

2019 activities

In 2019, the Mission will continue its work in improving the investigative capacities of the Kosovo Police, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), prosecutors, and other relevant institutions in the fight against corruption, focussing on methods of identification of corruption types, management of the investigation process, development of an investigation strategy and investigation techniques. Stakeholders will be introduced to the various Financial Action Task Force recommendations. Other workshop topics include covert measures, E-procurement, the role of the prosecution and judiciary, financial investigations and asset seizure. Last but not least, a conference on preventing and combatting high-level corruption will be organized, with key note speakers from Transparency International, to raise awareness among key decision makers on the topic.



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The OSCE Mission in Kosovo's anti-corruption activities include building law enforcement agencies' investigative capacities, monitoring corruption cases involving senior officials, and enhancing accountability of public institutions and public confidence in them.

Strengthening the Legal System

In 2018, the Mission monitored 169 corruption cases involving senior municipal and central level government officials. The majority of these cases involved an abuse of official position were closely monitored by the Mission. We also supported the Kosovo Academy of Justice (KAJ), an institution established by the Mission, on anti-corruption issues including the development of a specific training program consisting of modules on treating corruption-related cases by the prosecution and the courts.

The Mission provided comments to the draft Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Discharge of a Public Function which entered into force in 2018. The Mission's recommendations on this Law focused on providing stronger legal obligations for public officials to prevent possible conflicts of interest, as well as establishing an obligation for the Anti-Corruption Agency to initiate procedures immediately upon being informed of any conflict of interest.

Enhancing Oversight and Accountability

In the fight against corruption, the Mission is committed to developing the will and ability of legislatures and watchdog independent institutions to hold executive structures to account at all levels of government. The Mission has also worked with oversight committees in the Assembly of Kosovo to improve their institutional capacity. In the next three years, we will help the Assembly to strengthen its relationships with watchdog independent institutions such as the Anti-Corruption Agency, Ombudsperson's office, and the Kosovo Audit Office in a way to enhance oversight and the system of checks and balances.

At the municipal level, the Mission concentrates on developing the capacity of municipal assemblies to oversee the performance of municipal executives in public financial management. In 2018, as part of the effort to promote transparency in financing non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Mission helped the Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA) and municipal governments implement the new regulation on public funding for NGOs. Also, it supported MLGA to improve the transparency and communication practices of municipal governments through the organization of regional workshops. Furthermore, the Mission assisted the Kosovo Audit Office in reaching out to municipalities throughout Kosovo.

Build Capacity of Law Enforcement Institutions

The Mission focuses on strengthening the capacity of law enforcement institutions in combatting high-level corruption. The Mission has to date successfully completed two projects (in 2015 and 2017) funded by the German government. Activities engaged police officers, special prosecutors and investigators of the Anti-Corruption Agency. Other participants included the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Customs, Tax Administration and the Agency for Administration of Sequestered or Confiscated Assets (AASCA). Participants learned and strengthened their skills on investigating high-level corruption, tax fraud, financial crime, money laundering and the procedure of asset forfeiture. Research visits to learn about best practices were also facilitated for groups of senior law enforcement officers.



In 2018, the Mission delivered an advanced training on financial investigation, money laundering, intelligence management, restraint, seizure and confiscation of assets for representatives of Financial Intelligence Unit, Kosovo Police, Agency for Administration of Sequestered or Confiscated Assets (AASCA) and the Special Prosecution Office. It also co-operated closely with B&S Europe, an EU-funded anti-corruption project, to deliver similar training to criminal investigators, prosecutors and judges, focussing on practical case studies.

With the support from the Italian Embassy in Prishtinë/Priština and the Italian OSCE Chairmanship, the Mission delivered a specialized training on anti-corruption to representatives of the Kosovo Police, Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK), Anti-Corruption Agency, Financial Intelligence Unit and prosecutors. Among other, experts from the Italian Guardia di Finanza and prosecution office provided the participants with insight on preventive and repressive activities for fighting corruption. This includes investigative techniques, tracking of financial flows in a money laundering investigation, methods of identifying cases of corruption within public offices, and criminal asset recovery.



With project funding from Italy, the Mission enhanced the capacity of members of PIK on conducting criminal investigation of financial irregularities, corruption, as well as on the handling and protection of informants and whistleblowers. Training was also provided on performing risk assessment to identify potential corrupt practices among police officers, and how to conduct integrity testing to ensure that the highest ethical standards are adhered to within the KP.

