



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

8th meeting of ethics and integrity working group

Follow up Meeting to ReSPA Comparative Study on “Abuse of Information Technology (IT) for Corruption

27-28 April 2015, Belgrade (Serbia)

Discussion paper and programme

Background

For several years, ReSPA has well established and running networks/working groups, both on ethics and integrity and on e-Government. In 2014, ReSPA brought together the expertise of both working groups. The combined efforts resulted in the comparative ReSPA-Study on “Abuse of Information Technology (IT) for Corruption” (2014).¹ The Study was presented at the 7th meeting of the Ethics and Integrity Working Group, and the 6th meeting of the eGovernment Working Group, in Tirana on 26-27 November 2014. As a practical follow-up to the Study, ReSPA developed a draft “**Checklist** for Assessment of Risks for **Abuse of IT** for Corruption”. The final draft was sent to one institution of each working group member, where it is currently applied in a pilot activity for reviewing the security of IT against abuse for corruption.

As for **income and asset declarations**, the following developments took place in the past:

- ReSPA published the “Western Balkan Recommendation on Disclosure of Finances and Interests by Public Officials” in January 2015 after prior consultation with working group members.² The Recommendation was adopted at the Sixth Meeting of the Ethics and Integrity Working Group, 8-9 July 2014, in Vilnius, Lithuania.
- At the same meeting, the draft international agreement on data exchange was adopted together with the feasibility study, to be submitted to the Governing Board Meeting on 31 October 2014. The Governing Board agreed to improve the data exchange based on bi- and multilateral agreements.
- At the Sixth Meeting of the Ethics and Integrity Working Group, it was also decided to conduct a comparative study on conflicts of interest. Participants agreed on a preliminary structure/outline of the study.

Objective

The objective of the meeting on the first day is to allow for exchanging experiences on the practical application of the checklist during its pilot phase, and to identify possible follow-ups. The second day will provide an opportunity to review the status quo of reforms on income and asset declarations, and to plan further activities of the Ethics and Integrity Working Group.

¹ <http://www.respaweb.eu/11/library#respa-publications-and-research-18>.

² <http://www.respaweb.eu/11/library#respa-publications-and-research-18>.

Target group

The meeting is intended for primarily /working group members who participated in previous meetings of ethics and integrity working group (2 participants per ReSPA Member and Kosovo*), who have at least 5 years of relevant work experience in the topic of the working groups who possess a clear and demonstrated interest in the working group topic and are motivated to participate in discussions and exchange of opinions/best practices with other colleagues from the Western Balkan. It is of crucial importance that the participants fulfill the necessary requirements and contribute to the results of the working group meeting with their professional skills, knowledge and active participation. The meeting is also intended for one additional participant, the person who directly worked on the piloting of the Checklist on risks of IT-corruption.

1st day – Checklist on risks of IT-corruption

The objective of the meeting on the first day is to review the experiences with the checklist from piloting them in different countries in institutions:

- Did the checklist correspond to all risks and aspects arising in practice?
- Are any points missing?
- Which questions are unclear or could be expanded?
- Are there sector-specific aspects, which should be considered?
- Which points are the easiest to assess, which are the most difficult?
- Is more guidance needed to properly implement the checklist?
- On which points can ReSPA members learn from each other?

The meeting will also look into possible implications for policy and legislation:

- Is there any need to revise the legislation in order to continue or facilitate assessments of IT-corruption?
- Should the assessment of IT-corruption be reflected in national or institutional strategies or integrity plans?
- How should ReSPA and its working groups accompany future reform processes in this direction?

2nd DAY

Asset declarations and conflict of interest

The 2nd day will be dedicated to reviewing the status quo of reforms and planning the next steps and activities of the Ethics and Integrity Working Group.

Asset declarations: current reforms

The working group meeting will allow for an update on current reforms in the region: In which way did countries make progress with regard to the international standard developed by ReSPA? Which reforms lay ahead? How could ReSPA facilitate this process further?

Asset declarations: international agreement for data exchange

The working group meeting will allow for an update on current reforms in the region: In which way did countries make progress with regard to the template for international data exchange? Do members face any obstacles in progressing further with this? Which reforms lay ahead? How could ReSPA facilitate this process further?

Comparative Study on Conflict of Interest

ReSPA will give an update on progress with the Study. Work of the experts is expected to start by end of April, and the Study should be finalised by end of September. The working group meeting will provide opportunity for working group members to present any interesting aspect they faced recently in the context of conflicts of interest, which might be worth exploring in the comparative study.

Short Resumes of the Experts

Jeremy Millard is Associate Research Fellow at Brunel University, UK, and Chief Policy Advisor at the Danish Technological Institute, Denmark. He has forty years' global experience working with governments, development agencies, and private and civil sectors, focusing on how new technical and organisational innovations transform government and the public sector. (jeremy.millard@3mq.org)

Dr. Tilman Hoppe has worked as a judge, as an executive in the financial sector, and as a legal expert for the German Parliament. For several years he has advised the Council of Europe and other international organizations on governance reforms, and is currently implementing an anti-corruption project in Eastern Europe. (info@tilman-hoppe.de)

Agenda

DAY I, 27 April 2015 (Monday)

09:30 – 09:45 **Welcome**

*Mr. Dusan Stojanovic, Director of the Directory for eGovernment
Mr. Goran Pastrovic, ReSPA Programme manager*

09:45 – 10:15 **Presentation of Checklist** (*Tilman Hoppe, Jeremy Millard and Goran Pastrovic*)

10:15 – 11:15 **Country presentations of results of pilot assessments** (*moderated by Tilman Hoppe and Jeremy Millard*)

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 **Country presentations of results of pilot assessments (continued)**

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 15:45 **Plenary discussion: How could the Checklist be improved?** (*moderated by Tilman Hoppe and Jeremy Millard*)

15:45 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00 **Plenary discussion: What next in terms of strategies, legislation, and future activities?** (*moderated by Tilman Hoppe, Jeremy Millard and Goran Pastrovic*)

DAY II, 28 April (Tuesday) 2015

- 09:00 – 09:15 **Objective of 2nd day**
Mr. Goran Pastrovic (ReSPA Training manager)
- 09:15 – 10:30 **Tour de table: status quo of asset declaration reforms** (*Tilman Hoppe*)
- 10:30 – 11:15 **Tour de table: status quo of asset declaration reforms (continued); ways ahead for international data exchange for verifying asset declarations** (*moderated by Tilman Hoppe and Vesna Ratkovic*)
- 11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Review of topics for comparative study on conflict of interest** (*Tilman Hoppe and Vesna Ratkovic*)
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch
- 13.30 Departure of the participants

Enclosures:

- Checklist for Assessment of Risks for Abuse of IT for Corruption
- Western Balkan Recommendation on Disclosure of Finances and Interests by Public Officials
- Draft international agreement on data exchange; feasibility study
- Layout of the comparative study on conflicts of interest