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ANTI-CORRUPTION
CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS
UNIFIED NETWORK

ACCOUNT



U SLUČJU POTREBE NAZBITI STAVI O

FBIH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROVED THE DRAFT LAW ON PROTECTION OF PERSONS WHO REPORT CORRUPTION

In an extraordinary session and by majority vote, The House of Representatives of the Federation Parliament approved the Draft Law on the Protection of Persons who Report Corruption. This law was proposed by the Federation Government. In its drafting, representatives of the Anti-corruption Network of Non-Governmental Organizations in BiH – ACCOUNT- also took part.

The aim of the law is to suppress corruption and ensure an effective system of protecting whistleblowers from any form of threat or violation of rights that might be related to their reporting. Every person has the right, in good faith, to report any form of corruption in the public or private sector, regardless of the way in which a corruption case was disclosed.

Ervin Turbić, the director of JUSTICIA Association and member of the Working Group of the Ministry of Justice of the Federation of BiH for the drafting of the law on the protection of persons who report corruption, believes that this draft law brings good solutions because the citizens of FBiH will finally have legal protection in case of reporting corruption. Such protection has earlier been ensured for citizens of Republika Srpska and employees of BiH institutions.

"As for further steps, I assume that the FBiH Parliament will order the Ministry to call for public hearings within the shortest deadline possible," said Ervin Turbic.

He invited all social stakeholders to engage in a public debate in order to make sure that a law which provides the best protection for corruption reporting in the Federation is accepted.

In What Way and in Which Case does The Law Offer Protection to Whistleblowers?



Every person has the right, in good faith, to report any form of corruption in the public or private sector, regardless of the way in which such a case was disclosed.

It is forbidden to abuse the reporting of corruption by providing information for which a whistleblower is aware not to be true at the time of reporting. In case of corruption reporting, the responsible or authorized person shall take all measures with the aim of detecting, preventing, suppressing and punishing all forms of corruption, as well as providing protection to a whistleblower.

As defined, a good faith belief is the one which contains the facts on the basis of which a whistleblower suspects that an act of corruption has been attempted or committed that he or she is aware of and which he or she considers to be true.

Protected reporting may be either internal or external. An internal whistleblower informs the responsible or authorized person of the facts on the basis of which he / she suspects that an individual supervised by the responsible person is involved in an attempt of or in actual corruption. External reporting is, among other things, made in the event when a whistleblower has reason to believe that the responsible or authorized person to whom a reporting is made may directly or indirectly be connected with corruption.

Protected reporting means publishing through means of public information or otherwise making information publicly available, indicating an attempted corruption, already committed or in progress. In the procedure of judicial protection of the rights of whistleblowers and the rights of other persons who undergo harmful actions, the Municipal Court is competent according to the place of occurrence of a harmful activity or according to the place of residence or place of residence of the plaintiff.

The burden of proof is on the defendant who proves the legality, the integrity, and the objective justification, or non-existence of acts, acts or failures that are identified in the complaint as a harmful act.

WHISTLEBLOWING SECTOR GROUP

The Draft Law on Protection of Persons Who Report Corruption in the Federation of BiH presented at the Forum for Protection of Whistleblowers



Forum on protection of whistleblowers, Sarajevo

The leader of the Whistleblowing Sector Group, JUSTICIA Association, organized a Forum on the Protection of Whistleblowers on June 14 in Sarajevo.

The forum was organized within the Anti-corruption Network of Non-Governmental Organizations in BiH – ACCOUNT- in order to contribute to the improvement of cooperation between representatives of legislators on one and civil sector and the media on the other side who should work together on the construction of an efficient system for protecting whistleblowers, with special emphasis on the Draft Law on Protection of Persons Who Report Corruption in The Institutions of The Federation of BiH.

Participants in the Forum included representatives of the Working Group of the Ministry of Justice of the Federation of BiH who were engaged in the drafting of the Law on the Protection of Persons Who Report Corruption in the Federation of BiH, civil society organizations - members of the ACCOUNT Network Group, representatives of the Government of the Federation of BiH, members of the anti-corruption teams of cantonal governments, as well as the media - members of the media pool of the ACCOUNT Network.

Representatives of the Working Group for drafting the Law on Protection of Persons Who Report Corruption in the Federation of BiH officially presented the Draft Law which was adopted after first reading in the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Federation of BiH on June 20, 2018.

EMPLOYMENT SECTOR GROUP

Analysis of the legislative framework in the area of employment in the public sector presented



Meeting with the Government of Posavina Canton

The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, as the lead organization of the Employment Sector Group, held a series of meetings with representatives of cantonal governments (prime ministers, representatives of corruption fighting action teams) in the period from June 6 to 27, 2018. The meetings were organized within the framework of the implementation of the final activities on “Equal Opportunities - Transparency in Employment in The Public-Sector II Project.



Meeting with the Government of Una-Sana Canton

The meetings presented the findings of the Analysis of the Legislative Framework in the Field of Employment in the Public Sector, with a special emphasis on the existence of legal regulations that would regulate the way of conducting oral interviews and scoring candidates in employment in public services. The analysis covered the legislative framework in the field of public sector employment in the following cantons: Central Bosnia, Posavina, Zenica-Doboj, Tuzla, Una-Sana, Bosnian-Podrinje and Canton 10. During the meetings, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights again handed out the Rulebook on the method of conducting oral interviews and employment in public services, along with a cover letter. The Rulebook was created within the ACCOUNT network as a model that can be used for the improvement of by-laws in the field of employment

Training on identifying corruption risks in regulations continued

As part of the training *"Identification of Corruption Risks in Regulations"* organized by the INFOHOUSE Foundation, representatives of civil organizations who are members of ACCOUNT Network, continued the discussion on proposals for identifying corruption risks in the Law on Free Legal Aid.

The training is being carried out in cooperation with the USAID's project *"Strengthening the Institutions of Government and Processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina"*. The participants have already undergone several trainings related to detecting corruption risks in anti-corruption laws.

Representatives of civil organizations came from the Association KAM (Zenica), the Women's Rights Center (Zenica), ICVA Association (Sarajevo), ALDI Association (Goražde), Center for Civil Initiatives (Bijeljina), and Center for the Development of Civil Society (Doboj).



Representatives of civil organizations in "Identification of Corruption Risk in Legal Regulations" training

"It is always good to see and learn something new. So far, we have only succeeded in identifying some illogicalities. However, the new knowledge provides me with different glasses through which I look when it comes to laws and the perception of corruption risks," said Milan Mirić, ICVA's representative.

Mirhunisa Bektaš from the Association KAM thanked the organizers of the training for the knowledge she has so far gained in this field.

"I had the opportunity to attend various types of trainings. This is certainly one of the best," said Baktaš.

ROUND TABLE "AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN BIH"

A step towards better and more efficient legislation



Round Table "Amendments to the Law on Public Procurement", Sarajevo

The event provided representatives of the business community, contracting authorities, the judiciary, auditing institutions and trainers in public procurement with an opportunity to provide comments and recommendations for amendments to the Public Procurement Law.

After co-operation with the Working Group of the Council of Ministers of BiH who prepared amendments to the Public Procurement Law of BiH, ACCOUNT has actively been involved in the process of public debate on the proposed legal solutions. The round table provided an opportunity for interested target groups to come out with comments, suggestions and recommendations for further improvement of the law. The event brought together representatives of the business community, judiciary, auditing institutions, public procurement trainers, and non-governmental sector.

"The amendments to the Law include input by all who can contribute to its improvement. The non-governmental sector, ACCOUNT Network, and Transparency International are doing their best to make sure that the law includes an anti-corruption component. We are investing enormous energy into efforts that will ensure that the Public Procurement Law becomes more efficient and anti-corruptive," said Eldin Karić, director of ACCOUNT.

The Round Table held on June 21, 2018 in Sarajevo included participation of representatives of Public Procurement Agency, members of Working Group for amendments to the Public Procurement Law, representatives of the Court of BiH, the Prosecutor's Office of BiH, trainers in public procurement, representatives of business community, government institutions, contracting authorities, etc.



Round Table "Amendments to the Law on Public Procurement", Sarajevo

ANTI-CORRUPTION YOUTH FORUM

Young people from Sarajevo are aware of corruption and are ready to fight it

Students believe that corruption is very present in education and think that we are all part of the corruption chain. They are therefore skeptical of our judicial system. All these conclusions came as a result of the Anti-Corruption Youth Forum in Sarajevo organized by the Center for the Development of Youth Activism CROA and supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID / BiH) and the Anti-Corruption Network of Civil Society Organizations in BiH – ACCOUNT Network.

The forum was held in the American Corner premises in Sarajevo with the purpose of opening a youth dialogue on the perceived level of corruption in education in BiH, discussing questions such as in which areas it occurs, how it is manifested and how anti-corruption education affects the change in perception of youth regarding corruption.



Also, the forum was an opportunity for the general public to get acquainted with the results of the project *"Prevention of Corruption in Education: More Knowledge, More Transparency"* currently implemented by the Association CROA with the support from ACCOUNT Project in more than 40 elementary schools in BiH.

The forum was attended by students from the elementary school *"Safvet beg Bašagić"*, *"Pofalići"* elementary school, *"Ilidža primary school"*, *"Seventh elementary school"* Ilidža, *"Second elementary school"* Ilidža, high school students from *"Fifth High School"*, business-commercial and trade school, and Fourth High School *"Ilidža"*. The forum was also attended by students of the Faculty of Educational Sciences of the University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Sarajevo, and the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Pale.

Young people actively engaged in discussions, showing great interest and desire to work on suppression and prevention of corruption in education that they are often encountered with.

ACCOUNT JOURNALISM PRIZES AWARDED

Žana Gauk and Semir Mujkić produced the best investigative reports on corruption

This year's winners of the ACCOUNT prize for best journalistic research into corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina are Žana Gauk for the article *"Medicinal Devices in BiH are Dying Away Due to Corruption and Incompetence"*, published on the Business Portal Capital.ba, and Semir Mujkić, journalist of the Balkan Research Network BIRN for the text and video entitled "Children are Waiting for Safe Goal Nets Due to Misspelling", published on the Detektor.ba portal.

"It is a great honor to be a winner, especially since this recognition comes from editors of media companies throughout BiH. I hope that next year there will be more journalists who will deal with journalism in this way, not because of rewards, but in order to fulfill our task - investigate, document, point out irregularities, call names, and change the situation in society. For if it is not investigative, it is not journalism either," said Žana Gauk, winner of the ACCOUNT Prize for Best Written Research.

Semir Mujkić received the award for best research in multimedia content, for written and video report on problems related to procurement of safe goal nets in the Federation of BiH. Money for the purchase of safe goal nets was allocated after the death of a boy in the Sarajevo settlement Dobrinja in October 2015. Mujkić says that the ACCOUNT Journalism Award means a lot because it is almost impossible to get the response from state institutions related with obvious irregularities that the journalists prove in their texts. Therefore, such prizes are rare recognitions for journalistic work and are also the opportunity for reporters to highlight the importance of their stories.

This year, 37 works were received for the competition. In his speech at the award ceremony, Eldin Karić, the executive director of the Media Development and Analysis Center that manages the ACCOUNT project, said he regretted the fact that relatively few applications had been submitted to the competition.



Siniša Vukelić, editor of Capital.ba, Žana Gauk, Eldin Karić, Semir Mujkić, Denis Džidić, editor of Detektor.ba



Denis Džidić, Semir Mujkić



Siniša Vukelić, Žana Gauk, Eldin Karić

"This shows that there is a low level of investigative journalism in BiH. The reason for this may be the lack of financial resources or the fact that the media do not dare to explore the topics at the end of which are people who run this country," said Karić and emphasized that since the beginning of this year, ACCOUNT, together with a dozen media, has intensified investigative journalism activities, and expressed hope that these activities will contribute to a greater degree of public awareness.

The jury for the ACCOUNT Journalism Prize included Vildana Selimbegović, editor-in-chief of Oslobodjenje, Gordana Milinković, news editor and deputy editor-in-chief of Nezavisne novine, Štefica Galić, the main and responsible participant of Tačno.net portal, Radenko Udovičić, media expert, and Amarildo Gutić, journalist of the online magazine Journal.

This is the sixth year in a row in which ACCOUNT awards journalists for outstanding efforts in detecting corruption in BiH. The ACCOUNT Prize aims to promote investigative journalism and encourage the media to deal with this kind of journalism that serves the best interests of the public.

Read the detailed report of the ACCOUNT Journalism Award - [here](#).

"REFORM OF THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT SYSTEM IN BIH" CONFERENCE

Citizens do not see corruption "at first hand," but they feel it through a bad economy

"Public procurement is the most commonly cited problem in the context of systemic corruption. This is mainly because public procurements constitute the bulk of economic activity in the country. Corruption in public procurement is measured by millions. I know that citizens do not see first-hand corruption in public procurement, but they feel it. It is felt through poor economy, lack of jobs and poor quality of social services," said the U.S. Ambassador to BiH Maureen Cormack as she opened the Conference **"Reform of the Public Procurement System in BiH"** organized by ACCOUNT on June 19, 2018 in cooperation with Transparency International and the Public Procurement Agency of BiH.

Ambassador Cormack said that civil society and the media are part of the solution.



Participants in the Conference, Sarajevo

"The U.S. government supports civil society organizations and journalists' investigation because they represent citizens. They do well for citizens when they demand greater transparency and accountability in the public procurement system of this country. They are citizens' voice and a valuable source of expertise and are ready to be a partner to the government in the reform process," said Cormack.

At the Conference, the activities of institutions and civil society organizations on the improvement of the Public Procurement Law were presented.

Djenan Salčin, the director of the Public Procurement Agency, said that they are aware that the existing law does have its shortcomings and that the Working Group for Amendments to the Public Procurement Law did its job.

"I would highlight three key issues that are proposed to be introduced through amendments: we proposed the introduction of public procurement inspector; we worked a lot on the conflict of interest; we proposed the introduction of a criminal offense in public procurement. The draft law has no alternative. It must be adopted if we want progress", said the director of the Agency.



Maureen Cormack, U.S. Ambassador to BiH

Eldin Karić, the director of the Anti-Corruption Network in BiH-ACCOUNT- said that the existing public procurement system was not satisfactory and that ACCOUNT is discovering abuses on a daily basis. He thanked the Public Procurement Agency for opening the possibility for non-governmental sector to become involved in the process of amending the existing Public Procurement Law.

"However, I must also say that a large part of the proposals by the non-governmental sector for amending the law has not been considered. The working group was looking for the effectiveness of the law while we were concerned about corruption. Also, the Law is just a letter on paper. We want more efficient implementation, which is the task of all institutions of the system, primarily auditors and judiciary, not only of the Public Procurement Agency," said Karić.

Lars Gunnar Wigemark, head of the European Union Delegation to BiH, said that the EU has absolutely recognized the problem of corruption in public procurement.

"It is important to have a transparent and reliable public procurement system. Public procurement according to Aquis is one of the 35 chapters that BiH needs to harmonize with. When these amendments to the Law enter the parliamentary procedure, we are ready to provide an opinion on the quality of the proposed changes, if requested by the responsible bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina to do so", said Wigemark.

COOPERATION WITH TEAMS FOR FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION OF UNA-SANA AND POSAVINA CANTONS

Training on development of integrity plans held

ACCOUNT has continued successful cooperation with the cantonal Anti-Corruption Teams. After the Sarajevo training, trainings on development of integrity plans for public institutions, companies and businesses were organized in Una-Sana and Posavina cantons. The training was held on June 6, 2018 in Bihać and on June 26, 2018 in Orašje. The Integrity Plan is an internal anti-corruption document that came as a result of self-assessment of the institution's exposure to the risks of corruption, corruptive behavior and other forms of irregularities, as well as unethical and unprofessional behavior. The document envisions measures and activities of legal and practical nature in order to prevent and eliminate irregularities caused by any form of corruption or unethical behavior.

Development of Integrity Plans in Republika Srpska

In Republika Srpska, the development and adoption of integrity plans has also been continued.

Out of 64 municipalities / towns in Republika Srpska, 43 adopted their integrity plans in 2017. Expressed in percentages, this means that 53% of municipal institutions in Republika Srpska have their integrity plans already in place.

Development of capacities of local administration in designing of anti-corruption strategic documents, primarily anti-corruption action plans at the local level in the Federation of BiH, as well as integrity plans in Republika Srpska remains in the focus of the Anti-Corruption Network of Non-Governmental Organizations in BiH - ACCOUNT.

ACCOUNT conducts educational activities in cooperation with the Agency for Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption (APIK).



Education for civil servants of Una-Sana Canton, Bihać

Training for Employees of Centers for Providing Free Legal Aid in Republika Srpska

Representatives of INFOHOUSE Foundation, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice of Republika Srpska, conducted the first training for employees in the centers for providing free legal aid in Banja Luka, Trebinje, Doboj, Bijeljina and Eastern Sarajevo.

The subject of training is the role that centers play in the implementation of the Law on the Protection of Persons Who Report Corruption in Republika Srpska. Among other things, representatives of ACCOUNT's Free Legal Aid Team presented practical examples and ways in which whistleblowers can be protected.

Providing free legal aid to citizens by ACCOUNT is of a multiple importance. It is primarily reflected in the fact that legal counselors, when analyzing corruption reports, may determine the existence of criminal elements. In such cases, they may submit criminal complaints to prosecutor's office. This, by all means, may have a positive effect on the general environment of fight against corruption.

Also, even in cases when legal counselors do not determine the existence of criminal act, they still may provide whistleblowers with legal advice and guidance significant for the protection of their rights. By the same token, "filtering" of corruption reports through ACCOUNT'S legal aid may be beneficial for the work of prosecutors as such reports shall be free of obviously insupportable allegations while the reports they receive from ACCOUNT are adequately justified.



Model of Rulebook Presented to Health Institutions in Zenica-Doboj Canton

In May 2018, a panel discussion was held presenting a model of the Rulebook for Preventing Corruption in Health Institutions in Zenica-Doboj canton at the level of five municipalities, i.e., five health centers (Kakanj, Zenica, Žepče, Zavidovići, Vareš). Institutions will consider the model of the rulebook and adjust certain provisions to their individual size and capacities.



The Chairman of the Zenica-Doboj cantonal government's team for fight against corruption, Meliha Omershpahić, emphasized the necessity for adoption of such a document by health institutions, in accordance with the Action Plan and Strategy of the canton for fight against corruption.

INFOHOUSE has produced two publications that are directly related to technical support in the implementation of project components related to public advocacy for legislative changes and the development of anti-corruption action plans at the local level:

<http://infohouse.ba/images/publikacije/vodic%20za%20nvo.pdf>

<http://infohouse.ba/images/publikacije/Kum%20analiza%20Infohouse%20pdf.pdf>



Guide for representatives of non-governmental organizations: Everything you ever wanted to know about Parliament but were afraid to ask



Consolidated analysis of self-assessment questionnaires and recommendations for defining strategic objectives and measures in the framework of action plans for combating corruption at the local level in nine municipalities

Journal Was the first to Draw Attention to Manipulation with the Criminal Law of the BiH Federation

The Anti-Corruption Network of Civil Society Organizations in BiH – ACCOUNT- reacted on the adoption of the Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH by the FBiH Parliament. In the reaction of ACCOUNT, it was pointed out that Journal was the first and only to speak up by publishing the article entitled **"The House of Representatives adopted amendments to the law: the criminal offense that Sarajlić, Kukić and Zukić are accused of is abolished!"** on June 19, 2018, immediately after the adoption of the Draft Law by the FBiH Parliament. The article clearly indicates that the Draft Law decriminalizes corruption instead of being a key tool for its prosecution. The Journal argumentatively states that the background for proposing such a legal solution is to prevent prosecution of high political officials in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Asim Sarajlić, member of the BiH Parliament, Mirsad Kukić, member of FBiH Parliament, and Amir Zukić, member of the FBiH Parliament.



NEW JOURNAL DOSSIER

TV JOURNAL PRESENTS

Criminal Actions in the Fund for Employment of Persons with Disabilities



In the Journal, read the dossier on how the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Fund for Persons with Disabilities, headed by an unlawfully appointed director, has spent more than 50 million KM of budget money in the last three years alone. The journal brings a series of articles on how SDP's staff spent incentives funds for buying cars, business premises and solarium purchases, as well as how SDA cadres spent money from the same funds on cars and for covering their poor business, revealing how the chain of directors were in possession of millions of marks. In the dossier, we announce which companies will receive money from the Fund this year.

The Journal reporters also researched into the organization of the criminal group **"Brigade"**, abuse in the tax administration of the Republika Srpska, how a member of the BiH Presidency Dragan Čović pays for his travel to the Football World Cup with public money, and the evasion of taxes in Prijedor's Acelor Mittal Company, as well as into numerous other misuses of public funds.

Read the Journal!

State vs. David



Journal's film "State versus David" recounts David Dragičević's last hour of life, comparing the contradictory police findings with evidence from the family, and points to a specific phenomenon of the civil protest by "Justice for David" group.

Twenty-one-year-old David Dragičević was found dead on March 24 this year. The police treat his death as an accident or suicide. Additionally, David was described as robber and drug addict. For more than two months, David's father Davor and his friends and thousands of individuals gathered in the "Justice for David" group point out that the true truth is contained in several sentences: David Dragičević did not commit suicide! David Dragičević is not a robber! David Dragičević is not a junkie! David Dragičević was killed!

Davor Dragičević, Borislav Radovanović, Slobodan Vasković, Darko Čulum, Daniela Ratešić, Emilija Zebić, Marija Popović, Jelena Komljen speak about this case in the film.

See the film "State vs. David" here.

ACCOUNT MEDIA POOL REVEALS AND INVESTIGATES

40 new stories of corruption

In May and June, ACCOUNT Media Pool released more than 40 research stories about corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Journalists investigated public procurement abuses with a focus on procurement of reagents, criminal privatization and the downfall of the Banja Luka economy, the influence of the Islamic community on the judiciary, political abuses in the healthcare of Republika Srpska, family businesses of well-known politicians, abuses in student associations, the use of public funds for political propaganda, whistleblowers who are in the disfavor of the judiciary, abuses in sporting organizations, abuse in the field of concessions, medical mistakes that no one answers for, abuses of forest resources, suspicious tenders in the electricity sector, and many others.

Members of ACCOUNT Media Pool are: Capital.ba, Buka, eTrafika, Gerila, Inforadar, Moja Hercegovina, Tačno.net, B1 Info, Frontal.ba, Direkt.



Anti-Corruption Action Plan Presented in Ilijaš Municipality

Anti-Corruption Action Plan at the local level was presented today at the Ilijaš Municipality building and a Strategic Document was signed defining measures for suppression and prevention of corruption.

Action plans were made within the project **"Capacity Building of Non-Governmental Organizations and Selected Municipalities in Developing Anti-Corruption Strategies at Local Level"**, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project is implemented by the Anti-Corruption Network in BiH – ACCOUNT- in cooperation with the Association for Local Development Initiatives (ALDI) and the INFOHOUSE Foundation.

The director of ALDI Association, Meliha Gačanin, said she was happy that the activities related to this project were completed and that action plans were developed in order to be used for prevention of corruption.

"I am extremely pleased that we signed the Action Plan which in some way brings this activity to an end. An Action Plan has been developed so that the Municipality of Ilijaš may use it to prevent corruption within its institutions, a problem that is present in all segments of our society. With this kind of document, we can first of all work on prevention", said Gačanin.

The mayor of the Municipality of Ilijas, Akif Fazlic, said that he has continuously been working on building the image of this municipality. He pointed out that the Action Plan is a guideline for the work of each and every employee.

"We worked directly with the NGO ALDI. We want to express our commitment to fighting the problem of corruption in our society. An action plan is a document that gives guidelines for the work of each employee. It also defines steps to be taken and different views and visions in terms of corruption", said Fazlić.

The representative of INFOHOUSE Foundation, Adin Šabić, congratulated the mayor on his commitment to oppose corruption.

"Corruption is a significant problem for our society and therefore it is important to fight it. The INFOHOUSE Foundation supports the decision of the mayor of Ilijaš Municipality when it comes to signing this strategic document because it thus shows that it is aiming for greater transparency in the work they do," said Šabić.



Presentation of Action Plan in the Municipality of Ilijaš

The Action Plan for Combating Corruption consists of six strategic objectives within which 23 measures are defined with precisely determined stakeholders and the time that is foreseen for their implementation. The main focus of this strategic document is to identify the danger of corruption as one of the biggest problems in society.

The goal of the document is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the work of local government through its implementation. By drafting this strategic document, the municipality of Breza joined a group of 28 municipalities and cities in BiH that have so far participated in the preparation of action plans for fight against corruption.

Action Plan for Fight Against Corruption Was Presented in Breza

A presentation of the Action Plan for fight against corruption at the local level has been made in the Municipality of Breza today. This has also been an occasion for signing of the Strategic Document that defines measures for identifying and preventing corruption. The Action Plan was developed within the project **"Capacity Building of Non-Governmental Organizations and Selected Municipalities in Developing Anti-Corruption Strategies at Local Level"**.

With the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the project is implemented by the Association for Local Development Initiatives (ALDI) in cooperation with INFOHOUSE Foundation.

In the past period, the Working Group of the Municipality of Breza, comprised of Breza municipality representatives Almir Dervišević and Dijana Vrljićak, and Azra Zorlak from the Association ALDI Goražde, worked intensively on the development of the Action Plan for Fight against Corruption. In this process, in addition to technical support, the ALDI Association worked on building institutional capacities, information exchange and promotion.

In addition to the members of the Working Group, the mayor of Breza Municipality Munib Zaimović, the Executive Director of ALDI Association Meliha Gačanin, the Head of the Economic Development Department of the Municipality of Breza Salih Hasanspahić, the representative of INFOHOUSE Foundation Adin Šabić, also attended the presentation.



Presentation of Action Plan in the Municipality of Breza

Interview.ba – Read more....



Criminal Code of FBiH: Corrupt or Better Tomorrow?

<http://interview.ba/vijesti/item/6885-teme-krivicni-zakon-fbih-koruptivno-ili-bolje-sutra>

By Abela Purivatra for Interview.ba

"Job announcements for relatives, employment based on political party affiliation, small or big services for acquaintances or simply the conduct according to an old local saying " Who will take care of you if not your own folk. " Such behavior, if the monetary benefit cannot be proven, will not be punishable in the Federation of BiH in case that the FBiH House of Peoples confirms the amendments to the FBiH Criminal Code regarding trade in influence. It takes 28 raised hands for that. "

House of Representatives: Draft Law on Protection of Persons Who Report Corruption approved

<http://interview.ba/vijesti/item/6576-predstavnicki-dom-odobren-nacrt-zakona-o-zastiti-prijavitelja-korupcije>

"This law has been proposed by the Federation Government and has provided protection to persons who choose to report corruption, which also means a guaranteed anonymity when reporting corruption as a harmful act or criminal offense (if the whistleblower considers that, in a particular case, corruption has gained such weight). "

Read what is written in the Draft Law on Protection of Persons Who Report Corruption

<http://interview.ba/vijesti/item/6418-procitajte-sta-pise-u-nacrtu-zakona-o-zastiti-prijavitelja-korupcije>

The term "corruption "in this draft law is defined as" any act or non-act by abuse of official authority or official position for private purposes, for the purpose of obtaining unlawful property or any other benefit to oneself or others undertaken by a responsible person or a person who is employed in public or private sector. "

Only 8.5% of returnees from foreign armed conflicts were prosecuted in BiH

<http://interview.ba/vijesti/item/6348-teme-u-bih-procesuirano-tek-8-5-povratnika-sa-stranij-ratista>

By Abela Purivatra for Interview.ba

Bosnia and Herzegovina is the first country in the region and among the first in Europe that in 2014 amended its Criminal Code in order to prohibit participation of its citizens in armed conflicts abroad, introducing penalties for those who violate the provision. As was the case with many other laws, this one also failed in practice. According to the data confirmed for Interview.ba by the spokesman for BiH Prosecutor's Office Boris Grubešić, only 24 people accused of joining foreign paramilitary or para-police formations have been prosecuted in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In practice, this means that out of the total number of returnees from military conflicts abroad, only 8.5 percent have been prosecuted.