

**BALKAN
TENDER
WATCH**



Open
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Bosnia & Herzegovina



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Центар за граѓански комуникации



KFOS
Fondacioni i Kosovitis për Shqipëri të Hapur
Kosovo Foundation for Open Society
Kosovska Fondacija za Otvoreno Društvo

Regional Conference on the State of Affairs in Public Procurement:

ANTI-CORRUPTION MECHANISMS AND THE STAKEHOLDERS' ROLE



Skopje, 13 December 2018

Venue: Holliday-Inn, Millenium Hall

This project is funded by the European Union

Background

Regional conferences on public procurement organized by the Balkan Tender Watch Coalition have become a landmark for the stakeholders in the region in the past several years, opening the most important topics related to the public procurements in the context of the EU integration and gathering all relevant stakeholders to exchange ideas and information. The Coalition continues its practice of targeting corruption as one of the main hurdles on the Western Balkans countries' road to EU membership and conforming to the EU standards. The conference is organized as part of EU financed action, aimed at increasing Western Balkans civil society impact on anti-corruption policies and practices during the public procurement cycle by utilizing the EU integration as a transformative agenda.

Objectives

The main purpose of the conference is to provide comprehensive and timely information on the state of affairs in the public procurement related to the EU integration. Broad access to impartial and accurate information can expose wrongdoings and raise public awareness that can, in turn, lead to policy changes. Pressure on state institutions is exerted by means of continuous reporting on the most important issues in the countries and on-going watchdog activities. Hence, measuring tools will be offered to recognize the absence of integrity and possibility to demand specific actions to correct the identified state-of-affairs. The conference is a platform for participants to express their opinion, experience, best practices, and concerns, and foster new ideas for a more effective role of various stakeholders in the fight against corruption in public procurement.

Participants

Participants include relevant stakeholders from various backgrounds: CSOs, government and other state institutions, private sector entities, media, and other interested parties from five Western Balkans countries.

Duration and organization

The one-day conference will take place in Skopje, Macedonia. It consists of plenary and panel sessions, during which participants will have the opportunity to attend presentations and engage in discussions. The languages of the conference will be Macedonian, Serbian/Bosnian/Montenegrin, Albanian and English and interpretation will be provided accordingly.

Output

Participants will be asked to detect current obstacles to the efficient fight against corruption in public procurement and future challenges in that regard; to point to the areas where state stakeholders, CSOs and media can play better roles and to recommend next steps and activities for improvements.

For more information: www.balkantenderwatch.eu

Draft Programme

09:00 - 09:30

Registration of participants

09:30 - 09:45

Welcome and introductory remarks

- *Jasna Filipović, Project Leader, 'Balkan Tender Watch' coalition (BTW)*
- *Ambassador Samuel Žbogar, Head of the Delegation of the European Union*
- *Dragan Tevdovski, Minister of Finance, Republic of Macedonia*

Moderator: *German Filkov, Center for Civil Communications / Country Coordinator BTW*

09:45 - 11:00

Public procurements in Western Balkans as seen by the civil society

Session objective: Presentation of countries' shadows reports on state of affairs in public procurement by Balkan Tender Watch coalition members

- *Dušan Šabić, Fond for an Open Society, Serbia*
- *German Filkov, Center for Civil Communications, Macedonia*
- *Bojan Kovačević, Economic Development Agency, Banja Luka, BiH*
- *Diana Metushi Krasniqi, Kosovo Democratic Institute, Kosovo*
- *Ines Mrdović, MANS, Montenegro*

Moderator: *Sabina Fakić, Center for Civil Communications, Macedonia*

11:00 - 11:30

Refreshment Break

11:30 - 13:30

Anti-corruption measures in practice: State stakeholders' role

Session objective: A panel discussion on role of key stakeholders in the fight against corruption in public procurement

- *Josip Jakovac, Public Procurement Agency, BiH*
- *Blerim Kelmendi, Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency*
- *Lile Stefanova, Macedonia Special Public Prosecution, Macedonia*
- *Mersad Mujević, Public Procurement Agency, Montenegro*
- *Goran Ilić, Deputy Chief Public Prosecutor, Serbia*

Moderator: *Mervan Miraščija, Country Coordinator OSF, Bosnia & Herzegovina*

13:30 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30 - 16:00

Detecting risks and investigating corruption: CSOs and media role

Session objective: A panel discussion on CSOs and media methods and tools in identifying and investigating corruption in public procurement and presentation of Balkan Tender Watch's benchmarking tool

- *Branko Čečen, Director of Center for Investigative Journalism of Serbia – CINS*
- *Ana Đurnić, Institute Alternative*
- *Visar Prebreza, BIRN Kosovo*
- *Semir Mijkić, BIRN, BiH*

Moderator: *Ana Petruševa, BIRN Macedonia Country Director*

16:00 - 16:30

Conclusions