




Southeast Europe Coalition on Whistleblower Protection

Newsletter

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“The willingness to rebel from the expected norms, rules, and silent contracts of establishment comes out of knowing that one cannot afford to build resentment. Resentment, which comes from the decision to go against one's truth, embitters the self. It somaticizes in the body and takes on the burden of pain as if it were ours alone. The whistleblower, on the other hand, reveals a shared complicity. It says, 'I expect more from myself and from you.' And in that stance, the pain becomes, in a sense, communal.”

- Toko-pa Turner, *Belonging: Remembering Ourselves Home*

WHISTLEBLOWING IN EDUCATION

Engaging youth with the topic of whistleblowing



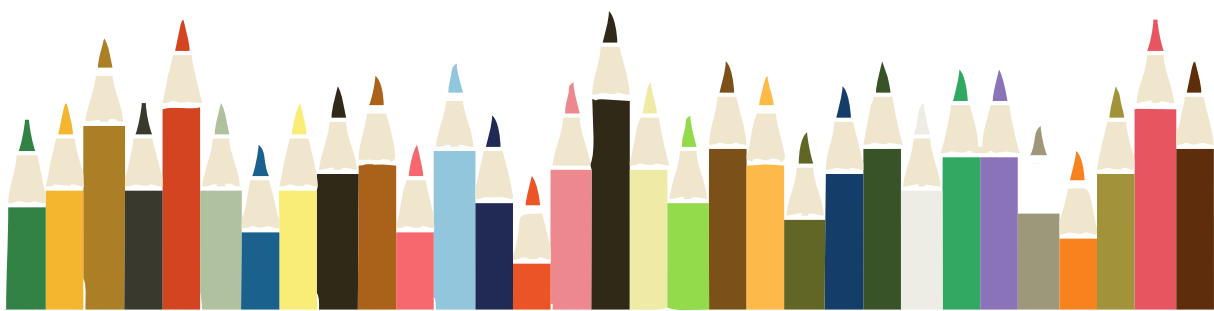
Picture provided by Civic Resistance

In the framework of “Whistleblowing in Education” Coalition member **Civic Resistance** in Albania organized a series of activities which aimed to educate students on the concept of whistleblowing, its benefits, and how whistleblowing can take place in the education system. This initiative was implemented through raising awareness online, in-person training, and debates organized in university facilities. For this purpose, the “Whistleblowing against corruption in Education” online campaign was presented. This campaign consisted of informing young students on how to blow the whistle, whistleblowing tools, responsible institutions for such practices, etc.

Civic Resistance also organized a training for students and graduate teaching assistants on the topic of “Whistleblowing in Politics”.



Picture of the event published on Epoka University's website

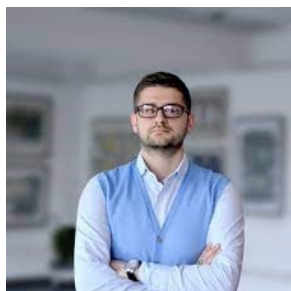


Trainers



Arjan Dyrmishi is Executive Director of Center for the Study of Democracy and Governance in Albania and Coalition co-coordinator

Mr. Arjan Dyrmishi presented to the participants the basics of whistleblowing. He initially explained the terminology of the concept by defining whistleblowing as an act committed to report wrongdoings based on the belief that this will serve the public interest. Then he proceeded to elaborate on whistleblowing as a tool used to fight corruption and build integrity. While discussing the benefits of this act, Mr. Dyrmishi also talked about the risks that might follow after and how the whistleblower is protected legally. Additionally, stories of well-known whistleblowers internationally were shared with the audience as practical cases where whistleblowing was implemented.



Rigels Xhemollari is Executive Director of Civic Resistance and long-time activist of civil society in Albania.

The training continued with Mr. Rigels Xhemollari who focused on whistleblowing from the perspective of civil society. He introduced the participants to cases in which the Albanian civil society had played the function of whistleblower and he emphasized the significance of such a role for the proper political functioning of a government. Additionally, Mr. Xhemollari focused on the struggles when trying to report misconduct.

In continuation of the training, a debate was organized among students. The aim of this debate was for the students participating in the training to have the opportunity to apply the knowledge they gained in a debate. The debate was focused on the impact of whistleblowing in education, national and international security, intergovernmental relations, human rights, public administration and legal support.

INTEGRITY IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

“Integrity, transparency, the fight against corruption are a priority for Cahul municipality. We have several initiatives in place, such as councils and coalitions to ensure integrity and transparency in decision-making. It is essential that every manager of public institutions fights the phenomenon of corruption. The image of the institution, the quality of services depends on how our citizens perceive us. We still have this preconception regarding the citizen who knows about an irregularity and wants to notify the superior management. It is also very important the trust of the citizens in those to whom they address a report, to have the certainty that the revealed information will not turn against them.”

- NICOLAE DANDIȘ, MAYOR OF THE CAHUL MUNICIPALITY

Coalition member Center for Analysis and Prevention of Corruption in Moldova continued the series of trainings on the normative and institutional framework of whistleblowing. Dozens of civil servants, local elected officials, economic agents, but also representatives of the media have participated in the seminars.

In one of the largest seminars, nearly two hundred civil servants, local elected officials, and economic agents from Chisinau were trained on the normative and institutional framework of whistleblowing, but also on how to correctly apply the Law on Whistleblowing. One of the trainers, Ion Miron, explained the procedure for granting protection to whistleblowers through the Ombudsman’s Office. He presented concrete examples that highlighted the need to outline and overshadow the institution of whistleblowers, to capitalize on and promote it. The participants were informed about the obligations of the implementing authorities (employers) regarding: registration and examination of whistleblower reports, but also ensuring the protection of whistleblowers. Together with the trainers, they discussed the algorithm of action of the responsible institutions, the stages and the way of their action and interaction.

Whistleblowers are not particularly welcome by the public. Through these trainings and through you, we aim to combat the myth that the whistleblower is a mole. That's not what this is about! A whistleblower is that responsible employee, who puts public interest above personal interest.”

**- TRAINER AND
CAPC EXPERT,
LILIA IONIȚĂ**

WHISTLEBLOWING EXPLAINED

Through a series of podcasts and blog posts

Coalition member **Fondacija CPI** in Bosnia and Herzegovina has designed a series of podcasts on the topic of whistleblowing. The first episode is entitled “Who are they, what are they and how did they become - Whistleblowers? - Wave! # 01 - Azra Sorguč”. This episode was a talk with Azra Sorguč (political scientist) on the history of whistleblowers, as well as the ethical implications of reporting corruption. The mini-podcast series (Rock the Boat) is designed to present the concept, history and examples of whistleblowers in a rather informal setting with the aim to bring closer the concept of whistleblowers to the general public, as well as general instructions on how to proceed in case an individual notices and decides to report irregularities.

The second episode of the mini-podcast series “Wave!” is a talk with Ana Šučur about global examples of whistleblowers and the public’s perception of them. The third episode featured Alen Vejzagić who spoke about local examples of whistleblowers, as well as the law in force and protection mechanisms. The fourth episode had Imran Pašalić to talk about the use of modern technologies for the protection of whistleblowers, as well as their anonymization.

Coalition member Center for Investigative Reporting – SCOOP in North Macedonia has dedicated a blog to the topic of whistleblowing. The posts also elaborate on existing mechanisms for protection and promote whistleblowing as an act of utmost importance for the future of anti-corruption efforts in the country. However, beyond the heroic role of whistleblowers in the society, the aim is to promote safe ways to blow the whistle and how these can be incorporated together with the EU Whistleblower Directive, should it be mirrored in the national legislation. The posts are available in English, Macedonian, and Albanian language.

Albania hasn't had a significant case received from a whistleblower yet

Whistleblowers unprotected in practice

Gjorgji Lazarevski and Zvonko Kostovski's heroic deed

The feat of Murat Mehmeti, the most famous whistleblower from Kosovo

A \$ 200 million reward to a whistleblower from Deutsche Bank

Libor Michálek- Czech whistleblowing icon



Check out the blog posts through these links