

Combating Corruption



In line with its mandate and relevant OSCE commitments, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina contributes to the prevention of corruption by supporting the development, adoption, and promotion of anti-corruption regulations at all authority levels as well as their implementation by relevant governmental bodies. Corruption is costly on multiple levels: Politically, in terms of eroding democracy and the rule of law; economically, by wasting public resources and deterring investment; and socially, by diminishing citizens' trust in institutions and leaders.

The Transparency International Corruption Perception Index ranked BiH at 114th place out of 180 surveyed countries in 2024, highlighting the urgency of the matter. Reports issued by the European Commission and the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) have repeatedly stated that BiH

must make substantive efforts that go beyond declarative commitments.

With the Mission's support, BiH authorities have taken some initial steps in this direction, including the adoption of key anti-corruption regulations, establishing independent anti-

corruption offices, advancing the use of digital tools in corruption prevention, and strengthening co-ordination in combatting corruption across all levels of government. However, the complexity of the country's governance framework and the consequent difficulties in implementing anti-corruption legislation continue to obstruct the BiH's progress.

The Mission works with relevant local stakeholders and international community partners in order to strengthen the overall anti-corruption system, focusing on the development, adoption and implementation of key regulations, such as anti-corruption strategic documents, and priority legislation, such as conflict of

interest and asset declaration laws. The Mission's activities also include the capacity-building of relevant anti-corruption stakeholders, strengthening the institutional status of anti-corruption bodies as independent governmental units, and replicating the best IT-based practices across the country and government levels to ensure transparency and accountability.

Normative and institutional framework for corruption prevention

Together with international community partners, the Mission provides expert legal and technical support to the participatory development of key anti-corruption regulations. For example, the Mission

provided comments, legal solutions and support to the development of, inter alia, the Law on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Brčko District BiH (BD); the FBIH Law on the Protection of Persons Reporting Irregularities; cantonal laws on asset declaration of public officials; anti-corruption strategies; and decrees on the establishment professional cantonal anti-corruption offices. In all instances, the Mission ensures compliance with relevant international standards, such as GRECO recommendations and OSCE commitments.

The Mission also advocates, and provides support, for strengthening the role and independence of anti-corruption bodies at the entity and cantonal levels and strengthening their technical and ICT capacities. Building on the successes achieved with the establishment of the first cantonal Anti-corruption Office in the country in 2018 in Sarajevo, the Mission, together with the EU and the US, facilitated the establishment and operationalization of seven more anti-corruption offices i.e. in the Tuzla, Zenica-Doboj, Una-Sana, Posavina and Bosnia-Podrinje Cantons; in Canton 10, and in BD. The Mission continues to provide legislative and technical support toward the establishment of anti-corruption offices in other cantons as well.

Capacity building and co-ordination

The Mission's primary focus is on providing tailor-made capacity-building activities for anti-corruption bodies, in order to address the specific needs

of civil servants and anti-corruption actors.

These activities enhance critical knowledge and skills for the prevention of corruption and the effective implementation of strategic measures. They also helped improve coordination among anti-corruption bodies, offering opportunities for information-sharing, greater coherence and coordination around a common approach to prevention while strengthening institutional responses within Bosnia and Herzegovina's complex anti-corruption framework.

The Mission organizes capacity-building events for public sector employees in BiH on an on-going basis. The training sessions focus on the most pertinent anti-corruption topics including conflict of interest; public procurement; ethics and integrity; financial management and control; freedom of access to information and protection of personal data; development of integrity plans; assessment of impact of corruption risks in regulations, and the use of ICT tools to monitor the implementation of anti-corruption measures.

Digital tools for corruption prevention

In line with evolving international anti-corruption trends and needs, the Mission supports innovative practices, such as developing databases and software for identifying conflicts of interests and other irregularities thereby increasing institutional transparency.

In Canton Sarajevo, the Mission supported the development of the AntikorrupikS platform (<https://www.anticorruptiks.com/>) where public registers provide data on appointed officials, employees in the cantonal public institutions, allocated subsidies to small businesses, and the property and assets of public officials, among others. The platform allows for the detection of conflicts of interests; increases institutional transparency, and offers a wide range of analytical options and comparative information that are critical for all interested parties including citizens journalists, researchers, and non-governmental organizations. These public registers are replicable, and as a result, anti-corruption bodies in other levels of BiH's governance system have introduced similar tools in their respective jurisdictions.

Combating corruption at local level

At the local level, the Mission closely monitors anti-corruption practices and trends in public financial management. This informs future strategic planning and policy development of both BiH authorities and the Mission itself.

Launched in 2018 as part of the Mission's programmatic focus on fighting corruption, the Municipal Anti-corruption Initiative (MAI), included the monitoring of anti-corruption trends and processes within the public management sector in local governance units (LGUs) across Bosnia and Herzegovina. The main findings and recommendations were presented in thematic

reports. [The first report](#), completed in 2019, assessed spaces for corruption in the provision of grants and in-kind support to civil society organizations. [The second](#), published in 2022, presented the key features of the asset management system at the local level; it also identified corruption risks in current procedures and practices in the management of immovable assets in selected LGUs. The report provides a set of recommendations aimed at improving the performance of local governments in this area while mitigating the identified corruption risks.

Building on the aforementioned findings, the Mission now focuses on improving the implementation of audit recommendations at the local level, recognising this as a key indicator of transparent and accountable public finance management. Through capacity-building, support to local institutions, and promotion of best practices, the Mission is working to strengthen institutional accountability and reduce corruption risks within LGUs.

For more information, scan the QR code.



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