

Opening Conference

**Implementing Shared Anti-Corruption  
and Good Governance Solutions in Southeast Europe:  
Innovative Practices and Public–Private Partnership**

26 May 2021, [Zoom](#)

*Agenda*

- 9:30 CET** *Welcoming Remarks and Introduction*  
**Ruslan Stefanov**, Program Director, Center for Study of Democracy  
**Frode Dal Fjeldavli**, Head, Funds and Horizontal Concerns Unit, EEA and Norway Grants  
**Desislava Gotskova**, Head, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative Secretariat  
**Amer Kapetanovic**, Head, Political Department, Regional Cooperation Council
- Democracy and Governance in Europe in the Next Decade: Challenges and Policy Options*  
*Keynote speakers:*  
**Prof. Alina Mungiu-Pippidi**, Chair, European Research Centre for Anti-Corruption and State Building Research; HERTIE School of Governance
- 9:50 CET** *Plenary: Addressing Challenges to Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe and its Regions*  
**Giulio Venneri**, Head, Centre of Thematic Expertise, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission  
**Tamara Mišerda**, Directorate for European Affairs, International and Judicial Cooperation, Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of Croatia  
**Traicho Traikov**, Mayor of Sredets District, Sofia Municipality and Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism (2009 – 2012)  
**H.E. Haakon Blankenborg**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Republic of Croatia (tbc)  
**Dr. Mihály Fazekas**, Director, Government Transparency Institute, Hungary
- Discussion*  
*Moderator: Dr. David Jackson*, Senior Advisor, U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre Lead, Christian Michelsen Institute, Norway
- Closing: Anti-Corruption and Youth – a Forward Look*  
**Gian Luca Bombarda**, Fund Director for Youth Employment and Regional Cooperation Funds
- 10:30 CET** *Coffee Break*
- 10:45 CET** *Co-Design Breakout Groups: Turning Corruption Measurement Tools into Effective Medium for Anti-Corruption*  
**Group 1: Anti-corruption monitoring**  
*Moderators:*  
**Dr. Alexander Gerganov**, Senior Analyst at the Center for Study of Democracy and Assistant Professor at the Institute Philosophy and Sociology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
**Jorida Shytaj**, Senior Political Advisor, Regional Cooperation Council
- Group 2: Tackling state capture vulnerabilities**  
*Moderators:*  
**Dr. Todor Galev**, Director of Research, Center for Study of Democracy, Bulgaria  
**Aneta Arnaudovska**, Senior Anti-Corruption Advisor, Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative Secretariat
- Group 3: Public procurement governance**  
*Moderators:*  
**Ágnes Czibik**, Managing Director, Government Transparency Institute  
**Daniela Mineva**, Senior Analyst, Economic Program, Center for Study of Democracy
- 12.15 CET** *Closing Plenary*

## Discussion Points

### High-level panel:

- What is the future of Europe in governance?
- Can the US-led drive for democracy and human rights inspire the EU to engage more in SEE? Will the EU choose a different path?
- What can we learn from EU's anti-corruption experience to date?
- Who are the agents of reform pushing the anti-corruption agenda forward?
- Can SEE public and private stakeholders deliver the reforms needed alone?
- How can the EU play a more effective role?
- Do we need a reset of anti-corruption efforts in Central and Southeast Europe? If so, how can we achieve that and what role could the new anti-corruption tools play?
- How could these tools stop the massive kleptocracy and personal enrichment of the politicians; and what checks will protect the future EU funding (incl. the Recovery and Resilience Facility)?

### Questions for Group 1: Anti-corruption monitoring:

- What types of methodologies are missing or not efficiently used? Where should our future analysis focus, e.g.:
  - analyses of the internal policies of public institutions, including: recruitment and promotion of employees; service provision to citizens and businesses (also "consultations" where confidential information could be disclosed); (bribes to avoid) checks and sanctioning; (mis-)management of state-owned enterprises; ethical codes, anti-corruption trainings; rotations; video-surveillance; committees assessing procurement offers, including of external experts, etc.;
  - analysis at mezo and macro level: checks of asset declarations; checks into state aid and signing of large investment deals; public access to information (including open registers); transparency of the media ownership and media funding; laws on lobbying;
  - building capacity for: establishing ultimate ownership of investors, investigating money laundering, setting up open and interconnected public registers and databases, e-government.
- What are the best sources of information and redflags for measuring corruption risks in these areas?
- What type of CSO-lead tools and monitoring will be useful to the public authorities?

### Questions for Group 2: Tackling state capture vulnerabilities

- What types of methodologies are missing or not efficiently used? Where should our analysis focus:
  - lack of integrity, impartiality and private interest bias at the public bodies – the judiciary and media outlets, ministries, state agencies, and regulators;
  - political and institutional capture by private interests;
  - business capture and monopolisation pressure (from national and foreign companies, lobbyist laws, use of legal gaps, political pressure by big investors);
  - media capture, administrative and judicial corruption;
  - direct subsidies and anti-monopoly laws; privileged access to procurement ("strategic investor").
- What are the best sources of information and redflags for measuring state capture risks in these areas?
- What type of CSO-lead tools and monitoring will be useful to the public authorities?

### Questions for Group 3: Public procurement governance

- What methodologies are currently used by the government bodies to prevent fraud, corruption and bias in the public procurement area?
- How could the redflags methodology of Opentender.eu be effectively used for fighting corruption in public procurement in the region?
- How could the methodology and redflags of Opentender.eu be improved? What new redflags could be developed to detect suspicions/high-risk public procurement contracts?
- Discussion on availability of procurement data at the country level and possibilities for cross-border merging and comparison of data.

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