDE SOLUTIONS TO CORRUPTION



As North Macedonia's parliamentary elections on May 8 were approaching, escalating inter-ethnic and inter-party rhetoric raised concerns about societal cohesion and stability. University professor Bashkim Selmani emphasized that such inflammatory rhetoric threatens security and democratic processes, calling for a focus on real solutions to issues like public debt and corruption instead. CIVIL Media urged institutions to swiftly address and sanction all forms of nationalist and violent rhetoric. Civilmedia.mk, 1 May 2024

EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO PUBLISH RULE OF LAW REPORTS ON EU AND CANDIDATE COUNTRIES ON 3 JULY?

The European Commission is drafting the reports on the rule of law for both the member and four candidate states – Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, and North Macedonia. The EC stated that the decision to open the 2024 Rule of Law Report to four candidate countries was made as „these countries are most advanced in their respective accession process, or when it comes to the level of preparedness concerning the matters of the rule of law“. According to diplomatic sources, the same methodology will be applied to assess the situation regarding the rule of law in the EU member states and the countries which aspire to join the block. europeanwesternbalkan.com, 31 May 2024

THE SCCC WILL DEMAND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CASE WITH THE ACADEMY OF JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS

Tatjana Dimitrovska, president of Anticorruption, expressed satisfaction with the Higher Administrative Court's decisions favoring SCPC, boosting their confidence in their work. They have filed 45 cases related to electoral process violations and corruption prevention since the start of the campaign, addressing issues such as misuse of state vehicles and improper employment procedures. Following the court decision, they plan to initiate actions within 15 days to hold accountable those responsible. Despite challenges in obtaining vehicle data from institutions, progress has been made after reminders were issued, though legal gaps hinder enforcement measures. The State Commission awaits progress from the prosecutor's office on 22 ongoing cases out of 56 initiated for criminal prosecution. [Slobodna Evropa](http://SlobodnaEvropa.com), 5 May 2024

EU LEADERS ADOPT STRATEGIC AGENDA 2024-2029, PREPARING FOR AN ENLARGED UNION OF THE GOALS



Presidents and Prime Ministers of the European Union adopted the Strategic Agenda for the 2024-2029 period at the European Council Summit on Thursday. Under the section “Preparing for a bigger and stronger Union”, the Strategy says that “there is new dynamism in the enlargement process” and that “both the EU and aspiring members now have a responsibility to make the most of this opportunity and communicate this clearly”. europeanwesternbalkan.com, 28 June 2024

MARCH AGAINST CORRUPTION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST THE ROMA COMMUNITY



At a march against corruption and violence, around 300 Roma sent a strong message that political violence and corruption against their community will not be tolerated. Selviqe M. Alkan, executive director of the Roma Foundation for Democracy, emphasized the need for accountability, transparency, and equal protection under the law, while also calling for urgent measures to ensure the safety of their election observers. The Foundation demanded immediate action from the Ministry of the Interior and electoral authorities to protect observers from threats and violence, warning they would withdraw their observers if no action is taken within 24 hours. [Radio MOF](https://radio.mof.mk), 2 May 2024

PARTY “REFORMS” - CITIZEN SHAREHOLDERS AND INSPECTORS IN STATE COMPANIES



Several political parties in North Macedonia are promising post-election reforms for public enterprises and joint-stock companies, proposing to distribute shares to citizens to enhance oversight and management control. The SDSM and Vredi coalitions advocate for citizens receiving shares in state energy companies and other enterprises respectively, aiming to increase transparency and reduce corruption. However, experts view these proposals skeptically, criticizing them as economically illogical and potentially unsustainable without addressing fundamental operational challenges and financial dependencies on state subsidies. They question the feasibility of citizen oversight and the practicality of implementing such complex reforms. [Slobodna Evropa](https://slobodnaevropa.com), 4 May 2024

MEETING WITH THE REGIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION INITIATIVE (RAI)

The State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) met with the head of the Secretariat of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), Desislava Gotskova, discussing past collaboration and potential future cooperation, including participation in the EU-funded AID project. Gotskova proposed the SCPC’s involvement in developing a Methodology for monitoring property status declarations under the project. They also discussed progress on the International Data Exchange Agreement for verifying property statements among signatory countries, affirming a commitment to ongoing communication and cooperation. [DKSK](https://dksk.mk), 30 May 2024

VMRO-DPMNE AND VLEN FORGE AGREEMENT ON FUTURE GOVERNMENT PRINCIPLES: EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND ANTI-CORRUPTION FOCUS



After a meeting between VMRO-DPMNE and VLEN representatives, Hristijan Mickoski announced on Facebook that they have agreed on general principles for future government cooperation, focusing on European integration, economic development, combating crime and corruption, and upholding the rule of law. Meanwhile, at a joint meeting of “European Front” parties, DUI leader Ali Ahmeti mentioned a declaration supporting constitutional amendments for EU integration, prompting VLEN’s Izet Majiti to demand its public release within 24-48 hours or refute the claim as misinformation. **Fokus, 12 May 2024**

THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE NEW MINISTRIES MUST BE SEEN, THE ANTI-CORRUPTION ORGANIZATIONS REACT

The Platform of Civil Organizations to Fight Corruption strongly opposes the Parliament’s closed and non-consultative process in proposing amendments to the Law on State Administration Bodies. They criticize the establishment of three new ministries and state administration reorganization without prior thorough justification, highlighting concerns about transparency and citizen engagement in policy-making processes. This reflects their ongoing commitment to advocating for transparent and inclusive governance practices in North Macedonia. **Meta.mk, 7 June 2024**

MACEDONIAN PRISONS SEE IMPROVED CONDITIONS, YET CORRUPTION AND ABUSE PERSIST, REPORTS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) reported improvements in hygiene and cell conditions in North Macedonian prisons but noted ongoing issues with police treatment and corruption among prison staff. The report, based on a visit in October last year, highlighted continued police mistreatment and the need for a coherent strategy to address it. While some prisons saw improvements, the situation in Idrizovo prison remains dire with abuse, violence, overcrowding, and corruption. The CPT emphasized the need for health care improvements and strategic prison reforms to eradicate corruption and professionalize management. **Civilmedia.mk, 15 May 2024**

VERA KOTSO: THE JUDICIAL TOGA IS NOT A FASHION DETAIL, FOR JUDGES TO SELF-REGULATE

Former Supreme Court judge Vera Kotso criticizes the political nature of judicial reforms and opposes the dissolution of the current Judicial Council, arguing that replacing its members could result in similar issues. She questions the integrity of judicial appointments and disciplinary actions within the Council, highlighting instances of executive interference and slow judicial processes since 2012. Kotso emphasizes the Council’s crucial role in safeguarding judicial independence and expresses concern that its current composition has failed to fulfill this duty effectively. **Slobodna Evropa, 9 June 2024**

VMRO-DPMNE GOVERNMENT WILL FILL HOLES IN THE LOCAL BUDGETS

Вкупен долг на општините во С. Македонија 2021 - 2024

Вкупниот долг на општините во Северна Македонија на годишно ниво во евра го содржи и вкупниот долг на нивните јавни претпријатија

| | |
|------|-------------|
| 2021 | 114.600.000 |
| 2022 | 137.100.000 |
| 2023 | 136.500.000 |
| 2024 | 133.100.000 |

НАПОМЕНА: Износот на долговите е изразен во евра
Графикон: Емил Златков • Извор: Министерство за финансии

The VMRO-DPMNE party's plan to allocate one billion euros over four years to municipalities aims to alleviate their severe financial burdens and fund essential infrastructure projects. Despite past concerns over the effectiveness of similar financial injections, the party remains committed to supporting local governments facing substantial debts. Critics advocate for long-term solutions such as fiscal decentralization to empower municipalities to generate more revenue locally and reduce dependency on central government funding. The success of these initiatives will depend on addressing underlying financial mismanagement and ensuring accountability in municipal governance. **Slobodna Evropa, 20 May 2024**

DETENTION OF THE SUSPECTED CHIEF JUSTICE



Nake Georgiev, the current supreme judge, has been ordered into 30-day detention after being arrested for allegedly receiving a bribe for illegal influence. The Judicial Council has approved his detention and suspended him from his judicial duties. The Basic Public Prosecutor's Office is also investigating Ijet Memeti, a member of the Council of Public Prosecutors, and a former State Attorney for allegedly assisting the judge. Precautionary measures, including reporting obligations and travel document restrictions, have been requested for Memeti. **Slobodna Evropa, 21 May 2024**

DEFYING US BLACKLIST, SAMSONENKO PRESSES ON WITH CONSTRUCTION AT THE MACEDONIA SQUARE



Despite being on the US blacklist for corruption, Russian businessman Sergej Samsonenko's company has continued construction on the Officer's House building on "Macedonia" Square. The Municipality of Centar confirmed that Sis Invest Group, managed by Samsonenko, is building this and a hotel, with no investor change requested since 2022. Originally started by Greek businessman Dimitris Condominas in 2011, the project faced delays and was taken over by Samsonenko in 2015. Samsonenko's company pays monthly penalties to the Municipality for construction delays. The US blacklist, stemming from the Magnitsky Act, sanctions individuals for human rights violations and corruption, though it holds no legal consequence outside the US. **Civilmedia.mk, 21 May 2024**

ANONYMOUS TESTIMONIES OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CORRUPTION



The Youth Educated Forum (YEF) released an anti-corruption awareness video featuring members of the Youth Activism Clubs of Veles and Chair. The video, part of the USAID Activity for Youth initiative in partnership with the Citizens Against Corruption program, presents young people reading anonymous testimonies from citizens impacted by corruption. YEF encourages collective action to raise awareness, inspire change, and build a future founded on integrity and transparency. **Radio MOF, 28 May 2024**

SOME FOR A MINISTER, SOME FOR A PARTY LEADER, AND SOME ARE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES



The new parliamentary session saw Afrim Gashi elected as speaker with a significant majority, while the government formation is underway, and ministerial names will be announced soon. Meanwhile, the opposition SDSM is gearing up for leadership elections after their defeat. The healthcare system is in crisis, with hospitals struggling to cope with emergency patients due to facility issues. Shuto Orizari has finally received a gynecologist, but patient turnout remains low due to various challenges. The VMRO-DPMNE, poised to lead the new government, promises thorough reforms, including in the judiciary and gasification projects. **Slobodna Evropa, 31 May 2024**

“O2 INITIATIVE”: WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE RISKS OF CORRUPTION WHEN CARRYING OUT A DUP?



The environmental organization “O2 Initiative” created an infographic highlighting potential corruption risks in the implementation of a Detailed Urban Plan (DUP). They identify several risks, including the party or personal connections between the DUP commissioner and the mayor, the selection and payment of planning houses by developers, the personal influence of officials issuing DUP opinions, and the voting behavior of councilors linked to or bribed by the DUP investor. **Radio MOF, 26 June 2024**

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRITY SYSTEM AT THE LOCAL LEVEL



On 11 June, in Skopje, the State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption and the OSCE Mission in Skopje held the first of four planned events with mayors and heads of local self-government units. Mayors from the Skopje and Polog region participated, emphasizing the importance of integrity and anti-corruption efforts. President Tatjana Dimitrovska and Ambassador Kilian Wahl highlighted the mayors’ role as examples of ethical leadership, pledging continued cooperation in promoting integrity principles throughout the series of events. **DKSK, 11 June 2024**

REPRESENTATIVES OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL-MACEDONIA AT THE 21ST INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION CONFERENCE



The 21st International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from June 18 to 21, bringing together over 2,000 representatives from various sectors to tackle corruption. The conference facilitated networking, debate, and international cooperation, with participants discussing topics like whistleblower protection, business integrity, and climate change. Transparency International-Macedonia attended, engaging in plenary sessions and workshops, and contributing to the adoption of the Declaration “Confronting Global Threats: Standing Up for Integrity.” **Transparency, 24 June 2024**

STRATEGIC MEETING: NORTH MACEDONIA'S ANTI-CORRUPTION LEADERS MEET WITH USAID OFFICIALS



The State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, along with the Prosecutor General and Chief State Auditor of North Macedonia, met with a USAID delegation led by Ms. Shannon Green. The meeting, part of USAID's Partnership for Democratic Development program, focused on North Macedonia's progress in combating corruption and enhancing transparency, accountability, and civic engagement. President Tatjana Dimitrovska emphasized the Commission's role and highlighted ongoing collaboration with USAID under the "Partnership

against corruption" project. Shannon Green acknowledged USAID's commitment to supporting democratic processes and discussed potential avenues of assistance to further strengthen institutional capacities in North Macedonia. **DKSK, 18 June 2024**

MUTSUNSKI: THE GOVERNMENT IS FIRMLY FOCUSED ON EUROPEAN REFORMS, THROUGH THE RULE OF LAW, THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Timco Mutsunski, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, participated in the Dubrovnik Forum on June 28-29 at the invitation of Croatian Minister Gordan Grlic Radman. He emphasized the country's strong pro-European stance despite challenges and perceived double standards in EU integration. Mutsunski underscored the government's commitment to European standards through reforms in crime, corruption, rule of law, and economic development. He expressed readiness to explore membership in the Single Market as a step towards eventual full EU

integration, reaffirming determination to achieve full EU membership in the future. **Fokus, 30 June 2024**

AGELER: THERE ARE NO NEW NEGOTIATIONS EITHER FOR PRESPA OR WITH BULGARIA FOR THE EU



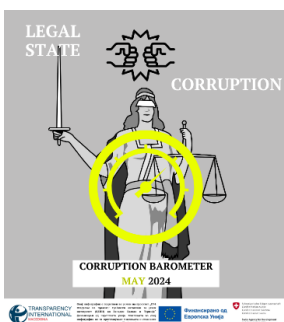
In an interview with Radio Free Europe, American Ambassador Angela Ageler emphasizes the importance of upholding international agreements like the Prespa Agreement and warns against renegotiation. She urges transparency in the new Macedonian government's fight against corruption and addresses concerns over potential corrosive capital. Ageler discusses US sanctions and expresses disappointment over alleged corruption cases. She supports judicial reforms in Macedonia, including depoliticizing institutions like the Judicial Council, echoing

EU recommendations for improving the judiciary. **Slobodna Evropa, 30 June 2024**

CONSTITUTIONAL OVERTURNS LAW ON CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY BUREAU

The Constitutional Court of Kosovo has rejected the Law on the State Bureau for Verification and Confiscation of Unjustified Wealth, a major political promise of the current government. The Court found that the law violated several constitutional articles, despite acknowledging that civil confiscation could help combat corruption and illicit wealth. The Court's decision highlighted serious constitutional issues concerning the rights and responsibilities of public authorities. Government officials criticized the decision, sparking political debate over potential interference with judicial independence. However, the government has stated its intention to address the issues and resubmit the law to the Kosovo Assembly for approval. **Koha, 24 June 2024**

PUBLICATIONS



CORRUPTION BAROMETER FOR MAY 2024

Transparency International Macedonia continues its regular monthly activities through the “Light & Dark” initiative, monitoring cases and activities related to corrupt behavior and the fight against corruption. This monitoring has garnered significant attention from both the public and domestic and foreign institutions. Over time, it has evolved into a relevant alternative barometer for measuring corruption and assessing the government’s willingness to address this critical issue. **Transparency, 31 May 2024**



NATIONAL INTEGRITY SYSTEM ASSESSMENT: STATE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The National Integrity System (NIS) framework by Transparency International evaluates key governance institutions’ effectiveness in combating corruption. A robust NIS is crucial for preventing corruption and promoting integrity, while unaccountable institutions foster corruption. The NIS assessment uses a holistic approach, examining interrelationships among institutions and involving key anti-corruption agents. The recent assessment by Transparency International Macedonia includes analysis of international funding’s impact on NIS scores from 2016 to 2023. This participatory approach aims to build momentum for reform and provides regional insights for combating corruption effectively. **Transparency, 13 June 2024**

The SELDI Project Partners recognise the importance of privacy to the subscribers to the SELDI Anticorruption Newsletter, the visitors of the SELDI website and the participants at SELDI events. In compliance with the applicable legislation on personal data protection, SELDI has adopted and adheres to procedures for the prevention of any unauthorised access and personal data misuse. For more information, please read the SELDI’s Privacy Statement.



This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union (EU). Its contents are the sole responsibility of SELDI.NET and do not necessarily reflect the views of the EU.