

Webinar “Promoting ethics and preventing corruption at the local and regional levels in Morocco”

19 October 2020

14:00 – 16:30 (Rabat time) / 15:00 – 17:30 (Strasbourg time)

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox: <https://vmeeting.coe.int/br/111115018367>

Smartphones and tablets: through the KUDO application and ID 111115018367

CONTEXT

Public ethics in all its forms is one of the key values of democracy. Ethical governance serves to strengthen the protection of human rights, as well as to ensure good public governance. Its role is also to maintain trust between the competent authorities, elected representatives, civil society and citizens.

Indeed, the fundamental principles of public ethics are indispensable for the establishment of good governance and for ensuring participatory democracy. Ethical governance is mainly based on integrity and honesty, respect for the Rule of law and the rules that govern it, as well as the fight against all forms of discrimination and corruption.

Furthermore, the fight against corruption in all its forms is a necessity to prevent risks and abuse of power, and to maintain trust in local and regional authorities in Europe and beyond. Indeed, the proximity of elected territorial representatives and the type of competences devolved to the different levels of territorial governance make the threat of corruption even more acute, which leads to higher citizens' mistrust.

It is in this spirit that the Congress adopted, in October 2016, a roadmap on activities to promote public ethics and prevent corruption at local and regional levels, and published a collection on Public Ethics which includes thematic reports, designed as practical tools for public authorities.

These practical guides are intended to be widely disseminated to Morocco's elected territorial representatives and their representative associations to help them apply the principles of good governance in their daily work: accountability, transparency, integrity, respect and non-discrimination, merit and impartiality.

Strengthening the capacity of territorial authorities to fight corruption and promote ethical governance at local level is one of the priority areas of cooperation between the Congress and Morocco, whose current regionalisation reform – as any decentralisation process – also presents the risk of a "decentralisation" of corruption.

The Kingdom of Morocco is committed to the promotion of public ethics and the fight against corruption. In May 2016, the Kingdom of Morocco launched the National Strategy for the Fight against Corruption (SNLCC) which is based on five main pillars: governance, prevention, repression, communication/awareness raising, and training/education. The SNLCC is based on two strategic objectives: 1 - to improve the confidence of citizens and reverse the trend; 2 - to improve the confidence of the international community.

This webinar is organised in the framework of the project "Strengthening democratic governance at local and regional levels in Morocco" implemented by the Congress in the framework of its South-Med Partnership programme and the Council of Europe's Neighbourhood Partnership with Morocco (2018-2021). The activities organised in this framework are financially supported by Liechtenstein, Norway and Spain.

The webinar will aim to:

- Present the work of the Congress on public ethics and the fight against corruption;
- Improve the knowledge of Moroccan local and regional government associations on the prevention of corruption;
- Exchange on how local and regional elected officials and their associations can prevent corruption, apply anti-corruption measures and improve public integrity.

CONTACTS

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PROGRAMME

14:00 **Introduction and welcoming remarks by the moderator**

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

14:10 – 14:20 **Opening and introduction of the webinar**

Andreas KIEFER, Acting Secretary General of the Congress

Promotion of Public Ethics at local and regional levels

14:20 – 14:50 **Practical guides for elected representatives**

Andrew DAWSON, Congress Thematic Spokesperson on Promoting public ethics and preventing corruption, Councillor for Frodsham - Cheshire West and Chester Council (United Kingdom)

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

Ousseynou NGOM, Senior Regional Coordinator for Africa and the Middle East, Open Government Partnership (Senegal)

Ethic and fight against corruption at all levels of governance in Morocco

14:50 – 15:45 **The role of territorial authorities**

Mohamed BOUDRA, President of the Moroccan Association of Mayors

Yassine DAOUDI, Vice-president of the Moroccan Association of Mayors

Abdellah EL GHAZI, Vice-President of the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Prefectural and Provincial Councils

LIVE Q&A

15:45 – 16:20 **Current opportunities and challenges**

Yassir CHOKAIRI, Director of the Partnership and Development Unit of the National Authority for Integrity, Prevention and the Fight against Corruption

Ahmed LAAMOUMRI, Secretary General of the National Anti-Corruption Commission of the Ministry of Civil Service and Modernization of the Administration (**tbc**)

Ahmed BERNOUSSI, Secretary General of Transparency Morocco

Chafika AFFAQ, Analyst Democratic Governance Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Morocco

LIVE Q&A

16:20 – 16:30 Conclusions