"Challenges and Follow up"

Eleventh Meeting of the Network on Ethics and Integrity

16 June 2016

Brussels (Belgium)

Discussion paper and provisional programme

Background

Checklist on IT-corruption

In 2014, ReSPA published a **Comparative Study** on "Abuse of Information Technology for Corruption".[1] The Study reveals a wide range of patterns how offenders abuse IT in the public sector for committing corruption offences across the Western Balkan region. At the same time, the Study indicated apparent gaps in the security framework of public sector IT.

In view of above lack of a benchmark and guidance, ReSPA decided to step up and develop a tool for assessing risks in public sector IT. With the help of two international experts on integrity and IT, it developed a "**Checklist** for Assessment of Risks for Abuse of IT for Corruption". The Checklist contains 52 detailed questions.

In spring 2015, ReSPA piloted the draft checklist in eight public institutions of the region. A workshop in May 2015 in Belgrade gave opportunity for members of the ReSPA eGovernment and Ethics&Integrity Working Groups to review the results of the first piloting phase. Overall, the piloting showed that public institutions would only fully comply with 27% of the benchmarks for having a safe IT system, and be **not compliant** in 40% of the cases.

Thus, the piloting phase confirmed the importance of risk assessments in this area and the need for further action. Following the workshop in Belgrade, ReSPA changed some of the Checklist's questions and amended it with **explanatory notes** in order to ensure that the Checklist would be understood by a wide range of practitioners who were not yet familiar with the issue at hands.

Ever since, ReSPA has supported the further application of the updated Checklist in the region mainly through its eGovernment Network.

Training activities

ReSPA is currently cooperating with the **Center for Integrity in Defense Sector** – CIDS (Norway) and the **Institute of Law** (Belgrade). The aim of the cooperation is researching and drafting a textbook on the framework and state of play regarding integrity in the region. Chapters of the textbook include in particular: human resource management, free access to information, conflict of interest, internal financial control, administrative proceedings and public procurement.

ReSPA could use this textbook for developing a Training of Trainers on Integrity (ToT). For this activity, the National Schools or Human Resource Management Authorities could be included. The textbook will be completed in June 2017, while possible training could be

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[1]

http://www.respaweb.eu/download/doc/Abuse+of+Information+Technology+%28IT%29+for+Corruption.pdf/d867df158b864e8c843c15e5eece5016.pdf.

organised by ReSPA in autumn 2017. The training modules should be as interactive as possible consisting of several parts, for example: What is corruption? How to fight it? How to solve ethical dilemmas? What is a whistleblower and how to deal with it properly? The training module could use exercises, mock trials, role plays, policy discussions, simulated investigations, etc. in order engage participants actively.

Detecting conflict of interest

There seems to be no methodology available so far in- or outside the Western Balkan region on what the patterns of hidden conflict of interest are, and how to detect them. ReSPA could draft the first methodology on this issue. Oversight institutions of Member States could integrate this methodology into their work (as could possibly NGOs). This activity will dovetail and further ensure impact of the ReSPA "Comparative Study on Conflict of Interest" (2015).

e-Participation

E-participation is about fostering civic engagement and open, participatory governance through ICT. It is a tool for engagement and strengthened collaboration between governments and citizens, both for the empowerment of individual citizens and for the benefit of society as a whole. In addition to promoting participation in policy-making, the overall objective of e-participation is to improve access to information and public services, as well as the understanding of, and engagement in, administrative and other governance processes. ReSPA is supporting e-participation reforms in the region through a "General Roadmap on E-Participation and Open Government". The Roadmap is a comprehensive document of 65 pages which elaborates the development process structured around the following three main chapters:

1. Transparency
2. Engagement
3. Collaboration

Objectives

The meeting in Brussels has the following objectives:

- Review to what extent the Checklist on IT-corruption has been applied in Member States and how its application could be enhanced throughout the region.

- Bring members of the Working Group up to date on integrity related activities of ReSPA:
  - Integrity research
  - e-Participation

- Review the plan of activities for 2017, possibly including Training of Trainers on anti-corruption and development of the methodology for detecting the conflict of interest.

- Identify and plan activities for the Working Group for 2018.

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. 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

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. He is currently implementing several anti-corruption activities in the Western Balkans and beyond (info@tilman-hoppe.de)

Igor Todoroski … (short bio to be added)

ReSPA Staff

Ranka Bartula-Musikic, Programme Manager - r.bartula@respaweb.eu
Goran Pastrovic, Programme Manager - g.pastrovic@respaweb.eu

ReSPA, 15 May 2017

DRAFT AGENDA

Friday, 16 June 2017

07.30 – 07.45	**Welcome and introduction**
07.45 – 08.45	**Institutionalisation of the Check list,** *Ms. Dragana Krunic*
	Discussion
	Albania
	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Kosovo*²
	Macedonia
	Montenegro
	Serbia
08.45 – 09.00	**Presentation of cooperation with the Centre for Integrity in the Defence Sector (CIDS),** *Dragana Krunic & Ranka Bartula-Musikic*
09.00 – 10.00	**Presentation of the current activities on integrity in respective countries with focus on training**
	Albania
	Bosnia and Herzegovina
	Kosovo*
	Macedonia
	Montenegro
	Serbia
10.00 – 10.15	*Coffee break*
10.15 – 10.45	***Presentation of eParticipation study***
	Mr. Igor Todoroski, Goran Pastrovic
10.45 - 12.00	***Future ReSPA activities and support mechanisms,***
	Presentation of ReSPA activities in E&I planned for 2017
	Presentation of support mechanisms: Mechanism for in-country support for urgent needs and Peer to Peer
	Discussion on the possible activities for 2018
	Tilman Hoppe, Ranka Bartula-Musikic, Goran Pastrovic
	Wrap up and conclusion
12.00 - 14.00	**Lunch**

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² **This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence,* in accordance with "Arrangements Regarding Regional Representation and Cooperation - Rev10 RC 23/02/2012".