



ReSPA

Regional School
of Public Administration

Launching of the Comparative Study on Conflict of Interest

Tenth Meeting of the Network on Ethics and Integrity

2 – 3 November 2015

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Discussion paper and provisional programme



Background

At the Sixth Meeting of the Ethics and Integrity Working group, 8-9 July 2014, in Vilnius, Lithuania, the members of the Working group decided to dedicate a comparative research to the topic of Conflict of Interest. Conflict of Interest has repeatedly been an issue of concern for the region in the past monitoring reports of OECD, Sigma, EU (EU National Progress Reports), and Evaluation Reports of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO). Further improvement of the legal framework as well as setting up of verification mechanisms are on the strategic or political agenda of several countries in the region.

ReSPA has successfully drafted and published the Comparative study titled "Income and Asset Declarations in Practice" which was launched at the Regional Conference held in Sarajevo on 8 October 2013. The Study provided the basis for achieving relevant and substantial impact with comparative little resources such as: reform measures in several countries being underway; an international standard developed following the Study serves as a benchmark for future monitoring exercises of reform processes in the region (and which includes already some conflicts of interest aspects); an adopted template for an international agreement facilitating data exchange in the region.

Dovetailing the success of the Comparative study on Income and Asset Declarations in Practice, the Comparative study on Conflicts of Interest will be the kick-off for supporting national level reforms in the region. The work on the Comparative Study on Conflict of Interest commenced in early summer 2015, with a meeting of the authors at ReSPA premises. The meeting facilitated a common understanding of all authors of the issues at hands, as well as of the methodology of research to be applied. It is expected that the draft Study will be available for promotion at the meeting in Sarajevo.

Objectives

The meeting in Sarajevo has the following objectives:

- Review of the findings of the Comparative study for each country and to gain initial feedback from professional community
- Exchange of good practices and identifying needs for reform at regional as well as national level
- To enable an in-depth discussion of crucial issues in preventing and managing Conflict of Interest
- Review of the recommendations developed for the regional level
- Identification of follow-up activities for the Ethics and Integrity Working Group in order to substantially support reform processes in the region
- Discuss and programme further activities of the Working group

- Ensuring coordination and streamlining of future actions with key stakeholder Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI)

The meeting will be organised in coordination with the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative Secretariat (RAI). To this end, the Anti-corruption Expert of RAI Secretariat, Mr. Tomislav Curic, together with the Programme and Outreach Officer Mrs. Jasna Panjeta, will participate at the meeting of the Working Group. Partnering with stakeholders is valuable in order to identify complementing activities, make use of synergies, and avoid overlaps in our actions. It also provides a comprehensive overview of the current regional developments in Conflict of Interest and Anti-corruption in general.

Target audience / Participants

The target audiences of the Anticorruption Working group are senior officials of the relevant state institutions (WB) that are responsible for related issues in the process of preventing and combating corruption i.e. heads/deputy heads of anti-corruption agencies, conflict of interest commissions, ministries of justice, etc. Furthermore the meeting will be attended by up to six regional authors of the Study. Participants are expected to have significant practical experience in integrity and anti-corruption, public administration, and to possess knowledge of English language at the working level. Participants are also expected to take active participation and provide hands-on experience from their countries or the region.

ReSPA Experts

Key ReSPA Expert will be *Dr. Tilman Hoppe* who 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. He is currently implementing an anti-corruption project in Eastern Europe. (info@tilman-hoppe.de)

ReSPA Staff

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ReSPA, October, 2015

Agenda

2-3 October 2015, Sarajevo, Hotel “Europa”

Day 1 – Monday

- 09.00 – 09.30 Registration of participants
- 09.30 – 09.45 Welcoming Address by
Dragan Djuric, ReSPA, Programme Manager
Tomislav Curic, Anti-corruption Expert RAI-Secretariat
Introduction to the day, Tilman Hoppe, Expert
- 09.45 – 11.15 Presentation of the Study
“Right or Wrong” – plenary discussion of general assumptions on
Conflict of Interest, and of findings of the Study (Tilman Hoppe)
- 11:15 – 11:30 *Coffee break*
- 11:30 – 13:00 “Best practices – most important reform measures” – Presentations of
WG members
- most prominent, interesting or new best practice
- most outstanding or interesting missing or weak point
Plenary discussion (moderated by Tilman Hoppe)
- 13:00 – 14:15 *Lunch*
- 14:15 – 15:00 “Best practice – most important reform measure” (continued)
- 15:00 – 16:00 In-depth review – breakout session (four focus groups)
- Focus Group 1: Proposals for an **active detection** mechanism (What databases can be checked? Which cross-checking and matching of data is yet unused?)
 - Focus Group 2: How to increase the active role of **supervisors**? (How to incentivise supervisors?)
 - Focus Group 3: **Procurement**: additional tools needed to prevent and detect conflict of interest (statements of non-conflict, verification mechanisms, liability of companies, etc.)
 - Focus Group 4: **Sanctions** (Automatic ban on office? Confiscation? Liability of legal persons? Liability of supervisors? Liability of external parties, such as companies? etc.)

Day 2 – Tuesday

- 09.30 – 10:00 Summary of the first day and expectations from the second day
- 10:00 – 11:00 Recommendations of the Study and follow-up activities
(moderated by Tilman Hoppe)
- 11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee break*
- 11.30 – 12.30 Presentation of draft Programme of Work for the Ethics & Integrity Working Group for 2016 and 2017 (Dragan Djuric, Programme Manager)
Presentation of Programme of Work of RAI for 2016 and 2017 (Tomislav Curic, Anti-corruption Expert of RAI-Secretariat)
- 12:30 – 13:00 ReSPA Programme of Work 2016 – 2017 and potential cooperation with RAI – Plenary discussion (moderated by Dragan Djuric, Tomislav Curic and Tilman Hoppe)
- 13:00 – 14:30 *Lunch*
- Departure of participants