

Webinar "Promoting ethics and preventing corruption at the local level in Tunisia"

16 October 2020 14:00 – 16:30 (Tunis) / 15:00 – 17:30 (Strasbourg time)

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CONTEXT

The fight against corruption in all its forms is a necessity to prevent risks and abuses of power, and to maintain trust in local and regional authorities in Europe, but also beyond. Indeed, the proximity of elected local and regional representatives and the type of competences devolved to the local level (planning, construction, social services) make the threat of corruption even more acute, which leads to higher citizens' mistrust.

Therefore, in October 2016, the Congress adopted a roadmap on activities to prevent corruption and promote public ethics at local and regional level and published a "Public Ethics" series of thematic reports, designed as practical tools for public authorities. These practical guides will be widely disseminated to Tunisian local elected officials and their representative associations in order to help them apply the principles of good governance in their daily work: accountability, transparency, integrity, respect and non-discrimination, merit and impartiality.

The fight against corruption and the promotion of ethics is one of the priority areas of cooperation between the Congress and Tunisia, whose current decentralisation reform – as any process of this kind – also presents the risk of a "decentralisation" of corruption.

In Tunisia, the 2014 Constitution established the legal and institutional framework to strengthen integrity and fight corruption by emphasizing the values of transparency, accountability, impartiality and integrity. This framework was strengthened with the adoption of the Code of Local Government in 2018, which enshrines the right of citizens to access information.

This webinar is organised in the framework of the project "Promoting local governance in Tunisia" implemented by the Congress in the context of its South-Med Partnership programme and the Council of Europe's Neighbourhood Partnership with Tunisia (2018-2021), with the support of Liechtenstein, Norway and Spain.

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PROGRAMME

14:00-14 :10 Introduction by the moderator - welcoming the participants

Dmitri MARCHENKOV, Head a.i. of the Co-operation and external relations Division of the Congress

14:10 – 14:40 Opening and introduction to the seminar

Andreas KIEFER, Acting Secretary General of the Congress

Adnane BOUASSIDA, President of the National Federation of Tunisian Cities (FNCT)

Imed BOUKHRIS, President of the Anti-Corruption Authority (INLUCC)

14:40 – 15:10 Promoting ethics and preventing corruption at the local level in Tunisia: practical guides for elected officials in the field

Andrew DAWSON, Congress Spokesperson on promoting public ethics and preventing corruption, Councillor, Cheshire West and Chester (UK)

Amelie TARSCHYS INGRE, Congress Rapporteur on making public procurement transparent, Member of the City Council of Lidingö (Sweden)

Marc COOLS, Congress Member, Member of the City Council of Uccle and Former President of the Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region (Belgium)

Ousseynou NGOM, Senior Regional Coordinator, Africa and the Middle East, Open Government Partnership

15 :10 - 15 :30 Ethics and corruption at local level: state of play in Tunisia

Moktar LAMARI, Ph.D., Professor in Public Policy Evaluation, University of Quebec, ENAP, Canada

Thouraya BEKRI, Coordinator of Strengthening Democratic Governance & Public Accountability in Tunisia Project (UNDP)

15:30 – 16:20 Sharing of experiences

Testimonials from Tunisian municipalities

LIVE Q&A

16:20 – 16:30 Conclusions

By each speaker