

ANTI-CORRUPTION
CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS
UNIFIED NETWORK

ACCOUNT



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The Foundation INFOHOUSE on behalf of ACCOUNT and Transparency International BiH has submitted to the BiH House of Representatives the consolidated amendments to the proposed changes of the BiH Law on Whistleblowers Protection.

The amendments are directed toward eliminating the potential problems identified in the proposed Law. These amendments regulate *inter alia* the procedures for granting the status of protected whistleblowers, and define the realistic and clear deadline by which decision on whistleblowers' status and elimination of damages caused to whistleblowers should be made.

“It is not normal that around 29.000 civil servants have never witnessed and reported corruption in any of 69 BiH institutions, while all reports indicate that corruption in these institutions is present the most. On one hand, this is understandable. The existing Law does not provide full protection, and the BiH judiciary doesn't even know what it means to prosecute a corruption case” – stated Dženana Alađuz, INFOHOUSE Director.

The First Draft of the Law on Whistleblowers Protection Developed in the Federation of BiH

ACCOUNT worked with the Working group of the FBiH Ministry of Justice to draft the FBiH Whistleblowers Protection Law. The Legislative Office and the BiH Ministry of Finance have approved the first draft, and in the next stage it will be forwarded to the FBiH Government for consideration.

The goal of this Law is to combat corruption and to ensure an efficient system of protection of whistleblowers from any form of endangerment or violation of whistleblowers' rights when it comes to corruption reporting.

During the development of the first draft of this Law the representatives of the ACCOUNT Network, as well as other members of the Working Group, have paid a special attention **to define clear and unambiguous provisions for the protection of whistleblowers. For that, special procedures, types and conditions for protective measures, which are imposed by the court based on the prosecutor's action, have been defined.** For the sake of efficient protection of whistleblowers, short deadlines for actions of competent authorities have been defined.

The main purpose of this Law is to ensure adequate protection of whistleblowers regardless of whether the corruption reports relates to the public or private sector, and to ensure protection not only to whistleblowers, but also to their family members.

The Globe Media have again shared the Žurnal Stories

Investigative stories of the Žurnal magazine crossed the BiH borders a long time ago. The discoveries made by Žurnal about the formation of paramilitary units in Republika Srpska, connections between Milorad Dodik and Putin's Night Wolves, and activities of the organization Serbian Honor, have again drawn the attention of the global public. The stories from Žurnal have been published in the globe and regional media, including British Guardian, Italian Il Piccolo, Al Jazeera English, the Netherlands NOS, in Croatia Jutarnji, Večernji list, Index, in Serbia Blic, B92, Kurir, Mondo, RTS...

The Žurnal journalists have reported about [how the Sarajevo municipality Centar has allocated hundreds of apartments](#), [why the City of Zenica is paying multi-million debts](#), [who in the BiH Handball Federation is responsible for the loss of 400.000 KM](#), [how and whom is being employed by the Director of the FBiH Civil Protection Administration...](#)

[Read Žurnal!](#)



The Dialogue on Amendments to the BiH Public Procurement Law was initiated



Meeting with the Working Group in Konjic, January 23-25, 2018.

Strengthening of the BiH Public Procurement Law is still in the focus of ACCOUNT's attention. In partnership with Transparency International, Open Society Fund and Tender, ACCOUNT defined the priority areas of this Law that must be improved for establishing a transparent and more responsible public procurement system. For that, ACCOUNT has continued an intensive cooperation with the BiH Public Procurement Agency, and has initiated a dialogue with the Working Group of the BiH Council of Ministers, which is currently leading the process of amending the Public Procurement Law. ACCOUNT's proposals for advancing the legal framework were discussed at the three-day meeting that the Working Group held in Konjic, January 23 - 25, 2018.

CRMA is coordinating the advocacy activities of the ACCOUNT Sector Group for Public Procurement, which is aimed at improving the public procurement legislation and system.

Training "Digital Security Awareness" was held



Data security training

CRMA, which is coordinating ACCOUNT's media component activities, organized training with the media and journalists on digital security. The training "Digital Security Awareness" for the ACCOUNT media pool members was delivered in cooperation with the project "Information, Safety, Capacity" (ISC). Safer communication, social networks and digital security of mobile data – were the key topics discussed during this training in Banja Luka, January 10, 2018.

The Zenica-Doboj Canton Government presented the Anti-corruption Strategy of (2017-2019) developed with support from ACCOUNT



The strategy of the Zenica-Doboj Canton presented

The Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Zenica-Doboj Canton Government (2017-2019) was presented in Zenica-Doboj Canton. The event was attended by the representatives of this government as well as the representatives of the civil society organizations from ACCOUNT. The event noted that this Strategy has enormous significance and that the Anti-Corruption Team has made a significant progress in anti-corruption efforts in this Canton. Miralem Galijašević, the Prime Minister of Zenica-Doboj Canton, stressed that the measures in the adopted Strategy are the Government's priorities to which all institutions in Zenica-Doboj Canton committed when it comes to fight against corruption in this Canton. Mr. Galijašević noted the importance of joint work and contribution from all institutions, and coordinators to detect, monitor and constantly implement all proposed measures for prevention. He also stressed that the Government of Zenica-Doboj Canton will make all professional and financial capacities available in order to achieve the goals set in the Anti-Corruption Strategy and the already adopted Action Plan. Both the Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption and the Foundation INFOHOUSE has supported this orientation.

ICVA/ The Anti-Corruption Rulebook coming soon to the Healthcare Institutions in Zenica-Doboj Canton



Expert discussion - ZDK

ACCOUNT in partnership with ICVA from Sarajevo and the Anti-corruption Team of the Zenica-Doboj Canton Government organized an expert discussion on development of a Rulebook for prevention of corruption in the public healthcare institutions in Zenica-Doboj Canton. The representatives and anti-corruption coordinators of the public healthcare institutions in Zenica-Doboj Canton attended the discussion. The participants of the discussion have in principle accepted the draft model of the rulebook, which they will work to adapt to the internal organization within their institutions and additionally discuss within the Zenica-Doboj Canton Government's Anti-corruption Team by the end of March 2018, preferably. The discussion is a part of the initiative and joint action of the relevant institutions, agencies and civil society organizations on the improvement of institutional system for prevention of corruption in the healthcare sector.

Cooperation with the Anti-corruption Caucus of the RS National Assembly



Meeting with anti-corruption caucus of the RS NA, Banja Luka, September 5, 2018

The ACCOUNT representatives attended the session of the anti-corruption caucus (PAK) of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska that was held on February 5, 2018 in Banja Luka. The interlocutors discussed realization of the RS Anti-Corruption Strategy 2013-2017, draft Strategy for the period 2018-2020, and PAK's plan of activities in the forthcoming period. The session was an excellent opportunity for exchange of experiences, and more detailed familiarization of PAK members with the ACCOUNT's activities.

Interview.ba: *Fight Against Corruption Remains Our Priority in 2018!*

Ivana Korajlić, Saša Magazinović, Aleksandra Pandurević, Dženana Alađuz and Nedžad Korajlić spoke for www.interview.ba.

The latest news is now also available at Interview.ba

Since the beginning of 2018 you can read the latest news from BiH, the region and the world on the portal www.interview.ba. Our journalists and photographers are investigating, finding out the most important news and reporting them objectively.

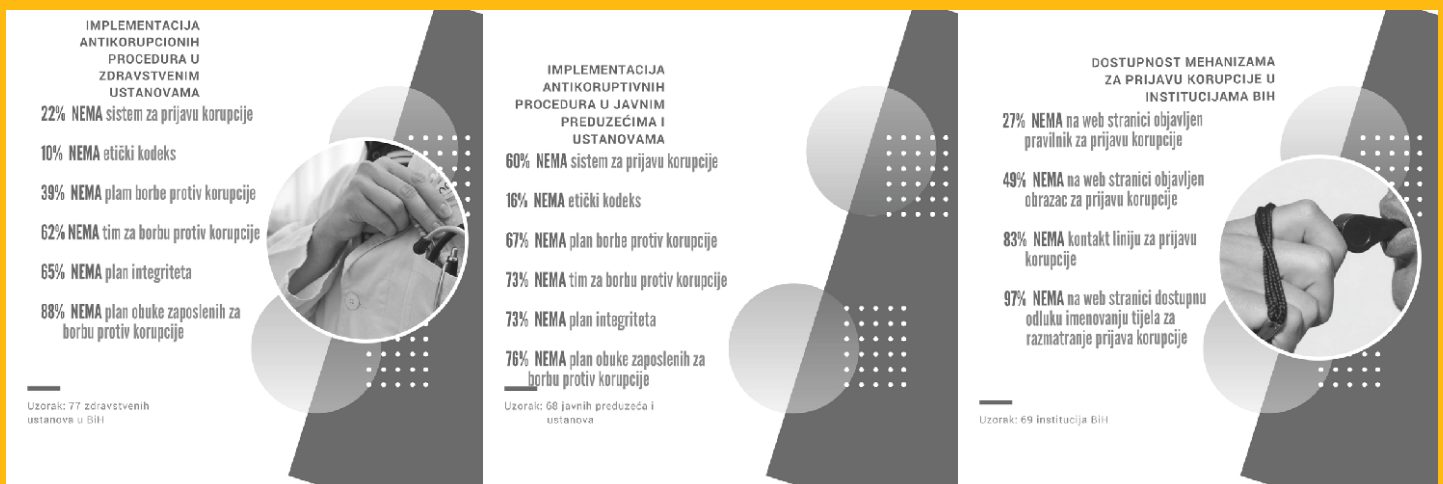
CONCRETE RESULTS!

The Research Results of the ACCOUNT Monitoring Teams from the Five Project Sectors were published

ACCOUNT monitoring teams have completed the results of corruption monitoring in five sectors. The data show a generally low degree of transparency, frequent practice of infringement, insufficiently developed mechanisms for corruption reporting and implementation of anti-corruption procedures in the public institutions.

The leaders of ACCOUNT monitoring teams are CRCD (whistleblower protection), Srpski omladinski savez – Serb Youth Alliance (healthcare), Justicia (public procurement), OC Vermont (employment), and Helsinki Parliament of Citizens Banja Luka (education).

We would like to recommend the further monitoring of corruption in the public sector, including: [Monitoring of waiting lists in the healthcare institutions](#); [Monitoring of implementation of anti-corruption procedures in the healthcare institutions](#); [Monitoring of public procurement planning](#); [Monitoring of annulment of public procurement procedures](#); [Monitoring of implementation of classes on anti-corruption and ethics in selected schools](#); [Monitoring of application of anti-corruption rulebooks in the employment sector](#); [Monitoring of implementation of the Law on Whistleblowers Protection in the BiH institutions](#)



OC Vermont presented Monitoring Results from the Employment Sector

Public enterprises, institutions and authority bodies have the rulebooks on employment, but there are no transparent mechanisms to monitor implementation of these rulebooks, revealed the research of the ACCOUNT monitoring team in the employment sector. “The goal of the monitoring was to check to what extent the public institutions, enterprises and bodies of authority are implementing anti-corruption policies and procedures. We found that 81% of the researched institutions do have a Rulebook on employment, however, there are no transparent mechanisms to implement these policies and procedures”, said Adnana Muratović from the Youth Center Vermont from Brčko, a lead organization of ACCOUNT Monitoring Team for Employment.



New Municipalities, Old Struggle #NotoCorruption

Bihac joined ACCOUNT's Cities and Municipalities in the Fight Against Corruption

The City of Bihac has decided to more firmly stand up against the corruption, as one of the biggest problems that affects the BiH society and this city. With the ACCOUNT's support the Mayor Šuhret Fazlić is expecting to enable more transparent work of this institution and better dissemination of information about the spending of budget funds to the citizens. *“When I was elected in 2016 I knew that besides my commitment to work hard and fair I would need someone who can help me to systematically manage the fight against corruption. If you are the one, then I am glad that we can cooperate”*, said Fazlić during the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Director of INFOHOUSE Dženana Alađuz. Director Alađuz emphasized satisfaction with the fact that the Mayor Fazlić has recognized the importance of fight against corruption and that he is ready to open the doors to all citizens interested in the work of the administration and feasibility of the future Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

The Memorandum of Understanding defines the mechanisms of work, including the formation of a joint working group, technical support, capacity building, exchange of information and promotion, all aimed at reducing corruption and increasing prevention in the fight against corruption at the local level.

Total of 28 municipalities have signed the Memoranda of Understanding on development of anti-corruption actions plan at the local level. Once developed, these plans should contribute to higher transparency of budget spending, better organization of the work; decline of local administration abuses, but also to improvement of the general living conditions of citizens.



Bihac signing ceremony

CGS Livno/Anti-corruption Training Held in Neum

In January 2018, the representatives of CSG Livno held training for the members of the Working Group on development of the anti-corruption action plan for Neum municipality.

The training was delivered by Luka Krstanović, President of the Municipal Council Tomislavgrad and Asmir Orman, representative of CGS Livno, where they, based on the survey conducted amongst the employees of this municipality, directed their Action Plan, explained the strategic goals, as well as the process of preparing and implementing the Action Plan. Furthermore, the deadlines, by which the activities from the Action Plan should be completed, were defined. The Working Group got answers to all questions asked, so they were satisfied with the training and all their dilemmas were solved. After the training a radio show was broadcast at the radio station “Herceg-Bosna” in Mostar, because Neum municipality doesn't have a radio station, during which the public was informed about development of the Anti-Corruption Action Plan.



Anti-Corruption training, Neum

ALDI Goražde/ Vogošća Municipality Joined ACCOUNT

The Mayor of Vogošća municipality and the representative of the Foundation INFOHOUSE Mirela Šuman have signed, under the ACCOUNT, a Memorandum of Understanding, stating that they will jointly fight against corruption in this municipality.

The representative of INFOHOUSE thanked the Mayor for the readiness to start developing strategic documents related to the fight against corruption in Vogošća municipality.



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ALDI Goražde/ Municipalities Breza and Ilijaš Completed the Analysis of Anti-corruption Initiatives and Transparency of Local Administration

The self-assessment questionnaires were completed in Breza and Ilijaš municipalities in January 2018. The qualitative and quantitative analysis of the self-assessment of local administration on anti-corruption initiatives and transparency for Breza and Ilijaš municipalities were prepared in line with the completed questionnaires.



Representatives of the ALDI Goražde and the representatives of the Ilijaš Municipality at the meeting

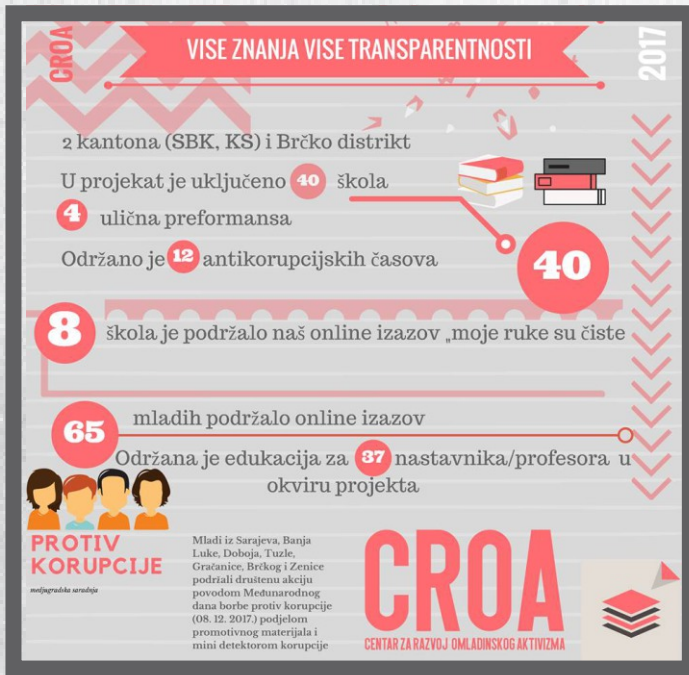
KAM Zenica/ Travnik, Visoko and Žepče are developing Anti-corruption Action Plans

In mid-February 2018, the Association KAM from Zenica organized a workshop for the two municipalities that have already developed the Anti-corruption Action Plans as well as for the ones that are currently working to develop the same document. The workshop that brought together Gračanica, Usora, Travnik, Visoko and Žepče was an excellent opportunity for the participants to exchange experiences and good practices. The individual quantitative and qualitative results of the assessment of the areas that are most exposed to corruption in each municipality were also presented at the workshop.

It was concluded that the budget drafting process has to be improved, citizens have to be motivated to get more actively involved in the public discussions, and the documents that are well understandable to citizens have to be prepared.



Anti-corruption Action Plans - workshop



ACCOUNT is also with the youngest ones #NOTOCORRUPTION in Education

The anti-corruption classes and/or workshops were organized in 6 elementary schools across the Federation of BiH as part of the project “Prevention of Corruption through Education: More Knowledge, More Transparency!” The objective was, inter alia, to motivate the students to think about corruption and the methods for prevention and fight against corruption. The students grasped the basic concepts of corruption and anti-corruption; they listened about the concepts of bribe, bribery, fraud and learned more about promotion of socially acceptable behavior.

CROA Sarajevo/ Anti-Corruption Youth Form: Youth from Tuzla, Mostar and Sarajevo United Against Corruption

Meetings of the anti-corruption youth teams were held at the end of January 2018, in Tuzla, Mostar and Sarajevo. In the upcoming period the teams will focus on organization of a Youth Anti-corruption Forum, the first of this kind in BiH, to discuss the effects of anti-corruption education on the youth perception of corruption with a view to raise the public awareness about corruption in education, when it comes to the role of youth in anti-corruption education. Apart from organizing the Forum, these young people will also get involved in other anti-corruption activities in their local communities.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **INFOHOUSE and the RS Ministry of Justice** - training program for the representatives of the regional Centers for Free Legal Aid whose focus of actions is on the anti-corruption area to be organized soon
- **Association JUSTICIA** - will present results of the impact survey of the anti-corruption regulations, as well as results of monitoring of the effects of the Law on Whistleblowers Protection in the BiH institutions
- **Association KAM** - meetings with the working groups of Gračanica, Usora, Travnik, Visoko and Žepče continue to be conducted
- **CGS Livno** - formation of the Working Group for development of the Anti-corruption Action Plan for the City of Bihać
- **CGS Livno** - monitoring of development of the Anti-corruption Action Plan for Neum municipality