

2024

GOOD PRACTICES OF INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION TOOLS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT: ANTI- CORRUPTION, ASSET RECOVERY, CONFISCATION OF UNEXPLAINED WEALTH



**GOOD PRACTICES OF INTER-INSTITUTIONAL
COOPERATION AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION TOOLS
FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT: ANTI-CORRUPTION, ASSET
RECOVERY, CONFISCATION OF UNEXPLAINED WEALTH**

Bucharest, 2024

© Association for Cooperation and Sustainable Development, 2024

© Security and Rule of Law Program

office@acdd.ro

www.acdd.ro

The public policy analysis report is the property of the Association for Cooperation and Sustainable Development. It is forbidden to reproduce, distribute or publish in whole or in part the content of the report, by any person, without the prior written consent of the Association for Cooperation and Sustainable Development.

The report is developed within the project "Rule of law resilience in Moldova", co-financed by the Knowledge Management Fund, through the Secretariat "[Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law](#)". The project aims to identify tools to ensure resilience, the rule of law and stability in the Republic of Moldova through the exchange of experiences, challenges and best practices between law enforcement and rule of law professionals (police officers, prosecutors, security experts and civil society organizations) from the Republic of Moldova and Romania.

Author of the report:

Radu Nicolae, PhD, is an international expert in the field of corruption prevention and asset recovery. Over his 20-year career, he has held the positions of team leader, key expert and anti-corruption/combating organized crime expert in over 50 projects implemented in Romania and at the European level. He has collaborated with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Commission and the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative. His expert activity can be tracked on [LinkedIn](#), [ResearchGate](#) and [AcademiaEdu](#).

The Association for Cooperation and Sustainable Development (ACDD) is a think tank that monitors and contributes to sustainable development policies both in Romania and internationally. ACDD focuses on two Sustainable Development Goals: peace, justice, and strong institutions, and quality education. In terms of security, justice, and the rule of law, ACDD monitors Romania's institutional capacity against corruption and organized crime, public attitudes, and the impact of prevention agencies and investigative bodies on human trafficking, corruption, smuggling, drug trafficking, and other illegal activities. ACDD promotes the social reuse of confiscated goods at national and European level as part of the [CHANCE](#) network. ACDD actively participated in developing whistleblower legislation in Romania. ACDD conducts research, provides training, and promotes networking between public sector stakeholders and civil society. In education, ACDD works with young people, teachers, and local communities to raise awareness, develop educational policies, and improve school curricula.

The points of view expressed in this report belong exclusively to the author and do not represent the official position of the financier or public institutions / authorities in Romania, the Republic of Moldova or any other third country.

Cover photo credit [Freepik](#)

Content

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Elements of divergence and convergence in citizens' and professionals' perceptions of justice reform and anti-corruption.....	3
3. Anti-corruption communication topics.....	6
4. Defense of professional reputation by the self-administration bodies of judges and prosecutors .	10
5. Conclusions and recommendations.....	12

Abbreviations

ACDD	Association for Cooperation and Sustainable Development
ANABI	The National Agency for the Administration of Seized Assets
ANI	Moldova National Integrity Authority
ANI	Romanian National Integrity Agency
ARBI	Agency for the Recovery of Criminal Assets
CNA	National Anticorruption Center
CRJM	Legal Resources Center from Moldova
CSM	Superior Council of Magistracy
CSP	Superior Council of Prosecutors
DNA	National Anti-corruption Directorate
JIT	Joint Investigation Team
MAI	Ministry of Interior
NDI	National Democratic Institute
PA	Anticorruption Prosecutor's Office
PCCOCS	Prosecutor's Office for Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases
EU	European Union

1. INTRODUCTION

This public policy report aims to analyse the public communication agenda pursued by the relevant anti-corruption and integrity institutions in the Republic of Moldova. The report is accompanied by an action plan with recommendations for strengthening anti-corruption communication. Effective communication of legal tasks, challenges, and results plays an important role in increasing citizens' trust in law enforcement institutions, combating disinformation and destabilizing actions in the region, and enhancing inter-institutional cooperation.

The report was developed based on discussions during the workshop "Good practices of inter-institutional cooperation and public communication tools regarding law enforcement: anti-corruption, asset recovery, and confiscation of unexplained wealth. Consolidation of bilateral relations between Romania and the Republic of Moldova," organized in Bucharest on March 19, 2024. The workshop was attended by representatives of various anti-corruption and integrity institutions from the Republic of Moldova and Romania, as well as civil society representatives: Criminal Asset Recovery Agency, the National Integrity Authority, the Legal Resources Center of Moldova, the National Anti-Corruption Center, the Soros Foundation Moldova, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova, the National Democratic Institute Moldova, the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, the National Agency for the Administration of Seized Assets, the National Agency for Integrity, the Romanian Legal Resource Center, the National Anti-Corruption Directorate, and the Romanian Ministry of Justice. During the workshop, discussions focused on operational cooperation between similar institutions in the two states, how these institutions communicate their own results and those achieved through common inter-institutional efforts (including ongoing investigations, seized assets, confiscated assets, and final court decisions), the most appropriate communication channels, and new ways to improve public communication and increase impact among citizens.

The report is also informed by data from surveys and analysis reports that provide context to the institutional challenges discussed. We thank all the authorities and civil society organizations from the Republic of Moldova and Romania who provided us with data for the elaboration of this report and who participated in the project events.

2. ELEMENTS OF DIVERGENCE AND CONVERGENCE IN CITIZENS' AND PROFESSIONALS' PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE REFORM AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

The perception of corruption at the national level

According to the opinion poll presented by NDI during the workshop, almost 90% of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova believe that the phenomenon of corruption is quite widespread (37%) or very widespread (50%). Another survey carried out among justice professionals in 2023 (CIVIS-CRJM survey¹), confirms that a significant portion of them believe there is a lot of corruption in the Republic of Moldova (28% of judges, 43% of prosecutors, and 75% of lawyers). However, the perception of the prevalence of corruption is less pronounced among professionals than among citizens.

The perception of corruption in the judiciary

A nationally representative survey, presented in February 2024² (Magenta-IPRE survey), confirms the perception of corruption within the justice system: 53% of citizens believe that the main problem of the justice system is corruption, and 12% cite nepotism (a practice associated with corruption). However, corruption is not perceived equally across all justice system institutions: 22% perceive more corruption at the level of territorial prosecutors' offices, 18% at the General Prosecutor's Office, and 11% at the CSM, while 27% of citizens cannot determine where corruption is most prevalent. Citizens perceive less corruption at the level of specialized prosecutor's offices (PA and PCCOCS). Unlike citizens, most justice professionals (CIVIS-CRJM survey) believe that the most corrupt prosecutor's offices are PA (17% of judges, 32% of prosecutors, and 13% of lawyers) and PCCOCS (10% of judges, 9% of prosecutors, and 15% of lawyers). The IMAS survey³ from 2023 reveals that the Anti-corruption Prosecutor's Office benefits from a high level of trust from 14% of citizens (77% declare that they have little or very little trust), CNA and the General Prosecutor's Office from 13% of citizens (75% and 76% have little or very little trust), and courts from 9% of citizens (86% have little or very little trust). Regarding corrupt practices in the justice system, the IMAS survey reports that the majority of citizens perceive such practices occur frequently (for example, 62% of citizens believe that receiving bribes (money) in exchange for certain illegal actions or decisions is common). However, between 16-21% of citizens do not know or do not answer questions regarding corruption practices in the justice system.

Elements of divergence and convergence of opinions

All analysed surveys measure perceptions of key elements of justice reform and anti-corruption: ensuring independence, vetting, the Anti-Corruption Court, trust in institutions, etc.

The Magenta-IPRE survey, 2024

Elements of divergence in perceptions: trust in institutions, independence of judges and prosecutors, vetting, and direction of reform. Citizens do not yet have a crystallized opinion about justice: trust in the institutions of the justice system (prosecutors and courts) ranges from a lot of trust (22% of citizens) to medium trust (34-36%) to little trust (36-37%). We also observe the same difference regarding the perception of the independence of judges and prosecutors: rather or totally independent (42% of citizens think) and totally or partially lacking independence (51-53% of citizens think). Another area of divergence is vetting: 40% have a lot of confidence in vetting results, 42% have little confidence, and 15% have no confidence in vetting results at all. The perception of the changes taking place in the justice system is not fully crystallized either: 30% perceive an improvement, 37% believe that justice has remained the same, and 25% believe that the situation has worsened. Statistical analysis revealed

¹ [The perception of judges, prosecutors and lawyers about justice and the phenomenon of corruption](#)

² [The first national public opinion survey on integrity in the justice sector](#)

³ [Socio-political reality and mass media perception – September 2023](#)

that the perception of the improvement of the justice system is higher among citizens informed about justice reform, those with higher incomes, those who speak Romanian more often, and those who support EU accession. Similarly, trust in vetting is higher among those with higher incomes.

Elements of convergence in perceptions: the professionalism of judges and prosecutors, the accessibility of the courts, the amount of salaries of judges and prosecutors, interest in reform, the Anti-Corruption Court, and the accession to the European Union. The majority of citizens (58%) state that they have a positive or very positive opinion of judges and prosecutors, and 56-57% believe that their salaries are appropriate. Likewise, most citizens believe that the courts are accessible (63%), efficient (55%), and serve the public interest (53%), and are composed of competent/professional people (71%). Another element of convergence is the interest in justice reform (70% of citizens have heard about this reform) as well as the importance of the creation of the Anti-Corruption Court (75%), and 68% support the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the EU (95% of citizens believe that justice reform is important for EU accession).

Issues: speed, transparency and information. The main problems felt by citizens in relation to the courts are the lack of speed and transparency (over 60% of citizens). The self-perception of the degree of information shows that 40% of citizens consider themselves informed about the reform in the justice and anti-corruption sector in Moldova, and 59% consider themselves uninformed about this subject.

IMAS survey, 2023

Elements of divergence in perceptions: the authenticity of the fight against corruption. 52% of citizens say that they feel that there is a fight against corruption, while 43% do not think that such a fight is taking place.

Elements of convergence in perceptions: lack of judicial independence, failure of justice reform, and accession to the European Union. 70% of citizens believe that justice has come under the influence/control of those now in power. 59% of citizens believe that the justice reform is a failure. 54% of citizens would vote for joining the European Union.

The perceptions of legal professionals differ from those of citizens, but we encounter similar elements of divergence and convergence.

CIVIS-CRJM survey, 2023

Elements of divergence in perceptions: vetting, the Anti-Corruption Court, the defence of professional independence, and the promotion of judges and prosecutors. Vetting is supported by 40% of judges and 27% of prosecutors; 25% of judges and 35% of prosecutors have a neutral attitude; and 35% of judges and 39% of prosecutors do not support it. The anti-corruption court is supported by 36% of judges and 35% of prosecutors; and 37% of judges and 34% of prosecutors do not support it. Half of the judges believe that the CSM effectively defends independence and the other half support the opposite. The same half-half division also in regard to the defence of prosecutors' independence by the CSP. Career promotion and management positions in courts and prosecutor's offices divide professionals into two more or less equal halves: one side agrees that promotion is based on merit and the other disagrees.

Elements of convergence in perceptions: independence, salaries, and causes of low confidence in justice. The majority of professionals (91% of judges, 76% of prosecutors) believe that judges are independent. The majority of professionals (56% of judges and 67% of prosecutors) believe that prosecutors are also independent. Professionals believe that judges can be influenced by politicians, the media, and the CSM, while prosecutors can be influenced by politicians, the media, the General Prosecutor's Office, and the CNA. Regarding salaries, most judges and prosecutors consider their remuneration to be insufficient. The majority of professionals believe that citizens' low trust in the judiciary is determined by 1) the image unjustifiably created by the mass media (89% of judges and

Good practices of inter-institutional cooperation and public communication tools for law enforcement: anti-corruption, recovery of criminal assets, confiscation of unjustified assets

88% of prosecutors); 2) politicians' attacks on justice (82% of judges and prosecutors); and 3) low trust in other powers (68% of judges and 75% of prosecutors).

Regarding communication/information channels, both the NDI survey and the Magenta-IPRE survey report television as the main source of information (52% - 57% of citizens), followed by social networks (48% - 54%). The IMAS survey reports websites as the main source of information (for 35% of citizens), followed by television (28% of citizens).

This analysis has indicated the main themes in justice that fuel polarization in society and that must be addressed responsibly by political leaders. There is a need to create a political consensus around the rule of law, democracy and building strong and independent anti-corruption institutions, regardless of political ideology or colour.

3. ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMUNICATION TOPICS

In the context of the data from the public opinion polls, during the workshop the participants identified several challenges, information/debate topics and solutions to increase communication with citizens:

- The PA leadership is concerned with citizens' trust in the institution and aims to achieve results in the anti-corruption fight that would strengthen this trust to a level similar to DNA in Romania⁴. Theoretically, the situation of the PA is more favourable after the legislative changes of 2023 and 2024. The PA has clear powers and has benefited from the approval of an expansion of human resources and an operative organization according to the Romanian model. Practically all these resources have not yet been deployed in day-to-day work.
- The PA leadership aims to strengthen the collaboration with the DNA regarding the transfer of practices and in joint investigations, communicating publicly about these results. Although there are currently no active JITs with Romania, such teams have been established in the past. Annually PA has around 5-6 requests addressed to Romania, and the answers are prompt. The PA also proposes to increase the number of JITs with several EU member states, already having a prosecutor assigned to Eurojust.
- PA has its own website and pages on social networks. The PA constantly communicates publicly, and the PA leadership participates in televised or online debates, nationally and internationally.
- Participants emphasized the importance of managing expectations and communicating honestly and clearly with citizens about what can and cannot be done in the short, medium, and long term, given the tools that anti-corruption agencies have at their disposal and the imperative to respect human rights. For example, ANABI and ARBI were established around the same time, they have a similar organization, and they work constantly, but the outcomes of the actions they participate in are not always extraordinary (statistics are never satisfactory for citizens). However, by intensifying communication and cooperation between ARBI and ANABI, the speed of information exchange has increased. Some legal mechanisms are extremely cumbersome/bureaucratic, and judicial assistance in criminal matters between the Republic of Moldova and Romania is carried out based on traditional, slow cooperation mechanisms (marked by excessive formalism). There are no international rapid response instruments between states. Even at the European level, the new confiscation directive is a less powerful tool than practitioners expected. The solution lies in sophisticated communication and bilateral cooperation between institutions through creative, lateral, and generative thinking. A lot of work and professionalism are still needed from the anti-corruption and asset recovery agencies. In addition to legislative instruments, which have their limits, there is a need for anti-corruption agencies to increase the sophistication of human resources, teamwork, and the internal organization of resources. Analytical capabilities can be improved through better continuing professional training (including at the international level), access to new computer programs, and state-of-the-art equipment. Lastly, the perseverance and seriousness of the people employed in anti-corruption agencies, and the management style of the leadership, matter. Harmony within the team increases efficiency even more. It takes very good mutual knowledge between the team members to reach their maximum potential.

⁴According to the latest survey data, citizens' trust in DNA is around 36-40%.

Good practices of inter-institutional cooperation and public communication tools for law enforcement: anti-corruption, recovery of criminal assets, confiscation of unjustified assets

- Participants believed that managing expectations and communicating with citizens should also address what corruption investigation entails. Citizens must be supported to differentiate between public allegations of corruption (often political), a journalistic investigation of corruption and a criminal investigation of corruption. An anti-corruption investigation is subject to very strict procedural rigors of evidence collection and interpretation in order to formulate a criminal charge that can be accepted in court. To be able to seize, manage assets and investigate financially, it is necessary to notify the person and communicate the fact. ECtHR jurisprudence must be respected. Not every public accusation or journalistic investigation can turn / prove into a criminal charge.
- The communication regarding the management of expectations must also refer to the real working conditions of the employees of the anti-corruption agencies that demotivate and drive away the competent staff: negative public discourse towards the institution, unfounded public accusations and even attacks on the person, and low salary. Competent human capital from the Republic of Moldova is migrating to Europe. These challenges were also pointed out by the participants from Romania. And in the case of DNA, the attractiveness of the positions was not constant, and media coverage is an important component in motivation. So is the salary level. However, for such elite structures, the first motivation should not be the salary but the professional one.
- The ability of the management of anti-corruption institutions to choose and form their team was mentioned as another topic of public communication. A few years ago, the selection of DNA prosecutors was carried out by the CSM. Now it has returned to a previous mechanism according to which the chief prosecutor of the DNA selects the prosecutors according to the management plan through an internal commission. The commission, which also includes a psychologist, makes a profile of the candidates by analysing the cases of the last five years and the submitted recommendations. Through the interview, the candidates' practical skills, reactions to various matters, character, adherence to principles, and professional motivation are analysed. Recruitment is not based on memorizing and reproducing legal texts. It is important that the chief prosecutor has confidence in his team, as the most dreadful situation is for a prosecutor to betray his colleagues and divulge inside information to those under investigation. DNA would not have succeeded if it did not have its own police. A strong institution needs a loyal staff. At the ANABI level, the recruitment method (practical tests and interview) and team building played an essential role in the institution's success. ANABI has various types of employees, including magistrates. ANABI offers a very dynamic and professionally challenging workplace with a competitive salary, therefore, newly hired persons must have a very high level of specialized expertise
- Management of expectations must also refer to the relationship between the Republic of Moldova and Romania in terms of cooperation in criminal matters. There is still a need to (1) harmonize the criminal legal framework to facilitate this cooperation, (2) ensure each party understands the specifics of investigations in each state to work together effectively, and (3) achieve similar capacity between the anti-corruption agencies of the two states. Many citizens of the Republic of Moldova also have Romanian citizenship, as well as many people who may be involved in the crime sector. Just as honest citizens can easily transfer assets, so can criminals. Last but not least, cooperation can also be hampered by differences in capacity. However, the evolution in bilateral relations has been positive since 2010. The institutions have adopted legislative models from Romania, not only formal relations among the representatives of the institutions but also

personal relations have developed. Formalism is lower than before. There is a need to strengthen relations in the operational/technical area and peer-to-peer training.

- Another topic of interest was public communication within the justice system regarding the role of criminal assts. Often, for various reasons, not enough diligence is applied to improve the confiscation of criminal proceeds. If a criminal asset has remained outside the area of identification and disposal, it can be used for further criminal activity because the methods of cooperation in crime are more refined. At the same time, the investigating prosecutor is bound by the procedures and the administration of the evidence and does not have enough time for the financial investigation. That is why there is a need to understand the role and importance of the financial investigator. For example, in 2023, DNA improved its organizational structure by establishing a parallel financial investigation structure, with specialized people (who have knowledge, best practices, skills and access to modern work tools), and the results began to be visible. The new structure of financial investigations can do in 2-3 days what prosecutors used to do in 3 months. Effective technical solutions have been developed in-house to download and process data in record time. In complex cases, teams of financial investigators and analysts are formed to quickly manage the data, which greatly increases efficiency. DNA has the possibility to quickly access an asset identification mechanism. Romania, like the Republic of Moldova, does not have a tradition of confiscating criminal proceeds, this capacity has been building for several years.
- The participants emphasized that anti-corruption results are finally achieved only in the court of law. Despite all the legal and capacity challenges (human, financial, equipment, etc.), PA and ARBI succeeded, through international cooperation, exchange of information and rogatory commissions, to seize goods worth more than 80 million Euros in Europe. Seizure is not a finality, it requires a conviction followed by confiscation, and conviction and confiscation can only be decided by judges. More speed is needed from the courts.
- Participants emphasized the importance of honest and clear communication and the responsibilities of other public institutions in preventing and reporting corruption. The fight against corruption must not be viewed by the public as the sole preserve of anti-corruption and asset recovery agencies. As it is established in Romania, incidents of corruption and lack of integrity represent a failure of the management of the respective institutions, of the prevention, audit and internal control systems. The administrative and internal corruption control mechanisms must be improved, in parallel with the strengthening of anti-corruption agencies. No matter how efficient they are, anti-corruption agencies cannot detect and investigate all existing corruption in a state (there are objective limits of employees, resources and time).
- The theme of honest and clear communication with citizens about the limits of control capacity was also emphasized in relation to integrity agencies. The legislation in both countries obliges the declaration of assets from abroad, but the mechanisms to control the truth of the declarations are rather non-existent⁵. Information exchange channels are exclusively criminal and cannot be diverted to administrative proceedings although there are some jurisdictions that do both criminal and administrative forfeiture.
- Another theme of communication with citizens identified by the participants refers to the EU accession process which imposes some technical procedures for harmonizing the legal framework in the field of justice and human rights (for example the PIF Directive). These changes

⁵The subject has been developed and explained at length in the previous report

Good practices of inter-institutional cooperation and public communication tools for law enforcement: anti-corruption, recovery of criminal assets, confiscation of unjustified assets

and discussions make use of the already reduced capacity of institutions and grant new powers to existing institutions.

The participants concluded that there is a need to coordinate the communication efforts of the main anti-corruption institutions in the Republic of Moldova (PA, CNA, ARBI, ANI), develop and follow a common communication strategy: common messages and common anti-corruption campaign, followed by measuring the results. The participants proposed several objectives that could be targeted by the common communication strategy: a) encouraging citizens and employees to report acts of corruption; b) presentation of reporting methods and guarantees against possible reprisals; c) presentation of the way anti-corruption agencies work, the daily challenges and efforts, the institutional route from detection to conviction and confiscation, the role of each institution - demystifying the anti-corruption activity; d) presentation of the role of judicial reforms and EU requirements in the matter of the rule of law and human rights.

4. DEFENSE OF PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION BY THE SELF-ADMINISTRATION BODIES OF JUDGES AND PROSECUTORS

The public debate about justice in the Republic of Moldova is oriented towards questioning the integrity of professionals in the field and the independence of public institutions. Various scandals and public accusations arise, including in institutional contexts (eg. recruitment competitions, vetting). As far as prosecutors are concerned, according to Article 125¹ of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, the Superior Council of Prosecutors is the guarantor of the independence and impartiality of prosecutors. The Inspectorate of Prosecutors carries out checks on the independence and reputation of prosecutors at the request of the Superior Council of Prosecutors⁶. According to international standards, prosecutors must benefit from the protection of their honour and reputation⁷: "If a prosecutor considers that his independence, impartiality, or professional reputation is affected, he should first request the head of the prosecution body in which he works, and also the CSP, by virtue of the legal provisions that give them the right to take a stand. It is not recommended that the unjustly attacked prosecutor communicate with the press unless there is no other solution. An individual public statement of the prosecutor can make her vulnerable". However, despite numerous public scandals and occasional demands⁸, CSP has not recently defended the reputation and independence of prosecutors. This creates the perception that prosecutors do not benefit from real protection, weakening their motivation and directly affecting their independence and prestige.

Attacks on individuals are also common in public life in Romania and target anti-corruption institutions. However, unlike in Moldova, the CSM in Romania consistently defends the reputation of magistrates. For example, the CSM recently issued a statement defending the reputation and independence of the DNA's chief prosecutor⁹ following public accusations from political leaders. However, the CSM did not act ex officio in this case, as the chief prosecutor had to submit a request. The president of the National Integrity Agency was also the subject of public accusations, but the National Integrity Council did not intervene. Sometimes, the media and society's appetite for scandal, even if the information is not real, is reflected in their attitude. Society does not vote to sanction politicians who unjustifiably attack anti-corruption institutions.

Another topic discussed in the workshop was the impact of disinformation and propaganda. Regarding the Republic of Moldova, disinformation is seen as a national security issue. Disinformation targets the justice reform agenda, the anti-corruption fight and the European path of the Republic of Moldova. Citizens' resilience is low in understanding which information is correct and which are attempts to manipulate and deceit. State institutions are vulnerable in countering disinformation, and citizens have an appetite for "breaking news". To keep up with the pace of disinformation, public institutions would have to continuously combat it, which is impossible and requires resources that could be better allocated to achieving the institutional mandate. As a result, justice reform and the anti-corruption fight become politicized. Citizens are led to expect quick and decisive results, so anti-corruption agencies need to provide accurate information about their work (e.g., by regularly organizing press clubs). Especially in the context of the 2024 election, disinformation is expected to increase in intensity.

⁶ [Law no. 3/2016 regarding the Prosecutor's Office, art. 891, para. 9](#)

⁷ [Commentary on the Code of Ethics of Prosecutors](#)

⁸ During the discussions, the PA chief prosecutor stated that he submitted such a request to the CSP which was not honored.

⁹ [The CSM defends the professional reputation of the head of DNA, Marius Voineag](#)

Good practices of inter-institutional cooperation and public communication tools for law enforcement: anti-corruption, recovery of criminal assets, confiscation of unjustified assets

The participants concluded that civil society involvement is crucial in correctly informing citizens about justice reform and the fight against corruption. Civil society organizations can disseminate and translate institutional messages to citizens, monitor public accusations, and independently assess their accuracy.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Vetting, the Anti-Corruption Court, the independence and professionalism of judges and prosecutors, and the politicization of corruption cases are the main issues in the field of justice that fuel polarization in society and that must be addressed responsibly by political leaders. There is a need to create a political consensus around the rule of law and building strong and independent anti-corruption institutions.
- It is necessary to coordinate the communication efforts of the main anti-corruption institutions in the Republic of Moldova (PA, CNA, ARBI, ANI), develop and follow a common communication strategy: common messages and common anti-corruption campaign followed by measuring the results. The participants proposed several objectives that could be targeted by the common communication strategy: a) encouraging citizens and employees to report acts of corruption; b) presentation of reporting methods and guarantees against possible reprisals; c) presentation of the way anti-corruption agencies work, the daily challenges and efforts, the institutional route from detection to conviction and confiscation, the role of each institution - demystifying the anti-corruption activity; d) presentation of the role of judicial reforms and EU requirements in the matter of the rule of law and human rights.
- There is a need for the involvement of civil society in correctly informing citizens about justice reform and the fight against corruption. Civil society organizations can disseminate and translate institutional messages to citizens, monitor public accusations, and independently assess their accuracy.

Good practices of inter-institutional cooperation and public communication tools for law enforcement: anti-corruption, recovery of criminal assets, confiscation of unjustified assets

Action plan for the implementation of conclusions and recommendations

Level	Measure description	KPIs	Sources of verification	risks	responsive	Resources	Deadline
OBJECTIVE NO. 1 – Correctly informing citizens about justice reform and the fight against corruption							
Measure 1.1	Development and follow-up of a common communication strategy for Moldovan anti-corruption agencies (PA, CNA, ARBI, ANI): common messages and common anti-corruption campaign, followed by measurement of results.	The impact on citizens, by age category and residence environment (number of people, changes in attitude and level of information)	Impact report	Lack of coordination / institutional hubris	PA, CNA, ARBI, YEARS	Technical assistance project budgets / development partners	December 2024
Measure 1.2	Developing partnerships with civil society organizations for the regular organization of press clubs by each anti-corruption institution	No. of press clubs organized by each institution	Annual activity report	Lack of coordination / institutional hubris	PA, CNA, ARBI, YEARS	Technical assistance project budgets / development partners	December 2024
Measure 1.3	The organization of a public debate on the defence of the reputation of judges and prosecutors in the Republic of Moldova and the independent monitoring by civil society of the CSP / CSM regarding the activity of defending the professional reputation.	No. of public communications for the defence of reputation No. of monitoring reports	Annual activity report	Lack of coordination / institutional hubris	CSM, CSP, PA, CNA, ARBI, ANI	Technical assistance project budgets / development partners	December 2024

Good practices of inter-institutional cooperation and public communication tools for law enforcement: anti-corruption, recovery of criminal assets, confiscation of unjustified assets

Level	Measure description	KPIs	Sources of verification	risks	responsive	Resources	Deadline
Measure 1.4	Independent monitoring and fact-checking of public accusations against anti-corruption institutions	Number of public allegations analysed and statistical data on message promoters and their accuracy	Monitoring reports	Lack of expertise in this field; the politicization of the approach	Civil society organizations	Technical assistance project budgets / development partners	December 2024

Association for Cooperation and Sustainable Development

Bucharest, Romania

www.acdd.ro

office@acdd.ro

[linkedin.com/company/asociatia-pentru-cooperare-si-dezvoltare-durabila](https://www.linkedin.com/company/asociatia-pentru-cooperare-si-dezvoltare-durabila)

[facebook.com/acddRO/](https://www.facebook.com/acddRO/)