



DIGEST

Boosting the activity of anti-corruption bodies during the pandemic

In October 2020, TI-Moldova made an attempt to study the semi-annual activity reports of the anti-corruption authorities. At that time, the National Integrity Authority was the only anti-corruption authority that prepared and published an activity report for the first half of 2020.¹ As the relevant general statistics on the activity of CNA and PA were not available, the information published on the official web pages of these entities, as well as other portals, served as a source²

Following the successive assignment, starting with 24 February 2020, of the yellow, orange and red code alert, on 17 March 2020, a state of emergency was established, in connection with the epidemiological situation related to the spread of the COVID-19 virus.³ The situation affected the activity of the authorities. Although several activities could be carried out remotely, the opportunity was not immediately and fully used by anti-corruption entities. The unique specifics of the monitored period cannot be ignored, and the institutional performances in this period cannot be compared with those in the similar period of last year.

TI-Moldova has studied the activity reports of the anti-corruption authorities for this period, as well as the information available on the web pages and comes up with some recommendations to boost the activity of the anti-corruption bodies and increase their visibility:

- Anti-corruption authorities should expand the effective and efficient use of remote working methods / techniques, in particular in training and other corruption prevention activities;
- The National Anticorruption Center should make additional efforts to reflect the results of the activity - the weekly summaries cease to be useful if they are not provided regularly. It would be valuable quarterly / half-yearly reports / notes that would contain an analysis of the main institutional performance indicators. On the website it is necessary to update, regularly, the information regarding: the files under management, the detained persons; court cases; calls to the National Anticorruption Line;
- The Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office should develop its own website, which is important in increasing visibility and credibility, the institution currently facing an image crisis generated by the results of the activity control, carried out at the disposal of the Prosecutor General, but also by the serious accusations in several criminal proceedings initiated against Mr. Viorel Morari, head of the PA;
- Anti-corruption authorities should provide regular, but regular, information on instrumented resonance cases. Otherwise, there is a risk that they will get lost in the routine

¹ ANI, Raport de activitate al ANI pentru primele 6 luni ale anului 2020, http://ani.md/sites/default/files/Raportul_activitate_6%20luni_2020.pdf.

² În privința CNA, nota a fost întocmită, în special, în baza comunicatelor de presă publicate pe www.cna.md. În privința PA, nota a fost întocmită, în special, în baza noutăților publicate pe www.parlament.md.

³ Hotărârea Parlamentului nr. 55/2020 privind declararea stării de urgență.

of the activity, fueling the public's suspicions regarding the political engagement of the anti-corruption authorities;

- Given the budgetary difficulties, there are needs that must be covered. In the fourth year of reorganization, the National Integrity Authority, in several aspects of the activity, yields to the substituted authority - the National Integrity Commission, particularly in its cost-efficiency. Without filling all the functions of integrity inspectors, ANI will not progress;
- National Integrity Authority should do its utmost in executing the Decision of the Court of Accounts no. 70/2019 on the Performance Audit Report on the functionality and effectiveness of the Automated Information System "e-Integrity" - all entities concerned should provide support and assistance;
- The increase in the number of rectified declarations of wealth and personal interests could be managed by a better guidance of declarants - it would be useful to improve the guide for declarants by supplementing with concrete cases, starting from the most frequently reported problems and questions asked;
- The National Integrity Authority should develop an e-Learning module to focus efforts on control activity;
- To raise the quality of the control of wealth and personal interests, the interoperability of databases managed by different authorities should be improved and made accessible to integrity inspectors;
- The National Integrity Authority should make additional efforts to pursue the aims of controls: identified infringements; sanctions / prohibitions applied / enforced; actions for finding the documents null and void; unjustified assets confiscated. These are the indicators, based on which the usefulness of NIA will be judged;
- The Integrity Council should provide the necessary strategic support to NIA. If he does not relinquish control over the assets and personal interests of the Chair / Vice-Chair of NIA and the integrity inspectors, this control must be ensured;
- The Ministry of Justice should speed up the promotion of the draft law for the modification of the normative framework related to the control of wealth and personal interests, elaborated by NIA, not without the project being submitted to public debate;
- Parliament, in the exercise of its powers of parliamentary scrutiny, must be fair, prompt and efficient. Nothing can demotivate an audited entity more than formalized procedures and politicized approaches.

*This document was elaborated within the project „Mobilize Civil Society to Monitor and Report on State Integrity and Anticorruption Activities” implemented by Transparency International – Moldova with the support of INLE Dep of the Embassy of the United States to Moldova.
The content of the document does not necessarily reflect the position of the donor.*