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REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIE
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ADMINISTRATËN PUBLIKE
DHE ANTIKORRUPSIONIN

EU DIRECTIVE ON ANTICORRUPTION AND ITS IMPACT ON RULE OF LAW REFORMS IN ALBANIA

26 March 2026 | Hotel Rogner, Tirana, Albania

PANELISTS' SHORT BIOS

Opening Remarks



Ms Fotjona Taçe

Chief of Cabinet
Minister of State for
Public Administration
and Anti-Corruption
(MAPA)

Ms. Fotjona Taçe currently serves as Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of State for Public Administration and Anti-Corruption, a position she has held since January 2024.

She brings to this role over 17 years of extensive experience in consultancy and the management of international development programs. Throughout her career, Ms. Taçe has demonstrated deep expertise in the strategic management of complex, high-impact projects across critical sectors of the Albanian economy.

Ms. Taçe has successfully led initiatives supported by major international partners and donors, both in Albania and throughout the Western Balkans, focusing on areas such as agriculture, tourism, fintech and innovation, and cultural heritage.



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Mr André Rizzo

Chargé d'Affaires and
Head of the Political
Section, Delegation of
the European Union to
Albania

André Rizzo currently heads the European Integration, Political, Press and Information section at the EU Delegation to Tirana. He has worked for the European Institutions since 2004, just after his country of origin – Malta – joined the European Union. He started his career working for then Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security where he spent almost 10 years working on counter-terrorism policy, fighting organised crime and corruption as well as the external dimension of EU migration policy. In 2016, he joined the European External Action Service (EEAS) based in Brussels where he was desk officer for Lebanon in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Division. In 2019, he got his first diplomatic posting at the EU Delegation to Mexico as a political officer before starting his assignment at the EU Delegation to Albania in September 2023. Andre Rizzo is a lawyer by profession. After obtaining his law degree from the University of Malta, in 2001 he was offered a scholarship at the College of Europe in Bruges where he obtained his Master's Degree in EU Law.

Keynote Presentation



Ms Kristina Jankovich,
Head of Sector, Integrity
& Anti-Corruption,
DG JUST, European
Commission

Kristina Jankovich is Head of Sector for Integrity and Anti-Corruption in DG JUST of the European Commission. She leads a team in charge of the implementation of the EU Directive on combatting corruption, the upcoming EU Anti-Corruption Strategy and the Anti-Corruption pillar of the Commission's Rule of Law report covering the 27 Member States. Kristina has a legal background and has an extensive career of more than 15 years in the European Commission, working on legal matters in the field of sanctions, energy and research.

Session 1 - Conducting sector specific corruption risk assessments



Moderator:
Ms. Rovena Sulstarova,
Expert of the EU for
Good Governance
Project

Dr. Rovena Sulstarova is a governance and public policy professional with significant experience in anti-corruption, transparency, and accountability initiatives. She has worked with public institutions, civil society organizations, and international partners to promote integrity, good governance, and citizen participation. Her work has focused on strengthening transparency mechanisms, supporting anti-corruption reforms, and fostering constructive dialogue between institutions and the public. Rovena has contributed to research, advocacy, training, and public awareness activities aimed at improving accountability and ethical standards in governance.



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Ms. Rovena Pregja

Director of
Anticorruption
Policy Compliance,
General Directorate of
Anticorruption (GDAC)

Rovena Pregja has served as Director of Anti-Corruption Policy Implementation at the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption since January 2023.

She brings over nine years of professional experience in the field of anti-corruption, with expertise in anti-corruption policies, strategic planning and monitoring, anti-corruption legislation, the development of integrity instruments, and, most recently, corruption risk assessment in the public sector, where she has been a key member of the technical team.

She represents the Republic of Albania in a number of international and regional anti-corruption forums and mechanisms, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), GRECO, the European Commission, the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI), NCPA, OECD Anti-Corruption Network (ACN), and the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

She possesses extensive knowledge of international cooperation projects in the justice and governance sectors, gained through her professional experience with international organisations, and has a strong understanding of the civil society landscape in Albania.

She graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Tirana in 2001 and subsequently completed a Master's Degree in Public Administration through a joint programme of the University of Tirana and the University of Nebraska, USA (2004–2006).

She is also a member of the pool of anti-corruption trainers at the Albanian School of Public Administration (ASPA).



Mr. Albert Hani,

Director of the Regional
Anti-Corruption
Initiative (RAI)
Secretariat (online)

Mr. Albert Hani is Director of the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative (RAI). He brings over two decades of experience in regional cooperation, good governance, and institutional reform, with a strong foundation in anti-corruption, peacebuilding, and rule of law.

Before joining RAI, Mr. Hani served as the Secretary General of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), where he led high-level initiatives to strengthen reconciliation and cooperation in the Western Balkans. Prior to that, he headed RYCO's Local Branch Office in Skopje, North Macedonia, while also lecturing on intercultural communication at the State University of Tetovo.

His career spans mediation, policy reform, youth empowerment, and stakeholder engagement at both grassroots and governmental levels. He has also actively contributed to the Berlin Process, advocating for enhanced transparency, regional collaboration, and the inclusion of RAI in key regional forums.

He is the author and co-author of numerous mediation and education manuals for teachers, municipal councils, and youth trainers, and has published extensively on topics related to governance and social development. He is also the developer of a widely used dialogue and team-building tool tailored for various target groups.



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Mr. Radu Nicolae,
Expert of RAI and
Author of the
Methodology of RAI
for Corruption Risk
Assessment (online)

Radu Nicolae, PhD, is an international expert in anti-corruption and asset recovery. He has served as a team leader, key expert, and specialist in anti-corruption, asset recovery, social reuse of confiscated assets, and combating organized crime in numerous projects implemented across Europe. He has taught academic courses on corruption, corporate compliance and public policy at MA and BA levels and has authored numerous studies in these fields. He has assisted the Romanian National Agency for the Management of Seized Assets, the Romanian National Anticorruption Directorate and the Criminal Asset Recovery Agency in the Republic of Moldova in strengthening their institutional capacities. He has worked with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Council of Europe, the European Commission, and the Regional Anti-Corruption Initiative in the areas of anti-corruption and asset recovery.

He is an ISO 37001-certified Lead Auditor (PECB) from 2017 and has contributed to the development of anti-corruption management systems in both the public and private sectors.



Ms. Alessia Ferrara,
Office for the
Regulation of
Corruption Prevention,
Italian Anticorruption
Authority (ANAC)

After earning a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Salerno in 2013 and a Master's degree in Development Cooperation Sciences from Roma Tre University in 2015—both graduated with highest honours (summa cum laude)—she completed a Master's program in Diplomatic Studies at SIOI in the same year. In 2021, she obtained a Second-level Master's degree (Advanced LL.M.) in “Compliance and Corruption Prevention in the Public and Private Sectors” from the LUISS School of Law.

From 2019 to 2021, she worked at INPS (the Italian National Social Security Institute) as a Social Protection Consultant. Since September 2021, she has been serving at the National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC) as a Legal Officer within the Research, Case Law, and Regulation Department for Anti-Corruption and Transparency—the office responsible, among other duties, for drafting the National Anti-Corruption Plan (PNA). She has gained extensive experience in the Authority's areas of competence, with a specific focus on anti-corruption and transparency regulations, as well as whistleblowing legislation.

She has served as a lecturer in Master's programs and courses organized by public institutions, and has delivered training on behalf of the Authority both nationally and internationally. Furthermore, she actively participates in meetings, bilateral exchanges with foreign institutional delegations, and serves as an expert in international twinning projects.



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Ms. Nysjola Dhoga,
Expert of the EU for
Good Governance
Project

Nysjola Dhoga (PhD) holds a degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Rome “La Sapienza” and has both a Master’s degree and a PhD from the same university. She also holds an interdisciplinary Master’s degree in legal and economic studies from the University of Camerino, Italy.

Her career began in the public administration sector, where she worked in various positions related to EU integration, project management, and communication with national and international stakeholders. Since 2014, she has been a full-time lecturer in the Department of Political Science at the University of Tirana, teaching bachelor’s and master’s level courses related to the organization and functioning of public administration, key Albanian public policies, governance from a comparative perspective, and Political Systems in Albania.

She is also active with civil society organizations as an expert in governance and public policy, with a focus on Albania. She has contributed to national and international projects, including institutional integrity assessments, the development of integrity plans for central and local institutions, as well as the development of the methodology for corruption risk assessment. She has experience in staff training and curriculum development in the field of ethics and integrity in public administration

Session 2 - Improvement of whistleblowing and whistle-blowers protection



Moderator:
Mr. Arjan Dymishi,
Expert of the EU for
Good Governance
Project

Mr. Dymishi is the Executive Director and founder of the Center for the Study of Democracy and Governance.

He holds a master’s degree in political science from the University of Siena, Italy, and a certificate in European Security and U.S. National Security Policy. His experience spans both governmental and non-governmental sectors. He has held various positions in public institutions, including the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Defense, the National Intelligence Service, and the Ministry of State for Diaspora.

In the non-governmental sector, his experience includes project development and management, research and advocacy, and consultancy services in integrity building and anti-corruption, reform and good governance of the security sector, democratization, and more.



Mr. Emiljano Kondi,
Representative of the
High Inspectorate of
Declaration and Audit
of Assets and Conflict of
Interests (HIDAACI)

Emiljano Kondi is an Inspector at HIDAACI with expertise in anti-corruption. He has extensive experience in asset declarations of public officials, prevention of conflicts of interests in the exercise of public functions, and the whistleblowing and whistleblower protection framework. Mr. Kondi has been the representative for HIDAACI in the explanatory sessions of the screening process for EU integration, has been an observer participant in the meetings of the EU Commission expert group on Directive (EU) 2019/1937 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law, and in plenary meetings of the EU Network against Corruption. He has qualifications in good governance, transparency and accountability, and has contributed in the dialogs and working groups for the drafting of the Whistleblower protection legal framework in Albania.



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Mr. Carmine Morrone,
Office for the
Supervision of Whistle-
blower Reports,
Italian Anticorruption
Authority (ANAC)
(online)

Carmine Morrone is officer at the Italian Anticorruption Authority (ANAC) and serves on its Office for the Supervision of Whistle-blower Reports. After graduating in law from the University LUISS Guido Carli of Rome, he qualified as a lawyer and worked in an Italian law firm based in Rome and Milan for 16 years, focusing on public and administrative law, as well as in related fields (such as regulatory, environmental, planning, public procurement). He then moved to the General Secretariat of the Council of State where he worked as officer for 1 year. He holds a second-level Master's in "Administrative procedural law" from the European University of Rome.



Mr. Angelos Kaskanis,
Executive Director,
Transparency
International Greece,
expert of Coalition
for Whistle-blowers
Protection in Southeast
Europe (online)

Dr. Angelos Kaskanis is the Executive Director of Transparency International Greece, the leading organization in taking action to combat global corruption with civil societal measures and to prevent criminal activities.

He holds a Ph.D. degree from the Department of Black Sea Studies of the Democritus University of Thrace. His field of research is Security Studies and the impact of International Terrorism in Southeastern Europe and the Caucasus. He has participated in/co-organized several workshops in more than 20 countries that focus on Religious Extremism, Radicalization, Safety, and Security in Southeastern Europe, European Identity, and Greco-Turkish Relations.

Dr. Kaskanis is also the Security Advisor of the Tactics Institute for Security & Counter Terrorism.

In the past he has worked on several projects with the Hellenic Parliament, GI-TOC, NATO's Public Diplomacy Division, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Awards of academic excellence include scholarship from the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation. He speaks Greek, English, Russian, German, and Turkish.



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Mr. Andrei-Cosmin Macsut, Senior Researcher. Romanian Academic Society, Bucharest (online)

Andrei-Cosmin Macsut is a Senior Researcher at the Romanian Academic Society (SAR), one of Romania's leading public policy think tanks. With more than a decade of experience in governance, anti-corruption, transparency, and public integrity, he has led and contributed to numerous national and regional initiatives aimed at strengthening accountability and democratic governance across Southeast Europe. He has conducted extensive research on corruption risks, public procurement integrity, whistleblower protection, state capture, and institutional transparency.

Dr. Macsut holds a PhD in Political Science from the Central European University (CEU), Vienna, where his research focused on public integrity, good governance, and democratic institutions. He has authored and contributed to numerous publications on anti-corruption and governance and regularly represents Romanian civil society in regional and international forums. His work combines rigorous academic research with practical policy recommendations to support integrity and anti-corruption reforms in the Western Balkans and beyond.



Mr. Roden Hoxha
Executive Director and Editor in Chief, Albanian Centre for Quality Journalism

Roden Hoxha is a lawyer, lecturer, and media professional with expertise in human rights, media governance, and democratic accountability. He serves as Executive Director of the Albanian Center for Quality Journalism (ACQJ), an organization dedicated to investigative journalism, media development, and public-interest reporting. With professional experience spanning law, journalism, academia, and civil society, he has worked extensively on issues related to transparency, access to information, whistleblower protection, and the role of independent media in democratic societies. Roden also lectures in law and regularly contributes to discussions on media ethics, election reporting standards, editorial oversight, and legal fact-checking.