27TH OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM
CONCLUDING MEETING
Prague, 11-13 September 2019
Session 5
Ms. Lejla Brcic, Minister of Justice and Administration, Sarajevo Canton Government, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Data use in increasing transparency and accountability in public administration

SARAJEVO CANTON

September, 2019

Open data as a tool for good and transparent government

- A number of steps leading from data to impact have been identified

- Some of them are:

  - Adequate legal and regulatory framework

  - Central coordination and contact point for public administration in the field of corruption prevention (central contact point)

  - Financial and political independence of central contact point

  - Digitalization

  - Public access to information

2

Adequate legal and regulatory framework

- Regulated framework for performing the activities of the central contact point

- Databases have to be regulated by laws and by-laws. Sarajevo Canton established several databases, such as:
  - Register of Income and Property Reports of public officials and members of their families (including information such as: savings and other liquid assets, all immovable property, all movable property exceeding 2.500 EUR……)
  - Public procurement database (enables disclosure of data and documents at all stages of the contracting process and allows a deeper analysis of contracting data, creating a fairer procurement market that is open to all)
  - Register of public sector employees (shows, among other information, how much public money is spent on public sector employees' salaries)
  - Register of Officials (a key tool in prevention and detection of conflict of interest)

- Consider how to balance privacy rights with open data.

3

Central coordination and contact point for public administration in the field of corruption prevention (central contact point)

- Chapter II of UN Convention against corruption includes preventive policies, such as the establishment of anti-corruption bodies which should implement anti-corruption policies, disseminate knowledge and must be independent, adequately resourced and have properly trained staff

- It is important to consider the information flow: who should control it, and who needs to act on it to address corruption? The principle of operability and reliability imposes it on one central point / body

- Office for Anti-corruption and Quality Management was established by a special decree of Canton Government

- Office is the central point through which all anti-corruption policies of the Canton are implemented

4

Financial and political independence of central contact point

- Any form of political or financial dependence makes the anti-corruption body vulnerable and subject to pressures that necessarily affect the objectivity of its work

- Sarajevo Canton secured the independence of the Office through several measures:

  - The statutory percentage of financing in relation to the total annual budget of the Canton (regulated by Law of assets)
  - The chief and the employees of the Office are civil servants protected by the civil service law.
  - The Office submits information about its work to the Canton Parliament
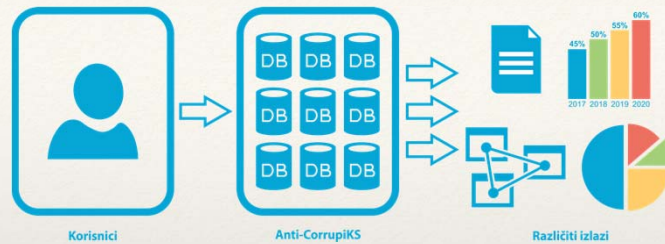 - The Office is obliged to inform the public about its work through the website

5

Digitalization and fight against corruption

- Digital technologies are a new tool for preventing corrupt practices and behaviour

- The impact of ICT against corruption is influenced by the automation of processes, the limitation of public officials' discretion, and the reduction of intermediaries and red tape

- Multi-modular analytical software AnticorrupiKS of Sarajevo Canton is a highly efficient ICT tool for the prevention of corruption.

- This platform enables unified information management of established databases, as well as process of automation, reporting and searching by specified parameters, mutual "communication" of databases, upgrade and significant improvement of the effectiveness of anti-corruption activities

- The method of entering and controlling data in the Register of Income and Property Reports and the way of determining the accuracy of entered data by using ICT (establishing a "red flag" system) is one of the example on how ICT can be used for preventing and fighting against corruption

6

Basic information about multi-modular analytical software AnticorrupiKS

Korisnici   Anti-CorrupiKS   Različiti izlazi

- Centralization of databases;
- Possibility of different analytics, analysis and comparative analysis, efficiency and improvement;
- Red flags
- Database protection, unique access and log file
- Electronic data storage, prevention of misuse
- Automatically and fast creation of different reports

Public access to information

- Open Government Data refers to "government information proactively disclosed and made available online for everyone's access, reuse and redistribution without restriction" (United Nations, 2014a, p.163)

- ICT unlocks opportunities for smarter, faster and more transparent public institutions. But, only if the information is available to the public.

- In addition to being available, they have to be presented in easily accessible formats

- There are several basic principles that must be met for a government data to be considered open and useful to the wider community:

  - Accountability - data are as collected at the source
  - Availability - data are made available as quickly as necessary
  - Accessibility - data are available to the widest range of users
  - Automatically workable - Data are reasonably structured to allow automated processing

8

Thank you.