

Field Visit Report

Date of visit: 23 February 2017

Subject and venue of visit: National Anticorruption Center, 198, Stefan cel Mare bd, Chisinau
 "Strengthening the Corruption Prevention and Analysis Functions of the National Anticorruption Center of Moldova" (NAC Project), # 00094126
 Purpose of the field visit: Participation at public consultations with civil society on the draft National Integrity and Anticorruption Strategy 2017-2020

Outcomes	Update on outcomes	Outputs	Update on outputs	Reasons if progress below target	Update on partnership strategies	Recommendations and proposed action
Increased transparency, accountability and efficiency of central and local public authorities	No changes	<p>1. Strengthened NAC's operational and institutional capacity to fulfill its prevention and analytical functions</p> <p>2. Strengthened NAC's powers to act on priority corruption prevention actions as per national and international strategic documents</p> <p>3. Strengthened NAC's capacity to priority corruption analysis as per national and international strategic documents</p>	<p>Output 2. Progress is according to the target with some delays in the implementation due to political context: The Project's support was instrumental in drafting a new National Anticorruption Strategy (NIAS) 2017 - 2020 initiated in 2015 and postponed by a political decision and in ensuring the process was participatory and inclusive through public consultations on the draft. A new integrity pillars approach, based on the Transparency International-Moldova National Integrity System Assessment has been used in drafting the Strategy. During November 2016-January 2018 the Project supported NAC in organizing public consultations and eight sectorial working groups to discuss each of the seven integrity pillars under the draft Strategy (Parliament; Government, Public Sector and Local Public Authorities; Justice and Anti-Corruption Agencies; Central Electoral Commission and Political Parties; Ombudsman; Court of Accounts; and Private Sector). 70 representatives of the relevant public authorities and the civil society</p>	Not applicable	Not applicable	To monitor the situation and close dialogue with NAC to ensure that the position of civil society is considered within the NIAS drafting and approval

				<p>participated in the working groups discussions.</p> <p>Alongside the aforementioned pillars during the drafting and public consultations period NAC received a suggestion from an NGO to include also Pillar VIII dedicated to civil society, as provided in the initial methodology used by the Transparency International in the National Integrity System Assessment. However, inclusion of the Civil Society pillar in the draft Strategy was disapproved by most CSOs as the representatives of civil society interpreted this proposal as a way for the state authorities to over-regulate the non-governmental sector and were concerned about eventual infringement of the NGOs activity. Particularly this issue was discussed at the named meeting.</p> <p>NAC and present CSOs presented their vision of the issue and as most CSOs were against including this pillar in the Strategy, NAC Deputy Director, Cristina Tarna, present at the meeting, promised to consider their position.</p>		
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PROJECT PERFORMANCE — IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

List the main challenges experienced during implementation and propose a way forward.

The main challenge in providing support to NAC in drafting a new National Anticorruption Strategy were the controversial/unexpected political decisions in a complex political environment. Initially, by the indication of the Prime Minister, the new Anticorruption Strategy had to be elaborated by the end of October 2015. However, after the emerged political crisis and change of Government, it was decided to extend the implementation term of the 2011-2015 Strategy for 2016, while the National Integrity and Anticorruption Strategy 2017-2020 has been drafted in 2016 based on the first draft developed in 2015 with the Project support. The Strategy is being currently consulted with relevant stakeholders and is to be approved by March 2017.

Another issue emerged during the consultations process, as described, is disagreement with civil society organizations on certain aspects of anticorruption policies, which could be explained by the general low trust in public institutions and justice and law enforcement sector, in particular. In spite of the consistent

efforts of the Project to involve targeted SCOs in its activities, the NAC still encounters some problems in getting the support for its corruption prevention initiatives from the civil society, as there is a perception that in a corrupt society all government initiatives have some hidden interests and should be criticized, rather than supported.

As a way forward:

- monitor closely political evolutions in relation to the anticorruption reforms and measures updating the project Risk Log with the effective mitigation measures in place;
- maintain continuous dialogue with the management of the NAC on the Project's implementation progress;
- undertake more efforts to strengthen the cooperation with the civil society

PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

Progress is made towards the result in accordance with the AWP and the procurement plan.

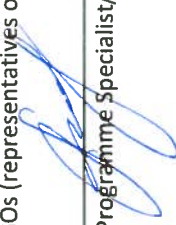
LESSONS LEARNED:

The main risks for the project implementation, same as in 2015 and 2016, remained controversial/unexpected political decisions and lack of a genuine political will to enhance implementation of anticorruption measures. In such a complex and unpredictable political environment, it is important to maintain flexibility in rescheduling the project activities and to apply a thorough analysis in identifying the most optimal mitigation measures to ensure successful implementation of the project and achieving planned results.

Participants in the field visit:

Ms. Cristina Tarna, NAC Deputy Director, National Project Coordinator
Alla Skvortova, Programme Specialist/Cluster Leader Effective Governance
Olga Crivoliubic, Project Manager, UNDP
Participating NGOs (representatives of 10 organizations, including Anticorruption Alliance)

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