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## Information on Activities Carried out for the Period January - December 2022

In 2022, Transparency International in BiH (TI BiH) continued to act in accordance with the organization's strategic goals, and in addition to that, efforts were intensified to expand organization's capacities and range of activities.

Although the previous period was marked by blockades of institutions, political tensions, the election campaign and the general elections, which implied the lack of adoption of initiatives advocated by TI BiH in the previous period, TI BiH intensified its engagement in monitoring all relevant processes, including monitoring of disposition of public resources, decision-making processes, public contracting, appointment, employment, etc. The existing databases were updated, and new ones were presented in the previous period (2022 Elections, association and foundation funding database, court practice database).

A significant focus was placed on the monitoring of election activities, through field monitoring of office bearers, institutions, political parties and candidates, in order to identify and address abuse of public resources, pressure on voters, irregularities in election campaign, but also to inform voters about relevant issues related to electoral irregularities and the implementation of elections.

In addition, regardless of blockades and resistance, TI BiH continued to insist on improving key anti-corruption mechanisms, offering concrete solutions, exerting public pressure to provide quality solutions, and often, unfortunately, acting to prevent the adoption of harmful legal regulations. In this sense, TI BiH was forced to act towards all international actors in terms of harmful decisions and approaches in the work of representatives of the international community, and is one of the few NGOs that took a clear position regarding the direction of electoral reform, as well as imposed decisions by the High Representative.

The trends of increased number of cases handled by the TI BiH within the Center for Providing Legal Assistance, as well as irregularities identified through monitoring, continued during 2022. In that segment, the direct support to whistleblowers in the proceedings they initiate and conduct before the competent courts with the aim of protecting their rights, especially stands out. In the end, during the previous period, investigations and indictments were initiated by the competent prosecutor's offices following reports submitted by the TI BiH regarding abuses in the process of appointment, use of public resources and public procurement, while on the other hand, several officials were dismissed due to the conflicts of interest following reports from TI BiH, and sanctions were imposed against political parties following reports from TI BiH in the amount of over 115 thousand BAM.

## 1. Protection of public resources

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### 1.1: Open, competitive and transparent public contracting

- **The Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Procurement was adopted**, on which TI BiH worked, and sent proposals and comments during the parliamentary procedure. Although the TI BiH made public criticism of the final text of the adopted law, due to the omission of important provisions, a part of the proposal of the TI BiH was eventually included in the adopted text.
- **A set of by-laws was adopted** on the Board of the Agency for Public Procurement, with proposals suggested by TI BiH
- TI BiH, together with partner organizations, **monitored over 5,000 public procurement procedures** through the platform pratimotendere.ba
- **The study "Improving accountability and transparency of public procurement in the healthcare systems of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Pilot study of Sarajevo and Tuzla Cantons" was promoted.**
- In March, **a round table was held on the topic of current situation and challenges in the concession system in BiH**, which was attended by representatives of relevant ministries, concession commissions, audit institutions and civil society organizations active in the field of monitoring the awarding and implementation of concession contracts in BiH.
- Creation of an **online register of concessions in BiH** with basic data on concessions has been launched, which will increase the transparency of planned and ongoing concessions.

All irregularities observed during **the monitoring of public procurement** were forwarded to the competent institutions (88 reports), in order to ensure that the reported irregularities are sanctioned. Based on the TI BiH report in April, **the Agency for Public Procurement forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office of BiH** documentation on the procurement of driver's licenses worth BAM 800,000 against the responsible persons in IDDEEA, because they stated the urgency of procuring 200,000 forms, even though the basic contract lasted for 10 years. In the same month, after proceeding with the Institute of Health Insurance and Reinsurance of the Federation of BiH and the Federal Ministry of Health, **the Rulebook on conditions in terms of space, personnel and medical-technical equipment for the establishment and organization of work in health institutions** that perform dialysis activities (Rulebook for the procurement of dialyzers) was amended, since due to deficiencies in this regulation, not a single public procurement procedure for dialyzers has been completed since 2016, and since 2019, institutions have not even implemented procedures. Also, **a criminal case was filed against those responsible in the Federal Administration of Civil Protection** for the procurement of thermal cameras, reusable protective suits, and quarantine beds during the pandemic, which were paid for and never delivered. Given that, since the end of last year, TI BiH **has been unable to gain access to the contract on the procurement of vaccines** against COVID-19 worth 12.5 million marks, which was signed by the Institute of Public Health of the Federation of BiH with the Chinese companies Biotec Group and Sinopharm, the reaction of the Administrative inspection was requested. During March, TI BiH **reported to the World Bank** the procurement of ambulance vehicles under the emergency Covid-19 project, which the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of the Republic of Srpska exempted from the Agency for Public Procurements, since the funding were ensured from the World Bank Mechanism for rapid action against Covid-

19. 15 vehicles worth BAM 31,713.93 were imported, and the Ministry purchased 15 vehicles worth BAM 106,797.02 each, including VAT.

When it comes to monitoring in the **field of concessions**, and on the basis of this, data was published in July about Trebinje 1 Solar Power Plant, as well as the methods and conditions under which the Hungarian investor was introduced into the concession. Also, in October, **a criminal complaint was filed against those responsible in the Ministry of Economy of the Central Bosnia Canton and the Ministry of Finance of the Central Bosnia Canton** because, by failing to perform their official duties, they obtained the benefits of ten different legal entities, in such a way that they did not initiate procedures for the collection of doubtful and disputed claims from these concessionaires, even though they were warned by others competent institutions. TI BiH won **a court case against the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Srpska, which illegally hid the concession contract** for the construction of Banja Luka - Prijedor highway.

Also, TI BiH filed **a criminal complaint against the Minister of Transport and Communications** of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vojin Mitrović, due to the illegal adoption of the new Ordinance on Vehicle Registration, which opens up the possibility of directing significant revenues charged by the state to private companies in the future.

### *1.2: Reduce the space for abuse in public sector*

Based on the identified cases of potential **conflict of interest** in the Register of Public Office Holders and cases reported to the Center for Legal Assistance, TI BiH forwarded **15 reports to the relevant conflict of interest commissions** and other competent institutions. Based on TI BiH reports, the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina **revoked the mandate of Aladin Ćerimović, a councilor in the Velika Kladuša Municipal Council**, who is also an adviser to the Prime Minister of the Una-Sana Canton. In addition, he is in a direct conflict of interest on two other grounds: as the president of the Equestrian Club "Krajišnik" from Velika Kladuša, which is financed from municipal and budget funds of the Una-Sana Canton, and as a member of the Supervisory Board of JKUP Komunalije from Velika Kladuša. Based on the report of the TI BiH, **Goran Obradović**, who at the same time performed the function of an elected representative in the Assembly of the town of Čajniče and an official in the municipal administration, **returned his mandate**. Based on the TI BiH report, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth of the Tuzla Canton initiated **disciplinary proceedings against Amela Mehmedović**, who simultaneously served as a municipal councilor and assistant minister in the Government of Tuzla Canton. Two appeals to the TI BiH against the decision of the Republican Commission for the Prevention of Conflict of Interest of the Republic of Srpska were adopted, and based on one of the decisions, the Commission for Deciding on Conflict of Interest in the retrial determined that the former councilor in Prnjavor **Bogoljub Saničanin was in a conflict of interest** while performing the function of president of the municipal Veterans' Organization, which was financed from the budget. TI BiH also submitted a report to the Commission for Deciding on a Conflict of Interest **against BiH Presidency member Milorad Dodik**, because companies owned by his family do business with the state and receive significant incentives from the budget.

With the aim of increasing the transparency of the public sector and encouraging the public to demand and obtain access to data and information of public importance, TI BiH created a special **database of judgments related to freedom of access to information**. In addition, in June, and according to the action of TI BiH, the Ombudsmen issued an important Recommendation by which they ordered the Administrative Inspection of the Republic of Srpska to finally start acting on reports of violations of the Law on Free Access to Information.

### 1.3: Create prerequisites for the business sector to operate on the principles of integrity

- Extensive **research on integrity mechanisms and prevention of corruption in the business sector** was promoted, based on a sample of over 100 representatives of the private sector.
  - In September 2022, the **Business Integrity Forum** was organized, which brought together representatives of business entities in BiH who strive for the highest anti-corruption and ethical standards in business practice.
  - **10 regional trainings** were held in the Republic of Srpska for the implementation of the Law on the Protection of Persons Who Report Corruption in the Education and Health Sectors, during which at least 80 representatives of public authorities were informed about how to create conditions for safe reporting of corruption, to effectively act on reports of corruption, and provide protection to persons who report corruption.
  - Prepared and published analysis of the legal framework that regulates the issue of real ownership in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The results of the analysis and the recommendation derived from the analysis will be used for further advocacy activities related to the establishment of a single register of real ownership in BiH, in accordance with international standards.
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## 2. Ensuring integrity in politics

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### 2.1: Fair and honest elections

- TI BiH hired **74 observers who, three months before the 2022 General Elections, monitored institutions and behavior patterns of political candidates and officials** before and during the election campaign, with the aim of detecting and documenting the use of public funds and positions in power for the purpose of electoral promotion. **About 2,265 potential abuses were recorded**, of which 1,137 were public works, the largest number of which were completed or started before the elections, 364 examples of distribution of subsidies and aid, 109 examples of distribution of gifts or other forms of assistance to the population by parties and 84 offers of special benefits and lowering the prices of public services in the monitoring period. 3,550 advertisements on billboards were registered and **587 election rallies were visited**.
- **Reflektor** mobile application has been improved, enabling citizens to report various forms of irregularities, recording more than 600 different reports.
- Developed were interactive maps for monitoring election abuses (transparentno.ba) Elections22 and review of external advertising costs (Billboards).
- **Media monitoring of the election campaign of 15 political parties** was carried out, i.e. monitoring of advertising and advertising costs of political parties, with the aim of determining responsibility and transparency in spending party funds for the purpose of the election campaign.
- During September, TI BiH and BiRN organized debates in Banja Luka and Sarajevo under the title "**(ANTI)CORRUPTION IN FOCUS**", where representatives of political parties had the opportunity to present the measures and activities foreseen in their programs, which relate to the fight against corruption, the rule of law and necessary reforms to prevent corruption.

- Six trainings were conducted for **130 civil servants employed in institutions that supervise the spending of public funds** or in institutions responsible for the distribution of public funds on their rights and responsibilities regarding the prevention of abuse of public resources for electoral purposes.

During the **monitoring of the 2022 General Elections**, TI BiH regularly reported to the Central Election Commission and other relevant institutions about potential violations of the law, and thus sent **79 reports for 165 observed irregularities**. TI BiH submitted reports on various grounds, the largest number of which related to premature campaigning, misuse of public resources and violation of election silence, and in addition, trading of seats in electoral committees, irregularities in voter lists, prohibited posters, hate speech, violation of voting secrecy, improper counting of votes, etc.. Although it has not yet been decided on all reports that have been submitted to the competent authorities, the Central Election Commission has so far imposed **finances in the amount of BAM 116,100** based on the reports of TI BiH on various grounds, illegal posters have been removed from several locations, and two reports were forwarded to the competent prosecutor's offices. Due to **trade within electoral committees**, the Central Election Commission imposed a ban on employment for work at the polling station and work in the election commission for 4 years to four persons.

In April, TI BiH submitted a report to the Central Election Commission against SDA and HDZ **for violating the Law on Financing of Political Parties**. Based on the TI BiH report during the campaign for the 2020 Local Elections, in April of this year **the Federal Police Administration filed a report with the Cantonal Prosecutor's Office of Canton 10** against the mayor of the municipality of Drvar, Dušica Runić, on suspicion of having committed a criminal offense of abuse of position or authority when distributing donations to farmers.

As a part of monitoring, TI BiH continued constant coordination with the Central Election Commission in order to ensure action on reports, but also with observation missions, including international missions, and as a result the findings of TI BiH were incorporated into all relevant reports.

#### **Advocacy:**

In 2022, TI BiH continued advocating for the improvement of electoral legislation, by promoting proposals within the consultations with international and local actors, and monitoring the process of negotiations related to electoral reform. Also, TI BiH analyzed and reacted to the imposed changes to the Election Law and the Constitution of the Federation of BiH, and on that occasion participated in a series of advocacy meetings with international institutions, including members of the European Parliament.

In addition, TI BiH **managed to influence changes to the by-laws of the Central Electoral Commission, which directly affect the improvement of the transparency of political parties financing**, i.e. provide better insight into the costs of parties, especially when it comes to election campaigns.

#### ***2.2. Appointments/employment and exercise of public office in the public sector free from undue influence***

The currently available databases have been updated based on requests for free access to information addressed to public bodies at all levels of BiH, by searching official websites and databases.

- [The database of public companies](#) contains the most important data on operations, profits, losses, number of employees and various discretionary expenses in public companies. It currently contains information on 528 public companies (including companies in bankruptcy and those that have been privatized in the meantime). For the purposes of updating the database, 431 requests for free access to information were forwarded. An analysis of the operations of the Railways was also published.
- [The database of public institutions](#) contains information on the composition of management bodies, salaries of directors and members of the management and supervisory board, budgets, etc. In February, data on 1,700 public institutions was published.
- [The database for monitoring the distribution of public funds to associations and foundations in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) includes information on amounts, criteria and end users of public funds for financing the work of citizen associations and foundations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. **The database contains 14,858 grants and 7,637 registered associations** which in 2019 and 2020 received funds from authorities at all levels in the total amount of over BAM 121 million. During October, 198 new requests were forwarded, with the aim of updating the data.
- [The register of public office holders](#) contains information on the mandates of more than 4,000 elected and appointed officials at all levels of government in BiH, as well as data on more than 7,000 members of management structures in public enterprises and public institutions.

The Center for Providing Legal Assistance acted on numerous reports and examples of irregularities in the recruitment and appointment process. Thus, for example, the Administrative Inspection of the Republic of Srpska, upon TI BiH report, determined that Branislav Zeljković, former director of the Public Health Institute of the Republic of Srpska, was illegally employed as an expert advisor in the Republic Administration of Civil Protection of the Republic of Srpska, and ordered the head of the Republic Administration to terminate the employment contract with him. Due to non-compliance with the orders of the administrative inspectors, a misdemeanor proceeding was initiated against the head of the Republic Administration, followed by a criminal proceeding initiated by the competent prosecutor's office. In the same way, also according to the report of TI BiH, the Administrative Inspection of the Republic of Srpska determined that Nenad Ćuk, acting director of the Republic Administration of Civil Protection of the Republic of Srpska, as an economist by profession, does not meet the requirements for that position. The Administrative Inspection determined that the Government of the Republic of Srpska appointed Nenad Ćuk to this position more than three times for a period of 90 days, which violated the Law on Civil Servants. In the report of the inspection delivered to TI BiH, it is stated that the inspection informed the Government of the Republic of Srpska about the irregularities found and called on it to act according to the law, that is, to dismiss Nenad Ćuk from this position.

TI BiH also established direct cooperation with various institutions and establishments in order to improve their internal procedures when it comes to employment. For example, trainings were held for more than 150 representatives of health institutions in the areas of employment, public procurement, conflicts of interest, financial management and transparent waiting lists.

### **Advocacy**

TI BiH continued to advocate for the improvement of the legal framework that regulates the prevention of conflicts of interest. The proposal of the Law, which was drawn up by the TI BiH in the earlier period, was once again considered in the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, and was adopted by the House of Representatives, but was dismissed in the final stage by the House of Peoples. TI BiH also reacted to the attempts of the Ministry of Justice of BiH to derogate, through the new law, even the existing mechanisms for preventing conflicts of interest, and submitted proposals and comments during the public discussion, and acted in order to prevent the adoption of harmful provisions.



TI BiH also participated in the public discussion regarding the Law on Anti-Corruption in Sarajevo Canton, which regulates issues of conflict of interest and protection of corruption whistleblowers, and although the final version is not entirely satisfactory, some of the proposals of TI BiH were incorporated after the public discussion. Advocacy continued for the adoption of the Law on Conflict of Interest at the Federation of BiH level, through public events, initiatives towards competent institutions, international organizations, and TI BiH also made suggestions and comments during the public discussion organized by the Federation of BiH Parliament, on the proposal submitted by two representatives, and in addition, Government of the Federation of BiH finally sent the Draft Law to the Parliament, in the drafting of which TI BiH participated in previous years.

### ***2.3: Equal access of all legitimate actors to the decision-making process***

The system of communication between local self-government units and citizens has been improved and two-way communication has been enabled through the implementation of the POPULUS online platform (<https://projekatpopulus.ba/>) developed by TI BiH in cooperation with partner municipalities and cities. The platform was installed and started working in Brčko District, Bijeljina, Foča, Goražde, Lukavac and Novi Travnik. The capacities of these local self-government units have been improved for better communication with citizens through trainings held in these communities. Through the platform, local communities share information about their work and decisions. So far, through the platform, citizens have sent over 20 initiatives to local authorities. Also, all relevant information related to the sessions of local councils/assemblies, as well as materials for holding the sessions, are published on the platform. In addition, during the previous period, TI BiH promoted the platform among other local self-government units. In this regard, a joint meeting was held with 10 local units, where they were presented with both the platform and other tools for improving the integrity of the local self-government units that TI BiH developed in the previous period. TI BiH will continue cooperation with local-self government units with the aim of improving transparency, responsibility and integrity at the local level.

An analysis on the integrity of political parties was also prepared, which includes an analysis of the legal framework and statutes of political parties on the internal functioning of political parties, mechanisms of integrity, transparency and responsibility. The analysis was presented at a consultative meeting with other relevant actors as the initial basis for further advocacy activities in the direction of improving the law on political parties and other regulations, as well as working with the parties themselves to improve internal procedures.

An analytical assessment of the state of public administration reform in BiH was promoted and carried out, providing an overview of the current state in terms of the process of public administration reform in BiH, including the process of developing a strategic framework for the Public Administration, a reporting system, as well as a view of the importance of this reform from the perspective of the EU integration process. Based on this analysis, TI BiH continued advocacy in the direction of functional auditing of public administration.

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## ***3. Law enforcement and sanctioning***

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### ***3.1: Law enforcement institutions are independent and have the capacity and will to act***

- Cooperation with the Agency for Public Procurement continued, through the monitoring of public procurement, as well as with the Central Election Commission, and was especially intensified during the monitoring carried out by TI BiH.
- Cooperation was established with **supreme audit institutions at all levels in order to carry out activities related to the improvement of mechanisms to prevent the use of public resources in election campaigns**, as well as to find modalities for the involvement of institutions responsible for monitoring the spending of public funds.
- In addition to providing legal support, during the previous period TI BiH conducted research at all levels, including all competent courts, on the number, type and duration of procedures related to the protection of corruption whistleblowers.
- Cooperation with the Central Election Commission continued, in terms of **strengthening capacity for law enforcement and control of political party financing**, both through the exchange of information resulting from monitoring and research, as well as through support for the development of a Guide for political parties on submitting financial reports, taking into account changes of forms and regulations. On this occasion, TI BiH, in cooperation with the Central Election Commission, organized training for over 50 representatives of 50 political parties on methods and rules of reporting and prevention of abuses.

### **3.2. Judiciary is independent and has the capacity and will to act**

- Regular monitoring on the prosecution of corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been published, providing from this year detailed data on the prosecution of cases of high corruption, according to the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council categorization. The data was updated and promoted on a unique and innovative interactive map of processing of corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- TI BiH, in cooperation with BIRN, conducts active monitoring of corruption proceedings throughout the year, within which more than 35 cases are monitored at the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Cantonal and Municipal Courts in Sarajevo, as well as the Basic and District Courts in Banja Luka. At the same time, an analysis of the efficiency and actions of judicial institutions is carried out, and it acts on the basis of observed irregularities. As a part of these activities, the first policy analysis, *Efficiency of the Judiciary: Frequency of Scheduling and Holding of Trials*, was published.
- TI BiH also conducts active monitoring of disciplinary proceedings conducted by the Disciplinary Prosecutor's Office at the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council. In the previous period, around 20 disciplinary proceedings against prosecutors and judges were monitored at all stages. The results of the monitoring will be used to create recommendations and initiate advocacy activities to improve the mechanisms of disciplinary responsibility.
- During the previous period, TI BiH developed a methodology for measuring the transparency index of judicial institutions. TI BiH, in cooperation with BIRN, collected data from all judicial institutions and produced an analysis entitled "Analysis of the Level of Transparency of Judicial Institutions in BiH". The analysis was presented at a conference in December in which representatives of judicial institutions and relevant representatives of other institutions from all levels of government took part. TI BiH is currently preparing an online database that will provide detailed information on the level of transparency of individual judicial institutions. An analysis on issuing certificates of non-conviction and certificates of no-criminal proceedings during employment with a focus on their abuse, based on the case of the Center for the Provision of Legal Assistance, was carried out and presented at a consultative meeting with the relevant institutions. At the start, recommendations for improving systems and forms were



identified and shared with the relevant institutions, and the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council has already started certain activities with the competent ministries.

- During the entire period, TI BiH actively followed the activities on changes to the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council and sent comments to the Ministry of Justice, but also within the framework of consultations with the Venice Commission and other international bodies, including making recommendations as a part of peer review mechanisms.

### *3.3: Legal framework aligned with international standards in the field of fight against corruption*

- The Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted to the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina **the Draft Law on Conflict of Interest**, as well as the **Law on the Protection of Whistleblowers**. Both proposals were prepared in consultation with TI BiH.
- In the previous period, TI BiH submitted **proposals and comments on about 15 drafts or proposals of laws relevant to the prevention of corruption**, the Law on determining the origin of assets of the Republic of Srpska, amendments to the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, the Law on the Prevention of Conflicts of Interest of BiH, the Law on the Protection of Corruption Whistleblowers of the Federation of BiH, the Law on Persons who Report Corruption in the Institutions of BiH, the Draft Law on Prevention and Suppression of Corruption of the Sarajevo Canton, the Draft Law on Higher Education of the Sarajevo Canton, amendments to the Law on Public Procurement of BiH, the Law on Free Access to Information of BiH, etc.
- AC Monitor, a platform for monitoring the improvement and application of the legal framework in the field of fighting corruption, was updated, with information and an overview of progress in the implementation of key anti-corruption reforms for 2021.
- In June, a two-day international conference on the topic of European integration was organized in Banja Luka in light of the latest events at the last summit in Brussels and new circumstances in the process of joining the countries of the region to the European Union, which brought together international experts, former diplomats, decision-makers from BiH and the surrounding area, representatives of academic community, civil society and media.
- The overview of the implementation of the key 14 priorities of the European Commission was updated, and there was constant advocacy for the acceleration of the implementation of priorities and the improvement of key laws for the fight against corruption and the rule of law.
- TI BiH continued to support the work of the Advisory Body of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and continuously advocated for the adoption of the new Action Plan, which was adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers.
- On International Anti-Corruption Day, TI BiH organized the conference *"Priorities in the Fight Against Corruption in BiH"*, where the Agenda on Good Governance 2025 was presented, i.e. TI BiH's recommendations for approaching the systemic management challenges in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as priorities for the fight against corruption, which were placed before Bosnia and Herzegovina in the next mandate.

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## *4. Defending civil society and promoting integrity*

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### *4.1. Promoting values based on integrity*

- In September, TI BiH organized **a regional meeting for exchange of experiences of competent bodies for the enforcement of the Law on Conflicts of Interest and the control of property records**, which aimed to exchange experiences in recognizing, preventing and sanctioning

conflicts of interest among the countries of the region, but at the same time an opportunity to create recommendation for improving the situation in this area in BiH and strengthening the capacity of competent bodies in BiH.

- Trainings were held for representatives of public institutions in the Zenica-Doboj Canton on the development and implementation of integrity plans
- In cooperation with the portal Capital, regular publication of the *Pretres* podcast began with relevant interlocutors on the issues of fight against corruption, the importance of integrity and responsibility in order to adequately fight against corruption.
- TI BiH started with the preparation of a new study of the national integrity system (NIS), which will be published in 2023.
- Cooperation with 15 public health institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to improve internal policies in the field of public procurement, conflicts of interest, and workshops were held for representatives of these institutions with the aim of strengthening their capacities.
- Cooperation with anti-corruption bodies continued in order to improve coordination over the introduction and monitoring of the implementation of integrity mechanisms
- As a member of the Advisory Council within the Open Government Partnership, TI BiH directly advocated and participated in the development of the new Action Plan, and the plan was adopted by the Council of Ministers.

#### **4.2: Activists, whistleblowers and journalists are free, empowered and protected to act against abuse**

- Over the course of ten months, 1,561 **citizens contacted the Center for the Provision of Legal Assistance** via the toll-free line 0800 55555. During that period, the Center dealt with **302 cases**, the largest number of which relate to the state administration, followed by the private sector, the judiciary, education, health, and other subjects initiated by TI BiH based on research and findings.
- With the aim of promoting the tool for reporting corruption, **prijavikorupciju.org**, as well as the existing reporting mechanisms, in the first quarter of 2022, TI BiH conducted an extensive **campaign under the slogan "Courage is a Choice"**, through online media and social networks, with the main message of encouraging citizens to report corruption and seek legal assistance.
- **Legal support for whistleblowers** continued, where TI BiH currently provides support in three different cases in the proceedings before the competent institutions. In this capacity, TI BiH actively participated as an "intervenor" in the proceedings of **Emir Mešić** for protection against discrimination from the Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH and TI BiH attended 5 hearings before the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the civil proceedings that were conducted based on the lawsuit of Emir Mešić, a protected corruption whistleblower against the Indirect Taxation Authority of BiH for discrimination. In the remaining two cases, TI BiH provides legal support and bears the costs of the lawyers who represent the corruption whistleblowers.
- In the same way, TI BiH continued to provide support to the media and journalists, especially when it comes to exercising the right to access of information, but also in terms of protecting media freedom and freedom of expression.
- TI BiH organized a workshop where it presented the **Register of Public Office Holders** as a tool for journalists and the media for their research and investigative stories, which was attended by representatives of 12 media houses.
- As a continuation of previously realized activities in the area of gender and corruption, **TI BiH conducted education for the media and civil society organizations on sextortion**, reporting and protection mechanisms, where participants had the opportunity to hear more about

secondary victimization, why attention must be paid to attitude towards victims and how to avoid the use of labeling.

- On International Whistleblower Day, TI BiH organized a conference dedicated to the problems of persons who report corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the analysis *Overview of legal solutions and practices in the field of protection of corruption whistleblowers - Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina* and proposals for the improvement of the law to representatives of parliaments and other institutions were presented.

#### **4.3: Citizens are empowered to demand accountability**

- TI BiH constantly promoted the right of access to information, acted towards public bodies and competent courts with the aim of ensuring this right, and in the previous period, **25 administrative disputes were initiated** before competent courts against public bodies due to non-compliance with the provisions of the law on free access to information, and prepared 6 lawsuits for parties and media. In the same period, TI BiH **won as many as 29 disputes that were initiated in an earlier period.**
- On International Day of Freedom of Access to Information, TI BiH presented a **unique searchable database of judicial practice** (<https://ti-bih.org/sudski-postupci/> and <https://ti-bih.org/sudske-odluke/>) with over 200 court decisions and positions of the courts, so that all interested parties could use them in exercising their right of access to information. On the same occasion, the regular annual report on the implementation of the law on free access to information was presented, and at the conference organized on this occasion TI BiH gathered relevant institutions to advocate for the improvement of the legal framework, primarily in the segment of protection and proactive transparency.
- In addition, TI BiH held a street exhibition of interesting responses received by institutions during the previous years, where glaring and creative examples of avoiding the delivery of requested information were presented. The exhibition was held in three cities: Sarajevo, Mostar and Banjaluka.
- Implemented a unique online platform populus in 6 local self-government units (Brčko, Bijeljina, Foča, Goražde, Novi Travnik and Lukavac), which provides citizens with a tool for direct communication with government representatives.

#### **4.4.: A new generation of leaders empowered to act against corruption**

- In order to strengthen capacities in the area of monitoring the public procurement process, TI BiH organized training programs for 40 representatives of civil society organizations and volunteers who work on public procurement monitoring.
- In order to strengthen the capacities of organization of civil society in the field of advocacy and public policies, a comprehensive manual for advocacy for civil society organizations was developed, and the first in a series of planned trainings to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations for advocacy was held. Education and networking of young leaders continued through the TI BiH School of Integrity, which the third and fourth generations completed, and the fifth generation was launched (a total of 75 new leaders who participated)

#### **Additional indicators**

65 posts were published on the **TI BiH** website during 10 months, and 37 texts were published on the **Transparentno.ba** platform.

**Presence of TI BiH in the media:**

During 10 months, according to media monitoring data, a total of 6,822 media announcements related to the work of TI BiH in various sectors and aspects were published. Of these, 6,209 were on internet portals and digital media, 387 TV reports and 226 articles in print media.

**Podcast Pretres**

13 episodes were broadcast, with a total of 558,606 views, 6257 hours of watching on YouTube and Facebook channels.

**End of Translation**

I, Mirna Samac, the undersigned certified court translator for the English language, do certify hereby that this is a true translation of the document rendered in the Croatian language.

Decision appointing the Court translator number: 08.020/704-7/18. dated 19 February 2018, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Done in Banja Luka on this January 25<sup>th</sup> 2023

Protocol number: 837-01/SE-23

