OECD

Webinar

Impact of Covid-19 on the work of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies:

Eastern Europe/Central Asia and Asia-Pacific

DRAFT AGENDA

29th September, 2020

Online Platform Zoom

■ Background information

On 11 March 2020 the WHO characterized Covid-19 as a pandemic. Aiming at containing the infection, countries imposed different types of quarantine and other restrictions, increased and reorganised capacities of their health systems, introduced mass testing and strenghthened sanitation rules. The evolving need to treat the increased number of intensive care patients, protect the population, especially medical staff, in conditions of disrupted supply chains, growing demand for medical equipment and time constraints forced authorities to rely on fast-track arrangments for procurement in the health sector.

The pandemic aslo ushered in an unprecedented global economic recession, the impact of which is still unravelling. A wide array of policy actions taken to address the economic downturn included various kinds of stimulus support to businesses and citizens, easing of the burdens on taxpayers, unemployment benefits for households and targeted assistance programmes for vulnerable families. These rescue measures were developed and implemented urgently, often having relaxed oversight and accountability control mechanisms.

Consequently, these developments have also heightened the risk of corruption, as illustrated by a growing number of corruption cases involving government response or recovery measures.

This is cast in a context where the pandemic has affected all public institutions including anti-corruption agencies and courts. Lockdown measures and state of emergency restrictions also applied to the work of law enforcement agencies, which had to reorganise themselves to continue to conduct investigations and prosecutions in a remote working context. They have also been subject to revised priorities and reduced budgets.

The OECD has undertaken a number of initiatives to support its members and partners in their efforts to investigate and prosecute corruption during the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery period. These include a Statement by the OECD Working Group on Bribery, policy papers on Policy Measures to Avoid Corruption and Bribery in the COVID-19 Response and Recovery and on Public Integrity for an Effective COVID-19 Response and Recovery.

In addition, the OECD Anti-Corruption Division surveyed members of the Working Group on Bribery, and conducted research to identify emerging issues related to foreign bribery, the impact on enforcement, good practices and potential responses of national governmental and law enforcement authorities to new risks and challenges arising from the Covid-19 outbreak.

Continuing the line of initiatives the Secretariat of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN) and the Secretariat of the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia-Pacific undertook a similar work to identify and analyse corruption-related challenges posed by Covid-19 emergency measures, as well as their impact on the detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of corruption.

In this webinar the Secretariat aims to present the preliminary findings of the regional surveys to law enforcement practitioners and discuss and exchange information on measures taken by national authorities and potential good practices in both regions.

■ Date, time and venue

29 September 2020, 11:00 – 12:30, Zoom meeting.

■ Contact

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■ Draft agenda

11:00-12:30	**Covid-19 Impact on the work of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies in the ACN and Asia-Pacific regions**

11:00–11:05

Opening Remarks

- ***Ms. Leah Ambler*** : *Legal Analyst – Manager, Asia Pacific Initiative, OECD Anti-Corruption Division*
- ***Mr. Andrii Kukharuk :*** *Anti-Corruption Analyst, ACN, OECD Anti-Corruption Division*

11:05-11:25

Presentation of key findings of Papers: *Covid-19: Impact on Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Agencies in the ACN and Asia-Pacific Regions.*

- ***Ms. Leah Ambler*** : *Legal Analyst – Manager, Asia Pacific Initiative, OECD Anti-Corruption Division*
- ***Mr. Noel Mérillet*** : *Analyst, Anti-Corruption Division*

11:25-11:45

Presentations on ACN regional experience and good practices :

- **Romania**
  - **Ms. Alexandra Carmen Lancranjan**
    Prosecutor
    National Anti-Corruption Directorate (DNA)
- **Lithuania**
  - **Ms. Živilė Šadianec**
    Chief specialist of International Cooperation Division
    Administration Department
    Special Investigation Service
  - **Mr. Simonas Grebelis**,
    Head of Monitoring and Coordination Division of
    Investigation Coordination Department
    Special Investigation Service

11:45-12:05

Presentations on Asia-Pacific regional experience and good practices:

- **Indonesia (TBC)**
- **Malaysia**
  - **Mr. Premraj Victor,**
    Senior Assistant Commissioner
    International Relations Branch
    Policy, Planning And Research Division
    Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission

- **Thailand (TBC)**
- **Viet Nam**

12:05-12:30	**Q&A Session and concluding remarks**