NETWORK OF CORRUPTION PREVENTION AUTHORITIES

Network of Corruption Prevention Authorities

Plenary Meeting

February 8th, 2022

Minutes

On February 8th, the first 2022 Plenary Meeting of NCPA (hereafter PL) took place with the participation of the Hellenic National Transparency Authority (NTA) as Chair and the participation of the representatives of Albania, Bulgaria, Ecuador, France, Georgia, Croatia, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Moldavia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Palestine, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and also the representatives of the World Bank and the RAI Secretariat. The meeting was held online via the Blue Jeans platform that was provided with the support of the Council of Europe.

After the PL approved the Agenda, on behalf of the Chair, the Governor of NTA Mr. Angelos Binis, opened the meeting by expressing his appreciation to all members and his enthusiasm to have the opportunity to cooperate on common activities that will promote the network's objectives. Following the participants' opening statements and introductions of NCPA members, the NCPA Secretariat presented the four pillars of the proposed annual workplan for 2022 as follows:

The four webinars that fall under the first pillar on enhancing public integrity were presented to the members namely 1) Trends and Challenges in Regulating Lobbying Activities, 2) Designing and Implementing Effective Whistleblower Protection Systems, 3) Tackling Corruption in Sports in the 21st century and 4) Tackling Corruption in Public Procurement.

The Chair asked the members to express their interest in participating in the webinars or to suggest representatives from national authorities in their respective countries. France asked whether the webinars will be organized in a broader participation of attendees or whether they will be organized within the Network and the Chair responded that a broader approach would be more appropriate, if the platform technically supports it. North Macedonia expressed their interest in supporting the webinar on Whistleblower Protection Systems. RAI's representative also volunteered in cooperating on whistleblower policies or on on-line tools for raising public awareness on the subject.

The Secretariat proceeded with the presentation of the second pillar on best practice guides that includes 1) a guide on Designing, Implementing and Monitoring National Anticorruption Plans and Anti-Corruption Strategies, 2) a guide on Using Digital Tools Against Corruption and 3) a guide on Cooling-off Periods and on Preventing Conflicts of Interest.

Italy expressed their concern with regard to the second guide since there is already a study on practical examples and best practices in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) published in December 2021. The Chair is aware of the study, NTA had contributed to the study and explained that the objective of the proposed upon the second topic guide is to seek to deepening in a more specialized technology or methodology of ICT or even broadening on the field of the actors using the ICT technologies. The chair also proposed a guide on the alternative topic of "Gender and Corruption" and encourage the members to provide their feedback on this. Serbia volunteered to lead the initiative of the guide in the

above topic. France emphasized the need for the guides to have a more concrete and concise content, attractive to the reader and also declared their interest in participating in the Guide on Conflict of Interest.

As to the third pillar, all members identified the importance of joint field missions. France and Italy suggested to begin with one or two pilot joint missions after having the feedback on the areas of interest and finally expressed their interest in providing expertise.

As to the fourth pillar, all members endorsed reporting as well as the creation of a microsite as a way to increase and facilitate communication among members, inform on developments, share documents, work on initiatives, increase visibility and outreach of the Network.

Finally, on the last part of the updates & Developments in terms of ongoing projects, France reminded the members of the deadline (of March 7th), for the submission of their comments on the "Key success factors in anti-corruption training" and also draw attention on the upcoming guide of the Basel Institute on Governance. Ecuador also informed the members on their pending report on "Information exchange sessions on the prevention mandate of members".

As to the next steps, the PL agreed on the following:

The NCPA Secretariat

i. circulates the minutes in the following days,
ii. collects the inputs of the members on the proposed workplan activities by February 21st, 2022.
iii. Inform the members of the NCPA Network on February 22nd, 2022 (COB)
   - about the formation of the WGs per pillar-activity
   - on a roadmap per pillar-activity, containing the detailed framework, the allocation of the roles of the WG members, the expectations, the timeline for the completion of the deliverables, the necessary steps etc.
   - on options of template and structure of guides, newsletter, annual report.

The Chair concluded the first PL for 2022 meeting by thanking all the participants for their valuable contribution to a fruitful discussion.

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