

Leading the way in the fight against corruption: The OSCE's initiatives at work

Promoting good economic governance, and preventing and combating corruption are key elements of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and one of the main priorities of the Office of Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA).

At its core, corruption erodes public trust in institutions and threatens stability, security and well-being of citizens and society, fostering a climate of discontent and social unrest. Moreover, corruption distorts the allocation of resources, diverting critical funds away from essential services such as healthcare, education and infrastructure towards the pockets of a privileged few. This not only hampers social development but also perpetuates inequality, creating a fertile ground for extremism and radicalization. Fostering good governance and combatting corruption is not only a moral imperative but a strategic necessity for fostering resilience, ensuring peaceful, prosperous and stable societies.

The OSCE's anti-corruption work is guided by the 2003 Maastricht OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension and relevant Ministerial Council Decisions of 2004 in Sofia, 2014 in Basel, 2016 in Hamburg and 2020 in Tirana, as well as 2012 OSCE Dublin Declaration. The OSCE's work on combatting corruption is strengthened by the Office of the Special Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Combatting Corruption, whose mandate is to support the Chairperson-in-Office in coordinating anti-corruption activities and initiatives with OSCE participating States.

The OSCE, together with the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and its network of 12 Field Operations in Southeast Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, promotes good governance and anti-corruption through capacity-building and awareness raising, implementing activities aimed at strengthening institutional and legislative frameworks in participating States, and promoting innovative policy and programmatic solutions to address emerging trends and threats posed by digitalization and new technologies.

Why building capacity in the area of anti-corruption matters

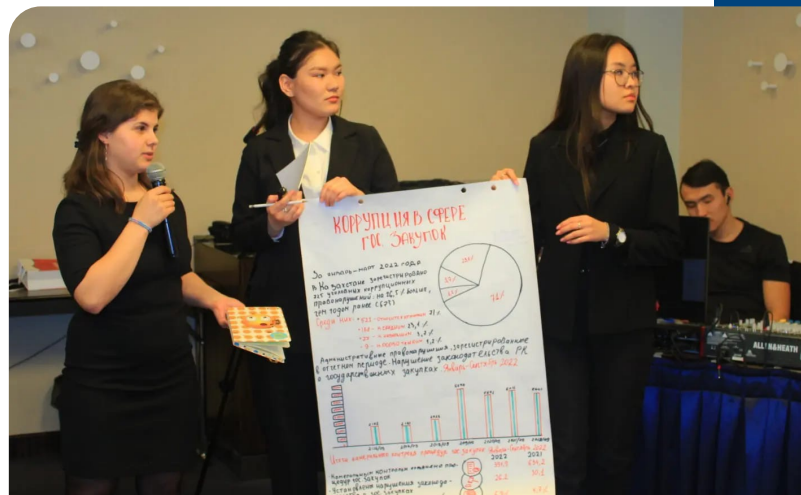
Building capacity of participating States in preventing and combatting corruption involves many elements: human, technological, organisational, financial, cultural and institutional. The OSCE makes a planned and systematic effort to develop or modify the knowledge, skills and character traits of governmental and public

officials of the beneficiaries. The ultimate goal is to enhance the capability and awareness of **people, institutions, and society** in general, to develop their **skills**, make better use of existing resources, and foster **resilience** and **sustainability** in anti-corruption efforts in the OSCE region.

Capacity-building and awareness-raising are pivotal components in the fight against corruption. The OSCE continues to implement a range of initiatives in these areas, contributing to the strengthening of anti-corruption efforts in participating States.

The OSCE’s reach extends beyond national borders, encompassing the largest part of the northern hemisphere. From 2020 until 2023 OSCE focused its efforts on assisting beneficiaries in their immediate needs in term of anti-corruption, at the same time going beyond borders and expectations.

In Kazakhstan, the OSCE Programme Office in Astana worked with the Anti-Corruption Agency, the dynamic “Zhastar Alauy” youth movement, and Nazarbayev University, **to foster awareness and mobilize youth against corruption.** The OSCE facilitated a platform for active student engagement, emphasizing their pivotal role in confronting the challenges posed by corruption.



RESULT OF OSCE ACTIVITY

Empowering leadership of youth against corruption

Increased awareness

Less human capital flight and promotion of cultural shift



LESS CORRUPTION IN MID- AND LONG-TERM



Amidst the fast-evolving landscape of economic crimes involving virtual assets and cryptocurrencies, the OSCE Secretariat/OCEEA, in partnership with UNODC, took proactive steps to equip government officials of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine with cutting-edge investigative techniques **through basic and advanced virtual assets investigation trainings.**



The courses were specifically tailored and went beyond theoretical knowledge, **providing practical tools and insights into advanced tracing of criminal transactions across different blockchains**, complemented by the opportunity to familiarize themselves with **specialized analytics software**.

RESULT OF THE OSCE INTERVENTION

Enhanced capacities of supervisory bodies and law enforcement officials to investigate crypto-related crimes



Innovative approach towards new threats such as corruption or money laundering through virtual assets

More investigated and resolved criminal cases of corruption and money – laundering.

Less financing of criminal activities through virtual assets.



ENHANCED FINANCIAL SECURITY OF PARTICIPATING STATES AND THEIR POPULATIONS



In Montenegro, the OSCE promotes a better understanding of integrity and anti-corruption among the police by establishing an **E-learning platform**.

The Ministry of Interior is in charge of developing the contents on the e-learning platform for the police. At least fifteen officials were trained by the OSCE to gain the necessary knowledge and skills to interact with the platform.

RESULT OF OSCE INITIATIVE

Increased awareness of the police on corruption



Less corruption among law enforcement officials and police



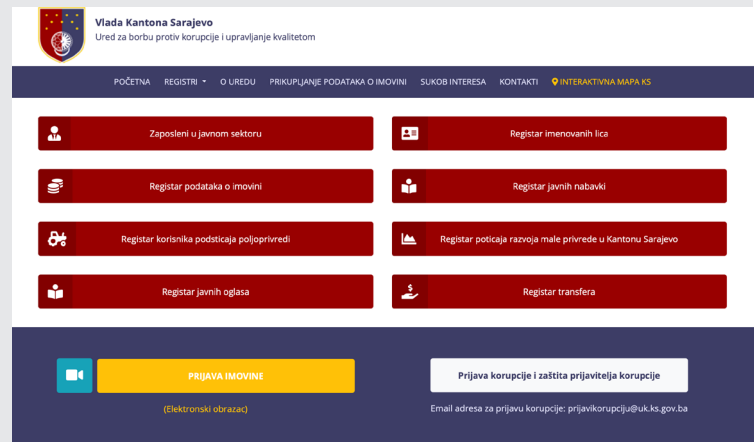
LESS FUNDS DIVERTED FROM PUBLIC SECTOR

LESS DISCONTENT AMONG THE POPULATION

STRENGTHENED NATIONAL SECURITY

Antikorrupiks platform

www.anticorruptiks.com developed by Sarajevo Canton in collaboration with OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, is a public register, which provides data on appointed officials, employees in the cantonal public institutions, allocated subsidies to small businesses, and public officials' property and assets, among other. It enables detection of conflicts of interests, increases institutional transparency, and offers a wide range of analytical options and comparisons that are important tools for all interested parties, such as journalists, researchers, and NGOs.



RESULT OF OSCE INITIATIVE

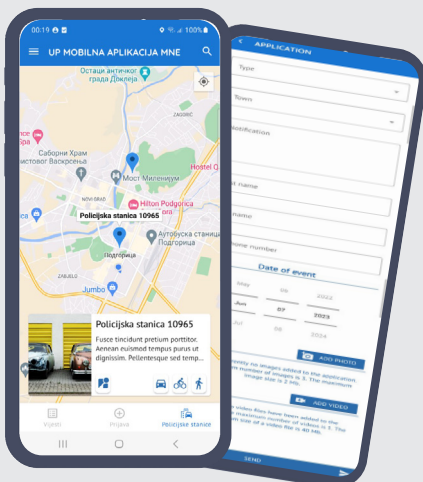
Increased transparency



Deterred corrupt practices



LESS CORRUPTION



The Police Mobile Application in Montenegro, developed with the support of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, works to increase transparency and to improve police - public communication, as well as improve accessibility for citizens and empower them to report corruption cases.

More opportunities for citizens to report on corruption



REDUCTION OF CORRUPTION IN MID- AND LONG-TERM

Corruption Proofing of Legislation Methodology

is a joint initiative between Ministry of Justice and OSCE Presence in Albania, which helps national authorities design and implement corruption assessment methodologies, provides trainings to national officials, as well as strengthens knowledge and capacity in public procurement processes in the country.



RESULT OF OSCE INITIATIVE

Improved corruption assessment methodologies

Better understanding of corruption in public procurement processes of public officials and civil society



Enhanced procurement processes

Better monitoring of the public spending



LESS CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

New approaches: the nexus between gender and anti-corruption

Corruption is a phenomenon that is not gender blind and that affects men and women differently. The OSCE understands this and has undertaken some groundbreaking work on the nexus between gender and corruption, which is still largely underexplored.

Why gender and anti-corruption nexus matters?

Women often face systemic discrimination, limited access to resources and are excluded from decision making, which makes them more vulnerable to corruption both as victims and perpetrators. Corruption disproportionately affects women as they bear the brunt of

inadequate public services and diversion of resources. Their limited representation in positions of power can have a negative effect on good governance as diverse perspectives are important for decision making. Understanding the nexus between gender and corruption is therefore pivotal for creating comprehensive anti-corruption policies that address the root causes and consequences from a gender perspective. The OSCE has been actively working to integrate gender perspectives into its various areas of focus, including anti-corruption efforts.

What the OSCE does on anti-corruption and gender?

The OSCE is actively integrating gender perspectives into its projects and initiatives, which it implements across the region

in order to improve the **efficiency and ensure sustainable impact of its interventions**.

The OSCE Gender Issues Programme in the Office of the Secretary General delivered dedicated capacity buildings on gender and effective anti-corruption to anti-corruption agencies and law enforcement authorities in Albania and Pristina.

The OSCE Mission to Serbia implemented a pivotal **initiative to elevate anti-corruption practices within the Agency for Prevention of Corruption (APC)** to integrate **gender perspectives into their daily work**. The three-module training not only explored the nuanced links between gender equality and corruption but also served as a catalyst for a ground-breaking development—the creation of a gender-specific **anti-corruption toolkit**. This innovative manual solidified the Agency's commitment to **gender-inclusive practices** and makes the impact of their actions more sustainable.

The OSCE Mission to Skopje conducted the first national survey on the existence of sextortion as gender specific form

of corruption in North Macedonia and provided recommendations to recognize and criminalize sextortion as a form of corruption in the national legislation. The Mission also promoted the findings of two new surveys on sexual extortion in higher education and public administration sectors in North Macedonia and supported the creation of a new e-course on gender and corruption.

Internally, the OSCE fosters collaboration on gender mainstreaming between the Secretariat and Field Operations. This synergy ensures the seamless **incorporation of gender perspectives into all anti-corruption initiatives, enhancing overall effectiveness**.

Recently, the OSCE Gender Issues Programme in the Office of the Secretary General conducted crucial research on the intersection of corruption and gender inequality in natural resource access and management. This research serves as a valuable resource for policymakers and implementing organizations, offering nuanced **insights for informed decision-making in designing, implementing, and monitoring activities**.

Activities of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is the principle institution dealing with human dimension matters. ODIHR supports democratic institutions, including independent anti-corruption and human rights bodies, political parties in the participating States to implement democratic governance commitments, curb political corruption and promote public integrity, as well as offers legal advice on the draft or exiting legislation pertinent to public integrity and anti-corruption measures.

The lack of public integrity of democratic institutions is **undermining their legitimacy and credibility** in the eyes of the public. In the last two decades, many democracies have seen a decline in public trust in institutions and their representatives. In order to strengthen democratic accountability, ODIHR cooperates with public institutions and civil society of OSCE participating States. In 2023, it organized a Political Integrity Bootcamp in partnership with the Transparency International, which focused on parliamentary oversight



and political integrity as mechanisms for preventing corruption.

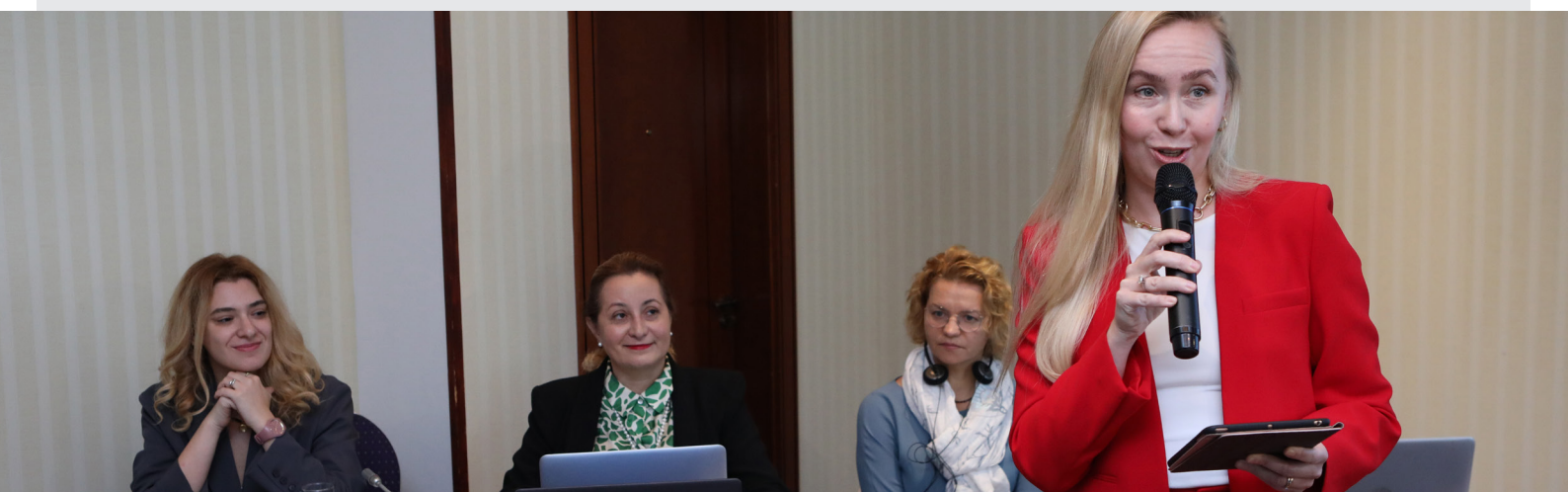
In 2016, the OSCE Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA), in collaboration with ODIHR and with the support of UNODC, OECD, Council of Europe and other partners, published the **OSCE Handbook on Combatting Corruption**. The Handbook is a reference guide on existing international standards, available legal tools, the latest legislative and policy trends, and pertinent measures and practices to prevent and suppress corruption.

In 2020, ODIHR contributed to OCEEA's online training platform on prevention and combating corruption for government officials, representatives of law enforcement, private sector and civil society and developed two modules on political party funding and regulating lobbying. ODIHR also developed a tool "Resource for Reformers in the area of Parliamentary Integrity", which covers areas such as conflicts of interest, conduct in the chamber, lobbying and third parties, gender

equality and inclusion, use of parliamentary resources and post-parliamentary employment. ODIHR conducted a comprehensive mapping of internal integrity regulations and mechanisms of 90 political parties in 25 OSCE participating States. These tools enable ODIHR to deliver tailor-made support in advancing political integrity standards of parliaments and political parties in multiple participating States. ODIHR supports parliamentary political parties across the political spectrum to develop Codes of Conduct aimed at enhancing ethical behaviour and political integrity, covering issues such as prevention of corruption, conflict of interest and gender equality.

ODIHR provides support to parliaments in several participating States in developing Codes of Conduct.

ODIHR's work emphasizes in particular the role of comprehensive integrity frameworks in prevention of gender-based violence against women in politics as a part of a comprehensive gender mainstreaming approach in political institutions.



The OSCE spent approximately

€3,863,950

on its anti-corruption programmes
and capacity building activities



Provided capacity building activities
to more than **10,000**



and public officials, from which
more than **5,500**



Had impact on lives of
citizens in more than 17
17 participating
states



Worked in 5
geographical
areas



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