

# *Increasing Trust in Governance through Monitoring and Collaboration with CSOs*

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Regional Forum on Effective Prevention of Corruption through Risk  
Assessment

25-26 October 2017  
Ljubljana



RegionalCooperationCouncil

This event has been co-funded by the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) under implementation of RCC's South East Europe 2020 Strategy, and the current presentation reflects only the views of the author(s). The RCC cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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# Introduction

## IDM Albania

- A think-tank founded in November 1999 in Tirana, Albania.
- It works to strengthen civil society, to analyze and improve Albania's integration processes, to assist reforming and the consolidation of good governance and inclusive policy making processes. IDM carries on its objectives through expertise, innovative policy research, analysis and assessment-based policy options.
- IDM structure consists of three core departments:
  - *Centre for European and Security Affairs*
  - *Local Governance and Integrated Development*
  - *Research and Development Center*

# Introduction

During the last couple of years, the central focus of the organization has been oriented in these main fields:

- Integrity and Anti-Corruption
- Evidence-based policies
- Counter Violence Examination Resource Center
- Citizens Empowerment
- Civil Society Development

IDM's approach with integrity building and anticorruption has developed as part of the Good Governance portfolio. Some of the projects include:

- *Conflict of Interest in Albania*
- *Integrity building of the Albanian public administration*
- *Handbook on Ethics and Police Integrity*

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- A faint white outline map of Southeast Europe is visible in the background. The map shows the borders of countries in the region, including Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, and parts of Turkey and Romania. The map is centered on the Balkan Peninsula.
- *Police Integrity and Corruption in Albania*
  - *Financial Oversight and Integrity in Albania's Security Sector*
  - *Elections Integrity Index*
  - *Public Administration Reform Monitoring*
  - *Trust in Governance*
  - *CIVILISC – Civil Society Instruments Against Corruption*

# Country-based analysis: The case of Albania

- The fight against corruption and the fight against organized crime are among 5 key priorities in the process of opening negotiations to EU membership.
- Albanians show the lowest confidence in the effectiveness of the fight against corruption as compared with other countries in the region.
- Infiltration of the public and private sectors by organized crime – facilitated by corruption– continues to be a major cause for concern and needs to be urgently addressed.
- Corruption Perception Index: *Rank 83/176; Score 39/100.*
- As part of the UNCAC, Albania is being reviewed in the first year of the second UNCAC review cycle, but it still unclear whether the government will agree to publish the self-assessment report.

# Main findings

In a study based on a series of local consultations with CSO and business community on the implementation of the Albania's anti-corruption strategy, the main findings of IDM are:

- *Lack of knowledge of nonpublic stakeholders and low level of enforcement of legislation*
- *Low level of trust in public institutions and their activity*
- *Lack of successful models leads to apathy of community actors*
- *Existing anti-corruption bodies enjoy low level of trust and citizen support*
- *The civil society sector in the country is fragmented and unsustainable*

# Policy alternative to address the findings:

In order to address these issues, in a white paper, IDM proposes these policy options to boost the anti-corruption model:

- *The establishment of an independent and resourceful National Anticorruption Authority with a budget autonomy and vested with specific competences.*
- *The involvement of the Parliament in the adoption of the anticorruption strategy, and ensure roles and objectives for other branches of power and local governments are included in the strategy.*
- *The design of monitoring and evaluation mechanism which rely on the involvement of non-state stakeholders in implementation and oversight of the strategy*
- *The development of multi-stakeholder forums (civil-public-private) at local (municipal) level to develop the full cycle (from consultation to monitoring and evaluation) of anti-corruption action plans.*





# Upcoming

On 9 December 2017 “The International Anti-Corruption Day”, a number of CSOs and business representatives will join in a new initiative!

In a couple of days, these CSOs and business representatives will get together in a preparatory meeting to discuss the organization of the event of 9<sup>th</sup> of December, with the main objective to internally view the role and capacities of CSO and their contribution in fight against corruption. After a careful self-assessment of this situation, it may result that civil society organization and business community representatives agree to developing a national platform to share and develop joint synergies of the sector in the fight against corruption.

This is not an easy target, but good to try.



***Thank You!***