

# BLOW THE THE WHISTLE

LAW ON WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION SOON TO BE ADOPTED IN The Federation OF BIH At the emergency session held on March 28, the FBiH Government adopted the FBiH Draft Law on Whistleblowers Protection. The Law has been sent to the Federation Parliament and will be the subject of two readings. The interested public will have the opportunity to provide their expert comments between the first and second readings. On behalf of the Anti-Corruption Network of Civil Society Organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina - ACCOUNT, JUSTICIA / Srebrenik, the leading organization of the Sector Group Whistleblowers, participated in the development of the Draft Law. JUSTICIA presented the main aspects of this law to the monitoring team for development of the Draft Law at a joint meeting on March 26, 2018 in Sarajevo. All members of the team (KAM / Zenica, CRCD / Doboj, ALDI / Goražde, CROA / Sarajevo, CGS / Livno, JUSTICIA / Srebrenik) will participate in public discussions on the draft law before its adoption. The team will, inter alia, advocate for introducing a provision whereby those individuals who report corruption are exempted from paying court fees before the judgment is issued, in accordance with the laws governing court fees.

**RESEARCH BY JUSTICIA: Seven** institutions received corruption reports in the past period

The JUSTICIA Association conducted a research "Assessing the Effects of Anti-Corruption Regulations and Monitoring the Effects of the BiH Law on Protection of Whistleblowers", which included 60 state institutions. Among other findings of the survey, it was determined that 7 institutions received reports on corruption cases in the past period, and that 5 of them received reports from citizens. The most common reasons for such a small number of reports, indicated by the respondents, are the fear of retaliation, mistrust in the mechanisms of protection, or absence of corruption in their institutions.



# TRAINING

On March 27 and 28, 2018, Education for judges and prosecutors from Bosnia and Herzegovina in the field of public procurement was held in Doboj. The training was organized by USAID's projects - Justice Project in BiH and ACCOUNT in tandem, as well as with the entity - level Education Centers for Judges and Prosecutors. Through the lectures on "Public procurement in BiH - Identification of corruption in public procurement", judges and prosecutors had the opportunity to learn how to achieve successful accusations in cases of corruption in public procurement, what are the indicators and the most common forms of corruption, and what the priorities in the investigations are. Representatives of the Public Procurement Agency of BiH, the Office for the Review of Appeals, prosecutors of the Special Prosecution Office of Macedonia and the judges of the Supreme Court of Cassation from Serbia took part in the training.



Education for judges and prosecutors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Doboj

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# THIRD CYCLE OF FINANCING OF MONITORING TEAMS - SELECTED LEAD ORGANIZATIONS

The Center for Media Development and Analysis (CRMA) as the implementer and INFOHOUSE as the main partner of ACCOUNT activity, financially supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), announced on February 19, 2018 the invitation to the interested members from the ACCOUNT Network to submit project proposals focused on monitoring activities. After evaluation of the submitted project proposals, the following are the best evaluated organizations that have been selected as the leaders in the areas of:

- Public Procurement Association Justicia / Srebrenik
- Education Women's Rights Center / Zenica
- Whistleblowers Protection Center for Civil Society Development / Doboj
- · Health Foundation for Development and Democracy / Sarajevo
- Employment Center for Civic Cooperation / Livno

The third funding cycle will be awarded for a period of six months, starting no later than April 2018 and ending in October 2018.

#### #notocorruptionineducation



#### The first Anti-Corruption Youth Forum Held in Mostar

No.i\_/2018 March **2018** 

On March 28, 2018, the first Anti-Corruption Youth Forum was held in Mostar on "The Impact of Anti-Corruption Education on the Change of Youth Perception on Corruption." The Forum was organized by the Center for the Development of Youth Activism (CROA), the purpose of which was to open a youth dialogue on the perceived level of corruption in education in BiH; in which areas it appears, and in what way it is manifested, but also how anti-corruption education affects the perception of youth on corruption.

In an introductory speech, the CROA Director, Zafir Šišić, explained the main idea of the project of investigating the perception of corruption in education in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Panelists, representatives of educational institutions, representatives of the government institutions and nongovernmental sector, representatives of the Youth Council as well as students pointed to a multitude of problems in the education system, starting from the increasingly frequent occurrence of numerous irregularities (bribery, corruption) to the curricula in which the final goals of education are not clearly defined, the problems faced by teaching and scholarly staff in the educational process, and the lack of unified codes of ethics in educational institutions in BiH.

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#### "Mini Detector of Corruption"

#### 41% of young people are intolerant to corruption

Corruption does not exist in their universe. They represent a classical example of a "nerd", someone who follows the rules and laws blindly, does not engage in calculations, does not seek other solutions, but strictly adheres to moral principles and observes the rules. These are highly moral persons, consistent, persistent, totally objective. They are always trying to fight for truth and justice.

#### 31% of young people Intolerant to corruption

These are people who respect the rules and their behavior in corrupt situations is in accordance with the general norms. People who attribute greater importance to moral values do not tolerate injustice, do not accept the idea that corruption is an integral part of everyday life simply because "they all do it" and because "it cannot be different".

#### 15% of young people on the verge of losing relevant and normative orientations

Their reaction to the social state is the adoption of various forms of deviant behavior, within which it is difficult to draw the line between the socially acceptable "circumvention" of regulations, the relativizing of moral norms and the open practice of immorality and corruption.

#### 13% of young people accept corruption as an everyday phenomenon

Although they have a certain negative opinion on corruption, they do not have too many problems to make use of particular advantages of a situation. They are lazy in terms of taking a personal attitude, they are likely to adapt to the environment, giving socially acceptable and desirable answers, and they follow a line of lesser resistance. They function according to the principle of service for service, putting their needs to the forefront. They look for getting the best for themselves, regardless of possible long-term consequences.



## **CROA** Anti-corruption Classes

No.i\_/2018 March 2018

Within the project "Prevention of Corruption through Education: More Knowledge, More Transparency!" students of Business and Commerce School in Sarajevo and Secondary Technical School in Travnik held an anti-corruption day where they were introduced to the causes of corruption, the consequences of corruption, and the prevention of corruptive behaviors.



#### Putin's Night Wolves come to Bosnia and Herzegovina

The online magazine Žurnal, as in previous months, continues to investigate corruption, crime and abuse of public responsibilities and budget funds across the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its journalists <u>reveal the abuses by the Director of the Financial Information Agency, the illegal public procurement of EYOF 2019 Ltd.</u> Also, <u>it has been revealed that 2.2 million KM was allocated to the veteran associations</u>; that <u>war criminals are supported by budgetary funds, along with the publication of their list.</u>

In the Žurnal, you can also read about <u>how Chinese investors have given up on investment in FARMALAND</u> due to false data; that victims of pedophilia seek justice before a court in London; how privatization processes destroyed thousands of lives; how former convict Ivan Tabak became Secretary of NS of Canton 10; why Block 6 of Thermal Power Plant Tuzla was extinguished; and why the coal mine of Banovići buys explosives at high prices; but also how the Civil Protection Unit spent 240,000 KM for a unit that does not exist.

#### Read the Journal!

# **MEDIA POOL - A NEW CYCLE OF FUND AWARDS**

In order to strengthen the network of independent investigative media and individual journalists dedicated to investigative work in the area of corruption, ACCOUNT continues to provide financial support to media and individual journalists throughout BiH.

Within the five-month funding cycle, a total of 10 media from Bosnia and Herzegovina, members of the ACCOUNT Media Pool, will be supported. During this period, the media will pay attention to the development of content in the field of investigative journalism in the project areas, raising public awareness of the problem of corruption and empowering anti-corruption initiatives.



#### **ACCOUNT Media pool**

No.i\_/2018 March 2018

## #notocorruptionatthelocallevel

## Strengthening the capacity of local communities to prevent corruption

#### **HELSINKI COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

As part of the project "Strengthening the Capacities of Local Communities for the Prevention of Corruption", implemented under the Small Grants Program of the Anticorruption Network in BiH - ACOUNT, after establishing cooperation with representatives of local administrations in Zavidovići, Banovići and Domaljevac, representatives of Helsinki Human Rights Committee joined the Working Group for meetings and participated in the preparation of the local action plans for the prevention and fight against corruption in these municipalities.

In March, the third meeting of the Working Group in the Banovići Municipality was held, where the preparation of the Action Plan for the Prevention of Corruption is in the final stage.



#### ICVA / ALDI

The partner organizations Initiative and Civil Action (ICVA) / Sarajevo, ALDI / Gorazde, and the Government of the Bosnia-Podrinje Canton, engaged in fight against corruption, organized expert discussion and presentation of guidelines / regulations for preventing corruption in public health institutions on March 13, 2018.

This discussion is part of an initiative for cooperation and joint action of relevant institutions and civil society organizations in improving the institutional system for prevention of corruption in the health sector.



On that occasion, ICVA presented a draft of a rule book / policies and procedures for the prevention of corruption in health institutions in Sarajevo and Zenica-Doboj cantons. During the discussion, the participants had the opportunity to provide suggestions and proposals in order to get acquainted with the advantages of introducing such a rulebook.

#### **CGS LIVNO**

On March 6, 2018, Čapljina adopted the Action Plan for Combating Corruption at the local level (2018-2023).

#### KAM ZENICA

After completing the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the self-assessment of the areas that are exposed to corruption and workshops on the preparation of action plans for the fight against corruption based on the analysis, the Working Groups of the Travnik and Žepče municipalities have started the preparation of the Action Plans, while Visoko is the first municipality in 2018 that adopted the Action Plan for Prevention of Corruption. The consequences of corruption in practice include poor public services, increased social polarization, inefficiency in public services, low investment in the municipality, reduction of economic growth, inadequate treatment of citizens by municipal officials. Although there is no a unique recipe for combating corruption at the local level, the development of anti-corruption action plans has proven to be a good preventative format.



Signing on the Action Plan, Visoko



### **Read INTERVIEW.BA**

Interview.ba continues to attract new readers from day to day. In addition to interviews and the most current news, you can now read the columns of Dženana Alađuz, Ozren Kebo and Dragan Bursać on the portal.



We continue to report on the activities of the Anti-corruption Network of Civil Society Organizations in BiH - ACCOUNT.



# WE ANNOUNCE!!!

• April 19, 2018 - The second anti-corruption forum of municipalities and cities in BiH

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