

REPORT

On the regional seminar on the best practice of analysis and verification of asset declarations within the framework of “Good Governance and Fight against Corruption” project of Eastern Partnership and Council of Europe in Istanbul, Turkey from May 28-29, 2014

A regional seminar on analysis and verification of asset declarations was organized within the framework of “Good Governance and Fight against Corruption” project of Eastern Partnership and Council of Europe from May 28-29, 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey to exchange the current methods, information and experience on declaration analysis and declaration data verification between 27 participants from 6 Eastern Partnership countries.

Public servants, experts and civil society representatives participated in the seminar including Aliaksander Dubov, Deputy Prosecutor General of Belarus, Catherine Kardava and Maia Dvalishvili, Director and a Deputy Director of Civil Service Bureau of Georgia, Vera Lupu and Leonid Morari, members of the National Integrity Commission of the Republic of Moldova, Sayad Karimov, Deputy Head of Administrative and Military Affairs Department and Chairperson of Working Group on Improvement of Anti-corruption Legislation of the Parliament of Azerbaijan, Elvin Yusifli, Executive Director of Transparency International Anti-corruption Center in Azerbaijan as well as Sona Ayvazyan, deputy Director of Transparency International Armenia. The seminar was conducted by Tilman Hoppe, senior adviser of “Good Governance and Fight against Corruption” project and Valts Kalnins, expert of the Council of Europe.

May 28, 2014

At the beginning of the seminar, the participants took a test to check their preparedness and knowledge of declaration analysis. Then, Tilman Hoppe and Valts Kalnins presented “Processing and analysis of public officials’ asset and income declarations” practical handbook elaborated within the scope of “Good Governance and Fight against Corruption” project which includes sections on submission of public officials and their related persons’ declarations, maintenance of electronic databases, phases and methodology of declaration analysis and others.

The aims of declaration analysis including illicit enrichment and conflict of interest detection and other issues were discussed during the seminar. The discussions on the illicit enrichment problem was based on the methodology of cash flow reflected in the declarations. Separate transactions and situations elaborated by the organizers on asset declarations were analyzed during the seminar. Detection tools and opportunities of false declarations, hidden income and suspicious records were discussed.

The functions of the bodies implementing declaration analysis in Eastern Partnership countries, as well as opportunities and international best practice of their cooperation with state and private agencies for asset declaration data verification, acquisition and comparison of respective databases and importance of media information were presented and discussed with the seminar participants.

May 29, 2014

The seminar included also team work of six groups and discussions on their activity outcomes. Each group, with the help of imaginary declarant and his/her related persons’ declaration package, had to detect hidden incomes and expenses, false

data and records and, finally, elements of illicit enrichment. Many inconsistencies, false transactions of movable and immovable property, false prices of asset acquisitions, false prizes and obtained services, unregistered securities and other false information were detected as a result of the group work. At the end of the seminar, the participants took a test again to evaluate the seminar's efficiency and its usefulness for participants.

Besides the planned agenda, the members of the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials of Armenia had discussions on strengthening the corporation and implementing joint initiatives with organizers of "Good Governance and Fight against Corruption" project as well as the representatives of partner agencies from Eastern Partnership countries. Particularly, an agreement on providing further technical support to the Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials by Eastern Partnership and Council of Europe as well as cooperation on electronic declaration system, data verification mechanisms and detection of risk declarations with the Georgian Civil Service Bureau was reached.