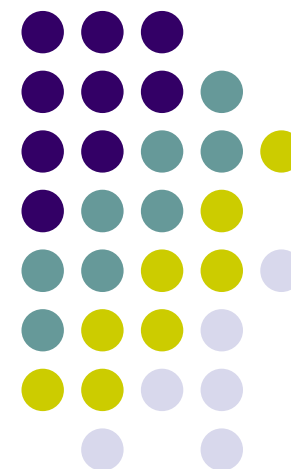


# Improving Public Accountability and Combating Corruption

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Mato Meyer  
Economic Transparency Adviser  
OSCE Mission to Serbia



# Our aim for improving public accountability



To increase the capacities of public officials and civil society to ensure good governance through:

- improving the legislative framework,
- enhancing existing public accountability mechanisms, and
- promoting best practices in public accountability.

# Repression



- Support to the implementation of the Anti Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Law
- Training judges, prosecutors on conducting financial investigations
- Financial investigation training for supervisory bodies (Ministry of Finance and the National Bank of Serbia) as well as their private sector reporting entities.
- Training on investigating tax fraud/tax evasion

# Prevention



- **Public Accountability:**  
The obligation of those entrusted with public resources to be socially and fiscally responsible.
- **Principles:**
  - Rule of law
  - Checks and balances
  - Transparency
  - Efficiency



# Tools for prevention

- A strong and independent State Auditor
- A proactive budget inspection unit
- Parliamentary oversight (finance committee)
- Public sector codes of conduct
- Citizens charters
- A fair and transparent public procurement system

# Public Procurement



## ~~VI. PUBLIC PROCUREMENT OFFICE~~

### ~~Manner of Establishment~~

#### ~~Article 98~~

~~Public Procurement Office is a special organization for performing technical activities in the area of public procurement, providing conditions for economic, efficient and transparent use of public funds for public procurement and promotion of competition and equality of bidders in the public procurement procedure.~~

~~The regulations pertaining to the government administration shall apply to the activity and organization of the Public Procurement Office.~~

### ~~Activities~~

#### ~~Article 99~~

~~The Public Procurement Office shall perform activities that relate to:~~

- ~~1) the participation in drafting the regulations pertaining to the sphere of public procurement;~~
- ~~2) providing consulting services to procuring entities and bidders;~~
- ~~3) monitoring public procurement procedures;~~
- ~~4) submission of requests for the protection of rights in the case of violation of public interest;~~
- ~~5) informing the body in charge of public fund auditing, budget inspection and other bodies competent for the initiation of offence proceedings on irregularities in conducting public procurement procedures and delivering public procurement reports that it has identified in the course of performance of the activities within its competence;~~

# Public Procurement on the local level



- Bidders and contracting entities on the local level must have access to timely and accurate information on public procurement.
- The central authority must reach out to the local level and educate bidders and contracting entities.

# Public officials' assets declarations



## ИЗВЕШТАЈ О ИМОВИНИ И ПРИХОДИМА

- 1. РЕДОВНО ПРИЈАВЉИВАЊЕ ИМОВИНЕ:**
  - а) приликом ступања на јавну функцију
  - б) приликом престанка јавне функције
- 2. ВАНРЕДНО ПРИЈАВЉИВАЊЕ ИМОВИНЕ:**
  - а) због битних промена у току вршења функције
  - б) због битних промена после престанка функције  
(заокружити одговарајуће слово)

**Зашто се подноси:** Подношење извештаја о имовини и приходима је законом утврђена обавеза функционера чије испуњење омогућава транспарентно вршење функције и јачање поверења јавности у институције државе и носиоце јавних функција.

**Када и у ком року се извештај подноси:** Редовни извештај о имовини и приходима функционер подноси у року од 30 дана од дана ступања на функцију за себе, свог супружника односно ванбрачног партнера и малолетну децу с којима живи у истом домаћинству (тачка 1.а. горе) Редовни извештај о имовини и приходима подноси и у року од 30 дана од дана престанка функције (тачка 1.б. горе)  
Ванредно пријављивање имовине функционер врши најкасније до 31. јануара текуће године са стањем на дан 31. децембар претходне године уколико је у претходној години дошло до битних промена у подацима у имовини чија вредност прелази износ годишње просечне зараде без пореза и доприноса у Републици Србији(тачка 2.а.горе)  
Функционер коме је престала функција дужан је да извештај о имовини и приходима подноси једном годишње у наредне две године од престанка функције (тачка 2.б. горе)

**Јавно објављивање података о имовини:** На интернет презентацији Агенције објављују се и доступни су јавности подаци о плати и другим приходима који се примају из буџета и других јавних извора, подаци о праву својине на непокретним стварима без навођења адресе, подаци о праву својине на превозном средству без навођења регистарског броја, штедни улози и депозити без навођења банке и броја рачуна, право коришћења стана у службене потребе као и други подаци за које функционер односно брачни или ванбрачни друг да сагласност да се објаве.

### КАЗНЕНЕ ОДРЕДБЕ (чл.72-74. Закона)

Функционер који не пријави имовину Агенцији или даје лажне податке о имовини, у намери да прикрије податке о имовини, казниће се затвором од шест месеци до пет година. Функционеру који је осуђен на ову казну престаје вршење јавне функције и забрањује се стицање јавне функције у року од десет година од дана правоснажности пресуде

Новчаном казном од 10.000 до 50.000 динара казниће се за прекршај функционер ако пријави имовину након истека рока прописаног Законом.



# Political Party Financing



- Strict monitoring of campaign financing and campaign expenditures
- Ensure that local party organs are familiar with legislation and provide their HQ with precise data of using public funds



# Integrity Plans

- To identify weak points of an organisation's operation, its vulnerability and exposed activity that cause risks for corruption.
- A systematic estimation of weakness and vulnerabilities within individual procedures, rules, and organizational processes.
- The adopted Guidelines will be used by at least 3,500 state organs, local governmental bodies, public services and public companies as a basic document for drafting and implementing their individual integrity plans.

## Examples of activities on strengthening public accountability and combating corruption at the local level



Civil society organizations, local self government, media outlets and independent agencies at both the central and local levels were given the opportunity to submit project proposals on increasing public accountability and participation mechanisms, and promoting best practices in combating corruption.

The selected projects implemented throughout Serbia deal with transparent budgeting; improving civic participation on the local level; establishing a legal advice center and hotline for witnesses and victims of corruption; strengthening cooperation among local government and NGOs on anti-corruption; improving the monitoring of planning and efficient spending of budgets; as well as support to local anti-corruption councils.

## ***Changing the Statute of Kragujevac and Krusevac cities to reduce the required number of signatures (25% voters) for a Citizen's Initiative***



- Implemented by local NGO ***Sretenje***
- For citizens and CSOs it is nearly impossible to gather 25% of local voters to run a people's initiative. Lowering it to 5% would increase citizen participation in local government and accountability of local government.
- A coalition of local NGOs was created
- A public campaign was run focused on the local government, NGOs, citizens
- Meetings with Mayors and city council persons and the coalition of NGOs were called
- A proposal was sent to the city councils for amending their statutes.

# ***Informed citizen – active participant***



- Implemented by the ***City Administration of Vranje***
- The aim is to increase citizens' involvement in the prevention of corruption in the public sector through increasing the local government's transparency in the city of Vranje.
- - INFOCENTRE brochures distributed throughout the community
- - Website "Citizens' panel", where citizens and visitors can easily and quickly leave their comments, report corruption in the public sector, and pose questions within the jurisdiction of the City Administration
- - Creation of an INFOCENTRE help desk in the city hall to receive comments in person.
- - Promotion through the media of the "Citizens' panel"

# ***Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) in Serbia***



- Implemented by ***Transparency Serbia***
- Main project activities:
- Toll-free hotline for reporting cases of corruption
- Free and confidential legal advice and assistance provided to citizens
- Data collection, case and cluster analysis of evidence
- Identification of weaknesses in the system which allow corruption to flourish
- Evidence-based advocacy for structural reform (based on the problems identified during individual cases)

# *Interruption of Corruption*



- Implemented by the ***Southern Backa Administrative District***
- The objective of the project is to establish a sustainable network of Local Councils for Security in the Southern Backa district and in this way contribute to improving the quality and efficiency of the local administration to fight corruption.
- Target groups of the project: **Local authorities** in order to provide political support to the project, **Local Councils for security**, CSO, media, general public.
- Promote cooperation among local government, **CSOs**, and the **private sector** in local communities

## *Improving budgetary procedures at the local level for the purpose of controlled budgetary spending*



- Implemented by the local NGO ***Center for Democratic Activities (Lebane)***
- To improve budgetary procedures at the local level by building the capacities of the municipal assemblies of Lebane and Medvedja to increase transparency and citizen inclusion and to reduce corruption, particularly in the area of public procurement.
- Activities:
  - 1. survey of councilpersons, NGOs
  - 2. seminars on budget planning and civic participation for local councilpersons
  - 3. secondary survey to assess improvement



# ***Strengthening Public Accountability on Environmental issues***



- Implemented by the local NGO ***Ecological Association AVALON***
- The strategic objective of the project is to improve overall access to information of public interest to Vrsac citizens by encouraging them to directly and actively influence decision makers on risky environmental investments.
- Establishment of a team for monitoring, analysing and cataloguing environmentally risky investments,
- Establishment of an Information/consulting Centre that will lead an informative awareness campaign on environmentally risky investment cases through a website, Facebook group, local TV program.
- Prepare recommendations for the government Action Plan on the Implementation of National Environmental Strategy

# ***Capacity building of Local Anti-corruption Forums for implementing local anti-corruption plans***



- Implemented by the national NGO ***Bureau for Social Research (BIRODI)*** in four local municipalities
- Local Anti-corruption Plans: Coordinated effort among local government, civil society and media to assess current status of corruption, risks for corruption and develop a locally specific anti-corruption plan that is measurable and implementable.
- Workshops for local municipal councilpersons, NGOs, media who members of LAFs on:
  - 1. *what is corruption and anti-corruption*
  - 2. *ethical governance and the fight against corruption*
  - 3. *research, monitoring and evaluating corruption and the fight against corruption*
  - 4. *integrity plans*
  - 5. *the media and corruption*
  - 6. *public finances*

# *Proactive Budget*



- Implemented by the local NGO *Proactiv*
- To establish a mechanism for efficient budgetary control of local self-government, local public institutions and public enterprises within the Nisava district.
- Training of local media and NGOs
- Informative campaign including press conferences, street campaigns, and distributing handbooks on transparent budgeting and how citizens may get involved.
- Round tables open for the public with civil society, media, the Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection and local self-government representatives on the budget making and budget expenditure processes.

# Locally Accountable



- Implemented by the national NGO ***Centre for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA)***
- Established a network of local NGOs from 10 local communities engaged in accountability monitoring at the local level
- Citizens informed about accountability and transparency issues at the local level (throughout monitoring of local officials' and institutions' work, publishing of local accountability analyses)
- Developed recommendations for improved transparency and accountability practices in local officials' and institutions' work
- Organizing round tables that promote accountability and transparency in local communities
- Disseminating key recommendations and findings from round tables and sending them to local officials and institutions' representatives.

# *Active citizen – active community*



- Implemented by the local NGO ***Association of returnees Reintegration***
- To increase civic activism and transparency in the town of Novi Pazar by including citizens, local institutions and “national envoys” (MPs from Novi Pazar) in civic initiatives
- In this way local civic initiatives are promoted and national politicians are held accountable to their constituencies



Thank you.

For more information:

[Mato.meyer@osce.org](mailto:Mato.meyer@osce.org)

+381 11 3606 195