
The Conference of City/Municipal Mayors and Speakers of City/Municipal Councils
„Prevention of Corruption and Reform Process in FBiH”
Venue: Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Date: 31 October 2017

CONCLUSIONS

The Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of BiH, with the support of the OSCE Mission to BiH, organized an annual Conference of City Mayors / Mayors and Speakers of City / Municipal Councils entitled "Prevention of Corruption and Reform Processes in FBiH" on 31 October 2017.

Following the presentations and panel discussions, the participants of the conference concluded the following:

Introduction:

Hamdo Ejubović, President of the Presidency of the Assembly of the FBiH Association of Municipalities and Cities; Alexander Chuplygin, Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to BiH; Edin Mušić, Chair of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the FBiH; Hasim Šabotić, Director of the BiH Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption (APIK) and Sead Lisak, President of the FBiH Team for Prevention of Corruption.

Conclusions:

- The Conference of the City Mayors / Mayor and Speakers of City / Municipal Councils is a good mechanism for strengthening inter-institutional cooperation. Therefore, the organization of such events should be continued even after this year's completion of the Project 'Support to the Associations of Municipalities and Cities'.
- It is necessary to include the local level of government more efficiently in the decision-making processes at the FBiH level;
- Although some progress has already been made in this field, it is necessary, to continue to articulate the interests of local self-government units with an aim of passing laws at the FBiH level and with the participation of the local level of government via the FBiH Association of Cities and Municipalities;

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- The FBiH Parliament should increase the level of acceptance of proposals initiated from the local level of government;
- Prevention and fight against corruption is the top priority in the reform process, and therefore there is a need for further engagement of all actors in this field.

Prevention of corruption at the local level

Panelists: Predrag Šupljeglav, Member of the Ad hoc Working Group of the FBiH Association of Municipalities and Cities; Azreta Grebović, Member of the Ad hoc Working Group of the FBiH Association of Municipalities and Cities; Vladica Babić, Assistant Director, BiH Agency for the Prevention of Corruption and Coordination of the Fight against Corruption; Nermin Mandra, Mayor of Kakanj municipality; Lejla Ibranović, Executive Director, Transparency International BiH; Leila Bičakčić, Director, Centre for Investigative Reporting.

Conclusions:

- Improvement of the legal framework
 - Adopt the Law on the Protection of Persons Reporting Corruption at the FBiH level as soon as possible;
 - Improve the Law on Conflict of Interest and the Law on Public Procurement
 - Initiate legal penalties for corrupt behavior;
 - Local self-government units that have not adopted the Integrity Plan yet, should develop and adopt them with the involvement of city / municipal councils and civil society
 - It is recommended to harmonize the procedures for adopting Action plans for prevention and fight against corruption at the cantonal and municipal levels.

Inter-institutional cooperation and best practices

- Co-operation, coordination and communication between local government units and cantonal authorities in the area of prevention of corruption should be improved;
- Support the exchange of experiences and best practices, both horizontally and vertically;
- Strengthen parliamentary oversight;
- Strengthen the integrity of civil servants;
- Develop and use a database of public officials.

- Strengthening transparency of work of local communities

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- Use the capacities of the non-governmental sector and the media in order to prevent corruption;
- Publish the criteria for allocating funds from the budget of local self-government units on a regular basis;
- Establish a service on public reporting.

Best practices from the region

Mayor of Indija Vladimir Gak presented internal procedures for the prevention of corruption in public procurement. The document will be posted on the website of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of FBiH.

Reform processes in FBiH

Panelists: Zlata Ibrahimpašić, Member of the Ad hoc Working Group of the FBiH Association of Municipalities and Cities; Sead Lisak, President of the FBiH Team for Prevention of Corruption; Duško Masleša, the Directorate for European Integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sanel Gredelj, representative of the Commission for Constitutional and Legislative Issues of the FBiH Association of Municipalities and Cities, Ivan Vukadin, Mayor of Tomislavgrad municipality, Aida Daguda, Director, Centre for Promotion of Civil Society.

Conclusions:

- Harmonization of laws and improvement of the legal framework in accordance with the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ECLSG)
 - Harmonize the laws that regulate competencies of local self-government units (LGUs), especially from the aspect of the LGUs revenues , thus ensuring their stability (FBiH Law on Games of Chance, Law on Forests, Law on Survey and Cadastre of Real Estate);
 - As soon as possible, adopt the new Law on the Adoption of Public Revenues in FBiH, and to adopt all other laws in the procedure.
- Inter-institutional cooperation and best practices
 - Higher levels of government should ensure and make available the mechanisms to involve LGUs in the reform processes in BiH through the Association of cities and municipalities;
 - Higher levels of government are called upon to provide the necessary prerequisites for strengthening the capacities of LGUs for their inclusion in the reform process as well as their institutions in order to undertake the obligations related to the reform processes;

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- Higher levels of government should consult the LGUs on issues related to reform processes that are of local importance through the Association, especially in the process of adopting acts of relevance to the LGUs;
- The LGUs and Association will continue their work to raise awareness of their own responsibility in the process of EU integration, build its own capacities, and continuously inform citizens about the benefits and benefits that accession process and EU membership can bring to citizens;
- In order to build their own capacities, the LGUs will, through the Association, support the exchange of experiences and best practices with LGUs, members of EU countries, or those that are currently in the accession process of European integration;
- Through the Association, LGUs will continue to strengthen their partnership with civil society in promoting European values and raising the professional capacities of local self-government units and their institutions in order to be able to take over the obligations they face in reform processes;
- Through the Association LGUs will continue to develop the sense and the role of partnerships that the civil sector has to local government units as an essential actor in strengthening the capacity of local governments to apply to the pre- accession funds.

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